

Russia-Ukraine War, its Impacts on Food Security in Africa

Global Journal of Social Sciences Studies

Vol. 8, No. 2, 70-81, 2022.

e-ISSN: 2518-0614



Corresponding Author

Chibuzor Chigozie Nweke¹

Chinenye Blessing Obi²

Osita James Igweike³

^{1,2,3}Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria.

¹Email: cn.chigozie@unizik.edu.ng

²Email: cb.obi@unizik.edu.ng

³Email: jo.igweike@unizik.edu.ng

ABSTRACT

The study examines the pattern of food inflation in Africa, the extent to which Russia-Ukraine war impacted food inflation in Africa and find out whether the war going on between Russia and Ukraine is likely to instigate social unrest in Africa. The study was a longitudinal panel design. Three research questions guided the study. The population comprised 39 time series data points which spanned January 2019 to March 2022 on food inflation for the 54 African countries. A sample size of four countries comprising of Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya and Morocco were purposively selected. Data were sourced from Trading Economics database and analyzed using descriptive analysis trend analysis, mean, and percentage. Results showed that Nigeria recorded the highest food inflation rate relative to the other sampled countries. Morocco recorded the least food inflation rate. However, Morocco and Kenya were struck the most by food prices as a result of the war. The study also found out that the continuous rise in food prices has the potential to spark social unrest in Africa. The paper recommends that government at all level should ensure that security of life and property is guarantee. That way farmers can safely go about with their agricultural activities.

Keywords: Africa, Food inflation, Russia-Ukraine, Social unrest, War.

DOI: 10.55284/gjss.v8i2.804

Citation | Chibuzor Chigozie Nweke; Chinenye Blessing Obi; Osita James Igweike (2022). Russia-Ukraine War, its Impacts on Food Security in Africa. Global Journal of Social Sciences Studies, 8(2): 70-81.

Copyright: © 2022 by the authors. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

Funding: This study received no specific financial support.

Competing Interests: The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

History: Received: 4 October 2022/ Revised: 24 November 2022/ Accepted: 5 December 2022/ Published: 13 December 2022

Publisher: Online Science Publishing

Highlights of this paper

- African dependency on other nations will continue to place them in a vulnerable state if the right policy and political structures are not put in place.
- The rising cases of civil unrest in Africa is most likely associated with rising in food price.
- The impact of Russia-Ukrainian war has varying degree of the regions of Africa as its concern agriculture and food sufficiency.

1. INTRODUCTION

The deaths and the ensuing humanitarian catastrophe brought on by a sizable displaced and besieged population are the worst effects of the conflict in Ukraine. There are, however, serious economic consequences associated with it. Prior to the start of the war, the majority of important global macroeconomic indicators, such as the gross domestic product and the consumer purchasing index, were thought to have returned to normal after the COVID-19 pandemic (OECD, 2022). Before the war, the expense of nutritious foods, as well as high rates of poverty and inequality, placed good diets out of reach for 66.2 percent of people worldwide (Food and Agricultural Organization, 2019). In Africa, around 323.2 million individuals, or 29.5 percent of the population, were hungry that year. Food insecurity was significantly greater in West Africa and Middle Africa, with 68.3% and 70%, respectively, of the population. Under the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic, the number of people experiencing food insecurity continued to rise. This situation, even got worsened at the outbreak of war in Ukraine. This is because so many African countries share a significant level of trade ties with Ukraine and Russia. African countries imported agricultural products worth US\$ 4 billion from Russia in 2020. About 90 percent of this was wheat, and 6 percent was sunflower oil. Similarly, Ukraine exported US\$ 2.9 billion worth of agricultural products to the African continent in 2020. Wheat accounted for 48%, maize for 31%, and sunflower oil, barley, and soybeans for the remainder (UNCTAD, 2022). Many nations in East, West, Middle, and Southern Africa import a substantial amount of wheat, maize, sunflower, barley, fertilizer, and vegetable oils from Russia and Ukraine. Egypt, Sudan, Nigeria, Tanzania, Algeria, Kenya, and South Africa were the top importers, accounting for about half of all imports (Wandile, 2022). More than 40% of the wheat imported by Cameroon, Tanzania, Uganda, and Sudan comes from Russia and Ukraine.

The heavy reliance of African countries on Russia and Ukraine put them in a vulnerable end. Especially the fact that most households in Africa devote a relatively high share of their expenditure to food relative to other countries of the world (UNDP, 2022). Therefore, trade disruption caused as a result of the war is more likely to have a significant impact on Africans. Since Ukraine provides half of the wheat distributed by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), disruption in trade would result in limited supplies, and costs. Particularly, the supply and cost of gasoline, are rising, raising the cost of getting food into and out of the region which will indirectly translate in the hike in food price for countries that rely on these countries for agricultural items and produce (OECD, 2022).

