

Conflict

Issue Brief

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has resulted in another humanitarian catastrophe of the 21st century, joining the protracted conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Afghanistan, and Darfur in Sudan. On this basis the CONFLICT TOOLBOX was extended and a separate category for Ukraine was added. The goal is to have relevant and up-to-date publications all in one place.

The impact of the conflict

The war has not only triggered the largest movement of refugees in Europe since the end of the Second World War. Its manifold effects can be seen worldwide: for example, consumer prices have risen and, in view of blocked grain exports of wheat, barley, and maize, food security in Africa is at risk. As a result of the tighter supply, prices for agricultural products are skyrocketing. The war is also driving up the cost of fertilizer and transport, while at the same time droughts in various regions of the world are further tightening food supplies. Rising prices have exacerbated hunger crises in countries such as Somalia, Yemen, and Madagascar. This issue brief summarizes the impact the conflict has had on global food security. To visit our CONFLICT Toolbox click [here](#).

How Crises Undermine Ending Hunger

2022 Global Hunger Index: Food systems transformation and local governance - Synopsis

Concern Worldwide; Welthungerhilfe e.V. (2022)

This is the seventeenth annual publication of the Global Hunger Index (GHI), a report jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe. The 2022 Global Hunger Index (GHI) brings us face to face with a grim reality. The toxic cocktail of conflict, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic had already left millions exposed to food price shocks and vulnerable to further crises. Now the conflict in Ukraine—with its knock-on effects on global supplies of and prices for food, fertilizer, and fuel—is turning a crisis into a catastrophe. But the speed and severity of the global food crisis reflects the fact that millions of people were already living on the precarious edge of hunger—a legacy of past failures to build more just, sustainable, and resilient food systems. This year's report therefore focuses on food systems transformation and local governance. According to the 2022 GHI, Hunger is at alarming levels in 5 countries—Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, and Yemen—and is provisionally considered *alarming* in 4 additional countries—Burundi, Somalia, South Sudan, and Syria. In a further 35 countries, hunger is considered serious, based on 2022 GHI scores and provisional designations.



<https://www.medbox.org/document/2022-global-hunger-index-food-systems-transformation-and-local-governance-synopsis>

The conflict in focus

How could the war in Ukraine impact global food supplies? (Charts)

Ritchie, H. (2022); *Our World in Data*

Both Ukraine and Russia are some of the world's largest food exporters. How could global food be impacted?

<https://www.medbox.org/document/how-could-the-war-in-ukraine-impact-global-food-supplies-charts>

<https://ourworldindata.org/ukraine-russia-food>



War in Ukraine drives global food crisis

World Food Programme WFP (2022)

A global food crisis fuelled by conflict, climate shocks and the COVID-19 pandemic is growing because of the ripple effects of the war in Ukraine driving rising prices of food, fuel and fertilizer. Millions of people across the world are at risk of being driven into starvation unless action is taken now to respond together and at scale. Due to the unprecedented overlap of crises, WFP's annual operational requirements are at an all-time high of US\$22.2 billion, with confirmed contributions so far at US \$4.8 billion (22 percent). WFP is calling for coordinated action to address this crisis.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/war-in-ukraine-drives-global-food-crisis>

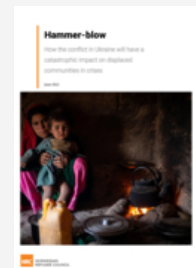


Hammer-blow: How the conflict in Ukraine will have a catastrophic impact on displaced communities in crises

Norwegian Refugee Council (2022)

Global food insecurity has markedly increased over the last two-years due to conflict, economic and political instability, displacement, environmental degradation and disasters, and major disruptions to global food systems because of the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2021, levels of hunger surpassed all previous records with close to 193 million people acutely food insecure and in need of urgent assistance across 53 countries and territories. This represents an increase of nearly 40 million people compared to what was previously considered a record level high in 2020.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/hammer-blow-how-the-conflict-in-ukraine-will-have-a-catastrophic-impact-on-displaced-communities-in-crises>



Russia's war on Ukraine: Impact on food security and EU response

Anna Caprile (2022); *European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)*

Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, a country known as the 'breadbasket of Europe', is raising fears of a global food crisis, further exacerbating existing food security challenges worldwide. Much depends on the response of the international community, including the EU, to a number of rapidly evolving scenarios.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/russias-war-on-ukraine-impact-on-food-security-and-eu-response>

Impact on vulnerable groups

Vulnerable groups like children, women, older people or persons with disabilities are disadvantaged in times of conflict and are affected even more.

