Emergency conditions (IPC Phase 4). Three areas with a high concentration of IDPs (Alindao, Bambari and Batangafo) and 13 prefectures were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Around 326,000 IDPs and host populations in high concentration areas were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), representing 56 percent of the population analysed in these areas (IPC, June 2019).

While the overall number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) was similar to that of 2018, the numbers were higher in Mbomou, Haut Mbomou and Haute Kotto prefectures (IPC, June 2019). In the last quarter of 2019, the food security situation was forecast to improve, but still critical for 1.6 million people in need of urgent assistance, including nearly 375,000 in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Eight sub-prefectures in Haut Mbomou, Haute Kotto, Kémo, Ouaka and Ouham prefectures were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and another 47 sub-prefectures in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) (IPC, November 2019).

**FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY**

**Conflict/insecurity**

Despite the peace agreement, the level of violence and attacks only decreased temporarily throughout the country and the overall levels of violence remained worrying, with women and children among the most affected (MINUSCA, October 2019). After a decline in June and July, violence intensified in August and September, including in areas previously unaffected. Clashes in August led to the displacement of an estimated 13,000 civilians (UNSC, October 2019). Violence and armed groups hindered humanitarian access with more than 100 attacks reported between January and August (ACAPS, September 2019). As of 30 November, 687,000 people were still internally displaced, with almost two in three living among host communities (Shelter Cluster, November 2019). Basic services were dysfunctional or non-existent in many areas of the country, and people’s access to livelihood opportunities severely hindered (FAO, October 2019).

Violence and insecurity constrained food production because of abandonment and lack of access to fields, particularly in the eastern and south-eastern areas (IPC, June 2019). However, thanks to voluntary returns of farmers and overall adequate and well-distributed rainfall, 2019 agricultural output was estimated to be above-average – but still below pre-crisis levels. Localized production shortfalls were reported in Basse Kotto, Mbomou and Ouaka due to the activities of armed groups (FAO-GIEWS, December 2019).

Raiding, theft and attacks by armed groups have devastated the livestock sector. Pastoralist mobility remained difficult in north-western areas, exacerbating tensions with farmer communities and affecting livestock herding and production (FAO, October 2019). Lack of vaccinations increased animal disease outbreaks (FAO, March 2019).