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Thesis Title

**Consequences of The Russian-Ukrainian War on the
Arab Governments' Foreign Policy**

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Dedication

I would like to dedicate this work to my precious mother who supported me to pursue this degree wish was my dream since childhood, thank you for always believing in me. This dissertation and graduation is especially for you.

Also, I would gratefully dedicate this to my late uncle Saddam forever in my heart brother may Allah have mercy on you. B.R

Dedication

This Work is dedicated to my family, whose unshakable support and encouragement have been my foundation. To my parents for their endless love and sacrifices that have shaped who I am today. To my brothers and sister that have been the cornerstone of my achievements.

Thank you all for being my pillars of strength.

I also dedicate this work to those affected by conflicts around the world, with the hope that through understanding and research, we can contribute to a more peaceful and just future.

Basset

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BR

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Special thanks go to the participants and experts who contributed their time and knowledge to our research. Your contributions have been crucial to the completion of this work.

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Abstract

The present study attempts to shed light on the Arab governments' foreign policies in the aftermath of the Russian invasion of the Ukraine. The study delves in the political and economic aspects that may contribute in changing the foreign policies that Arab governments follow. The study opts for a mixed method for collecting data. This includes an expert's interviews and economic data analysis for comparing post invasion economic ramifications with political decisions. The Result showed significant economic problems that most Arab countries are facing along with their political weight being questioned due to their sense of individualism.

Key words: *Ukrainian war, Arab governments, economic impact, political struggles, East-West relations*

List of Abbreviations

EU	European Union.
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council.
HNS	Host Nation Support,
HSBC Bank	Hongkong-Shanghai Banking Corporation.
ICG	International Crisis Group
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross
INGO	International Non-Government Organization.
JCPOA	Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas.
MENA	Middle East and North Africa.
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Countries.
The Budapest (MOU)	Budapest Memorandum.
UAE	United Arab Emirates.
UK	United Kingdom.
US	United States.
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
VTB	Vneshtorgbank.
WFP	World Food Programme.

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General Introduction

1-Study Background

Arab governments in strategic positions began changing their attitudes towards the Russian-Ukrainian war. They were caught unaware by this escalation of violence and are yet to come to terms with whether they should expose their military interventions or remain in their internecine conflicts in such a way that may spark off other internal political conflicts on a global scale. With these events that have taken place, it can be concluded that everything was over when Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine. This has become an international conflict that has arisen after that. Some of these activities were aimed at restoring Russia's and Ukraine's diplomatic connections, while others focused more on how the two countries could continue working together even amidst their dispute. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union and subsequent Russian military intervention in Ukraine, leading to a major conflict between Russia and Ukraine, significant ramifications were noted in international relations, the arms race, and the normative project of a new geopolitical. It had order that had been attained through international law mechanisms recognized by the United Nations' bodies. The war in Ukraine significantly altered global politics. The Arab world, having diverse nations with different political systems, cultural backgrounds, and economic structures, could determine the direction the war takes, although this paper will primarily look at the ripple effects of these wars, primarily on Europe and the United States, and to some extent in the Arab world. But still, the growth of the Arab government's foreign relations power is an aspect to reckon with because there is a possibility that even less developed countries such as Algeria might emerge important in relation to ending this conflict. In a world marked by turmoil, has long had to walk a thin line between powers. A new aspect was added to this complex geopolitical picture by the events of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, which made Arab governments rethink their foreign policy priorities, alliances, and diplomatic strategies. This research seeks to investigate how this war has impacted Arab governments' foreign policy decisions.

2-Statement and the Problem:

Despite their geographical distance from the conflict, Arab countries have not been immune to the Russian-Ukrainian war's consequences. They face economic pressures due to rising food and energy prices, potential food insecurity, and strategic challenges arising from the shifting global power dynamics. This study delves into how these factors are influencing the foreign policy decisions of Arab governments.

3-Research Question:

To conduct the study, the following research question has been asked:

-To what extent has the Russian-Ukrainian war influenced the Arab government's foreign policy decisions?

4-Aims of the study:

Arab countries have not been spared the consequences of the war, despite their geographical remoteness from it. They include economic adversity as food and energy costs soar, a probable shortage of food supplies, as well as new directions in global power distribution that are presenting strategic challenges. The study seeks to scrutinize how these elements have affected the various countries foreign policies.

The study aims at:

- Investigating the economic and political consequences of the war on Arab countries.
- Analyzing how Arab governments are navigating the shifting global landscape shaped by the war.
- Identifying potential changes in Arab foreign policy towards Russia and Ukraine.

All in all, this dissertation aims at giving useful findings about the Arab world following the Russian-Ukrainian conflict by analytically examining the aspects associated with geography. The goal is to make a scholarly contribution to discussions on international relations, conflict studies, and Middle Eastern politics by appreciating world happenings alongside local ones that revolve around different regions. between global events and regional dynamics. The aim of this research is to add to the academic debate surrounding issues of international relations, peace, and conflict.

Methodology:

Throughout the study, a mixed-methods approach will be opted for. This implies combining qualitative analysis, namely **archival data survey** through examining relevant documents, media reports, as well as expert interviews to understand the evolving foreign policy stances of Arab governments.

Dissertation Structure

The dissertation composes of two chapters. The first chapter gives insights into the Russian Ukrainian war and the events that led to it; it also provides an overview of the major countries involved in the war. The second chapter consists of two parts, the first part consists of interviews with two experts and provides analysis, interpretation and findings. The second part composes of analysis of Archival data related to the Arab world economic challenges during the war.

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5- Arab role in the Russian-Western power control war

6- Russia fights back against the world

1-Understanding the causes of the war

Understand the complex history between Russia and Ukraine, one must go all the way back to the fall of the Soviet Union and probably even further. Although historical events between the two countries have in some way contributed to the situation at present, it was the breakup of the Soviet empire in 1991 that critically influenced the events that led to the Russian invasion on February 24, 2022.

Ukraine was not just geopolitically significant to Russia. It was culturally and historically, too. The Russian and Ukrainian languages had diverged sometime in the 13th century, and Ukraine had a distinct and notable literature, but the two remained close—about as close as Spanish and Portuguese. While most of the country was ethnically Ukrainian, there was, particularly in the east, a large ethnic Russian minority. Perhaps more important, while the official language was Ukrainian, the lingua Franca in most of the large cities was Russian. And perhaps even more important than that, most people knew both languages. It was common on television to see a journalist, for example, ask a question in Russian and receive an answer in Ukrainian, or to have a panel of experts for a talent show with two Russian-language judges and two Ukrainian-language judges. It was a genuinely bilingual nation—a rare thing. (The Guardian, 2022)

The observer of the Russian Ukrainian conflict can easily realize that it isn't something that happened for simple reasons; rather, it was brewing for many years until it led to the inevitable war. Here are some causes that contributed to the war:

1-1-Historical Context

The roots of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict can be traced back centuries, but recent tensions find their origins in the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. And although the dissolution announced that Ukraine is again a free country, many Russians, especially the ones living in Ukraine, still believe it is Russian land, as President Vladimir Putin always articulated that fact in an essay written in July 2021.

They have been hardened by common trials, achievements, and victories. Our kinship has been transmitted from generation to generation. It is in the hearts and memories of people

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living in modern Russia and Ukraine, in the blood ties that unite millions of our families. Together, we have always been and will be many times stronger and more successful. We are one people.

As Ukraine gained independence, it sought to redefine its national identity and align itself strategically with either Russia or the West, setting the stage for future disagreements and power struggles.

1-2-Geopolitical Competition

One of the main reasons for the hostility is the conflicting geopolitics. Russia sees Ukraine as a key buffer state, and while leveraging historical, cultural, and economic bonds, it wants to maintain control of its neighbor. However, Russia sees Ukraine seeking closer ties with western institutions like the European Union and NATO as a threat, leading to increased disputes and rivalries.

1-3-Ethnic and cultural divides

The ethno-cultural diversity within Ukraine between the Ukrainian-speaking western regions is mainly caused by surrounding conditions characterizing divergence between predominantly Ukrainian-speaking western regions and Russian-speaking eastern ones. It has contributed to an internal division marked by ethnic and regional disparities that have been further inflamed due to vested interests from abroad. This has been through the escalation of already existing conflicts among its various groups, such as separatist tendencies lower down eastward in both the Donetsk and Luhansk areas of this country—Moscow-backed regions.

1-4-The Crimea annexation

Russia presented a turning point in the conflict escalation as Crimea was annexed. During this particular moment, Russia took over the strategically important peninsula, which was essential to her control over Ukrainian relations and with other nations globally, while setting a benchmark for more conflicts to follow in the eastern parts of Ukraine.

1-5-Domestic Politics and Instability

The condition of Ukraine's internal politics is more unsettled and intricate because of corruption, factional struggle, and economic distress. There are differing opinions on governance and policy.

2- The Russian-Ukrainian War

Although the Russian-Ukrainian conflict escalated into an invasion in February 2022, the original conflict started way back in 1991, in the aftermath of the Soviet Union's dissolution. Here's a timeline of key events that led to the 2022 invasion:

2-1- Ukraine becomes independent/ December. 1, 1991:

Not long after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ukrainians voted to secede from the Soviet Union. A majority of Ukrainians support seceding from the Union. Many Ukrainians of Russian descent live in Ukraine, the second largest country by land area in Europe.



Figure 1: Ukraine before breaking from the USSR-**Figure 2** -Independent Ukraine

2-2- The Budapest Memorandum is signed.Dec. 5, 1994:

The Budapest MOU was signed at the end of 1994 after Ukraine agreed to transfer all of its nuclear weapons from the Cold War-era Soviet Union to the Russian Federation in order to establish Ukraine as an independent non-nuclear nation. Ukraine previously held the world's third-largest nuclear inventory physically. In addition to Ukraine, the Budapest MOU was also signed by the United States, the United Kingdom, and Russia. All of the signatories agreed to respect Ukraine's territorial rights and sovereignty.

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2-3-: The Orange Revolution Overturms Election Results:November–December 2004

The presidential election between Yushchenko, who was backed by the West, and Yanukovych (the ruling party, supported by Russia), caused a lot of controversy. Before the election, Yushchenko suffered a mysterious illness but recovered. The results of the election were declared in favor of Yanukovych, but the results were widely believed to have been manipulated. Ukrainians took to the streets in orange, Yushchenko's campaign color. In December, protesters forced a re-run of the election, resulting in Yushchenko's victory.

2-4- Russia Fights Ukrainian NATO MembershipApril 3, 2008

A NATO meeting that started in early April 2008 saw heated discussion on expanding the Membership Action Plan (MAP) to include Ukraine. Countries must first have a MAP in order to be eligible to join NATO, a military alliance made up of 28 European and two North American nations committed to maintaining security and stability in the North Atlantic region. President Vladimir Putin of Russia reportedly told President George W. Bush that Ukraine is "not even a real nation-state," expressing his opposition to Ukraine joining NATO. Ukraine is not offered a MAP by NATO.

2-5-Euromaidan Protests Prompt Sudden Change in Government:November 2013 to February 2014

After promising to work toward a relationship with the European Union, President Yanukovych, who ran for president again and won in 2010, changed political direction and began to orient Ukraine toward Russia. This, combined with the controversial arrest of political opponent Yulia Tymoshenko, sparked widespread protests about perceived government corruption. There were protests across the country, centered on Maidan Square in Kyiv. At least 130 people, primarily civilians, are killed. Yanukovych flees to Russia, and the new leadership commits to orienting Ukraine toward the European Union.

