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Impact of War on Global Food Security

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Abstract: *War has always been an important factor in the global insecurity of food supply, not only in the countries at war, but in the rest of the world as well. Armed conflicts affect agricultural production, damage transportation systems, and impede flow of necessary commodities, leading to food shortages not limited by national borders. The impact of war on food systems is not just on battlefields; it affects trade, prices and access to food for basic nutrition on a global scale. The correlation between war, food insecurity and the potential that this can turn into a humanitarian disaster for millions of people in a short period of time.*

Wars have a variety of effects on food security. Conflict can result in the loss of land, water systems, storage facilities and transportation systems, all of which will make it challenging to produce food and transport it to markets. Agricultural workers are pushed out of rural regions, and labor is in short supply, and markets are paralyzed by insecurity. Such disruptions not only limit food availability in the vicinity but also heighten reliance on imports. Meanwhile, as a result of the war, fuel and transportation expenses are rising, which pushes up food prices in the international market. Therefore, the vulnerable group in developing countries are faced with significant difficulties in accessing essential food supplies. Food security requires not only food availableness and accessibility but also food utilization and food security stability, which is very low during armed conflict, according to Food and Agriculture Organization.

This has become a global issue in the recent times of conflict. The Russia–Ukraine War caused the collapse of wheat, maize, and sunflower-oil exports, which are needed by many countries around the world, including those in Africa and Asia. Both countries are major exporters of food products, and the war led to a remarkable increase in food prices in the international market, and to heightening hunger in import-dependent countries. In the same way, the Syrian and Yemeni conflicts have proven that chronic malnutrition and famine can result from prolonged violence. Wars exacerbate structural inequalities by disproportionately impacting upon poor communities, women and children who generally have the least access to resources during war (Maxwell & Fitzpatrick, 2012).

The world food crisis that has occurred because of the war also shows the flaws of the global governance structure. Donations, including from the World Food Programme (WFP) are made available to affected people but are in some places restricted by conflict and political divisions. Often food is the means of control – access is controlled for strategic aims. These prompt key questions on justice, international responsibility and the importance of greater cooperation within the international community. Academic literature, as illustrated below, does not only attribute conflict-induced hunger to the scarcity of food; it also sees conflict-induced hunger as a consequence of political choices regarding access and distribution (Messer & Cohen, 2015).

It is imperative to increase awareness of the effects of war on food security, as they are not confined to the borders of war-torn countries. Globalized supply chains mean that the war in one corner of the world can spread to other corners of the world, leading to inflation, shortfalls and social unrest.

However, in addition to humanitarian assistance, food insecurity demands a holistic approach to peacebuilding, resilient agriculture, and improved international coordination to safeguard vulnerable groups.

Keywords: *War; Global Food Security; Conflict; Hunger; Agriculture; Food Crisis; International Trade.*

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1. Introduction

Global food security is defined as a situation where everyone, everywhere, always has access to enough, safe and nutritious food for an active and healthy life, held in the physical, social and economic sphere. This idea is not just about the food being available, it also pertains to the food being affordable, available, and stable in the long-term. Food security is now one of the main issues of international development; the capacity of societies to access food has direct impacts on health, socio-economic activity and social stability in the modern world. Food security is characterized by FAO as four interconnected pillars: availability, access, utilization and stability. These dimensions demonstrate the interrelated nature of food as an agricultural product, social and political problem, governance and global justice issue.

The interconnectedness of today's global economy is important to the issue of food security. Most countries depend on international trade for their food needs; grain, edible oils, fertilizers and agricultural inputs are imported from various parts of the world. When the world's supply of food is disrupted in any part of the world, food prices are easily affected in other parts. This interconnectedness also implies that food insecurity doesn't only affect developing countries with food shortages but also affects the world food markets, public health, and social peace. Food systems are already under stress from growing populations, climate change and economic disparities, and are becoming increasingly fragile. In this context, further disturbance, in particular war, can have serious repercussions for millions. Local crises can have global economic and humanitarian impacts, as local crises now have the ability to impact global food systems as argued by Clapp (2020).

