



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Moldova Country Brief April 2025

In Numbers

57,8%



42,2%



2,217 people assisted in April 2025

USD 415,333 disbursed in April for hot meals, border snacks for new arrivals and refugee-hosting households.

USD 3.5 million six months net funding requirements (May 2025 – October 2025)

Operational Updates

WFP continued to provide three daily hot meals to refugees in Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) across Moldova. In April, WFP supported **1,328 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 April 2025, on site cooking services were provided in 8 RACs, while 16 RACs relied on catering services.

WFP distributed **98 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 April, an **ad-hoc** distribution under the 18th round allowed **104 beneficiaries** a second opportunity to cash out their assistance. Additionally, starting in April, WFP expanded its Refugee Hosting Households (RHH) intervention to Dniester River's **Left Bank**, conducting the first round of assistance for **687 beneficiaries**. Households hosting 1 to 4 refugees received MDL 3,900 (USD 217), while those hosting more than four received MDL 4,800 (USD 268).

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) between WFP and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) supports the MLSP-led RESTART reform through targeted technical assistance. The initiative strengthens the capacity of social sector professionals to enhance services for vulnerable families, particularly in remote areas. Priority institutions and target groups were identified by MLSP based on internal needs-based capacity assessments of entities involved in the reform. In **April**, WFP facilitated **Training for Trainers (ToT) sessions**, equipping **1,273** professionals from social institutions to cascade the training to peers. In total, **3,739** participants took part in sessions across **March and April**, covering all **10** Territorial Agencies for Social Assistance across the country.

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.

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**



¹ Thereinafter "Moldova"

WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (March 2024 – February 2026)

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
60 m	35.6m
2025 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (May 2025 – October 2025)
28,3 m	3.5 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

WFP's Monitoring and Evaluation team recently conducted a perception survey to understand the challenges faced by Moldovan families hosting Ukrainian refugees. The survey, based on **358** statistically representative and geographically balanced **phone interviews**, captured diverse hosting experiences countrywide.

Households hosted an average of 2.2 refugees, down from 2.4 last year, spending MDL 2,664 (~USD 148) per refugee monthly. Hosting durations varied: 7 percent hosted refugees for 1-6 months, 10 percent for 7 months to 1 year, 22 percent for 1-2 years, and 61 percent for over 2 years. Overall, **94 percent of households were satisfied** with the cash assistance. **Utility costs stayed the largest expense** but dropped from 61 percent in February 2023 to 48 percent in February 2025, as 67 percent of households reported receiving government and other support. The Ajutor la Contor (Help at the Meter) program under the Energy Vulnerability Reduction Fund (EVRF) and Ajutor Social (Government poverty reduction programme) were the most cited supports.

Expenditure on food experienced a consistent increase from 23 percent in February 2023 to 32 percent in February 2025. This shift suggests a growing prioritization of food needs amid rising costs, with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reporting a **7.4 percent year-on-year increase in food prices as of January 2025**. Health spending varied, rising from 5 percent in 2023 to 8 percent in 2024, then falling back to 5 percent in 2025.

Ultimately, these shifts reflect mounting inflationary pressures and the evolving economic vulnerabilities of Moldovan host families.

A Meal's Power: Through WFP assistance, Valentina serves hot meals to the most vulnerable Ukrainian refugees in Moldova when it matters most.



At the heart of the Technical University of Moldova cafeteria, a warm meal represents more than just nourishment—it is a gesture of care, comfort, and solidarity. Since the onset of the war in Ukraine, the university's dormitories have been repurposed into Refugee Accommodation Centers (RACs) to host Ukrainian refugees. Valentina and her team provide hot meals and support to Ukrainian refugees, offering them dignity in a time of crisis.

For Valentina, the head of the university's cafeteria and a Ukrainian national who settled in Moldova in the early 1980s, serving food has always been a vocation. Now, her meals are acts of compassion for conflict refugees. "It's more than just work," Valentina says. "It's about supporting my fellow nationals. Many have experienced significant losses.

WFP's continued food assistance remains vital, as refugees in RACs face high levels of vulnerability. According to recent WFP monitoring data, international assistance remains the primary source of income for refugees living in RACs, accounting for approximately 76 percent of their household income. These findings indicate the need for continued support, as food assistance is a crucial component for refugees seeking safety, stability, and dignity.

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.