

## The Economic Impact of Wars and International Conflicts on Global Food Supplies - The Case of the Russo-Ukrainian War

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### Abstract:

This paper examines the Economic impact of Wars and International Conflicts on global food supplies. The case of the Russo-Ukrainian war serves as a prime example, as wars negatively affect global food supplies by disrupting agricultural production, increasing food prices, and heightening the risks of food insecurity. The Russian-Ukrainian war exemplifies these detrimental effects. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the war's impact on global food supplies by examining the contributing factors and evaluating the consequences.

Furthermore, it is crucial to shed light on one of the most significant challenges currently facing global food security: the impact of the Russian-Ukrainian war. This conflict disrupts food and grain exports from Ukraine and Russia, two of the world's largest food suppliers.

The study employs a descriptive analytical method, utilizing relevant literature and statistical data analysis. The study concludes that the Russo-Ukrainian war has exacerbated the global food security crisis by causing food shortages, high food prices, and increasing the risks of food insecurity in many countries. Therefore, urgent measures are necessary to address this global crisis. These measures could involve increasing agricultural production and supporting the countries most affected by the crisis.

**Keywords:** Food Supply, Food Security, Russian-Ukrainian War, Food, Agricultural Production.

### Introduction:

Food is the foundation of human life, and its availability is essential. Therefore, ensuring that all members of society have access to sufficient, safe, affordable, and regular food is a top priority for governments, this food security is often threatened by political, social, and economic instability caused by international wars and conflicts. These conflicts are tragic events that severely disrupt the global food supply and demand dynamics.

Wars primarily create instability and chaos, hindering agricultural production and food distribution. They inflict significant damage on agricultural infrastructure, farms, and warehouses, leading to a decline in food production and ultimately, shortages. This scarcity can exacerbate hunger, worsen nutritional conditions in many regions, and force people to flee their homes and farms in search of safety and sustenance. These displaced people and refugees fleeing warzones become particularly vulnerable to hunger and homelessness. This mass displacement creates a significant burden on neighboring countries, further destabilizing the entire region and worsening existing food crises.

Faced with these serious consequences, it is imperative to focus international attention and efforts on finding economic solutions that the international community can adopt, such as Providing financial assistance to countries affected by wars and conflicts to purchase food from other countries, Removing trade barriers, such as tariffs and restrictions on food exports, Establishing an international mechanism to coordinate efforts to address the food security crisis, Providing technical and financial assistance to farmers in developing countries to increase productivity; adopting these solutions by the international community is essential to ensure long-term global food security and achieve sustainable development.

In addition to these solutions, it is important to address the root causes of international wars and conflicts. Mitigating these international conflicts and promoting global stability and peace is the best way to maintain global food security and ensure the availability of food for all societies.

While unrest in recent years – such as the situations in Sudan, Libya, Syria, Peru, and Sri Lanka – along with the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change have all contributed to rising food prices, the Russo-Ukrainian War is considered a major catalyst for the current global food crisis, this is primarily due to the critical role that Ukraine and Russia play in global grain exports. These two countries account for approximately 30% of global wheat exports and 20% of global maize exports.

The outbreak of war between Russia and Ukraine significantly disrupted exports from both countries, leading to a global rise in food prices. The United Nations World Food Price Index rose by 12.6% in March 2022, marking the highest monthly increase since 1990. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), global wheat prices increased by 20% since the war began. Corn prices have risen by 17% and vegetable oil prices by 29%.

