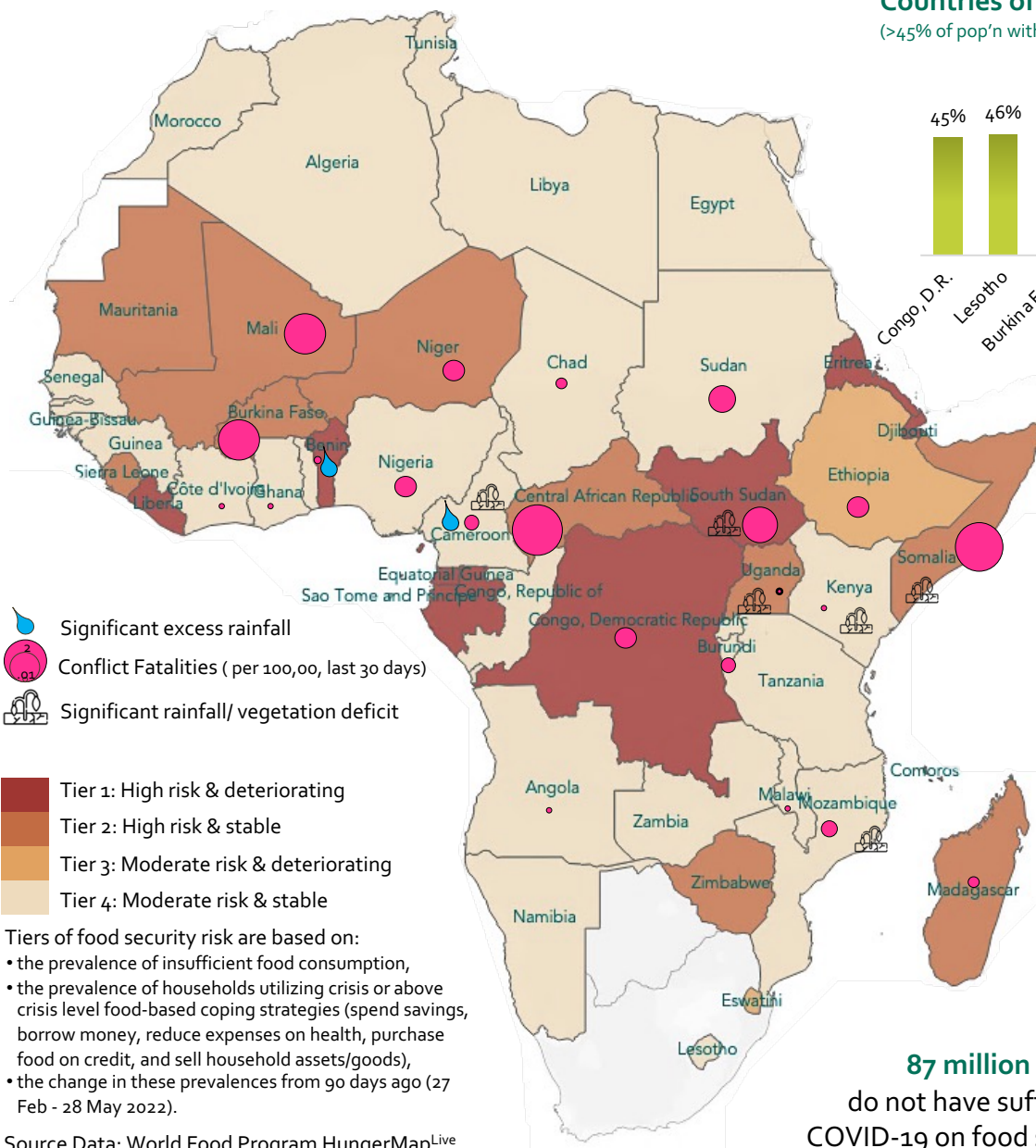


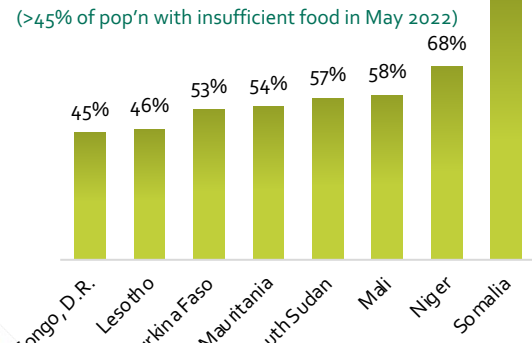
FOOD SECURITY in USAFRICOM

Food security means that all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life. The already dire food security situation in Africa is **expected to worsen further in 2022, exacerbated by rising commodity prices** and the **disruption of global trade** in food, fertilizer, and oil products impacted by COVID-19 and, more recently, the conflict in Ukraine (WFP, 2022).

CURRENT FOOD SECURITY OUTLOOK, 28 MAY 2022



Countries of most concern



Source Data: WFP HungerMapLive

In **East Africa**, **80 million** people, including **92% of Somalis**, do not have sufficient food, a trend that is predicted to continue.

133 million people in **West Africa** do not have sufficient food. **Less than 50%** of people in **Niger, Mali, Mauritania & Burkina Faso** are food secure.

87 million people in **Southern Africa** do not have sufficient food. The impact of COVID-19 on food security has been greatest in **Namibia, Zimbabwe, and Zambia**

- Tier 1: High risk & deteriorating
 - Tier 2: High risk & stable
 - Tier 3: Moderate risk & deteriorating
 - Tier 4: Moderate risk & stable
- Tiers of food security risk are based on:
- the prevalence of insufficient food consumption,
 - the prevalence of households utilizing crisis or above crisis level food-based coping strategies (spend savings, borrow money, reduce expenses on health, purchase food on credit, and sell household assets/goods),
 - the change in these prevalences from 90 days ago (27 Feb - 28 May 2022).

Source Data: World Food Program HungerMapLive

The System Surrounding Food Security

VIOLENT CONFLICT AND DROUGHT CAN SET OFF CYCLES OF FOOD (IN)SECURITY, PERIODIC FOOD CRISES LIKE FAMINE, AND POPULATION DISPLACEMENT THAT, IF UNCHECKED, ARE SELF-REINFORCING. The conditions required for building enduring **food security** are not, however, the same as those for mitigating immediate **food crises**.

