

Yuriy Shpak

Zhytomyr Polytechnic State University, Ukraine

ORCID: 0000-0003-0922-2550

yura-shpak@ukr.net

Mariia Dehtarenko

Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (Lublin), Poland

ORCID: 0000-0001-6291-9803

degtarenko.mariia@gmail.com

Yevheniia Fedorchuk

Southern-Ukrainian Branch of UkrSRIFRT of L. Pogorylogo, Kherson, Ukraine

ORCID: 0000-0002-5419-7887

janya-life@i.ua

Oleksandr Fedorchuk

National Aviation University (Kyiv), Ukraine

ORCID: 0000-0003-4732-8305

15961980@ukr.net

Ensuring Food Security under Military Conditions

*Zapewnienie bezpieczeństwa żywnościowego
w warunkach wojennych*

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS: Yuriy Shpak, D.Sc., Professor, Zhytomyr Polytechnic State University, Faculty of Public Management and Administration, Department of National Security, 103 Chudnivska Street, Zhytomyr, Zhytomyr Region, Ukraine, 10005, Ukraine; Mariia Dehtarenko PhD, lecturer, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (Lublin), Faculty of Law and Administration, Department of Agricultural Law and Land Management, 5 Maria Curie-Skłodowska Square, 20-031 Lublin, Poland; Yevheniia Fedorchuk, Specialist in economics, Pomeranian Agricultural Advisory Center, 21 Marynarki Wojennej Street, Stare Pole, 82-220, Poland; Oleksandr Fedorchuk, PhD, Professor, National Aviation University (Kyiv), Faculty of Transport, Management and Logistics, Department of Foreign Economic Activity Management of Enterprises, 1 Liubomyr Huzar Avenue, Kyiv, 03058, Ukraine.

ABSTRACT

Food security is an objective necessity of the development of humanity under conditions of globalization and agro-food globalization. This notion becomes critical when ensuring food security under conditions of military law. The purpose of the article is to explain and improve theoretical and methodological grounds and to develop practical recommendations on the formation of the food security system of Ukraine, to disclose the essence of food security and to define its place in the system of economic security of the state and, on this basis, to deepen the interpretation of the term "food security system" in the war conditions. The authors argue that food security should be considered from the perspective of its economic importance, considering that it localizes the possibilities and strategic imperatives of public welfare. Under the food security system in the conditions of military law, we should understand the totality of organizational, economic, social, legal, information, scientific and innovative, environmentally oriented and other measures aimed at protecting the vital interests of people, community, region and state at the expense of physical, economic and social accessibility, safety and quality of food products, stability of food security of the population and food sovereignty. It was found that social partnership and civil solidarity in the conditions of war in the issues of managing the development of agriculture and food systems, environmental protection and old use of natural resources, as well as transparency of food security policy should be built into the system of principles of its ensuring.

Keywords: food security; military law; military conflict; food security system; self-sufficiency

INTRODUCTION

Food security is an important component of socio-economic policy of the state from a local and global perspective, as, in order to ensure national sovereignty, it determines its status on the international agro-food arena. Of particular relevance is ensuring food security under the conditions of military law. Such important and at the same time multidirectional context of formation of food security of Ukraine demands, firstly, the planner terms in the tense of development and acceptance of administrative decisions in the plane of active search of possibilities of increasing the potential of food security for social growth. Secondly, it requires systematic monitoring of the level of self-sufficiency in food and the constant identification of consumption of affordable, quality, environmentally friendly foodstuffs. Thirdly, it necessitates the development of indicators of assessment of the level of food security in the context of the formation of their individual groups in accordance with the imperatives of the strategic development of the sphere of food security in the minds of the military law. Thus, the improvement of scientific and methodological foundations and development of practical recommendations on ensuring food security under conditions of military law of Ukraine acquire a new relevance.

The theoretical and methodological basis of the article is a systematic approach to the study of the fundamental positions of economic science concerning the formation of the food security system of Ukraine. In the process of studying the problems

of food security, basic general scientific and specialized research methods were used. These are the following: scientific abstraction – for theoretical consolidation of the essence of food security, formulation of conclusions, critical analysis of the research results of other researchers, and monograph – for the analysis and assessment of levels of food security of Ukraine in terms of the military state of affairs.