One of the war's primary consequences is the disruption of wheat and grain exports from Russia and Ukraine, leading to food shortages in some countries. Countries most vulnerable to the war's economic repercussions are those heavily reliant on agricultural exports from Ukraine and Russia, particularly for their food and feed industries. Additionally, countries dependent on importing chemicals from Russia and Belarus for agricultural production are also negatively affected.<sup>1</sup>

This war has exacerbated the global food security crisis, forcing many countries to face challenges in securing adequate food supplies for their populations. Consequently, these countries have been compelled to adopt new policies. These policies aim to reduce or eliminate reliance on grain imports from Russia and Ukraine by:

- Increasing local food production
- Reducing taxes on local agricultural production
- Providing financial support and incentives to farmers
- Encouraging food exports

The global food crisis is expected to continue until the Russia-Ukraine war ends. As a result, food prices are likely to keep rising significantly until exports from both countries resume normal levels. In this context, this paper examines the effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on all actors within the food supply chain. We will also discuss solutions and strategies to confront these challenges.

#### **Research Question:**

The underlying hypothesis of this research is that the conflict between Russia and Ukraine will significantly impact the effectiveness and responsiveness of global food supply chains. Therefore, the main research question we will explore is:

- What is the Economic impact of wars and international conflicts on global food supplies, with the Russia-Ukraine war serving as a case study?

#### **To answer this question, we will explore several sub-questions:**

- What are the mechanisms by which international wars and conflicts impact global food supplies?
- What are the economic and social impacts of the Russo-Ukrainian war on global food supplies?
- What are the proposed solutions to mitigate the effects of international wars and conflicts on global food supplies?
- What strategies or solutions can be implemented to mitigate the effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on global food supply chains?

#### **Research Hypothesis:**

Based on the identified problem, this research proposes the following hypotheses:

- International wars and conflicts lead to a decline in global food supplies.
- International wars and conflicts lead to a rise in global food prices.
- International wars and conflicts increase the suffering of the poor and needy in the world.

#### **Research Significance:**

This research addresses a critical topic: the impact of international wars and conflicts on global food security. By providing valuable results, this study can help governments and stakeholders develop necessary measures to mitigate the effects of these conflicts on global food supplies.

#### **Research Objectives:**

This research aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Identify the impact of international wars and conflicts on global food supplies.

- Understand the economic and social impacts of the Russo-Ukrainian war on global food supplies.
- Propose solutions to mitigate the effects of international wars and conflicts on global food supplies.

### **Research Methodology:**

This research employs a descriptive-analytical approach. This method involves collecting data and information from various sources, followed by analysis and interpretation of the collected data.

### **Research Sections:**

The research is divided into three main sections:

**Section 1:** Russia and Ukraine's Role in Global Food Supplies and Food Security.

**Section 2:** Economic and social impacts of the Russian-Ukrainian war on global food supplies.

**Section 3:** Solutions to mitigate the effects of international wars and conflicts on global food supplies.

## **1. Russia and Ukraine's Role in Global Food Supplies and Food Security:**

### **1.1. Understanding Global Food Supplies:**

Global food supplies refer to the total amount of food available for human consumption worldwide. This includes domestically produced food, imported food, and existing food reserves. Essentially, it encompasses the entire production, distribution, and consumption cycle of various food products across the globe. Grains, vegetables, fruits, meat, fish, nuts, and seeds are all key components of the global food supply.

The Industrial Revolution significantly boosted agricultural productivity. Additionally, advancements in transportation facilitated trade between countries, leading to a dramatic increase in food production and a decrease in prices. This period, the 20th century, witnessed a significant leap forward in global food supplies.

The 21st century has seen continued advancements in global food supplies. New agricultural technologies have contributed to increased productivity and extended shelf life for food products.

### **B. Factors Influencing Global Food Supplies**

Several factors influence global food supplies:

- **Natural factors:** These include climate, soil quality, and water resources. Climate change, for instance, can lead to droughts and other natural disasters that disrupt food production.
- **Economic factors:** Food prices and global trade play a significant role. Fluctuations in prices and trade policies can impact food availability.
- **Political factors:** Wars and trade sanctions can severely disrupt food production and distribution.

### **C. Challenges to Global Food Security**

Global food supplies face numerous challenges:

- **Climate Change:** Rising temperatures, droughts, and other extreme weather events can significantly affect food production.
- **Population Growth:** A growing global population creates an increased demand for food, putting a strain on existing resources.
- **Unequal Food Distribution:** While some parts of the world face hunger, others struggle with obesity. This highlights the need for improved distribution systems.