Food inflation mostly affects the poor, who pay a greater proportion of their income on food even when eating the cheapest alternatives. According to the World Bank, food accounts for 60% of total expenditures for the poorest 20% of urban households and 35% for the wealthiest, making it difficult to absorb price increases. People who are forced to pay more on basic necessities must adjust by buying lower-quality food, eating less, and cutting back on non-food expenses such as health and education (Human Rights Watch, 2022). As a result, any additional increase in food costs has the potential to force more people into poverty and cause social instability, particularly in Africa, which is already susceptible. Food inflation has been known to spark societal unrest in the past. Sudan's 2018 wheat subsidy cutbacks, part of economic reforms in accordance with International Monetary Fund IMF recommendations, quadrupled bread prices and provoked the demonstrations that toppled Omar Al Bashir's regime in April 2019. In 2021, Kenyans took to the streets to protest rising food costs and hikes in the value-added tax on cooking gas, gasoline, and food, which was another IMF suggestion. Cameroon's government voiced fear in March 2022 that a

60% decline in wheat imports from Ukraine and Russia would result in a social disaster. Food and fuel subsidies have been phased out in recent years, and those that remain, such as Nigeria, are under pressure from the IMF to decrease or eliminate them (Human Rights Watch, 2022). The present situation between Russia and Ukraine highlights the dangers that increasing food prices may bring to Africa. As a result, the focus of this paper is on the Russia-Ukraine war and its implications for Africa a critical time for action.

1.1. Research Questions

From the above discussion, the following research questions emerged:

- What is the pattern of food inflation in Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya and Morocco?
- To what extent has Russia and Ukraine war impacted food inflation in Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya and Morocco?
- What is the likelihood that the crisis going on between Russia and Ukraine would exacerbate social unrest in Africa?

1.2. Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this paper is to examine Russia-Ukraine war and its implication on Africa. In particular, the study:

- Examine the pattern of food inflation in Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya and Morocco;
- Examine the extent to which Russia-Ukraine war impacted food inflation in Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya and Morocco;
- Find out the whether the war going on between Russia and Ukraine is likely to instigate social unrest in Africa.

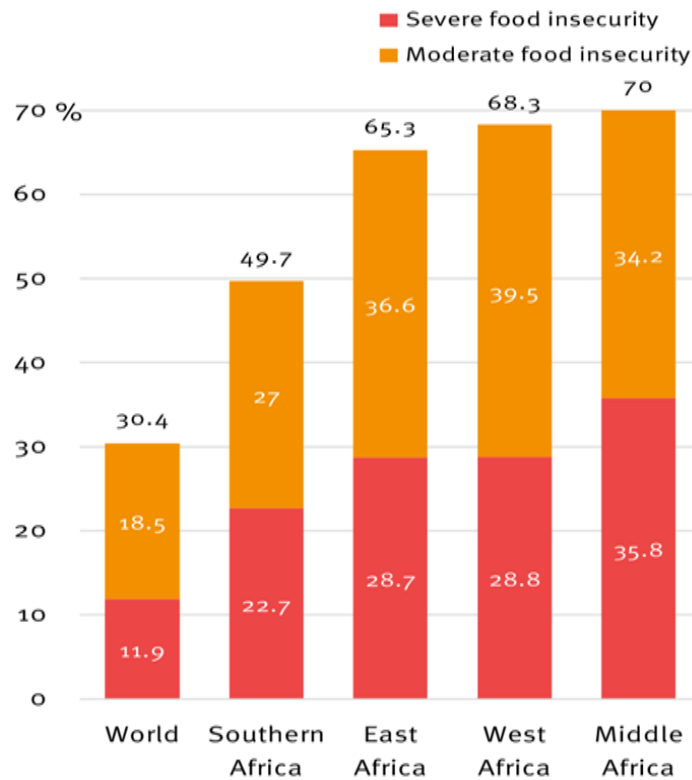
The paper is divided as follows: Section 2 examine the impact of Russian-Ukraine war on food inflation and social unrest in Africa. Section 3 presents the theory upon which the paper was anchored. Section 4 is on the methodology deployed. Section 5 highlights the results and findings of the paper. Finally, Section 6 concludes the paper.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. The Impact of Russian-Ukrainian War Food Inflation in Africa

Food inflation simply means a change in the prices of food items over a period of time. The rising rate of food inflation in Africa is evidenced by the rising prices of staple food items, for which global factors are partly to blame (Okou, Spray, & Unsal, 2022). Several countries in Africa rely on imported grains like wheat to meet the food needs of their growing populations. The World Food Programme (WFP) and other organisations measure the extent to which countries rely on imported goods by calculating the share of a country's supply of commodities that came from imports, referred to as import dependency ratios. Nigeria, Cameroon, Uganda, and Tanzania have wheat ratios above 90, indicating that almost all their wheat supply comes from imports, with the rest from local production (Human Rights Watch, 2022). Before the war in Ukraine, countries in East, West, Middle, and Southern Africa, including Angola, Cameroon, Kenya, and Nigeria, were already grappling with soaring food prices due to extreme climate and weather events such as floods, landslides, droughts, and the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted production efforts and global supply chains. Since Russia's invasion, global food prices have reached new heights (Food and Agricultural Organization, 2019). The Food Price Index, a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities, increased 12.6 percent from February to March. The March index is the highest it has been since the measure was created in the 1990s and has contributed to rising levels of food insecurity in Africa (Human Rights Watch, 2022).

Share of food insecure populations in East, West, Middle, and Southern Africa in 2020



Human Rights Watch analysis of FAO data.

Figure 1. Population of Africans suffering from food insecurity.

