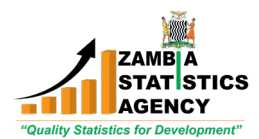
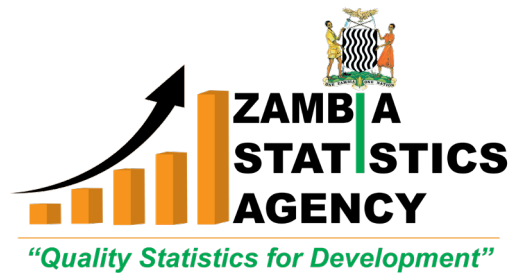


HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2022 POVERTY ASSESSMENT IN ZAMBIA



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2022 POVERTY ASSESSMENT IN ZAMBIA

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



FOREWORD



The Government of Zambia, through the **Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats)** with support from the **UN Family** of co-operating partners conducted the eighth **Living Conditions and Monitoring Survey (LCMS)** in June/July 2022. The first LCMS was conducted in 1996. The other LCMS survey were done in 1998, 2002/2003, 2004, 2006 and 2015.

The main objective of the LCMS is to highlight the welfare of the population in Zambia. It also affords an opportunity to Government and its co-operating partners chance to assess progress made towards attainment of both national and global targets.

The 2022 LCMS Poverty Assessment provides reliable estimates at national, rural/urban and province level. This document reflects results on selected indicators on Monetary Poverty and Multi-dimensional Child Poverty determined using Multiple Overlapping Deprivation (MODA) methodology.

The Zambia Statistics Agency wishes to extend its appreciation to those involved in the implementation of the 2022 LCMs through their financial and technical support, particularly the following:

- UNDP and its cooperating partners of the UN Family;
- World Bank Group for its technical support (Monetary Poverty);
- UNICEF for its technical support (MODA methodology); and
- SIDA for financial support.

The Survey would not have been successful without the good work and dedication of the project staff at various levels particularly the provincial co-ordinators, master trainers, supervisors, enumerators and drivers for their active participation and contribution to this work.

Above all, the Agency would like to greatly appreciate the co-operation of all the households that positively responded to survey inquiry at short notice.



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September, 2023

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1. INTRODUCTION

7TH NDP FOCUS

- 01 ACCELERATE INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT
- 02 ENHANCE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DIVERSIFICATION
- 03 PROMOTE RURAL INVESTMENT AND ACCELERATE POVERTY REDUCTION
- 04 ENHANCE HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

1.1 OBJECTIVE OF THE 2022 POVERTY ASSESSMENT

The main objective of poverty assessment in Zambia is to identify the poor, including where they live.

Selected sub-objectives include:

- To understand the distribution of poverty in Zambia by residence and province;
- To measure the intensity and severity of poverty;
- To measure the degree of inequality; and
- To help monitor progress towards the achievement of the 7thNDP and SDG targets.

2.0. CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS USED IN POVERTY ANALYSIS

The Zambia Statistics Agency (ZamStats) has adopted the material well-being approach of poverty measurement in which the poor are defined as those members of society who are unable to afford minimum basic human needs, comprising food and essential non-food items, given all their total income.

Several complications in determining the minimum requirements and the amounts of money necessary to meet these requirements. In the LCMS analysis, efforts to determine people's well-being in Zambia have, therefore, concentrated on estimating the aggregate value of all consumption goods and services identified to be critical to the satisfaction of an individual's basic needs.

The poor identified by comparing their measure of income (i.e., consumption expenditure) to some Absolute Poverty Line.

Since 1991, the CSO has been using household consumption expenditure data from the LCMS series when measuring the welfare of the population in Zambia.

2.1 ABSOLUTE POVERTY: uses a poverty line based on a fixed expenditure or consumption level. Absolute poverty lines typically specify the amount of money that is required to meet a minimum standard of living, such as basic nutritional requirements and essential non-food necessities (basic clothing, housing, etc.). In general, the Agency uses the Cost of Basic Needs approach when measuring absolute poverty.

2.2 RELATIVE POVERTY: describes an individual or group's wealth relative to that of other individuals in the group under study. Relative poverty lines are usually set as a percentage of average income or expenditure of the group. Very often, two thirds of the mean/median expenditure per capita has been used as a poverty line. This definition implies that all persons or households whose consumption falls below this threshold are considered poor. Some analysts have also used percentile cut-offs to define relative poverty lines at, say, the bottom 20 per cent of individuals in the poverty analysis in the distribution of income or expenditure. ZamStats does not use relative poverty lines to assess poverty in Zambia.

3.0 POVERTY ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

ZamStats has been carrying out comprehensive poverty assessments since 1991. Typically, measurement of poverty has always started with the identification of an absolute poverty line with a strong nutritional anchor. ZamStats has been using the basic food basket as a starting point, which is further supplemented by an allowance for non-food needs (CSO, 2010 Poverty Manual). Much of the poverty assessments in the country have been based on the data from the LCMS rounds. The Agency has successfully conducted eight Living Conditions Monitoring Surveys inclusive of the 2022 one.

3.1 DERIVING CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE AGGREGATES

The ZamStats mainly uses the concept of income deprivation to measure poverty like is the case in other sub-Saharan African Countries. According to this concept, the poor are identified on the basis of the comparison of household disposable income to the cost of the basic needs basket. It is for this reason that this approach of welfare evaluation is in general called the Income Shortfall approach (UN Statistics Division, 2005).

However, because of some well-documented shortcomings of income data, much of the contemporary poverty assessments use household consumption expenditure data as a proxy for household income (Haughton and Khandker, 2009). For both theoretical and practical reasons, consumption expenditure is seen to be much more reliable than income because:

- Individuals feel more comfortable to provide information on consumption than income.
- Consumption provides a better picture of long-term welfare than income.
- Income measurements in countries with widespread informal employment and a large segment of agricultural households are less accurate compared to expenditure measurements.

The Agency has consistently been using household consumption expenditure as a measure of welfare since 1991. Household consumption expenditure comprises cash purchases (both food and non-food), value of own produce consumption (both food and non-food), value of consumable gifts and derived benefits arising from ownership of durable goods, which are not of intermediate nature (Goods that are not used to generate income). The 2022 LCMS consumption aggregate like the 2015 one, covers the following broad category of items:

- Food expenditure
- Alcohol and tobacco expenses
- Health expenditure
- Education expenditure
- Housing expenditure
- Transport expenditure
- Expenditure on personal services
- Consumption of services from durable goods

3.2 ADJUSTMENTS FOR COST-OF-LIVING DIFFERENCES

3.2.1 Concept of Adult Equivalent

Ideally, poverty measurements should be done at individual level. However, most LCM surveys usually collect consumption expenditure information at the household level rather than at the individual level. Consequently, household consumption expenditure can never constitute a good welfare measure of individuals because households with different household compositions face different consumption needs. Further, different members of the same household have different age-specific energy and protein requirements necessary for them to lead normal active and healthy lives.