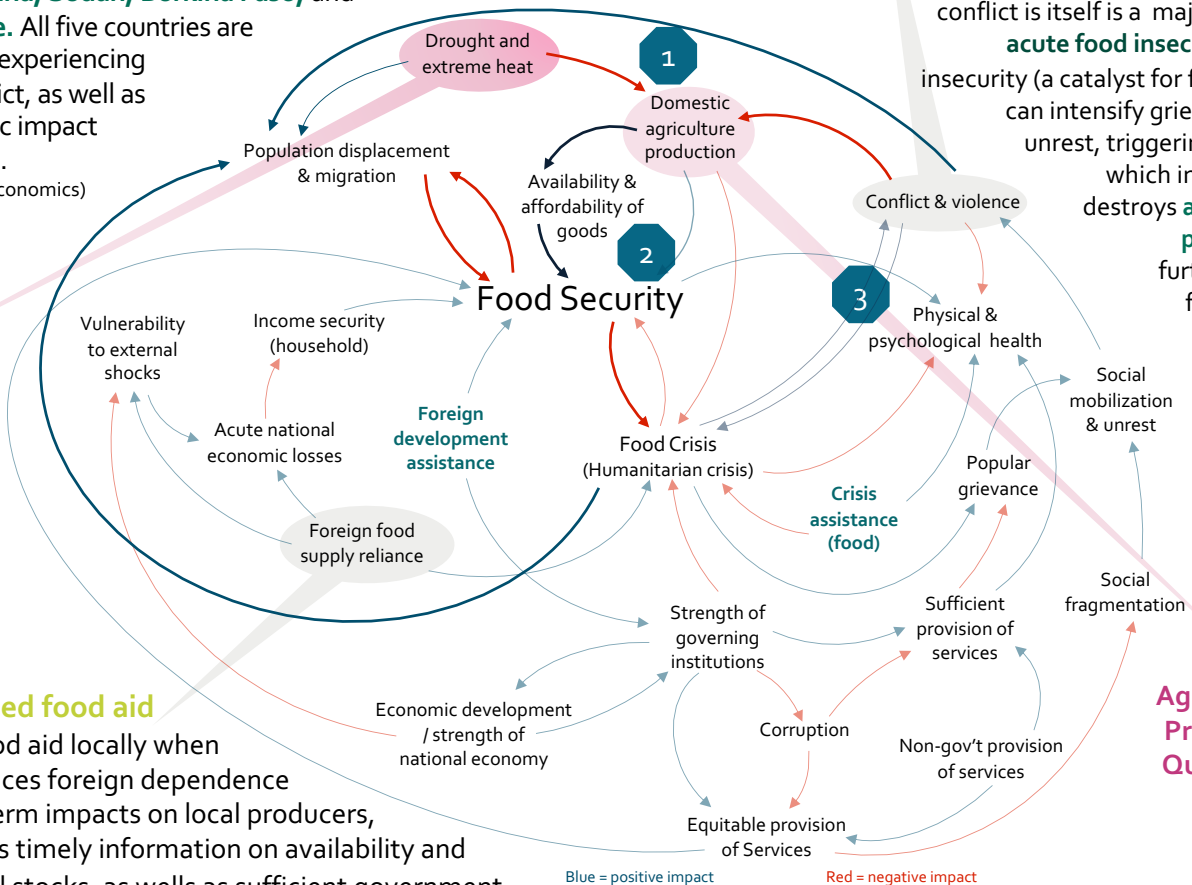
! Inflation-driven social unrest: High food prices generate extreme pressure on households. **Zimbabwe** is currently experiencing 155% inflation (YTD) in food prices, and **food inflation is above 25% in Ethiopia, Angola, Ghana, Sudan, Burkina Faso, and Sierra Leone.** All five countries are also already experiencing violent conflict, as well as the economic impact of COVID-19. (Data: Trading Economics)

Shrinking wet seasons, triggered by **climate change**, are driving **conflict between herders and farmers** in the Sahel. In **Nigeria** this has been deadlier than VEO violence, and confrontations with government forces are increasing. Moreover, violent conflict is itself a major driver of **acute food insecurity**. Food insecurity (a catalyst for food crises) can intensify grievances and unrest, triggering **conflict**, which interrupts or destroys **agricultural production**, further raising food prices.

See **Drought Quick Look** for system details & discussion

! Imported food aid Procuring food aid locally when possible reduces foreign dependence and longer-term impacts on local producers, but it requires timely information on availability and prices of local stocks, as well as sufficient government capacity in the host nation.

See **Agricultural Production Quick Look**



Possible US or Competitor Intervention Points

- 1** Expanding US support for agricultural training in culturally relevant and sustainable ways may help mitigate the impact of climate changes on food production and reduce local dependence on foreign supplies.
- 2** Maintaining government stores and emergency food funds—along with established distribution systems—can help to manage prices in the event of severe and rapid rises in food costs.
- 3** Food insecurity and crises compromise population health and often divert limited government capacity from public health services, such as maternal care and vaccination programs. Expanding US support for public health initiatives in countries experiencing food crises may mitigate some of the longer-term physical health impacts on vulnerable populations.