Figure 1 shows the percentage of Africans who experience moderate to severe food insecurity. The findings indicate that 49.7% of people in Southern Africa experienced food insecurity. Among those who experienced food insecurity, 27% experienced moderate food insecurity and 22.7% experienced severe food insecurity. In East Africa, food insecurity affected 63.5% of the population. Of the 63.5% of this population who experienced food insecurity, 36.6% had it moderately, and 28.7% had it severely. In West Africa, 68.3% of the population struggles to feed themselves. The severity of this situation varies among these categories of people. Out of the 68.3% in this category, 39.5% experience moderate food insecurity, while 28.8% experience severe food insecurity. In similar vein, data in Figure 1 shows that 70 % of persons in Middle Africa suffered from food insecurity with 35.8 % suffering from severe food insecurity and 34.2 % suffering from moderate food insecurity.

The overall analysis shows that the majority of Africans lack access to sufficient food, and given the war's disruptions, the situation can only get worse, with the potential for people to fall into destitution, starvation, and early death. Data in the chart above revealed the population Africans suffering from moderate or severe food insecurity. The result showed that majority of Africans do not have access to adequate food. The overall analysis shows that the majority of Africans lack access to sufficient food, and given the war's disruptions, the situation can only get worse, with the potential for people to fall into destitution, starvation, and early death.

2.2. The Likelihood that Severe Food Insecurity Caused by Russian-Ukrainian War would Result to Social Unrest in Africa

More people are now going hungry in Africa as a result of the conflict in Ukraine (Human Rights Watch, 2022). Many African nations are experiencing a rise in food insecurity. The International Labour Organisation (ILO)

estimates that 8 out of 10 Africans will not have access to any type of social protection by 2020. In Cameroon, for instance, there is no comprehensive social protection system, and 55.8% of the population experiences food insecurity. Only 7.1 percent of the population and 2.2 percent of children are covered by at least one social protection benefit, leaving most people in need without any support. Human Rights Watch research on COVID-19 relief measures in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda found that the support programmes that governments expanded or introduced during the pandemic were temporary, insufficient, or prone to corruption. Overall, these indirect effects of the war could result in social unrest and push millions of people into extreme poverty (UNDP, 2022).

3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This paper was anchored on complex interdependency theory proposed by Keohane and Nye (1977). The complex interdependence theory stresses the complex ways in which as a result of growing ties, the transnational actors become mutually dependent, vulnerable to each other's actions and sensitive to each other's needs. In this context, actors could be countries or continents. In the contemporary globalized world, the term 'interdependence' is frequently used. It is a situation in the world politics where all the actors including states as well as non-state actors, are dependent upon one another. In general terms, "Dependence means a state of being determined or significantly affected by external forces. Interdependence, most simply defined, means mutual dependence (Rana, 2015). Interdependence in world politics refers to situations characterized by reciprocal effects among countries or among actors in different countries" (Keohane & Nye, 1977). Keohane and Nye argued that in the era of interdependence, the very nature of international relations has been changed and world has become more interdependent in all respects especially economics. In short, the general conception of interdependence can be divided into the following two categories: (1) sensitivity interdependence; deals with cases in which economic conditions in countries are largely sensitive to changes in other countries. For instance, Africa countries that that depends on Ukraine and Russia for food products are already been affected in terms of food insecurity as a result of the war going on in these nations and (2) Vulnerability interdependence; In this view, countries are irreparably harmed by dissolving their relationships with one another. For example, the case of trade disruption caused by the war in Ukraine which is costing the relationship between African countries and Ukraine fall under this category. Thus, vulnerability interdependence highlights the gains of cooperation and the potential losses of destabilizing relationships (Wooten, 2007).

Keohane and Nye (1977) theory is relevant to the study because of the following (1) globalization; (2) the degree of impact the crisis between Ukraine and Russia is having on African countries (3) trade ties. It is quite obvious that globalization made the interdependency of countries in Africa and the two nations Ukraine and Russia to be possible. Just like Keohane and Nye theorized, African countries depends heavily on these nations for their staple food supply. And such, as made them very sensitive to the ongoing crises between Ukraine and Russia. Sensitive in this context is referred to how the ongoing crisis between Ukraine and Russia is exacerbating food crisis in Africa. Keohane and Nye theory is significant as part of the theoretical framework in this study, for it specifies the vulnerability interdependency between countries. In as much as Africa countries rely so much on Ukraine and Russia for their staple food, Africa still pose as a big market for them. Therefore, a disruption in trade caused as a result of the war is already costing them though in different scale.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. Research Design

The study adopted a longitudinal panel design. This research strategy was chosen for this study because it allowed the researcher to examine changes and identified trend over a period of time. The design is considered

appropriate for this study because it enabled the researcher to observe and examine pattern of food inflation caused by Russia-Ukraine war amidst COVID-19.

4.2. Area of the Study

The study was carried in Africa. Africa is a continent that is highly dependent on the European and Western world for health, technology, trade etc.

4.3. Population for the Study

The population for the study comprised of time series data points spanning from January 2019 to March 2022 on food inflation for the 54 African countries (Trading Economics, 2022).

4.4. Sample and Sampling Technique for the Study

A sample size of four countries comprising of Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya and Morocco were purposively selected.