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2-6- Russia has annexed Crimea, resulting in global condemnation. February 2014 to March 2014:

Russia presented a turning point in the conflict escalation as Crimea was annexed. During this particular moment, Russia took over the strategically important peninsula, which was essential to her control over Ukrainian relations and with other nations globally, while setting a benchmark for more conflicts to follow in the eastern parts of Ukraine.

2-7- Ukraine's citizens elected Volodymyr Zelenskyy for president. April 21, 2019:

A comedian in the past, he won very big in the election; Poroshenko could not withstand such a defeat. His parliament members have given him enough support that his own party is now the leading one there. Moreover, among various other things he pledged while campaigning were putting an end to ongoing hostilities with pro-Moscow rebels on the one hand as well as tackling the issue of graft within their own state administration.

2-8-: Putin Demands Security Guarantees December 2021

Early in 2021, Zelenskyy cracked down on pro-Russian Ukrainian oligarchs, including Viktor Medvedchuk, a close friend of Putin. Subsequently, Putin deploys increasing numbers of troops near the Ukrainian border and publishes an article claiming that Russians and Ukrainians are "one people." By December, tens of thousands of Russian troops are deployed to the borders, and Putin issues demands to NATO and the United States. Among these demands is that Ukraine never be admitted to NATO, a request rejected by the Biden administration.

2-9-: Russia Recognizes Breakaway Ukrainian Regions as Sovereign Feb. 21, 2022

In 2014, the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk broke away from Ukraine under the leadership of what the Ukrainian government considered to be Russian-backed terrorists. After ceasing relations with NATO and the West in late February, Putin recognized these territories as independent states and drove troops in "to keep the peace."

2-10 Russia has launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Feb. 24, 2022:

Just after it recognized separatist oblasts. The invasion started in the eastern Ukrainian region of Donbas. Martial law was declared in Ukraine by Zelensky, and diplomatic relations with Russia were officially severed. (US News, 2024)

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Putin declared on February 21 that the Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic, two autonomous regions of Ukraine under Russian authority, would now be recognized diplomatically as separate entities. The next day, Russia declared that it was sending troops into these areas as "peacekeepers" (BBC,2022), and the Russian Federation Council approved the use of force overseas.

3- The World Response to the Russian Invasion:

The world was quick to respond to the Russian invasion with condemnation, economic sanctions, and diplomatic efforts to resolve the conflict. The world response, though, is divided into three categories: countries that have condemned the invasion, such as the United States, EU countries, and Canada; countries that have maintained a neutral stance, such as Algeria, South Africa, and India. Also countries that have supported the invasion or blamed the invasion on Ukraine or NATO provocation, such as China.

We will only focus on the reactions of the countries that have a direct effect on the conflict, along with major Arab countries.

3-1-Western Reaction:

3-1-1-Public Reaction:

Experts see that the Russian invasion of Ukraine is a direct response to the provocative foreign policy of the United States. Russia has always been adamant that Ukraine is a line NATO should not cross, and after years of warnings about adding Ukraine to NATO, Russia decided that enough is enough and that warnings didn't seem to affect the US's efforts to accept Ukraine into NATO. So when the invasion of February 2022 happened, it came as a surprise to the US and its allies from NATO, so they were quick to respond by requesting emergency meetings with EU leaders and NATO's most affected countries.

"The United States has rallied the world in response, working with our allies and partners to provide Ukraine with critical security, economic, and humanitarian assistance and leading unprecedented efforts to impose costs on Russia for its aggression." (White House, 2023)

NATO's reaction was similar to that of the US and said:

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"NATO condemns, in the strongest possible terms, Russia's brutal and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine, which is an independent, peaceful, and democratic country and a close NATO partner. NATO and Allies continue to provide Ukraine with unprecedented levels of support, helping to uphold its fundamental right to self-defense."

3-1-2-Economic Response:

The US, along with EU nations and major other nations within the world, has imposed a tremendous amount of sanctions on Russia. Sanctions are punishments forced by one nation on another to stop them from acting forcefully or breaking international law. It is considered one of the most severe actions that countries take unless they are getting ready to go to war. Since the beginning of this year, when Russia attacked Ukraine last month, 16,500 sanctions have been imposed on her by the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union, along with others such as Switzerland, Canada, and Japan.

Their fundamental target has been Russia's cash.

Remote money saves worth approximately 350 billion dollars—about half its add-up to saves were solidified.

Approximately 70% of the resources of the Russian banks were solidified, the EU says, and some places avoided Quick, a high-speed information benefit for budgetary teaching.

Western countries have, moreover:

- prohibited the use of innovation; Russia might utilize it for making weapons;

- Prohibited imports of gold and precious stones from Russia.
- Prohibited flights from Russia
- Authorized oligarchs, the well-off commerce individuals connected with the Kremlin and appropriated their yachts. (BBC, 2024)

3-2United States Response:

The US took aim at Russia's oil refining sector with new export curbs. The new round of sanctions announced by the White House bans the export of specific refining technologies, making it harder for Russia to modernize its oil refineries.

Washington and its allies also barred some of Russia's banks from the SWIFT international payments system, a list officials said was still being finalized with EU partners.

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The White House released statements saying measures will also include "wide restrictions on semiconductors, telecommunication, encryption, security, lasers, sensors, navigation, avionics, and maritime technologies.". It also targeted military end-users, including the Russian defense ministry.

3-3-The European Union Response:

The 27-country EU imposed several packages of sanctions on Russia, including a ban on the export of specific refining technologies to Russia from Europe.

The EU also closed its airspace to Russian aircraft, including the private jets of Russian oligarchs. The bloc also banned the Russian state-owned television network Russia Today and the news agency Sputnik.

The EU also decided to freeze any European assets of Russian President Vladimir Putin and his foreign minister Sergey Lavrov.

3-4-Switzerland Response:

Switzerland will adopt all the sanctions that the European Union imposed on Russian people and companies and freeze their assets, the government said in a sharp deviation from the country's traditional neutrality.

"We are in an extraordinary situation where extraordinary measures could be decided," President and Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis told a news conference in Bern on Monday, flanked by the finance, defense, and justice ministers.

Only history would tell if such a move could happen again, he said. Swiss neutrality remained intact, but "of course we stand on the side of Western values," he added.

3-5-United Kingdom Response:

The UK locked Russia's Sber bank out of the sterling clearing and slapped sanctions on three other banks. Former Prime Minister Boris Johnson unveiled the UK's largest-ever package of sanctions against Russia, targeting banks, members of Putin's closest circle, and wealthy Russians who enjoy high-rolling London lifestyles.

The British government said it would impose an asset freeze on major Russian banks, including state-owned VTB, its second-biggest bank, and stop major Russian companies from raising finance in the UK.

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Britain will also ban Russia's flagship airline Aeroflot from landing in the UK, suspend dual export licenses to Russia, and ban exports of some high-tech exports and parts of the extractive industry. (Aljazeera, 2022)

4-Arab World Reaction:

Before we delve into the Arab world's reaction, specifically the government's reactions and efforts to intervene, we must take a look at the Arab relationship with the two involved countries, Russia and Ukraine.

4-1-Arab Russian Relationship

The history of political relations between countries typically follows two paths: one of oppression and subordination, and the other rooted in shared human principles and values. Given the historical cultural disparity and inequality between nations, the latter often necessitated intense national struggles for the independence of sovereign decision-making and various social and political choices. Arab-Russian relations emerged under turbulent conditions, despite initial signs pointing to the potential for a long-term strategic partnership. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 was a significant event in contemporary history, reshaping international relations, establishing a new economic, social, and intellectual model, and offering new opportunities for oppressed peoples. The Arab world felt the impact of the "Sykes-Picot" agreement revelation, where the British and French empires decided they would share the Arab Levant while dividing the Ottoman Empire's remains among themselves, then called "the sick man of the East." However, the Western colonial powers that helped create modern Arab states from the ruins of the Ottoman Empire fortified their existence by aligning with traditional feudal powers and binding them with complex agreements, both overt and covert, protected by military might, which they have not managed to escape despite various upheavals. The aftermath of the Second World War influenced future alliances defined by conflicting social classes' ideologies. Just like they were with their colonial master's dominance, developing states were more prone to siding with the Soviet Union revolutionaries against world capitalism. This can be widely seen in different societies on three continents that have acquired their independence lately through the Soviet Union's seventy-year-old hegemony. However, in the Arab region, reactionary Arab governments aligned with imperialism, engaging in ideological, intellectual, political, and military battles to serve

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their own goals—a well-documented historical fact. Muhammad Hassanein Heikal noted the Arab role in the Soviet Union's demise. The West put great effort into promoting the Soviet threat under various guises to obscure the reality of the situation, despite substantial evidence to the contrary. However, the Soviet Union's major fault in backing the ex-partition of Palestine affected by Zionism as a movement remains a problem of dispute. This was illustrated in the words of Nayef Hawatmeh when he talked about how Joseph Stalin planted a stake that would impale feudal systems, a mistake that also showed that Russian civil servants made inept judgments. In the same context, Khaled Bakdash, Secretary General of the Syrian Communist Party, mentioned that the Soviet delegate tried to coordinate with Arab delegations to formulate a unified project before the partition decision, but they did not respond, betting instead on the British stance. The Arabs did not really oppose the partition; they just wanted to give Israel an excuse to take more land than the resolution allowed while at the same time opposing Israel's existence. However, most subsequent developments largely backed this conclusion, telling us that for years there was a varying attraction between them. Really significant developments in history took place because anti-communists took advantage of the Soviet blunder similarly to what they had done before. In matters concerning the occupied territories of Arabs and the creation of Israel, extreme nationalists have never posed a challenge to Western colonialists who have helped create the Zionist state. Contemporary Arab-Soviet relations are said to have begun with a 1956 three-nation British-French-Israeli aggression against Egypt. The Soviet Union broke into Egypt with the use of sophisticated weaponry via Czechoslovakia, thereby sidestepping the West's hegemony. From 1967 until the October 6, 1973, battle against Israel, and irrespective of the circumstances, history recognizes Moscow's friendliness in international arenas regarding Arab causes that are fair, as well as its involvement in supplying weapons to the Egyptian and Syrian military forces following their defeat in the six-day. (AlRoya, 2024)

4-2-Arab Ukrainian Relation

Efforts by the Ukrainian side to open new markets and extend relations with Arab countries have developed a strong economic relationship between the two regions. This economic relationship influences the political positions of some Arab countries toward

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Ukraine, especially since Russia is another of Ukraine's Arab partners, even though this partnership has declined since 2014 because of Ukraine's actions regarding the Russian flag in the center of the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv. The current Ukraine issue has placed certain Arab states in the tension of accepting one side's request and rejecting the other's.. From November 2013 to February 2014, the Ukrainian government supported Russia's position but changed it after the revolution. In 2015, Russia managed to regain its power over Crimea, and Ukraine's pro-Russia movement returned. Since Ukraine chose to confront Russia by showing an anti-Russia attitude, this has resulted in tension in diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Russia, followed by most Ukrainian-Arab relations.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Ukraine became independent. It transformed into a democratic state that practices political pluralism and free market mechanisms. Ukraine has begun diplomatic relations with all parts of the world, including Arab countries. The date of Ukraine's independence is when Ukraine opened its consulate in Kuwait. Relations between the two regions are based on the principles of justice, equality, mutual benefit, respect for sovereignty, and non-interference in the internal affairs of the states of both parties. The efforts by the Ukrainian governments to strengthen relations with Arab countries have often allowed the establishment of new partnerships and agreements. Both Ukraine and the Arab countries aspire to deepen their cooperation by implementing new areas of synergy and strengthening their ties in various fields.

