Food crises and migration flows from Africa - A Perfect Storm
Situation on the ground

- Counting the numbers
  - 345 million acute food insecurity (worldwide)
  - 1.1 - 1.6 billion food insecurity
  - Africa: 280 million food insecurity - 130 million acute food insecurity (June)
- 36 million IDPs and refugees (75% - 20% - 5% asylum seekers) 3.7 million more than in last year

- Perfect Storm - structural and ad hoc reasons
Structural challenges

- Demography (COVID-19)
- Increasing food prices since May 2020
  - 50-100% increase by 24 February 2022
  - An additional 50-100% since that time
- 60-100% of household expenditures
Structural challenges

- Drought - four rainy seasons missed in East Africa
  - In some regions, 80-95% of livestock has perished
- West Africa
- Reserves were used up during the pandemic
- Some actors (al-Shabaab, Ethiopian parties) are using starvation as a weapon
Energy-price shock

• Also since 2020 (a chance?)

**Oil Price Surges to Highest since 2008**

Daily price per barrel of Brent crude oil (in USD)

Source: investing.com

**Evolution of energy prices, Oct 2020-Jan 2022**

IEA analysis

- European natural gas (TTF month-ahead)
- Asian spot LNG
- German power
- EU imported coal

International Energy Agency
Political challenges

- Civil wars and insurgencies (South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sahel)
- Military coups (West Africa) - six in the last two years
The Last Straw - Ukraine
The last straw - Ukraine

- Other effects
  - Tourism
  - Investments

- Less political attention
- New Cold War (?) competition
Current situation on African migration

- Mass starvation since June
- Increasing number of IDPs (1 million only in Somalia)
- People are moving to the centers (refugee camps/settlements; cities)
Current situation on African migration

• North Africa: middle class is leaving
  • They have the financial background and networks
Conclusions

• Africa is going through an unprecedent humanitarian crisis
• In the shadow of the war in Ukraine, it is little hope for more support for the continent
• It is also affecting Europe which is struggling with multiple challenges (refugees, energy prices and inflation)