4.5. Data Collection

The data that was used in the study were annual time series data covering the period of January 2019 to March 2022. It is secondary data sourced from Trading Economics (2022).

4.6. Data Analysis

The data analysis employed in this study was descriptive statistics. Trend analysis was used to observe pattern of food inflation over time for the sampled countries, while percentage increase was used to examine changes in food inflation over time. All computations were carried out using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 22.0 and Micro soft Excel.

5. RESULTS

5.1. Pattern of food inflation in Africa

The pattern of food inflation for Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya and Morocco are represented as shown in Figure 2, Figure 3, Figure 4, and Figure 5, respectively.

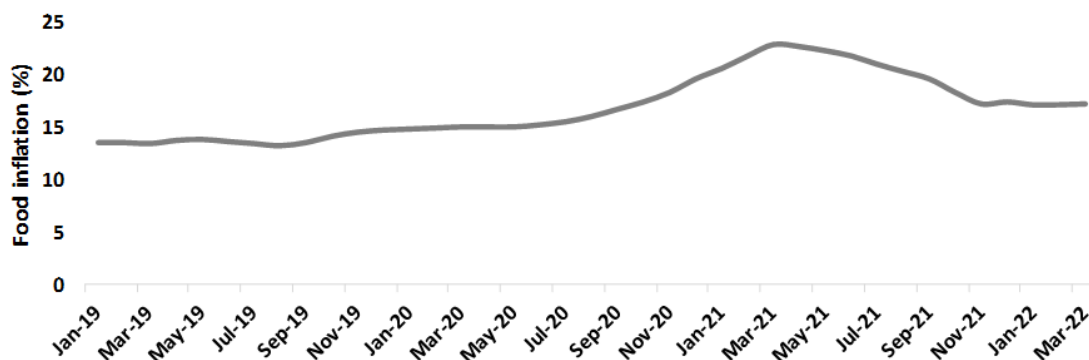


Figure 2. Trend in food inflation for Nigeria.

The chart in Figure 2, shows that food inflation for Nigeria rose steadily between the periods January 2019 to July 2020. Between these time periods of 19 months, food inflation for Nigeria fluctuated between 14 % and 16 %.

Immediately after these time periods, there was a spike in food inflation in August 2020, which lasted till March 2021. Food inflation was at its peak in March 2021. Between these time periods (August 2020 to March 2021), food inflation fluctuated between 16 % and 30 % for 8 months. The cause of the sudden rise in food inflation within this period of time (August 2020 to March 2021) is not farfetched, because, at that time period, economies of the world including that of Nigeria were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the chart revealed a steady decline in food inflation. The decline started in April 2021 and continued in that order till November 2021. Between these time periods, Nigeria had begun to open its economy constrained by COVID-19. The recovery period lasted between the periods of April 2021 to November 2021, and food inflation was revealed to have fluctuated between 21 % and 18 % for 8 months. Immediately after these time periods, food inflation rose again but gradually, spanning the periods from December 2021 to March 2022, with food inflation oscillating between 17 % and 18 %. Recall that as of December 2021, the Russia-Ukraine war was already looming and Nigeria was among the topmost African countries that depended on these nations for some of her staple food supply.

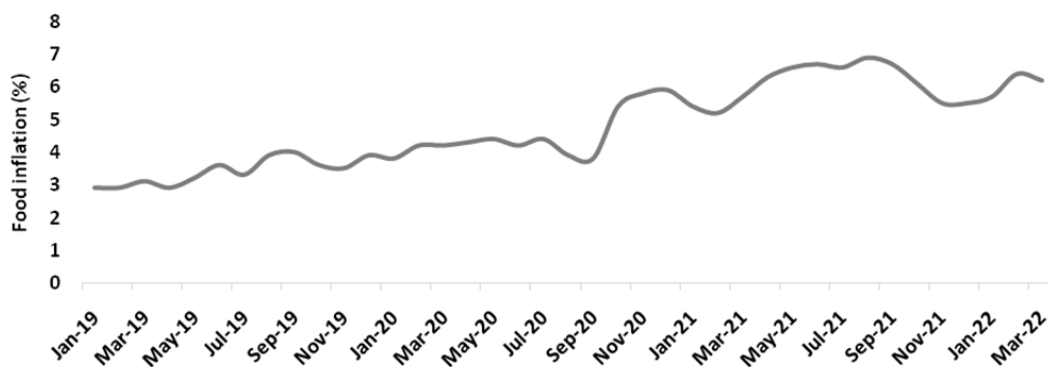


Figure 3. Trend in food inflation for South Africa.

The chart in Figure 3, shows that food inflation for South Africa rose steadily between the periods January 2019 to July 2020. Between these time periods, food inflation for South Africa fluctuated between 2 % and 4 % for 19 months. Immediately after these time periods, there was a sharp drop in food inflation in September 2020 and suddenly rose in October 2020, which spanned the periods of October 2020 to August 2021. Between these time periods, food inflation for South Africa fluctuated between 5 % and 7 % for 10 months. The cause of the sudden rise in food inflation within this period of time is not unconnected to the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on global economies which South Africa was not immune.

