



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Moldova Country Brief April 2026



### In Numbers



**956 people** assisted in February 2026

**USD 213,446 disbursed** in February for hot meals.

### Operational Updates

- In February, WFP continued to provide three daily hot meals to refugees in Refugee Accommodation Centers (RACs) across Moldova, supporting **956 refugees in 18 RACs**. Where government-approved kitchen facilities are available, WFP offers 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 February, on-site cooking services were provided in nine RACs, while nine RACs relied on catering services. **February** marked the final month of implementation of this activity, as WFP concluded support in line with the end of its ICSP (2024-2026).
- The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) continued implementing the RAC Consolidation Strategy. In **February**, all **18 RACs** remained operational, with no closures recorded.
- **WFP finalized its shock-responsive social protection (SRSP) Emergency Cash Transfer (ECT) package in partnership with the MLSP.** This included Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and an accompanying Implementation Plan; a SRSP ECT digital module for managing data and beneficiary lists, and legislation modification recommendations. WFP ran a Simulation Exercise with the MLSP and key partners to introduce and fine-tune aspects of the SRSP ECT package.
- As a co-lead of the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) Inclusion and Solutions Working Group, WFP worked with key partners to finalize and present a draft **concept note of a proposed MLSP-led Labour Market and Social Protection Integration Roadmap**. The roadmap provides a clear blueprint for implementing MLSP commitments to refugee integration and will serve as the prime fund-raising tool to mobilize resources for its implementation.
- **WFP successfully concluded its country presence in Moldova with a formal handover event jointly with the MLSP, ensuring the transfer of all programme deliverables and clearly outlining handover and continuity plans with the MLSP and UN partners for initiatives continuing beyond the exit of WFP, reflecting a WFP's structured and responsible exit.**

### Conclusion of Operations

Only four years after its first-ever entry into the Republic of Moldova<sup>1</sup>, WFP successfully concluded its operations in February 2026—a significant organizational achievement and a clear example of strategic, responsible exit. Designed from the outset with a temporary footprint, this 'entry–exit model' delivered substantial results for refugees, vulnerable Moldovans affected by the war in Ukraine, and national systems.

By focusing on its comparative advantage and deploying an integrated humanitarian response package, complemented by deliberate partnerships with the Government and key UN agencies, WFP rapidly scaled up operations, delivered efficiently, and transitioned proactively towards a responsible exit, leaving behind strengthened systems and lasting impact. This sets a new benchmark for cost-efficient, time-bound operations—highly relevant in today's environment of shrinking resources, expanding needs, and increased scrutiny of humanitarian actors.

WFP Moldova extends its sincere appreciation to the Government, donors and all its partners for their trust and collaboration. Their support has enabled WFP to meet urgent humanitarian needs while strengthening nationally led systems that will endure beyond WFP presence. As WFP concluded its operations in Moldova, this collaboration stands as a testament to what sustained, principled investment can achieve. WFP remains deeply grateful for the Government's commitment to the people of Moldova and to supporting a responsible, resilient transition.

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**



<sup>1</sup> Thereinafter "Moldova"

## 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.

#### 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.

## Evaluation of Entry-to-Exit of WFP Moldova

WFP finalized a decentralized evaluation of its operations and support services in Moldova, covering the period from its commencement in February 2022 at the start of the Ukraine War through preparations for a responsible exit in 2025. The evaluation concluded that WFP's success was driven by four main factors.

First, WFP strategically planned its activities and partnerships across phases, creating an engagement model for Country Offices operating in long-term humanitarian settings. Second, it played a central role in coordinating refugee response efforts, aiding both refugees and vulnerable Moldovans while encouraging socio-economic integration. Third, WFP systematically linked its assistance to national social protection systems for sustainable handover to government-led mechanisms. Finally, the adaptive management of resources supported the effectiveness of its overall response.

The evaluation further suggested the development of knowledge management products to strengthen WFP's guidance on social protection guidance and to document best practices on how country operations can plan the shift from direct aid to national social protection systems. It also highlighted the importance of adjusting support services to facilitate continued operations and ensure responsible exit.

## Hot Meals in RACs – Ensuring Continuity of Dignity and Care

Throughout 2024–2025, WFP prioritized the responsible transition of hot meals provision in RACs, recognizing it as a core life-saving service within Moldova's refugee response. Since March 2022, WFP has provided more than 7.5 million hot meals across 102 RACs nationwide, ensuring consistent daily food assistance for 18,150 unique beneficiaries.

Donor consultations underlined that daily hot meals remain essential to safeguard refugees' dignity, health, and basic living conditions, particularly for older people, families with children, and those with limited coping capacity. Building on this feedback, WFP prioritized continuity by engaging donors early in the operational transition and advocating for the need for a nationally anchored solution.

In parallel, WFP consulted key partners, ensuring clarity on programme scope, technical requirements, cost, and operational complexity. Aligned with the WFP–UNHCR corporate agreement, discussions with UNHCR focused on complementarity and predictable leadership arrangements. UNHCR confirmed readiness to assume increased leadership over time, while noting short-term funding and absorption constraints.

At the national level, WFP continued coordination with the MLSP, to ensure alignment with Government systems and the broader RRP/ Inclusion and Solutions Working Group (ISWG) priorities this final year. As co-lead of the RRP ISWG, WFP has positioned RAC support within the joint UN-NGO Transitioning Action Plan and the proposed MLSP-led Social Protection Roadmap. Together, these efforts support a responsible, phased transition to national and UN partners in line with WFP's handover vision.

Behind these strategic discussions lies the daily reality of life in RACs, where the most vulnerable Ukrainian refugees continue to rely heavily on this support to meet their basic needs. At the Cărpineni RAC, Tatiana, 75 years old, arrived in November 2022 after fleeing Bakhmut, a city now almost entirely destroyed, with her daughter and two adult nephews with disabilities. Having lost their home, the family arrived with only what they could carry and had to start from scratch. While the family feels safe at the RAC, renting accommodation is not an option, due to medical expenses. Despite this, Tatiana's daughter works as a seamstress at a local factory, and one nephew, despite his disability, is employed as a security guard at the centre. Looking ahead, Tatiana says the family has no clear plans and nowhere to return to. Access to daily hot meals has been vital. "Without this food, I don't know how we would have managed," she says.



This story reflects WFP's commitment to a transition that safeguards essential support. By prioritizing partnership and operational continuity, WFP enabled forward planning while protecting refugees' daily needs, supporting a sustainable, people-centered humanitarian response in Moldova.

### 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:** After losing everything in Bakhmut, Tatiana and her family now rely on RAC support as their only lifeline. ©WFP/ Moldova