



World Food
Programme

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WFP Moldova Country Brief November 2025

In Numbers



7,836 people assisted in November 2025

USD 952,060 disbursed 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"

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Operational Updates

- WFP continued to provide three daily hot meals to refugees in Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) across Moldova. In November, WFP supported 981 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 November, on-site cooking services were provided in nine RACs, while another nine RACs relied on catering services.
- The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) continued implementing the RAC Consolidation Strategy. Despite the closure of one centre in October, 18 RACs remained operational, including a newly established RAC in Orhei, which began receiving relocated refugees in November and where WFP extended its food assistance services.
- 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 November, Round 21 distributions on the Right Bank and Round 4 of the expanded Refugee Hosting Households (RHH) programme on the Left Bank supported 6,505 and 350 beneficiaries, respectively. Households hosting 1 to 4 refugees received MDL 3,900 (USD 217), while those hosting more than four received MDL 4,800 (USD 268).
- In November, UAHelp beneficiary registration was successfully completed, and additional data for vulnerability profiling and targeting was collected. WFP developed a vulnerability scorecard to categorize households and identify those most in need. Also, in November, WFP, in partnership with MLSP, completed the development of dashboards and a reconciliation module for Ajutor Social and delivered online training to the Territorial Structures of Social Assistance (STAS), complemented by eLearning courses uploaded to MLearn, strengthening eLearning as a core component of the Ministry's strategic learning platform.

Photo Caption: Daniela, Community Social Assistant at Ialoveni City Hall.
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WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (March 2024 – February 2026)

Total Received (USD)

43 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.

eStrategic 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

In October 2025, an outcome monitoring survey among 226 refugee households residing in RACs and benefitting from WFP assistance highlighted persistent vulnerabilities. Thirty-nine percent of households have children, and 57 percent have elderly members while 81 percent had no working members. Humanitarian assistance served as the main source of income for 50 percent of households. The findings underscore potential risk associated with the closure of RACs: 56 percent of households would face an immediate risk of needing shelter or additional assistance, including those without alternative accommodation, those uncertain about available options and those likely to seek support from Moldovan host families or other RACs.

These results point to the importance of a well-sequenced and responsible exit, prioritising linkages to shelter solutions and continued access to cash or rent support, in coordination with national systems and international partners, to mitigate protection risks while supporting dignified transition pathways for the most vulnerable Ukrainian refugees.

56% 22% 12% 10%

■ No alternative accommodation ■ Return to Ukraine
■ Move to another Country ■ Find own accommodation

UAHelp's Digital Journey: From Emergency Aid to Social Protection Refugee Integration

As the Ukraine crisis unfolded in 2022, Moldovan families showed extraordinary solidarity by opening their homes to refugees fleeing conflict. With no system in place to track their presence, the MLSP rapidly developed the UAHelp digital platform as a basic emergency tool to register refugees in RACs and the Moldovans hosting them. WFP recognised UAHelp's critical role in coordinating emergency assistance and partnered with the MLSP to expand UAHelp to manage UN and MLSP humanitarian assistance for both affected populations whilst facilitating future refugee integration into MLSP programmes in the future.

WFP supported the drafting of UAHelp Legislation alongside technical guidance and advocacy that culminated in Parliamentary approval in August 2024. This officially embedded the platform into the Government's social protection digital ecosystem. In line with the Government and WFP data standards, WFP migrated UAHelp from a private cloud to MCloud, the Government's secure hosting environment. This helped eliminate hosting costs and strengthened government ownership. WFP subsequently introduced a Verification Module within UAHelp and delivered nationwide online training to Social Assistants. This empowered the MLSP to lead a verification exercise of refugee presence and Moldovan hosting-household information, significantly improving data accuracy, strengthening accountability, and reinforcing frontline staff capacity to manage refugee caseloads.



To enhance the operational value of UAHelp, WFP supported its integration with MConnect, Moldova's data interoperability platform. This allows UAHelp to automatically cross-check information against key government databases and assess household vulnerability levels in real time. As a result, UAHelp has transitioned from an emergency registration database into a referral and integration digital platform, enabling faster, data-driven targeting for cash-based assistance. It also facilitates the linkage of eligible Moldovan households and refugees to national social assistance programmes, including those under the Government's RESTART reforms. Recognising its value, UAHelp was included in the Government's national plan for refugee integration (2025-2027).

The experience of UAHelp illustrates how a digital emergency response tool can evolve into a platform managing refugee integration into the national social protection system. WFP support to the design and rollout of UAHelp upgrades was done with the responsible exit of WFP from Moldova in mind: ensuring a lasting government capacity and ownership that will continue beyond the lifespan of the Ukraine refugee emergency.

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: WFP staff speaking with a social assistant. ©WFP/WFP