



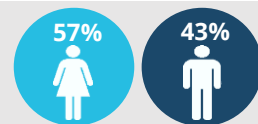
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Moldova Country Brief December 2024



### In Numbers



**32,447 people** assisted in December 2024

**USD 2.3 million** disbursed in December for hot meals and border snacks, to support new arrivals; refugee-hosting households and vulnerable Moldovans

**USD 5.9 million** six months net funding requirements (January –June 2025)

### Operational Context

The war in Ukraine which began in February 2022 has displaced millions of people both inside and outside Ukraine. Over 1.1 million Ukrainians crossed into the Republic of Moldova<sup>1</sup>, with 123,000 still remaining, according to UNHCR. In response, the Government of Moldova, supported by international and local entities, has provided life-saving assistance to those people fleeing the conflict.

In 2025, Moldova remains impacted by the Ukraine war due to its close location and its dependence on imports from Ukraine and Russia as a small, landlocked economy. This situation has exposed Moldova to disruptions in the supply of food, energy, and commodity imports, which impacts local markets, competitiveness, and households' incomes and purchasing power, particularly affecting vulnerable households.

The arrival of refugees in Moldova has raised fiscal costs, limiting resources for long-term development. The influx of refugees challenges the socioeconomic environment, requiring ongoing efforts by the Government and partners to integrate them.

WFP's Interim Country Strategic Plan (2024-2026) aims to assist the most vulnerable groups and transition from emergency response to enhancing Moldova's social protection systems that can handle crises independently after WFP exits. By channeling the support through Moldovan systems, WFP provides technical assistance aligned with Government efforts to enhance transparency and accountability. Providing cash assistance to the most vulnerable populations not only enhances their household purchasing power but also stimulates local demand and boosts the local market. Additionally, it fosters social cohesion by strengthening community ties.

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 daily hot meals to refugees in Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) across Moldova. In December, WFP supported **1,450 refugees in 24 RACs**. Where Government-approved kitchen facilities are available, WFP offers commodity vouchers worth 100 Moldovan Leu (MDL) (~USD 5) per person per day to purchase food for onsite cooking. In RACs without kitchen facilities, WFP contracts catering services to ensure meal provision. As of early December 2024, eight RACs were supported through on-site cooking services, while 16 relied on catering services.
- In alignment with the Ministry Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) consolidation strategy to reorganize and enhance RAC operations, **18 RACs** were closed in 2024.
- WFP distributed **167 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, helping to offset some of the accommodation-related financial burdens. In December, the 16<sup>th</sup> round of distribution was successfully completed. This provided the remaining **342 households (882 beneficiaries)** with an opportunity to cash out their assistance. Households hosting 1 to 4 refugees received MDL 3,900 (USD 217), while those hosting more than four refugees received MDL 4,800 (USD 268).
- For the third consecutive year, WFP, under the guidance of MLSP and in partnership with International Organization for Migration (IOM), provided temporary cash-based assistance to support vulnerable Moldovan households, including pensioners and households caring for children with disabilities. In December, **WFP provided assistance to 29,948 individuals through cash transfers**, helping them meet essential needs such as food and

<sup>1</sup> Thereinafter "Moldova"

energy expenses. This cash assistance offers financial independence and upholds dignity.

## WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (March 2024 – February 2026)	
Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
<b>60 m</b>	<b>36 m</b>
2025 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (January 2025- June 2025)
<b>28.3 m</b>	<b>5.9 m</b>
<b>Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food</b>	
<b>Strategic Outcome 1:</b> Crisis-affected populations in Moldova, including refugees, are able to meet their food and other essential needs throughout the year. <b>Focus area:</b> <i>Crisis response</i>	
<b>Activities:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide food assistance to refugees and other crisis-affected populations.</li> </ul>	
<b>Strategic Result 2: Capacity strengthening</b>	
<b>Strategic Outcome 2:</b> The Government of Moldova has enhanced capacities and programmes to support the essential needs of vulnerable populations by 2026 <b>Focus area:</b> <i>Resilience building</i>	
<b>Activities:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide assistance to national institutions on social protection, including through transfers to targeted populations.</li> </ul>	
<b>Strategic Result 3: Enhance Global Partnerships</b>	
<b>Strategic Outcome 3:</b> Humanitarian and development actors in Moldova have improved capacities to prepare for and respond to emergencies throughout the year. <b>Focus area:</b> <i>Crisis Response</i>	
<b>Activities:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide on-demand services to humanitarian and development actors.</li> </ul>	

## Monitoring and evaluation

In November 2024, WFP surveyed 265 refugees in 23 RACs across the country. The data shows that 36 percent of refugees in RACs arrived in 2024, 28 percent in 2023, and another 36 percent in 2022. While the overall number of refugees has generally declined, new arrivals continue to seek accommodation in RACs.

The survey indicated that households faced reduced stress regarding food shortages or financial constraints compared to May 2024. Specifically, 95 percent of respondents did not need to implement any food-related coping strategies such as reducing the number of meals or portion sizes. All surveyed households reported satisfactory and nutritious food consumption.

Survey results show that 17 percent of households had at least one working member, and humanitarian assistance was the main source of income for refugees living in RACs. The percentage of households dependent on pensions

increased from 32 percent in May to 40 percent in November 2024, and remittances grew by 3 percent compared to the previous year. Disability pensions and child allowances increased. Notably, no refugees reported income from entrepreneurial activities.

## From humanitarian assistance to integration efforts: the journey of Raisa – a Ukrainian refugee in Moldova

With the ongoing government-led RAC consolidation strategy and the closure of 18 RACs in 2024, support from WFP and other UN agencies remains critical in sustaining the transition from humanitarian support for refugees to their inclusion in government social assistance programmes. WFP supports the MLSP systems while meeting the needs of vulnerable refugees in these centres.

Raisa, a 72-year-old from Ukraine, and her family recently moved from RAC to a rented apartment. Along with her husband, daughter, and 10-year-old nephew, has spent over two and a half years in a RAC where WFP provided hot meal assistance. Raisa noted that WFP's help has significantly improved their daily lives. During challenging times, three daily meals have provided crucial relief and stability for her and many other refugee families.

In October 2024, after the RAC closed, Raisa's family sought accommodation support from other international organizations. This support, combined with her daughter's income, is maintaining their family and aiding in their recovery.

The former RAC manager stated that about 60 percent of the most vulnerable refugees, mainly the elderly and disabled, were moved to other accommodation centers that stayed open. Less than 20 percent chose alternative accommodation, primarily consisting of young families with employed members integrated into the national labor market.



### 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.

**In the Photo:** Raisa a 72-year-old Ukrainian refugee during the discussion with the WFP staff member. Photo credit: ©WFP Moldova