

Republic of Moldova transitional interim country strategic plan (2022–2023)

Duration	1 September 2022 – 31 August 2023
Total cost to WFP	USD 59,852,708
Gender and age marker	N/A

Executive summary

The onset of the conflict in Ukraine in February 2022 has led to the displacement of millions of people both in and outside of Ukraine, with over half a million people crossing into the Republic of Moldova, and 88,000 (primarily women, children, and elderly) remaining as of June 2022. In response, the Government of Moldova, with the support of WFP and other international and local entities, has stepped up and provided life-saving support to those fleeing the conflict. Local communities have opened their homes and now host most refugees remaining in Moldova.

Moldova remains one of the poorest countries in Europe and has been adversely affected by a series of shocks in recent years, notably the Ukraine conflict, COVID-19 and a 2020 drought which have disrupted supply chains and markets, collectively contributing to sharply increasing food and energy prices and growing food insecurity and poverty. Prior to the conflict, almost a third of the population was suffering from food insecurity and the influx of refugees has added additional strain on the Government and host populations.

WFP has been present in Moldova since March 2022, working under the Ukraine Limited Emergency Operation (February – August 2022) in alignment with the Regional Refugee Response Plan for Ukraine (February – December 2022) to deliver life-saving assistance to refugees and vulnerable Moldovan communities hosting refugees. Under this transitional interim country strategic plan (2022-2023), WFP will continue to support the Government of Moldova with an emergency response to the conflict, while expanding efforts to address structural issues and meet the increasing needs of refugee, host communities and extremely vulnerable Moldovan households. This would entail extending support to targeted crisis-affected host communities to meet their needs and ensure social cohesion among the local population and refugees, while providing capacity and systems strengthening support to the Government. A key aim is to enhance shock-responsive social protection and food systems to ultimately strengthen the ability of the Government to meet the unique needs of at-risk women, men, girls and boys during times of crisis,

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while fostering humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. Efforts under this transitional country strategic plan would align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Moldova (2023 – 2027), the Regional Refugee Response Plan for Ukraine as well as national strategies and plans.

Three inter-linked and mutually reinforcing outcomes are planned that would provide emergency assistance to refugee and crisis-affected Moldovan households, strengthen national capacities and systems, and provide services to partners to enable a coordinated and efficient response. These outcomes would contribute to Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17:

- Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations in Moldova can meet their food and other essential needs throughout the year.
- Outcome 2: The Government of Moldova has enhanced social protection and food security capacities and systems to support vulnerable populations by 2023.
- Outcome 3: Humanitarian and Development partners benefit from services provided to support vulnerable populations in Moldova throughout the year.

1. Country analysis

1.1 Country context

- 1. The Republic of Moldova (hereafter referred to as Moldova) is a land-locked, lower-middle income country¹ in Eastern Europe with a population of over 2.5 million people.² The country has made significant improvements on the Human Development Index (HDI) between 1990 and 2019, increasing from 0.690 to 0.750, driven mainly by significant improvements in life expectancy, education levels and GDP per capita. Moldova currently ranks 90 out of 189 countries, putting it in the "high human development" category.³ Despite progress made, Moldova remains one of the poorest countries in Europe, with the lowest GDP per capita (approximately USD 4,550).⁴ Nearly a third of the working-age population in Moldova works abroad, contributing almost 16 percent to the GDP in remittances in 2020.⁵
- 2. The Ukraine conflict which began in February 2022 has resulted in millions of people fleeing into surrounding countries, including Moldova. Over half a million people are estimated to have fled from Ukraine into Moldova since the start of the conflict, with an estimated 88,000 remaining as of June 2022, primarily women, children, and elderly persons. Moldova currently hosts the highest number of Ukrainian refugees per capita. Despite the high levels of financial and economic constraints and the country's internal vulnerabilities, the Government and people of Moldova have shown an impressive level of solidarity and mobilization, with the Government establishing 79 refugee accommodation centres (RACs) and thousands of Moldovan households hosting and providing assistance to meet the food and essential needs of refugees.⁶ The Ukraine conflict has added additional pressure, however, on an already strained Moldovan economy, which was struggling with limited resources and the compounding effects of a succession of recent shocks and stressors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, and rising energy and fuel costs.
- 3. Food and energy costs have been on the rise over the past year, with annual inflation reaching a record high of 29.1 percent in May 2022, up from 3.2 percent in May 2021.⁷ The Ukraine conflict stands to further exacerbate the economic crisis, pushing more people into food insecurity and poverty in Moldova. In 2020, 12.8 percent of the population was living in poverty, which had been steadily declining from 28.3 percent a decade earlier. A recent

¹ UNCTAD, https://unctad.org/topic/landlocked-developing-countries/work-on-LLDCs

² Moldova Bureau of Statistics Data 2021 https://statistica.gov.md/SDDS/NSDP/

³ UNDP. Human Development Report 2020.

 $^{^4\,}World\,Bank\,Database,\,https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?locations=MD$

⁵ UN Moldova, Common Country Analysis 2020.

⁶ https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine as of 16 June 2022

⁷ 2022 Moldova National Bureau of Statistics https://statistica.gov.md/index.php?l=en

- analysis estimates that between 21 and 32 percent of the population could fall into poverty by the end of the year should inflation continue to rise, particularly affecting already vulnerable populations such as women-headed households, families with three or more children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly.⁸
- 4. Women are particularly vulnerable to poverty, with the Moldovan National Bureau of Statistics estimating that 54 percent of the poor in 2019 were women. Although progress has been made in advancing gender equality, deeply rooted social norms and gender stereotypes continue to shape social relations and gender dynamics and hinder women from achieving equality in the social, political and economics spheres. Moldova ranks 46 out of 162 countries in the Gender Inequality Index (GII) and gender-based violence is pervasive in Moldova. Almost 40 percent of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence, with the incidence of violence higher among women from vulnerable groups, especially women with disabilities, Roma women and those of pre-retirement age. 10
- 5. Prior to the Ukraine conflict, the labour market faced multiple challenges, including low labour productivity and wages, poor quality of employment, informal employment, and labour migration, especially among young people. The main employment sector is the services sector, which employs 57 percent of the labour force (58 percent women and 42 percent men). The participation rate of people with disabilities in the labour force is low, further decreasing from 17.2 percent (2019) to 14 percent (2020). The agricultural sector, which accounts for 12 percent of the GDP and 27 percent of the labour market, has experienced significant shocks over the last year with higher input prices and limited yield due to drought and shocks to markets and value chains, including the Ukraine conflict. The livelihood prospects of refugee women in Moldova are particularly dire, with women having to provide for their families mostly in the absence of men and with a scarcity of childcare support options.
- 6. Low living standards and lack of jobs and income-generating opportunities, especially in rural areas, have led to large-scale emigration, nearly halving Moldova's population since its independence (from 4.35 million in 1992 to 2.59 million in 2021). By 2035 the country's population is projected to fall to two million people due to falling birth rates, with a third of the population projected to be over the age of 60, further deepening the existing labour crisis and increasing the number of people dependent on government safety nets.

