



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Moldova Country Brief September 2024



### In Numbers



**14,353 people** assisted in September 2024

**USD 1.5** in September was disbursed for hot meals and border snacks for new arrivals and for refugee-hosting households

**USD 15.9 million** six months net funding requirements (October 2024 – March 2025)

### Operational Context

The onset of the war in Ukraine in February 2022 has led to the displacement of millions of people both in and outside of Ukraine. Over 1.1 million Ukrainians crossed into the Republic of Moldova (Thereinafter “Moldova”), of whom 123,000 still remain in the country, according to UNHCR. In response, the Government of Moldova, with the support of international and local entities, has stepped up and provided life-saving assistance to those people fleeing the conflict.

Moldova continues to be affected by the war in Ukraine due to its physical proximity and its inherent vulnerabilities as a small, landlocked economy with reliance on imports from both Ukraine and the Russian Federation for basic needs. This has left Moldova vulnerable to disruptions in the supply of food, energy, and commodity imports - affecting local markets, and competitiveness and directly impacting households’ incomes and buying capacity, especially for most vulnerable households.

Additionally, the influx of refugees to Moldova has increased fiscal costs, squeezing resources for long-term development priorities. The large refugee influx creates a challenging socioeconomic environment, where continued efforts are made by the Government and partners to balance the inclusion and integration of refugees.

WFP Interim Country Strategic Plan ICSP (2024-2026) focuses on assisting the most vulnerable population groups while transitioning from delivering emergency response to strengthening sustainable Government social protection systems, equipped with a capacity to respond to crises, even after WFP departs from Moldova. By channeling the support through Moldovan systems, WFP provides technical assistance aligned with Government efforts to enhance transparency and accountability. Cash assistance to most vulnerable populations also contributes to economic growth - increasing household purchasing power, stimulating local demand and boosting the local market, also contributing to social cohesion.

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 continued to provide three hot meals daily to refugees in Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) in Moldova. In September, this support reached 1,529 refugees in 28 RACs. Where Government-approved kitchen facilities are available, WFP offers commodity vouchers worth Moldovan Leu (MDL) 100 (~USD 5) per person per day to purchase food for onsite cooking. In situations where kitchens are not available, catering services are contracted.
- WFP is adjusting its support to RACs in alignment with the consolidation strategy of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP). In September, the transition from catering to on-site cooking at the RAC in Bulboaca, Anenii Noi required rehabilitation of cooking facilities to enable on site food preparation and led to significant cost reductions, achieving a decrease of 82 percent in expenses for September compared to August. Such reduction of financial burden is part of the exit strategy whereby WFP would hand over RACs management to local authorities. The transition to a voucher system also helps reduce the number of contracts and partners to manage, aligning with WFP’s long-term vision.
- WFP continued to support the distribution of food at borders to Ukrainians refugees entering Moldova. In September, 270 snacks and hot meals was distributed.
- WFP continues to distribute bi-monthly cash-based assistance to Moldovan households hosting Ukrainian refugees offsetting some of the accommodation costs. In September the 15th round of support was carried out, providing assistance to 4,858 households with a total amount of USD 1.1 million. Households hosting 1 to 4 refugees received MDL 3,900 (USD 217) and those hosting more than four refugees received MDL 4,800 (USD 268).

**Contact info:** Victoria Pacalo ([Victoria.pacalo@wfp.org](mailto:Victoria.pacalo@wfp.org))  
**Representative and Country Director:** Katrien Ghoois  
**Further information:** [www.wfp.org/countries/moldova](http://www.wfp.org/countries/moldova)

**Photo Caption:** Dorina, RAC Manager at Popeasca Refugee Accommodation Centre, Stefan Voda. ©WFP/ WFP Moldova

## WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (March 2024 – February 2026)	
Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
60 m	23 m
2024 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (October 2024 – March 2025)
38 m	15.9m

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Crisis-affected populations in Moldova, including refugees, are able to meet their food and other essential needs throughout the year.

**Focus area:** Crisis response

#### Activities:

- Provide food assistance to refugees and other crisis-affected populations.

### Strategic Result 2: Capacity strengthening

**Strategic Outcome 2:** The Government of Moldova has enhanced capacities and programmes to support the essential needs of vulnerable populations by 2026 **Focus area:** Resilience building

#### Activities:

- Provide assistance to national institutions on social protection, including through transfers to targeted populations.

### Strategic Result 3: Enhance Global Partnerships

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Humanitarian and development actors in Moldova have improved capacities to prepare for and respond to emergencies throughout the year. **Focus area:** Crisis Response

#### Activities:

- Provide on-demand services to humanitarian and development actors.

## Monitoring

- During August and September, process monitoring was conducted at a total of 14 RACs. The number of Ukrainian refugees hosted in the 14 RACs decreased by 9 percent from August to September.
- Three of the 14 RACs reported either a stable number of refugees or a slight increase, while the remaining eleven saw an average decline of 10 percents. RAC Managers attributed this decrease to refugees temporarily traveling to Ukraine, with others returning from Ukraine closer to the start of the school year.
- In September, WFP continued to conduct spot checks<sup>1</sup> on activities and interviewed a total of 43 refugees residing in RACs. Results from the interviews revealed that 33 percent of responding Ukrainian refugees expressed concerns about potential homelessness when asked about their plans in the event of an RAC closure. Nearly 23 percent stated they would consider

<sup>1</sup> These are spot checks and do not represent a statistically significant sample size.

returning to Ukraine. Others indicated seeking their own accommodation (16 percent), moving abroad (9 percent), seeking to stay in another RAC (7 percent) or seeking other hosting possibilities (5 percent). The remaining 7 percent were uncertain about their plans.

## WFP's Shock-Responsive Social Protection workshop: Enhancing the capacity of Moldovan Government.

- Under Strategic Outcome 2 of its Interim Country Strategic Plan, WFP aims to enhance the capacity of the Government of Moldova to deliver humanitarian cash in case of emergencies.
- An assessment of specific elements of shock-responsive social protection (SRSP) in Moldova, using WFP's tools, was conducted by WFP Regional Bureau in July and August. The focus was on flood and drought disaster scenarios as well as refugee displacement. The assessment identified opportunities to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration between the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) and Ministry of Internal Affairs in consideration of MLSP's capacity to deliver emergency cash transfer.
- In September, an SRSP workshop was conducted to review and compare the findings with past emergencies such as COVID and the more recent refugee crisis. As a result, a roadmap will be defined with all relevant stakeholders, including Standard Operating Procedures for the national delivery of emergency cash transfers using MLSP-managed delivery platforms. The workshop was attended by 17 participants, representatives of the MLSP, the Civil Protection Agency, the Regional Offices of Social Services, and the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations.



## Donors

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