War and food systems are closely intertwined, and there is a complicated interaction between the two. Conflict impacts farmland, irrigation systems, storage and transport, impacting food production and distribution. Farmers are forced off the land, labor markets fail, and access to rural areas is limited. The disturbances make the fight areas an immediate crisis point for food supply gaps and also disrupt international supply routes. In modern wars, the world commodity market is often targeted, as important exporters of commodities are involved in the conflict as suppliers of food to other countries. For example, the Russia-Ukraine war demonstrated the possible chain reaction of regional conflict drawing in global food inflation as it disrupted the global grain supply chain. The war aggravated the hunger situation of areas in Africa and Asia that rely on imports of wheat and sunflower oil, which were both produced in large quantities by both countries. Therefore, war becomes a humanitarian issue, and a political weapon.

Conflict also has an indirect impact on food security through its effects on the increase in poverty, displacement, and social inequality. The displacement of population(s) further removes land and income options, and puts pressure on local food systems and resources in the host nation. Malnutrition and reduced access to health services disproportionately affect children, women and marginalised groups. The scholars have pointed out that in times of conflict, famine is not just a matter of scarcity, but of access and distribution restrictions (Devereux, 2007). This illustrates how

war can not only destroy food systems physically, but also impact on their social dimensions, which influence who can eat food.

This article seeks to give a deeper look into the impact of war on global food security, covering aspects of agricultural production, trade mechanisms, food prices, and vulnerable groups. It examines past and present conflicts to gain insight into how conflict creates hunger in other countries. The article underscores the critical importance of international collaboration, robust, and resilient food and agricultural policies, and peacebuilding approaches in promoting sustainable food security in a world of growing uncertainty.

2. Conceptual Framework of Food Security

Food security has shifted from a focus on food production to food access, nutrition and social justice. Food security occurs "when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to safe, nutritious and adequate food for a healthy and active life". (Fao, 2000) This definition places particular emphasis that food security is not just a matter of food production but also of equality in distribution and continuous access. It acknowledges that hunger is not always due to a lack of food, but is instead caused by unequal access to food that is driven by poverty, governance and political instability.

Food security is mostly seen in terms of four related components: food availability, food access, food utilization, and food stability. Availability is defined as having sufficient food from domestic production, imports or aid. Access relates to the capacities of individuals to fetch food, which rely on income, market systems and social support. Utilization is the role of food in nutrition, clean water and health conditions. Stability provides consistency in these three dimensions over time, even in any economic or political crises. The dimensions are strongly linked to each other, and if one dimension is impacted so are the others. For instance, in the event of war, there is an initial delay in the reduction of world production, but also there can be a disruption of access and disruptions in supply chains which can lead to widespread hunger.

Conceptual approaches to food security show how conflict exacerbates prevailing inequalities. The Amartya Sen's notion of the entitlement approach states that famine and hunger are not just about a lack of food, but also a failure of access. Sen (1981) showed that starvation is possible even when there is plenty of food available, if the economic and political conditions do not allow people to access it. This is particularly important during wartime, when conflicts lead to the loss of livelihoods and impairment of mobility. Political ecology, likewise, understands food insecurity in terms of power relations, policies of the state and control of resources. Some scholars have proposed that war becomes a tool of politics, with its ability to be used in ways to control populations (Maxwell & Slater, 2003). So food security should be considered as a political and social conflict situation as well as an agricultural problem.

3. Historical Context: War and Food Crises

War and food crises have always been tied together; the world has witnessed many times in its history when conflicts have affected food production, transportation and access to food and other necessities. Throughout history, a staple of human existence has been the stuff of warfare, and has also been an instrument of state warfare.Since the dawn of history, food has been a victim of war, and a means of state warfare. Past conflicts have demonstrated that besides their devastating effects on military equipment, wars have also affected the ability of the economy and agricultural production to support the civilians. Challenging the big conflict has shown how conflict has always led to food insecurity, scarcity and famine in different parts of the world.

