During that period almost 222,000 people were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). A higher number were classified in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) (267,000 people) compared with the projected period of October 2019–February 2020 (IPC, October 2019).

**Acute food insecurity among refugees**

Following the outbreak of violence in the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in March 2017, around 35,000 refugees arrived in Angola’s Lunda Norte province. Their repatriation was underway in 2019, but was interrupted between September and October at the request of the Congolese government (UNHCR, November 2019).

As of late September some 14,800 Congolese refugees had been repatriated (Government of Angola, September 2019). By the end of November the country still hosted around 45,000 refugees, including 12,000 Congolese (UNHCR, December 2019).

The food consumption status of refugees in Lovua settlement improved between April and July 2019. By July the percentage of refugee households with inadequate food consumption had fallen to 40 percent from 62 percent in April. Over 90 percent were reducing meal portion sizes and 80 percent reducing the number of meals they consumed each day to cope with food shortages (WFP, July 2019).

**FACTORS DRIVING ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY**

**Weather extremes**

In early 2019 erratic and below-average rainfall negatively affected crop yields – particularly of maize – at the national level. Vegetation stress was reported over the east-west belt (JRC-GDO, October 2019). Pest infestations (fall armyworm and birds) also contributed to low maize yields (IPC, October 2019). As a result, the 2019 cereal output was estimated at 16 percent below the favourable harvest of a year earlier and 9 percent below the five-year average (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019). In some areas agricultural campaigns failed completely. Millet and sorghum production declined significantly and livestock herd sizes decreased (IPC, October 2019). The 2019/2020 cereal import requirements increased to meet the deficit of 1.2 million metric tonnes (SADC, July 2019) with maize imports 15 percent above average.

The three southern provinces of Cuando Cubango, Cunene and Huila, which produce a minor share of the national cereal production, were severely affected by drought. Given the severe dry conditions, livestock body conditions deteriorated as a result of poor pasture and water availability (FAO-GIEWS, October 2019), and local populations faced loss of assets, displacements and significantly disrupted livelihoods (IPC, October 2019). By December the drought had affected over