Thus, a good poverty measure should, therefore, consider not only the differences in household size but also differences in age composition of the household members. The adult equivalent scale has extensively been used by various poverty analysts, including the ZamStats, to normalize consumption for differences in household demographic composition (UN Statistics Division, 2005; CSO, 1997 and 2004). It is for this reason that the Agency uses per adult equivalent monthly household consumption expenditure for its poverty analysis rather than per capita monthly expenditure, which assigns equal weight to every household member. Adult Equivalence scales are the factors that convert real household consumption into real individual consumption by correcting for differences in the demographic composition and size of households. The 2022 poverty analysis has maintained the Adult Equivalence (AE) scale that ZamStats has been using since 1991.

Table 3.1: Adult Equivalent Scale used to Convert Household Consumption Expenditure into Adult Equivalent terms, Zambia, 2022

Age Group (years)	Member	Calorie requirement per person	Adult Equivalent Scale
0-3	1	1,000	0.36
4-6	1	1,700	0.62
7-9	1	2,100	0.76
10-12	1	2,150	0.78

4.0. POVERTY LINE DETERMINATION

In general, ZamStats uses the Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) approach when measuring welfare outcomes of various households (Ravallion, 1994; CSO, 2004). This method essentially starts by determining the cost of a simple food basket that meets minimal nutritional requirements for a family of six. Table 12.2 shows the composition of the basic food basket together with corresponding costs per household as well as in per Adult Equivalent (AE) terms although reproduction of the table is merely indicative of the results without adjustment of the estimation method. The cost of the food basket is obtained by price updating the food basket, which was constructed by the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC), using the June/July 2022 item-specific average prices.

In line with the previous survey, the 2022 Food Basket was valued at ZMW336.73 per Adult Equivalent (AE) with the Non-food Poverty line valued at ZMW180 per AE representing an allowance for basic non-food needs. For further details, refer to the poverty methodology note in the appendix of the Trend Report.

Table 4.1: Food Basket for a Family of Six, Zambia, 2015-2022

Consumption	QTY	Unit price 2015	Cost 2015	Unit price 2022	Cost 2022
		ZMW	ZMW	ZMW	ZMW
Cooking oil local 2.5Lt	1	38.00	38.00	137.45	137.45
Dried beans 1kg	2	13.00	26.00	28.76	57.52
Dried bream 1kg	1	68.00	68.00	142.92	142.92
Dried kapenta 1 Kg	2	103.50	207.00	189.88	379.76
Fresh milk 500ml	4	5.00	20.00	12.26	49.04
Onion 1kg	4	10.00	40.00	20.02	80.08
Shelled groundnut 1kg	3	13.00	39.00	30.23	90.69
Table salt 1kg	1	5.00	5.00	11.98	11.98
Tomatoes 1kg	4	5.02	20.10	9.92	39.68
White roller 25kg	3.6	53.89	194.00	134.95	485.82
Vegetables 1kg	7.5	3.87	29.00	6.28	47.1
Total cost			686.09		1,522.04
Poverty lines in adult equivalent (AE) terms AE scale = 4.52					
Food Poverty Line			152		336.73
Non-food Poverty Line			62		180.87
Total (Absolute) Poverty Line			214		517.6

Source: 2015-2022 CSO/WB Poverty Note

4.1 CHARACTERISATION OF POVERTY

In all the poverty assessments that have been undertaken by ZamStats, the food poverty line, equivalent to the cost of the food basket, relates to the Extreme Poverty Line, while the basic needs basket, which corresponds to the overall poverty line, represents the Moderate Poverty Line. Based on these poverty lines, individuals are then classified as extremely, moderately or non-poor. All persons whose per adult equivalent consumption is less than the Extreme Poverty Line are classified as Extremely Poor. Conversely, the moderately poor comprise individuals whose per adult equivalent consumption is equal or greater than the food poverty line (extreme line) but falls below the Moderate Poverty Line. Finally, an individual is classified as Non-poor if his/her per adult equivalent consumption is greater or equal to the Moderate Line.

4.2 IMPROVEMENTS TO POVERTY MEASUREMENT

Unlike the 2015 LCMS in which 2010 poverty estimation improvements were incorporated in the poverty measures, the 2022 LCMS trend report has not done so to allow comparison of results.

5.0 KEY 2022 POVERTY HIGHLIGHTS

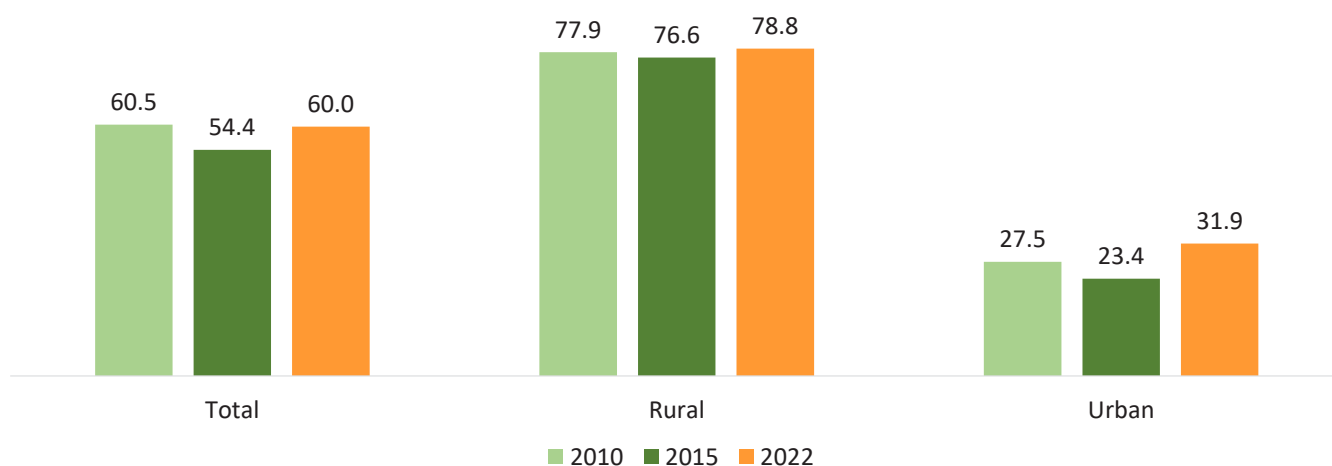
5.1 INCIDENCE OF POVERTY BY RESIDENCE

At national level, the incidence of poverty was estimated at 60.0 percent in 2022 compared to 54.4 percent in 2015 (60 out of every 100 persons in Zambia were poor during the survey period).

Rural-urban estimates show that 78.8 percent of the rural population was poor (76.6 percent in 2015).

Poverty in Zambia remains more pronounced in rural than in urban areas although the poverty levels in urban areas rose to 31.9 percent from 23.4 percent in 2015 (See Figure 5.1).