1.2 Progress towards the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development

7. Before the Ukraine crisis, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 agenda had seen substantial progress on poverty reduction, decent work and economic growth, climate action and partnerships for development (SDGs 1, 8, 13 and 17). Progress on improving nutrition, health and well-being, gender equality, sustainable energy, industry, innovation, infrastructure, and sustainable cities (SDGs 2, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11) had been more modest. Despite multiple efforts and increased financing across all social areas, there has been less noticeable progress towards enhancement of the quality of education, of water and sanitation, and reduction of inequalities. The Ukraine conflict has already affected economic and food security, and stands to further hinder achievement of the SDG 2030 agenda. More data and monitoring are needed to measure the impact of recent shocks on the achievement of the SDGs.

⁸ UNDP. Moldova: Potential Impacts of Increased Food and Energy Prices on Poverty and Vulnerability. May 2022

⁹ UN Moldova. Common Country Analysis 2020.

¹⁰ UN Women. Moldova Comprehensive Gender Assessment. June 2022.

¹¹ UN Women. "Republic of Moldova: Country Gender Equality Brief", October 2021.

¹² Agriculture Report, Republic of Moldova https://eba.md/app/webroot/uploaded/Agriculture/Agiculture%20Report.pdf

¹³ UN Moldova. Common Country Analysis 2020.

- 8. In March 2022, Moldova applied to become a member of the European Union, and the European Commission has recommended Moldova be granted candidate status upon satisfying a list of conditions. These conditions, if implemented, would advance the achievement of the SDGs in Moldova significantly. Key conditions, among others, include:¹⁴
 - ➤ Increasing capacity to deliver on reforms and provide quality public services, stepping up implementation of public administration reform, and assessing and updating the public administration reform strategy;
 - > Enhancing the involvement of civil society in decision-making processes at all levels; and
 - > Strengthening the protection of human rights, particularly of vulnerable groups, and sustaining its commitments to enhance gender equality and fight violence against women.

1.3 Progress towards SDGs 2 and 17

Progress on SDG 2 targets

- Access to food
- 9. Though limited data is available related to food insecurity, estimates indicate that food insecurity in Moldova has increased significantly over the past years, with 27 percent of the population moderately or severely food insecure in 2019, up from 19 percent in 2015. Food insecurity is primarily attributed to a combination of weak production, affected by climate shocks, and insufficient access to food due to poverty and economic shocks. Rural areas suffer from heightened food insecurity due to lack of income, lack of access to basic services, and higher dependency on agricultural output, which varies depending on climate conditions. Moldova has integrated social protection in its climate plans with a particular focus on ensuring the needs and vulnerabilities of specific groups, such as rural workers, are considered and met.
- 10. Since 2000, Moldova has witnessed, on average, one major climate-related event every three years, especially floods and droughts, which have impacted the availability and quality of food grown in-country. In addition, Moldova imports around 42 percent of its food from Ukraine and, as a landlocked country, relies heavily on Ukrainian trading routes to connect with the rest of the world. Since the start of the conflict, imports and exports have been considerably hindered due to disruptions in supply chains and trading routes, resulting in considerable food price spikes, and exacerbating food insecurity.¹⁶
 - > End malnutrition
- 11. Moldova has made significant progress in preventing malnutrition, with Moldova's 2021 Global Hunger Index score provisionally calculated as 0-9.9 (low) before the Ukraine conflict.¹⁷ Rates of malnutrition have been steadily declining and were at their lowest in 2021, with 2.7 percent prevalence of wasting and 5.4 percent of stunting in children under 5.¹⁸
 - Smallholder productivity and incomes
- 12. Smallholder farmers, 61 percent men and 39 percent women, play an important role in the country's agricultural and rural development, and generate over 62 percent of the total volume

¹⁴ European Commission, "Commission Opinion on the Republic of Moldova's application for membership of the European Union", June 2022.

¹⁵ World Bank Data data.worldbank.org (as of 22 June 2022)

¹⁶ UNDP. Moldova: Potential Impacts of Increased Food and Energy Prices on Poverty and Vulnerability. May 2022

¹⁷ Global Hunger Index 2021. Precise score not available due to limited availability of data.

¹⁸ Ibid.

of agricultural output.¹⁹ Smallholders face multiple challenges in terms of economic profitability and particularly threats posed by climate change and extreme weather events. Farmers continue to use traditional agricultural methods instead of developing more sustainable production methods or implementing environmentally-friendly practices. Moreover, smallholders, especially women, experience difficulties accessing financial capital needed for investment in production technologies, equipment, and inputs.²⁰ The Ukraine conflict has added further strain on smallholder farmers, increasing input prices substantially, while disrupting the supply chain networks with Ukraine and Russia that Moldova relies on to both import most agricultural inputs and export their agricultural products.²¹

Sustainable food systems

13. Moldova is one of the most vulnerable countries in Europe to climate change and has suffered from an increasingly frequent series of weather-related events that have been exacerbated by climate change, including flooding and droughts, which are disastrous for Moldova's primarily rain-fed agriculture. On average, Moldova is exposed to four to five severe droughts and one to two disastrous floods every 10 years, while economic losses from such disasters over the last 10 years have amounted to over USD 50 million.²² Along with COVID-19, the drought in 2020 resulted in a decrease in total agricultural production by almost 30 percent compared with the previous year.²³

