



## MISSILES IN THE KITCHEN? EFFECT OF THE US-ISRAEL-IRAN CONFLICT ON FOOD SECURITY IN NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

*The latest layer of conflict between the United States, Israel and Iran which began in early 2026 has emerged as one of the biggest global conflicts in contemporary times. Unsurprisingly, the fallout of the conflict has taken a huge toll on different aspects of human security. This paper therefore examines the socio-economic and food security effects of the conflict particularly in Nigeria where food security remains one of the major challenges. The study employed a secondary research method by looking at existing literature studies and media reports. The findings reveal the negative effect of the conflict on the Nigerian economy, especially due to its heavy reliance on crude oil, thereby resulting in higher pump prices of all petroleum products, ultimately resulting in higher cost of transportation, goods and services. In terms of food security, the study also reveals that continued pressure on the shipping routes, particularly the Strait of Hormuz, could result to higher freight costs, higher insurance premiums, and fewer ships willing to enter this region will ultimately lead to more expensive food worldwide. The study concludes that the conflict could further deepen food security challenges in Nigeria if no diplomatic resolution is reached. The study therefore recommends the urgent need for Nigeria to reduce its dependence on imported food. To do this, policy makers need to invest more in local agricultural production.*

**Keywords:** Conflict, Food Security, Socio-economy, US-Israeli-Iran

### 1.0

### INTRODUCTION

There is overwhelming evidence from existing studies that shows a direct nexus between conflicts, be it regional, national or international and food security. According to Asaju & Kwakano (2025),



food security in Nigeria has become an increasingly urgent concern, with the country now facing one of the largest food crises globally. According to a Cadre Harmonisé report, produced by the Government of Nigeria in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and other partners, an estimated over 33.1 million Nigerians experienced acute food insecurity as at the end of 2025. This figure marks a worrying increase of seven million people compared to the same period last year, highlighting a persistent and deepening crisis (FAO, 2024; WFP, 2024). These figures underscore the severe impact of food insecurity on child and maternal health, with long-term implications for human development in Nigeria. Multiple factors are driving this escalating food insecurity. Economic hardship, marked by record-high inflation and a sharp increase in food prices, has eroded household purchasing power. The aftermath of devastating floods and the ongoing effects of climate change have further reduced agricultural productivity and disrupted food supply chains. These economic and environmental shocks have been compounded by persistent and widespread armed conflict all over the world (Olanrewaju and Balana, 2023). One of such conflicts in recent times is the conflict between Israel and Iran. Two nations, no shared border, no direct colonial history between them. According to Rimapradesi & Wijaya (2025), the tension between Iran and Israel has persisted for decades, rooted in ideological conflict, geopolitical rivalry, and the struggle for influence in the Middle East. For decades, the world watched as these two countries circled each other through proxy militias, assassinations, cyber-attacks, and shadow conflicts fought on other people's soil. Fast forward to February 2026, the situation between the two nations reached a critical point when the United States and Israel launched a massive coordinated military campaign against Iran. Marked by direct military escalation, including reciprocal airstrikes, attacks on strategic infrastructure, and open threats to regional security, the Israeli-Iran conflict marks one of the most significant military conflicts in Europe since World War II. This war comes at a time when food prices in Nigeria and other West African countries were already very high due to climate change, insurgency and banditry, post-COVID-19 effects, and other factors. The conflict is exacerbating these pre-existing challenges, driving food prices even higher. In Nigeria, the combination of these factors with high exchange rates has made the ongoing impacts of the war highly uncertain. Therefore, it is essential to understand how disruptions in global food and fertilizer markets caused by the war could lead to long-term price hikes and reduced availability, posing a significant threat to global food security.



According to TimesXP (2026), the growing Iran, US, Israel war may not just be a regional crisis. It could actually become a global food emergency. As the conflict in the region continues to escalate and tensions ripple through the wider region, the biggest shock wave may not come from the missiles. It may come from markets, farms and grocery stores worldwide. The global agricultural markets is interconnected in nature, and Nigeria and other West African countries rely heavily on food and agro-product imports, particularly wheat and other grains, from the middle east. According to the analysts, the war is beginning to strain the global food supply chains and the actual reason lies between the narrow but critical waterways, the Strait of Holmus. Every single day, massive ships carrying fertilizers, fuel, raw materials pass through this narrow corridor in the Persian Gulf. It is therefore in this line of thought that this study seeks to understand how a conflict thousands of miles away could quietly but quickly tighten the cost of daily living for millions of Nigerians.