Figure 5.1: Poverty Trends (percent) by Residence, Zambia, 2010-2022

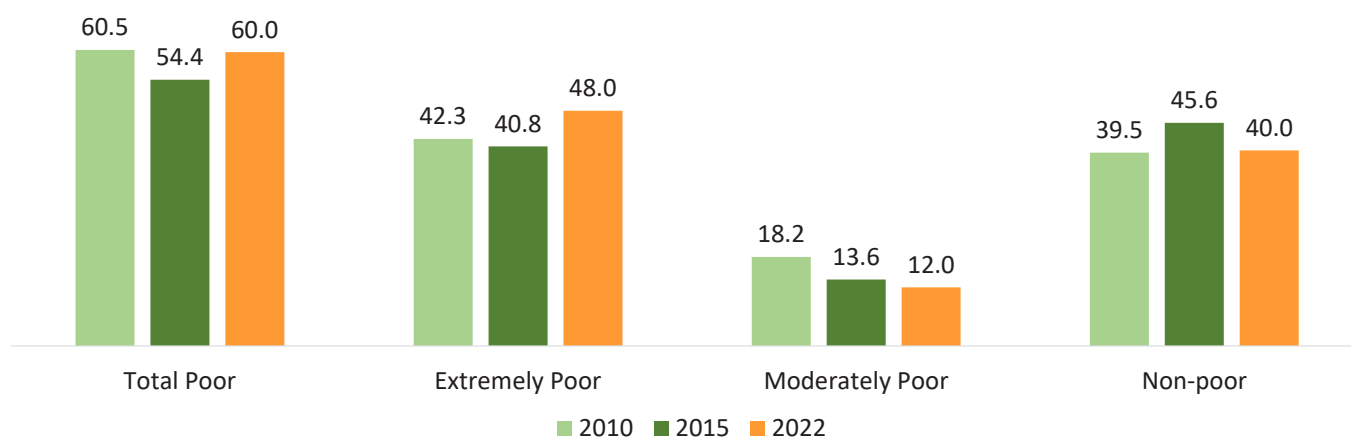


5.2 INCIDENCE OF EXTREME AND MODERATE POVERTY

Extremely poor was estimated at 48 percent (40.8 percent: 2015).

Moderately poor population was estimated at 12.0 percent in 2022 (13.6 percent: 2015) (See Figure 5.2) with overall poverty rate being a sum of the extreme and moderate poverty rates.

Figure 5.2: Incidence of Extreme and Moderate Poverty (percent), Zambia, 2010-2022

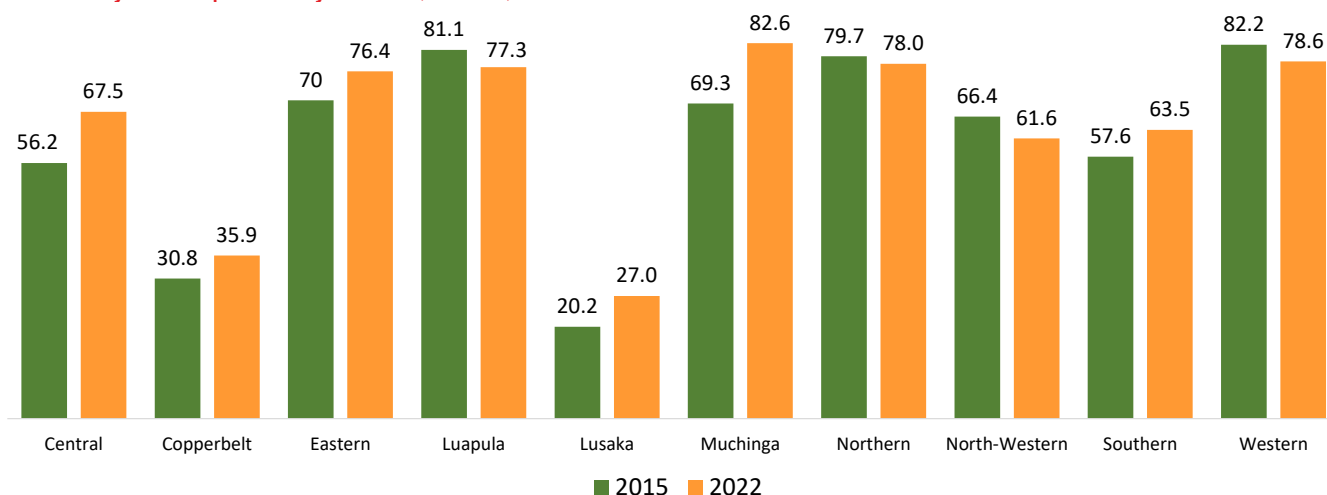


5.3 INCIDENCE OF POVERTY BY PROVINCE

By province, results show that poverty levels have gone slightly down in North-western (61.6% from 66.4%), Luapula (77.3% from 81.1%), Western (78.6% from 82.6%) and Northern (78.0% from 79.7%) provinces (See Figure 5.3).

Muchinga province had the highest proportion of the population that was poor at 82.6 percent, followed by Western and Northern provinces. Lusaka (27%) and Copperbelt (35.9%), had the least poverty levels though higher than in 2015.

Figure 5.3: Poverty Trends (percent) by Province, Zambia, 2010-2022

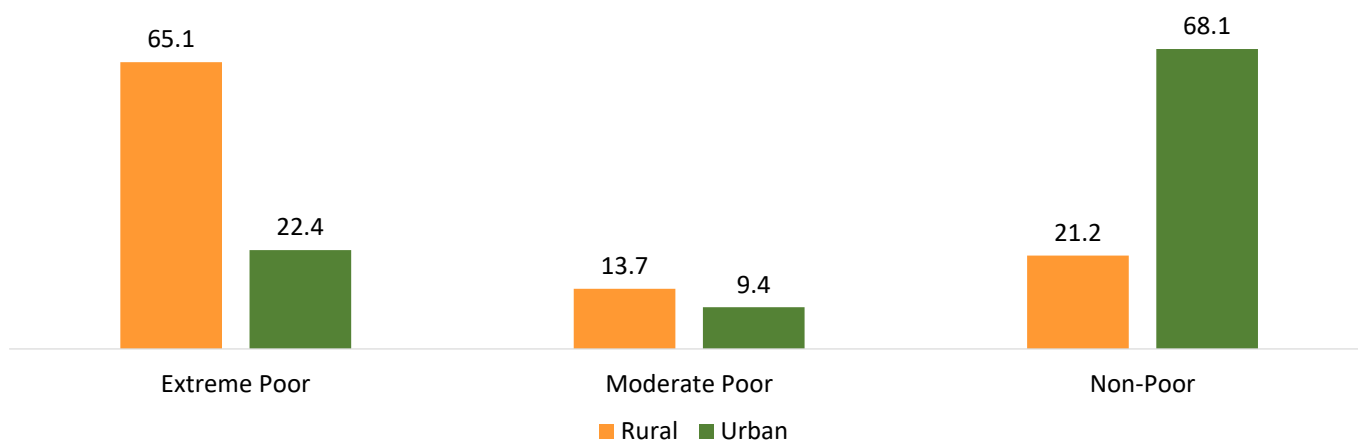


5.4 EXTREME AND MODERATE POVERTY BY RESIDENCE

Extreme poverty in rural areas at 65.1 percent, and urban (22.4%) – almost threefold. Thus 65.1 and 22.4 percent of the households in rural and urban areas, respectively, were not able to meet the cost of the basic food basket (See Figure 5.4).

Proportion of the non-poor has dropped to 68.1 percent in 2022 (76.6%: 2015).