Progress on SDG 17 targets

Capacity strengthening

14. Moldova's Ministry of Labour and Social Protection has embarked on extensive social protection reforms to strengthen systems and programmes and their scalability to shocks and other stressors. An estimated 42 percent of the population are covered by at least one social protection benefit (excluding health), against a global average of 53 percent, while only 3.2 percent of the population have active pension coverage. Hey challenges remain, including the low coverage of cash transfer programmes, such as *Ajutor Social*, the anti-poverty programme, and APRA, a top up provided in winter months to support vulnerable households with heating costs, as well as the inadequacy of benefits and provision of services, including labour market interventions. Other challenges include the lack of integrated management information systems and limited technical capacities and human resources, which hamper the effectiveness and efficiency of the social protection system. There is a need to strengthen digitization of the national social protection system as part of administrative reforms, as the current fragmented systems are too rigid and limit necessary shock-responsive actions, including the ability to adjust targeting and transfer values as needed.

Policy coherence

15. In 2018, Moldova approved the National Development Strategy 'Moldova 2030' (NDS) which provides the strategic vision for socio-economic development in Moldova and is based on a set of priority dimensions that measure the quality of life for its population.²⁶ This document serves as a strategic benchmark and framework strategy for all national, regional and local policies, and is aimed at achieving the SDGs and ensuring that no one is left behind in the process.²⁷

¹⁹ FAO. Country Study on Smallholders and Family Farms in Moldova (final draft version). 2018

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ United Nations. Global Impact of War in Ukraine on Food, Energy and Finance Systems. 13 April 2022

²² UN Moldova. Common Country Analysis 2020.

²³ World Bank. Moldova Special Focus Note: Moldova's Vulnerability to Natural Disasters and Climate Risks. May 2021.

²⁴ World Social Protection Report 2020–22, ILO

²⁵ World Bank Social Assistance Special <u>Focus Note</u>. October 2019.

²⁶ Republic of Moldova. The National Development Strategy "Moldova 2030". 2018

²⁷ UN Moldova. United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023-2027).

1.4 Hunger gaps and challenges

- 16. The Ukraine conflict has exacerbated the food insecurity situation for refugee and Moldovan households alike, possibly putting pregnant and lactating women and children under 5 at an increased risk of malnutrition. Humanitarian and development agencies are providing temporary emergency assistance for refugee and crisis-affected Moldovan households through wide-ranging programmes addressing the most pressing needs. With the large focus of support directed towards refugees, over 90 percent of whom are estimated to be hosted in communities, there is an increasing risk of social tensions and xenophobia if the needs of host communities are ignored, or support activities are insufficiently conflict sensitive. Furthermore, the scale and uncertain outlook of the current crisis, with the potential for new refugee arrivals, puts Moldova at risk of further economic and societal shocks and instability, and highlights the need for humanitarian and development agencies to continue to support the Government of Moldova to strengthen local social protection systems and capacities. This will also enable the integration of humanitarian and development programming with Government interventions in the long term.
- 17. At the national level, capacity constraints have rendered food security-related data limited and not disaggregated. Food security monitoring is currently not implemented. Strategies and systems related to food insecurity are limited, and Moldova does not have a strategy for the development of agricultural production and processing to ensure food self-sufficiency in accordance with the national food sector standards.²⁸ The legislative framework and institutional approach for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and mitigation of climate change is fragmented, and there is limited coordination among the relevant stakeholders.²⁹
- 18. The primary anti-poverty social assistance programme in Moldova is *Ajutor Social*, which provides cash transfers to targeted vulnerable groups. However, gaps in coverage remain, and disadvantaged and vulnerable people are often not sufficiently included in social assistance registries. Social assistance is the main source of income for people with disabilities, though transfer values for people with disabilities are lower than those of able-bodied recipients, even though people with disabilities are often less able to access employment opportunities. A lack of disaggregated data at the country and subnational levels in different areas and for different groups contributes to coverage issues and creates problems in ensuring equitable coverage. The scarcity of data and the limited sample size in the existing data sets pose significant challenges for the identification of, and for monitoring the well-being of, those who are furthest behind.³⁰

2. Strategic implications for WFP

2.1 Achievements, lessons learned and strategic changes for WFP

19. WFP has been operational in Moldova since March 2022 under the Ukraine Limited Emergency Operation (LEO) (February-August 2022), when the Government requested assistance to respond to the refugee influx. WFP was able to quickly assess needs and rapidly mobilize funds to provide assistance to 11,000 households (around 45,000 people) in the initial months of the crisis. At the request of the Government, cash assistance was provided to Moldovan households hosting the majority of refugees at a critical time when energy costs were soaring. WFP took over the food assistance to refugees residing in RACs, providing more than 551,000 hot meals to date, and coordinating collective efforts within RACs as the lead of the food security working group, which led to the delivery of over 1 million meals in total (by WFP and partners). Furthermore, logistics assistance was provided free of charge for managing the sorting and distribution of large numbers of unsolicited bilateral donations.

²⁸ LAW No. 306/2018: Food Safety

²⁹ UN Moldova. Common Country Analysis 2020.

³⁰ Ibid.

- 20. Key lessons learned in the first months of implementation included:
 - Adopting an essential needs approach and ensuring the availability and quality of data are essential to fully understanding the needs on the ground and being able to deliver effective assistance;
 - Conducting a beneficiary-centred approach with community-based participatory planning, including through focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and community feedback mechanisms is vital to developing an effective programme design and ensuring protection of beneficiaries representing different age, gender and diversity groups.
 - > Strengthening national shock-responsive social protection systems is needed to enable a swift response to future shocks and crises. WFP had to set up a standalone emergency cash response for the host community, as the existing systems were not able to accommodate the emergency response.
- 21. These lessons learned have informed the development of this transitional interim country strategic plan (T-ICSP), whereby WFP will work to enhance the design of programmes together with communities and the Government, while strengthening national capacities and systems to respond to future emergencies.