The objectives of the study are

1. Examine the causes of the US-Israeli-Iran conflict.
2. Examine the socio-economic consequences of the US-Israeli-Iran conflict in Nigeria.
3. Examine the effect(s) of the US-Israeli-Iran conflict on food security in Nigeria.

## **2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Conceptual Clarification**

#### **2.1.1 Food Security**

Food security refers to the condition where all individuals have consistent physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs for an active and healthy life (FAO, 2023). Similarly, according to Anderson (2020) cited in Ekoko (2025), food security is defined as a condition where all individuals consistently have both physical and economic access to an ample, safe, and nutritious food supply that fulfills their dietary requirements and preferences for a healthy and active life. Additionally, Adebayo (2021) suggests that food security operates at both macro and micro levels. At the macro level, it pertains to a nation's or continent's ability to provide enough food to sustain its population, achieved through either domestic production or the importation of foods, including food aid. On the micro level, it involves the food security of households and individuals.



According to Tunde & Garba (2025), the concept encompasses four key dimensions: food availability, food access, utilization, and stability. Food availability refers to the sufficient production and supply of food, while food access involves individuals' ability to obtain it through purchasing or other means. Utilization emphasizes the proper consumption of food, ensuring that it meets the nutritional needs of individuals, and stability refers to the consistent availability and access to food over time, without fluctuations due to external shocks such as conflict, climate change, or economic crises (FAO, 2021).

According to Ekoko (2025), today, food security is a big issue not only due to food production and hunger but also other factors such as population pressures, food prices, climate change, disparities of wealth, and income and very importantly, the ongoing war between Israel and Iran. The issue of food security now is more alarming because of failure of past efforts and approaches to resolve food insecurity problems such as famine and malnutrition in developing countries. Therefore, achieving food security has become a complex issue since it cuts across the globe; it's affected by ongoing issues such as: climate change, disasters, urbanization, conflicts and more recently, the ongoing Israel and Iran conflict. Presently, millions of Africa's populations are in dire need of food on the continent as they continue to suffer from hunger and famine.

### **2.1.2 Food Security in Nigeria**

Food security is one of the many challenges Nigeria faces as well as some other developing countries. Food security is currently both a fundamental objective and an expected outcome of development policies in Nigeria, as the country currently faces a challenge in meeting the basic food needs of its population. The majority of Nigerians depend largely on subsistence agriculture, which is hardly sufficient to meet the food needs of the population. However, notwithstanding the many policies, programs, and investments by various local and international agencies operating in the country, food security and the nutrition situation are worsening (Olamide, et. al., 2024)

Cereals and tubers, which include rice, maize, guinea corn, millet, sorghum, yam, and cassava, are the most essential parts of a country's food basket. For example, rain-fed crops like millet, sorghum, and maize are subject to significant annual fluctuations in production (IFPRI, 2005). Nigerian farmers cultivate rice on more than 70% of their irrigated farmlands. However, because the Fadama scheme's operation is reliant on both the amount of precipitation and floods in the



region, its production is also subject to fluctuations. According to World Bank projections, for example, there was a 2.5% global increase in demand for all types of cereals between 1990 and 2000. For Nigeria, these numbers are a little conservative and it was projected that between 1990 and 2000, the demand for cereals especially rice rose to roughly 3.5%, but between 2000 and 2025, it fell to roughly 2.5% (Bello, Yahaya & Adamu, 2024).

In Nigeria, food security is influenced by internal and external crises, economic factors, and climate change. The country experiences visible effects of climate change, particularly in the northern and southern regions, which impact agricultural productivity. Alterations in humidity, temperature, rainfall patterns, and heavy precipitation have led to low agricultural productivity, poverty, hunger, and conflicts. These challenges result in food scarcity, malnutrition, health issues, and rising food prices. Food scarcity has led to malnutrition and incessant health challenges, especially for children. Efforts are being made at international conferences and initiatives to address these issues and ensure food security in the face of climate change. The overall prevalence of severe food insecurity in the total population steadily increased from 2014 to 2021 (Dauda, 2023).

