



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Moldova Country Brief November 2024



In Numbers



61,284 people assisted in November 2024

USD 5.8 million disbursed in November for hot meals and border snacks, for new arrivals; refugee-hosting households and for vulnerable Moldovans population.

USD 6.3 million six months net funding requirements (December 2024 –May 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 Moldova¹, 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, 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 inclusion and integration of refugees.

WFP Interim country strategic plan ICSP (2024-2026) focuses on assisting 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**

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



Operational Updates

- WFP continued the provision of three hot meals daily to refugees in Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) in Moldova. In November, WFP supported **1,532 refugees** in **25 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.
- The Ministry Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) established a consolidation strategy to reorganize and enhance the operations of the RACs. In 2024, **17 RACs** were closed. The latest closed RAC was in Chisinau housing over **100 refugees**, mostly Roma. WFP continued to support MLSP with necessary assessments of RAC-refugees relocation. 25 percent of the hosted refugees accessed the Cash for Rent program, 14 percent relocated to other European countries and other 56 percent, were relocated to other RACs in Cojusna, Glodeni, Carpineni, Mihaleni and Nisporeni.
- WFP distributed **203 snacks and hot meals** to Ukrainian refugees entering Moldova through Palanca and Otaci borders.
- WFP continued to distribute bi-monthly cash-based assistance to Moldovan households hosting Ukrainian refugees offsetting some of the accommodation financial burden. In November, the 16th round of support was carried out, assisting **4,864 households (12,155 beneficiaries)** with a total amount of **USD 1.08 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).
- For the third consecutive year, WFP under MLSP guidance and in partnership with IOM continued to provide temporary cash-based assistance to support vulnerable Moldovan households, which includes pensioners and households caring for a child with disability. **In November, WFP assisted 47,394 individuals** through cash assistance, to help cover basic needs, such as food and energy costs. The cash assistance provides financial autonomy and promotes dignity.

¹ Thereinafter "Moldova"

WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (March 2024 – February 2026)

| Total Requirements (USD) | Total Received (USD) |
|--------------------------|--|
| 60 m | 34 m |
| 2024 Requirements (USD) | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (December 2024 – May 2025) |
| 38.2 m | 6.3 m |

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 and evaluation

In September, WFP conducted an outcome monitoring survey assessing refugee-hosting households who received the 15th round of cash assistance. Key findings showed the following results:

- **Participation:** 12 percent of the households have benefitted from all rounds of assistance.
- **Spending Trends:** Seasonal shifts were observed; spending on utilities dropped from 56 to 34 percent, while spending on food increased from 27 to 35 percent.
- **Essential Needs and Coping Strategies:** 84 percent of households reported meeting essential needs; however, 78 percent employed food-related coping strategies in the past weeks. Crisis coping mechanisms nearly doubled in rural areas compared to April 2024 and September 2023 surveys, while urban trends remained stable. Coping mechanisms included reducing health, education and accommodation expenditures, and selling productive assets.
- **Food Security:** The acceptable food consumption score has improved by 5 percent since April 2024 and by 1

percent since September 2023. Food insecurity persists in rural areas, but no emergency coping strategies were implemented or needed.

- **Economic Empowerment:** For the first time, the survey assessed women's economic empowerment. Ten percent of women reported an increase in their economic empowerment.

Through inter-agency initiatives, WFP and UNHCR continue to support the Refugees Accommodation Centres in Moldova.



Through a strategic partnership with the Government of Moldova, and with the support of donors, WFP continues to address humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable Ukrainian refugees populations impacted by the conflict in Ukraine.

During a joint WFP-UNHCR visit to a Refugee Accommodation Centre (RAC), the European Union's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations Department (ECHO) representatives witnessed the effect of the assistance of the two UN Agencies, working together to address the needs of the Ukrainian refugees living in the centres.

The RAC visited provides accommodation to 128 Ukrainian refugees (74 women, 36 children and 18 men), including 10 individuals living with disabilities. The assistance of WFP in RACs includes the provision of value vouchers to RAC Management to purchase food for the onsite cooking of three hot meals per day available to the hosted refugees. WFP supports Government-accredited RACs and is coordinating with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to adjust its activities with the RAC consolidation strategy.

While continuing to address the humanitarian needs of the Ukrainian refugees, WFP is now focusing on transitioning its efforts from emergency response to a responsible exit, including increased social protection Government systems strengthening - a pivotal theme in the discussion on the inter-Agency Refugee Response Plan for 2025 and 2026.

Donors

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