



World Food Programme

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## WFP Moldova Country Brief 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 Moldova<sup>1</sup>, of whom 131,000 still remain in the country, according to UNHCR. In response, the Government of Moldova, with the support of international and local entities, has 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: **2.4 million**

Income Level: **upper-middle- income**

Inequality Index: **0.205, ranking it 51 out of 170**

2023 Human Development Index: **86 out of 193**



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

### In Numbers



**13,885 people** assisted in May 2025

**USD 1.5 million** disbursed in May for hot meals, border snacks for new arrivals and refugee-hosting households.

**USD 2.6 million** six months net funding requirements (June 2025 – November 2025)

### Operational Updates

- WFP continued to provide three daily hot meals to refugees in Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) across Moldova. In May, WFP supported **1,338 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. On site cooking services were available at eight RACs, while 16 RACs relied on external catering services.
- In May, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) continued advancing the consolidation of **RACs** as part of its broader strategy to optimize refugee support services. By 31 May, active RACs **dropped by one** after the **Congaz RAC** - the only operational RAC in Gagauzia UTA region - closed.
- Residents were supported in transitioning to alternative housing solutions. Some were integrated in the community via Cash for Rent programme, while the most vulnerable, particularly the elderly and individuals with disabilities, were relocated to nearby RACs in line with Ministry guidance.
- WFP distributed **99 snacks** and hot meals to Ukrainian refugees entering Moldova through Palanca and Otaci borders.
- WFP continued its bi-monthly cash-based assistance to Moldovan households (HHs) hosting Ukrainian refugees to mitigate accommodation-related financial burdens. In May, **12,385 beneficiaries** (5,014 HHS) received support. Building on this effort, starting in April, WFP expanded its **Refugee Hosting Households (RHH)** programme to include the **Left Bank** of the Dniester River. An ad-hoc distribution provided **63 beneficiaries** (47 HHS) a second opportunity to cash out their initial assistance. Households hosting 1 to 4 refugees received MDL 3,900 (USD 217), while those hosting more than four received MDL 4,800 (USD 268).

## WFP Country Strategy

### Interim Country Strategic Plan (March 2024 – February 2026)

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
60 m	39 m
2025 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June 2025 – November 2025)
28.3 m	2.6 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 May, WFP Monitoring and Evaluation team surveyed 243 beneficiaries in RACs to assess their income, length of stay, and food satisfaction. Of respondents, 27 percent have nowhere to go after RAC closures; 23 percent plan to return to Ukraine; 14 percent will seek other RACs; 14 percent aim to secure their own housing; and 11 percent intend to seek RHH support. Only 3 percent plan to move abroad; 2 percent have no plans; and 6 percent are uncertain. Vulnerability is significant, with, 30 percent of HHs including persons with disabilities. Additionally, most refugee HHs include dependants 42 percent of the assessed households including children and 53 percent having elderly members.
- Before arriving at their current RAC, 30 percent arrived directly, 29 percent had previously stayed in another RAC, while 12 percent lived in rented housing, with Moldovan families (11 percent), or with friends and relatives (6 percent). Fewer people had stayed in hotels, churches, hospitals, or had been without shelter.

- Looking ahead, 79 percent intend to stay until conditions improve, 12 percent are unsure, and others plan shorter stays or were in transit at the time of assessment. Food satisfaction is high, with portion size, timing, and variety of dishes rated an overall satisfaction at 9.3. All respondents reported being treated with dignity. Economic dependency is evident as 75 percent of assessed refugee households had no working members. Income sources comprised support from international organizations (56 percent), pensions (24 percent), and minor sources such as regular labour and formal employment.

## Strengthening Moldova's social protection system through strategic partnerships

Raisa is the head of the Hîncești Postal Center, which serves over 150 communities across the districts of Hîncești, Cimișlia, Basarabeasca and



Leova. She leads a team of more than 265 employees focused on providing timely and reliable service in even the most remote areas. She describes her team as dedicated professionals who perform their work with responsibility and a sense of mission.

Poșta Moldovei, as the MLSP's designated financial services provider, is a key partner in the delivery of cash-based assistance, playing a central role in distributing government social support—including pensions, allowances, and other benefits—directly to citizens. Since 2023, WFP has established a strategic partnership with Poșta Moldovei to deliver cash assistance to Moldovan Households hosting Ukrainian refugees and to vulnerable Moldovan families. With a nationwide presence of over 1,450 branches and home delivery services for people with limited mobility, the institution remains a trusted and accessible channel for reaching vulnerable populations—even in the most remote areas.

By channeling assistance through this national partner, WFP has strengthened technical cooperation and supported enhancements to Posta Moldovei, including cybersecurity systems. Following a ransomware attempt, WFP provided timely technical support to strengthen IT security and safeguard data integrity—ensuring the continued secure delivery of cash assistance to designated beneficiaries. These efforts, part of WFP's broader support to MLSP, aim to strengthen Moldova's national social protection mechanisms.

## Donors

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