Infrastructure deficits also play a crucial role in Nigeria's food security challenges. Poor road networks and limited storage facilities hinder the transportation and preservation of agricultural produce, leading to significant post-harvest losses. It is estimated that Nigeria loses up to 30% of its agricultural output annually due to inadequate storage and inefficient distribution systems (Okoro et al., 2021). These losses not only waste valuable resources but also undermine the livelihoods of farmers who are unable to bring their produce to market. Furthermore, the lack of access to reliable electricity limits the adoption of modern agricultural technologies and value-added processing, which could enhance productivity and profitability.

According to Ejigbo, Umar, Ocheja, Umar & Abdullahi (2026), the ripple effects of Nigeria's food security challenges are also evident in the broader socio-economic context. High food prices contribute to inflation, which disproportionately affects low-income households that spend a significant portion of their income on food. This, in turn, exacerbates poverty and inequality, creating a vicious cycle of food insecurity and economic instability.



### **2.1.3 Overview of the US-Israel-Iran Conflict**

The tension between the United States, Iran and Israel has persisted for decades, rooted in ideological conflict, geopolitical rivalry, and the struggle for influence in the Middle East (Rimapradesi & Wijaya, 2025). The Israeli-Iran conflict has roots that stretch back over a century, from a collapsing empire to promises made and broken by colonial powers to a revolution to decades of proxy war, assassination, and a nuclear standoff that brought the world to the edge. Ideologically, Iran that is founded on the principles of the Shiite Islamic revolution, views Israel as an occupier of Palestinian land and an enemy of the Muslim world. Conversely, Israel sees Iran as an existential threat due to Tehran's support for groups such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza, both of which openly oppose Israel. Tensions have been further exacerbated by Iran's nuclear program, which Israel suspects is aimed at developing nuclear weapons (Aldino Cakra Buana, 2024). By 2026, the situation between the two nations reached a critical point, marked by direct military escalation, including reciprocal airstrikes, attacks on strategic infrastructure, and open threats to regional security. The latest escalation began on February 28th, 2026, when the United States and Israel launched a massive coordinated military campaign against Iran. Operation Epic Fury. USB B2 stealth bombers struck Iran's ballistic missile facilities while Israeli jets hit targets across all 31 of Iran's provinces. Key sites in Tehran were struck, including the state broadcaster and the historic Golestan Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed along with multiple senior commanders and officials. The civilian cost has been severe. A US-Israeli air strike hit a girl school in southern Iran, killing at least 165 children, prompting Iran to retaliate immediately. Coordinated drone and missile attacks were launched across the Middle East, hitting the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Aman, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. Iran's Revolutionary Guard declared the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most critical oil shipping lanes closed. Overall, the Iran-Israel conflict reflects an ongoing ideological and geopolitical rivalry. As long as both countries maintain hardline positions and no inclusive regional consensus is reached, the conflict is likely to escalate further and continue to threaten Middle East stability. However, according to Rimapradesi & Wijaya (2025), what concerns many nations around the world is not only the conflict itself, but the potential destruction and upheaval to global human security. If we look at the conflict through the lens of weapons and



violence, Iran is widely believed to maintain nuclear development facilities. If hostilities and unstable ceasefires persist, it is not unthinkable that Iran might resort to using missiles or high-impact weapons considering that nuclear weapons remain among the most devastating tools of mass destruction in the world today. There is also the fear of the emergence of global military alliances, which could lead to a Third World War especially following U.S. involvement in damaging several of Iran's nuclear facilities after Iran's attack on Israel.

