

THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR AND ITS RIPPLE EFFECTS ON SOMALIA'S FOOD SECURITY

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Abstract

The Russia-Ukraine war has generated profound repercussions beyond its immediate geopolitical landscape, significantly affecting global food security, particularly in import-dependent nations such as Somalia. This study adopts a qualitative approach to examine the geopolitical determinants of the conflict and their implications for Somalia's food security. By analyzing Somalia's reliance on Ukrainian grain imports and the broader disruptions in international trade, this research underscores the interconnection between armed conflict, economic fragility, and food insecurity. Findings reveal that the conflict has critically disrupted Ukrainian agricultural exports, precipitating severe shortages and escalating food prices in Somalia. The sharp increase in the cost of essential commodities, notably wheat, has intensified hunger and malnutrition, exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities. Furthermore, Somalia's diplomatic relations with Russia and Ukraine have become increasingly strained, potentially impeding bilateral trade agreements and humanitarian assistance programs. The war has also exposed systemic weaknesses within the global food supply chain, highlighting how geopolitical instability amplifies economic and humanitarian crises.

Keywords: *Food Security, Geopolitical, Russia-Ukraine war, Somalia, Staple Foods*

Introduction

Relations between the Soviet Union, Ukraine, and Russia have been marked by tensions and conflicts, largely stemming from issues of cultural identity, autonomy, and historical trauma. During the Soviet era, Ukraine was a nominally autonomous republic, but power was centrally located in Moscow, leading to frustration and resentment among Ukrainians. The predominant use of the Russian language in government and media also led to efforts to suppress Ukrainian language and culture, contributing to a sense of cultural oppression. The legacy of Soviet policies, such as forced collectivization of agriculture and the 1932-1933 famine that led to starvation and death in Ukraine, also contributes to the historical trauma felt by many Ukrainians. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ukraine became an independent nation, but its relationship with Russia remained complex. Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine, where pro-Russian separatists have taken control of several regions, have escalated tensions between Ukraine and Russia. These conflicts are often seen as part of a larger struggle for influence and power between Russia and the West. Therefore, the historical relationship between the

Soviet Union, Ukraine, and Russia is characterized by a complex interplay of cultural identity, autonomy, and historical trauma, with ongoing conflicts rooted in these factors (Rudnytsky, 1972).

Russia and Ukraine have a rich historical background. Many Russians consider Ukraine an integral part of their historical sphere of influence, as Ukraine was a member of the Soviet Union until its dissolution in 1991 (Von Hagen, 1995) . The complexity of Ukraine's diverse geography and population, as well as external influences such as the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, have contributed to a fragmented and contested history. In addition, language has played an important role in shaping national identity in Ukraine, as both Ukrainian and Russian are widely spoken and contested. The influence of the Soviet Union on Ukrainian historiography has resulted in the suppression and rewriting of the country's history to fit the Soviet narrative. The result is a nuanced view of Ukraine's history that is significant given the ongoing political tensions in the region. According to Larrabee, F. (2010), the relationship between Russia, Ukraine and Central Europe is complex and multilayered by historical factors. On Russia's side, it has historically played a dominant role in the region dating back to the Soviet Union era. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia has sought to maintain its influence in the region through various means, including economic and cultural ties as well as military intervention. Meanwhile, Ukraine, which was part of the Soviet Union, has been a major flashpoint in the region in recent years. In 2014, Ukraine's pro-Russian president was overthrown in a popular uprising, leading to Russia's annexation of Crimea and the outbreak of conflict in eastern Ukraine between Ukrainian government forces and Russian-backed separatists. This competition is being played out in the region in a variety of ways, including proxy conflicts in Ukraine, economic competition, and military buildup.

The main factors that contributed to the conflict is the historical rivalry between Russia and Ukraine (Kuzio. 2018). Ukraine was once part of the Soviet Union, and Russia considers Ukraine an important part of its historical sphere of influence. This has led to tensions between the two countries, especially after Ukraine's independence in 1991. Russia has long been concerned about NATO 's expansion into Eastern Europe and sees Ukraine as a buffer zone against this expansion. Ukraine, on the other hand, has sought closer relations with Europe and has expressed a desire to join NATO. In addition, national identity is also an important factor in this conflict. Ukraine has a distinct national identity that differs from Russia's, which has led to tensions between the two countries. Russia has also sought to promote its own national identity, particularly under President Putin, which has further fueled tensions. The Russian-Ukrainian conflict is thus a complex mix of historical, geopolitical, and national identity factors. Understanding these factors is critical to resolving the crisis.

Territorial Disputes

The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine over the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed in 2014. For Ukraine, the main concern is the restoration of its territorial integrity and sovereignty over Crimea. Russia's main interest, on the other hand, is maintaining its strategic access to the Black Sea and the security of its naval base in Sevastopol. Meanwhile, it proposes international mediation, economic incentives, and territorial autonomy as possible measures to resolve the conflict between Russia and Ukraine over Crimea. The interests and concerns of both sides will be taken into account. The use of economic incentives, such as increased trade and investment, could encourage Russia to

return Crimea to Ukraine, while granting a high degree of autonomy to the region within Ukraine could also be a possible solution. Therefore, it is suggested that an international mediator, such as the UN or the OSCE, could facilitate negotiations and help find a mutually acceptable solution (Kudelia, 2018).

Figure 1.1

The Map of The Administrative Division of Ukraine and Territories Control by Russia and Pro-Russian Militants



Source: https://sterling-law.co.uk/ua/home-office-kategoriyi-osib-krym-donetskluhansk/under_att_eng/ (2022).

