migrants have left many women single-handedly heading farms and families (WFP et al., 2017).

### FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

#### Weather extremes

Rainfall amounts during planting of the main season were more than 50 percent above the long-term average. However, this was followed by drought in June–July, which particularly affected production in eastern parts (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019). Between June and August five dry periods affected the main season in eastern El Salvador (MARN, August 2019). These irregular rains and above-average temperatures in July and August particularly affected agricultural production during the main season in San Salvador, La Unión, San Miguel and Santa Ana. This marks the second consecutive year of poor primera season harvests and particularly high losses for subsistence farmers across the Dry Corridor, after the severe drought of 2018 (GEOGLAM, October 2019). However, the aggregate maize crop in 2019 was anticipated to be around average at 835,000 tonnes (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019).

Heavy rains in September affected Morazán, La Unión, Santa Ana, Chalatenango and Cabañas departments, causing interruption of access to potable water for 450 households (OCHA, October 2019), and delayed planting operations for the second season in the large producer departments of San Miguel and La Unión (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019). The rains damaged crops and the Government estimated that 18,300 tonnes out of a forecast 250,000 tonnes of postrera season beans would be lost, with most losses in the central and western parts, particularly in Ahuachapán, La Libertad, Cuscatlán and Santa Ana departments (El Economista, October 2019). Some coffee losses were also expected, while flooding in pasture areas caused animal disease (El Diario de Hoy, October 2019). In addition, the local producer association (CAMPO) estimated 5 percent of the postrera season maize crop would be lost (El Economista, November 2019).

#### Economic shocks

In the last decade the country suffered a great decline in coffee production, once the most important source of revenues from exports. The sector had not recovered from the leaf rust damages of 2011–2013 and continued to decline due to low international prices, lack of investment and also from the erratic weather and dry conditions that affected flowering and bean development. In the last six years jobs in the sector halved to 44,600, prompting migration to urban areas or abroad, with 30 percent of farmers abandoning their farms (USDA GAIN, May 2019). However, the sector still represents an important source...