4-3-Arab Initial Reaction:

While the West is clearly losing the information war in many Arabic-speaking countries, many countries, themselves no strangers to conflict, are choosing to remain neutral in the war the Kremlin is now waging in Europe.

While there were some lukewarm condemnations, some remained silent, as no one seemed to want to anger the United States or clash with Russia.

"The United States is slowly withdrawing from the region," says Merissa Korma, director of the Middle East Program at the Wilson Center in Washington.

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It is an approach that has become the norm for countries in the Arab world. Syria is Russia's closest ally on all issues. Syria was the first, and so far the only, country in the region to follow Russia's example and recognize the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics.

Last March, Syria voted against a United Nations resolution condemning the Russian aggression against Ukraine, while Algeria, Iraq, Iran, and initially the United Arab Emirates abstained from voting, and others, such as Morocco, preferred not to participate in the voting process at all.

According to Kelly Petillo, coordinator of the European Council on Foreign Links' Middle East and North Africa program, "Russia has become an increasingly important trading and military partner, even though the majority of governments in the region have much stronger relations with the United States.

According to Merissa Korma, the majority of Middle Eastern nations adopted a wait-and-see strategy in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. While several of them did eventually support a resolution at the UN denouncing Russia's activities in Ukraine, they did not proceed beyond this symbolic measure.

During an international conference in Doha, Qatar's Minister of Energy, Saad Al-Kaabi, told CNN, "From a business perspective, we do not choose any side." We conduct business as we see fit.

4-3-1-Economic Reaction

Unlike the Western world reaction that was extreme and eventually cut all economic ties to Russia, Arab governments chose not to cut any ties with neither Russia nor the west. The neutral stance that most countries have had is simply due to the economic ties that they share with both Russia and Ukraine and their western allies.

The borders of the Arab world are only a thousand kilometers away from Ukraine, but the impact of its current crisis, resulting from the Russian war on its territory and the outbreak of fierce fighting since February 24, leaves huge economic, commercial, and financial impacts on the Arabs, in addition to the geostrategic dimension.

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The effects of the crisis extend to several categories, most notably food price shocks, especially wheat, then oil and gas price increases, and finally the tourism sector was affected.

The current situation works in favor of the oil-producing countries in the Gulf, as rising energy prices allow those countries to earn more and increase gas supplies to Europe. Lebanon, Tunisia, and Egypt depend on Russian grain; Russian businessmen move to the UAE; and Egypt and Russia support one of the warring parties in neighboring Libya.

Algeria buys weapons from Russia, and Morocco aims for Russia's voice in the Security Council in the Western Sahara conflict, while Iran and Russia are allies in Syria.

The conflict in Ukraine drove the price of crude oil to peak at \$130 per barrel before settling below \$100. HSBC Bank estimates suggest that for every \$10 increase in the oil price, revenues from oil exports to Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries increase by \$65 billion.

The World Bank's website indicates that when the price of a barrel of oil reaches \$100, there is a surplus in the budget and current accounts of GCC countries, amounting to 10% and 15% of their gross domestic product, respectively.

In an interview with Al Jazeera, US Ambassador David Mack, an expert at the Atlantic Council, pointed out that the Ukrainian-Russian crisis has strengthened the influence of major energy exporters in the Middle East and North Africa region, especially Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. He also mentioned that the crisis has had a positive impact on countries like Iraq and Libya, despite their troubles, as it has the potential to increase their income from their oil and gas reserves.

Adnan Mazari, chief expert at the Peterson Institute for International Economics and former deputy director of the Middle East region at the International Monetary Fund, agreed with this view. In an interview with Al Jazeera, Mazari stated, "There is no doubt that oil-producing countries have seen and continue to see huge financial returns as a result of the rise in oil and gas prices due to the outbreak of war in Ukraine. Despite the recent decline in oil prices to less than \$100 per barrel following China's closures due to the outbreak of the 'Covid-19' virus in some of its regions, after exceeding \$130 two

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weeks ago, these prices are significantly higher than they were before the war began on February 24 of last year.

5- Arab role in the Russian-Western power control war:

Between the end of the Cold War and the start of the Arab Spring in 2011, foreign influence on Arab (specifically Middle Eastern) regional dynamics mirrored the US-dominated unipolar international system, with the US being the primary leader in Middle Eastern affairs. However, since the Arab Spring, this influence has significantly evolved, moving from US dominance to a more multipolar structure. The main reason for this shift is the US's foreign and security policy, which has increasingly focused on major power competition (Ulbertson et al., 2022). As a result, the US has strategically withdrawn from the Middle East, while countries like Russia, China, and India have expanded their influence in the region. Since the Russia-Ukraine conflict began, the strategic rivalry between the US and Russia has constrained both nations' ability and willingness to influence the Middle East. This has further encouraged a trend toward a more balanced, multipolar influence of external powers in the region.

First, the US's ability and willingness to influence the Middle East have diminished. Between the ends

of the Cold War and the 2008 global financial crisis, the dynamics of foreign influence in the Middle East aligned with the US-led unipolar international system, where the US was the primary leader in Middle East affairs. After the financial crisis, the US recognized that the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq had weakened its national strength and that shifting international power dynamics posed a challenge (Haass et al., 2008). Consequently, US global strategy gradually shifted from focusing on anti-terrorism in the Middle East to addressing strategic competition among major powers, leading to a strategic withdrawal from the region. This strategic adjustment has been consistent from the Obama administration through the Trump and Biden administrations, despite differences in their specific approaches.

While the US has been retracting from the Middle East, the region has experienced significant changes due to the Arab Spring, which has lasted over a decade. These political shifts necessitate increased US strategic investment, conflicting with the US's

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goal of reducing its involvement in the region. Since President Biden took office, the US has not developed a comprehensive Middle East strategy but has continued to decrease its strategic investment. The US's Middle East policy has focused on reducing strategic constraints, such as negotiating a return to the Iran Nuclear Agreement, de-escalating conflicts like the Yemeni civil war, reducing military support for allies such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE, proposing a two-state solution for Palestine, and withdrawing troops from Afghanistan (Dong, 2022). The US's approach to the Middle East, especially since the Russia-Ukraine conflict, reflects internal contradictions within its strategy. The US has reduced its strategic focus on the Middle East to allocate resources to major power competition. However, the strategic conflict with Russia over Ukraine requires cooperation from Middle Eastern countries, particularly energy producers, to enforce sanctions on Russia. Middle Eastern countries, including US allies, have shifted towards a strategic balance among major powers due to declining confidence in the US. Their reactions to the Russia-Ukraine conflict reflect this balance-of-power policy.

In July 2022, President Biden visited Israel, Palestine, and Saudi Arabia and attended the Security and Development Summit in Saudi Arabia with leaders from six Gulf Cooperation Council member countries, Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq, aiming to gain support for US sanctions against Russia. However, Biden's trip yielded limited results. He failed to secure support from Saudi Arabia and other allies or to establish a regional alliance against Russia and Iran. The declining US authority in the Middle East is attributed not to a loss of hard power but to unpredictable policy directions and a lack of credible political commitment (She, 2022).

Second, Russia's influence in the Middle East will be constrained by the Russia-Ukraine conflict. After the Cold War, Russia's influence in the Middle East waned significantly. However, since Putin's rise to power, and especially post-Arab Spring, Russia's re-engagement in the Middle East has accelerated, enhancing its influence and its ability to counterbalance the US and the West. Russia has become a key player in the Syrian crisis, intervening militarily against the Islamic State to protect its interests and prevent Western-led regime changes. The cooperation mechanism between Russia, Turkey, and Iran on Syria has not only impacted Syrian affairs but has also provided a platform for these countries to balance Western influence. Additionally, Russia's close cooperation

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with Middle Eastern countries, including US allies, in areas such as energy, trade, security, arms, and anti-terrorism has strengthened its regional leverage. For instance, Turkey's purchase of Russia's S-400 missile defense system has affected trilateral relations among the US, Turkey, and Russia (Liu, 2022a).

Since the Russia-Ukraine conflict began, most Middle Eastern countries have maintained a neutral stance (Bobkin, 2022). While they do not support Russia's military actions and emphasize Ukraine's sovereignty, they are also unwilling to participate in sanctions against Russia, showcasing Russia's successful management of its Middle East relationships. Despite the conflict, bilateral relations between Russia and Middle Eastern countries have remained largely unaffected. Countries like Saudi Arabia, Iran, the UAE, Turkey, Egypt, Algeria, Qatar, and Israel have expressed a willingness to continue cooperation with Russia in various fields. However, the conflict will inevitably limit Russia's influence in the Middle East. First, the conflict has constrained Russia's strategic resources, preventing increased investment in the region. Second, Western sanctions and US pressure on Middle Eastern countries will create obstacles for Russia in economic, trade, energy, and military cooperation. Lastly, although most Middle Eastern countries are reluctant to choose sides, US allies in the region will face pressure from the US, making their cooperation with Russia more cautious. (Liu, Zhongmin, and MengShu, 2023)

6- Russia fights back against the world

Many economists anticipated Russia's reaction to the international sanctions and warned that retaliatory sanctions could start a global economic war. Russia reacted to the international sanctions by taking some calculated measures according to Reuters. (Reuters, 2023).

For instance, Russia forced countries that rely on Russia's energy import to pay for Russia's energy export in Ruble rather than the US dollar. This measure helped the Ruble to appreciate in value to pre-invasion levels after previous weeks of multiple depreciation of the Ruble. Russia pegged the Russian Ruble to gold. This action by Russia was remarkable because it was a bold step to weaken the dominance of the US dollar as the ultimate reserve currency. Pegging the Russian Ruble to gold helped to insulate Russia's

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economy from the negative economic effects of the dollar-based multilateral financial sanctions. Russia banned Russian export of more than 200 products until the end of 2022. The banned exports include telecoms, medical, vehicle, agricultural, electrical equipment and timber. Russia increased the key interest rate to stop the decline of the value of the Ruble which is the Russian currency. Russia barred the payment of interest to foreign investors who held Russian government bonds. Russia banned Russian firms from paying dividends in US dollars to overseas shareholders. The purpose of this ban was to reduce Russia's demand for US dollars, and to mitigate the effect of the dollar-based financial sanctions imposed on Russia by the United States. Russia banned foreign investors who held billions of dollars' worth of Russian stocks and bonds from selling them. The purpose of this ban was to reduce Russia's demand for US dollars, and to mitigate the effect of the dollar-based financial sanctions imposed by the United States on Russia. Russia retaliated by expelling foreign diplomats from Russia. Russia offered to buy back its \$2billion Eurobonds in Ruble rather than US dollars when it matured in April 2022. This was to reduce the overall amount of foreign currency the Russian government had to pay out. Russia nationalized foreign companies in Russia that closed their operations to show their opposition to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Russia cut off food and fertilizer exports to "hostile" countries. This led to food and fertilizer shortage, thereby leading to food price inflation in hostile countries. (Ozili, 2022).