Figure 5.4: Distribution of the Population by Poverty Level (%) and Residence, Zambia, 2022



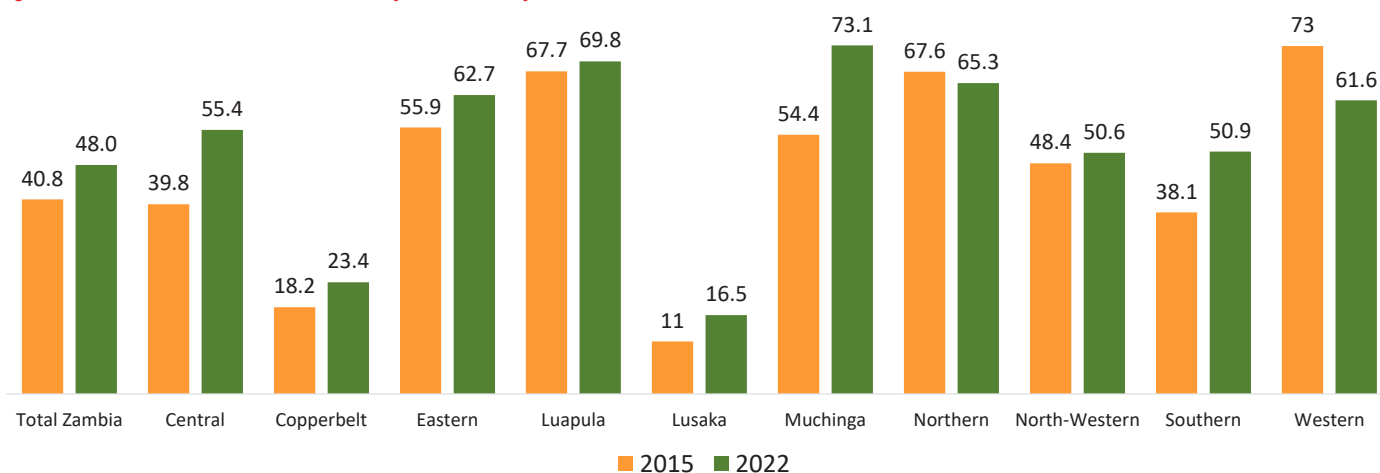
5.4.2 Incidence of Extreme Poverty by Province

Figure 5.5 depicts incidence of extreme poverty in percentage by province in 2015 and 2022. Overall, results show that extreme poverty in Zambia has gone up to 48.0 percent in 2022 from 40.8 percent in 2015.

By province, except for Western and Northern provinces where extreme poverty levels dropped by 11.4 and 2.3 percentage points, respectively, extreme poverty in the rest of the provinces increased by a minimum of 2.1 percentage-points in Luapula Province to as high an increase as 18.7 percentage points in Muchinga Province.

Thus, only Copperbelt and Lusaka provinces had extreme poverty levels that were both below the national averages as reflected in Figure 5.5.

Figure 5.5: Incidence of Extreme Poverty (Percent) by Province, Zambia, 2015-2022



5.4.3 Incidence of Moderate Poverty by Province

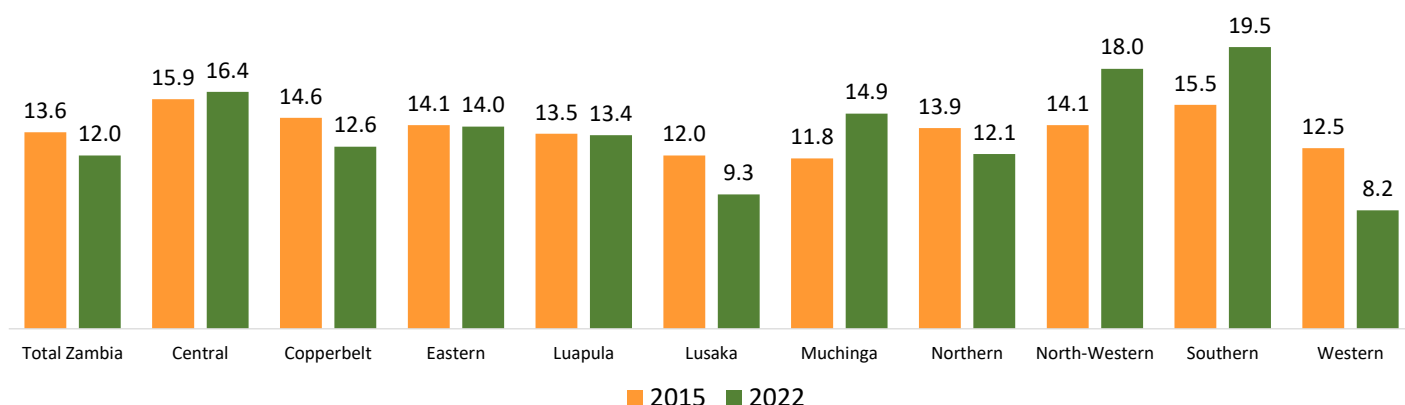
Figure 5.6 shows the incidence of moderate poverty by province in 2015 and 2022.

At national level, moderate poverty decreased by 0.3 percentage-points from 13.9 percent in 2015 to 13.6 percent in 2022.

By province, however, moderate poverty increased in Southern, North-western, Central and Muchinga provinces. Southern Province recorded the highest increase from 15.5 percent in 2015 to 19.5 percent in 2022.

Notably, of the 6 provinces in which moderate poverty decreased between 2015 and 2022, Western and Lusaka provinces accounted for the largest and second largest decreases i.e. from 12.5 to 8.2 percent and 12.0 to 9.3 percent, respectively.

Figure 5.6: Incidence of Moderate Poverty (percent) by Province, Zambia, 2015-2022



5.5 POVERTY AND HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

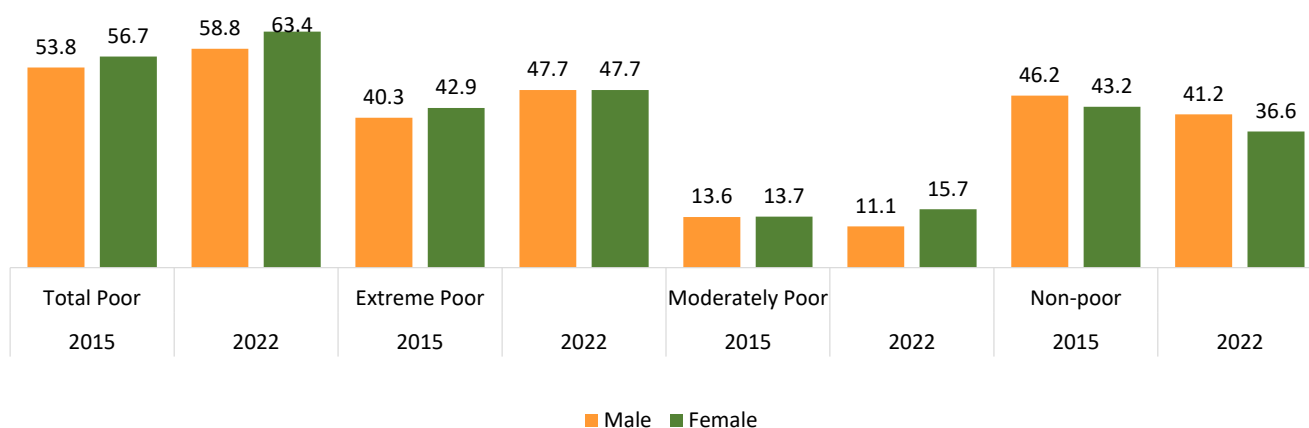
Figure 5.7 presents poverty by household size, sex, age, education and economic activity status of the HHD head.