RESEARCH AND RESULTS

Undiminished growth of the population, wars, increased level of use of natural resources due to decrease of their reserves lead to high risks for food security of both people and the country as a whole. The problem of formation of food security has always remained in the focus of scientific interest of both domestic and foreign researchers. With the threat of global military conflict and other globalization challenges, this issue is considered as one of the key in the system of global problems of the present day. This is confirmed by the content of Clause 24 of the UN General Assembly summary document titled *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, namely: “We are also determined to end hunger and to achieve food security as a matter of priority and to end all forms of malnutrition”.¹

Such a statement indicates the continued importance of the raised problem and the magnitude of its solution from the point of view of the purposefulness of the intentions of the old development. The initial goal of effective policy formation of food security is to provide the population with food at a level that guarantees the quality of life and livelihood, and also allow for a stable public creation on the basis of expanded production, which can be ensured under the conditions of the military situation.² To make this process more efficient and to ensure universal satisfaction of the quality of life of the citizens, the state is required to form a real system of accessibility of each of them to quality and safe food products. This can be achieved through the development and implementation of an effective statewide policy of food security.

Leading countries of the world consider food security as one of the most important conditions of internal stability and external independence. The first attempts to use the term “food security” were made in Stockholm in 1972 as a result of the implementation of the plan to solve the food problem in the world, which foresaw that by the end of the 20th century, the majority of the population would be starving. It was assumed that hunger in most countries of the world would be solved

¹ UN General Assembly, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, <https://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/uk/home/library/sustainable-development-report/the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development.html> (access: 10.10.2024).

² A.D. Mostova, *Current State of Food Security in Ukraine and Methodical Approaches to Its Evaluation*, “Black Sea Economic Studies” 2019, no. 43, pp. 59–68.

by means of STP and the implementation of its achievements in the agricultural sector. However, this socially oriented approach was later changed due to the emergence of specific factors that did not allow to solve the problem from the global implementation of changes in the world as a whole, and, as a result, their solution at the national levels.³

In 1974, the term “food security” was formally introduced into scientific terminology at the World Food Summit (WFS), where its meaning was interpreted as “the availability at any time of the necessary world food supply of basic foodstuffs for a steady growth of consumption and compensation of production fluctuations and prices”.⁴

The systematic implementation of the WFS was accompanied by the constant demonstration of the place and role of food security for the development of human civilization, prevention of the spread of hunger in the world and the gradual expansion of its size due to the increase in global shocks and needs. For example, in 1996, the WFS introduced a comprehensive approach to the interpretation of food security from the perspective of its existence at the individual, household, national, regional and international levels. It is emphasized that this takes place due to the physical and economic accessibility of all people to sufficient, safe and healthy food, which ensures their food consumption for an active and healthy life. At the same time, such availability must be ensured at any time convenient for the consumer.⁵ In a general context in economic sources, food safety is considered as the protection of vital interests of people, which is expressed in the state guarantee of safe and high-quality food products to support the normal life of people.⁶

The experts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) interpret food security as “ensuring guaranteed access to food for all inhabitants of the planet, the country, the region at any time and in the quantities necessary to ensure an active and healthy way of life”.⁷

In 1986, the World Bank (the supplement *Poverty and Hunger*) also emphasized the dominant role of food security in ensuring access to “enough food for an active

³ N.O. Tikhonova, *Food Security of the State: Threats and Prospects*, “Scientific Bulletin of Kherson State University. Series: Economic Sciences” 2014, vol. 8(4), pp. 46–49.

⁴ United Nations, *Report of the World Food Conference: Rome, 5–16 November 1974*, 1975, https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/701143/files/E_CONF.65_20-EN.pdf?ln=en (access: 10.10.2024).

⁵ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018: Building Climate Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition*, 2018, <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/f5019ab4-0f6a-47e8-85b9-15473c012d6a/content> (access: 10.10.2024).

⁶ Order of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine No. 1277 of 29 October 2013 “On Approval of the Guidelines for the Calculation of the Economic Security Level of Ukraine”, http://cct.com.ua/2013/29.10.2013_1277.htm (access: 10.10.2024).