**Chapter II. Interviews and Archive
Analysis**

Chapter I: Interviews and Archive Analysis

1-Interviews

2-Interviews Analysis

3- Food Security and Livelihoods

3-1. Food Security

3-2. Countries in a chronic crisis

3-3. Countries in Contained Crisis

3-4. Preparedness and response capacity

4-Agriculture

4-1. Preparedness and response capacity

5-Energy

5-1. Countries in critical Crisis

5-2. Countries in chronic crisis

5-3. Countries in Contained Crisis

The second Chapter is divided into two parts. Part one deals with two interviews with political experts and then analyzed their answers politically and economically, the second part focuses on economic data analysis from available Press archive.

1- Interview:

The 1st interview is a long conversation with one of Aljazeera's leading news Anchor who covered the conflict from the beginning. And he was kind enough to help and give us some of his time; we have selected four Questions for him as it goes:

1-1- In your opinion what role do Arab countries play in the resolution of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict?

In fact, it is no secret to anyone that the conflict now between Russia and Ukraine is not just a normal dispute between two countries, But it is a deeper conflict that is more dangerous because it has become a nightmare in the international community.

The picture of the Cold War which was in the days of the Soviet Union on one side and on the other side was NATO headed by the United States of America

When we are faced with a dispute at this level, the approaches differ by asking what the Arab countries can do about it.

The efforts to settle or contribute to resolving this dispute began with the question "What are the mechanisms under which all Arab positions are organized?" Believing that the real problem is current

The first organizing mechanism is the League of Arab States. The second system, which is broader, is also the Islamic Conference system which is the body that brings together most countries or almost all Arab countries. The other dimension is the mechanisms of the United Nations. Then, the other dimension is the individual effort of each Arab country through its size and the nature of its relations with the two parties. When saying the two parties on the one hand, current Russia is involved in this war, and the second party is necessarily Ukraine as well as Ukraine's allies

)Whether NATO, Western countries, led by the United States of America (

As for the first dimension referred to, unfortunately, it is the Arab League

For a long time, although the principled positions of the Arab League were good, balanced positions calling for non-interference in the internal affairs of countries

But in general, its positions regarding issues of this kind are good and balanced, calling for peace and the protection of civilians and referring to international law, it is a good thing. Unfortunately, the Arab League has lost its weight by muddling in even more difficult circumstances. In the mean time looking at what is happening in more than one Arab crisis, the Arab League was absent. For example what is happening in Sudan; The Arab League is still with its head in the clouds.

It is true that the case is an internal Sudanese matter, But the Arab league should do more. Otherwise, what is happening in Gaza now is a pure genocide where The League of Arab States voices are nowhere to be heard same as for the rest of the International organizations.

These reactions fall within the framework of the position of each of these countries.

Meanwhile, in terms of effectiveness, it is almost negligible, as for the positions of each Arab country. It is also possible, even if its effect is simple or its role is as easy as falling off a log .

It was seen, for example, that in the first months of the Ukrainian-Russian war, there were some statements and some efforts from some countries which have expressed their desire or will to present themselves as if they are asked to be a mediator in this crisis or intervene in it. This was expressed through more than one country, whether in the Gulf countries or even Algeria as well. We followed President Tebboune's speech when he was asked about the matter, he said: "If we are asked to be a mediator between the two parties in Algeria, it can play this role by virtue of its good relations with the two parties, but because the problem is much deeper.

When we talk about a war that takes us back to the Cold War, and has now reached the threat of using nuclear weapons, it becomes the role of the Arab countries to solve this crisis

A very simple role, almost trivial, although in some situations the Arab countries were in terms of their proximity. This means that its relations are strategic with the United States of America, but it has opened strong lines in recent years with Russia and the United Arab Emirates as well. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia also has Qatar which has

gained different status from the days of the Cold War, in which there has become a kind of balance in bilateral relations.

In the relations between the two parties, there is no answer, so as not to prolong the answer to the question regarding what these Arab countries can do. In the Ukrainian war, it contributes to resolving this crisis, but in the United Arab War, I think it is a much expanded role for these countries because this war is much more dangerous

The Arab role, whether in a collective or individual framework through organizations or in a private setting, can have a significant impact

Question 1 Analysis:

The Arab world has a limited role to play in resolving the conflict between Russia and Ukraine due to the complex geopolitical dynamics at play. A pessimistic view regarding the capacity of the Arab world to exert any meaningful influence over the situation. The conflict is perceived as an extension of the Cold War rivalry between the US-led NATO and Russia. The efficacy of the Arab League is scrutinized due to its historical pattern of inaction in addressing various Arab crises. Additionally, individual Arab nations lack the substantial influence required to mediate the conflict effectively. Moreover, Supporting this perspective, the interviewee cites the Arab League's past failures to intervene decisively in crises such as those in Sudan and Gaza. Although certain Arab countries maintain amicable relations with both Russia and Ukraine, their roles in influencing the conflict are considered negligible and vague.

1-2- Can Arab countries benefit from this Conflict?

It is a sure thing, in the language of politics, it is always possible to benefit. This depends on what is meant by the question of benefit, and also the extent of this benefit, whether the benefit is in the short term, the medium term or the long term. But in principle, it has certainly accelerated its magnitude and its seriousness. No one in the world hopes for a development in this crisis in regards to nuclear weapons. The latter has begun to be a threat. Simultaneously, this does not mean that nuclear weapons will be used, but it is not a political decision to be made. The mere pointing and waving of nuclear weapons means that the whole world is facing a dangerous situation. Otherwise, on the pragmatic level of the concept of politics, the Arab countries for sure can benefit with regard to the content of this situation. Since the

beginning of this war, some Arab countries have benefited to some extent, and here pointing out the economic dimension. Cutting off gas from Europe, the Russian gas, has helped a lot. For instance, some Arab countries that produce this material have improved their market and increased their income, as well as the energy market to some extent. It also reflects that most Arab countries or many wealthy Arab countries are rich due to the energy market element. This is a positive reflection. This may be temporary, but this is an answer to the question on the concept of benefit.

In addition, it is noticeable that a new answer to the question has emerged in regard to some Arab situations to some extent, in this war between Russia and Ukraine, the positions in are no longer as they were during the Cold War. Whomever is affiliated with the socialist camp is completely with the socialist camp, and whomever is affiliated with the Western camp is completely with the Western camp. At this time there is a kind of balance. The countries that are affiliated with the socialist camp have keen relations and strategic agreements with Washington. its contacts are still strong. Providing the example of the OPEC and OPEC Plus agreements, this means that OPEC increased Russia the moment it violated American demands regarding the price of fuel and agreed with Russia at the height of war, which means at the height of the crisis. This is also not only an energy indicator and an economic indicator, but also “A Political Indicator”. Other countries were to some extent affiliated with the Eastern or Socialist camp. Algeria for instance has so far been able to have a kind of balance in its positions. It has good relations with the European Union and with Washington, while the Algerian position on this crisis also does not show stands with the Russian position. Surely Algeria is against the war since It has good relations with Ukraine, but Algeria’s Relations are strategic with Russia. Hence, the concept of benefiting is also subject to the calculations of each Arab country. Unfortunately, if these Arab countries once again move within the framework of a bloc, it will take place by activating the League of Arab States. These positions, regardless of the nature of them, become protected because they are a collective decision, and the benefit is greater than them because they are a collective decision. As for each Arab country, through its efforts and calculations, the benefit becomes either circumstantial, simple, or governed by simple and plain statistics.

The concept of benefiting from This war is very relative because the influence of the Arab countries in general in this war is trivial, whether positive or negative, is also simple and limited.

Question 2 Analyses:

The Arab world's experience in the Russian-Ukrainian conflict presents a complex picture, marked by economic gains and shifting policies. Thus, a limited direct influence

Economically, oil and gas producing countries like Saudi Arabia have largely benefited from soaring energy prices caused by sanctions on Russia This economic boon increased the income of these countries, thus strengthening their financial stability and their geopolitical leverage Politically, the conflict has contributed to a more multipolar world, providing Arab states with great flexibility in managing their US-Russia relations.

This new room for maneuver allowed countries to pursue more diversified foreign policies and more

The ability of Arab countries to influence the conflict trajectory or to effectively mediate between the parties involved is minimal, reflecting a broader trend of limited geopolitical impact on major international crises.

1-3- Do Arab governments really have to change their foreign policy according to the outcome of the war?

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has led to a significant change in foreign policy for Arab governments. While politics is an art of the possible, it is essential to maintain a set of principles and statements that align with these principles. The outcome of the war can be seen as a victor or a loser, but it is difficult to imagine a complete picture of the conflict.

The aftermath of the war can be beneficial for both parties, but it is subject to various factors. For example, there will not be an absolute victor or a loser, as seen in World War II. The dimensions of the conflict are much more dangerous than those with Washington and Russia. Other important parties, such as China, India, and the European Union, are also concerned about what comes after the war.

In conclusion, the conflict in Ukraine requires Arab governments to adapt their foreign policies based on the outcome of the war. While there may be a need for change, the current situation remains a complex and multifaceted issue.

Question 3 Analyses:

Arab countries need to change their foreign policy only if it is benefiting in the long term, and not necessarily wait for the outcome of the war. The war itself is unlikely to produce a clear victor barring a massive escalation that could result in using nuclear weapons; the post-war landscape is not only influenced by participants in the war rather there are other global players like China and the EU. What we also can understand is that Arab countries foreign policy can be impacted by a change in The US administration and the possible return of former president Donald Trump can see lots of countries reconsider their alliances and foreign policy as Trump is known for his altering moves to the US's foreign policy.

1-4- If so what changes can they do to further benefit their political, economic status in the world order?

The relevance of political and economic standing in global order can be increased by striking a balance between internal security and economic development. Participating in worldwide action and becoming an international influencer are important, but they are not sufficient. Regional groups, like the Arab League, can be viewed as a powerful bloc, encompassing both geography and humanity.

The Trump administration has lambasted Europe and the Atlantic Alliance, having a substantial influence on the transatlantic alliance. To put pressure on traditional allies such as Europe and the Atlantic Alliance, nations like the United Kingdom and Australia must develop tangible, concrete alternatives. Arab nations will be unable to act on their own and will have a limited influence.

Regional organizations, such as the Gulf Cooperation Council, have failed to achieve this balance. Despite attempts to reactivate the bloc through economic measures like visa unification and currency issues, the Ukraine war and Russia's return have led to a loss of the good image of the bloc.

The importance of blocs in regional, linguistic, or other frameworks is a strong way to address problems and strengthen the global order. By doing so, the problems that worsened before have been addressed.

Question 4 Analyses:

It is very clear that Arab nation's sense of individualism and independence is hinging any efforts to exert their influence on the world stage. The importance of blocs or regional blocs to be more accurate is really seen and felt on a global level. European Union or the US-UK-Australian alliance demonstrate the benefits and strength of unity, something unfortunately most Arab countries still don't have the courage to achieve.