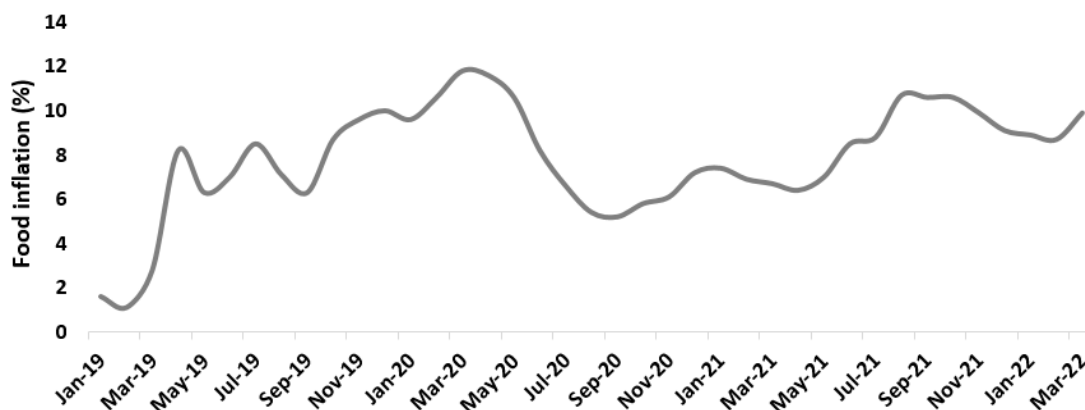


Figure 4. Trend in food inflation for Kenya.

However, a steadily decrease in food inflation (September 2021) after the highest peak was an indication of South Africa’s recovery from the shock caused by COVID-19. The recovery period lasted for 3 months (September 2021 to November 2021). Between these time periods, food inflation for South Africa fluctuated between 6 % and 5 % for 3 months. Immediately after these time periods, food inflation rose again but gradually spanned the periods of December 2021 to March 2022. Between these time periods of 4 months, food inflation for South Africa fluctuated between 5 % and 7 %.

The chart in Figure 4, shows that there has been an unstable fluctuation of food inflation in Kenya. Although, food inflation reached its highest peak in March 2020. This time period also fell within the period of COVID-19. From the chart in Figure 3, it can also be seen that food inflation dropped drastically around September 2020 and began to rise steadily up until August 2021. After August 2021, food inflation dropped and started projecting upwards from February 2022. Even as of March 2022, food inflation in Kenya projected an upward trend.

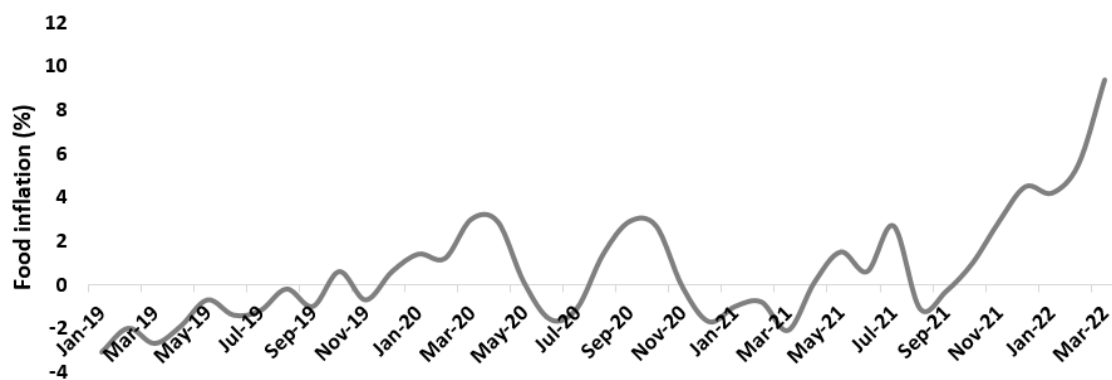


Figure 5. Trend in food inflation for Morocco.

From the chart in Figure 5, it was observed that food inflation in Morocco featured most during the COVID-19 period, which spanned the periods of January 2020 to April 2020, and August 2020 to November 2020. During these periods of time, food inflation was recorded to fluctuate between 1 % and 3 %, which lasted for 4 months each time period. Food inflation also featured during the post-COVID-19 era. Food inflation was recorded between the periods of April 2021 to July 2021 and between the periods October 2021 to December 2021. From the chart in Figure 4, food inflation data lies between 0.6 % and 5 %. However, a sudden spiked in food inflation was observed in February 2022 which progressed up until March 2022. Food inflation data between these periods lay between 4 % and 10%.

5.2. Impact of Russian-Ukrainian War on Food Inflation in Africa

The impact of Russian-Ukrainian war on food inflation for Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya and Morocco are represented as shown in Figure 6, Figure 7, Figure 8 and Figure 9 respectively.

It was observed in Figure 5 that between the periods of January to March 2019, the average food inflation for Nigeria was 13.47 %. Between the periods January to March 2020, the average food inflation was at 14.90 %. The chart in Figure 6 also showed that between the periods of January to March 2021, the average food inflation was 21.77 %. Between the same periods of 2022, the average food inflation was 17.15 %. Relative to the same period of 2019, food inflation took a positive trend. Food inflation increased by 10.62 % in 2020, 61.62 % in 2021 as well as 27.32 % in 2022. However, the impact of food inflation was more for Nigeria during the post-COVID-19 period, followed by the period caused as a result of the Russian and Ukrainian crises.