Figure 1.1 is used to explain the map of the administrative division of Ukraine and the territories controlled by Russia and pro-Russian militants. Russia has gained control over 12.8% of the total 47,000 km² area of Ukraine. Russia has successfully conquered Crimea (Sevastopol), Donetsk, and Luhansk in Ukraine. This invasion is primarily politically, economically, and geopolitically motivated. Russia successfully invaded Crimea in 2014 because Ukraine was unable to settle the country peacefully due to domestic political problems. Meanwhile, Donetsk and Luhansk tend to be more Russian due to historical and cultural aspects.

Ukraine's Path to the West

Since the country's independence in 1991, Ukraine's strategic partnership with NATO has evolved. After initially adopting a neutral stance, Ukraine showed interest in participating in NATO in the late 1990s and joined the Partnership for Peace program in 2002. It was not until 2014, following Russia's annexation of Crimea, that Ukraine's relationship with NATO changed significantly. Since then, NATO has increased its support to Ukraine and established a comprehensive assistance program consisting of political and practical support, financial assistance for defense and security sector reforms, and military exercises and training. In addition, NATO has established a Trust Fund for Ukraine to support initiatives such as demining, cyber defense, and medical rehabilitation of soldiers. Despite obstacles such as Russian opposition and hybrid warfare, Ukraine's efforts to

integrate into NATO have progressed. The country has implemented numerous reforms and demonstrated its commitment to democratic values and the rule of law. NATO has reaffirmed its support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and condemned Russian aggression against the country. The Enhanced Opportunity Partnership Agreement signed in 2020 is further evidence of the strengthening of relations between Ukraine and NATO and the potential for even closer cooperation in the future. Although challenges remain, the strategic partnership between Ukraine and NATO continues to evolve and grow stronger over time (Kuzio, 1998).

The relationship between Ukraine and NATO has been an important issue in European politics since the end of the Cold War (Alexiyevets & Alexiyevets, 2020). After gaining independence in 1991, Ukraine initially declared neutrality, but in the early 2000s, the government began to seek closer relations with NATO. The partnership between Ukraine and NATO has gone through four main phases. The first phase was from 1991 to 2004, when Ukraine remained neutral and was reluctant to engage with NATO. In the second phase, from 2004 to 2010, Ukraine participated more actively in the Partnership for Peace program with NATO, which helped it modernize its military and deepen cooperation with NATO. In the third phase from 2010 to 2014, Ukraine's foreign policy shifted toward Russia, which led to a cooling of relations with NATO. However, after the 2014 Ukrainian revolution and Russia's annexation of Crimea, Ukraine resumed its efforts to join NATO, beginning the fourth phase. This phase, which is ongoing, is characterized by increasing cooperation between Ukraine and NATO, including joint military exercises and training programs. Despite Ukraine's efforts to join NATO, its path to membership remains uncertain. The country faces significant economic and political challenges, as well as an ongoing conflict with Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine. NATO continues to support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, however, and the partnership between the two countries is expected to continue to develop in the future.

According to Pridham (2014), the crisis between Ukraine and Russia in 2013-14 was a turning point in relations between the European Union (EU) and Ukraine. The crisis began when Ukraine's then-president, Viktor Yanukovich, rejected a trade agreement with the EU in favor of closer ties with Russia. This decision sparked protests in Ukraine that eventually led to Yanukovich's overthrow and Russia's annexation of Crimea. The EU responded to the crisis by imposing sanctions on Russia and supporting Ukraine's pro-Western government. The EU also signed an association agreement with Ukraine to strengthen political and economic ties between the two parties. The agreement included provisions for a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), which was intended to boost Ukraine's economy and make it more competitive. The crisis in Ukraine also highlighted the EU's dependence on Russian energy, leading to calls for greater energy independence and diversification of sources. In response to these concerns, the EU launched an Energy Union initiative aimed at creating a more integrated and secure energy market in Europe. The Ukraine crisis thus marked a turning point in EU-Ukraine relations and highlighted the need for the EU to be more assertive in its foreign policy toward Russia. The crisis also highlighted the need for greater energy independence and diversification in Europe.

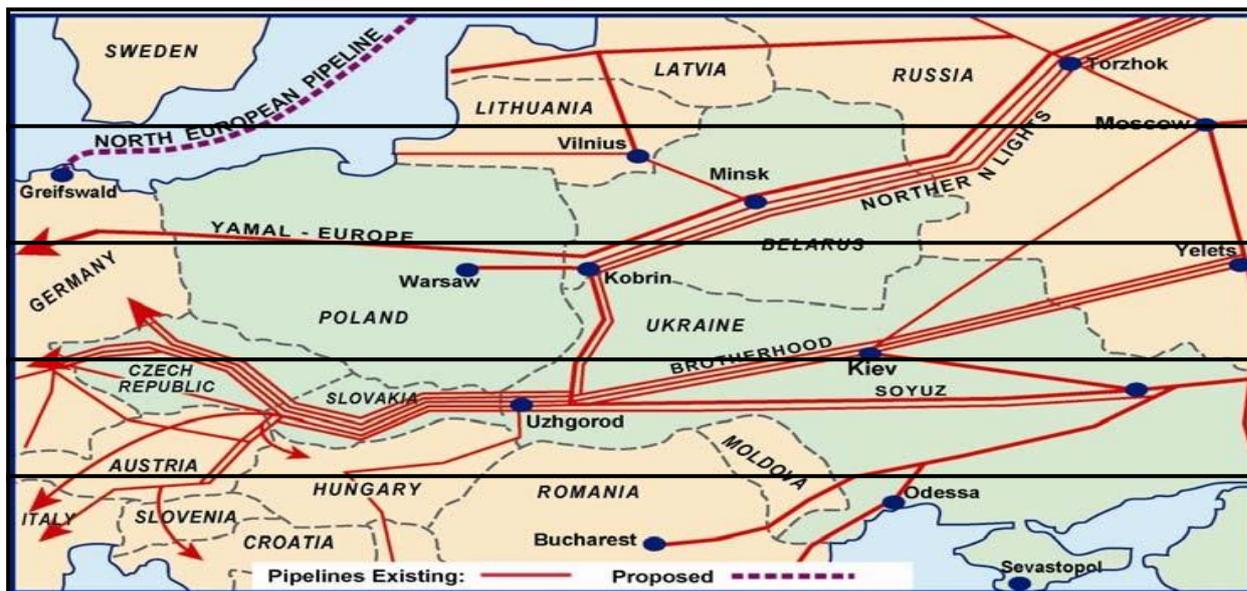
The Russia-Ukraine war is affecting the European and global balance of power. Moscow is concerned about the expansion of NATO and the EU into Ukraine, which it considers a buffer zone. Ukraine is an important ally for the West and a potential bridge between Europe and Asia. Russia annexed Crimea in 2014 to secure its position on the Black Sea. Crimea's Black Sea fleet provides Moscow with access to the Mediterranean and