5.5.1 Poverty by Sex of Household Head (HHD)

At national level, almost 59 out of every 100 male-headed household relative to 63 out of every 100 female-headed HHD were poor (4 more poor) (See Figure 5.7).

Further, out of every 100 HHD, no significant extreme poverty differences existed between sexes, at almost 48 out of every 100 HHD.

Figure 5.7: Poverty Level (percent) by Sex of Household Head, Zambia, 2015-2022



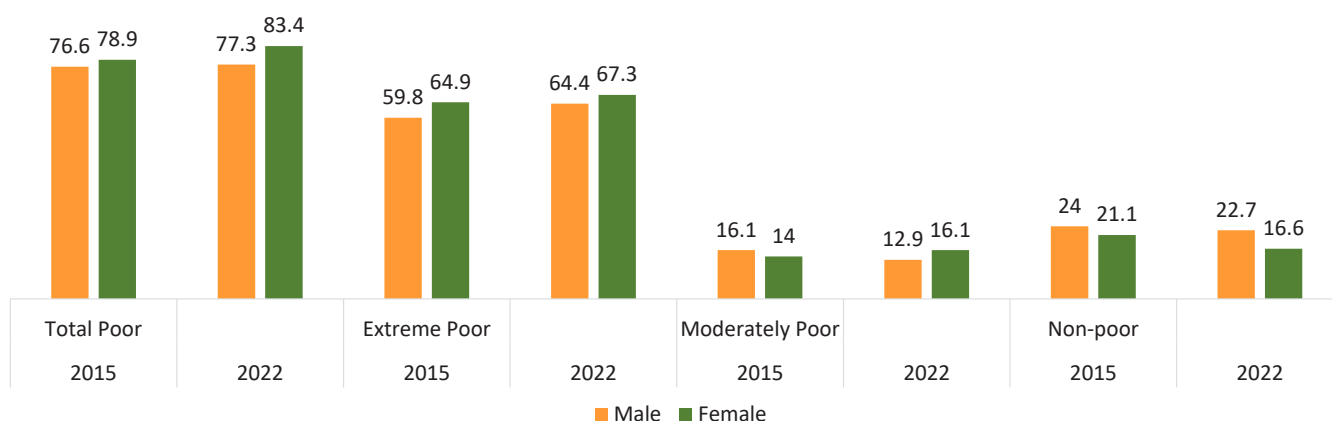
5.5.2 Rural Poverty Distribution by Sex of Household Head

Figure 5.8 shows percentage distribution of the rural population by poverty level and sex of household head. Results show that 77 out every 100 male-headed households in rural areas are poor (83 out of every 100 female-headed households).

Further, 67 out of every 100 female-headed households were more likely to be extremely poor in rural areas.

Clearly, though poverty levels generally have gone up relative to 2015, for both sexes, male-headed households were less likely to be poor than female-headed households.

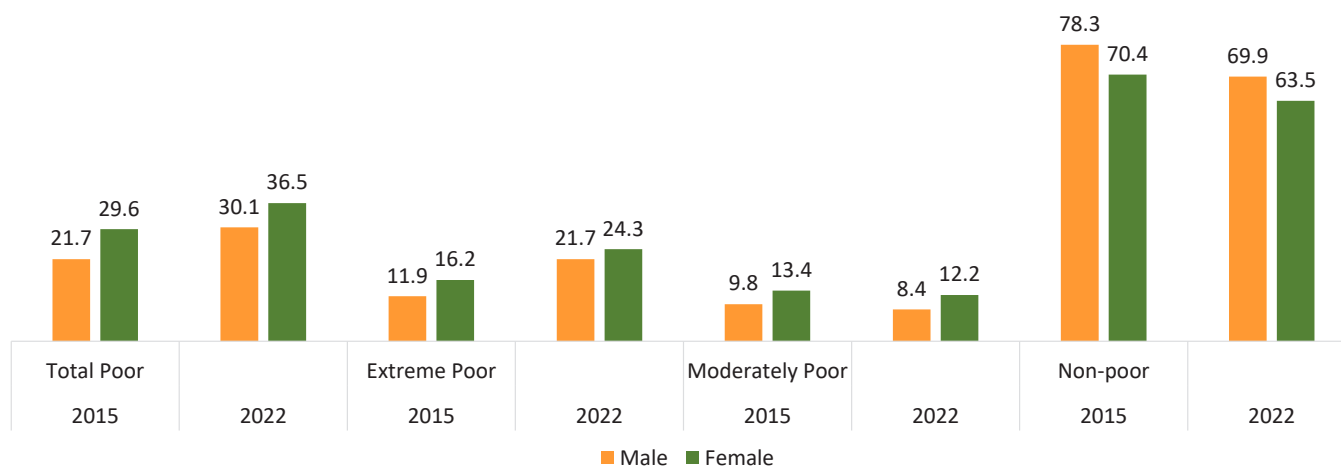
Figure 5.8: Distribution of Rural Poverty (%) by Sex of Household Head, Zambia, 2015-2022



5.5.3 Urban Poverty Distribution by Sex of Household Head

Similar to the situation in rural areas, almost 37 out of every 100 female-headed households in urban were more likely to be poor compared to 30 out of every 100 male-headed households. This implies male-headed households in urban were more likely to be non-poor than households headed by their female counterparts (See Figure 5.9).

Figure 5.9: Urban Poverty (%) Distribution by Sex of Household Head, Zambia, 2015-2022



5.5.4. Poverty Distribution by Age-Group of Household Head

At national level, the incidence of poverty tends to increase with age-group.

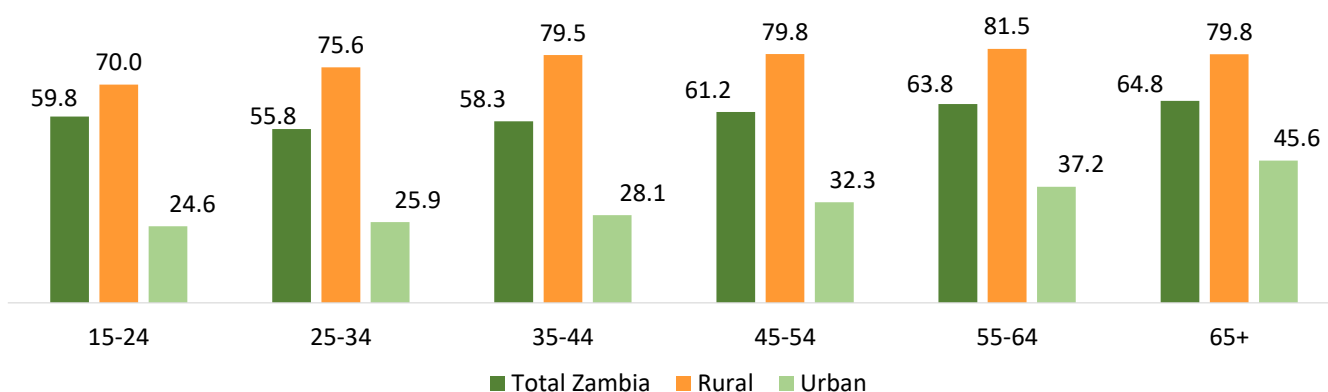
Households headed by persons in the age-group 25-34 yrs tended to have the lowest poverty incidence at 55.8 percent (See Figure 5.10).