World War 1 had a tremendous effect on agriculture and trade since millions of farmers were recruited into the war, resulting in less agricultural workers in Europe. Many acres of farmland

turned to battlefields and railroads and harbors were diverted for military use. This hindered domestic food production and the import and export trade. The military was able to use blockades, particularly in Europe, as an effective instrument, to limit grain and other important goods transport. Food shortages, increased food prices and malnutrition were experienced in countries reliant on food imports. The war proved to be an example of the effect of conflict on the food supply chains, as European food shortages also impacted colonies providing agriculture products. Offer (1989) argues that food became a key weapon of political control during the First World War, and that military and civilian survival depended upon food control.

But the impact of World War II was far more devastating, as World War II exacerbated hunger around the world. In Europe and Asia, farmers' fields were ravaged and military occupation made it impossible to provide food in local markets. Governments set up rationing systems so that people's consumption of bread, meat, sugar, and other necessities would be regulated, due to scarcity. While rationing ensured that some countries had minimum supplies, it also was a sign of the inability of the wartime economy to provide for civilian needs. Food shortages were sometimes imposed as a tactic of oppression in conquered areas. Under British colonial rule, the Bengal Famine of 1943 was an example of how war can be a catalyst for political neglect and lead to life-threatening hunger. The war policies did not cause any lack of food, it was millions who died because of the disruption of the access to and distribution of food. This led to Sen's (1981) later claim that a failure to acquire a commodity was a more significant cause of famine than its actual scarcity, thus highlighting the political nature of food crises.

But the postwar era did not bring an end to the link between war and famine. Post-colonial wars in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East also caused food shortages on a regular basis because of the civil wars, border conflicts and internal political unrest among the newly independent countries. The situation in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Vietnam created conflict which caused farms to be disrupted and caused a wide-spread famine. Many of these areas were affected by war, coupled with drought, poor governance, and inequitable resource distribution. However, major conflict can result in devastating and widespread food insecurity, such as during the Nigerian Civil War when Biafra was hit by famine. These conflicts exposed that food insecurity was not only a short-term ramification of the conflict but was also a lasting effect of political turmoil.

4. Mechanisms Through Which War Affects Food Security

The impact of war on food security is multifaceted, with impacts on food production in the local area as well as on the global food distribution system. The impact does not just stop on the battlefield, it can be felt in markets, trading routes and people's access to food at home. Conflict is a domino effect that leads to resource destruction, community displacement and economic instability which ultimately leads to long term food insecurity. The processes show that a war is not only a military conflict, but has also been shown to be a major disturbance of food systems which support everyday life.

Destroying farming land and facilities is one of the most direct effects of war. In times of armed conflict, fields are sometimes contaminated, damaged or inaccessible because of the conflict. The irrigation canals, storage facilities, roads and grain silos are damaged and the production is interrupted and the harvest is diminished. Modern warfare also harms modern energy infrastructure that provides the ability to process food and refrigerate it. In areas where there is conflict, farmers can lose seeds, equipment and livestock, and it can be difficult to recover from the conflict when it is over. It can be said that war has a negative impact on agricultural production, which is due to both humans' physical resources and institutional support necessary for sustaining rural economies; as argued by Justino (2012).

The displacement of farmers poses another major challenge. Rural people are displaced due to conflict, leaving behind their livelihood which is agriculture, a key source of food. Communities which move, leave their fields unharvested, lose their harvest schedules, and suffer from labour shortages. This reduction in manpower is especially detrimental in the agricultural economies which rely greatly on family farms. However, refugees and IDPs are also highly vulnerable to food insecurity, as they have lost their income, and their direct access to land. Prolonged humanitarian crises are often the result of forced displacement, in which food insecurity becomes a constant threat, particularly when a return is not feasible, according to a report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The war also wreaks havoc on supply chains, linking the local crisis to global food crisis. Agricultural commodities rely on transportation networks, shipping routes and international trade systems. Conflicts disrupt these routes, wreak havoc on ports, railways and roads, and stall or block the flow of food. The Russia-Ukraine war was a stark reminder of this, since the export of grain from Black Sea ports was limited, impacting on the international wheat market. There were immediate shortages and inflation for countries that relied on imports. Clapp and Moseley (2020) highlight that global food systems are very interdependent and that if one part is impacted, it has a significant influence on the other parts of the food system in the world.