beyond, making it strategically important. The annexation prevented NATO from entering Crimea, which would have jeopardized Russian security. Putin annexed Crimea. After the annexation, Putin's popularity in Russia rose as he was seen as a strong leader who could stand up to the West. Russia suffered from the annexation of Crimea. It also worsened Russia's relations with the West, especially with the United States and Europe. Thus, Russia's annexation of Crimea was a strategic move to secure its position on the Black Sea, and Putin was instrumental in justifying and implementing this move (Henrikson, 2022).

The Struggle Over Energy Resources

The Russian-Ukrainian gas crisis of January 2006 was a dispute over the price and supply of natural gas between Russia's state-owned gas company Gazprom and Ukraine's state-owned gas company Naftogaz. The dispute began on January 1, 2006, when Gazprom announced that it would stop supplying gas to Ukraine unless Naftogaz was willing to pay higher prices for the gas it received. The dispute quickly escalated, with both sides accusing each other of various wrongdoings. Gazprom accused Naftogaz of stealing gas destined for European customers, while Naftogaz accused Gazprom of raising prices unjustifiably and using gas as a political weapon against Ukraine. The crisis had significant economic and political repercussions. The gas cutoffs led to shortages and disruptions in gas supplies to countries across Europe, as Ukraine is a major transit route for Russian gas exports to Europe. The crisis also raised concerns about Europe's dependence on Russian gas and led to calls for greater diversification of energy supplies. The crisis was finally resolved on January 4, 2006, when Ukraine agreed to pay higher prices for Russian gas. However, the underlying issues of the dispute, such as pricing and supply, remained unresolved and continued to cause tension between Russia and Ukraine. The Russian-Ukrainian gas crisis of January 2006 thus highlighted the complex and interdependent nature of energy relations in Europe between energy suppliers and transit countries (Stern, 2005).

Ukraine's role as a transit country for Russian gas to Europe and its desire to adopt EU energy rules and regulations. Russia's influence on Ukraine's energy sector has led to corruption, political interference, and a lack of transparency and market-oriented reforms. These problems have prevented the development of a competitive and efficient gas transit market and left Ukraine vulnerable to political exploitation of gas supplies by Russia. Nonetheless, Ukraine has aligned with EU energy policies and regulatory frameworks to promote transparency, competitiveness, and nondiscrimination. This has led to problems with Russia, which wants to maintain its dominance in the energy market and oppose market-oriented reforms by the EU. International cooperation and dialog in managing Ukraine's energy sector, particularly as a transit country for Russian gas supplies to Europe. The Energy Community and the International Energy Agency have fostered cooperation and dialog between Ukraine, Russia, and the EU and shaped the regulatory environment for energy trade and transit in the region. Ukraine's complex energy relations with Russia and the EU have been blamed for its challenges and potential as a regional transit country. It underscores the need for transparency, competitiveness, and diversity in the region's energy markets and international cooperation to ensure the energy security of Ukraine and the region (Wolczuk, 2016).

Figure 1.2*The Pipeline Existing as a Transit Country for Russian Gas exports to Europe*

Source: Stern, (2005)

The existing pipeline infrastructure in Ukraine mentioned in Figure 1.2 is a major transit point for Russian gas exports to Europe and serves as the main transit country for Russian gas exports. Ukraine receives transit fees for the use of its pipelines, while Europe relies on Russian gas to meet its energy needs. Pipeline infrastructure has been a source of tension between Russia and Ukraine, with disputes over transit fees and supply disruptions. This has heightened concerns about Europe's dependence on Russian gas and vulnerability to supply disruptions. Ukraine's pipeline infrastructure plays a critical role in delivering Russian gas to Europe, which has significant economic implications for both Ukraine and Europe.

Military Interventions

Kormych & Malyarenko (2022) describe how Russia has been able to exert its influence over Ukraine through a variety of means, including military intervention. One of Russia's most important tactics is the annexation of Crimea, which gave it control over key strategic locations on the Black Sea. The importance of the Black Sea region in terms of energy resources, trade routes, and strategic military positioning. This has made the region an important area of interest for both Russia and Ukraine. In recent years, the conflict has escalated, with both sides engaging in more traditional military tactics and maneuvers. Ukraine has also upgraded its military capabilities, including by acquiring new weapons and improving its navy. The report also highlights the importance of the Black Sea region as a strategic location for world powers and the potential impact of continued conflict in the region.