The impact of the war in Ukraine and subsequent economic downturn on child poverty in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Richardson, D., Otchere, F., Musatti, A. (2022); UNICEF

Data from 22 countries across the region featured in the study shows children are bearing the heaviest burden of the economic crisis caused by the war in Ukraine. While children make up 25 per cent of the population, they account for nearly 40 per cent of the additional 10.4 million people experiencing poverty this year. The Russian Federation has experienced the most significant increase in the number of children living in poverty, with an additional 2.8 million children now living in households below the poverty line, accounting for nearly three-quarters of the total increase across the region. Ukraine is home to half a million additional children living in poverty, the second largest share. It is important to note that this is a conservative estimate which uses a GDP drop of 10 per cent.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/the-impact-of-the-war-in-ukraine-and-subsequent-economic-downturn-on-child-poverty-in-eastern-europe-and-central-asia>



Price Shocks: Rising food prices threaten the lives of hundreds of thousands of children

World Vision (2022)

Conflict, climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the economic effects of the Ukraine crisis are interacting to create new and worsen existing hunger hotspots, reversing the gains families had made to escape poverty.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/price-shocks-rising-food-prices-threaten-the-lives-of-hundreds-of-thousands-of-children>

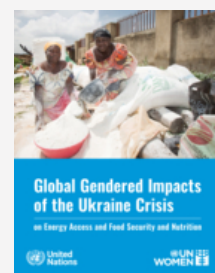


Global gendered impacts of the Ukraine crisis on energy access and food security and nutrition

Economic Empowerment Section of UN Women (2022); United Nations UN

The war in Ukraine has had devastating impact on women and girls worldwide, widening gender gaps and increasing rates of food insecurity, malnutrition and energy poverty. This brief reviews the available evidence of that impact, recommending urgent attention to its consequences for women and girls. Its findings underline the global impacts on gender equality and women's rights that have been compounded by climate change, environmental degradation and the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating further entrenched inequalities and human rights violations.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/global-gendered-impacts-of-the-ukraine-crisis-on-energy-access-and-food-security-and-nutrition>



How the war in Ukraine is affecting the most vulnerable countries in the world

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) (2022)

As the war in Ukraine rages on, it is clear that this conflict—and its associated fallout—will not be short-lived. As a major food and commodities exporting region, the impact of the war on global food systems was immediate and significant. No more strongly are these impacts felt than in vulnerable countries and communities who were major grain importers. Already reeling from COVID-19 and climate change, the poorest rural people now have a new obstacle to face.



<https://www.medbox.org/document/how-the-war-in-ukraine-is-affecting-the-most-vulnerable-countries-in-the-world>
<https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/how-the-war-in-ukraine-is-affecting-the-most-vulnerable-countries-in-the-world>

Outlook on the future

The Ukraine War is Deepening Global Food Insecurity – What Can Be Done?

Dr. Arif Usain (2023)

Even before Russia invaded Ukraine, the global economy was suffering from the repercussions of several man-made conflicts, climate shocks, COVID-19 and rising costs – with devastating consequences for poor people in low-income and developing countries. The war in Ukraine – a major “breadbasket” for the world – is deepening these challenges on an unprecedented scale. In the immediate, swift and bold action is required by both wealthy and low-income nations to avert further humanitarian and economic catastrophe.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/the-ukraine-war-is-deepening-global-food-insecurity-what-can-be-done>
<https://www.usip.org/publications/2022/05/ukraine-war-deepening-global-food-insecurity-what-can-be-done>



Impacts of the Russia-Ukraine War on Global Food Security: Towards More Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems?

Ben Hassen, T.; El Bilali, H. (2022)

As a conflict between two major agricultural powers, the Russia–Ukraine war has various negative socioeconomic impacts that are now being felt internationally and might worsen, notably, for global food security. If the war deepens, the food crisis will worsen, posing a challenge to many countries, especially those that rely on food imports, such as those in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Simultaneously, the war came at a bad time for global food markets because food prices were already high due to disruptions in the supply chain caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, strong global demand, and poor harvests in some countries. Understanding how conflict-related disruptions in global food and fertilizer markets might affect price and availability is critical for understanding the overall impact on global food security. Further, four months into the war, its implications for food security suggest that this review is timely, urgent, and highly needed.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/impacts-of-the-russia-ukraine-war-on-global-food-security-towards-more-sustainable-and-resilient-food-systems>



The Russia-Ukraine Conflict: Its Implications for the Global Food Supply Chains

Jagtap, S.; Trollman, H.; Trollman, F.; Garcia-Garcia, G. et al. (2022)

Food is one of the most traded goods, and the conflict in Ukraine, one of the European breadbaskets, has triggered a significant additional disruption in the global food supply chains after the COVID-19 impact. The disruption to food output, supply chains, availability, and affordability could have a long-standing impact. As a result, the availability and supply of a wide range of food raw materials and finished food products are under threat, and global markets have seen recent increases in food prices. Furthermore, the Russian-Ukrainian conflict has adversely affected food supply chains, with significant effects on production, sourcing, manufacturing, processing, logistics, and significant shifts in demand between nations reliant on



imports from Ukraine.

<https://www.medbox.org/document/the-russia-ukraine-conflict-its-implications-for-the-global-food-supply-chains>



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