

A SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT REVIEW ON THE **IMPACT OF RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE ON AFRICAN ECONOMIES**



AIMS AND SCOPE

While African countries were gradually recovering from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, recent global geopolitical issues related to the crisis between Russia and Ukraine, combined with consequent sanctions against Russia, are derailing the process, disrupting grain and fertilizer shipments again. This poses a very serious threat to African economies, mostly to countries depending on commodity imports from these two countries. On the other hand, African countries with natural resources, notably oil and gas exporters, are taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the crisis. However, others are being hit hard by the double surge in oil/gas and food prices, which is exacerbating their external imbalances, soaring inflation, and public debt trend¹.

The Russia's invasion of Ukraine is triggering cascading impacts, deteriorating social and macroeconomic conditions in Africa. Since the start of the Russia-Ukraine war, prices of wheat, sunflower oil, sugar and fertilizers and other commodities have skyrocketed around the world (Headey and Hirvonen, 2022)². In Africa, wheat prices have soared by more than 45% and fertilizer prices by 300%, and the continent is facing an enormous fertilizer deficit of 2 million metric tons (African Development Bank [AfDB], 2022a)³. Hence, the continent is expected to experience at least a 20% decline in food production and lose over USD 11 billion in value if the fertilizer deficit is not addressed (AfDB, 2022). North Africa, as well as West Africa and the Sahel region, face a particularly acute food crisis (Ehui et al., 2022⁴; Headey and Hirvonen, 2022). For example, the World Food Program predicts an additional 7 to 10 million food insecure people in West Africa due to the war's implications (Ehui et al., 2022).

The African Development Bank (2022b)⁵ projects a risk of stagflation in Africa, with real GDP projected to grow by 4.1% in 2022, significantly lower than the 6.9% in 2021. And average inflation is expected to accelerate to 13.5% in 2022, up from 13.0% in 2021, due to a sharp rise in commodity prices, particularly for energy and food. Rising oil prices are increasing the transportation cost and driving up the price of other basic commodities across Africa. The Russia and Ukraine war has heightened growing uncertainty and amplified volatility in financial and capital markets (AfDB, 2022a). Tighter global financial conditions – with higher interest rates to combat inflation - are expected to significantly curtail access to financing, exacerbating the debt vulnerability of African countries, of which over 60% are already in -or at a high-risk of - debt distress (World Bank, 2022)⁶.

Against this background, the African Development Bank intends to publish a special issue titled “The impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on African Economies” in its quarterly Journal, the African Development Review. The issue will analyze the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on African economies with an emphasis on submissions that address the socio-economic short- and long-term implications on the African economy, particularly on the agricultural sector and food security.

SPECIFIC AREAS OF INTEREST INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- ✔ Russia's invasion of Ukraine impacts on fiscal and external imbalances and public debt sustainability.
- ✔ Russia's invasion of Ukraine effects on energy prices on African economies.
- ✔ Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the effects of grain and fertilizers supply chain disruptions on African Economies.
- ✔ Russia's invasion of Ukraine, business performance and youth employment in Africa.
- ✔ Russia's invasion of Ukraine, agri-food value chains and gender issues in Africa.
- ✔ Fragile contexts, fertilizer-dependency and emergency aids in Africa.
- ✔ Russia's invasion of Ukraine implications on food security and poverty reduction in Africa
- ✔ Russia's invasion of Ukraine and potential delayed effect on climate change actions.
- ✔ Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the attainment of sustainable development goals in Africa.

KEY DATES AND INFORMATION

- ✔ The submissions window will open on 15 October 2022.
- ✔ The Deadline for submissions: 28 February 2023. Papers submitted after the deadline will be rejected. No fee is required to submit for this special issue. Manuscripts should be submitted online via <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/adrev>.
- ✔ Kindly indicate that the submission is for the special issue.
- ✔ Submitted papers should not be under consideration elsewhere.
- ✔ Submissions will be screened with respect to their relevance to the theme of the special issue and then will be peer-reviewed according to ADRev standards. Manuscripts will be checked for plagiarism before review.
- ✔ To be accepted, submitted papers should be in English or French, not exceed 7,000 words in length and be preceded by a 200-word abstract.

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¹ Ali, A. A., Azaroual, F., Bourhriba, O., & Dadush, U. (2022). The Economic Implications of the War in Ukraine for Africa and Morocco. Policy Brief N° 11/22. <https://www.policycenter.ma/publications/economic-implications-war-ukraine-africa-and-morocco>

² Headey and Hirvonen (2022) note that Russia and Ukraine account for more than 30% of global grain exports, Russia alone provides 13% of global fertiliser and 11% of oil exports, and Ukraine supplies half of the world's sunflower oil. [Headey, D., & Hirvonen, K. (2022). Russia's War on Ukraine Is Creating a Global Food Crisis. Here Are 3 Ways to Tackle It. March 31, World Economic Forum. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/03/a-food-crisis-was-brewing-even-before-the-ukraine-war-but-taking-these-three-steps-could-help-the-most-vulnerable>].

³ African Development Bank (AfDB) (2022a). African Development Bank Board Approves \$1.5 billion Facility to Avert Food Crisis. <https://www.afdb.org/en/news-and-events/press-releases/african-development-bank-board-approves-15-billion-facility-avert-food-crisis-51716#:~:text=The%20price%20of%20wheat%20has,bread%20and%20other%20food%20items>.

⁴ Ehui, S., Jenane, C., & Waldmann, K. (2022). The War in Ukraine – Amplifying an Already Prevailing Food Crisis in West Africa and the Sahel Region. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/voices/war-ukraine-amplifying-already-prevailing-food-crisis-west-africa-and-sahel-region>

⁵ African Development Bank (2022b). African Economic Outlook 2022: Supporting Climate Resilience and a Just Energy Transition in Africa. <https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/african-economic-outlook-2022>

⁶ World Bank. 2022. Global Economic Prospects, June 2022. Washington, DC: World Bank. doi: 10.1596/978-1-4648-1843-1