Households headed by persons in the age-group 65 yrs or older tended to have the highest poverty incidence at 64.8 percent (2022), although poverty incidence has declined from 67.2 percent in 2015.

Regardless of the age-group of the household head, headcount poverty in urban areas increased at a slower rate for households headed by persons in the age range 15 to 44 yrs but at a faster rate for households headed by persons in the age range 45 years or older peaking at 65 years or older.

2022 LCMS survey results show that poverty rates in urban areas have increased at a faster rate than the rate of increase in rural areas.

Figure 5.10: Headcount Poverty (percent) by Agegroup of Household Head and Residence, Zambia, 2022



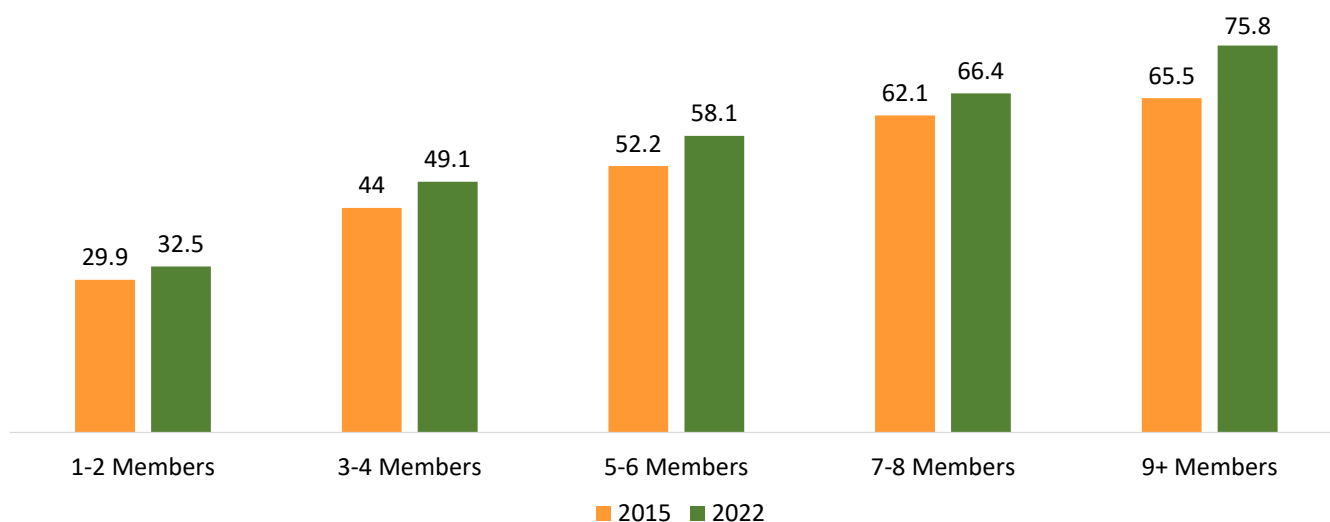
5.6 POVERTY AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Figure 5.11 shows headcount poverty by average household size between 2015 and 2022.

Overall, results show that poverty incidence increases with increase in size of a household, although it happens at a declining rate. Households with 9 or more members had the highest poverty rates at 75.8 percent (See Figure 5.11).

Households with 1-2 members had the lowest poverty rates in 2015 and 2022 at 29.9 and 32.5 percent, respectively.

Figure 5.11: Headcount Poverty (percent) by Size of Household, Zambia, 2015-2022

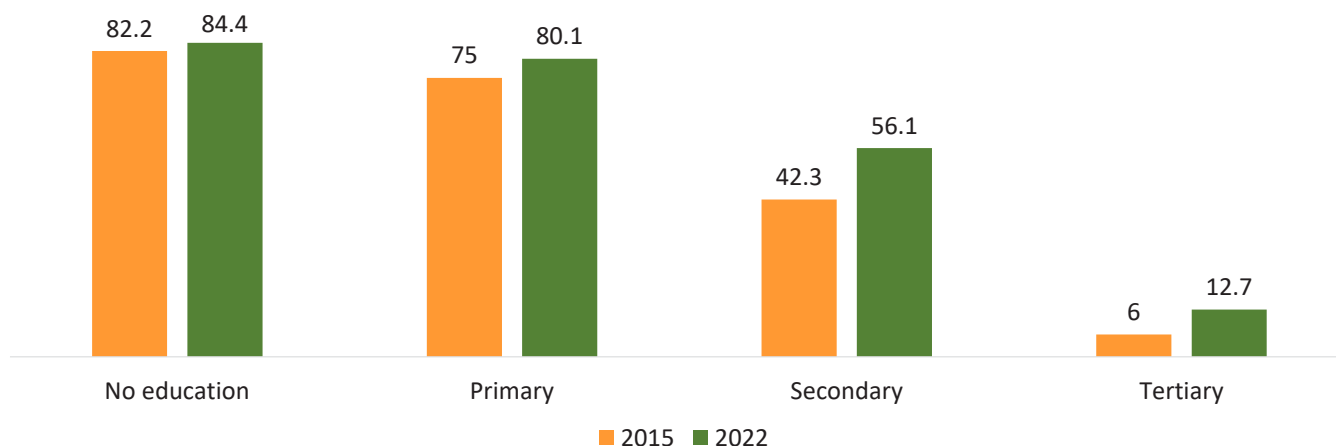


5.7 POVERTY AND EDUCATION LEVEL OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

Overall, results show that headcount poverty tends to decline as the level of education completed by the household head increases. The highest incidence of poverty was recorded among households headed by persons with no formal education at 82.2 and 84.4 percent, respectively, in 2015 and 2022.

Although households headed by persons who had completed tertiary education had the lowest levels of poverty, the proportion of households that were poor between 2015 and 2022 doubled from 6 to 12.7 percent.

Figure 5.12: Headcount Poverty (percent) by Education of Household Head, Zambia, 2015-2022



5.8 POVERTY BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD

Figure 5.13 shows poverty by employment status of the head of household between 2015 and 2022.

Overall, except for the households engaged in farming and piece work/unpaid work, poverty in 2022 was higher than in 2015 in the rest of the categories under consideration. Poverty rate among households engaged in farming/fishing/forestry activities was recorded at 80.3 percent in 2015 and 78.2 percent in 2022.

Notably, the highest increase in poverty between 2015 and 2022 was recorded among households headed by persons who reported being in employment from 17.2 percent in 2015 to 35.7 percent in 2022.