Disruptions are even worsened by increasing transportation and fuel costs. Often, war causes fuel shortages because of damaged infrastructure, sanctions or insecurity in the energy market. In modern food systems, fuel is essential in growing, processing and transporting food, increasing the cost of food at every level. This is especially the case for low-income groups who tend to have a higher proportion of income allocated to food. Economic shocks as a result of conflict can thus lead to hunger, even in areas where there is no direct conflict. Headey and Fan (2008) have pointed out that volatile prices in the food market are usually associated with rising energy prices, and with the disruption of global food markets.

5. Major Contemporary Case Studies

The current wars have been a proof that war is indeed among the most significant contributors to global food insecurity. Contemporary wars take place in a globalized economy that is interdependent, meaning that disruptions in one part of the world impact the availability of food in completely different, far away, locations. Food insecurity has been seen in recent wars, as it has been caused by destruction only within the conflict zones, but also by disrupted trade, market volatility and political restrictions which have worsened hunger beyond the zones of conflict.

The current Russia-Ukraine war is one of the most evident instances where a regional conflict can result in a world-wide grain crisis. Prior to the war, both countries were among the world's top wheat, maize, and sunflower oil exporters. The war had an impact on production, destroyed agricultural facilities and prevented Black Sea export routes. International food prices surged, as grain shipments fell, leading to an impact on import-dependent countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Countries which were already in a poverty situation suffered from higher food inflation and shortage. The crisis brought to light the fragility of global food systems that are heavily dependent on a few exporting countries (Glauber & Laborde, 2022).

Prolonged violence can have a negative impact on domestic food systems, such as the situation in Syria. The agricultural areas in Syria were greatly affected by bombing, forced displacement and irrigation system destruction. Farmers left fields unplanted and farm output of livestock was reduced and wheat production was substantially decreased. Access to basic commodities became more difficult as a result of the sanctions and limited trade. High food prices made it difficult for many households to access food even if it was available in the market. Food insecurity was

transformed into a structural problem in Syria by conflict, according to Eklund and Thompson (2017), which is associated with displacement and poor governance.

The Yemen Civil War can be a good example of how a war can turn into a famine on a large scale. Yemen is heavily dependent on imports for food and could be affected by trade restrictions. The war wrecked ports, roads and storage facilities, and naval blockades restricted imports. These, along with economic crises, led millions to extreme hunger. Humanitarian groups have been sounding the alarm about Yemen's hunger before and after it has been described as a "politically induced crisis of hunger" linked to political decisions about access to food, markets and aid. Yemen is a case study of how food can be used as a tool of political pressure, as pointed out by Salisbury (2021).

The ongoing war in Sudan has aggravated food insecurity in East Africa. Conflict has driven farmers away from their fields, disrupted planting and hindered humanitarian access. Sudan has also long been an agricultural producer in the region, and instability also impacts neighbouring countries reliant on cross-border trade. This is exacerbating already vulnerable conditions due to climate stress and poverty. The Sudan crisis demonstrates that war and environmental shocks interact to create more severe food crises, as suggested by Maxwell et al. (2024).

The case studies demonstrate a consistent trend—war or conflict led to a drop in agricultural production, an interruption in trade, and a lack of food availability. Conflict is not just a regional problem affecting local populations when it comes to food insecurity—it can be a global issue for international markets and for vulnerable areas all over the world.