Table 1.1

Ship That Ukrainian Navy and State Border Coast Guard Planned to Acquire from NATO Countries (as for the late 2021)

Country	Type	Quantity	Contractor	Year Signed	Start delivery	Completion	Value	Funding
US	Mark VI patrol boat ¹⁴⁵	6 + 2 (option)	SAFE Boats International	2020	2022	2025	\$84,254,484	Building Partner Capacity (BPC) and Foreign Military Financing (FMF) Excess Defense Articles (EDA) program
US	Island-class patrol boats ¹⁴⁶	5 (4 delivered, 1–2022)		2017	2019	2022	Transfer decommissioned from USCG	
UK	Sandown-class mine counter measure vessels ¹⁴⁷ (MCMV)	2		2021	2023		Transfer decommissioned from RN	Ukrainian Naval Capabilities Enhancement Project (UNCEP)
UK	Protector-class missile boats (FIAC) ¹⁴⁸	8 (1 British build + 7 Ukrainian build)	Babcock International	2020	2023		Part of the 1,7 £ billion loan from the UK government	Ukrainian Naval Capabilities Enhancement Project (UNCEP)
Turkey	Ada-class corvette ¹⁴⁹	1 + 1 (option)	STM (Savunma Teknolojileri Mühendislik)	2020	2023		€ 200 million each	Ukrainian Government funding, part of the Turkey-Ukraine Military Cooperation Agreement,
France	FPB 98 patrol boat* ¹⁵⁰	20	OCEA S.A.	2020	2022	2023	€ 136.5 million	15% – Ukrainian Government, 85% – the Treasury loan of the Ministry of Finance of France

Source: Kormych & Malyarenko (2022)

<https://doi.org/10.1080/09592318.2022.2122278>

Table 1.1, it is mentioned that the Ukrainian Navy and State Coast Guard plan to acquire from allied countries. The 2019 Naval Forces Strategy emphasizes the restoration of surface forces by 2030 using the "Mosquito Fleet" and coastal artillery. The technical characteristics of the fleet have changed to adopt Western-built, decommissioned ships such as the U.S. "Islander-class" or the planned "Mark IV" patrol boats. However, the 2019 strategy has initiated a shift in the right direction, both in improving the navy and in increasing offensive capabilities through the planned entry into service of UK-designed and built missile boats and Turkish Ada-class corvettes. Ukraine's 2021 naval doctrine emphasizes missile boats, landing craft, coastal patrol cutters, unmanned underwater vehicles, minesweepers, air assets, and coastal-based guided weapons. The 2021 strategy "instead "calls for bold symmetric decisions and activities," unlike the 2019 strategy. The 2021 plan also claims that the Navy has acquired or received significant amounts of weapons through international technical assistance, while remaining silent on the Navy's domestic funding sources, which may indicate reliance on Western allies.

Ethnic Differences

Ukraine is a multicultural nation with a variety of language and racial groups. A significant number of Ukrainians also speak Russian, especially in the east and south of the country. This has led to tensions between Ukrainians and Russians, as well as conflict within Ukraine between Ukrainian speakers and Russian speakers. As noted above, the conflict began in 2014 when Ukraine's pro-Russian president was overthrown by a pro-Western government. Russia then annexed Crimea, a Ukrainian territory, and supported separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine. The conflict has since claimed more than 13,000 lives. The conflict has deepened as ethnic Russians are a significant minority in Ukraine. Russia has used this as a pretext to intervene on behalf of ethnic Russians in Ukraine, while Ukraine has portrayed Russia's actions as an attempt to divide the country along ethnic lines. The actions of both sides have exacerbated the sense of insecurity on the other side and led to a dangerous escalation of tensions. Resolving the conflict would require acknowledging each other's security concerns and being willing to engage in dialog and compromise (Posen, 1993).

The impact of conflict on Somalia food security

The impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on Somalia's food security is complicated, affecting politics, economics, and social dynamics. Somalia has strained relations with Russia and Ukraine. Somalia and Russia have cooperated politically and militarily in the past. Somalia maintains diplomatic relations with Ukraine and recognizes its sovereignty over Crimea. The ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine could strain Somalia's relations with both nations and undermine its global political position. Somalia has suffered from political instability and conflict for decades. This has led to widespread poverty and food insecurity, leaving many people in the country unable to obtain food and water. The Russia-Ukraine conflict could exacerbate hunger and malnutrition by increasing the price and availability of food globally. Somalia relies on agriculture for food and income. Droughts, floods, and war have devastated the country's agriculture. The impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on global trade and economic activity could harm Somalia's economy and food production. Somalia's violence and instability make security a major concern. The Russia-Ukraine conflict could worsen regional stability and geopolitics and lead to more violence and displacement. This would impede access to food and basic services in Somalia and worsen food security (Mhlanga & Ndhlovu, 2022). In addition, global supply chains and food trade have been disrupted, leading to an increase in global food prices. From March to May 2022, global average prices for wheat, soybeans, and maize increased faster than ever before and during the outbreak of COVID -19. Ultimately, this becomes a threat to global food security, especially for low-income countries like Somalia that are highly dependent on food imports from these two countries (Zainab, 2023).