Current Stressors: War in Ukraine

ON MAY 19th, UN WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAVID BEASLEY TOLD THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL THAT FAILURE TO OPEN BLACK SEA PORTS WHERE ESSENTIAL FOOD EXPORTS HAVE BEEN BLOCKED, "WILL BE A DECLARATION OF WAR ON GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY" AND WILL CAUSE "FAMINE AND DESTABILIZATION AND MASS MIGRATION AROUND THE WORLD" (WFP, MAY 2022).

IT'S NOT JUST UKRAINE: THE FOOD INSECURITY PERFECT STORM

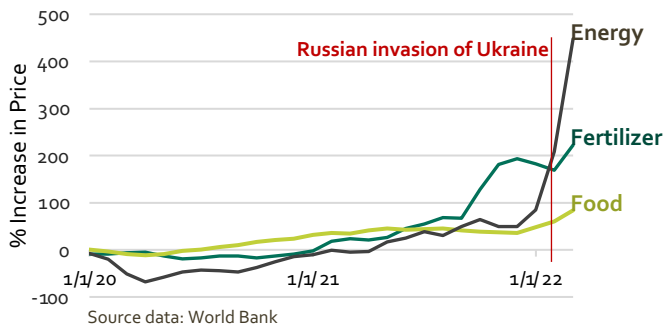
Prior to the outbreak of the Ukraine War, the WFP had already anticipated that 2022 would be "a year of catastrophic hunger" (Wax & Galindo, 2022). The combined effects of severe drought especially in East Africa (Relief Web, 2022, May), rising food prices, fuel and transportation costs, the economic effects of COVID 19, and food shortages from the war in Ukraine have created a perfect storm of factors leading to "unprecedented crisis" (Lee, 2022) for the poorest countries. More recently, extreme heat in India has damaged crops, further restricting global supply alternatives (Times of India, 2022).

Countries Currently Restricting Exports

Cereal Crops		Cooking Oils	Fertilizer
Afghanistan	Kuwait	Argentina	China
Argentina	Kyrgyzstan	Belarus	South Korea
Belarus	Moldova	Cameroon	Kyrgyzstan
Burkina Faso	Russia	Egypt	Russia
Cameroon	Serbia	Hungary	Vietnam
Egypt	Turkey	Kazakhstan	
Ghana	Uganda	Kosovo	
Hungary	Ukraine	Kuwait	
India		Russia	
Kazakhstan		Serbia	
Kosovo		Turkey	

Source data: IFPRI Food and Fertilizer Export Restrictions Tracker

FOOD SUPPLY SHORTAGES & PRICE INCREASES ARE ONLY PART OF THE STORY

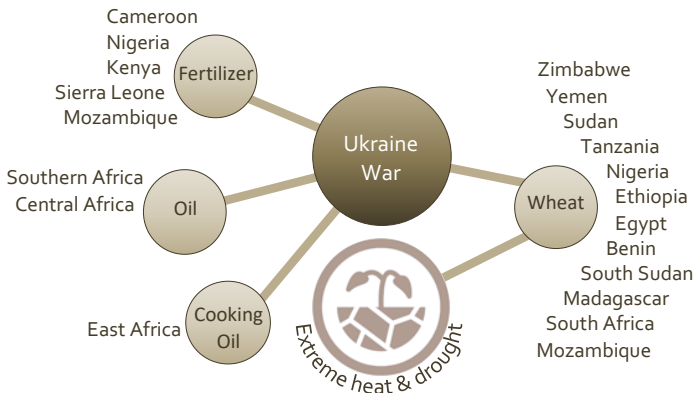


High **crude oil prices** are increasing food production and transportation costs, further pushing up food prices. Russia is also the world's largest exporter of **fertilizer**, and the uncertainty and expense of securing alternative sources is expected to affect crop yields well into 2023. Destruction of transportation infrastructure in Ukraine, cancellation of Black Sea shipping, and an EU ban on Russian road freight will all compound food **supply chain issues** (EUI, 2022).