### **D. Efforts to Enhance Global Food Security**

Several efforts are underway to improve global food supplies:

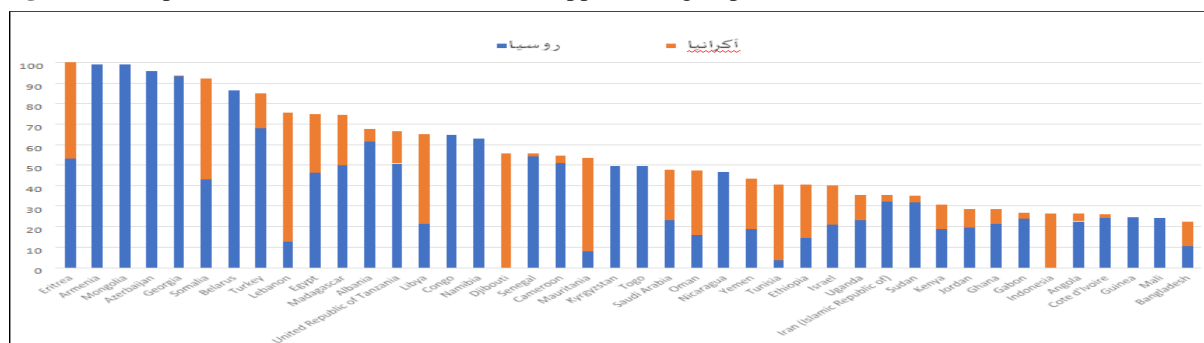
- **Investing in Agricultural Research and Development:** This aims to develop new technologies that can increase food production and improve resilience to climate change.
- **Promoting Free Trade:** Facilitating the exchange of food between countries can help ensure wider availability and stabilize prices.
- **Improving Food Security Programs:** These programs aim to assist those suffering from hunger and malnutrition.

### **E. Russia and Ukraine's Role in Global Food Supplies**

Many developing countries rely heavily on Russia and Ukraine for food and fertilizer imports, making them key players in global food security. For example, the figure shows that some countries in North Africa and West and Central Asia

depend heavily on these two countries for wheat imports. In total, roughly 30% of wheat imports for 30 wheat-importing countries come from Russia and Ukraine.

**Figure (01):** represents Russia and Ukraine's food supplies to a group of countries



**Source:** FAO: Impact of the Ukraine-Russia Conflict on Global Food Security and Related Matters under the Mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (accessed on /11/22 2023).

Availableonline : <https://www.fao.org/3/ni734en/ni734en.pdf><sup>2</sup>

Based on the figure, several countries heavily reliant on Russia and Ukraine for essential food, nutrition, and fertilizer supplies will need alternative plans if the war continues. These plans could involve supporting local production and diversifying import sources from other countries to ensure they can meet their food needs quickly and adequately.

## 1.2. Food security:

Food security is a condition linked to food supplies, and throughout the ages the policy of deprivation of food is used as a strategic weapon in many wars. This was evident in the first and second world wars, as Britain shed a sea blockade on Germany as a way to starve its inhabitants and force it to surrender and submit.

According to the statistics of the United Nations Development Program 2006, the situation is horrific, as 830 million people among a total of 657 million people suffer from a lack of chronic nutrition, and about 1,100 million lack drinking water, in addition to that 2,600 million people do not have adequate sanitation, Consequently. food security is mainly an important political issue before it is an economic issue, which is the preoccupation that possesses the interest of decision -makers in countries, by researching how to maintain sufficient food supplies for their nation to ensure social stability, and from there to preserve national security and the stability of the country.

To achieve adequate food supplies, the state uses many means, such as granting subsidies to stimulate agriculture, encourage investment in the agricultural sector, or even resort to conflict. Therefore, most of the countries realized that there is a neutral duty that the food supplies should not be disabled for other countries in order to preserve the political and social stability of the countries, because without providing adequate food supplies, there will be no food security and therefore will not be national security.

