In Lac IDP households were relying primarily on humanitarian assistance, which barely met their food needs. Income from salaried agricultural work also declined. Closed borders with Nigeria and the Niger limited access to food markets and trade (OCHA, June 2019 and FAO-GIEWS, June 2019).

**NUTRITION OVERVIEW**

Nationally a ‘high’ percentage of children suffered from GAM (12.9 percent). Of them, 2.9 percent were affected by SAM (SMART 2019). Some 1.8 million children aged 6–59 months will require treatment for acute malnutrition in 2020 (IPC AMN, December 2019).

In 9 out of 23 provinces GAM prevalence was above the ‘very high’ threshold and above 20 percent in Ennedi Est, Borkou, Barh El-Ghazel, Ennedi Ouest, Salamat and Kanem. In 12 provinces SAM prevalence was over 2 percent (SMART, 2019). The national stunting prevalence was considered ‘very high’ at 52 percent of children aged 6–59 months. Regionally the levels were over 40 percent in Kanem, Mayo Kebbi Ouest and Logone Occidental (SMART, 2019).

Child care and feeding practices were extremely poor. The exclusive breastfeeding rate was 17.7 percent. Only 13.3 percent of children aged 6–23 months met the minimum acceptable diet for their growth and development. Just 7.3 percent of children of this age consumed food from five or more food groups, satisfying the minimum dietary diversity. Minimum meal frequency was 37.8 percent (SMART, 2018). Anaemia affected 63.6 percent of children aged 6–59 months, indicating a ‘severe’ public health concern (SMART, 2019). It affected 39.8 percent of reproductive-age women, indicating a ‘moderate’ public health significance (SMART, 2017).

Nationally, only two out of five households (39 percent) had access to basic drinking water sources (UNICEF and WHO 2017) and only 15.9 percent had access to improved sanitation facilities (SMART, 2019). By the end of 2019 a measles outbreak was still ongoing. A total of 26,623 suspected cases were reported throughout the year (WHO, December 2019).

**Nutrition status of refugees**

Across the 19 camps 23,600 children were acutely malnourished, 3,300 severely so. The wasting prevalence was classified as ‘very high’ among refugees in 4 out of 19 camps, and ‘high’ in 4 others. The severe wasting prevalence was over 2 percent among refugees in five camps. All these camps with high wasting were located in north-eastern Chad. Stunting levels were ‘very high’ (over 30 percent) in 18 camps. Barely any children in camps had adequate dietary diversity (5–6.9 percent). In eight camps anaemia levels among children were ‘very high’. The percentage of breastfed children (52.2 percent) has been deteriorating in camps over recent years (SENS 2017 and 2019).