⁷ FAO, IFAD, WFP, *Monitoring Food Security and Nutrition in Support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead*, 2016, <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/5838d561-04da-4d3e-bff3-9d71b4d410b0/content> (access: 10.10.2024).

and healthy lifestyle for all people at any hour".⁸ The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) *Human Development Report 1994* defines food security as "the availability of a sufficient number of staple foods, sufficient access to them, and sufficient purchasing power of the population".⁹ For its part, based on the definition of food security of the FAO (1996), which focuses on the need to provide all people with "safe and nutritious food", the stage is labeled as "freedom from hunger and malnutrition".¹⁰ Therefore, the above official documents declare food security as a general necessity for human development under the conditions of global civilization process and globalization of the economic space.

It is worth mentioning the gradual recognition and consolidation of the social component of this concept in scientific discourse, as stated in the FAO report of 2001. The FAO report *State of Food Security in the World* interprets it as "a state in which all people always have physical, economic and socially equal access to safe and healthy food in quantities, sufficient to satisfy their needs and preferences in food, in the amounts necessary for an active and healthy life".¹¹ This aspect became the basis for the use of a "sub-optimal approach" to the formation of food security, which enabled the narrow development of the rural economy and the simultaneous expansion of opportunities of access to food for disadvantaged groups of the population.¹² It should be emphasized that such an approach in the scientific discourse is considered as a unique platform for the establishment and approval of the foundations of sustainable development.

In the N.O. Tikhonova's article, food security is presented as a state of state economy, which regardless of the state of world markets gives the possibility to provide the country with food in sufficient quantities, and the population has the possibility to purchase it. In particular, it is crucial to ensure a certain domestic level of production, which makes it possible to stay within the range from maintaining the critical minimum to complete self-sufficiency.¹³

Food security of the state is also interpreted as an interdisciplinary social and economic phenomenon, which characterizes the ability of the state to provide the population with balanced complete food with quality and safe products under

⁸ World Bank, *Poverty and Hunger: Issues and Options for Food Security in Developing Countries*, 1986.

⁹ UNDP, *Human Development Report 1994*, <https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/hdr1994encompletostenstats.pdf> (access: 10.10.2024).

¹⁰ See V.P. Zalizniuk, *Evolution of the Concept and the Food Security Measures*, 2016, <http://www.dy.nayka.com.ua/?op=1&z=1249> (access: 10.10.2024).

¹¹ See K. Stamoulis, A. Zezza, *Conceptual Framework for National Agricultural, Rural Development and Food Strategies and Policies*, Rome 2003.

¹² T.O. Zinchuk (ed.), *European Union Agrarian Policy: Critics and Prospects*, Kyiv 2019.

¹³ N.O. Tikhonova, *op. cit.*

conditions of proper physical and economic access to them on the basis of internal food independence of the state.

Summarizing the above, we agree with the thesis that the problem of food security under the state of war is complementarily linked to the problem of food sovereignty (food sovereignty) – the state of food security, for which the physical and economic availability of vital food products for the population is ensured through the domestic production of these products and the stock of the state material reserve.¹⁴

On the basis of systematization of the key provisions of low normative and legal acts and scientific works of modern researchers, food security under conditions of the military situation is proposed to mean the state of the economy of the country, for which the protection of vital interests of the people is ensured, community, the region and the state in terms of guaranteeing physical, economic and social accessibility, safety and quality of food, stability of food security of the population and food sovereignty.

As already noted, the critical factor for food security of any country is war. Many of today's food crises are related to the war and military conflicts.

We should consider four components of the war that affect food security: disarmament, migration of the population caused by the conflict, control of food products by the parties to the military conflict, and hunger as a "sign of war". This explains why governments or belligerents are often unable or unwilling to respond to food crises and why international humanitarian aid is hampered.¹⁵

In the world there is a growing number of people who live under conditions of constant threats to food security. Unfortunately, Ukraine is not an exception in this process. The most notable impact of military conflicts on food security is the destruction of agricultural land, irrigation systems and infrastructure. In addition, the migration of the population and mass starvation as a result of military conflicts have unpleasant and often long-lasting consequences for food security of the affected population. Chronic absence of food security, in turn, can become a crucial factor in the prolongation and aggravation of military conflicts, provoking a vicious cycle of violence and hunger.¹⁶

We identify four aspects of how these military conflicts affect food security: conflict-induced displacement, migrations, food control, and hunger as a "sign of

¹⁴ People's Deputies of Ukraine, Draft of the Law of Ukraine No. 8370-1 of 28 April 2011 "About Food Safety of Ukraine", <https://ips.ligazakon.net/document/JF6GI01A> (access: 10.10.2024).