6. Economic Consequences

The economic effects of war are far-reaching, and can impact areas far removed from the conflict, such as the world's food prices and trade systems. Armed conflict can impact the production and transport of agricultural commodities, causing inflation worldwide in a global economy. Wars can cause food prices to jump up significantly, due to reduced production, disruption of food supply chains and the general uncertainty that brings market speculation. This inflation is not simply a market response, but can be long-lasting, lasting months or years if large exporting nations are in play. The Russia–Ukraine War illustrated how the disruption of wheat and fertilizer exports could quickly lead to higher food prices in the world, putting pressure on governments and households (Laborde et al., 2023).

War also has an impact on imports and exports, impacting transport, ports, and logistics. Food-import relying countries are at immediate risk in the event of a conflict disrupting trade. Exporters countries can put limits on their exports to safeguard domestic supplies, thus exacerbating scarcity in the world markets. These limitations have a domino effect; countries that have limited agricultural production find it difficult to obtain the necessary foodstuffs. Today's wars reveal the interdependencies of food system and stable international trade and political cooperation (Martin-Shields and Stojetz 2019).

The impact of such disruptions is disproportionately suffered by low-income countries. Most of the developing countries rely on imports of food grains and fertilizers, leaving them exposed to external shocks. Poor families spending a large proportion of their income on basic food items, and lack of financial resources for governments to subsidise food prices when world prices rise. This way, food inflation very soon turns into events of hunger and malnutrition. There is a particular vulnerability to conflict-driven price increases due to the economic fragility in countries in sub-Saharan Africa and in parts of South Asia (Headey & Fan, 2010).

War also exacerbates poverty and food inequities. Food is not available in the market but its access is limited by unequal purchasing power among vulnerable groups. Hungry people are often poor families, communities uprooted from their homes, and informal workers. This is part of the overall

thesis that food insecurity is often the result of unequal distribution of food and income, not necessarily a lack of food. So famine results, as Amartya Sen has claimed, when people do not have the economic capacity to access food, although there is food available (Sen, 1981). Hence, the economic effects of the war show the impact of conflict on increasing structural poverty and widening inequalities in access to food.

7. Social Consequences

The social impacts of war on food security tend to be most apparent and harmful because they have the most immediate and direct impacts on people's livelihoods and their health and wellbeing. Conflict can impact food systems in more ways than just the economic costs – it also reconstitutes communities, aggravates inequalities and establishes chronic humanitarian challenges. Some groups in society may be more affected by hunger due to war than others, and most often it is the poorest and most vulnerable that suffer first. Food scarcity and affordability leads to malnutrition, particularly among children, older people and displaced families.

Malnutrition is a very early consequence of food insecurity related to a conflict. Limited access to a variety of nutritious foods undermines physical health, weakens immune system and promotes disease. Nutritional deprivation in childhood can have harmful, permanent effects on children's physical and mental growth. Malnutrition is considered to be at emergency level in prolonged conflicts like Yemen and Sudan. One of the most serious consequences of severe hunger is famine, which occurs when there is limited aid, market failure, and political turmoil, and all of these factors are present. In discussing the famine in contemporary warfare, de Waal (2018) demonstrates a way in which war is responsible for making hunger into a man-made crisis.

Migration and refugee crises are also caused by conflict. At the time of agricultural livelihood loss and food inaccessibility, people are compelled to move out of their homes for safety and access to food and resources. This uproar forces the neighbouring communities and refugee camps to become squatter camps and, often, food short. Displaced people have a sense of insecurity as a result of the loss of land, livelihood and social networks. These are the most strongly felt by women and children. Women are often the ones responsible for securing food for their families with the added responsibilities of less income, caregiving and being more vulnerable to exploitation. Children go to school without their education and without good nutrition and face health risks that may be passed down to future generations.

Food insecurity's impact on public health is just as dire in times of war. Hunger leads to reduced resistance to disease and poor health systems to poor treatment. In times of armed conflict when hygiene breaks down, outbreaks of cholera, respiratory infections and other diseases can quickly sweep through the region. Thus, public health crises become linked with food insecurity, rendering the vulnerable to becoming more vulnerable. According to Akik et al. (2019), war-induced food insecurity not only results in immediate deaths, but also to long-term health disparities which persist beyond the war.