Further, poverty among households who reported being unemployed and in self-employment increased by a minimum of 1.6 percentage-points. Poverty among households headed by an unemployed head increased from 47.1 percent in 2015 to 75.4 percent in 2022 while households headed by persons in self-employment increased from 34 to 54.5 percent.

Figure 5.13: Headcount Poverty (percent) by Employment Status of Head, Zambia, 2015-2022

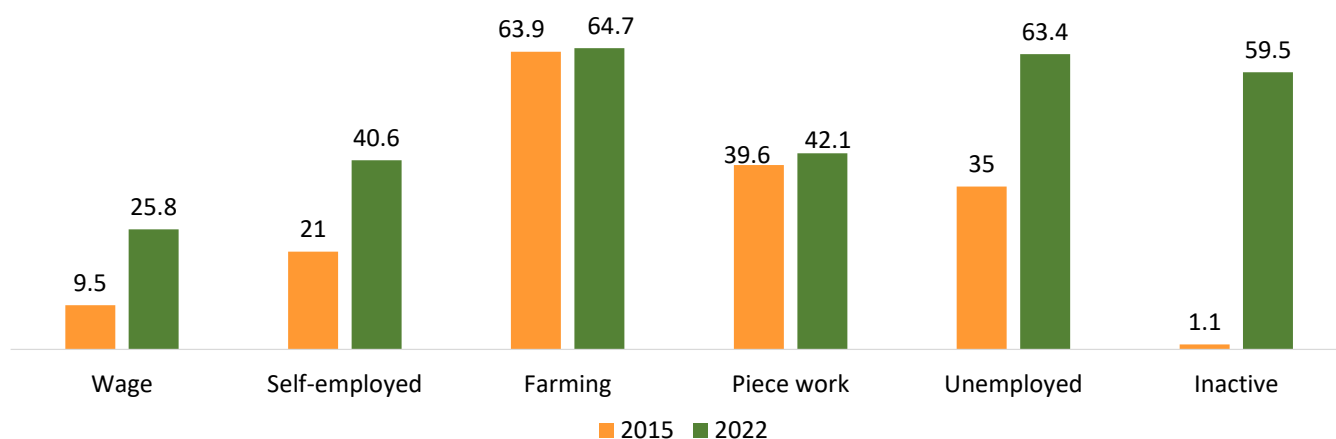


5.8.1 Extreme Poverty by Employment Status: 2015-2022.

Figure 5.14 shows extreme poverty by employment status of the head of household between 2015 and 2022.

At national level, higher extreme poverty rates of more than 60 percent were recorded among households headed by persons involved in farming/fishing/forestry activities and those who reported being unemployed at 64.7 and 63.4 percent, respectively. However, the lowest levels of extreme poverty were recorded among households in wage employment at 9.5 and 25.8 percent, respectively in 2015 and 2022.

Figure 5.14: Extreme Poverty (percent) by Employment Status of Head, Zambia, 2015-2022



5.9 THE POVERTY GAP RATIO

Another welfare indicator is the Poverty Depth Ratio (Per Capita Aggregate Poverty Gap Ratio) which:

- Identifies the poor and shows how far below the poverty line the poor are; and
- Gives an indication of the resources that would be required to lift all the poor to the poverty line.

The wider the poverty gap, the more resources will be required to close the poverty gap (lift all the poor to the poverty line).

National average showed that 26.8 percent of the population were below the poverty line with rural (37.5 percent) and urban (10.6 percent).

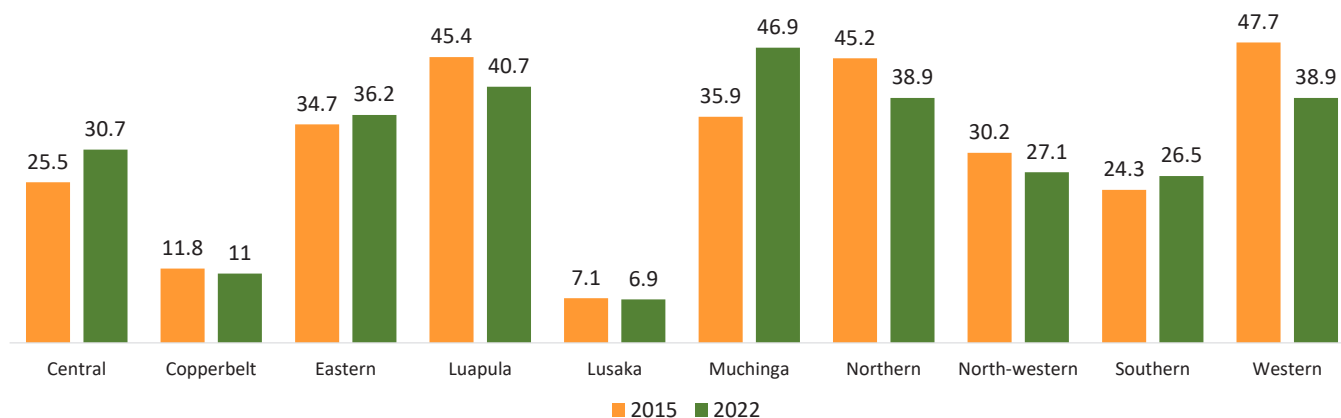
5.9.1: Poverty Gap Ratio by Province, Zambia, 2015-2022

Total poverty gap is 26.8 percent

By province, Muchinga (46.9%), Luapula (40.7%), both Northern (38.9%) and Western (38.9 percent) provinces had the largest proportions of households that were living below the poverty line in 2022 compared to Western (47.7%), Luapula (45.4%) and Northern (45.2%) provinces in 2015.

NOTE: Although the poverty gap in Muchinga (46.9 percent equiv. to 430,681 persons) was wider than that of Luapula (40.7 percent equiv. to 616,202 persons), in absolute terms, more resources would be required in Luapula than Muchinga to lift the poor to the poverty line.

