



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP Moldova Country Brief August 2025



### In Numbers

55.1%



44.9%



**12,147 people** assisted in August 2025

**USD 1,317,933 disbursed** in August for hot meals and refugee-hosting households.

**USD 3.9 million** six months net funding requirements (September 2025 – February 2026)

### Operational Updates

- WFP continued to provide three daily hot meals to refugees in Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) across Moldova. In **August**, WFP supported **1,128 refugees in 19 RACs**. Where Government-approved kitchen facilities are available, WFP offers the kitchens commodity vouchers worth 100 Moldovan Leu (MDL) (~USD 5) per person per day to purchase and prepare food for onsite cooking. In RACs without kitchen facilities, WFP contracts catering services to ensure meal provision. As of August, on-site cooking services were provided in eight RACs, while 11 RACs relied on catering services.
- The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) reduced the number of **RACs from 21 in July to 19 in August** as part of its strategy to optimize refugee support services. **Cojusna RAC**, previously hosting the largest number of refugees since the start of the response, closed after relocating **48** elderly people and persons with disabilities to other RACs, while the rest of the refugees were moved to private accommodation through the UNHCR-supported Cash for Rent Programme.
- WFP continued its bi-monthly distribution of cash-based assistance to Moldovan households (HHs) hosting Ukrainian refugees helping offset some of the accommodation-related financial burden. In **August**, **11,019 beneficiaries (4,429 HHs) received support**. Households hosting 1 to 4 refugees received MDL 3,900 (USD 217), while those hosting more than four received MDL 4,800 (USD 268).
- Following the WFP-MLSP Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on **Localization of the Refugee Response** through the **Refugee Hosting Households Programme (RHH)**, and the handover of the WFP-developed **UAHelp** platform to the Government, in **August** WFP supported the MLSP in upgrading UAHelp and training over **1,458 staff** nationwide, while introducing **MLearn**, the ministry's first e-learning platform. With digital assessments and automated certification, MLSP can now deliver scalable, cost-efficient, and inclusive training, reducing reliance on in-person sessions and strengthening the national social protection system.

### 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 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**



<sup>1</sup> Thereinafter "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) (September 2025– February 2026)
28.3 m	3.9 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 August, five RACs were visited, and nine refugees were surveyed, with monitoring visits confirming that the Cojușna RAC, located about 20 km from Chișinău, is in the process of closing. All respondents were female. The refugees arrived at the RACs in different years: 56 percent in 2022, 22 percent in 2023, and 22 percent in 2024.

The majority of surveyed household sizes were small consisting of 1-2 members (78 percent), while 11 percent were medium-sized (3-5 members) and another 11 percent were classified as large (more than 5 members). All respondents indicated their intention to remain in the RACs for over three months. Satisfaction scores have consistently remained high throughout the implementation period.

When asked about their relocation plans if RACs were to close, 12 percent of the refugees reported they would look for rental accommodation, 22 percent would seek another RAC, 22 percent indicated they did not have alternative options and might face homelessness, while 44 percent stated they would return to Ukraine.

## WFP hot meals assistance in RACs remains vital for vulnerable pensioners like Larisa



For Larisa, a 65-year-old Ukrainian refugee, expected her displacement to last only weeks, but it has now been three years. She arrived in Chișinău in March 2022, she, like so many others, sought refuge from the escalating conflict in Ukraine. She currently lives at a WFP-supported RAC integrated within the Technical University of Moldova (UTM). Her experience underscores the ongoing needs and vulnerabilities that WFP continues to address.

Larisa explains, "We left thinking it would be for a few weeks, but it has now been three years. Returning home is not possible due to ongoing shootings, making living there difficult." This situation is common among refugees in RACs, where 41 percent of residents are pensioners, many having lost their possessions. Only 23 percent of households have at least one working member, so international assistance remains the primary source of income for most. In August, the UTM RAC in Chișinău accommodated 120 Ukrainian refugees from different regions of Ukraine, highlighting the importance of WFP's food assistance during their displacement.

WFP monitoring confirms the positive impact of this support. Food consumption levels remain high across RACs with refugees regularly consuming essential items like cereals, vegetables, fruits, meat, and dairy. These findings also indicate an improvement in food security over the past year for RAC residents.

## 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.