Food security did not appear as a concept until in the mid -seventies, during the discussions about international food problems at the time of the global food crisis. Whereas, at the beginning, the focus was focused primarily on the problem of providing food supplies, that is, ensuring the availability of basic foodstuffs and the stability of their prices at a certain level, at the local and international levels. <sup>3</sup> This resulted in the World Food Summit Conference on December 17, 1974, which concluded to most of the hungry and the food of the world who live in developing countries and this constitutes a serious threat to the most important principles and values related to the right to life and human dignity. In this conference the concept of food security was determined as availability Essential global food supplies of nutritional value, varied, balanced and compatible at all times to cover the increasing expansion of food consumption and facing production and prices fluctuations. <sup>4</sup>

A more complex definition was adopted at the World Food Summit in 1996, which stated that food security at the individual, household, national, regional and global levels can only be achieved when all people, at all times, have access to sufficient and safe food that meets their needs and preserves their dignity. For an active and healthy life. <sup>5</sup>

This definition was revised again in 2001 to define it as the situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their nutritional needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. <sup>6</sup>

As a summary of the above, food security can be described as a phenomenon related to individuals. It is achieved when every individual, at all times, has physical, social and economic access to adequate, balanced, healthy and nutritious food.

Food insecurity occurs when people do not have adequate physical, social or economic access to food as defined above. Undernutrition is synonymous with the term hunger.

### **1.3. The impact of some international wars and conflicts on global food supplies:**

International wars and conflicts lead to a decline in global food supplies through a number of mechanisms, including:

- **Disruption of supply chains:** War can disrupt food supply chains, leading to a decrease in the quantities of food available in global markets, and an increase in its prices.
- **Destruction of agricultural property:** War can lead to the destruction of agricultural property, such as farmland, farms, and food factories, leading to a decline in agricultural production.
- **Population displacement:** Population displacement resulting from war can lead to labor shortages in the agricultural sector, leading to decreased agricultural production.

Examples of the impact of international wars and conflicts on global food supplies

- **First World War:** it led to a decline in food production in Europe, leading to famine in many European countries.
- **Second World War:** it destroyed large areas of farmland in Europe and Japan, leading to lower agricultural production and higher food prices.
- **Syrian Civil War:** The Syrian Civil War has destroyed large areas of agricultural land in Syria, leading to decreased agricultural production and higher food prices.

## **2. Economic and social impacts of the Russian-Ukrainian war on global food supplies:**

### **2.1. Agriculture in Russia and Ukraine before and after the war:**

#### **A- Agriculture in Ukraine and its impact on the war:**

Ukraine is a major player in European and global agriculture and food production, the national ability to cultivate the soil and plant and harvest crops has declined since the beginning of the war.<sup>7</sup> The main food security concerns are disruption of winter harvest and spring planting, availability of agricultural labor, availability of agricultural inputs, and damage to crops due to military activity, destruction of food system assets and infrastructure, and because of these outcomes, food shortages for the local population and the export economy, in the short term. In addition, the average. About 70% of Ukraine's land is agricultural, which is similar to other European countries such as the United Kingdom, and this includes cultivated land (cereals, technical crops, fodder, potatoes, and vegetables), gardens, orchards, meadows and pastures. The agricultural, forestry and fishing sector has a very important place in the economy of Ukraine.<sup>8</sup> For example, in 2020, this sector ranked third in the Ukrainian economy in terms of gross value added,<sup>9</sup> as agriculture contributed about 9.3% of the GDP and employed approximately 17% of the workforce, which helped Ukraine export a value of \$9.4 billion. Of grains in 2020, or about 20% of its total exports, making it now ranked second in the world in grain exports.<sup>10</sup>