¹⁵ C.P. Martin-Shields, W. Stojetz, *Food Security and Conflict: Empirical Challenges and Future Opportunities for Research and Policy Making on Food Security and Conflict*, "World Development" 2019, vol. 119, pp. 150–164.

¹⁶ United Nations, *Food Systems Summit 2021: Action Tracks*, <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit/action-tracks> (access: 10.10.2024).

war". These parameters are the key reinforces of the vicious circle between food insecurity and violent conflict.

Inevitable use of four components of the war leads to increased food insecurity and contributes to increased structural fragility of the affected societies. Rising food prices, increased social nervousness, exclusion from political decision-making processes and increasing state instability, in turn, are potential destructive forces of violent conflicts. External factors such as pandemics, economic upheavals, natural disasters or climate change directly or indirectly influence the flawed state.

The cause-and-effect relationship between civil wars and violent conflicts, on the one hand, and the lack of food security and hunger, on the other, is complex and depends on the context. Lack of food security is not only a by-product of war, but is also at the center of attention of violent conflicts, e.g. in order to provide food to the parties to the conflict, to collect rent for the military organization or to inflict significant losses to the enemy in live force. The international community, as before, is facing problems that do not allow to break the vicious cycle of violence and hunger, which is becoming an even more difficult sphere of action, since we have witnessed a dramatic increase in food security and hunger problems due to conflicts over the last few years.

For this problem, it is necessary, first of all, at the legal and political level to achieve the guarantee of access to food by all conflicting parties as an unconditional right of the people. UN Security Council Resolution 2417 gives a new impetus to political action and should be used by UN agencies and the international community for a real monitoring and reporting on this issue. The UN agencies and the international community should provide a realistic monitoring and reporting on whether national governments provide food to all their populations and whether they or the parties to the conflict facilitate humanitarian access to food so as to be able to prevent or stop the food crisis.¹⁷ Otherwise, close cooperation between humanitarian agencies, development organizations and other international organizations is needed. Food aid, if it is implemented in an appropriate manner, is crucial for the elimination of the ruinous consequences of conflicts in the short term and for the promotion of peace in the long term. Thus, food security should be the key issue in ensuring international security. Improvement of cooperation and coordination between these actors also requires a much better understanding of local mechanisms of reaction to food crises and conflicts, as well as local perceptions of the world, and this should be taken into account when planning and implementing relief operations and national response strategies. Finally, the link between early warning and early action, which has grown over the past decade, needs to be applied more

¹⁷ Resolution 2417 (2018) adopted by the Security Council at its 8267th meeting on 24 May 2018, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1627380?ln=en> (access: 10.10.2024).

systematically in the context of conflicts to protect populations and the means to stay alive before crises become real.

Taking note of these four key understandings can help local cooperatives, national governments, international humanitarian and development organizations, and UN agencies to adopt effective preventive. The United Nations and UN agencies should also take effective preventive and contingency measures against food crises in violent conflicts, including integrating the world's approach to (long term) food strikes to combat hunger and conflict.

Also, Ukraine's experience in resolving food security in the face of a large-scale military conflict will be interesting and positive. Thus, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine issued the "Plan of Measures to Ensure Food Security under Martial Law", approved by Order No. 327-r of 29 June 2022. This legal act establishes the following measures: implementation of monitoring of food security which includes analysis of forecasted balances of consumer demand and supply for the main types of agricultural products and regulation of the boundary levels of prices (tariffs), trade markups, cost-effectiveness norms for certain types of products, goods and services of high social importance; meeting the general needs of the state in terms of supplying enduring foodstuffs to the population of territorial communities in the regions where active military operations are taking place; creation of capacities for self-sufficiency in food for territorial communities and households; ensuring full functioning of enterprises of the agro-industrial complex, in particular by satisfying the demand for imported components; regulating the supply of domestic market with products of domestic production and ensuring exports.¹⁸ In addition, we suggest considering the possibility of forming part of the food reserves on the territory of Ukraine's partner countries to avoid the risks of destroying Ukraine's food reserves during military operations.

Implementation of the above-mentioned measures will allow to ensure food security for Ukraine.

CONCLUSIONS

Summarizing the above, we propose to understand food security during martial law as a state of the economy of the country, which allows to protect the vital interests and rights of people, society, region and state in terms of guaranteeing physical, economic and social accessibility, safety and quality of food, stability of food security of the population and food sovereignty.