2- Second Interview:

In this interview, we sat down with one of our University's Doctors in Politics and International relations, the interviewee was kind enough to give us some of his time.

2-1- How would you expect the consequences of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict on the trade and energy prices of the Arab countries?

We must keep in mind that the severity of the impact varies first in terms of the length of time this prohibition, or its shortening, or its rapid cessation, means first and second in terms of the structure of exports and imports of Arab countries and from these two countries basically. Of course, the Arab countries are not on one level of belonging to nations and based on the trade relationship with these two countries Whether for civilian goods or military goods, for example, we take Egypt. Egypt has a relationship with Russia on the one hand And Ukraine, specifically, in terms of importing foodstuffs, livestock, etc Also from the perspective of tourism, Russian and Ukrainian tourism are major spots, and the crisis for Egypt has become doubly significant Quite significantly, 80% of Egypt wheat supplies come from these two countries, , I do not mention the percentage of coastal Russians and nobles who come to Egypt Of course, the tourism sector and trade in grains or lunch materials Its prices have increased significantly, and tourism has declined significantly in terms of the percentage of arrivals from the two countries.

So, in the short term, Egypt was directly affected by the crisis, significantly different from other countries. Why? Because the ratio, size and value of the relationship is the monetary value of the relationship between these two countries in dispute and Egypt this means that it is very large compared to other countries. Let us take the example of perhaps Morocco or Mauritania. This is a big difference as well. In fact, this crisis was a catalyst for Egypt In order to initiate projects in the so-called Hurghada area.

Major agricultural reforms were carried out in Palestine, especially in grain production Agricultural resources, especially grains, Egypt were affected by the rise of food prices, especially since food in Egypt is subsidized Especially vulnerable groups were greatly affected by this situation, the Egyptian treasury would have been greatly affected Because of the high prices and coverage means the real value or the difference in the real value of grains imported from Russia and Ukraine

This is for the Arab countries and how these resources have affected them. I gave an example, which means it cannot be in the same situation If we take the example of countries importing grains and fertilizers and countries importing energy , we find, for example, that it means Tunisia Lebanon, Yemen were affected, they were affected, they were already affected by a crisis, they are in a crisis, and they were affected by COVID Then after that, the Ukrainian crisis took a direct form.

We also return to Egypt from the methods of adaptation that the Gulf countries were greatly shocked by this decline in the value of the Egyptian currency and the significant decline and sale of the assets of many companies due to this crisis situation. Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE bought a lot of shares in many companies that were placed in partial or total privatization to address the problem of indebtedness and bankruptcies to which these companies were exposed. In fact, it is an adaptation at the same time and not at the same time a solution to the problems in Egypt, because the basis is entering into investments and encouraging mainly productive investments, especially in the areas in which the Egyptian economy has been affected.

The Ukrainian crisis has shown, for many European countries, the exposure of their energy dependency. It also showed exposure of the subordination of a group of Arab countries to their subordination in food imports, especially as mentioned by Egypt, Libya, Yemen, and relatively some Gulf and North African countries, especially Libya

and Tunisia, and to some extent Algeria. This crisis has stimulated and prompted great action to evaluate projects to increase the area cultivated in grains and achieve food security.

Question 1 analysis:

The Russo-Ukrainian war has had varying effects on Arab nations, depending on their trading relationships with Russia and Ukraine. Countries who are reliant on food imports from Russia and Ukraine (e.g., Egypt) Faced significant price increases and shortages, impacting vulnerable populations. Oil-exporting countries (e.g., Gulf States) have benefited from rising oil prices, but may have made investments in Egypt to address economic challenges.

There are though countries who are already experiencing crises (e.g., Tunisia, Yemen) and the rising food and energy prices have only aggravated the situation. The conflict highlighted the need of food security, prompting some Arab countries to increase local grain production.

2-2-: What economic sanctions, if any, have Arab countries imposed on Russia and the Ukraine in response to the conflict?

Regarding the second question, the question of sanctions applies specifically to Russia, which is considered to have invaded a country and occupied part of the territory. But in fact, Ukraine in the previous period before 2014 was constantly practicing many discriminatory practices and persecution of Russian minorities in the states of southern and western Ukraine. When we notice that the Arab countries did not take a hardline approach in their positions towards these two conflicting countries

When we observe its votes in the Security Council, we find that they are decisions either in the Security Council or in the United General Assembly. Emirates was in the Security Council in the previous period and now its Algeria. The approach is not to reserve or abstain from its position, whether in the Security Council or in the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Why? Because the Arab countries felt the need to shift towards a multipolar world. They want to balance between the American pole and the Russian pole at the same time. they doesn't want their relationship with Russia to be affected, especially since Arab's needs food imports, and countries like Algeria needs military armament.

It also leads to the fact that the Arab countries were not strict in opposing Russia or voting against it in UN bodies.

Question 2 analysis:

Arab countries have not imposed any sanctions on Russia for the simple reason that they have always the role of the observer or to put it nicely the role of a neutral. Of course it is not a bad thing to be neutral when we consider that Arab nations have to protect their food imports from both sides therefore never taking a side is actually the best choice due to the food crisis that is hitting lot of Arab countries. Arab nations also see an opportunity of a multipolar world therefore avoid siding with any superpower for now at least.

2-2-3- How has the conflict impacted the economic stability and growth prospects of Arab countries, particularly those with close ties to Russia or Ukraine?

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has impacted the economic stability and growth prospects of Arab countries, particularly those with close ties to Russia or Ukraine. Russia has contributed to the UAE's efforts to control global trade routes and benefits from an unambiguous share in the Silk Roads, which are carried out simultaneously by the United States and China. This has led to Russia financing and covering an important part of the costs of Ragnar's forces, which the UAE uses.

The Gulf countries, such as Saudi Arabia, have sought to benefit from this shift in the global balance of power due to the decline of the United States and the rise of China and Russia. Countries with more relations with Russia seek to amend their relations in favor of decisions in favor of more balanced relations with the West, such as energy, food, technology, or weapons.

All Arab countries, despite their differences in their positions regarding subordination to a major power, seek to find a state of balance, non-alignment, neutrality, and not being drawn in front of pressures from one party. This means playing on the balance in relationships and providing support for these parties in conflicts where the major power is involved.

Arab countries, such as Algeria, have had strategic agreements with Russia since the early 1960s, but they are now focusing on enhancing or increasing their needs for importing weapons from China, Germany, and Italy. This is to avoid remaining affiliated with one party at the military and security level, as the balance of power and pressures of the Ukrainian war may affect their financing of spare parts.

Question 3 Analysis:

What we understand that during this war most Arab countries are looking to expand their influence and gain new allies in the process. For example countries like the UAE saw an opportunity to strengthen ties with Russia even though they are known to be US and western allies. Saudi Arabia saw a crack in the balance of powers in the world and is trying to gain ground with the new superpower in the world in China. Of course not all countries will benefit significantly from this war. Algeria for example can no longer expect to export arms from Russia at the same level as its used to, and that can be a big problem on the long run.

Overall, the conflict is leading Arab countries to seek a more balanced approach to their relationship with major powers.

2-2-4- What economic challenges have Arab countries faced as a result of the conflict, and how have they navigated them?

Arab countries have faced economic challenges due to the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, including achieving military security, balancing the economic aspects of military exports and imports, and ensuring food sufficiency. They have also struggled with the economic aspect of energy and food exports, which has increased due to sanctions on Russian oil and gas. Arab countries have benefited from OPEC Plus, which stabilizes oil prices, benefiting consuming countries and exporting countries and achieving benefits for these countries.

Arab countries are seeking to hold the middle ground in the conflict with countries opposed to Western and American Russia. They are also seeking to negotiate debts and find more financing for their countries. The major Western, European, and American industrial powers are competing over the order of the international system, with rising powers entering into disputes and conflicts in major conflicts such as the Ukrainian conflict, the Middle East conflict, and potential conflicts with Taiwan.

Arab countries, particularly in the case of Palestine, seek to benefit from diversifying their partners and distancing themselves from full support for Russia or hostility. The crisis in Palestine has led to a shift in the priority of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict towards Russia, and Western support for Ukraine has declined. The French and British economies have also been affected by increased prices, leading to stagflation, characterized by a rise in Korean production factors.

Question 4 Analysis:

Arab countries faced many economic challenges due to the Russian-Ukrainian war. The most important challenge is Food security as the conflict has disrupted imports from two of the most producing countries of food materials, there is also the challenge of maintaining military security as Russia is the number one destination for Arab countries for military imports lastly None energy producing Arab countries face the most challenging time they are in a difficult position due to the rising prices of both food merchandises and the prices of oil and gas. This will eventually contribute in countries to form new alliances and look to diversify their zone of imports and exports.

2-2-5- In what ways have Arab countries leveraged their economic relationships with Russia, Ukraine, and other affected nations?

The Arab countries facing a state of deficits in the balance of payments and in the balance of trade resulting from the rise in the prices of food imported from Russia and Ukraine at a varying rate, because the Arab countries, according to their needs for Russian food or their imports, mean that it ranges between a need of 30 to 80% of its needs, some countries reach 80%, imports from Russia and Ukrainian, some countries up to 40-50, some countries less, which we take, for example, Morocco is one of the countries with the least need for Ukrainian-Russian foodstuffs, food, or grains, or

imports, which means about 20%. Only to 30%, but Morocco suffered from the rise in food prices in general, especially the rise in energy prices, and of course with the suspension of the gas pipeline transporting gas from Algeria to Spain via Morocco, and Morocco's benefit from this pipeline, as a result, of the ongoing normalization with Morocco's habitats and the health entity, and Morocco's persistence and escape to safety in The issue of going beyond the issue of self-determination in Western Sahara and imposing themselves in Western Sahara through investments, whistles, and recognitions here and there of the Moroccan's of these occupied territories, according to the editorial committee of the Occupied Territories Committee, the United Nations committee concerned with the occupied territories, and it is assumed that the conflict is scheduled within the conflicts, and the United Nations is supposed to adjust it. To Egypt's report, but Morocco is maneuvering with its American, Zionist and European allies in order to impose a fait accompli and eliminate the option of direct negotiations with the Polisario and achieve the option of self-determination. We will not dwell on this subject. Of course, Morocco had previously negotiated its debts in the 1980s, and it may be due to that in this area because the effort The war and the mobilization in Western magic and the investments that makes there in occupied territories and the projects that he undertakes there do not necessarily achieve many benefits because they are special expenses in infrastructure, and although Morocco illegally exploits the characteristics of Western Sahara and the wealth of Western Sahara, as well as the agreements related to the exploitation of the wealth. Fish for the people of Western Sahara, so Morocco is one of the cases in negotiating in this area to obtain more support and loans. Tunisia is also in this situation with this Russian-Ukrainian conflict. It wants or is seeking to reduce its losses regarding the issue of the increase in food prices and wants to obtain financial support. The European Union so that there are no popular uprisings or protests due to the rise in food prices. Lebanon also has the same situation regarding the issue of resorting to the International Monetary Fund and rescheduling its debts, etc. So, these countries are in a position that finds them in this transition in the international balance of power and needs to obtain or multiple sources. Financing it and trying to avoid resorting to the International Monetary Fund and finding alternatives to address the problems of imbalances in its balance of payments and the decline of the national currency, especially in Lebanon and Yemen. It is trying to benefit from some variables or some

sources to support its ability. We say that its resiliency means the strength of the resistance increases the possibilities of resisting these effects of the Ukrainian crisis.