## **2.2 Theoretical Framework**

### **2.2.1 Conflict Theory**

Conflict theory is a sociological perspective that has evolved over time, influenced by thinkers like Karl Marx, Max Weber, and others. According to Kwakano (2025), the theory posits that society is characterised by ongoing struggles between groups competing for limited resources, power, and status. This theoretical framework emphasises that social order is maintained by domination and power rather than consensus and conformity. The theory is also characterized by several key assumptions. First, it assumes that inequality is inherent in society, with individuals and groups having unequal access to resources and power. This inequality leads to power struggles and competition for limited resources. Conflict theory also highlights the role of conflict and competition in driving social change, with conflicts between different groups often resulting in shifts in social structures and norms. It distinguishes between dominant and subordinate groups, highlighting the structural inequalities that perpetuate the power imbalances. Additionally, it recognizes that dominant groups may use ideology to justify and maintain their position and that social movement can emerge as a response to perceived injustices (Ekoko, 2025). Conflict theory provides a critical lens through which to analyze societal dynamics, focusing on the central role of power, inequality, and struggle in shaping social structures and change. It contrasts with consensus theories that stress stability and cooperation in society. In the context of food security, conflict theory suggests that inequalities in access to resources such as land, water, and capital are not accidental but are outcomes of structural imbalances and competition among groups. These structural inequalities are particularly pronounced in societies with significant disparities in wealth and resource distribution, such as Nigeria. According to TimesXP (2026), the ongoing conflict between US-Israel and Iran has extensive, indirect implications for food security among several



countries in Africa, Nigeria inclusive and the conflict theory perspective aids in illuminating these dynamics. Initially, the conflict has the potential to disturb global food markets, instigating price fluctuations that echo throughout the world. Such disruptions affect food affordability in African nations, where many rely on imported food. Additionally, changes in international trade dynamics, including disruptions in agricultural exports and imports, can affect the availability of food resources in African countries that depend on the global market for their sustenance. Furthermore, the war may likely contribute to heightened competition for essential resources on the global stage. As nations seek to secure food and agricultural commodities, this can lead to geopolitical tensions and potentially reduce access to vital resources for African nations. Political and economic instability resulting from the conflict can also have ripple effects, impacting African economies, trade relationships, and overall food security.

### **2.3 Review of Empirical Studies**

The conflict between Israel and Iran in 2026 has emerged as one of the peak crises of the modern era. Like a trigger for war in the modern age, it has generated multiple potential crises ranging from economic security threats and political instability to widespread fears of a possible Third World War. Quite a number of studies have been carried out on the effect of conflicts on food security in Nigeria. For instance, Asaju & Kwakano (2025), examined the impact of armed conflict on food security in Nigeria, with a particular focus on how insurgency, farmer-herder clashes, and rural banditry disrupt agricultural productivity, market access, and food distribution systems. Guided by Conflict Theory, the research explored the relationship between conflict and food insecurity, focusing on availability, accessibility, utilisation, and stability of food. The findings reveal that affected communities often adopt short-term coping mechanisms such as migration, food rationing, and informal community support, which offer limited resilience. In response, the study recommends that the government enhance security in agricultural zones, implement agricultural recovery and livelihood support programs, and promote community-based peace-building initiatives to strengthen long-term food system resilience. Also, Tunde & Garba (2025), investigated the impacts of the Russia-Ukraine war on food security and examine ECOWAS interventions to address food security challenges in Nigeria. The study relied on a mixed-method research design, combining primary and secondary data for its analysis. The findings indicate that



the Russia-Ukraine war has affected food prices, the costs of food logistics, fertilizers, and other agricultural products. The war has also led to the destruction of climate and food storage facilities that support food production, disruptions in international food logistics, and the displacement of farmers. Similarly, Ejigbo, Umar, Ocheja, Umar & Abdullahi (2026), examined the effects of the Russian-Ukraine war on food security in Nigeria between 2022 and 2024. Findings from the study reveal a strong statistical association ( $\chi^2 = 224.33$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ) between the Russian-Ukraine conflict and key food security dimensions in Nigeria. Respondents overwhelmingly indicated that food prices have soared, access to essential food items has become more difficult, and the local food supply has been insufficient to compensate for disrupted imports. These findings corroborate recent studies by Torero (2022) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2022), which emphasize how geopolitical instability contributes to global food insecurity. The Nigerian context highlights not only the vulnerabilities within the global supply chain but also the structural weaknesses in the local agricultural sector, including inadequate investment, poor infrastructure, and over-reliance on imports. With regards to the socio-political and economic effects of the conflict, Rimapradesi & Wijaya (2025), examined the human security threats, particularly in the economic and political domains, arising from the Israel-Iran crisis, using a qualitative research approach based on literature studies. The findings reveal that the conflict carries significant threats if no diplomatic resolution is reached. What began as a dispute centered on Iran's nuclear program has evolved into a broader geopolitical confrontation involving proxy warfare, direct attacks, and mounting tensions in strategic areas such as the Strait of Hormuz. This strait remains a vital corridor for global energy distribution, making its security crucial to international stability. Hussain & Khan (2026), analyzed the impact of the 2026 US-Israel-Iran conflict on the concept of sustainability in the context of global business operations, with a particular emphasis on the Gulf region and Asian Economies. It argues that geopolitical tensions have now become an essential element of international business operations not only in terms of political and security risks but also in terms of economic risks. It also argues that the conflict has disrupted energy production and trade, trade routes and supply chains, thereby highlighting the risks of dependence on fossil fuels in a globally interconnected world. It applies a contemporary analytical framework to analyze the impact of the crisis on the transition towards renewable energy resources and supply chains. It also argues that the concept of sustainability now needs to be combined with the concept of