Figure 5.15: Poverty Gap Ratio (percent) by Province: Zambia, 2015-2022



5.10 CHANGES IN EXPENDITURE INEQUALITY

5.10.1 Inequality results based on Per Capita Expenditure Gini Coefficient

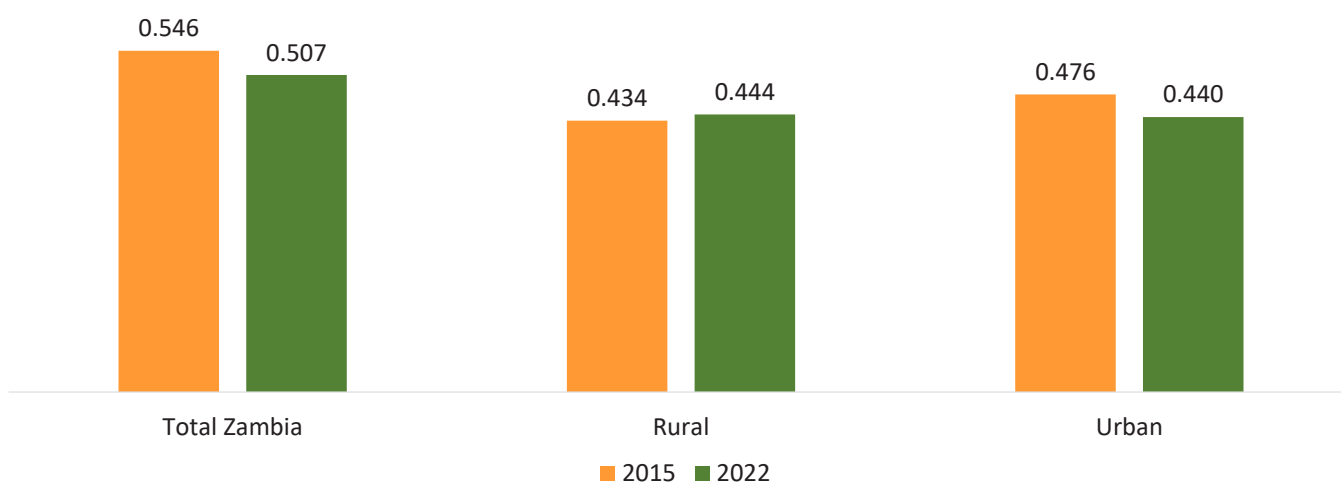
Overall, results show that the level of inequality as measured by the Gini coefficient (which measures the spread of poverty) was 0.507 in 2022 compared to 0.546 in 2015, a narrowing in poverty spread between 2015 and 2022 (See Figure 5.16).

The Gini coefficient for rural areas was 0.444 in 2022 compared to 0.434 in 2015. This implies that inequality in rural areas has widened.

On the other hand, Gini coefficient in urban areas in 2015 was 0.476 relative to 0.440 in 2022, reflecting a narrowing in the gap.

Analysed by rural-urban, results show that the inequality gap between rural and urban areas in 2015 was 9.7 percent relative to 0.9 percent in 2022. This implies that the gap between rural and urban in 2022 was almost 10 times as much as was the case in 2015 although poverty still remains much more of a rural phenomenon.

Figure 5.16: Gini Coefficients by Residence, Zambia, 2015-2022



6.0 MULTIDIMENSION CHILD POVERTY ANALYSIS

The analysis of multidimensional child poverty has been carried out using the Multiple Overlapping Deprivations Analysis (MODA) methodology using data from the 2015 and 2022 Living Conditions and Monitoring surveys.

A child is considered multidimensionally poor if he or she simultaneously suffers from deprivations in 2 or more dimensions of wellbeing. A child suffering from deprivations in 4 or more dimensions is considered to be in extreme multidimensional poverty.

Overall, results show that as many as 70.6 percent of the children in Zambia suffer from deprivations in two or more dimensions of wellbeing simultaneously¹. Further, 28.9 percent of Zambian children suffer from deprivations in 4 or more dimensions of wellbeing simultaneously (see Table 6.1).

Due to inadequate water, sanitation and electricity infrastructure and lower availability of health and education public services, multidimensional child poverty is disproportionately a rural phenomenon, with 86.8 percent of rural children suffering deprivations in at least 2 dimensions compared to 41.8 percent of urban children. However, there has been a significant surge in urban child poverty since 2015 from 32.3 percent to 41.8 percent in 2022² whereas rural child poverty has remained stable since 2015 (87.5 vs 86.6 percent). The surge in child poverty in urban areas is largely driven by an increase in health deprivations (children not consulting a medical professional while sick).

Table 6.1: Children with Deprivations (Percent) in 2+ dimensions, by Sex and Residence: Zambia LCMS 2015-2022

	Criteria	Group	2015 (2+dim.)	2022 (2+dim)	2015 (4+dim)	2022 (4+dim.)
		All	66.5	70.6	25.5	28.9
CHILD	Sex	Boy	67.7	71.0	26.5	30.0
		Girl	65.5	70.3	24.5	27.9
HOUSEHOLD	Area	Rural	87.5	86.8	38.8	41.6
		Urban	32.3	41.8*	3.6	6.3

Source: Child poverty report (based on LCMS 2015/22). Difference is statistically significant at 5percent level (base=2015)

Table 6.2 shows incidence of deprivation by province in 2022. Overall, results show that Western Province had the highest rates of multidimensional child poverty at (92.2 percent, followed by Muchinga at 84.6 percent. Western Province stood out particularly in terms of sanitation and housing deprivations, whereas Muchinga was more disadvantaged in the area of nutrition and health access (see Table 6.2). The lowest rates of child poverty were largely captured in the two most urbanised provinces in Zambia i.e. Lusaka and Copperbelt at 43.3 and 43.8 percent, respectively.

Table 6.2: Incidence of Deprivations (Percent), by Province, Zambia LCMS 2022

Province	2+ dim.	Water	Sanitation	Housing	Information	Education	Health	Nutrition
Central	79.9	34.4	68.1	14.8	30.8	35.4	82.0	16.3
Copperbelt	43.8	12.4	34.6	6.3	17.1	21.3	46.8	16.1
Eastern	83.5	15.0	71.2	26.6	46.0	57.2	69.5	26.2
Luapula	77.6	34.2	74.8	5.0	55.3	47.1	59.0	18.2
Lusaka	43.3	8.9	33.0	6.3	20.1	19.8	53.4	13.8
Muchinga	84.6	47.6	79.5	23.5	47.5	45.7	67.4	33.7
Northern	82.5	51.9	72.9	9.0	46.6	44.5	72.3	15.4
North Western	67.1	29.2	71.3	11.7	34.1	27.5	61.0	10.7
Southern	76.5	29.0	67.0	20.7	36.6	35.0	80.3	12.5
Western	92.2	43.3	92.2	75.9	55.9	32.4	74.0	14.4

Source: Child poverty report (based on LCMS 2022).

¹ Multidimensional child poverty is measured across 7 dimensions of wellbeing: Nutrition, Health, Education, Water, Sanitation, Housing and Access to Information. For more details on the MODA methodology and detailed results for Zambia, ZamStats 2022 Child Poverty Report.

² A new 2015 baseline has been computed to ensure comparability across surveys. The new 2015 baseline excludes indicators that were not available/comparable in the 2022 survey, as well as indicators that have been excluded based on the new methodological guidelines published by UNICEF (2022).

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

01

Although poverty levels were already high, results generally show that poverty has increased between 2015 and 2022.

02

Poverty has continued to be more of a rural phenomenon than urban although the urban population is now being impacted more than their rural counterparts.

03

Muchinga, Western, Northern, Luapula and Eastern provinces have continued to experience higher levels of poverty.

04

The rural population has continued to experience higher levels of poverty.

05

Female-headed households are more likely to be impoverished than households headed by their male counterparts.

06

Households headed by elderly persons are more likely to be poorer.

07

Education, wage employment, management of household size and improvements in agriculture sector, provides a good opportunity of reducing poverty and vulnerability.

08

The poverty gap ratio in rural areas, especially in remote provinces, has continued to be wide.

09

Although inequality between the rural and urban population has narrowed down, inequalities still remain more pronounced in urban.

10

At least 70 percent of the children in Zambia were multi-dimensionally poor in 2022.

11

Multi-dimensional child poverty is more pronounced in rural than in urban areas.

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