Question 5 Analysis:

So far Arab countries have put themselves in a position where they can leverage their economic power, countries are seeking to negotiate better deals on food imports by seeking alternative suppliers than Russia and Ukraine (20% to 80% of food imports were from Russia and Ukraine). While other countries didn't rely on Russian Ukrainian imports they were still affected by the global food rising prices countries like Morocco, Tunisia and Lebanon face huge and difficult challenges to leverage anything as they are critically short on energy exports they feel the pressure of rising food prices more than anyone else.

Overall Arab countries are leveraging their economic relationships by negotiating with alternative food suppliers and international organizations to cope with the rising food, agricultural and Energy imports and to avoid the need for financial assistance and potentially resorting to the IMF for loans.

PART II:

In the second part of Chapter II we've researched for some data that can support our first part that consists of mainly expert interviews, the data that we accumulated focuses on three economic aspects that are considered pillars of any economy. Food security, agriculture and energy. The study we found and was made by the IFRC concentrates on the MENA region and the impact the war in Ukraine has had on the region.

3- Food Security and Livelihoods

3-1 Food Security

From the secondary data analysis under this assessment, it was hypothesized that MENA economies will be negatively impacted by the conflict in Ukraine, especially countries who primarily rely on these two countries for their food imports, potentially leading to a food crisis in the next six months. The findings from this assessment confirm this assumption. "Critical Crisis" contexts Representatives from all twelve MENA countries confirmed that the lack of affordable food is affecting the people in country, albeit at different degrees. In "Critical Crisis" countries, the lack of

affordable food has been identified as a ‘severe’ problem in Yemen, and a ‘strong’ problem in Libya and Syria due to decreasing purchasing power, reduced availability of food, and the abolishment of subsidies. As a result, people are increasingly resorting to negative coping mechanisms.

Lack of affordable food is affecting all twelve MENA countries at different degrees.

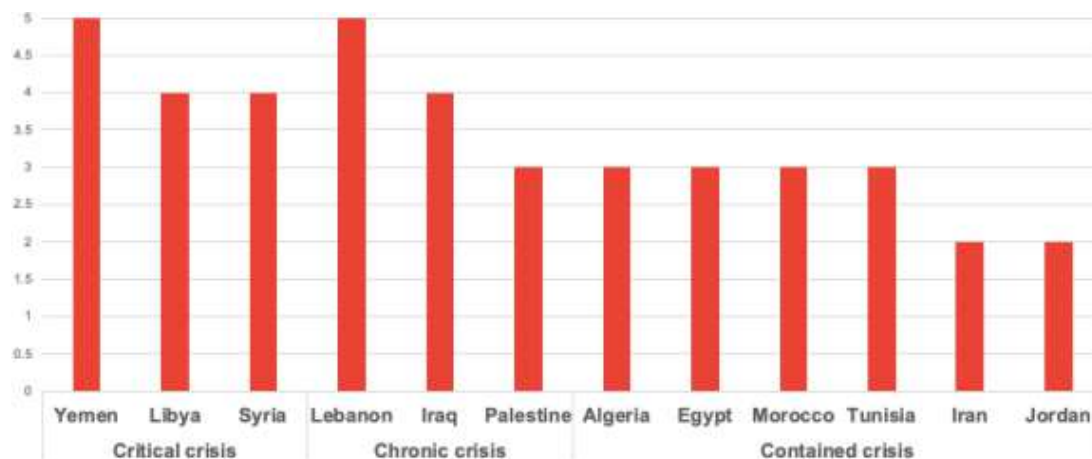


Figure 3 :Impact of lack of affordable food in 12 MENA countries

(source: interviews with 22 IFRC and HNS representatives) Data on a 5-point scale from 01 (no human impact) to 05 (severe human impact)

In Syria, WFP has warned that further cuts to its programme could materialize by July, driven by global food price rises and stagnant funding levels. This would have a devastating impact. According to WFP, 1.9 million more could slide into hunger, due to the impact of rising food prices and the effects of the Conflict in Ukraine (UN-OCHA, 2022). As one consequence, respondents under the perception survey reported the trend that an increasing number of people are leaving the country because of the lack of access to income and livelihoods. In Yemen, steeply risen food prices have left more than half of the population in need of food assistance. Much of Yemen’s hard currency supply comes from workers’ remittances, which could fall in the coming months given the mounting cost of living in Saudi Arabia, a major importer of n and Ukrainian wheat (ICG, 2022). Libya imports about 75% of its wheat from either Ukraine or and, with limited wheat reserves, it will be forced to pay a premium to lock in alternate suppliers like Brazil and Argentina. The resulting spike in bread prices puts additional public pressure on the government in Tripoli (CEIP, 2022).

3-2- Countries in a chronic crisis:

Respondents in the “Chronic Crisis” context of Lebanon identified food insecurity as a ‘severe’ problem, which could become a signal for a significant overall deterioration of the socio-economic situation in country. Lebanon imports more than 80% of its grain from Ukraine and lost about four fifths of its storage capacity in the 2020 Beirut port blast, which destroyed the country’s main grain silos. The remaining facilities barely hold one month’s worth of consumption. Also in Palestine, the food security outlook is progressively deteriorating. The reliance on imports and the constraints forced upon them by Israel’s continuing military occupation, settler violence, and land grabs are compounding the food crisis. 95% in Gaza and 85% in the West Bank are not able to buy the same amount of food as the previous month and are resorting to coping strategies (WFP, 2022). The INGO Oxfam warned that many households are being hit hard by rising global food prices, and many are struggling to meet their basic needs (OXFAM, 2022). Efforts by the government to curb inflation through price ceilings and VAT removal is avoiding an immediate disaster, however, limited capacity and lack of public national reserve for food commodities will lead to an inevitable significant increase in prices in the medium term (WFP, 2022). Iraq imports cereals and sunflower oil from Ukraine and, but unlike some other countries in the MENA region, it is not entirely dependent on either. The effects of the Conflict in Ukraine also coincide with those from a severe drought during the 2021 harvest, when 37% of farmers experienced crop failure, forcing the government to purchase more wheat from abroad. Iraq’s inefficient food distribution programs have exacerbated these problems (ICG, 2022).

3-3-Countries in Contained Crisis:

In “Contained Crisis” contexts, respondents to the perception survey observed the food situation as ‘moderate’ (Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, and Jordan) and ‘low’ in Iran, which is suffering severely from decades-worst drought, hampering domestic production. If this trend extends into 2023, Iran’s dependence on imported wheat will grow, raising concerns about the adverse impact the Conflict in Ukraine will have on the country (ICG, 2022). Egypt, the world’s top importer of wheat, sources 85% of its wheat supplies from and Ukraine. Predictably, the disruption in Ukrainian wheat production and export chains, as well as the severe impacts of the sanctions imposed on economic and trading activities, has sent wheat prices soaring. The recent

government announcement to expand wheat cultivation to two million acres by the end of 2024. This is a viable medium-term strategy to bolster Egypt’s food security. However, it does not ease the population’s immediate vulnerability resulting from the conflict in Ukraine(CEIP, 2022).

Jordan has reserves of grain sufficient for nine months, which should buffer the country from the ill effects of global supply chain disruptions because of the Ukraine conflict. Overall, the impact of the crisis on the Jordanian economy has been limited thus far (ICG, 2022). Tunisia, whose economy is already under strain, receives nearly 80% of its wheat from Ukraine. As a result of the conflict, wheat prices in Tunisia are the highest they have been in fourteen years, making it harder for Tunisian families to afford bread and other staples (CEIP, 2022). Algeria is less exposed than other North African countries to the economic impact of the Ukraine conflict, because these two countries account for only 3% of its wheat imports. According to the agriculture ministry, national stocks will be sufficient to meet domestic demand until January 2023 (ICG, 2022). Morocco is also less affected by the grain crisis than most MENA countries, as it imports only 20-30% of its wheat from and Ukraine. Overall, however, the kingdom remains vulnerable to price shocks, as it buys 40% of the wheat its population consumes from abroad and recently recorded an unprecedented drought that has severely curtailed domestic production (ICG, 2022).

respondents, this trend will affect people similarly in urban and rural areas, whereas Egypt, Jordan, and Yemen see urban populations as most vulnerable.

3-4-Preparedness and response capacity

The preparedness and response capacity of the HNS in terms of food security is diverse. As a trend, the capacity in “Critical Crisis” contexts (Libya, Syria, and Yemen) is ‘moderate’ or ‘low’ and varies in “Chronic” and “Contained” crisis contexts, ranging from ‘high’ (Iraq, Lebanon, and Algeria), to ‘moderate’ (Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco), and ‘low’ (Iran and Tunisia) to ‘very low’ in Palestine. In Iran, IFRC has recently launched an appeal, pegged at about \$9.5 million, to help the Iran Red Crescent Society respond to the current drought, but sanctions on Iran continue to be a barrier to aid (IFRC, 2022).

Host National Societies have different preparedness and response capacities in terms of food security

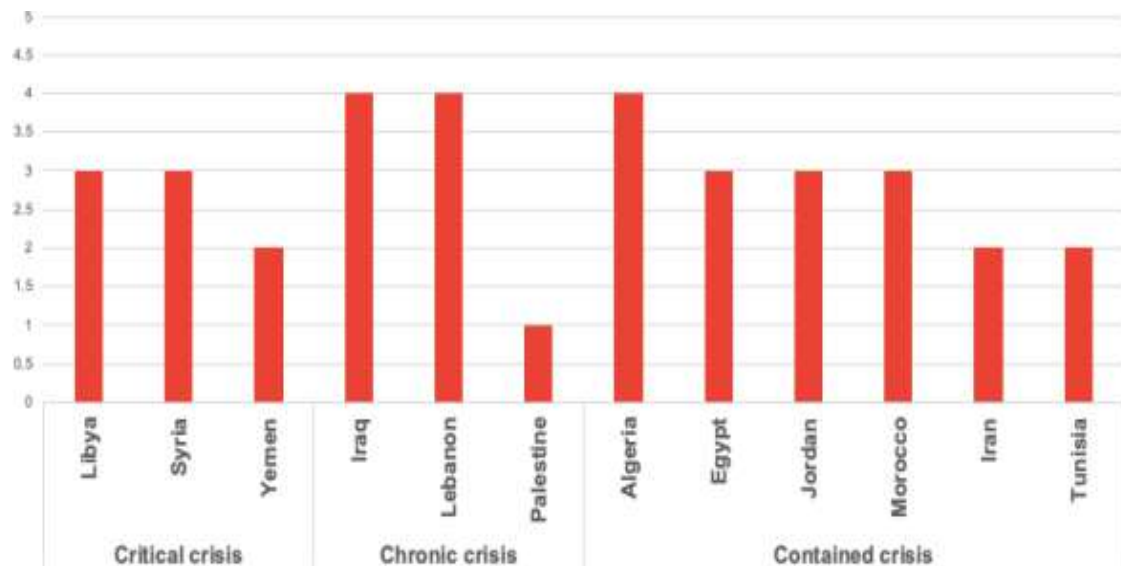


Figure 4 : Preparedness and response capacity of HNS in MENA in the field of food security (source: interviews with 22 IFRC and HNS representatives) Data on a 5-point scale from 01 (very low capacity) to 05 (very high capacity)

