

THE CHALLENGE OF AFRICAN FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

THE PROBLEM

For the nearly 282 million people undernourished in Africa, and the additional 46 million people plunged into risk of hunger and undernourishment because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine has had devastating impacts. Russia's invasion of Ukraine threatens to further destabilise Africa's food supply and agriculture system, shedding light on the importance of action towards a more localised, independent African food system.

Whilst the Grain Corridor allowing the export of Ukrainian wheat through Black Sea ports has been a welcome relief with over 1 million tons of grain exported since its implementation, raw numbers highlight that there is still significant work to be done. For perspective, from July 2020 – June 2021, **Ukraine exported 16.6 million tonnes of wheat alone.**

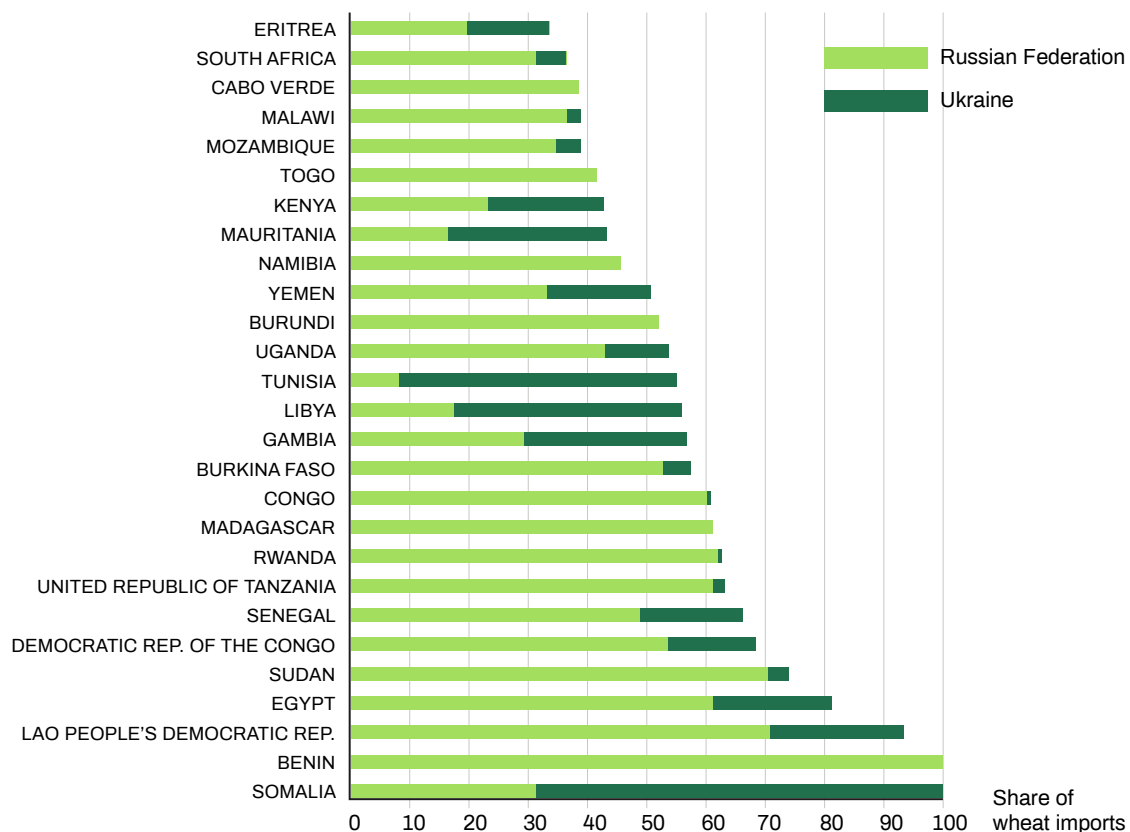
- **40% of Africa's wheat imports come from Russia and Ukraine**
- Russia and Ukraine exports of 28% of the world's fertilisers made from nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium.
- Russia and Belarus supply 40% of the world's potash exports.
- Together, Russia and Ukraine represent a combined 27% of the global trade in wheat and 12% of total calories traded in the world.

Relying on wheat and fertilizers from very few suppliers has put prices at the mercy of Putin, and European sanctions:

- In Sudan and Lebanon, the price of bread has nearly doubled because of rising wheat prices.
- **For Kenya and Egypt, the cost of importing wheat has increased by 33%.**
- **Egypt, the world's largest wheat importer (over 70%), has requested IMF and regional assistance to avoid a national economic crisis with regional implications.**

Prices for fertiliser in Africa have tripled compared to 2021 levels at a time when Africa's cereal yields are forecasted to be 20-50% lower than 2021 levels.

Export restrictions have also increased food prices, creating far more obstacles to global food trade than the pandemic. **For example, recent insurance bans on ships carrying Russian oil may also result in disruptions for shipments of grain.**



WHAT CAN BE DONE

Food sovereignty is a matter of national security. Without the creation and development of local agri-food chains, local food supply is out of Africa's control and in the hands of foreign actors. Greater solidarity with regards to trade among African countries and with Europe, such as avoiding export bans, must be priori-

tised to achieve food sovereignty. By supporting local agri-food chains, we can achieve greater economic integration, develop trade corridors, and move towards achieving the objectives of the [Africa Union Year of Nutrition](#).

EVOLUTION OF THE SHARE OF GLOBAL TRADE, IN CALORIES, IMPACTED BY EXPORT RESTRICTIONS