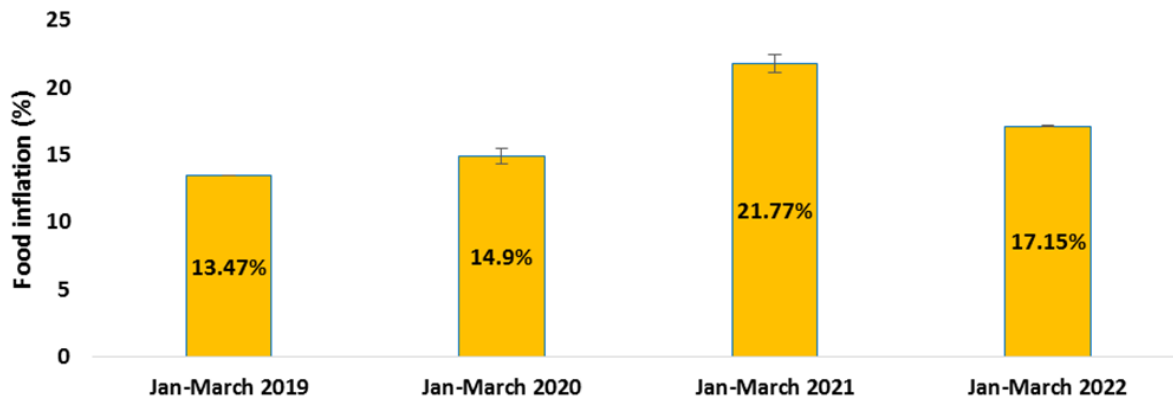


Figure 6. The impact of Russian-Ukrainian war on food inflation for Nigeria.

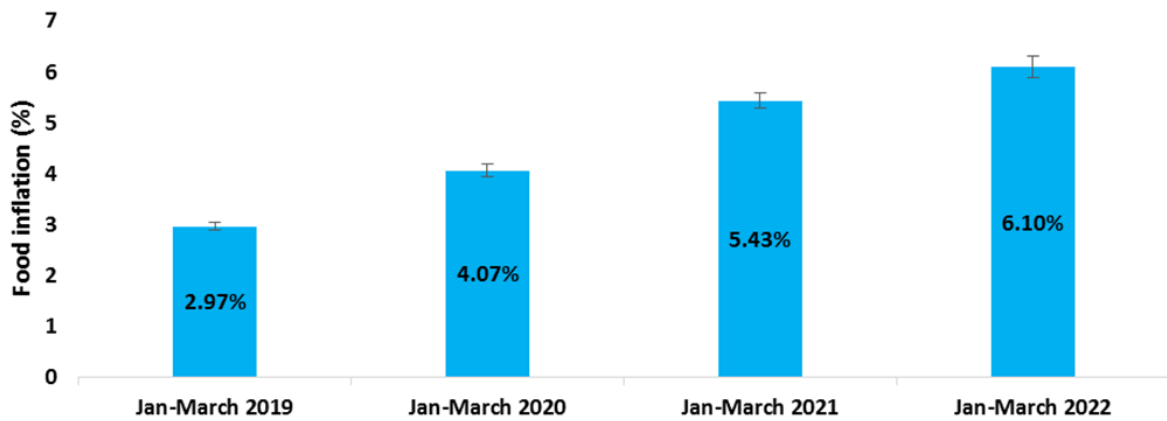


Figure 7. The impact of Russian-Ukrainian war on food inflation for South Africa.

Data from the chart in Figure 7, show that food inflation for South Africa took an upward trend throughout the periods of January to March for the four consecutive years. Relative to the periods of January to March 2019, average food inflation increased by 37.04 % in 2020, 82.83 % in 2021 and 105.39 % in 2022. This goes to show that the underlying crises going between Russia and Ukraine are already mounting additional pressure on the food inflation in South Africa.

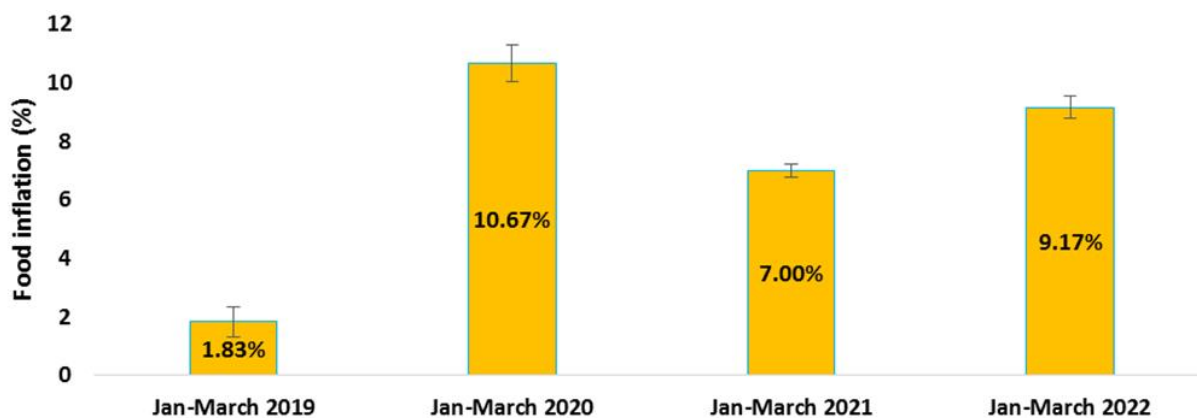


Figure 8. The impact of Russian-Ukrainian war on food inflation for Kenya.

