accessible Local Government Areas in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe, 29 were classified in Crisis (CH Phase 3) and one – Kala Balge in Borno – in Emergency (CH Phase 4). Another 20 LGAs were classified in Stressed (CH Phase 2).

Across the 16 states analysed and FCT, 18.8 million people, or 18 percent of the population analysed, were in Stressed (CH Phase 2).

The 2019 peak figure of acutely food‑insecure people for the 16 states and FCT was slightly lower than the 2018 peak of 5.3 million people in June–August 2018 and 45 percent lower than June–August 2017 (8.9 million). However, the situation showed little improvement in the north‑eastern areas.

Although the number in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above) decreased by around 18 percent to 4 million in October–December 2019 in line with seasonal patterns, the situation remained dire in the north‑eastern conflict‑affected areas with 22 still classified in Crisis (CH Phase 3). In the rest of the areas analysed more than 80 percent of the population was in Minimal (CH Phase 1) but still thousands were in Crisis (CH Phase 3) outside Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, with the highest number in Kano (429 000) and Kaduna (192 000).

Acute food insecurity among displaced people

The number of displaced people as a result of the insurgency in the north‑east is currently estimated at 2 million in six states (IOM, November 2019). The forcibly displaced populations have very limited livelihood opportunities and their food security remains precarious without humanitarian aid (CILSS‑CH, 2019 and FEWS NET, October 2019). The November 2019 CH analysis in camps in Borno shows that humanitarian assistance has not met the food security needs of all households. Around 262 000 IDPs were in Crisis or worse (CH Phase 3 or above), in addition to 251 000 in Stressed (CH Phase 2) – out of a total of 680 000 IDPs analysed. Host populations also face great pressure on their livelihoods and resources, while returnees wrestle to reconstruct their livelihoods due to the destruction of their assets.

An additional 540 000 people are displaced by communal clashes and banditry in north‑west and north‑central areas (IOM, 2019), mainly in Benue and Plateau, while Sokoto, Katsina and Zamfara also have a large proportion of displaced populations, mainly living in host communities (IOM, 2019).

FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

Conflict/insecurity

Although conflict occurred in fewer areas compared to previous years, north‑eastern Nigeria saw an intensification of armed violence in 2019, especially in Borno state. By the end of the year there were an estimated 1.8 million IDPs.