



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP Moldova Country Brief June 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 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 public 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**

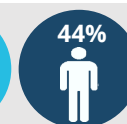
2023 Human Development Index: **86 out of 193**



¹ Thereinafter "Moldova"

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In Numbers



2,792 people assisted in June 2025

USD 496,316 disbursed in June for hot meals, border snacks for new arrivals and refugee-hosting households.

USD 5.8 million six months net funding requirements (July 2025 – December 2025)

Operational Updates

- WFP continued to provide three daily hot meals to refugees in Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) across Moldova. In **June**, WFP supported **1,226** refugees in **23 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 June, on-site cooking services were provided in eight RACs, while 15 RACs relied on catering services.
- WFP distributed **79 snacks** and hot meals to Ukrainian refugees entering Moldova through Palanca and Otaci borders. Aligned with other partners that concluded border operations, WFP ceased the provision of border snacks at the end of June.
- WFP continued its bi-monthly distribution of cash-based assistance to Moldovan households (HHs) hosting Ukrainian refugees helping to offset some of the accommodation-related financial burden. In **June**, an ad-hoc distribution under round 19 offered **89** beneficiaries (36 HHs) a second opportunity to cash out their assistance. Building on this effort, starting in April, WFP expanded its **Refugee Hosting Households (RHH)** program to include the **Left Bank** of the Dniester River. In June, a second round of distribution provided support to **845** beneficiaries (493 HHs). 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 signed an agreement with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) to help establish a shock-responsive Emergency Cash Transfer system for future crises. WFP fulfilled the first phase of this MoU by piloting an Emergency Cash Transfer distribution with the MLSP to **553 beneficiaries (150 households)** affected by the apartment block fire in Durlești, while documenting the overall emergency response in a study. The study highlighted the need to formalize preparedness measures and improve emergency response management through the use of a digital Shock-Responsive Social Protection module.

Photo Caption: Tatiana Roma Refugee from Ukraine sharing her story with WFP Moldova staff ©WFP/ WFP Moldova

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) (July – December 2025)
28.3 m	5.8 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 June, WFP conducted two assessments under the RHH programme: **Post Distribution Monitoring** (round 19) with 378 host households and a **refugee impact study** with 382 participants. These assessments provided valuable insights into the socio-economic conditions and vulnerabilities of host Moldovans and refugee families.

Forty percent of **host households** and 63 percent of **refugee households** had no working members. Hosts mainly relied on pensions (41 percent), public jobs (15 percent), and private sector (24 percent) for income. Refugees depended on NGO support (31 percent), pensions (24 percent), and assistance from family and friends (15 percent).

Vulnerabilities were common, with 21 percent of hosts and 22 percent of refugees having members with disabilities. Severe medical conditions affected 17 percent of hosts and 32 percent of refugees, while 1 percent of hosts and 3 percent of refugees included pregnant or breastfeeding women.

In 2025, **98 percent of host families reported an acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS)**, up from 92 percent in 2024.

However, 75 percent still relied on food-related coping strategies, mostly purchasing cheaper or less preferred food. Livelihood coping among hosts improved, with 47 percent not adopting any such strategies—a 13 percent improvement from last year.

96 percent of refugees had an acceptable FCS, though protein intake remained limited due to high costs. Refugees commonly coped by using savings (46 percent), borrowing money (27 percent), and cutting health and education expenses (26 percent).

In June, WFP carried out two key assessments under the RHH programme: the Post Distribution Monitoring for round 19 with 378 host households and a refugee impact study with 382 participants. These assessments provided key insights into the socio-economic conditions, and vulnerabilities of both host Moldovans and refugee families.

Tatiana's Journey: A Roma Refugee from Ukraine finds Resilience, Refuge, and a Meal Every Day

Tatiana, a Roma mother of four, arrived in Moldova in 2023 after fleeing the war in Ukraine. Her children — aged 5, 11, 14, and 15 — spent the past two years living in a RAC in Congaz, a commune and village in the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia, 120 km from Chişinău. Since their arrival, the family has received hot, nutritious meals three times a day through WFP's nationwide food assistance programme in accredited RACs.

"We had nothing," she recalled. "But the children always had warm food. That made everything else easier." At Congaz RAC, children made up 66 percent of the 65 residents. Most families, like Tatiana's, stayed over a year — a sign of both prolonged vulnerability and the need for continued support. According to the Roma Task Force, nearly 45 percent of Ukrainian Roma refugees in Moldova live in RACs, and 60 percent have been there over a year².

With the Congaz centre now closed, its residents are transitioning to alternative housing. Some have joined the Cash for Rent programme, while the most vulnerable including the elderly and people with disabilities — have been relocated to nearby RACs, following MLSP guidance. For Tatiana, the next step is reuniting with relatives in Austria. She leaves with gratitude: "We didn't just survive. We were cared for."

The Government of the Republic of Moldova remains committed to meeting the basic needs of refugees, providing access to medical services, education and other essential facilities, despite critical gaps. In this context, WFP continues to support the most vulnerable Ukrainian refugees residing in the country through a strong partnership with the lead ministry — the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, ensuring effective and ongoing assistance.

Donors

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



Photo Caption: Minister Buzu, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, and Katrien Ghoos, WFP Representative and Country Director on joint visit testifying to the shared MLSP – WFP commitment of providing hot meals to refugees in RAC. ©WFP/ WFP Moldova

² Roma Refugee Briefing