WHICH COUNTRIES ARE MOST VULNERABLE?

A **comprehensive quantitative assessment** of impact of these global conditions across the USAFRICOM AOR would require establishing and comparing:

- population dependence on wheat for caloric needs,
- percentage of wheat imported,
- percent of imported wheat sourced in Ukraine or Russia,
- percent of oil, cooking oils, and fertilizer sourced from Ukraine or Russia, and
- capacity of governments to find alternate suppliers and/or subsidize increased prices.



Implications for Strategic Competition with China

What is China Competing For? Enhanced International Influence and Leverage

China's activities in Africa are part of a **larger, multi-layered strategy to enhance its international influence**, often in direct opposition to that of the US and its partner countries. Though individually Chinese influence activities may appear non-threatening, when combined, they can threaten US or partner interests (Astorino-Courtois & Polansky, 2022).

China's national interests are highly interdependent, centered on preserving Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) governing legitimacy and domestic control. Thus, **China's international influence** and economic growth directly impact the regime's domestic security (Astorino-Courtois & Polansky, 2022; Bragg, 2021). One line of activities in China's competition for global influence (Bragg et al., 2019) is to increase Chinese government visibility in a favorable way (Astorino-Courtois & Polansky, 2022) to increase China's global standing, and **weaken US influence** (NSI Team, 2020).

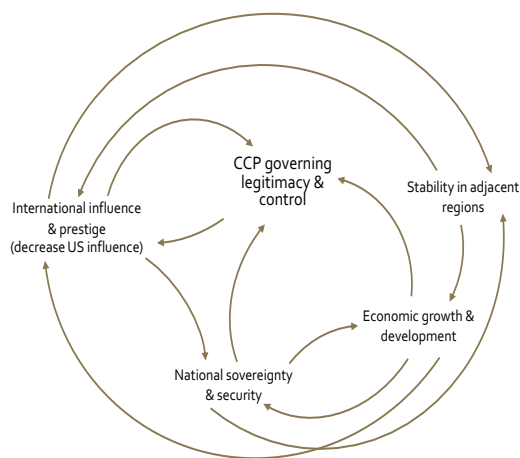
FOOD SECURITY & CHINESE COMPETITION FOR INFLUENCE

Is China using Food Insecurity to Gain Influence in Africa?

According to Lee (2022), China "holds half of the world's wheat supply in storage" and its "panic buying" is driving significant price increases. China has also restricted its fertilizer exports (IFPRI), leaving at question whether it is prudently hedging against future food shortages or **"strategically hoarding" to gain international influence**

over food insecure, import-dependent countries in Africa as US officials have claimed.

"US as Destabilizer." China's narrative regarding the US presence and assistance in Africa is that it is only military, is aggressive, and destabilizes the region. For example, China has dubbed US policy, imposing sanctions on Eritrea, as "humanitarian imperialism," whereas, according to the narrative, China comes to the aid of countries wronged by the US and is "Africa's true development partner" (Azam, 2022).



Relationship among Chinese (CCP) national interests

China's Aid Undermines Food Security.

Though Chinese narratives emphasize the no-strings, non-political nature of its aid to Africa (in comparison to that of the US), analysis of its foreign assistance—estimated at \$15 billion in 2018 (Dahir, 2019)—shows this is not the case. In actuality, when key African leaders assume power, Chinese aid triples to leaders' home regions (Dreher et al, 2019), directly supporting the personal political capital and patronage

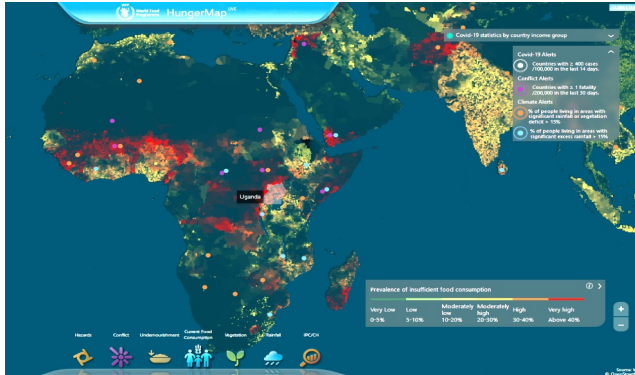
capability of serving African leaders. This is in direct opposition to the requirements for food security: capable state institutions and reduced corruption and graft. In short, Chinese aid practices directly undermine the food security and development of African populations (while enriching leaders.)