a. Increasing of Domestic Crimes

Somalia is a country facing many internal and external crises. According to Kemmerling et al. (2022), the civil war and piracy activities that have been going on for so long are one of the biggest impacts on national security. In addition, there is the food safety crisis, which has recently become a growing concern. The event that had a major impact was the pandemic COVID -19 that hit the world. Before Somalia had time to recover from the food safety crisis, the world was shaken by the conflict between Russia and Ukraine on February 24, 2022. This incident had a significant impact on the food problem because Somalia is highly dependent on food from both countries, especially wheat, grains, fertilizers, etc. Moreover, because of the lack of food, people would rebel and compete for food resources in order to continue living. This would indirectly increase the crime rate among the population, especially robbery, murder, sexual violence, theft, and fighting. In the third period of 2022, Somalia recorded the highest number of deaths due to crime and internal conflict in five years. The non-state group al-Shabab continues to trouble humanitarian organizations working in Somalia, and violence escalated in late 2022, with food supplies burned and water sources poisoned or destroyed, according to the report.

b. Higher Global Grain Prices

The Russia-Ukraine crisis has affected global food and energy security, especially for Somalia, which imports grain from Ukraine and Russia. Benton et al. (2022), Ukraine exports wheat, maize, and sunflower oil. Somalia and other importing countries could face food shortages due to the disruption of agricultural production and exports caused by the conflict. Delays in food exports by Ukraine have driven up global food costs, causing problems for needy people who import food. Increased prices and limited food availability

could exacerbate food insecurity in Somalia. The conflict has also created uncertainties in the global energy market, particularly in gas supplies. Ukraine transports a large amount of Russian natural gas to Europe. The conflict has hampered gas supplies to Europe and threatens energy shortages and price increases. These factors may also affect energy supply and pricing in Somalia and affect the country's ability to transport and store imported food. The war also underscores the need for countries like Somalia to invest in sustainable agricultural and food systems to reduce food imports and improve local food production. Food imports from countries in conflict can lead to supply disruptions and price volatility. In summary, the Ukraine crisis has affected food and energy security, especially for countries like Somalia that import grain from Ukraine and Russia. It focuses on investing in sustainable agriculture and food systems to increase food security and reduce imports.

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has the potential to affect Somalia's food security through an increase in global grain prices. Higher global grain prices can have a domino effect on food markets and commodities, affecting food affordability and availability in Somalia. This is of particular concern as Somalia already faces significant food insecurity. According to estimates from UN, nearly 5 million people will be acutely food insecure by 2021. Many Somalis rely on livestock for food and income, and any disruption to livestock production could negatively impact the country's food security. In addition to impacting food availability and affordability, higher global grain prices can lead to inflation, making it more difficult for vulnerable Somali populations to afford essentials such as food and water. Thus, the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on global grain prices could have a significant impact on food security in Somalia, particularly for vulnerable populations who already struggle to feed themselves adequately. It is critical that aid agencies and governments monitor the situation and take action to mitigate the impact of the conflict on Somalia's food security, for example, by increasing food aid or strengthening domestic food production (Diop & Asongu, 2022).

Figure 1.3

Global Food Prices from May 2017 to May 2022

Source: Nasir, M.A., Nugroho, A.D., (2022)

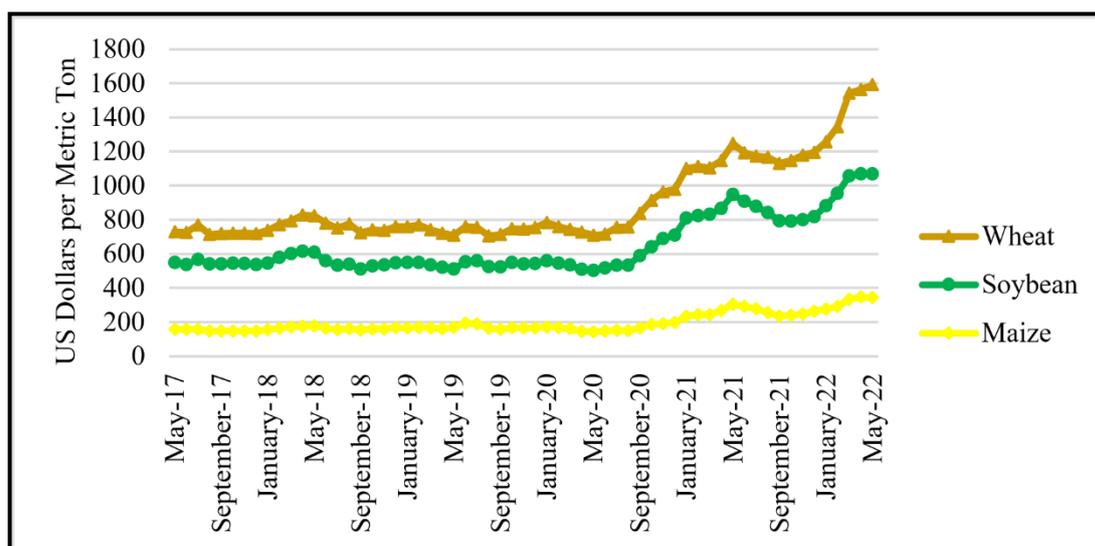


Figure 1.3 shows that the escalating conflict between Russia and Ukraine had a significant impact on the increase in global food prices between May 2017 and May 2022. The conflict has disrupted agricultural production and supply chains in the region, which are critical for wheat and corn exports. Both Russia and Ukraine are major exporters of these commodities, and the heightened tensions directly impacted their production and availability. As a result, wheat and corn prices increased by 2.17% and 2.59% monthly, respectively. In addition, soybean prices increased by 1.73% per month during the same period. The instability caused by the conflict also had an indirect impact on global markets, leading to market speculation, trade disruptions, and increased uncertainty, all of which contributed to the overall increase in food prices during the aforementioned period. The Russia-Ukraine conflict acted as a key intangible factor exacerbating the upward trend in global food prices.

c. Increasing of Famine

Modern famines are increasingly linked to political conflict and weaponized food production. Oberg et al. (2022), combatants can block supply lines, divert irrigation, and use food for humanitarian purposes. For example, Russian embargoes on Odesa and other ports prevented the export of 25 million tons of grain amid an ongoing global hunger crisis in which 345 million people worldwide face acute food insecurity and imminent risk of famine. In Somalia alone, where climate change is reducing rainfall, 7.1 million people are at risk of acute food insecurity and 250 million at risk of famine. Two days after Russia and Ukraine signed an international agreement to resume Ukrainian grain exports, Odesa was bombed again. The first shipment of grain from Ukraine on August 1, 2022, after more than 6 months of conflict, then restored hope.