2.2 Alignment with national development plans, the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and other frameworks

- 22. This T-ICSP is aligned with the Moldova United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (2023-2027), which has been developed in alignment with NDS 2030, which aims to ensure that by 2030 Moldova is a country where people want to live and where all people fully exercise their human rights and enjoy a better quality of life in a more inclusive and resilient society. It is also in line with the April 2022 Moldovan Ministry of Labour and Social Protection strategy: "Building Social Resilience to Safely Navigate through Turmoil: Five programmes to ensure social stability in the Republic of Moldova".
- 23. The United Nations System and the Government of Moldova together with key stakeholders defined four impact areas and corresponding outcomes which also represent strategic priorities for the UNSDCF: just and inclusive institutions and equal opportunities for human development; participatory governance and social cohesion; enhanced shared prosperity in a sustainable economy; and green development, sustainable communities and disaster and climate resilience. Moldova's T-ICSP aligns with outcomes 1 and 2 of the UNSDCF, in particular in relation to the following outputs:
 - > strengthening the policy and regulatory frameworks and enhancing Government capacity;
 - > strengthening and increasing resilience of systems to respond to emergencies and immediate needs;
 - > increasing in institutional capacity to produce and share quality, disaggregated data and data management systems; and
 - ensuring institutions and organizations provide quality sustainable people-centred service delivery, including in case of shocks and emergencies.
- 24. WFP efforts under the T-ICSP are aligned to the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) for Ukraine (March December 2022), under which WFP will continue to provide support to vulnerable Ukrainian refugees and host communities in Moldova to meet their basic food needs, while also providing services to other humanitarian and development agencies to facilitate their support to vulnerable refugees and crisis-affected people and communities in Moldova.

2.3 Engagement with key stakeholders

25. Since March 2022, WFP has worked in close coordination with key stakeholders, in particular the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, national counterparts, United Nations agencies including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society representatives, the World Bank and donors. Beneficiaries have been consulted on the design of WFP programmes in Moldova through post-distribution monitoring, community feedback mechanisms and a series of community consultations, including for the identification of targeting criteria for vulnerable households. Consultations included beneficiaries across different geographical areas and demographic groups, including women, single mother households with two or more children, the elderly, youth, minority groups and persons with disabilities.

3. WFP strategic portfolio

3.1 Direction, focus and intended impacts

- 26. The overarching aim of this T-ICSP is to meet the critical needs of vulnerable refugee and host communities, while leveraging opportunities to strengthen food systems and render the social protection system more nutrition sensitive, shock-responsive, targeted and efficient.
- 27. A minimum package of services will be provided to the most vulnerable people in Moldova, with contingencies in place to enable WFP to scale-up operations as needed to respond to additional influxes of refugees or other shocks that could result in increasing needs. Though WFP initially provided assistance through the Ukraine LEO to Moldovan households hosting refugees, over the course of this T-ICSP WFP will shift its focus to target crisis-affected Moldovan households at large, including those hosting refugees.
- 28. Efforts will support work across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus to bridge the gap between humanitarian and development assistance with an aim of rendering Moldova more resilient to future shocks, including economic and climate shocks, while providing for the immediate needs of the most vulnerable. To this end, the T-ICSP has been designed to align with the emergency response activated by the Government, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders involved in the response. WFP's strategic direction has been particularly informed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection's April 2022 working strategy on social protection, highlighting the urgency of strengthening its capacities to further improve the provision, inclusiveness and sustainability of services and programmes, and support targeting and digitization efforts as a catalyst for social cohesion and resilience. To achieve this, the T-ICSP has three interrelated outcomes addressing SDGs 2 and 17 in the following areas:
 - 1. emergency response during crises (strategic outcome 1);
 - 2. capacity strengthening for national institutions (strategic outcome 2); and
 - 3. service provision (strategic outcome 3).
- 29. The strategic outcomes are interconnected and mutually reinforcing, with WFP utilizing the national social protection system to transfer entitlements to vulnerable Moldovan households under strategic outcome 1, while increasing the efficiency, targeting and shock responsiveness of the same national social protection system and other agricultural and food systems under strategic outcome 2. Under strategic outcome 3, WFP will offer services, including cash transfers through the same systems, to development and humanitarian partners, who will benefit from efforts carried out under strategic outcomes 1 and 2 to provide better services to targeted vulnerable groups. The approach of working through national systems aims at avoiding the creation of a parallel system, maximizing resources to strengthen the existing national system instead.

30. Targeting that reflects vulnerabilities, protection and equity considerations will help address inequalities, contribute to the reduction of social tensions and foster stability in Moldova. Gender equality, conflict sensitivity, protection and accountability to affected populations (AAP) are mainstreamed across the portfolio.

3.2 T-ICSP Outcomes, focus areas, expected outputs and key activities³¹

T-ICSP Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations in Moldova can meet their food and other essential needs throughout the year

31. T-ICSP outcome 1 focuses on providing immediate relief to vulnerable people and communities during crises, by delivering rapid, cost-effective and nutrition-sensitive assistance where and when it is most needed following targeting that ensures an inclusive and equitable response in coordination and complementarity with national emergency response systems.

Focus area

32. The focus area of this outcome is crisis response.

Alignment with national priorities

33. This outcome is aligned with UNSDCF Outcome 1: "By 2027, institutions deliver human rights, evidence-based and gender-responsive services for all with the focus on those who are left behind". Moreover, the outcome is aligned with the Inter-Agency RRRP for Ukraine (March – December 2022), which emphasizes strengthening the resilience of host communities and building social cohesion with refugees while supporting governments to respond to the immediate needs of refugees.

Expected outputs

- 34. This outcome will be achieved through one output:
 - > Targeted groups receive unconditional transfers to meet their essential needs.

Key activities

Activity 1: Provide emergency cash and voucher transfers to crisis-affected populations.

- 35. WFP will design, implement and monitor cash and voucher transfers to crisis-affected refugees and targeted Moldovan households. Refugees residing in RACs will receive nutritious locally-prepared hot meals, while targeted, vulnerable Moldovan households will receive cash transfers to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the Ukraine conflict and promote social cohesion between refugees and Moldovan host communities. Effort will be made to ensure assistance meets the unique nutritional needs of girls, boys, women and men of all ages, while also empowering women.
- 36. WFP will seek to align both the design and delivery of assistance to Moldovan households, including transfer values and delivery mechanisms, with national social assistance programmes, especially the *Ajutor Social*, through horizontal and vertical expansion. The learnings on beneficiary identification, cash delivery, verification and monitoring processes and tools, and community feedback mechanisms will be embedded into the social protection system. This will form part of efforts to strengthen national tools and mechanisms under outcome two of this T-ICSP.

