



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Moldova Country Brief September 2025

In Numbers

58.3%



41.7%



2,308 people assisted in September 2025

USD 379,964 disbursed in September for hot meals and refugee-hosting households.

USD 3.8 million six months net funding requirements (October 2025 – March 2026)

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 1.2 million Ukrainians crossed into the Republic of Moldova¹, of whom 135,000 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 170**

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



¹ Thereinafter "Moldova"

Operational Updates

- WFP continued to provide three daily hot meals to refugees in Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) across Moldova. In **September**, WFP supported **1,097 refugees in 18 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 September, on-site cooking services were provided in eight RACs, while 10 RACs relied on catering services.
- The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) continued implementing the RAC Consolidation Strategy, maintaining all centers operational in **September**. The plan is to close one RACone RAC in Chişinău (out of the 18) by late October, while the closure and of the Drochia RAC has been postponed due to the challenges associated with relocating elderly persons and households with school-aged children.
- 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 **September**, the third round of the expanded **Refugee Hosting Households (RHH)** program on the **Left Bank** of the Dniester River provided support to **1,205 beneficiaries (557 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 in partnership with the MLSP, launched a **Data Analytics and Visualization Platform** for **Ajutor Social**, Moldova's main social safety net of last resort. The platform enables rapid, high-level analysis of large datasets and equips MLSP staff at all levels with interactive dashboards and visualization tools, moving beyond reliance in static monthly Excel reports. This represents a significant step in MLSP's **digital transformation**, promoting evidence-based decision-making and laying the groundwork for a data-driven culture across the social protection system.

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) (October 2025– March 2026)
28.3 m	3.8 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 September, eight of the 18 RACs were visited for monitoring, with 17 refugees surveyed. The majority of those surveyed were women (88 percent), and their arrival years varied: 6 percent arrived in 2022, 41 percent in 2023, 35 percent in 2024, and 18 percent in 2025.

All respondents reported intentions to stay in RAC's for more than 12 months, and overall satisfaction scores remained high throughout the period of implementation.

When asked about their options should the RAC close, 24 percent of refugees indicated they would relocate to another RAC, 35 percent would return to Ukraine, and 41 percent reported having no alternative accommodation. This underscores the considerable vulnerability faced by many RAC-residents.

Emergency Cash Assistance and Resilience Building: Lessons from the Durlești Fire.

Following WFP national assessments in 2024 evaluating the host Government's preparedness to deliver emergency cash transfers resulted in a request from the MLSP to design a Shock-Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) package for implementation by the MLSP in 2025. In May 2025, WFP with the MLSP jointly provided rapid emergency cash assistance to a devastating fire in an apartment block in the municipality of Durlești. This operation also served as test of the MLSP to deliver assistance in coordination with local and central level emergency actors, including MLSP social assistants and the Cadastral Agency, to ensure accurate verification and the timely delivery of assistance.

Emergency cash assistance was rapidly delivered to 165 households (10,000 MDL per household) through Posta



Moldovei, the postal network system. Beneficiaries were informed through multiple communication channels, and dedicated feedback lines were established for inquiries and feedback. This coordinated response enabled affected families to secure temporary shelter, purchase essential items, and begin to rebuild their lives.

A post-response analysis by WFP underscored the importance of preparedness and surge capacity, digital innovation for managing the cash delivery chain, flexible budgetary mechanisms and coordination between line Ministries and local authorities in ensuring an inclusive and effective emergency response.

Building on this experience and other WFP national assessments of shock-responsive social protection in Moldova, WFP is supporting the development of Moldova's first-ever Shock-Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) Standard Operating Procedures in partnership with the MLSP. These standard operation procedures (SOPs) will guide the Government's SRSP framework, strengthen preparedness, and enhance resilience to future shocks, ensuring that vulnerable populations can access timely and effective support when disasters strike.

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.