Maybe No Strings Attached, but there is a Rope. Consistent with efforts to enhance its influence in other developing countries, Chinese aid is often tied to African states support of the One China policy (Dahir, 2019; Bragg et al., 2019).

Data Sources

Food Security & Hunger Online Monitoring Dashboards

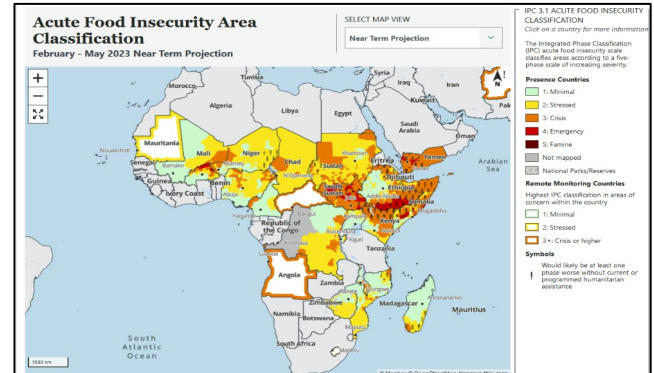
World Food Program: HungerMap^{Live}



This dashboard tracks core indicators of acute hunger such as food security information, weather, population size, conflict, hazards, nutrition information and macro-economic data to help monitor & assess hunger issues in near real-time.

World Food Programme. (n.d.) *HungerMap^{Live}* [Data visualization]. <https://hungermap.wfp.org/>

Famine Early Warning System (FEWS NET)



The **Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET)** is a leading provider of early warning and analysis on acute food insecurity around the world and is designed to help planners and policymakers plan for and understand famine risk.

United States Department of Agriculture. (May 2022). *Famine Early Warning System (FEWS NET)* [data]. <https://fews.net/>

Both dashboards incorporate data from: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (n.d.). *Acute Food Insecurity (IPC AFI) classification* [data]. <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/ipc-overview-and-classification-system/ipc-acute-food-insecurity-classification/en/>



United Nations – FAOSTAT

The UN FOOD & AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO) has an extensive set of food system-related indicators and information available through a convenient online data finding tool. Their **Suite of Food Security Indicators** is a core set of measures that follow the recommendation of experts gathered in the Committee on World Food Security Round Table on hunger measurement hosted in September 2011. The indicators aim to capture various aspects of food insecurity: availability, access, utilization and stability. Different indicators may be useful for different purposes, so careful review of this rich data source is recommended.

See the **FAOSTAT dashboard**:

<https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data>

Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. (n.d.). *FAOSTAT* [data]. <https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#home>

Other Data Resources

WFP's Food Price Forecasting & Alert for Price Spikes: World Food Programme. (n.d.). *Food price forecasting and alert for price spikes*. [data]. https://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/economic_explorer/price-forecasts-alerts

International Food Policy Research Institute's collection of data sets (includes access to multiple resources, including US Global Food Security Strategy Baseline survey and country-level nutrition surveys): International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). (n.d.). Various data sets [data]. https://www.ifpri.org/collections/related/publication_tools/17

Food & Fertilizer Export Restrictions Tracker: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). (n.d.). *Food and Fertilizer Export Restrictions Tracker* [data]. <https://www.foodsecurityportal.org/tools/COVID-19-food-trade-policy-tracker>

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