¹⁸ Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 327-r of 29 June 2022 "On Approval of the Plan of Measures to Ensure Food Security under Martial Law", <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/npas/pro-zatverdzheniya-planu-zahodiv-z-a327r> (access: 10.10.2024).

As a result of this research, it has been established that there is a direct cause-and-effect relationship between wars and the state of food security and, as a result, hunger. The goal of our article was to show that the critical state of food security is not only a by-product of war, but is also at the center of attention of violent conflicts, e.g. in order to provide food to the parties to the conflict, to collect rent for the military organization or to inflict significant losses to the enemy in live force. The international community, as before, is facing problems that do not allow to break the vicious cycle of violence and hunger, which is becoming an even more difficult sphere of action, since we have witnessed a dramatic increase in food security and hunger problems due to the conflicts in recent times.

Taking into account these circumstances we propose, first of all, at the legal and political level to achieve compliance of all conflicting parties with the guarantee of access to food as an unrestricted human right. UN Security Council Resolution 2417 gives a new impetus to political action and should be used by UN agencies and the international community for a real monitoring and reporting on whether national governments provide food to their entire population and whether they or the parties to the conflict facilitate humanitarian access to food in order to be able to prevent or stop the food crisis. Secondly, close cooperation between humanitarian agencies, development organizations and other international organizations is needed. Food aid, if properly implemented, is crucial to avoid the ruinous consequences of conflicts in the short term and to help establish peace in the long term. Thirdly, take into account Ukraine's experience in ensuring food security under conditions of the military situation. Thus, food security should become a key issue in international security. Fourth, improved cooperation and coordination among these actors also require a better understanding of local legal frameworks and systems for responding to food crises and conflicts, as well as local views of peace, and this must be taken into account in the planning and implementation of humanitarian relief operations and the development of national response strategies. Finally, the link between early warning and preventive action, which has been reinforced over the past decade, must be more systematically applied in the context of military conflicts to protect populations and food before these conflicts become a legal reality.

Taking these four key understandings into account can help local communities, national governments, international humanitarian organizations and specialized UN agencies to adopt effective preventive measures. UN specialized agencies have already been engaged in effective preventive and emergency response to food crises in the context of military conflicts, often integrating the approach of peacekeeping into (long-term) food responses to famine and military conflicts.

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ABSTRAKT

Bezpieczeństwo żywnościowe jest obiektywną koniecznością rozwoju ludzkości w warunkach globalizacji, w tym globalizacji rolno-żywnościowej. Pojęcie to staje się krytyczne przy zapewnieniu bezpieczeństwa żywnościowego w warunkach prawa wojskowego. Celem artykułu jest wyjaśnienie i udoskonalenie podstaw teoretycznych i metodologicznych oraz opracowanie praktycznych rekomendacji dotyczących tworzenia systemu bezpieczeństwa żywnościowego Ukrainy, ujawnienie istoty bezpieczeństwa żywnościowego, a także określenie jego miejsca w systemie bezpieczeństwa ekonomicznego państwa i na tej podstawie pogłębienie interpretacji terminu „system bezpieczeństwa żywnościowego” w warunkach wojny. Autorzy utrzymują, że bezpieczeństwo żywnościowe powinno być rozpatrywane z perspektywy jego znaczenia gospodarczego, uwzględniając, że lokalizuje ono możliwości i strategiczne konieczności dobrobytu publicznego. Pod pojęciem systemu bezpieczeństwa żywnościowego w warunkach wojny należy rozumieć ogólny zakres bezpieczeństwa żywnościowego, obejmujący wszystkie działy życia społeczeństwa, a także bezpieczeństwo i jakość produktów żywnościowych, stabilność bezpieczeństwa żywnościowego ludności i niezależność żywnościową. Stwierdzono, że partnerstwo społeczne i solidarność obywatelska w warunkach wojny w zakresie zarządzania rozwojem systemów rolnych i żywnościowych, ochrony środowiska oraz zachowawczego wykorzystania zasobów naturalnych, a także przejrzystość polityki bezpieczeństwa żywnościowego powinny być wbudowane w system zasad jego zapewnienia.

Słowa kluczowe: bezpieczeństwo żywnościowe; prawo wojskowe; konflikt zbrojny; system bezpieczeństwa żywnościowego; samowystarczalność