November 2019). Substantial flood-induced crop losses were recorded in riverine main maize-growing areas along the Shabelle and Juba rivers, infrastructure and roads were destroyed, and livelihoods disrupted in some of the worst-hit areas (WFP, October 2019).

Overall, the aggregate 2019 cereal production was estimated at 186,000 tonnes, about 10 percent below the 2018 bumper output and 20 percent below the average of the previous five years.

Pastoral areas were also affected by a poor performance of the Gu rains, with drought conditions prevailing in April. Late season rains in May helped to partially, but not fully, replenish pastoral resources.

However, many pastoral households that had already lost much of their herds during the 2016/17 drought, faced reduced milk availability from their remaining stock and took on large debts to cover basic food and non-food needs (FSNAU and FEWS NET, September 2019). Pasture, browse and water availability markedly improved with the abundant October–December Deyr rains.

The availability of saleable animals as well as milk availability for household consumption continued to gradually improve. However, many poor households were still unable to meet their minimum food needs without selling their animals to the point of endangering the sustainability of their herds and their livelihoods (FSNAU and FEWS NET, February 2020).

Prices of sorghum declined in December in southern key markets, including the capital Mogadishu, by 5–15 percent in anticipation of the Deyr harvest, while prices of maize followed mixed trends, increasing in some markets due to the expected crop losses in main maize growing areas. Prices of coarse grains in December 2019 were about 30 percent higher than in the same month of the previous year, mainly due to a tight supply situation following the drought-reduced 2019 Gu main season harvest (FAO-GIEWS, March 2020). As of November 2019, the cost of a minimum basket (CMB) was above the five-year average in the Banadir, Juba, North-east, North-west and Sorghum Belt regions (FSNAU, November 2019).

**Conflict/insecurity**

Clan disputes, protests, the weakness of the national forces, the gradual withdrawal of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), Islamic State and continuing Al Shabaab attacks continued to cause insecurity and instability, disrupting livelihoods, markets, trade flows and humanitarian access and forcing Somalis to abandon fields and productive assets (ACAPS, June 2019 and FSNAU, October 2019).

ACLED data indicated that there were approximately 2,400 conflict events in Somalia in 2019, resulting in 3,800 fatalities. Though still very high, this data indicates a slight decline compared to 2018 levels with conflict events down by 15 percent and fatalities down by 26 percent (ACLED, 2019).