³¹ Outcomes, activities and outputs have been aligned to WFP's Strategic Plan (2017-2021) since the T-ICSP will commence in 2022 but take into consideration WFP's new Strategic Plan (2022 – 2025), which the plan will be aligned to from 2023.

- 37. Under this activity, contingency measures have been included to enable WFP to respond to an additional influx of refugees in case of an exacerbated security situation in Ukraine. In such a scenario, WFP would deliver one-off value vouchers to refugees at border crossings to ensure their immediate needs are met for the first five days of displacement.
- 38. WFP, in collaboration with the Government, United Nations and NGO partners, will monitor activities to ensure the maintenance of social cohesion between refugees and their hosts, including through advanced targeting approaches, community outreach and communication campaigns, and monitoring the relations between host and refugee communities to track social cohesion gains and identify conflict sensitivity risks. This activity will also promote the financial inclusion of beneficiaries, especially women, by empowering them with financial tools to access markets and control their expenditures on essential needs. This will be complemented with sensitization activities and financial inclusion awareness sessions for the heads of households receiving the assistance. A majority (64 percent) of emergency cash recipients in Moldova under the ongoing Ukraine LEO are women.³²

Partnerships

39. Actions will be coordinated with the Government and humanitarian and development partners, including UNHCR, UNICEF, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). WFP will continue to rely on cooperating partners, ACTED and HelpAge, to provide hot meals in the RACs across Moldova. WFP will collaborate closely with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to ensure the design, implementation and monitoring of the emergency cash transfers are coherent with national systems and capacity, as well as with other social protection interventions and reforms.

Assumptions

- 40. The achievement of T-ICSP outcome 1 assumes:
 - > The security and economic situation in Moldova remains stable;
 - > Adequate funding is received to enable implementation of activities as intended.

Transition/handover strategy

41. A lessons-learned exercise will be undertaken to document the learning from the implementation of emergency cash and voucher transfers in Moldova. This is intended to maximize opportunities for the Government and international agencies, including UNICEF, to take forward learning from the intervention for future programmes, including training to Government agencies and local authorities on promoting social cohesion, working with refugees and communities and tracking conflict sensitivity risks and social cohesion gains. In addition, efforts under outcome 2 of the T-ICSP will work to strengthen the same social protection systems utilized to deliver transfers to vulnerable Moldovans. This is meant to enable Government ownership and the transfer of skills and capacities to the Government upon completion of the T-ICSP.

T-ICSP Outcome 2: The Government of Moldova has enhanced social protection and food security capacities and systems to support vulnerable populations by 2023

Focus area

42. The focus area of this outcome is resilience building.

Alignment with national priorities

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 $^{^{\}rm 32}$ WFP Moldova Post-Distribution Monitoring Results. May 2022

43. T-ICSP outcome 2 is aligned with the UNSDCF Outcome 2: "By 2027, more accountable, and transparent, human rights-based and gender responsive governance empowers all people of Moldova to participate in and to contribute to development processes".

Expected outputs

- 44. This T-ICSP outcome will be achieved through the following output:
 - ➤ The Government receives technical assistance and support from WFP to strengthen components of national emergency preparedness and response, social protection and food systems.

Key activities

- Activity 2: Provide technical assistance to the Government to enhance shock-responsive social protection and food security systems and capacities.
- 45. This activity aims to enhance the shock-responsiveness, effectiveness, coverage, and adequacy of national social protection and food systems, including by ensuring they are sufficiently flexible to address further displacement and other shocks and crises.
- 46. On shock-responsive social protection, WFP, together with UNICEF, UNHCR and other partners, will build on initial work done by the Government to create an interoperable and integrated digital data ecosystem with the capacity to cater to the expansion of beneficiary populations and adapt to different shock scenarios. This will be aligned with the national data protection protocols and in line with WFP's own data privacy requirements.
- 47. Digitalization of the delivery system, setting up and coordinating one cash platform to facilitate the cash assistance to hosting and vulnerable households and supporting the development of a more sophisticated management information system will be critical for scaling-up the capacity and reactivity of *Ajutor Social*. The current system is paper-based and disconnected from other key government social protection information management systems, and therefore limits speed of beneficiary targeting efforts and the ability to address potential duplications.
- 48. WFP will support the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in establishing partnerships and linkages with development partners and the private sector to establish and/or strengthen existing community kitchens across the country, including those in the RACs, to ensure the capacity for the provision of hot meals as part of shock response.
- 49. WFP will work with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to provide technical expertise and assistance on food security and food systems, including improving the quality of data and policies related to agricultural value chains. Regarding food systems, one of the top priorities of the Government and the Ministry of Agriculture is the integration of Moldovan small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and smallholder farmers into global markets, even more so in the face of the current disruptions to supply chains. Together with FAO, the Government has asked WFP to pilot programmatic interventions that strengthen local value chains and facilitate international market assessment for agricultural products. This includes using digital solutions to increase the productivity of SMEs and smallholder farmers and link them with markets. The Government has also requested assistance to re-establish national food reserves, and WFP will provide support here and in other potential areas, as requested and where WFP expertise may be of added value to strengthen food systems and overall food security in Moldova.

Partnerships

50. This activity will be delivered in collaboration between WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Government. Moreover, WFP will collaborate with the IFRC, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), UNDP and the World Bank to support the Government in several aspects of digitization and overall

capacity and systems strengthening to avoid duplication or diversion of efforts and focus attention on time-critical elements of social protection reform. With UNICEF, WFP will focus on the social protection component, while work with UNHCR will focus on providing support to the refugee population. WFP will explore opportunities for south-south and triangular cooperation to share best practices and experiences that can be replicated or adapted in Moldova both in the social protection and agriculture.

51. WFP will support the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to establish a steering committee consisting of all actors involved in social protection reform, including the World Bank, United Nations agencies and IFRC.