Data in Figure 8 showed that between the periods of January to March 2019, the average food inflation for Kenya was 1.83 %. Between the periods January to March 2020, the average food inflation for Kenya was at 10.67 %. Between the periods January to March 2021, the average food inflation was 7.00 %. Between the same period of 2022, the

average food inflation for Kenya was 9.17 %. Relative to January to March 2019, average food inflation was on the increase. Food inflation increased by 483.06 % in 2020, 282.51 % in 2021 and 401.09 % in 2022. However, the impact of food inflation was more for Kenya during the COVID-19 period, followed by the period of the Russian and Ukrainian crises. This goes to show that if the crisis between Russia and Ukraine lingers the more, is capable of causing more food crises for Kenya than what she experienced during the COVID-19 era.

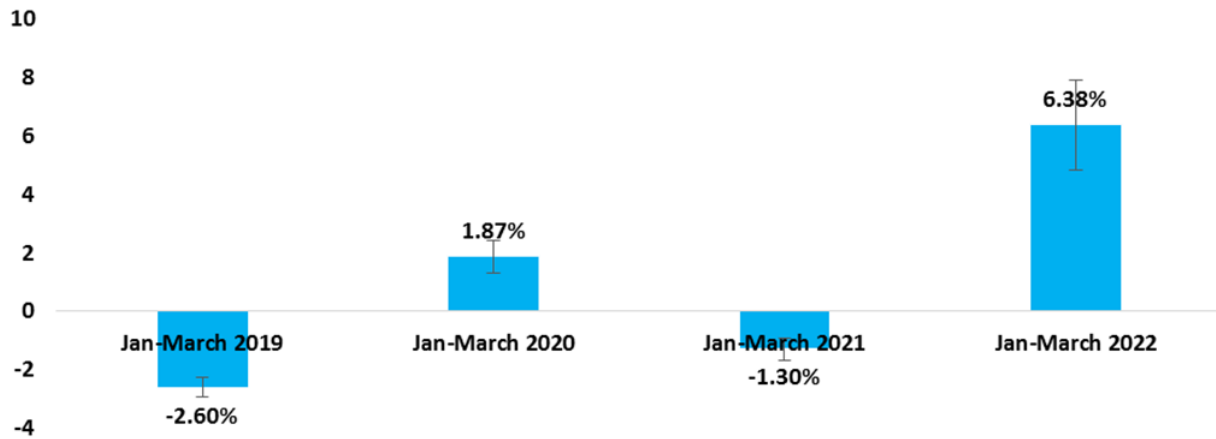


Figure 9. The impact of Russian-Ukrainian war on food inflation for Morocco.

Data from the chart in Figure 9, show that food inflation was only positive for Morocco during the COVID-19 era (1.87 %) and during the Russian and Ukrainian crises (6.38 %). Relative to January to March 2020, food inflation increased by 241.18 %. The impact of the Russian and Ukrainian crises contributed so much to the food inflation in Morocco.

5.3. The Likelihood that Russia and Ukraine War Would Instigate Social Unrest in Africa

Data on the likelihood that Russian-Ukrainian war would instigate social unrest in Africa is presented on Table 1 and 2.

Table 1. Responses on the likelihood that Russian and Ukrainian war would instigate social unrest in Africa.

Variable	\bar{X}	SD	Decision
what is the likelihood that the crisis going on between Russia and Ukraine would exacerbate social unrest in Africa	3.10	0.41	L

Note: \bar{X} =Mean, SD=Standard Deviation, N= Number of Respondents=10, L= likely.

Table 2. Responses on the forms of social unrest that Russian and Ukrainian war would likely instigate in Africa.

S/N	Themes	Total supporting cases
1	Peaceful protest	A1,A2,A3,A4,A5,A6,A7,A8,A9,A10
2	Riots	A1,A2,A3,A4,A6,A7,A8,A9,A10
3	Unarmed mob violence	A1,A2,A3,A4,A5,A6,A7,A8,A9,A10

Note: A1 to A10 = Interviewed Participants.

The results presented in Table 1 showed that there is a likelihood that the war going on between Russian and Ukraine will instigate social unrest in Africa. Social unrest in the form of peaceful protest, riots and random violence is likely to occur due to the high prices of food caused as a result of the war going on between Russia and Ukraine as revealed in Table 2.