According to the respondents under this assessment, the HNS need to improve their capacities to:

- Scale-up food security programming, including cash assistance
- Improve their capacity to identify and assess the needs and gaps for the most affected populations
- Invest in logistics capacities and volunteer management
- Conduct more training and capacity building for enhanced preparedness
- Carry out contingency planning, and stockpiling of critical relief items (also to mitigate impact of disrupted supply chains)
- Provide more livelihood support and economic empowerment
- Increase Humanitarian Diplomacy to advocate for more funding to mitigate the increasing impact of multiple crisis factors, and to overcome the negative impact of international sanctions (Syria and Iran)

4-Agriculture

From the secondary data analysis, it was hypothesized that agriculture production in MENA countries will be severely affected by a combination of i) disrupted supply chains (fodder such as yellow maize, barley, and soybeans, seeds, and fertilizer); ii) increased costs of energy, iii) water scarcity, and iv) increasing temperatures. The finding from this assessment confirmed these hypotheses by and large. When asked to rate the impact of seven problems affecting the agricultural production on a scale from 01 ('no impact') to 05 ('severe impact'), the following picture emerged:

Climate-change related stressors have the biggest impact on agricultural production in the MENA region

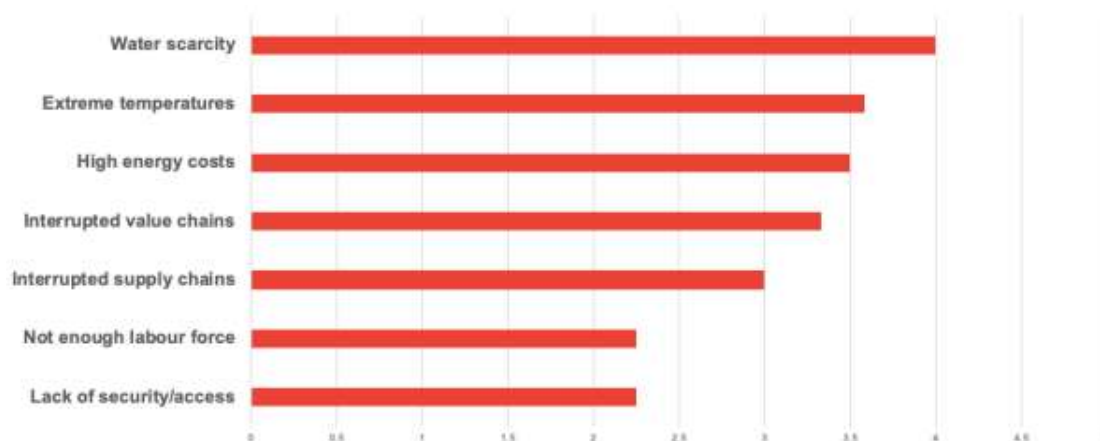


Figure 5 : Severity of factors impacting agricultural production in 12 MENA countries (source: interviews with 22 IFRC and HNS representatives) 5-point scale from 01 (no impact) to 05 (severe impact)

Notably, the two climate-change related factors water scarcity and extreme temperatures are the two main stressors for agricultural production in the MENA region. The subsequent three factors (high energy costs, interrupted value-chains, and interrupted supply chains) are intensified by the economic crisis triggered by the Ukraine conflict.

Agricultural production in “Critical Crisis” contexts is impacted most severely by the combination of climate-change, conflict, and economic pressures amplified by the Conflict in Ukraine

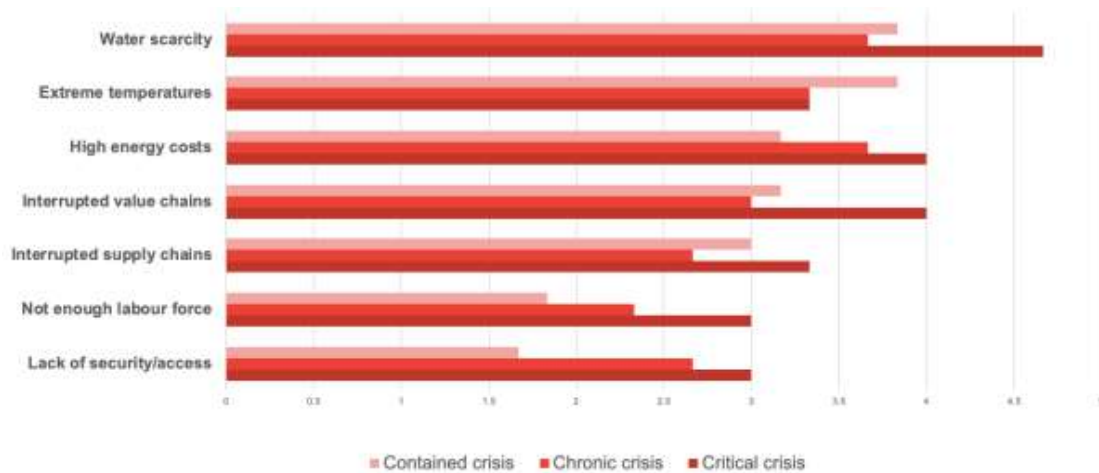


Figure 6 : Severity of factors impacting agricultural production in 12 MENA countries – by crisis category

(source: interviews with 22 IFRC and HNS representatives) 5-point scale from 01 (no impact) to 05 (severe impact)

As a trend, the impact of these stress factors on agricultural production are the highest in “Critical Crisis” contexts, and the lowest in “Contained Crisis” contexts. The aggregated crisis factors that are affecting the agricultural production are surprisingly high in Tunisia, reportedly at the same level as Libya. While this finding needs further validation, it could be an indicator that a country categorized as a “Contained Crisis” also has a strong potential for escalation, in combination with other crisis factors, which needs to be monitored. Respondents in five out of the twelve MENA countries (Syria, Libya, Yemen, Iran, and Iraq) reported that agricultural productivity has declined over the past three months. Respondents in ten MENA countries (all except Algeria and Jordan) believe that agricultural production will become even worse over the next six months. This includes the impact of escalating drought in several countries, high temperatures during the summer period, and the aggravating impact of the economic crisis because of the Ukraine conflict.

Respondents in Tunisia are reporting a surprisingly high level of aggregated stress factors impacting agricultural production

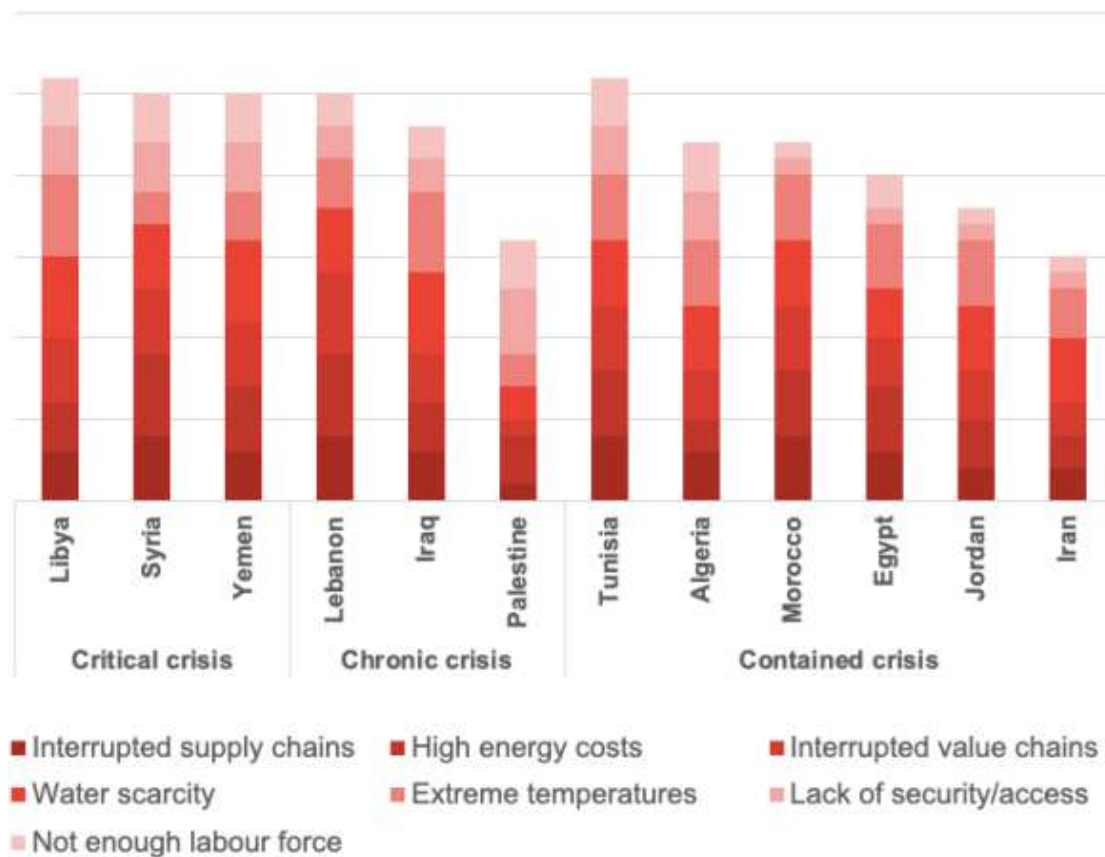


Figure 7 Severity of factors impacting agricultural production in 12 MENA countries – by crisis category and country

(source: interviews with 22 IFRC and HNS representatives) 5-point scale from 01 (no impact) to 05 (severe impact)

4-1-Preparedness and response capacity

The preparedness and response capacity of the HNS in terms of agricultural livelihood support is the lowest, when compared to their capacity in other thematic areas. The reason is that most HNS do not focus on this thematic area. Respondents in eight out of twelve MENA countries describe the HNS capacity to provide agricultural livelihood support as ‘low’. The capacity is seen ‘very low’ in Lebanon in Palestine, and ‘moderate’ in Yemen.

According to the respondents, the HNS need to improve their capacities to:

- Conduct preparedness and contingency planning and DRR
- Improve risk assessment capacity and anticipatory programming
- Engage more strategically in this important thematic area

- Increase support to irrigation systems, including renewable energy to operate these systems by providing HNS technical and financial support
- Provide more livelihood support to vulnerable rural communities, including equipment, seeds, and fertilizers
- Use auxiliary role to advocate with government to support vulnerable communities in need, with a specific focus on highly vulnerable groups

5-Energy

As a direct consequence of the conflict in Ukraine, Europe is seeking alternative gas resources to become more independent from n supplies. Regional oil and gas exporters like Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Libya, and Algeria are expected to benefit from higher export earnings in the short and medium term. In contrast, energy and oil-importing countries in the region experience negative outcomes leading to additional social stress, and high prices will increase economic risks (Albawaba, 2022). The inflating cost of oil and gas itself have the knock-on effect of raising transport and thus commodity prices across the board, creating inflationary pressures and potentially disrupting supply chains for essential and non-essential goods that will further unsettle already fragile economies in MENA countries. In addition, the rising oil price will force oil-poor countries to lower the exchange rate for their national currencies, further depressing incomes and worsening living conditions (ICG, 2022). The perception survey confirmed these largely negative trends. One of the initial hypotheses was that the lack of affordable energy is a key factor contributing to increased crisis levels in MENA countries. This was confirmed by the respondents in ten MENA countries, who reported that the lack of access to affordable fuel and electricity is strongly affecting the people in their country (the exceptions are the two oil-exporting countries of Algeria and Iran). In general, countries categorized as “Critical Crises” are more vulnerable to an increase in costs for fuel and electricity, when compared to “Chronic” and “Contained” crisis contexts. While the oil-exporting countries of Algeria, Iran, and Libya have not experienced a significant increase in the price of fuel over the past three months, all nine other MENA countries did experience such an increase by 25-50%, while the price increased by 50-75% in Lebanon and Morocco. Respondents believe that this trend will continue over the next six months, with an expected further increase of fuel prices by another 25% or more.