Assumptions

- 52. The achievement of T-ICSP outcome 2 assumes:
 - United Nations partners and donors contribute as expected to the activity, with their expertise and funding; and
 - > The Government of Moldova prioritises capacity strengthening efforts of WFP and other partners.

Transition/handover strategy

53. In alignment with Government plans and requests, the work under this activity will further develop the infrastructure supporting the *Ajutor Social* and other social assistance programmes led by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. Capacity strengthening of the Government to implement shock-responsive social protection is the main transition/handover strategy to allow the Government and partner United Nations agencies, especially UNICEF, to take over the implementation of social protection activities in Moldova after the end of the T-ICSP. Interventions planned in support of the Ministry of Agriculture would similarly be handed over to the Government with the support of FAO. Should further WFP expertise be required after the T-ICSP has ended, WFP will assess how best to support, potentially through WFP's regional bureau, headquarters or other means.

T-ICSP Outcome 3: Humanitarian and development partners benefit from services provided to support vulnerable populations in Moldova throughout the year.

Focus area

54. The focus area of T-ICSP outcome 3 is crisis response.

Alignment with national priorities

55. This outcome is aligned with the Inter-Agency RRRP for Ukraine (March – December 2022) as it seeks to ensure effective coordination of partners in Moldova to support host countries efforts and enable partners to deliver assistance to vulnerable populations where needed.

Expected outputs

- 56. T-ICSP outcome 3 will be achieved through the following output:
 - > Partners benefit from on-demand services to support vulnerable populations.

Key activities

Activity 3: Provide on-demand services to partners.

57. A number of humanitarian and development partners in Moldova have expressed interest in receiving WFP services, particularly leveraging WFP expertise in design and implementation of cash-based transfers. This comes as a result of increased demand by the Government for social protection and emergency preparedness support in-country, while other humanitarian and development actors have limited resources and experience with transfers. To this end,

the Government has asked WFP to stay in Moldova beyond the state of emergency to provide expertise and services to local and international organisations.

Partnerships

58. WFP will provide services to all humanitarian and development partners that request assistance, including the United Nations and other international NGOs.

Assumptions

- 59. The achievement of T-ICSP outcome 3 assumes:
 - > Services will be requested by partners over the duration of the T-ICSP; and
 - > Partners have adequate resources to cover the costs of service provision.

Transition/handover strategy

60. WFP will continue to provide services to partners as long as they are required, while building the capacity and strengthening national social protection (and food and cash transfer) systems to enable the Government to carry out transfers efficiently and independently, including as a service provider to humanitarian and development partners as needed.

4. Implementation arrangements

4.1 Beneficiary analysis

- 61. Over the duration of the T-ICSP, WFP will target 315,000 people, including 8,000 refugees living in RACs, 207,000 vulnerable Moldovans, and, based on interagency contingency planning, a contingency of 100,000 refugees. Among refugees who will receive assistance, the majority are women, children, and elderly persons, and 67 percent are women and girls. Among Moldovan households, 55 percent of planned beneficiaries targeted are women and girls, reflecting the importance of addressing inequalities to foster recovery, resilience, and sustained gains in protection.
- 62. The number of Moldovan households targeted has been estimated in consultation with the Government as the number of at-risk Moldovan households adversely affected by the conflict in Ukraine or by the sharp increase in the prices of food and energy that may render them at high risk of falling further into food insecurity and poverty. Targeting criteria for vulnerable host communities will be agreed upon with the Government based on up-to-date analyses and community consultations and managed through the national social protection databases. WFP will prioritize the most vulnerable Moldovan households from the Government social protection database to receive assistance, particularly households with a member with a disability, a member over the age of 60, or with multiple children under 18. Vulnerable Moldovan households who are excluded from social assistance programs will be included through an exceptional registration and case review process managed by WFP and cooperating partners, ensuring no one is left behind. Adopting an AAP approach, WFP will undertake community-based participatory planning, an inclusive community-driven process that ensures that women and men, with and without disabilities, including members belonging to minority groups, are equitably involved in the planning, targeting, and implementation of programmes.

Table 1: Beneficiaries by T-ICSP Outcome, Activity and Modality						
Strategic	Activity	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
Outcome						
1	1 (CBT)	87,637	131,521	44,786	43,056	307,000
	1 (Commodity Vouchers)	804	3,626	1,806	1,764	8,000
TOTAL (wit	hout overlap)	88,441	135,147	46,592	44,820	315,000

4.2 Transfers

- 63. Under activity 1, WFP will provide commodity vouchers to RACs to enable them to purchase ingredients to cook and distribute nutritious hot meals to refugees in the centres for up to 4 months to meet their food and nutrition needs. WFP expects a progressive decrease in the number of refugees hosted in RACs and this assistance is thus expected to be phased down after 4 months. Should needs be higher than expected and the Government request WFP's continued support to RACs, a budget revision would be pursued to extend this assistance accordingly. Should an additional influx of refugees occur, in coordination with the Government and UNHCR, WFP plans to provide value vouchers, redeemable at supermarkets, to newly arrived refugees at the border to meet their immediate food needs for 5 days.
- 64. Moldovan households targeted for assistance under activity 1 will be provided with cash-based transfers (CBT), provided to women and/or men depending on information gathered through gender-sensitive assessments. Transfers will be provided monthly for 6 months, with the transfer value preliminarily set at 60 USD per household and aligned, where possible, to other humanitarian and development actors and Government safety net values to enable households to meet their essential needs and facilitate eventual handover of the programme to the Government. WFP may adjust the transfer value and the number of transfers in alignment with Government priorities.
- 65. Beneficiaries will initially receive their cash entitlement to their bank accounts via the preselected local financial service provider (bank). For the medium to longer term and to align to existing systems, WFP will transition towards utilizing an enhanced with WFP support Government delivery mechanism to facilitate the transfers. Utilizing existing national systems and infrastructure will maximize reach and ensure ease of collecting assistance especially in rural areas, while ensuring sustainability and effectiveness. Procedures for identifying and mitigating protection risks include training of staff, integration of relevant messages through sensitization and awareness raising, safe and accessible community feedback mechanisms, referral pathways with specialized actors, adoption of SEA prevention and response measures, consultations with diverse stakeholders and safe distribution principles.

