

Food security world-wide vis-a-vis the war in Ukraine

Background information:

Since 2014 the relationship between the Russian Federation and Ukraine has been tense due to Russia illegally annexing the Crimean Peninsula. The war escalated to a national level in February 2022, when Russian soldiers proceeded to further invade Ukrainian territory.

Currently, after almost a year of Russia's constant aggression, many nations including Ukraine itself were not only socially but also economically affected. This has led to general inflation and mass crisis.

After the Covid-19 pandemic global hunger rate increased. It is in fact necessary to support all nutriment producers to restore previous standards and continue working on lowering the world hunger percentage.

In Ukraine, the conflict is having a significant negative impact on labor markets, employment opportunities, working conditions, underlying infrastructure, and the delivery of public services. Ukrainian farms struggle to find workers, get essential agricultural inputs, and sell their produce. As Ukraine is a major sunflower seed, barley and wheat producer and exporter, Russia's continuous violence creates unfavorable conditions for Ukraine to keep a stable export of commodities, which reduces financial income. Many nations that up to now were the greatest consumers of Ukraine's food supply such as Middle Eastern countries or those in the European Union are now running short on food supplies.

However, no sanctions on the Russian Federation concern any food export restrictions so far, meaning that Russia's financial income from food markets hasn't been greatly affected.

UN's involvement:

So far, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) from the humanitarian aid committee has responded to the nationwide food crisis in multiple manners.

The Ukrainian government has demanded FAO to help maintain general access to important markets as well as to provide financial and agricultural supplies to vulnerable producers.

Firstly, the FAO collects data and monitors Ukrainian households to ensure that needed aid is supplied as soon as possible.

Secondly, the FAO will input financial aid to households and farmers to support general needs and to minimize the war impact as much as possible.

Thirdly, the FAO distributes agriculture packages to Ukrainian farmers that include seed, fertilizer, and plant protection.

Questions to consider:

- How does the war in Ukraine impact your country?
- How much is your country dependent on Ukrainian and Russian food exports?
- How does your country fight inflation?
- How does your country respond to global crises?
- Does your country actively support other countries who might be currently facing a food crisis?
- Is your country self-sustainable on food terms?
- Does your country have any experience with food crises?
- What might be the steps to resolve a food crisis according to your country?
- What might be the steps to repair the global food market?
- What might be the steps to fight global inflation?

Helpful resources:

- <https://www.fao.org/3/cc3321en/cc3321en.pdf>
- <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9447en/cb9447en.pdf>
- <https://www.fas.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/Ukraine-Factsheet-April-2022.pdf>
- https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/UN%20GCRG%20Ukraine%20Brief%20No.%201_FINAL%20%281%29.pdf
- <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9450en/cb9450en.pdf>