However, after the war, the main food security concern in Ukraine shifted from food availability to food access due to the war's disruption. Although available stockpiles in Ukraine rose to about 1.14 times the estimated annual demand, these supplies couldn't be accessed. Crops also remained unharvested due to labor shortages. The war caused people to participate in the war effort, and those who remained on farms faced safety concerns, reducing the agricultural workforce. To partially address this issue, the Ukrainian government implemented a tax exemption for farmers.<sup>11</sup>

Due to the war, winter wheat, spring barley, and corn became the dominant grain crops grown in Ukraine. Production shifted to the central and south-central regions of the country. The area planted with wheat reached 5 million hectares, although this represents a decrease of about 37%. Barley production, which had been the most consumed feed grain in Ukraine for most of the pre-war decade, also declined significantly. This is likely due to the fact that barley is primarily grown in eastern Ukraine, which has been more heavily affected by the war.<sup>12</sup>

Food and Agriculture Organization estimates also indicated that in 2021, between 20-30% of the areas allocated for the production of winter grains, corn, and sunflower seeds were not harvested. Moreover, the unavailability of fertilizers and pesticides exacerbated the problem. It had a negative impact on crop productivity, but in 2022, despite the war, the availability of seeds for agriculture is relatively high, especially for vegetable crops, due to the availability of stock and low import requirements.

## B. Agriculture in Russia: Impact of the War.

Agriculture plays an important role in the economy of the Russian Federation, as it represents about 2% of the gross domestic product, and provides job opportunities for about 10% of the population, but going back a little when the Soviet Union collapsed, we find that the agricultural sector survived a sharp decline after the transition in the early 1990s. From a command economy to a market economy, the collective farms and large state farms that were the backbone of Soviet agriculture were forced to confront the sudden loss of state-guaranteed marketing and supply channels and the changing legal environment that created pressures for reorganization and restructuring. As a result, the stock of livestock decreased by half in less than ten years. This had a negative impact on the demand for feed grains, which decreased, and with it, the area planted with grains decreased by 25%. Consequently, the use of mineral fertilizers decreased, which led to a decrease in revenues, and most farms were no longer able to purchase new machinery and other capital investments.<sup>13</sup>

However, after nearly ten years of decline, Russian agriculture began to witness a gradual and continuous recovery,<sup>14</sup> and the devaluation of the ruble in 2014 and the imposition of sanctions stimulated domestic production. In 2016, Russia was able to exceed grain production levels during the era of Soviet Russia, and was able in that year to become the largest exporter of wheat in the world, after which Russia became a major agricultural power again.<sup>15</sup>

**Figure (02):** Development of agricultural production in Russia in the period 1961-2020 (dollars)



**Source:** United States Department for Agriculture (USDA) Economic Research Service

**Table (01):** Agricultural production statistics in 2018

the product	Production quantity (million tons)	Ranking Global	the product	Production quantity (million tons)	Ranking Global
Wheat	72.1	3	Apples	1.8	8
Sugar	42	1	Option	1.6	4
potato	22.3	3	Onions	1.6	9
barley	17	1	carrots	1.4	4
sunflower	12.7	2	Pumpkin	1.1	3
Maize	11.4	13	Cotton	0.557	3
Oats	4.7	1	Hummus	0.620	4
tomatoes	2.9	12	Lentils	0.194	8
Peas	2.3	2	Cherry	0.398	4
Rye	1.9	3	Apricot	0.268	1

**Source:** Food and Agriculture Organization statistics, (FAO).

We can see from the previous table's data that Russia consistently ranks first in the world for agricultural production. This highlights the importance of agriculture to the Russian economy and explains its leading role in exporting most food products, particularly wheat. Russia's dominance in wheat exports is not a recent development; grains have been a traditional source of export revenue for centuries. In fact, the Russian Federation held the top position among major grain suppliers to the global market in 2019/2020, followed by the European Union, the United States, Canada, and Ukraine.<sup>16</sup>

However, the war with Ukraine has made it difficult for Russia to maintain its production levels due to sanctions imposed by the European Union, the United States, and their allies. While the sanctions' impact is less severe than the direct destruction caused by the war, they may have broader long-term consequences.