In 2011, a famine in Somalia killed more than 260,000 people, mostly women and children. Despite early warnings, the international response was slow and inadequate. Early warnings cannot stop famine for many reasons. Political hesitation prevented the international community from responding to humanitarian warnings (Hillbruner & Moloney, 2012). Among the countries affected by famine and global food inflation, African countries such as Somalia, Zimbabwe, Djibouti, Rwanda, and Burkina Faso are in the top 10 of food price inflation in September 2022. Moreover, the number of people affected by food crises has increased even more. In terms of food security, no region other than Africa has been more affected by COVID -19 and the war in Ukraine (Santeramo & Kang, 2022).

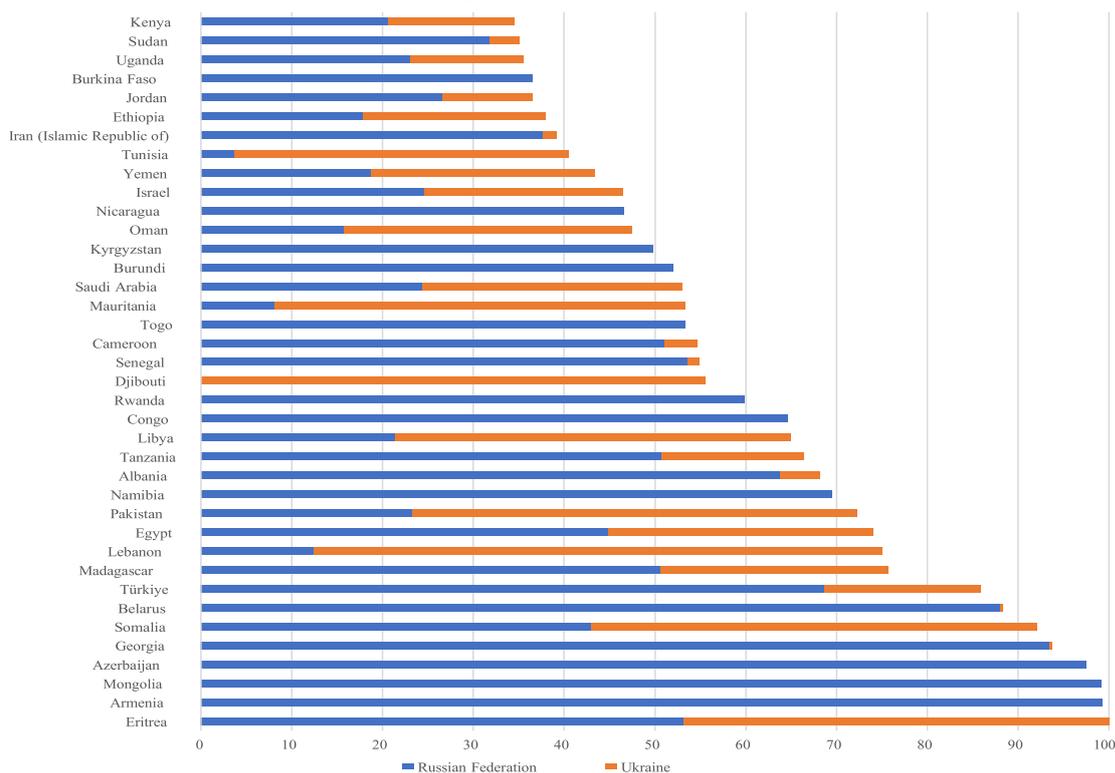
d. Acute Malnutrition

In Somalia, nearly 2 million children under the age of 5 suffer from acute malnutrition. From the total acute malnutrition child intake, 49.3% fall into the severe category, 16.0% are mildly malnourished, and 34.7% have adequate nutrients (Omar. A. A & Mehriban. N, 2019). The crisis in Ukraine could worsen food insecurity and poverty in Somalia, leading to malnutrition. Global cereal prices could rise due to the conflict, making nutritious food more expensive for poor households. Malnutrition may result from households eating cheap, unhealthy food. The conflict may also limit international aid and worsen hunger. Aid organizations may not be able to address malnutrition in Somalia because of the conflict. Health and nutrition centers may close, limiting life-saving services. Violence may also affect agricultural productivity and livelihoods in Somalia, exacerbating malnutrition. According to Omar. A. A & Mehriban. N, (2019), the frequency of daily food intake among households in Somalia is once a day (4%), 2 times a day (45.3%), 3 times a day (42%), and 4 times a day or more (8.7%). Many Somali households rely on agriculture for income and

food, so disruptions can affect their access to both. This may have an indirect impact on malnutrition rates in Somalia. Armed conflict can exacerbate food insecurity, impoverishment, and malnutrition. Somalia needs a multisectoral approach to address food insecurity, poverty, and poor health and nutrition practices to combat malnutrition. The country has also struggled with various diseases that usually spread during the hunger crisis, such as cholera, diarrhea, and measles. Children are the main victims of these diseases. According to UNICEF, 1 in 7 children died before they were 5 years old in 2015 (Santeramo & Kang, 2022).

