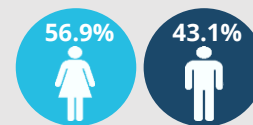


WFP Moldova Country Brief October 2025

In Numbers



1,909 people assisted in October 2025

USD 346,892 disbursed in October for hot meals and refugee-hosting households.

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 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 **October**, WFP supported **1,046 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 October, 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 18 centers operational in **October** and closing one center in Chişinău as planned on 31 October.
- 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 **October**, ad-hoc distributions under round 20 on the Right Bank and round 3 of the expanded **Refugee Hosting Households (RHH)** program on the Left Bank of the Dniester River allowed 849 beneficiaries on the Right Bank and 14 beneficiaries on the Left Bank a second opportunity to cash out their 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 and MLSP have enhanced Moldova's **UAHelp** platform for tracking host households (HHs) and Ukrainian refugees, by integrating more household member data, to strengthen the platform's targeting and analysis. The system now links national databases, allowing applicants to add identification numbers and demographics so MLSP can better identify vulnerable groups. Registration and updates are ongoing as WFP helps MLSP apply data-driven methods to improve social protection and coordination.

WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (March 2024 – February 2026)

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
60 m	39 m
2025 Requirements (USD)	
28.3 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

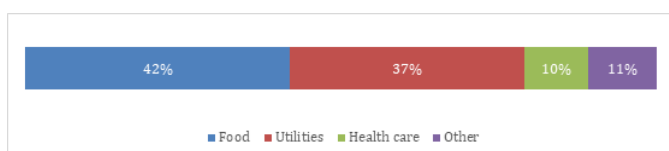
In October, a post distribution monitoring (PDM) survey was conducted on the Right Bank of the Dniester River following the 20th round of cash assistance provided to Moldovan households hosting Ukrainian refugees in August.

The demographic analysis among surveyed households, demonstrates economic vulnerability, and health-related challenges and dependence on external support:



Most households spent the support on food, with 97 percent reporting acceptable food consumption in diversity, frequency and nutritional value.

Beneficiaries' use of the assistance was as follows:



Despite improvements, many households remain vulnerable. In the week preceding the survey, 63 percent used food-related coping strategies like buying less preferred or cheaper food or borrowing it – indicating that much of the assistance has already been spent and economic pressure persist.

Transforming Social Assistance Delivery with the MLSP

In 2023, the MLSP launched its five-year RESTART reform to modernize social assistance programmes for Moldova's most vulnerable. WFP partnered with the MLSP on two key pillars: digital system modernisation and reinforcing the professional development of frontline staff.

At the Ministry's request, WFP helped modernize, Moldova's digital platform (SIASS) facilitating cash transfers to the most vulnerable households. via Ajutor Social, Moldova's social safety net of last resort.



WFP worked with MLSP to introduce a new Data Analytics and Visualization Platform for central and local staff to monitor and analyze *Ajutor Social* performance and risks in real time.

WFP also collaborated with the MLSP and the national cash payment agency (CNAS) to develop a Cash Payment Reconciliation Module, improving connections between urban and rural social assistance offices and CNAS. This enables real-time payment tracking and provides clearer information to the beneficiaries. Together, these initiatives strengthen data-driven decision-making, improve cash delivery efficiency and enhance service quality.

Secondly, WFP partnered with the MLSP, UN agencies and NGOs to deliver in-person training to MLSP frontline staff and managers, strengthening competencies covering the WFP-developed Aid.MD emergency response platform, Gender-Based Violence, Case Management, Data Use for Management and Beneficiary Communication. Over four phases from 2023 to 2025, WFP trained at least 10,272 participants.

Following a May 2025 review, WFP introduced e-learning to cut costs, promote digital skills, and broaden training access. Partnering with the national e-Governance agency and MLSP, technical assistance materials were converted into e-learning modules on the M-Learn digital platform. A pilot online training enrolled 1,460 MLSP staff, simplified registration and reduced logistical costs, setting a new standard for future training.

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: MLSP staff engaged in training with WFP support. *Photo credit: MLSP*