regions, the lower precipitation in the 2019 main season had negative impacts at the national level. The most affected northern departments of Alta Verapaz, Petén and Quiché, which contribute about 40 percent of the main season output, received rainfall that was 20–30 percent below average (FAO-GIEWS, November 2019).

By September, El Progreso, Jutiapa, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Baja Verapaz and Quiché departments of the Dry Corridor were affected by irregular rains, late onset of rains and high temperatures, which resulted in 50 percent losses of the Primera harvest (FEWS NET, August 2019). In central and eastern parts, subsistence farmers’ yields were 75 percent below average, while some larger producers in Quiché and Retalhuleu departments reported around 40 percent reductions (GEOGLAM, October 2019).

Improvement in rainfall from mid-September was promising for the Postrera maize and bean harvests, which account for 20 percent of the annual production (FAO-GIEWS, November 2019) but June-August irregular rainfall and excess humidity in October resulted in low yields in Güija and Chortí micro-regions (IPC, December 2019). Thus, below-average overall aggregate maize production was anticipated for 2019 (FAO-GIEWS, November 2019).

Heavy rains in September caused flooding and landslides, and led to localized crop damages in Chiquimula, Escuintla, Jutiapa, Quetzaltenango and Retalhuleu departments (FEWS NET, October 2019). By November, almost 1.3 million people nationwide had been affected by the rains with reported injuries, evacuations and damages to infrastructure (CONRED, November 2019).

In the first half of 2019, around 12 000 people were newly displaced by disasters. Between May and November excessive rains were responsible for over 5 000 displacements with many of them in need of shelter and food assistance (IDMC, January 2020).

Economic shocks

The poorest families in the Dry Corridor areas faced low incomes during April–May (FEWS NET, April 2019), and the situation remained the same towards the end of the year for subsistence farming families who had lost their Primera harvest. Their dependency on markets increased, they had to adopt consumption-based coping strategies and to consider atypical migration patterns (FEWS NET, October 2019; IPC, December 2019). In March, the minimum wage covered about 80 percent of a basic food basket while staple food prices remained more or less stable (FEWS NET, April 2019). Maize prices peaked during June–July before dropping to earlier levels by October, reflecting the seasonal pattern. The price of black beans however increased slightly from August (FAO-GIEWS, November 2019).

The coffee harvest represents a main source of labour for over 500 000 people dependent on work as small producers and/or cutters in the coffee industry in 204 out of 340