Figure 1.4

Countries Dependent on Wheat Imports from Russia and Ukraine in 2021 (%)



Source: FOA, (2022, p.11)

As shown in Figure 1.4, Russia and Ukraine are major players in the global wheat export market. About 25 countries source more than 50% of their wheat imports from these countries. Eritrea is the largest importer, sourcing 52% of its wheat from Russia and 48% from Ukraine, accounting for 100% of its total wheat imports. Kenya, on the other hand, is the least dependent on these countries. Russia supplies 20% and Ukraine 15%, making its total wheat imports 35%. Somalia's wheat imports are distributed mainly between Russia (42%) and Ukraine (50%), accounting for about 92% of total wheat imports. These figures underscore the critical role that Russia and Ukraine play in global wheat trade and highlight the varying degrees to which different importers rely on these countries. The data underscore the importance of wheat trade relations between Russia, Ukraine, and a number of importing nations.

e. Reducing of International Aid

According to Wise (2022), this situation has been exacerbated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Somalia sourced at least 90% of its grain from Russia and Ukraine before the war

and has also received less humanitarian aid as it has been the focus of European international donors. This is because Russia and Ukraine are the main food producers for at least 30 countries around the world, including Somalia, Senegal, Egypt and many others that need to import at least 50% to 100% of their wheat consumption. In December 2022, international donors are tired of funneling aid money to Somalia because there is a global crisis that still needs other aid, and besides, the government does not seem to have implemented a solution for more than three decades. For 2023, the Somali government would request \$2.6 billion in financial assistance to help its 7.6 million people. In addition, an international donor who wants to donate 500 thousand USD to Somalia has also set out to help the people of Ukraine. In addition, the Russia-Ukraine conflict may also have a major impact as all forms of humanitarian aid that have been flowing to Somalia would be reduced and the focus would be more on the conflict that is taking place. The focus of humanitarian aid would be directed to troubled countries and further worsen food security in Somalia.

In 2023, Somalia has experienced a series of worsening crises in recent years, all of which have led to major economic and social crises, most notably shortages of food, medicine, and basic necessities. Terrorism, as well as external interventions that drain state resources. In his statement, the mayor refers to the impact of the crisis in Ukraine on the African continent as well. The war in Ukraine has deprived several African regions of food aid provided by the United Nations after Ukrainian ports cut off grain shipments for several months before letting them through under an agreement signed mid-last year between UN and Russian and Ukrainian authorities, but halted several times due to political and military disputes between Moscow and Kiev (Bensalah. M, 2023). According to the Directorate General for European Civil Protection, a total of 499 million euros was allocated for sub-Saharan Africa in 2022. The funds were intended to support those suffering from food and nutrition crises exacerbated by conflict in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger. Accordingly, the fund was also intended to help those displaced by violence in the Central African Republic, Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, South Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia. Despite these efforts, the international community is likely to face many challenges that could slow down efforts due to the Russia-Ukraine war (Mwansa, R, 2022).

Analysis

The climate change also threatens food production in Somalia. Climate change could exacerbate food insecurity in Somalia and make it more difficult for the country to withstand shocks to the global food system from the Russia-Ukraine conflict (Bowles *et al.*, 2015). Climatic changes from the Russia-Ukraine conflict may also affect Somalia's agricultural security. Climate change-induced droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events hit Somalia the hardest. These events can lead to food shortages for vulnerable people. Climate change and the Russia-Ukraine conflict can harm Somali agriculture. Global warming could worsen droughts in Somalia and threaten food production and livelihoods. Somalia's agriculture is also affected by rainfall. Unpredictable rainfall affects crop production and food security. Global warming can affect water and fodder supplies for livestock. Droughts weaken water resources and kill livestock, affecting rural populations. Climate change can impact Somalia's humanitarian organization. Extreme weather can hinder humanitarian activities and isolate vulnerable communities. Climate change and the Russia-Ukraine conflict can affect agricultural security in Somalia. Governments and humanitarian

organizations must fund agricultural resilience, market development, and food production despite climate change. Support climate-resilient crops and livestock and sustainable land management. It emphasizes global collaboration to address the causes of climate change and empower disadvantaged communities.

Climate change is having serious impacts on agriculture, food availability, and food access in the region. Climate change leads to droughts, floods, and unpredictable weather that affect food production. Droughts in Somalia have led to food shortages, higher food costs, and malnutrition. The conflict has disrupted global food markets, leading to higher food prices that negatively impact Somalia's purchasing power. The country is highly dependent on food imports, particularly wheat from Russia and Ukraine. The conflict has disrupted trade flows, resulting in lower supply and higher costs. This situation has implications for Somalia's food security, whose domestic food production is supplemented by imports. Climate change and the Russia-Ukraine conflict are important factors in the looming food crisis in Somalia, which is a multi-faceted problem. Finally, conflict and climate change can exacerbate famine. Climate change can exacerbate droughts that limit agricultural production and food security, leading to famine. To address these challenges and promote sustainable food security in the region, policymakers must develop a comprehensive approach (Ouko & Odiwuor, 2023).

According to Mwansa (2022), regional instability due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict could affect Somalia's food security. Instability and war in neighboring countries may impede trade routes and displace Somalis. Hostilities between Russia and Ukraine could escalate in neighboring countries, especially those with large Russian or Ukrainian populations. This could disrupt regional trade routes and make it difficult to supply Somalia with food and other essentials. Conflict-induced displacement affects Somalia's food security. Ethiopia and Kenya already host large numbers of refugees and IDPs, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict could overwhelm their resources and spread throughout the region. This could increase competition for resources, particularly food, and exacerbate food insecurity in Somalia and other countries. The Russia-Ukraine conflict could exacerbate regional instability, which could hinder the work of aid agencies in Somalia. Vulnerable populations in the country could have less access to food and other essentials. The international community must monitor and intervene to reduce the impact of regional instability on food security in Somalia.

