or animal production. Some two-thirds of in-camp refugees had acceptable food consumption, but over half (57 percent) were using high-risk coping strategies such as children contributing to family income, sale of assets and reducing adults consumption for children to eat.

An estimated 11 percent were ‘vulnerable’ and 18 percent ‘moderately vulnerable’ based on food consumption, coping and poverty (WFP, June 2019).

**FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY**

**Weather extremes**

At the beginning of the year a poor performance of the January–March rains in southern areas (Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane) caused substantial agricultural losses (IPC, July 2019).

Mozambique was hit by two consecutive tropical cyclones in March and April 2019, killing at least 648 people, injuring nearly 1 700 and leaving an estimated 2.2 million in need of humanitarian assistance and protection. Cyclone Idai made landfall in March 2019, bringing strong winds and torrential rains to Sofala, Zambezia, Tete and Manica provinces and Cyclone Kenneth struck the northern provinces of Cabo Delgado and Nampula six weeks later (HRP, 2019).

In the affected areas, where more than 80 percent of people are dependent on agriculture as their primary source of income, smallholders suffered major agricultural losses during the critical harvest period following an already-difficult lean season. They suffered destruction of infrastructure, assets and livelihoods. About 0.5 million hectares of crops were destroyed following Cyclone Idai’s landfall (FAO, September 2019), while nearly 55 500 hectares were affected by Cyclone Kenneth (OCHA, May 2019).

Farmers in Manica and Sofala – the two provinces hardest hit by Cyclone Idai and the subsequent catastrophic flooding – produce approximately 25 percent of the national cereal output, yet all communities in Manica and 80 percent in Sofala reported harvesting less than half of their maize (OCHA, May 2019). Affected households reported having well below-average food stocks, leaving many vulnerable households without the prospect of another full harvest until March 2020 (FAO/WFP, September 2019).

Following two consecutive years of below-average production in southern semi-arid areas, most poor households were unable to keep some of their harvested grain to be used as seeds for 2019. The devastating floods caused by Cyclone Idai in the central region again reduced households’ ability to retain seeds for the current season and increased their dependence on borrowing or humanitarian assistance (FEWS NET, December 2019). These repeated extremes alter households’ recovery capacities and undermine resilience.