8. Role of International Organizations

Armed conflict has led to food insecurity which, in modern wars, has become more than national capital can handle, and therefore, international organisations have turned to becoming central actors in responding to this food insecurity. Countries suffering from conflict often cannot provide adequate relief when the conflict wreaks devastation on their agricultural systems, displaces their people and disrupts their trade. International agencies then step in to not only provide food, but also to coordinate emergency logistics, assist with monitoring nutritional status and aid in long-term recovery during such incidents. The role of the United Nations has been especially significant in the

translation of humanitarian assistance into global governance mechanisms on the hunger issue as a development issue and a human rights issue.

Interventions are coordinated by the United Nations, through specialized agencies and/or emergency mechanisms. It activates resources, establishes humanitarian corridors and assists in the provision of refugee and relief programs to displaced persons. For example, in some conflict areas, like Yemen and Sudan, the UN has been able to keep food delivery systems in place and avoid immediate famine due to conflict. But such steps depend on the cooperation of governments and armed groups, which may be denied for political reasons. Success of UN intervention, therefore, is also dependent on the amount of funds and diplomatic negotiation and security. While humanitarian response in times of crises can minimise mortality, access limitations can limit humanitarian response, as noted by Maxwell and Fitzpatrick (2012).

The World Food Programme has the largest international presence in the field of wartime food assistance. Delivers emergency food, school feeding, cash transfers and nutritional supplements. WFP is often the main source of livelihood for people who are displaced in times of conflict. The organization also efficiently assists in supply chains through cross-border transportation of food and ensuring storage systems in an unstable environment. However, there are some significant logistical challenges for relief operations. Roads can be destroyed, ports can be closed and aid convoys can be attacked. Sometimes the armed actors loot or seize food warehouses. This creates an environment in which the availability of resources and their distribution is uncertain.

The Food and Agriculture Organization is more directly involved in agriculture's reconstruction. It enables farmers to receive technical assistance following conflict, repair irrigation facilities, recover livestock and provide distribution of seeds. FAO's interventions are essential as food security can't be re-built by supplying food to help people through the crisis. Tools are needed in rural communities to resume production and livelihoods. Having access to food before, during, and after conflict can lead to food crises, as damaged agricultural systems take years to recover, Devereux (2007) points out.

Even these attempts have not been successful, as humanitarian delivery is still beset by challenges. Political blockades, insecurity or sanctions can delay food aid. In some times, some wars, assistance to civilians becomes political: access to food is politically controlled so as to reward or punish allies. This demonstrates that hunger can be reduced by international organisations but not eradicated in the absence of political and peace building developments.

9. Global Responses and Policy Solutions

Humanitarian aid has become an accepted response to food insecurity, and that approach has been taken up by global actors in response to conflict.In response to conflict, humanitarian aid is a recognised response, and has been adopted by global actors. War in one part of the world can have a global impact on food systems given the global nature of today's food systems. This means that interventions that build resilience in the long term as well as emergency interventions are needed for effective policy solutions. A multi-level cooperation between governments, international and regional institutions is needed to avert conflict from spiraling into global food crises.

In the short term, one of the first actions that can be taken is to establish emergency food supplies. A strategic reserve would enable countries to be able to sell off its stocks during times of shortage, thereby dampening market panic and stabilizing prices. Such reserves are particularly significant for those countries which are import dependent and vulnerable to any disruption in the global trade. In recent crises, some countries have adopted reserve policies that will help limit the negative effects of price shocks in wheat and fertilizers, as von Braun and Torero (2009) maintain.

Enhancing the resilience of the agriculture sector is another longer term measure. In addition to crops, conflict ruins the systems needed to produce crops, such as irrigation systems, transport and storage facilities. To rebuild agriculture, investments in local farming and in the distribution of seeds and the restoration of infrastructure are needed. Additionally, there is growing importance of having climate resilient agriculture since conflict and environmental stress are often intertwined. Drought-resistant crops, precision irrigation, and digital forecasting are some technologies that can enhance food farming during unstable situations.