As of 2020, about 32% of Russian agricultural seeds were exported to the Netherlands, 13% to France, and 11% to Germany. In addition, other EU countries (including Poland and Denmark) were also major suppliers of agricultural seeds from Russia. On the other hand, Russia has relied on importing pesticides from the European Union in the past decade. The percentage of pesticide imports from France reached 29% and 14% from Germany. Nevertheless, due to the sanctions, Russia no longer has sufficient reserves to compensate for the temporary shortage in foreign supplies of pesticides, and it may have a more harmful impact on agricultural production in the long term. If we compare the impact of the war on agriculture in Ukraine and find it limited only in combat zones, but Russia has seen a national decline in production.

However, after the outbreak of war with Ukraine, Russia faced difficulty in maintaining its production due to the sanctions imposed by the European Union, the United States and their allies. However, if we compare the effects of these sanctions with those related to the destruction of direct war, we find that they are less severe, but they may have broader effects.

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## 2.2. The repercussions of the Russo-Ukrainian war on the global food supply:

Russia and Ukraine are the global food engines, as they together export approximately 12% of food products traded globally, including 30% of wheat exports and 20% of global corn exports. Russia is also the largest exporter of fertilizers in the world. Russia is also the largest exporter of fertilizers in the world. Many regions of the world depend heavily on imports from these two countries to obtain their basic food needs. As North African and Middle Eastern countries obtain approximately 50% of Russia and Ukraine combined, while Russia exports to East African countries the value of 72% of it imports 18% of its grain needs from Ukraine.<sup>18</sup>

Ukraine is also an important global exporter of sunflower seed oil, with a value of about 50% of the global market.<sup>19</sup>

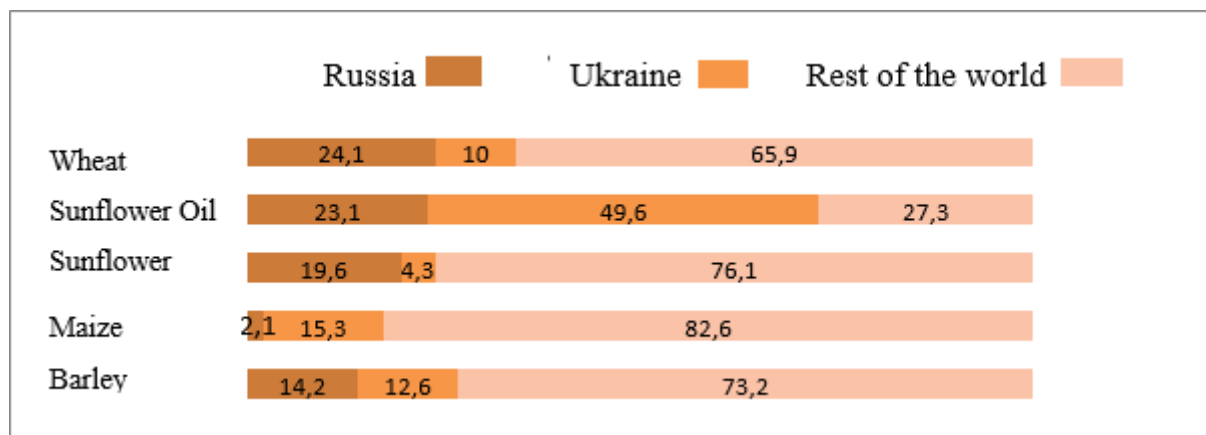
**Table (02):** Share of Ukraine and Russia in global trade, 2018-2020

Products	Russia	Ukraine	Rest of the world
barley	14,2	12,6	73,2
Maize	2,1	15,3	82,6
Sunflower	19,6	4,3	76,1
sunfloweroil	23,1	49,6	27,3
Wheat	24,1	10	65,9

**Source:** FAO Impact of the Ukraine-Russia Conflict on Global Food Security and Related Matters under the Mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (accessed on /11/22 2023).

