82 | GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISSES 2020

consumption decreased from 37 percent to 31 percent from 2018 to 2019 for Central Africans in Bosobolo, in Libenge the share with poor food consumption increased from 1.6 percent to 7 percent (WFP 2019).

**FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY**

**Conflict/insecurity**

ACLED data shows that political violence – around half of it against civilians – rose at even higher rates in 2019 than in 2018, especially in the eastern provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri (ACLED, December 2019). The conflict has taken on many forms in these areas including inter-ethnic and intercommunal conflicts, and clashes between multiple armed groups that have attacked and obliterated villages, destroying fields and harvests and stealing herds, thus reducing household food sources and incomes (FEWS NET, December 2019).

Between October 2018 and September 2019, 1.1 million were forced to abandon their homes and livelihoods often during critical periods for transhumance and crop preparation (OCHA, 2020). Around 34 percent of the newly displaced IDPs were from North Kivu, 31 percent from South Kivu and 22 percent from Ituri (UNHCR, 2019).

In the Kasais and Tanganyika, the scale of violence decreased, but the provinces still hosted a large number of IDPs. The Kasais also hosted a large number of returnees from Angola.

The number of cases of Ebola, which broke out in North Kivu and Ituri in August 2018, increased dramatically from March 2019 as the response was severely hindered by armed groups. The outbreak disrupted agricultural activities and limited access to livelihoods (FEWS NET, April 2019).

**Weather extremes and crop pests**

Adequate, well-distributed precipitation during most of the year benefitted crops, except in the Bas and Haut-Uélé and western provinces. However, localized heavy rains, particularly in the agro-pastoral mountains of South Kivu, resulted in flooding and crop damage. Significant crop losses were also reported due to fall armyworm infestations, particularly in maize-growing regions (FAO-GIEWS, September 2019).

Other pests reduced agricultural production in the Grand Katanga, Grand Kasai, the Ex-Oriental and Western provinces. In Maniema, mealybug ravaged more than 3 500 hectares of cereals. Around 4 800 households were affected by the pest as well as by various small ruminant epizootic diseases (FEWS NET, July 2019). In December floods and landslides in the north-eastern, central-eastern and western provinces damaged the crop cycle (FEWS NET, December 2019).

The 2019 main season food crop production was forecast below the previous five years, limiting market supplies and