The availability and cost of fuel is also impacting access to electricity in MENA countries. Respondents in most MENA countries reported similar access to electricity over the past three months while Lebanon, Libya, and Yemen reported reduced access to electricity during this period. Looking forward, respondents in seven MENA countries expect electricity to become less available over the next six months (‘much less’ in Yemen), while respondents in Palestine, Algeria, Iran, Jordan, and Tunisia believe that access will remain the same.

Lack of access to electricity and fuel has a ‘severe impact’ in “Critical Crisis” countries in MENA as well as in Lebanon

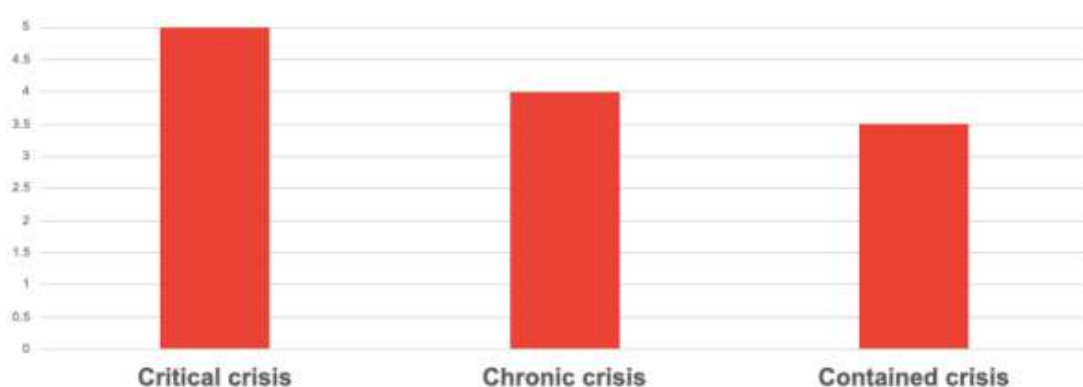


Figure 8: Impact of lack of affordable fuel and electricity in 12 MENA countries

(source: interviews with 22 IFRC and HNS representatives) 5-point scale from 01 (no impact) to 05 (severe impact)

5-1- Countries in critical Crisis

In Syria, the economic crisis in Syria continues unabated. Fuel shortages and lack of electricity impact the delivery of basic services, including in health, education, and water and sanitation. Food and fuel prices are spiraling higher every month, putting the necessities for a healthy and dignified life even further out of reach for millions of people (UN-OCHA, 2022). Yemen is a major fuel importer. As a result, fuel and wheat prices have already risen across the country. The impact has been particularly severe in areas controlled by the Houthi group, where gasoline prices have risen by more than 50% since early February (ICG, 2022).

In Libya, initial expectations for increased demand for Libyan crude stemming from the conflict in Ukraine have been offset by the projected slowdown in global economic growth, as well as the periodic weaponization of oil flows by Libyan factions (CEIP, 2022). Even though Libya produces crude oil and has its own

refineries, there have also been gasoline shortages. Locally refined fuel is insufficient for domestic consumption and, as a result, Libya buys most of its additional needs abroad at market prices, then sells fuel locally at heavily subsidized rates (ICG, 2022).

5-2-Countries in chronic crisis:

As noted earlier, the compounded crisis trends in Lebanon have the potential to push the country over the tipping point to become again a “Critical Crisis”. This includes the sharp increase in energy prices resulting from the Ukraine crisis, which will have large consequences. Lebanon imports all the oil and gas products it consumes at a cost of nearly \$300 million per month. A significant increase in energy prices would generate inflationary pressures that would ripple through the entire economy. One effect would be to increase the price for bread, because gas is needed to fire the ovens. In addition, the machinery in industrial bakeries consumes large amounts of electricity and, as a result, diesel to run generators since the state grid provides less than two hours of electricity per day (ICG, 2022). In Iraq, the oil market is booming after several oil-importing countries cut off n supplies. This could potentially help the country in the mid-term to mitigate the negative impact of the conflict in Ukraine on the socio-economic situation. In March, Iraq received oil purchase requests from European countries in the wake of the European and US sanctions on the n economy. This enables Iraq to enhance its presence in the European market, which it began losing two years ago. Oil provides 89% of Iraq’s budget, and rising prices have allowed the government to repay foreign debt and to resume projects stalled during the past years due to the financial crisis that hit the country in 2020 because of the decline in oil prices. However, the conflict in Ukraine may also lead Iraq to lose the Indian and Chinese markets, which buy n oil at \$30 less than Brent crude, especially considering that Iraq currently exports most of its oil to China and India (MEI, 2022).

5-3-Countries in Contained Crisis

Because of the conflict in Ukraine, Iran has now an opportunity to reclaim prominent roles within the global supply chain, and by extension in regional geopolitics. Iran holds the world's second-largest proven reserves of gas and fourth-largest proven reserves of oil. By accepting a new nuclear deal, Iran could ensure economic sanctions end and move to take over energy market share currently unfilled by - thereby meeting not only national fiscal needs but also cementing trade with energy-hungry economies like the European Union, China, and India. If the negotiators

succeed in reviving the JCPOA, Iran's oil would add 1-1.5 million barrels per day to the world market (ICG, 2022).

Algeria is also a major hydrocarbon exporter and rising oil, and gas prices are expected to compensate for the rising food bill (ICG, 2022). Escalating tensions between Algiers and Rabat, however, have halted energy exports through the pipeline that connects Algeria and Spain. The long-standing animosity between Morocco and Algeria offers little hope of a swift resolution – though the Ukraine crisis could prompt stronger European efforts to mediate the dispute. However, Algeria could still provide LNG supplies to Europe or export more gas eastwards through a pipeline to Italy. Similarly, Egypt's gas producers could be part of the solution while increasing their market share and showing goodwill in the current situation could bring them lucrative contracts in the future. Egypt already increased its LNG supply to Europe (MEI, 2022). Tunisia is a net importer of gas and oil, leaving it vulnerable to global price increases. While it meets 50% of its domestic gas needs through national production, it purchases the rest from an Algerian company, at market prices and receives 5% as royalty payment for the Trans-Mediterranean Pipeline's passage through Tunisian territory. Tunisia's government has been forced to raise fuel prices monthly, which feeds other inflation as well as public discontent. It has already hiked prices several times by a few percentage points on each occasion (ICG, 2022). Jordan is not heavily dependent on either or Ukraine, obtaining its fuel mainly from other sources (ICG, 2022). Heating gas, sold per liter, has gone up in price by 6%, while the government has fixed the price of cooking gas. Overall, the impact of the crisis on the Jordanian economy has been limited thus far (ICG, 2022).

General Conclusion

General Conclusion

Arab countries are steadily making strides in every aspects of life, there is no denying the fact that Arab countries especially the ones with sources of energy have become strong enough to influence a global crisis such as the Russian Ukrainian war, the age of Arab countries being a bystander is long gone but... reality shows that Arab governments still don't acknowledge their power and are still looking to stay neutral in all matters that don't concern their nations. Although politically speaking this is the correct approach and it is beneficial on the long run but what this approach did in past crisis events is have Arab nations without any political weight. I liken Arab governments to an ordinary employee who doesn't care if he is promoted or not as long as he is getting his paycheck. Spineless is a word that comes to mind when talking about Arab nation of this day and age, a spine is intact to make a human being stand straight but the number one weakness of Arab countries is that they are separate nations. We say Arab nations but it is really everyone is on their own.

After interviewing two experts with years of political experience, the theme was the same Arab countries can influence the war or any kind of global crisis but only United. The Russian Ukrainian war made the whole world re-examine their foreign policy and Arab countries are no different, some countries chose to play the role of peacemakers such as Algeria, United Arab Emirates, Qatar... all countries rely on natural resources, so in order to protect their interest in both squabbling parties they have no other choice because choosing the wrong side can have devastating results in the future. While some countries chose neutrality there are others who are running around trying to cling to a savior sort of speak, what we mean is they are in so much internal turmoil that they are not siding with any party, these countries are always on the balance trying to make alliances based one economic profit such as Egypt, Libya...

Other countries want diplomatic aid to exert their power on a neighboring country and look no further than Morocco who seeks Russian alliance to go along with their current American- Zionist alliance in hopes for supporting their claim in Western Sahara.

General Conclusion

Eventually, we find countries which are living in a crisis much severe than Ukraine, paradoxically the war in Ukraine has shed more global light on these countries than anything else. Palestine, Yemen and Sudan proved the double standard world we live in, and their causes have rallied more voices ever since the Russian invasion began.

In conclusion, Arab nations donot have to change their foreign policy according to the outcome of the war but rather change it to become more united in a world that is surely headed to a multipolar structure, and Arab nations have to aim to become one of those polls. Becauselet's face it, in this world it is either eat or be eaten; Arab countries have always been targeted weather be it for economic, cultural, ethnic or religious reasons and can only face it united.

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Appendix

Appendix

Interviews questions

Interview 1

1. In your opinion What role do Arab countries play in the resolution of the RUSSIAN UKRAINIAN conflict?
2. Can Arab countries benefit from this Conflict?
3. Do Arab governments really have to change their foreign policy according to the outcome of the war?
4. If so what changes can they do to further benefit their political, economic status in the world order?

Interview2

- 1.How would you expect the consequences of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict on the trade and energy prices of the Arab countries?
- 2.What economic sanctions, if any, have Arab countries imposed on Russia and the Ukraine in response to the conflict?
- 3.How has the conflict impacted the economic stability and growth prospects of Arab countries, particularly those with close ties to Russia or Ukraine?
- 4.What economic challenges have Arab countries faced as a result of the conflict, and how have they navigated them?
- 5.In what ways have Arab countries leveraged their economic relationships with Russia, Ukraine, and other affected nations?

Resumé

La présente étude tente de faire la lumière sur la politique étrangère des gouvernements arabes au lendemain de l'invasion russe de l'Ukraine. L'étude se penche sur les aspects politiques et économiques qui peuvent contribuer à changer les politiques étrangères suivies par les gouvernements arabes. L'étude opte pour une méthode mixte de collecte de données. Cela comprend des entretiens avec un expert et une analyse de données économiques pour comparer les ramifications économiques post-invasion avec les décisions politiques. Le résultat a montré des problèmes économiques importants auxquels la plupart des pays arabes sont confrontés, ainsi que leur poids politique remis en question en raison de leur sens de l'individualisme.