resilience in the context of business operations. It concludes that only those business organizations would be able to navigate through geopolitical tensions successfully if they are able to combine the concept of sustainability with the concept of resilience.

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

This study employs a secondary data analysis approach to critically evaluate the 2026 US-Israel- Iran conflict and its broader implications for global trade, socio-economic activities in Nigeria, and food security. Secondary data is derived from media reports, policy papers, academic journals, economic reviews, and reputable news sources. The methodology is structured to provide a comprehensive, evidence-based assessment of the reforms, focusing on their legal, economic, and social dimensions.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This study adopts a qualitative research design, utilizing descriptive and analytical methods to investigate the human, economic, and social implications of 2026 US-Israel-Iran conflict. According to Rimapradesi & Wijaya (2025), Qualitative research is a scientific approach that emphasizes in-depth understanding of social phenomena from the perspective of participants. In the context of literature-based studies, this approach holds strategic value in formulating strong theoretical and conceptual frameworks. By employing a documentary research approach, the study systematically analyzes academic literature, economic reviews, media reports and analysis to provide a comprehensive assessment of the potential impact of the 2026 US-Israel-Iran conflict.

To enhance the validity of the findings, the study applies source triangulation, combining academic literature, policy documents, and selected media reports. Consistency across different types of sources was used as a key criterion for assessing credibility. In addition, the use of well-established theoretical frameworks contributes to analytical reliability and transparency.



## **4.0 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **4.4.1 Impact on Socio-Economy in Nigeria**

The conflict between the US, Israel, and Iran in early 2026 has caused the largest disruption to world trade and energy routes since the 1970s (Hussain & Khan, 2026). In today's global economy, a crisis in one region can quickly change prices in another. For Nigerians, that impact could show up in the cost of fuel, goods, and travel. Iran holds a significant position in global oil reserves, with approximately 206.8 billion barrels in 2022, accounting for about 13.3% of the world's total crude oil reserves (Ahdiat, 2024). In 2024, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) recorded Iran producing around 20 million barrels of crude oil per day. According to a TimesXP 2026 report, energy prices are surging. European gas prices reportedly jumped to 40% after Qatar's LNG production was disrupted. Meanwhile, the Brent crude oil has climbed towards \$80 a barrel, raising diesel and transportation costs worldwide. With fertilizer supply at risk, this adds to another layer.

Much of the tension centers around a narrow strip of water called the "Strait of Hormuz", barely 33 km wide. This narrow waterway between Oman and Iran is one of the world's most important shipping routes. Around one in every five barrels of oil on Earth passes through here. When there is a war or conflict in any kind, shipping companies become concerned about the safety of their vessels (Channels Television, 2026). This concern causes the price of crude oil to increase immediately on the global market, including Nigeria, this is because Nigeria is one of the world's biggest oil producers with over 1.7 million barrels per day and the capacity to produce over 2 million barrels. However, the country currently lacks the refining capacity to convert all its crude into usable petroleum products for its own citizens. Instead, Nigeria sells crude oil at global market prices and then turns around and then buys refined fuel back at inflated prices.

