small shops across the camps and markets are operational in Nduta and Mtendeli camps. They can also go to the community markets for a wider selection of items (SENS, 2019).

More than 80 percent of refugee households had acceptable food consumption in 2019, climbing from 81 percent in March to 84 percent in June and 86 percent in August. However, over the same time period, refugees increasingly resorted to consumption-based strategies to cover their food needs. The proportion reducing the number of daily meals increased from 40 percent to 61 percent (WFP, November 2019).

**FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY**

**Weather extremes and crop pests**

The 2019 Msimu harvest, completed in June in western, central and southern unimodal rainfall areas, was estimated to be above average thanks to adequate and well-distributed rainfall. However, in northern, north-eastern and coastal bimodal rainfall areas, the Masika main season harvest in August was well below average, due to erratic rains in the March–May long rainy season and fall armyworm outbreaks, which were estimated at more than 50 percent in Manyara, Geita, Kagera, Simiyu and Kilimanjaro regions (FAO-GIEWS). A needs assessment carried out by FAO in Iringa, Manyara and Morogoro – which account for 11 percent of the national maize production – found that in the three regions 64 percent of farmers suffered yield losses due to the pest and that on average they lost 11 percent of the total maize crop (Turot et al, forthcoming).

The 2019 aggregate cereal production was estimated at about 10 million tonnes, 3 percent down from the output obtained in 2018 and the average of the previous five years (FAO-GIEWS). Exceptionally abundant rains during the October–December 2019 short rainy season boosted crop yields, but also triggered flooding, causing localized crop losses and damage to infrastructure. Mara was one of the most affected regions at the end of October with homes and infrastructure, including roads and bridges, either destroyed or damaged. Some 370 acres of crop farms were washed away (IFRC, November 2019).

**Economic shocks**

As a result of poor weather conditions and lower agricultural production, reduced labour opportunities in farming and above-average staple prices contributed to reducing households’ purchasing power in 2019. Prices of maize followed a sustained, albeit irregular, increasing trend throughout 2019, as a result of sustained exports to Kenya, Rwanda and particularly Zimbabwe as well as the reduced Masika harvest and the heavy rains that disrupted trade flows and inflated transport costs (FAO-GIEWS).