



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

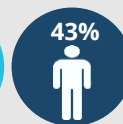
WFP Moldova Country Brief October 2023



In Numbers

3,254 people assisted.

in October 2023



USD 765,716 cash-based transfers made for hot meals, refugee-hosting households and for snacks provided at the border

USD 3.7 m six months net funding requirements (November 2023 - April 2024)

Operational Context

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. Since then, more than 875,000 Ukrainians crossed into the Republic of Moldova, of whom 106,317 still remain, according to [UNHCR](#). In response, the Government of Moldova, with the support of international and local entities, has stepped up and provided life-saving support to those people fleeing the conflict.

Moldova is one of the countries most affected by the war in Ukraine, not only due to its physical proximity but also because of its inherent vulnerabilities as a small, landlocked economy with close linkages to both Ukraine and Russia. The influx of refugees to Moldova has resulted in additional fiscal costs, squeezing resources for long-term development priorities. The large influx of refugees has also created a challenging socioeconomic environment in the medium term, especially if many migrants remain but fail to find employment opportunities.

Heavy reliance on imports to meet food and energy needs has left Moldova vulnerable to disruptions in the supply of food, energy, and commodity imports from Ukraine and Russia. Additionally, Moldova continues to rely substantially on natural gas imported from Russia to power its energy needs. Import disruptions are expected to further increase price pressures, in turn eroding the competitiveness of firms and household incomes, especially for the poor.

WFP has been in Moldova since March 2022 to deliver life-saving assistance to more than 3,000 refugees and 6,000 vulnerable Moldovan households hosting refugees. In September 2022, WFP Moldova launched its Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP) 2022- 2023, followed by a Budget Revision approved in July 2023 to extend the duration until February 2024. The T-ICSP focused on assisting the Government of Moldova in supporting refugee and host communities while strengthening the country's local social protection systems and capacities.

Population: **2.6 million**

Income Level: **upper-middle- income**

Inequality Index: **0.205, ranking it 51 out of 170**

2021 Human Development Index: **80 out of 191**



Operational Updates

- WFP continues to provide three hot meals daily to refugees in Refugee Accommodation Centres (RAC) in Moldova. In October, 3,254 refugees in 44 RACs received support through WFP's cooperating partners. Where government-approved kitchen facilities are available, WFP offers commodity vouchers worth 100 Moldovan Leu (MDL) per person (approximately USD 5). In addition, 546 people received snacks at the border.
- WFP continues to contribute to strengthening the social protection systems in Moldova in partnership with Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP). WFP conducted an analysis to strengthen MLSP's overall risk compliance in the existing national social cash-assistance programmes, with a focus on "Ajutor Social" (the social assistance payment for vulnerable Moldovans living below or at the poverty line). WFP is also working with MLSP to identify opportunities to enhance the capacities of central and local institutions through trainings and technical guidance.

Monitoring and evaluation

- In October, monthly spot check visits were conducted in nine Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) to assess the beneficiaries' satisfaction with the hot meals provided. The data analysis covers a total of 84 beneficiary refugee interviews from September and October. 82 percent of the interviews were conducted with a female refugee. Monitoring findings confirmed steadily high assistance satisfaction of the refugees, with the highest levels reported on the number of meals provided and portion size. Of the surveyed respondents, 96 percent confirmed that the provided food met their needs. Most refugees purchase some extra food items, primarily sweets for children, fruits, and dairy products. Preparations for the outcome of the post-distribution monitoring (PDM) survey in the RACs were finalized in October with data collection taking place in November in 30 RACs with a goal of reaching 200 beneficiary interviews.

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Photo Caption: Tamara (39) a refugee mother from Ukraine of two from Herson currently residing at Chisinau RAC #35 ©WFP/ WFP Moldova

WFP Country Strategy

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan
(September 2022 – February 2024)

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
86 m	66 m
2023 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (November 2023 – April 2024)
38 m	3.7 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

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

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide emergency cash and voucher transfers to crisis-affected populations

Strategic Result 2: Capacity strengthening

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

Focus area: Resilience

Activities:

- Provide technical assistance to the Government to enhance shock-responsive social protection and food security systems and capacities

Strategic Result 3: Enhance Global Partnerships

Strategic Outcome 3: Humanitarian and Development partners benefit from services provided to support vulnerable populations in Moldova throughout the year.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- Provide on-demand services to partners

WFP Technical Support on Digitalisation to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection

Upon the request of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP), WFP supported the Government in driving the Digitalization Workgroup activities as part of the national reform agenda.

WFP coordinated the UN and other partners' technical teams and provided Project Management and Information Technology advisory and technical expertise in pursuit of the objectives of the Digital Transformation Agenda for the Ministry as part of the workstream.

WFP also designed and created an Information Systems evaluation toolkit to be used during the Social Protection Information Systems evaluation. The evaluation will be a key contributor to the design of future information systems that will improve the accessibility of services, enhance data management and system interoperability,

and improve targeting, monitoring and reporting while ensuring beneficiaries receive accurate, timely and adequate assistance.

In addition, WFP's regional and global technical experts conducted a mission to support the development of the digital transformation agenda. The mission involved reviewing the WFP action plan in support of the government's digital transformation plans under RESTART reforms. The mission members had meetings with UN Agencies and Ministries and formulated a set of technical concept notes to guide further support to the agenda.

European Union's ECHO Supports WFP's Efforts to Aid Ukrainian Refugees and Moldovans in Moldova



On 28 October WFP Moldova facilitated part of the visit of Mr Maciej Popowski, Director General, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), to Moldova. This visit included meetings with State Officials and Heads of UN Agencies, highlighting the significant partnership and commitment towards supporting Ukrainian refugees in the region.

During his visit, Director General Popowski toured the Provisional Base Sanatorium "Constructorul", which is now functioning as a Refugee Accommodation Centre (RAC) in Chişinău.

The visit to the RAC allowed the delegation to observe the centre's facilities, including its main kitchen and spacious canteen, both essential for catering well-balanced, healthy meals for the refugees. The RAC, initially founded in 1962 and adapted during the COVID-19 pandemic, has been pivotal in accommodating over 1,000 refugees since the onset of the crisis, providing them with dignified living conditions that include private rooms and access to shared kitchens.

Donors

European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, Total Energies Foundation

Photo Caption: ECHO Delegation visiting Chisinau RAC # 35 with WFP Representative and RAC Manager. WFP/ WFP Moldova