### **4.4.2 Impact on Fertilizer and Food Security in Nigeria**

The conflict between US-Israel and Iran continues to spread across multiple sites in Iran and Lebanon while tensions ripple through the wider region. But the biggest shock wave may not come here from the missiles. It may come from markets, farms and grocery stores worldwide. According to Asaju & Kwakano (2025), armed conflict continues to be one of the most significant drivers of



food insecurity worldwide, with the number and intensity of conflicts reaching unprecedented levels in recent years. Currently, nearly sixty armed conflicts are active globally, affecting approximately two billion people about one quarter of the world's population-living in conflict affected countries. These conflicts have become more frequent and deadly, with civilian fatalities increasing notably due to escalations in regions such as the Middle East, North Africa, and Eastern Europe (Statista, 2025; ACLED, 2025). The humanitarian consequences of these conflicts are profound. In recent years, hundreds of thousands of deaths have been attributed to armed violence, with children disproportionately affected. Food insecurity is intricately linked to conflict, as violence disrupts agricultural production, destroys infrastructure, and displaces millions of people. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) projects that hundreds of millions will require humanitarian assistance, with conflict and violence being primary drivers of this unprecedented need. Protracted conflicts, compounded by natural disasters and political instability, have intensified humanitarian crises in regions such as Myanmar, Gaza, Sudan, and Ukraine (YouTube OCHA, 2025).

In Africa, regions such as the Sahel and Horn of Africa have been severely affected by the intersection of conflict and food insecurity. Countries including Sudan, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and Ethiopia have experienced prolonged violence, resulting in mass displacement and the collapse of local food systems. In Sudan, ongoing civil war has caused tens of thousands of deaths and displaced millions, pushing large segments of the population into crisis-level hunger (Statista, 2025; ReliefWeb, 2025). According to a TimesXP report (2026), the US-Israel and Iran war is beginning to strain the global food supply chains and the actual reason lies between the narrow but critical waterways, the Strait of Hormuz. Every single day, massive ships carrying fertilizers, fuel, raw materials pass through this narrow corridor in the Persian Gulf. Hence, a threat to this route could affect food trade routes negatively. This also adds to the already bad situation as regards food shortages as the farmers cannot grow their crops thereby worsening food insecurity on the continent. The Middle East remains a hotspot for conflict-driven food insecurity, with wars in Israel, Palestine, Syria, and Yemen causing mass casualties and regional instability. These conflicts have destroyed agricultural infrastructure, disrupted trade routes, and led to widespread



hunger and malnutrition. Yemen, in particular, faces a dire humanitarian crisis, with millions on the brink of famine due to years of civil war (ReliefWeb, 2025).

Also, Nigeria is one of the largest producers of fertilizers globally, but for the average Nigerian farmer it is not affordable. Nigeria has the gas, the fertilizer plants and the soil. However, if global demands for fertilizer determine the price, local Nigerian farmers are at risk of competing with rich buyers from across the globe. If the cost of a bag is tied to a war, the yield of the next harvest is bound to be significantly affected negatively. For the local farmer, this global demand creates a domestic squeeze. While Nigeria has the gas, global LNG price volatility and local logistical constraints could mean that the home field advantage is significantly felt by local farmers. There is also the growing concern towards fertilizer affordability in Nigeria, this is due to the fact that a corresponding increase in the output of farms, thereby leading to a reduction in the prices of goods. Farmers are caught in a dilemma between producing fertilizer use and risk a poor harvest, or pay the high price of a war that is thousands of kilometers away.

#### **4.2 Discussion of Findings**

The US-Israel-Iran conflict is no doubt already having massive impact on Nigeria's socio-economy as well as food security. First, there has been a massive constraint on the world's major trade and energy routes, which has affected the crude oil prices in Nigeria. Beyond oil, the conflict is disrupting broader trade networks. Global shipping companies are rerouting vessels, leasing standby tonnage, and delaying Gulf operations, which increases costs and shipping time particularly affecting economies like India, China, and Europe that heavily depend on Gulf energy exports (Rimapradesi & Wijaya, 2025). So when Middle East tensions push global oil prices up, Nigeria earns more for its crude but pays far more for its fuel imports. And with the weaker naira, every dollar spent on those imports is even costlier. The result is higher pump prices of all petroleum product, ultimately resulting in higher cost of transportation, food, goods and services (Channels Television, 2026). For Nigerian government, prolonged and escalation of this war could be a threat to its goal of consolidating on the economic stability it said it had gained from major reforms since 2023. As the situation develops, Nigerians already dealing with the rising cost of living could be facing another global factor influencing how much they pay to move, trade, and