Available on the website: <https://www.fao.org/3/ni734en/ni734en.pdf>

**Figure (03):** Share of Ukraine and Russia in world trade )2018-2020(.



**Source:** FAO Impact of the Ukraine-Russia Conflict on Global Food Security and Related Matters under the Mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (accessed on /11/22 2023).

Available on the website: <https://www.fao.org/3/ni734en/ni734en.pdf>

Egypt, Turkey, Bangladesh, and Iran are among the largest wheat importers in the world, and their average wheat imports from Ukraine and Russia during the period (2016-2021) reached 60%, but due to the Russian-Ukrainian war disrupting the export process. The imports of these countries Due to the Russian-Ukrainian war disrupting the export process, The imports of these countries - Egypt, Turkey, Bangladesh and Iran - remained suspended during the year 2021/2022, and they were unable to collect them in full. As for Lebanon, Tunisia, Yemen, Libya and Pakistan, they relied heavily on importing wheat from Ukraine and Russia, reaching 50% of their purchases in these two countries in the period (2016-2021), but after that, the year 2021/2022 witnessed a significant decline due to the war and the disruption of export channels.<sup>20</sup>

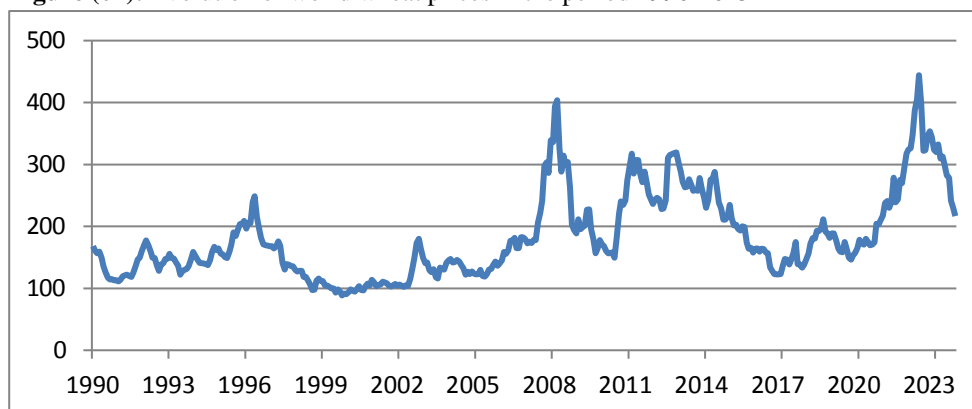
As for corn, Ukraine is an important supplier of corn to the European Union and China, as well as too many North African markets, including Egypt and Libya.<sup>21</sup>Based on the expectations of the Food and Agriculture Organization before the outbreak of the war and based on the available data, it expected that Ukraine would export about 25 million tons of corn, while it expected that Russia would export about 2.5 million tons of corn in 2021 and 2022. As is the case with wheat flows, this percentage of exports were not achieved, or at least the vast majority of them, and if Russian corn exports do not constitute a large share of global corn trade, Ukraine considered the third largest corn exporter in the world. As it was, its corn exports expected to constitute 18% of global corn trade in 2022, which did not happen, as the volume of its corn exports reached 19.7 million tons in 2021, and then declined to 13.3 million tons at the end of 2022.<sup>22</sup>

The North African and Middle Eastern countries' excessive reliance on importing food and energy makes them fragile and vulnerable to any economic shocks that may occur, which what is actually happened when the Russian-Ukrainian war broke out, as some countries, such as Lebanon, sometimes do not possess any grain reserves. Which makes the possibility of a shortage very possible in such circumstances, and since no direct sanctions were imposed on Russian wheat exports to these countries. The problem that importers faced was the difficulty of purchasing wheat from Russia due to problems in transferring money to Russian companies, because banks Western closed its accounts in Russia, making it difficult for Russian companies to receive money for their exports, insure ships, and finance them in exchange for loading wheat. As a result, wheat exports in 2022 decreased by 30% compared to 2021, which pushed wheat prices to rise. In addition, what helped in this is the increasing cost of oil and gas, which has led to an increase in the cost of transportation and thus an increase in commodity prices in general, which has imposed inflationary pressures in a way that may destabilize already fragile economies.<sup>23</sup>