International cooperation will always be the cornerstone as none of the nations can tackle the food crisis across the world by themselves. The vulnerability during conflict can be diminished through multilateral cooperation for trade, humanitarian access and support for agriculture. These responses are coordinated with the help of Food and Agriculture Organization and regional alliances. Given the era of globalization, food security relies on cooperation, as a handful of local crises quickly turn into international crises, Clapp (2020) writes.

Sustainable peace-building is likely the most important solution. Conflict can create and be exacerbated by food insecurity. Rural poverty and land conflicts and the disproportionate access to resources can add to instability. In the longer term, peace building programmes that enhance governance and foster rural livelihoods and reduce inequality enhance food systems protection.

Technological interventions are also important possibilities. Satellite observation monitoring, early warning systems and digital supply track enhances crisis response. But there is no technical answer for political solutions. Innovation must go hand-in-hand with peace and equitable policies, as well as more robust institutions, to achieve lasting food security.

10. Critical Analysis

Considering the hunger during conflict is a humanitarian emergency is not sufficient for a critical analysis of the issue of war and food security. Although food assistance is often a priority of international response, this only tackles the symptoms of a problem, and not its root. Food crises are both inextricably linked to political power, inequality and to global economic systems. These relationships are crucial to comprehend in order to understand why there is hunger in the presence of international support.

The extent of international response becomes apparent when aid is denied, or distorted. Humanitarian access relies on people who have to be guaranteed by political actors, making relief open to pressures from states, and armed conflict. In many instances, the assistance is provided when it is needed most or for only part of the population affected. De Waal (2018) suggests that today's famines are more and more political in nature, as a result of denying access to food, rather than an absolute lack of food.

Political economy of war is about the unequal power structure that defines food systems. Reserves and diversified imports are ways of protecting oneself in wealthier countries, but in poorer countries, it is all a matter of relying on the volatile global markets. This can leave the structure open to collapses. These inequalities are exacerbated by conflict which affects production and increases prices. Sen (1981) has shown that famine frequently occurs when people lose their entitlement to food, by working, trading or through social networks.

There's an extra complication caused by climate change. Agricultural systems are already degraded by drought, environmental degradation and floods when conflict occurs. In already fragile contexts, the severity of food insecurity increases when there is a war. Eklund and Thompson (2017) argue that social tensions could be further exacerbated and conflict may be more likely to occur as a result of climate stresses.

The risk is expected to be further exacerbated in the future due to the interaction between climate change and geopolitical turmoil and population growth. This implies that food insecurity could be more common and widespread around the world. Analysis indicates that to achieve sustainable solutions to conflict, inequalities, governance and environmental stressors must also be addressed.

11. Conclusion

The study of war and food security in the world shows that war is an issue with far more consequences than military or political. It negatively affects agriculture production, agricultural supply chains, food prices, and social inequalities. Throughout history and current examples, it has been clear that war always becomes a crisis of food – and hunger always a humanitarian problem.

One of the key points that emerged from this discussion was that during conflict, the lack of food is not the only reason for food insecurity. Instead, it is generated by the disruption of access, inequitable distribution, displacement and political decision-making on controlling resources. This is in line with Sen's (1981) argument that failures in entitlements cause hunger, that is, when people do not have the means to access food in spite of their availability.

The repercussions are far-reaching. The war will compromise food systems for years, making them less developed and more reliant on food aid. It affects vulnerable groups (such as women, children and displaced people) disproportionately, and low income countries are particularly susceptible to external shocks in the global markets.

The new global governance should go beyond emergency measures. There is a need for more robust systems at international level for early-warning, agriculture recovery and peace-building. Coordinated trade policies, strategic reserves and agriculture that is more resilient to climate change are needed. Martin-Shields and Stojetz (2019) note the need to prevent conflicts in addition to responding to humanitarian needs in food security policies.

In the end, it is peace, justice and international cooperation that will create sustainable food security. Food crises will keep spreading across borders in an interconnected world if they are not properly tackled by addressing political causes of conflict.

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