leave. The 2026 US-Israel-Iran conflict has ensured that a new lesson is learned and embedded into corporate strategy: geopolitical risk is no longer an external variable. The conflict has shown that geopolitical instability is no longer a political problem but has become a major determinant of global business strategy. The disruption of the global energy market, closure of important trade routes like the Strait of Hormuz, disruption of aviation, logistics, and other related industries, have shown that the current economic system is vulnerable to such instability. The conflict has already caused a hike in fuel prices, closure of shipping routes, and a sense of uncertainty among various industries like aviation, tourism, semiconductors, agriculture, and more. The implications of the 2026 US-Israel-Iran conflict are far-reaching for the Gulf region, which has relied historically on hydrocarbon resources and globalization. The conflict is a reminder that economic diversification is more important than ever (Hussain & Khan, 2026).

According to a TimesXP report (2026), while countries around the Persian Gulf, including Iran, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and UAE, and even Bahrain, supply a massive portion of the world's fertilizer exports. Together, they account for more of the one-third global trade and nearly one quarter of global ammonia supply. These chemicals are the backbone of modern farming and without them crop yields drop.

Also, shipping routes are under pressure. If the instability spreads in the Strait of Hormuz, grains and fertilizers, shipments could actually slow down dramatically. Higher freight costs, higher insurance premiums, and fewer ships willing to enter this region will ultimately lead to more expensive food worldwide, and the consequences may hit most of the vulnerable nations the hardest, particularly third world countries. Reports suggest that at least 15 countries could face rising political instability if the war drags on. Nations such as Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, and Pakistan are particularly vulnerable to the sudden spikes in food prices. And for millions of families already struggling to afford a basic meal, even a small price increase can be devastating.

Local agricultural challenges are also likely to amplify the impact of the US-Israel and Iran war on Nigeria's food security. While global disruptions strained food imports, domestic production also faced significant obstacles. Insecurity in agricultural regions, particularly in the north,



continued to limit farming activities, with banditry, kidnappings, and herder-farmer conflicts displacing many farming communities (Ibrahim & Usman, 2023). This displacement not only reduced the overall output of key crops like maize, rice, and millet but also disrupted local food markets, further reducing availability. In addition, the rising costs of agricultural inputs, such as fertilizers, became a major hurdle. Fertilizers, of which Russia is a leading global supplier, saw dramatic price increases during the conflict, limiting their use by smallholder farmers (Adewale, Olayemi & Adebayo, 2023). The disruption in supply chains also exposed the vulnerabilities of Nigeria's food system, which relies heavily on imports for staples such as wheat and vegetable oils, all of these ultimately resulting in food insecurity in Nigeria.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 Conclusion**

The implications of the 2026 US-Israel-Iran conflict are far-reaching for a number of African and Middle Eastern countries, which rely heavily on the region for fertilizers, fuel and raw materials. Globally, the conflict has already caused a hike in fuel prices, closure of shipping routes, and a sense of uncertainty among various industries like aviation, tourism, semiconductors, agriculture, and more. The unintended fallout of the conflict will also likely have profound impact on food security in Nigeria, further complicating the already existing challenges related to food availability, accessibility, and affordability. The disruptions in global food supply chains, especially for grains and fertilizers, is likely to significantly increased food prices, further pushing vulnerable populations into food insecurity. Coupled with local agricultural challenges, including climate change, insecurity, and inadequate infrastructure, Nigeria's food security could become severely compromised if the war persists. Therefore, the conflict is a reminder that economic diversification is more important than ever. It also highlights the urgent need for Nigeria to reduce its dependence on imported food and to invest more in local agricultural production. The dual impacts of global and local crises underscore the importance of adopting long-term solutions, such as agricultural diversification, investment in infrastructure, and enhanced food distribution systems



## **5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. There is need for Nigeria to reduce its dependence on imported food and to invest more in local agricultural production.
2. Nigeria has the capacity to be a global winner in the US-Israel-Iran crises, but this victory can only be realized if the government finds a way to supply cheap gas to local plants like the Dangote group, thereby forcing a cut in the cost of fertilizer.
3. There is also need to for the United Nations and other international agencies to bring all conflicting parties to the table for dialogue and peaceful negotiations.
4. Nigeria could consider exploring alternative markets and partnerships for food imports to reduce its vulnerability to global supply chain disruptions.

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