5.4. Discussion

The results of this study showed that the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine is beginning to have a negative impact on the food security of Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, and Morocco. As their populations grow, several African nations are dependent on imported grains like wheat to meet their food and fertiliser needs. But if the conflict continues, there will be shortages in the supply of these goods, driving up the cost of food. This is true because agricultural trade between Russia, Ukraine, and African countries is significant. In 2020, African countries spent \$4 billion importing agricultural products from Russia. The top five importers by volume were Egypt, Sudan, Nigeria, Tanzania, Algeria, Kenya, and South Africa. Egypt accounted for about half of all imports. In the same way, Ukraine sold \$2.9 billion in agricultural goods to Africa in 2020. Nigeria, South Africa, and Kenya were among the seven African nations with the biggest percentage of wheat imports from Russia and Ukraine, according to the [Human Rights Watch \(2022\)](#). In a similar vein, [Oxfam International \(2022\)](#) predicted that due to Covid-19, growing global inequality, and the shock of food price increases exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, nearly a quarter of a billion additional people might face severe poverty in 2022. The implication is that, more households in developing countries will be pushed into poverty.

The study found that, in contrast to Nigeria and South Africa, Morocco and Kenya were most negatively impacted by the current Russian-Ukrainian situation's rise in food prices. This assertion was supported by [The United Nations' International Fund for Agricultural Development \(2022\)](#) which asserted that the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine is to blame for the rising costs of staple crops in East and North Africa and that these costs will continue to rise as long as the conflict persists on the continent.

The study also found that social unrest in Africa could be sparked by the rise in food prices brought on by the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. All of the participants agreed that *"if African governments don't do something about rising food prices, there will likely be more instances of both peaceful protest and sporadic youth violence"*. The majority of participants also concurred that *"pockets of rioting are inevitable in the middle of a food crisis if nothing is done to alleviate it."* In Africa, the effects of rising food prices on the economy have taken many different forms. In low-income nations, political structures significantly deteriorated, according to [Arezki and Brückner \(2011\)](#) during times of rising global food prices. This is largely because the likelihood of civil war and other types of civil unrest, such as anti-government protests, increased significantly as food prices rose. In a related study, [Bellemare \(2012\)](#) found that media reports of food riots increase along with increases in the FAO Food Index. Both studies found strong statistical associations between food prices and riots.

6. CONCLUSION

The rising price in food commodities in African countries is attributed to the war going on between Russia and Ukraine. This is not good for Africa due to her dependency on these countries for bulk of her staple food. As a result of this, the existing food insecurity challenges facing the continent would have much greater effect on her populace, by causing more people to starve. Between January to March, 2022, the impact of the war on food inflation was more for North and East African countries. Therefore, if African countries do not put in place policies and structures that will abate the impact of food inflation arising from the war between these nations, the likelihood that the continent will experience series of social unrest among its populace is more.

6.1. Recommendations

1. Government at all level should ensure that security of life and property is guarantee. That way farmers can safely go about with their agricultural activities.

2. Government should come up with policies that will favour agricultural activities.
3. Young people should have simple access to agricultural inputs and soft loans in both urban and rural region so they can launch a variety of agricultural businesses. It will relieve pressure on the country's food supplies.

REFERENCES

- Arezki, R., & Brückner, M. (2011). *Food prices and political instability, IMF working paper*. Washington DC: International Monetary Fund.
- Bellemare, M. (2012). *Rising food prices, food price volatility, and social unrest, SSRN scholarly paper*. Rochester: Social Science Research Network.
- Food and Agricultural Organization. (2019). Suite of food security indicators. Retrieved from: <https://www.fao.org>.
- Human Rights Watch. (2022). Ukraine/Russia: As war continues, Africa food crisis looms. Retrieved from: <https://guardian.ng/apo-press-releases/ukraine-russia-as-war-continues-africa-food>.
- Keohane, R. O., & Nye, J. S. (1977). *Power and interdependence: World politics in transition*. Boston: Little Brown.
- OECD. (2022). *OECD economic outlook, interim report March 2022: Economic and social impacts and policy implications of the war in Ukraine*. Paris: OECD Publishing.
- Okou, C., Spray, J. D., & Unsal, D. F. (2022). Africa food prices are soaring amid high import reliance. Retrieved from: <https://www.imf.org/en/Blogs/Articles/2022/09/26/africa-food-prices-are-soaring-amid-high-import-reliance>.
- Oxfam International. (2022). Terrifying prospect of over a quarter of a billion more people crashing into extreme levels of poverty and suffering this year. Retrieved from: <https://www.oxfam.org>.
- Rana, W. (2015). Theory of complex interdependence: A comparative analysis of realist and neoliberal thoughts. *International Journal of Business and Social Science*, 6(2), 290-297.
- The United Nations' International Fund for Agricultural Development. (2022). World food situation. Retrieved from: <https://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpriceindex/en>.
- Trading Economics. (2022). Food inflation. Retrieved from: <https://tradingeconomics.com/country-list/food-inflation>.
- UNCTAD. (2022). *The impact on trade and development of the war in Ukraine*. United Nations: UNCTAD.
- UNDP. (2022). The impact of the war in Ukraine on sustainable development in Africa. Retrieved from: <https://www.undp.org>.
- Wandile, S. (2022). How Russia-Ukraine conflict could influence Africa's food supplies. Retrieved from: <https://theconversation.com>.
- Wooten, A. (2007). Economic interdependence and transitional democracies. College Undergraduate Research Electronic Journal University of Pennsylvania. Retrieved from: <https://repository.upenn.edu/curej/70>.

Online Science Publishing is not responsible or answerable for any loss, damage or liability, etc. caused in relation to/arising out of the use of the content. Any queries should be directed to the corresponding author of the article.