



In Numbers



10,286 people assisted in January 2026

USD 1.25 million disbursed in January 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 January**, WFP supported **963 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 January, on-site cooking services were provided in nine RACs, while nine other RACs relied on catering services.
- The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) continued implementing the RAC Consolidation Strategy. **In January**, all **18 RACs** remained operational, with no closures recorded.
- In January**, following the conclusion of the final rounds of regular cash transfers - Round 21 on Right Bank, and Round 4 on Left Bank- WFP provided a top up to the most vulnerable households under **Refugee Hosting Households (RHH)** programme on both banks. The transfers reached **8,685** beneficiaries on the Right Bank and **638** beneficiaries on the Left Bank. 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 finished the construction of a kitchen in the Ursoaia social canteen to provide cooked meals to the most vulnerable people, including refugees. This marks the conclusion of an agreement with local authorities and serves as a model for Government-run social food services in rural areas.
- WFP finalized the production of two operational manuals with the MLSP: a 'Risk Prevention for Social Assistants' and 'Ajutor Social Guidelines for Social Assistants'. These will assist the social workforce to better support the *Ajutor Social* social safety net of last resort.

WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (March 2024 – February 2026)

Total Received (USD)

41 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

The January–February 2026 monitoring missions represented the final round of monitoring visits across all the refugee accommodation centres (RACs) before closure of WFP Moldova operations in February 2026. All RACs confirmed that food assistance continued to be delivered consistently and in line with agreed standards through the final phase of implementation, with WFP providing three daily hot meals to Ukrainian refugees in all operational RACs nationwide.

WFP ensured that operational commitments were met and feedback mechanisms remained functional. Fifty six percent of RACs were using contracted catering services and 44 percent prepared meals on-site with RAC managers expressing proportional preference for both modalities. Monitoring findings confirmed stable partner performance and the absence of protection, accountability or operational risks during the final phase of hot meals activity. RAC managers were reminded of the upcoming termination of WFP support and conveyed strong appreciation for the assistance provided throughout the programme's implementation. No major operational issues or complaints were raised by RAC managers or beneficiaries during the monitoring period.

Refugee hosting households programme – A strategic exit story

Throughout 2024–2025, WFP Moldova pursued a structured and forward-looking transition of the Refugee Hosting Households programme (RHHP), grounded in transparency, national ownership, and long-term sustainability. As the refugee response evolved and donor priorities shifted, WFP recognized the importance of safeguarding the RHH model as a strategic tool for future displacement scenarios.

Early, consistent engagement with donors confirmed that while RHHP had been vital during the peak of arrivals, it was no longer seen as a priority for continued humanitarian financing. In response, WFP shifted its focus to national integration, ensuring that the systems, data, and institutional knowledge developed under the programme would remain usable for future crises.

To this end, WFP worked closely with the MLSP to integrate the RHH registration and management platform into the Ministry's digital infrastructure and officially handed it over to the Ministry. This embedded the modality within national systems, enabling the Government of Moldova to mobilize it independently in future refugee-hosting or emergency contexts.

Since its launch in 2022, the RHHP has supported 21,000 hosting households across Moldova, including on the Left

Bank of the Dniester River, with 21 rounds on right bank and 4 rounds on the left bank. This assistance indirectly benefited almost 58,000 refugees hosted, easing the financial strain of displaced families. Monitoring from October 2025 showed that 77 percent of host households would not have been able to continue hosting without this support. The modality was particularly critical for vulnerable families: 24 percent had no working members; 40 percent relied on a single income earner and 31 percent relied on pension as main income source. By sustaining household-level hosting arrangements, the RHH response helped maintain social cohesion and enabled refugees to remain in community settings.

As part of its responsible exit, WFP also implemented a final winter top-up in January 2026 for the most vulnerable hosts, using remaining project balances and savings. The targeting was conducted through a vulnerability scorecard specifically designed for this programme—drawing on data points collected through the UA Help registration system, ensuring transparent, needs-based prioritization. Through this transition approach, WFP balanced donors considerations with national resilience priorities, embedding the RHH modality within government systems and ensuring its operational legacy endures beyond the lifespan of humanitarian 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: WFP and MLSP teams during the official handover meeting, in the context of the conclusion of WFP's mandate in Moldova. ©WFP/WFP Moldova