4.3 Country office capacity and profile

- 66. WFP has been operational in Moldova since March 2022 with a multidisciplinary national and international team of staff equipped with the skills to respond to the operational needs outlined under the Ukraine LEO. To facilitate WFP operations under the T-ICSP, particularly the capacity strengthening components under outcome 2, WFP will add new positions to boost its capacity and support the Government in the area of social protection, food security analysis and monitoring, and food systems strengthening.
- 67. WFP will continue to prioritise the recruitment of local staff to enhance the programme and strengthen the skills and capacity of qualified staff in Moldova to ensure operational sustainability. Particular attention will be paid to gender parity in line with corporate guidelines. WFP will continue to enhance staff wellness, safety and security as key priorities while promoting a diversified, safe, respectful, inclusive, and conducive work environment. WFP will continue to enhance staff wellness, safety and security as key priorities while

promoting a diversified, safe, respectful, inclusive, accessible and conducive work environment in line with the corporate guidance.

4.4 Partnerships

- 68. WFP will continue its strategic partnerships with the Moldovan Government and humanitarian and development agencies present in Moldova. WFP is considered a key partner by the Government, including local and national institutions, and has been asked to stay in-country beyond the first phase of operations ending in August 2022 to support vulnerable Moldovan families and facilitate the overall emergency response. As the impact of the conflict in Ukraine deepens and its effects spread through Moldova, a key aspect of the partnership with the Government under the T-ICSP will be capacity strengthening. To this end WFP will coordinate with other United Nations agencies and organisations contributing to the national social protection and food security agendas.
- 69. The fruitful collaboration with other United Nations agencies has already commenced as WFP works to conduct joint planning with UNHCR and UNICEF for the provision of emergency cash assistance to crisis-affected populations and the integration of shock responsiveness into the national social protection system. WFP plans to work closely with FAO and IFAD to strengthen food security information and local food systems and value chains as requested by the Government.
- 70. WFP has partnership agreements with national and international NGOs in Moldova and will continue close engagement and capacity strengthening, drawing on partners' comparative advantages and expertise to inform programming. WFP is working with IFRC to provide technical assistance to the Government to improve digital information management systems and potentially provide them with cash transfer services, which will be offered to all humanitarian and development entities in Moldova over the course of the T-ICSP.
- 71. Partnerships will continue to be fostered through WFP's leadership of the food security working group, and WFP will continue to coordinate its cash and voucher interventions with other actors under cash and livelihoods working groups, including cooperating partners and private sector partners, to harmonize assistance and improve the delivery and management of CBT.

5. Performance management and evaluation

5.1 Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

- 72. WFP's gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation system in Moldova will be aligned with WFP's Corporate Results Framework. A monitoring, review and evaluation plan has been developed to ensure that all process, output and outcome indicators (with data disaggregated by age, sex and disability) are monitored within specified timeframes.
- 73. A lessons learned exercise will be conducted and the necessary resources allocated to measure progress towards achieving the objectives set out in the T-ICSP. Programme implementation will be adjusted using findings from WFP monitoring and joint monitoring undertaken with other United Nations agencies, NGOs, cooperating partners, donors and national authorities. A rapid Privacy Impact Assessment was conducted in March 2022 to understand the technology maturity status within Moldova, ensure a do no harm approach, and ensure protection standards for beneficiaries' data.
- 74. On-site output and process data collection will be regularly conducted by WFP field monitors in accessible locations and by third-party monitors wherever access by WFP staff is limited. The programme will also be monitored through post-distribution monitoring data collection at the household level. To complement on-site monitoring, WFP will conduct regular remote monitoring using various mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping technologies supported by WFP's Mobile Operational Data Acquisition system and data analysis software for fast and

- efficient feedback. The existing community feedback mechanism will be scaled-up to allow data collection throughout the year to monitor the general food security and nutrition situation in selected hotspots across the country.
- 75. To strengthen WFP's accountability mechanisms, the call centre will operate a hotline to offer beneficiaries direct access to information and collect feedback, issues and complaints, ensuring they are addressed in a timely manner. CFM works on a continuous improvement basis, with all new cases added to the standard intake form and database to monitor and track resolution of cases as well as monitor trends in the local community's informational and support needs. All CFM cases are addressed on a 100 percent resolution basis, resolving most cases immediately and escalating others internally or externally to address all complaints and feedback in a timely manner. The CFM also enables strategic and operational decision making, providing continuous analysis and recommendations to ensure AAP through WFP operations.

5.2 Risk management

Strategic risks

- 76. The conflict in Ukraine is ongoing and the future uncertain: events in Ukraine may lead to a significantly increased flow of refugees into Moldova. WFP has included contingency measures in this T-ICSP that will enable a swift response to a sudden increase in needs in coordination with the government. WFP has worked together with other agencies to establish an interagency contingency plan to strengthen emergency preparedness and disaster management capacities in Moldova.
- 77. Further, the possibility of a spill-over of the conflict into Moldova could negatively impact WFP's ability to operate in-country (at least on a temporary basis) and potentially lead to a significant increase in needs. WFP will continue to monitor the situation to ensure programme continuity/adaptation and the safety and well-being of staff, partners and beneficiaries alike are maintained.
- 78. Funding shortfalls could force WFP to reduce the number of beneficiaries targeted to receive assistance or reduce support to Government-requested capacity strengthening activities. Either of which could affect WFP's reputation and relationships with communities, government and the humanitarian ecosystem. To mitigate this risk, WFP has scaled-up its advocacy and partnerships efforts. WFP will also develop a prioritization plan in order to ensure that available funds are directed to the most vulnerable households.

Operational risks

- 79. The Ukraine conflict continues to disrupt local supply chains and increase prices of food and fuel. WFP will use cash and voucher modalities to mitigate the risks associated with food procurement but will continue to monitor food and fuel prices on the local market to ensure transfer values are sufficient to meet the needs of vulnerable refugees and host communities. As a mitigation measure, WFP has budgeted transfer values in US Dollars, given the higher stability of the US currency. WFP will retain the ability to adjust transfer values as needed, and in line with the cash working group and Government, to meet the needs of vulnerable populations.
- 80. WFP efforts to strengthen information systems under outcome two of the T-ICSP comes with associated data protection risks. WFP will ensure appropriate measures are taken to ensure clear mapping and agreement of optimized processes to enhance data protection, and engagement of government and other key actors to establish ownership from the outset and enable transition.