Somalia's food security could be affected by the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Any disruption in global trade could lead to food shortages and price increases in Somalia, which imports most of its food. If the Russia-Ukraine conflict restricts global trade, Somalia's ability to import food and other needs could be affected. In 2021, Somalia imported 80% of its wheat directly from Ukraine and 53% of its World Food Program (WFP) aid. Due to the conflict, Ukraine has indirectly reduced food aid (wheat, maize, rice, and sorghum) from 80% to 70% in 2022. Somalia's ability to export livestock and agricultural products that bring in money and support local food production could also be affected by the violence. If nearby countries are harmed by the conflict, Somali exports could decline, reducing cash and food production. A decrease in trade may also affect the ability of aid organizations to operate in Somalia and provide critical humanitarian assistance. Any disruption of international trade routes may affect the ability of aid organizations to help disadvantaged populations. Overall, the potential impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on Somalia's food security underscores the need to develop local food systems and minimize dependence on imported products.

Investment in domestic food production, food diversification, and local storage and delivery infrastructure are examples. It also emphasizes the importance of sustainable partnerships between governments, humanitarian groups, and the corporate sector to address the root causes of food insecurity and empower vulnerable communities (Hatab, 2022).

The Russia-Ukraine conflict may affect food security in Somalia. Rural Somali households rely on cattle as a source of food and cash. Dara et al. (2023), Somalia sends animals to the Middle East. The conflict may have an impact on livestock markets. If neighboring countries are also affected by the violence, demand for Somali livestock may decline, lowering prices and revenues for livestock producers. The fighting could also disrupt livestock trade routes and make it difficult to transport livestock to markets, reducing food supplies and rural household incomes. Disrupted livestock trade can also cause livestock diseases to spread rapidly and affect livestock production. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine could disrupt livestock trade, spread contagious diseases, and reduce farmers' income and food security. The conflict may also affect livestock sector support and food security efforts by humanitarian organizations. Veterinary services, training, and other resources from aid organizations help livestock producers in Somalia grow. Aid organizations may no longer be able to help pastoralists and vulnerable communities if the war impedes their work. Finally, the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on Somali livestock could threaten food security. The government and humanitarian organizations need to invest in the resilience of the sector, in new markets, and in the continuation of livestock trade despite the fighting. This includes improving veterinary care, creating alternative trade routes, and promoting economic diversification among rural households.

Conclusion

The Russian-Ukrainian conflict has its roots in deep-seated historical, territorial, and ethnic disputes. Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, followed by ongoing separatist movements in Donetsk and Luhansk, have been important factors in this conflict. Ukraine's desire for closer ties with the West and the role of oil and gas resources as a source of contention between Russia and Ukraine have further complicated the situation. Russia's military intervention in Ukraine has exacerbated the conflict and led to widespread condemnation by the international community. The ongoing conflict has resulted in significant human and economic losses for both Ukraine and Russia, with thousands of people killed and displaced. It has also strained political and diplomatic relations between the two countries and between Russia and the West. The conflict has raised broader geopolitical issues related to Russia's role in the region and its relations with the West. Achieving a lasting peace will require a nuanced understanding of the complex factors at play in the conflict and a willingness on the part of all parties involved to engage in constructive dialog and compromise. The international community must play a critical role in supporting a peaceful resolution of the conflict, including through diplomatic efforts and humanitarian assistance. Ultimately, a peaceful resolution of the conflict would benefit Ukraine as well as Russia and the entire region. In addition, the Russia-Ukraine conflict is having an impact on the global food supply chain and food security, particularly in countries like Somalia that rely heavily on imports. The conflict has led to a decline in agricultural production and exports from Ukraine, which is a major supplier of grains and other agricultural products to Somalia. In addition, prices for these products have risen, making them more expensive and less accessible to needy populations. This has exacerbated food

insecurity in regions dependent on Ukrainian agricultural exports, including Somalia, where a large portion of the population already suffers from hunger and malnutrition. The conflict has highlighted how vulnerable the global food supply chain is to disruption from political conflict, natural disasters, and other events. Addressing the root causes of the conflict and finding a peaceful solution is critical not only for the people of Ukraine and Russia, but also for the millions of people around the world who depend on the global food supply chain. The situation also underscores the need to diversify food sources and strengthen local food production and distribution systems in countries vulnerable to disruptions in the global food supply chain.

The protracted war between Russia and Ukraine has the potential to strain Somalia's relations with both nations, which could have implications for its global political position. Somalia has a long history of political instability and conflict, particularly in the area of food security. The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has the potential to impact global trade and economic activity, thereby affecting Somalia's economy and food production. As a result of the conflict, Somalia's relations with Russia and Ukraine could become strained, which may hinder diplomatic engagements and partnerships. In addition, Somalia's standing on the global political stage could be weakened. In addition, any disruption to global trade caused by the conflict could have significant consequences, as Somalia is highly vulnerable to food shortages. Somalia relies heavily on imports, including wheat, to meet its food needs. If the conflict disrupts wheat production or trade routes, shortages and price increases may occur, exacerbating food insecurity in the country. On the other hand, the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine has the potential to negatively impact Somalia's economy, food production, and global political standing. It is important that the international community recognize these potential impacts and work toward a peaceful resolution. At the same time, it must support Somalia in its efforts to address food security challenges and achieve stability.

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