



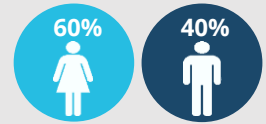
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Moldova Country Brief December 2023



In Numbers



20,841 people assisted in December 2023

US\$ 3.1 m distributed through cash-based transfers

US\$ 3.1 m six months (January - June 2024) net funding requirements

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, over 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, provided life-saving support to people fleeing the conflict.

Moldova is one of the countries most affected by the war in Ukraine, due to its physical proximity and 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 created a challenging socioeconomic environment in the medium term, especially if many migrants remain unemployed.

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 for powering its energy needs. Import disruptions are expected to further increase price pressures, in turn eroding competitiveness of firms and household incomes, especially for the poor.

WFP has been present in Moldova since March 2022 to deliver life-saving assistance to refugees and vulnerable Moldovan households hosting refugees. In September 2022, WFP Moldova launched its Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP) 2022- 2023, then extended the duration until February 2024.

The T-ICSP continues to assist 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**

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

Inequality Index: 0.205, ranking it 51 out of 170 countries in 2021



Operational Updates

- WFP continues to provide three hot meals daily to Ukrainian refugees in Refugee Accommodation Centres (RAC) in Moldova. In December **2,466** refugees across 42 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). Additionally, **363** people received snacks at the border.

WFP with Government and UN partners expand assistance in Moldova to boost social protection

- WFP is collaborating with Moldova's Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) to expand its cash assistance. WFP is also partnering with key UN agencies to enhance the effectiveness of the social protection system and expedite progress towards [the reform agenda](#).

This winter, WFP is supporting the most vulnerable Moldovans with cash assistance to cover basic needs, such as food and energy costs. The goal is to offer immediate cash relief and establish long-term, robust social protection systems. This includes digitalizing databases, providing intensive training to social workers, and offering technical assistance for capacity strengthening.

This initiative provides immediate cash assistance to over 67,000 people, including 56,236 pensioners, over 3,000 families caring for children with severe disabilities, more than 7,000 families with disabled members, and over 1,000 pregnant or breastfeeding women with children



Minister of Labour and Social Protection, Alexei Buzu, and heads of UN agencies supporting the programme for vulnerable Moldovans and social protection capacity strengthening

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(Top) Photo Caption: Cook preparing lunch for refugees residing RAC#12@WFP/ WFP Moldova

under 13 months.

WFP Country Strategy

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (September 2022 – August 2023)

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
86 m	70 m
2023 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (January 2024– June 2024)
38 m	3.1 m

Strategic Result 1: 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 Partnership

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

Monitoring

In December, WFP and its monitoring partner visited 271 refugee-hosting households to conduct a post-distribution monitoring survey at the outcome level.

Consistent with previous monitoring surveys, around half of these households were hosting refugees who are their relatives. The number of refugees hosted in each household ranged from 1 to 7, with almost half hosting 2 or 3 refugees.

The beneficiary households' satisfaction levels with the assistance remains high, and assistance has helped them maintain stable food security. Food consumption is primarily at acceptable level. When resources are scarce, households occasionally rely on less preferred but cheaper food. Around half of the surveyed respondents had used their savings. The hosting households allocate nearly half of the cash for utility bills, while slightly over a quarter use it to purchase food.

Around 90 percent reported that the extra money helps reduce stress. An even larger proportion feels that cash

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assistance eases their financial burden. This situation reflects the diversity of the hosts' backgrounds, with almost two-thirds having just one income earner. Half of the hosting households include a pensioner, while slightly more than half derive their income from formal salaried work.

In December, WFP and UNFPA trained some 3,500 employees across 32 public institutions at central and local levels on Data Management for Budgetary and Policy Frameworks as well as on Gender-based Violence and Case Management. WFP monitored 15 of these training sessions and developed a satisfaction survey for all the participants. Analysis of responses from over 1,500 training participants revealed that nearly all found the trainings useful and relevant to their day-to-day jobs. The overall satisfaction rate was exceptionally high.

Embassy of Canada delegation visits Chisinau RAC Centre

WFP Moldova arranged a field visit to the Chisinau refugee centre for the elderly and people with disabilities for a delegation headed by Ms Katelynn Wynen, representing the Canadian Embassy in Romania.

Since February 2022, the RAC in the centre has accommodated 252 Ukrainian refugees, the majority of whom are elderly people and refugees with disabilities. These beneficiaries receive three hot meals per day, adjusted to their health conditions, which are prepared on-site. The RAC management uses WFP food vouchers to purchase necessary products. Additionally, the refugees have access to free medical consultations, as this service is available on-site.

During the visit, the delegation had the opportunity to meet people living in the accommodation centre, and talk to them about their current situation, the challenges they face and their future plans.



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 Credit: Canadian Embassy representative together with WFP Moldova Country Director meeting a Ukrainian refugee residing in Chisinau RAC #12, ©WFP/ WFP Moldova