The Russian-Ukrainian war has led to an increase in global food prices, due to the decrease in the quantities of food available in global markets, and the increased demand for food by countries that depend on food imports from Russia and Ukraine.



**Figure (04):** Evolution of world wheat prices in the period 1990-2023



**Source:** Prepared by the researcher based on Federal Reserve economic data.

### 3. Solutions to mitigate the effects of international wars and conflicts on global food supplies:

The decline in Ukraine's grain exports and the rise in fuel prices because of the war may force oil-poor countries to reduce the exchange rate of their national currencies, which may cause a decline in incomes and a deterioration in living conditions. It may be a reason for weak countries that depend heavily on what they import from Russia and Ukraine for their food to witness social unrest and even conflict because of economic difficulties and the inability of governments to address them appropriately.

Therefore, to confront these negative effects, it is necessary to think of solutions to confront such crises, which are as follows:

**Encouraging local agricultural production:** Countries must increase their local agricultural production by investing in agriculture and agricultural technology.

**Promoting agricultural trade:** Countries must promote agricultural trade by removing trade barriers to trade in food commodities.

**Encouraging sustainable agriculture:** Countries must encourage sustainable agriculture, by using agricultural methods that reduce dependence on natural resources.

#### • Conclusion:

The world's food supply stands as a delicate balance, it susceptible to disruptions triggered by conflicts and international tensions. History bears witness to this stark reality, with the harrowing tales of famine and hunger that accompanied the First and Second World Wars, the Somali famine, and countless other crises. Today, the Russia-Ukraine conflict stands as a stark reminder of the perilous consequences of war on global food security.

The pivotal role of Russia and Ukraine in the global food landscape has rendered the current conflict a formidable threat to food supplies worldwide. Prolonged hostilities not only jeopardize the economies of these nations but also risk exacerbating global food insecurity, potentially pushing millions into the throes of hunger. While international efforts have mitigated the worst impacts, the crisis serves as a wake-up call to address underlying vulnerabilities and build resilience against future shocks.

#### Key Takeaways:

Global food supplies are highly vulnerable to disruptions caused by conflicts and international tensions.

The Russia-Ukraine crisis highlights the critical role of Russia and Ukraine in global food security and the devastating consequences of prolonged conflict.

International cooperation and coordinated efforts are crucial to mitigate the impact of food crises and prevent widespread hunger.

#### Recommendations:

- Prioritize conflict resolution and diplomacy to avert food crises.
- Encourage self-sufficiency and sustainable agricultural practices in developing nations to reduce reliance on food imports.

- Invest in research and development of climate-resilient crops and innovative agricultural technologies.
- Strengthen social safety nets and targeted food assistance programs to protect vulnerable populations.
- Promote international cooperation on food trade, storage, and emergency response mechanisms.

The Russia-Ukraine crisis serves as a stark reminder of the interconnectedness of global food security and the far-reaching consequences of conflict. By addressing the underlying vulnerabilities and adopting proactive measures, we can work towards a world where food security is not a privilege but a fundamental right for all.

#### **Additional Considerations:**

- Emphasize the role of international organizations like the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in coordinating global food security efforts.
- Explore the potential of technological advancements, such as vertical farming and precision agriculture, to enhance food production and sustainability.
- Advocate for policies that promote fair trade, reduce food waste, and encourage sustainable consumption patterns.

By addressing these critical aspects, we can build a more resilient global food system, one that can withstand future shocks and ensure the well-being of all.

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