Fiduciary risks

81. WFP will make all necessary efforts to train staff and partners to prevent SEA as well as other negative practices that may affect beneficiaries and damage established trust relations or WFP's reputation. WFP will provide information and deliver workshops to relevant actors to ensure transparency and accountability, and alignment to WFP standards and regulations. In addition, Moldovan households will be targeted remotely and receive assistance through existing social protection databases, limiting the opportunities for SEA. Together with partners and in line with WFP's commitment to AAP, WFP will place greater emphasis on ensuring refugees in RACs or those hosted in Moldovan households are safe. The primary community feedback mechanism, the WFP hotline, will be used to refer protection issues to the relevant entities or agencies to be promptly addressed.

5.3 Social and environmental safeguards

82. WFP is committed to ensuring social and environmental safeguards are in place and implementing conflict sensitive programming. All proposed activities have been screened for social and environmental safeguards to ensure WFP does no harm. WFP has mitigation measures in place and will endeavour to address risks of exclusion and discrimination at all levels including social discrimination, power structures, vulnerability, age, disability and gender. WFP will explore the possibility of using an environmental management system to mitigate any potential negative environmental impacts from WFP's support operations, focusing on energy efficiency and decarbonisation, waste/water management, sustainable procurement, and staff awareness. WFP will continue to encourage remote meeting solutions to reduce emissions from air travel.

6. Resources for results

6.1 Country portfolio budget

- 83. The budget for this T-ICSP amounts to USD 59,397,010. The bulk of the budget (84 percent) falls under outcome 1, whereby WFP will provide direct assistance to vulnerable refugees and host communities. The remainder of the budget falls under outcome 2 (3 percent) for capacity and systems strengthening efforts, and outcome 3 (13 percent), where most funds are cash transfer entitlements which WFP will process on behalf of other partners. Transfers are planned to start immediately from September 2022 and thus the bulk of the budget under outcome 1 has been allocated to 2022.
- 84. In alignment with WFP's commitment to ensuring activities contribute to gender equality, gender-related costs represent 2.4 percent of the budget.

COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN INDICATIVE ANNUAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT (USD)					
Strategic Outcome	Activity	Year 1 2022	Year 2 2023	TOTAL	
Strategic Outcome 1	01	31 831 699	18 497 921	50 329 619	
Strategic Outcome 2	02	741 835	1 286 638	2 028 473	
Strategic Outcome 3	03	2 490 315	5 004 300	7 494 615	
TOTAL		35 063 849	24 788 859	59 852 708	

6.2 Resourcing outlook and strategy

- 85. WFP's resource mobilization strategy is built on three pillars and involves close collaboration with donors. First, WFP will continue to engage its donor partners through regular consultations, regular reporting of results, demonstrating cost efficiencies and operational developments to foster increased confidence and support to strengthen partnerships. WFP will advocate with donors to increase the level of flexible and unearmarked funding, to allow the flexibility necessary to respond to the emergency.
- 86. Second, WFP will engage the Government of Moldova in joint advocacy efforts to demonstrate government buy-in, strengthen appeals and further donor partnerships for collective results. WFP will seek opportunities to coordinate its programming with other United Nations entities and international NGOs to advocate for joint resource mobilization. Joint fundraising efforts carried out with UNICEF and UNHCR, for example, will demonstrate cost effectiveness and the best use of limited resources.
- 87. Third, WFP will work to diversify its donor base, reaching out to new potential donors, namely, development-focused donors, international financial institutions, the private sector, and foundations.

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Director and Director-General of FAO are requested to approve the proposed Republic of Moldova transitional interim country strategic plan (2022 – 2023).

Annex I: Republic of Moldova cash-based transfer value (USD/person/day) by CSP Outcome and Activity

Cash-based transfer value (US\$/person/day) by CSP Outcome and Activity				
CSP Outcome	CSP Outcome 1			
Activity	Activity 1			
Beneficiary type	Vulnerable Moldovan Households	Refugees	Refugees (contingency)	
Modality (food or cash)	Cash	Commodity vouchers	Value vouchers	
cash (US\$/person/day; use average as needed)	0.87	1.89	10.50	
Number of feeding days per year	180	120	5	

Annex II: Total food/cash-based transfer requirements and value

Total food/cash-based transfer requirements and value				
Food type/cash-based transfer	Total (<i>mt</i>)	Total (USD)		
Cash-based transfers (USD)		39 463 333		
TOTAL (food and value – USD)		39 463 333		

Annex III: Indicative cost breakdown by CSP Outcome

Indicative cost breakdown by CSP Outcome (<i>USD</i>)					
SDG targets/ WFP Strategic outcomes	SDG 2 target #/ WFP Strategic Outcome 1	SDG 2 target#/ WFP Strategic Outcome 2	SDG 2 target#/ WFP Strategic Outcome 3	Total	
CSP Outcomes	CSP Outcome 1	CSP Outcome 2	CSP Outcome 3		
Focus area	Crisis Response	Resilience	Crisis Response		
Transfer	42 281 541	1 700 000	7 000 000	50 981 541	
Implementation	2 486 207	102 055	89 728	2 677 989	
Direct support costs	2 490 111	102 615	404 888	2 997 614	
Subtotal	47 257 858	1 904 670	7 494 615	56 657 143	
Indirect support costs	3 071 761	123 804	0	3 195 564	
TOTAL	50 329 619	2 028 473	7 494 615	59 852 708	

Annex IV: Acronyms

AAP accountability to affected populations

CBT cash-based transfers
DRR disaster risk reduction

FAO The Food and Agriculture Organization

GDP Gross domestic product
GII Gender Inequality Index

GIZ The German Agency for International Cooperation

HDI Human Development Index

IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development

IFRC The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

LEO limited emergency operation NDS National Development Strategy NGO non-governmental organization **RACs** refugee accommodation centres **RRRP** Regional Refugee Response Plan SDG Sustainable Development Goal SEA sexual exploitation and abuse SME small and medium enterprises

T-ICSP transitional interim country strategic plan
UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNSDCF United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework