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## Republic of Moldova interim country strategic plan (2024–2026)

Duration	1 March 2024–28 February 2026
Total cost to WFP	USD 60,060,561
Gender and age marker*	4

\* <https://gender.manuals.wfp.org/en/gender-toolkit/gender-in-programming/gender-and-age-marker/>.

### Executive summary

The war in Ukraine continues to have profound economic, social and systemic repercussions in the Republic of Moldova. Since the outbreak of the war in February 2022, the Republic of Moldova has received over 974,151 forcibly displaced people and over 110,000 individuals (primarily women, children, people with disabilities and older people) remain in the country as of November 2023, making the Republic of Moldova the highest per capita host of refugees from Ukraine. The war and the subsequent rapid escalation in energy and food prices have disproportionately affected many vulnerable Moldovans, especially rural communities, older people, families with multiple children and people with disabilities. This has led to a significant increase in poverty rates, with nearly one third of the Moldovan population now living below the poverty line, compared with 25 percent prior to the war, weakening social cohesion between refugees and host communities.

Simultaneously, as it strives to achieve full membership of the European Union by 2030, the Republic of Moldova is undergoing rapid reforms in its economic, judicial, social, digital and environmental sectors in order to respond to the immediate crises and address the long-term development agenda. One key area of reform is the Republic of Moldova's national social protection system, which requires enhancements in its effectiveness, efficiency and degree of social inclusion.

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WFP has been providing support for Ukrainian refugees and vulnerable Moldovans since March 2022. Under this new interim country strategic plan for 2024–2026, WFP will continue to meet the needs of refugees, host communities and vulnerable Moldovan households directly affected by the war. In collaboration with partners and guided by government counterparts, WFP aims to accelerate the transition from delivering emergency response to strengthening national social protection systems, extending their reach to support refugees and providing a safety net for impoverished Moldovans.

WFP will maintain its focus on areas where it has a comparative advantage, ensuring alignment with the regional refugee response plan and government priorities under social protection system reforms, while coordinating with and proactively leveraging the strengths of other United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, donors and international and local civil society groups.

Building on strategic partnerships with the Government and key stakeholders, WFP aims to further strengthen national capacities and systems by improving vulnerability profiling, optimizing beneficiary targeting and inclusion and implementing effective local service management to enable a smooth transition from humanitarian response to a responsible exit from the Republic of Moldova.

The interim country strategic plan supports a coordinated and efficient response by humanitarian and development actors, addressing the different needs, priorities and experiences of women, men, boys and girls and thereby contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17. Through the following three interconnected and mutually reinforcing outcomes, WFP will deliver assistance to refugees and Moldovan households most severely affected by the crises:

- *Outcome 1:* Crisis-affected populations in the Republic of Moldova, including refugees, are able to meet their food and other essential needs throughout the year.
- *Outcome 2:* The Government of the Republic of Moldova has enhanced capacities and programmes to support the essential needs of vulnerable populations by 2026.
- *Outcome 3:* Humanitarian and development actors in the Republic of Moldova have improved capacities to prepare for and respond to emergencies throughout the year.

## **Draft decision\***

The Board approves the Republic of Moldova interim country strategic plan (2024–2026) (WFP/EB.1/2024/6-A/8) at a total cost to WFP of USD 60,060,561.

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\* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the decisions and recommendations document issued at the end of the session.

## 1. Country analysis

### 1.1 Country context

1. The Republic of Moldova is a land-locked, upper-middle-income country in Eastern Europe with a population of 2.6 million. Since gaining independence in 1991, the Republic of Moldova has made notable improvements on the Human Development Index, primarily through advancements in life expectancy, education and per capita gross domestic product (GDP). Nonetheless, the Republic of Moldova remains one of the poorest countries in Europe, with the second lowest GDP per capita (after Ukraine), at USD 5,563 in 2022.<sup>1</sup>
2. A year and a half since the outbreak of the war, over 110,000 refugees remain in the Republic of Moldova,<sup>2</sup> primarily women, children and older people.<sup>3</sup> While the implementation of the government decision on temporary protection<sup>4</sup> in March 2023 has provided refugees with a more stable and predictable legal status, many still face structural barriers that prevent them from meeting their basic needs.<sup>5</sup> Despite government efforts, Roma refugees face additional barriers including discrimination, language differences and illiteracy, which hinder their access to services, information and opportunities for integration. Further, there continues to be a significant risk of gender-based violence and human trafficking.
3. Beyond the refugee influx, the Republic of Moldova has been significantly impacted by the war due to its geographical proximity to, economic ties with and energy and food dependency on Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Supply chains and markets have been severely disrupted, resulting in a GDP contraction of 5.9 percent in 2022.<sup>6</sup> Rising energy costs have left 60 percent of Moldovans living in energy poverty, spending more than 10 percent of their household budget on energy.<sup>7</sup> The current trajectory of increasing food and energy prices threatens household welfare.
4. Almost one in three Moldovans now lives below the poverty line, compared with one in four before the war. Fourteen percent live in extreme poverty, which is highest among rural populations, especially among households with older people or people with disabilities. Households headed by women are disproportionately affected by poverty, with 33 percent of them experiencing absolute poverty, in contrast to 30 percent of households headed by men.<sup>8</sup>
5. The Republic of Moldova has experienced two droughts in the past four years, and recurring threats linked to climate change and natural disasters pose challenges, particularly as 57 percent of the population depend on climate-sensitive agriculture for income.<sup>9</sup> Despite the significant proportion of the workforce engaged in agriculture, the contribution of that

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<sup>1</sup> World Population Review. [Poorest countries in Europe 2023](#).

<sup>2</sup> Displaced crisis-affected Ukrainians arriving in the Republic of Moldova are herein referred to as refugees, regardless of their official registration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and their legal refugee status.

<sup>3</sup> UNHCR. [Operational Data Portal: Republic of Moldova](#).

<sup>4</sup> Government of the Republic of Moldova. 2023. [Government decision No. 21 on granting temporary protection to persons displaced from Ukraine](#) (in Romanian).

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR. 2023. [Inter-agency operational update, 31 March 2023](#) (in Romanian).

<sup>6</sup> World Bank. 2023. [Republic of Moldova country page: Economy](#).

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Development Programme. 2022. [Report on Energy Poverty Assessment and Support Mechanisms in the Republic of Moldova](#).

<sup>8</sup> National Bureau of Statistics. 2023. [Absolute poverty rate by sex of household head, 2014–2022](#).

<sup>9</sup> United Nations. 2021. [Common country analysis, 2020](#).

sector to GDP shrank from 25 to 8 percent between 2000 and 2022.<sup>10</sup> This can partly be attributed to the coronavirus disease 2019, the war in Ukraine and recurring droughts.<sup>11</sup>

## 1.2 Progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

6. The Republic of Moldova's commitment to the 2030 Agenda is articulated in the national development strategy, *Moldova 2030*, and further reflected in the 2020 Voluntary National Review<sup>12</sup> and the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) progress report. In 2020, notable advancements were made in poverty reduction, decent work and economic growth, climate action and partnerships for development (SDGs 1, 8, 13 and 17). Limited progress has been made towards the enhancement of quality education, water and sanitation, nutrition, health and well-being, gender equality, sustainable energy, industry, innovation, infrastructure and sustainable cities and the reduction of inequality (SDGs 2, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11).<sup>13</sup> The war has reversed any progress previously made in tackling poverty and food insecurity. As a result of multiple crises, the limitations of the social protection system, an increasingly informal economy and climate change, progress toward SDGs 1 and 2 has been moderate at best.
7. Upon securing European Union candidacy status in 2022, the Government set forth an ambitious plan to address development challenges and revive the economy, committing to a rapid and comprehensive socioeconomic and institutional reform process to advance progress. However, according to the 2023 SDG progress report, the data for 40 percent of SDG indicators was missing or incomplete, impeding any assessment of progress.

## 1.3 Progress towards Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17

### *Progress on Sustainable Development Goal 2 targets*

8. *Access to food.* The economic and energy crises have considerably impacted livelihoods. Assessments suggest<sup>14</sup> that refugees and Moldovan households are increasingly resorting to negative coping strategies, depleting their savings, borrowing money and reducing expenditure on health. Exacerbated by the war, the prevalence of food insecurity in the Republic of Moldova increased from 19 to 23 percent between 2016 and 2022<sup>15</sup> and is now more than double that of any other country in Europe. Food insecurity is compounded by poverty, high outward labour force migration, limited purchasing power and suboptimal food supply value chains. Rural areas face increasing levels of food insecurity because they are highly reliant on agriculture, which is influenced by unpredictable climate conditions. The prevalence of absolute and extreme poverty, which is correlated with food insecurity, is higher among pensioners and rural populations self-employed in agriculture. Moldovan households spend 41 percent of their budget on food, with the poorest households spending up to 57 percent, indicating poor economic access to food. Economic vulnerability is also influenced by household size and number of children. For instance, households with one child allocate 40 percent of their budget to food, while households with three or more children allocate up to 50 percent.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> World Bank. 2022. [Agriculture, forestry and fishing, value added \(% of GDP\) – Moldova](#).

<sup>11</sup> World Bank. 2021. [Moldova Special Focus Note: Moldova's Vulnerability to Natural Disasters and Climate Risks](#).

<sup>12</sup> Government of the Republic of Moldova. 2020. [Republic of Moldova - Voluntary National Review: Progress Report 2020](#).

<sup>13</sup> United Nations. 2021. [Common country analysis, 2020](#).

<sup>14</sup> WFP. 2023. Food security and vulnerability profiling (internal document).

<sup>15</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and others. 2023. [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023. Urbanization, agrifood systems transformation and healthy diets across the rural-urban continuum](#).

<sup>16</sup> National Bureau of Statistics. 2023. [Incomes and expenditure of the population in 2022](#) (in Romanian).

9. *End malnutrition.* While acute malnutrition and stunting levels are not currently considered a public health concern, iron deficiency and low dietary diversity contribute to the high prevalence of anaemia – 26 percent – among women of reproductive age and children under 5.<sup>17,18</sup> Access to healthy diets is hindered by weaknesses in the food system, including inadequate access to nutrient-rich foods and inefficiencies in the marketing of nutritious foods. The prevalence of obesity in the adult population is 19 percent and rapidly escalating, particularly among women. Projections indicate that by 2025, close to 22 percent of men and 25 percent of women will be obese.<sup>19</sup>
10. *Smallholder productivity and incomes.* Smallholder farmers are crucial for the Republic of Moldova's agricultural productivity as they account for 62 percent of agricultural output and represent 64 percent of informal employment. However, wage levels are 34 percent lower than the national average owing to the seasonality of labour demands and the low level of qualifications among agricultural workers. The war in Ukraine has further strained smallholder farmers, substantially increasing input prices and disrupting supply chain networks.
11. *Sustainable food systems.* Particularly vulnerable to climate change, the Republic of Moldova is experiencing an increase in the frequency of climate-related events, including devastating floods and drought, with significant repercussions on the primarily rain-fed agriculture. On average, the Republic of Moldova faces four to five severe droughts and one to two disastrous floods every decade.<sup>20</sup>

#### **Progress on Sustainable Development Goal 17 targets**

12. *Policy coherence.* In 2018, the Republic of Moldova adopted the national development strategy "*Moldova 2030*", which sets forth a strategic vision for socioeconomic development and prioritizes improving the quality of life and well-being of the population.<sup>21</sup>
13. *Capacity strengthening.* The Government's social reform agenda, RESTART,<sup>22</sup> aims to increase access to high quality social services and strengthen its shock-responsive capacity, including through better vulnerability profiling and more accurate data generation, establishing an interoperable information management system to streamline registration, monitoring and government-to-person payment procedures at the local and district levels; and providing training on human resource capacity building.<sup>23</sup> In April 2023, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry launched its national strategy for agriculture and rural development for 2023–2030 to enhance the capacities of the agricultural sector through the promotion of smart, efficient and sustainable agricultural practices and to foster the growth of the domestic market, boost export potential and establish a sustainable rural socioeconomic system.<sup>24</sup>

#### **1.4 Hunger gaps and challenges**

14. Since March 2023, the Moldovan Government has implemented a temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine, establishing a legal framework for the provision of essential assistance for refugees and asylum seekers to address their basic needs through existing

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<sup>17</sup> Global Hunger Index. 2023. [Country page: Republic of Moldova](#).

<sup>18</sup> World Health Organization. [Nutrition Landscape Information System Country Profile](#).

<sup>19</sup> World Obesity. 2020. [Obesity: missing the 2025 global targets – Trends, Costs and Country Reports](#).

<sup>20</sup> A decade of disasters has led to economic losses exceeding USD 50 million.

<sup>21</sup> Government of the Republic of Moldova. 2018. [National Development Strategy Moldova 2030](#) (draft).

<sup>22</sup> Government of the Republic of Moldova. 2023. [RESTART: for equitable access to quality social services](#) (in Romanian).

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> United Nations. 2021. [Common country analysis, 2020](#).

national systems and in accordance with international conventions.<sup>25</sup> With the strains on the national budget caused in part by the war, the Government remains dependent on the support of humanitarian and development actors to provide this assistance.

15. With support directed towards Ukrainian refugees and asylum seekers, over 90 percent of whom are hosted within local communities, there is a growing risk of social tension should the needs of host communities be ignored, or activities be insufficiently conflict sensitive. The uncertain outlook for the crisis also places the Republic of Moldova at potential risk of further socioeconomic shocks and instability. It is therefore important to continue supporting efforts to strengthen national social protection systems and capacities as these will enable the integration of humanitarian and development programming within government systems.
16. Despite recent investments, gaps persist in the primary anti-poverty social assistance programme because disadvantaged or vulnerable people have challenges in accessing social assistance. The scarcity of data and limited sample size in existing datasets pose significant challenges for the identification and monitoring of those who are furthest behind.<sup>26</sup> Women residing in rural areas face limited livelihood opportunities and dedicate more time to unpaid responsibilities, leading to lower incomes and increased reliance on social benefits and remittances. This situation is exacerbated during retirement, as gender disparities in pension distribution are over 20 percent.<sup>27</sup> Households with three or more children register the highest rate of absolute poverty, at 40 percent.<sup>28</sup> Furthermore, a shrinking and aging population has resulted in low productivity growth and rendered a significant proportion of the lower-income population dependent on pensions or social assistance.<sup>29</sup>
17. Prior to the war, the prevalence of gender-based violence in the Republic of Moldova was highest among vulnerable groups, including women with disabilities, Roma women, LGBTIQ+<sup>30</sup> persons and people nearing retirement age. The war and the socioeconomic situation have triggered a rise in the prevalence of gender-based violence, particularly conflict-related sexual violence, domestic violence and human trafficking. Significant gaps in prevention and response include the inadequate application of minimum standards for risk mitigation in temporary shelters and accommodation, and a lack of risk analysis at border and transit sites.

## 2. Strategic implications for WFP

### 2.1 Achievements, lessons learned and strategic changes for WFP

18. The largest humanitarian food actor under the regional refugee response plan for January to December 2023, WFP has been operational in the Republic of Moldova since March 2022, addressing the humanitarian needs of refugees and asylum seekers fleeing Ukraine as well as vulnerable Moldovans. During this time, the organization has supported 181,000 people through cash and voucher assistance. Under the Ukraine limited emergency operation, February to August 2022, WFP rapidly assessed needs and mobilized resources to assist 40,000 refugees and host families. Following that initial phase, WFP introduced a transitional interim country strategic plan (ICSP), under which WFP, together with sister

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<sup>25</sup> Government of the Republic of Moldova. 2023. *Government decision No. 21 on granting temporary protection to persons displaced from Ukraine* (in Romanian).

<sup>26</sup> Government of the Republic of Moldova. 2018. *National Development Strategy Moldova 2030* (draft).

<sup>27</sup> Government of the Republic of Moldova. 2023. *RESTART: for equitable access to quality social services*.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> United Nations. 2021. *Common country analysis, 2020*.

<sup>30</sup> Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, asexual and other sexually or gender diverse persons.

United Nations agencies and under leadership of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, sought to mitigate any social tension in households accommodating refugees by expanding assistance to the poorest host households to ease their financial burden amid soaring energy and food prices. WFP also assumed responsibility for providing food assistance to refugees residing in refugee accommodation centres, providing over 2.9 million meals to the most vulnerable refugees (70 percent of whom were women and girls).

19. From September 2022, WFP expanded the scope of its response to include support channelled through the national social protection system to mitigate the socioeconomic impact of the war on the most vulnerable Moldovans. In support of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and in close collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNHCR, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), WFP led the provision of cash-based transfers (CBTs) for over 54,000 vulnerable households,<sup>31</sup> of whom 70 percent were headed by women and 73 percent had a member with a disability. This support formed part of the emergency winterization programme designed to enable the most vulnerable Moldovans to meet their essential needs.
20. A multistakeholder after-action review conducted in April 2023 generated several key lessons to inform efforts to improve the effectiveness of the national social protection system.<sup>32</sup> These include enhancing targeting and coverage by strengthening the collection and analysis of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability; reinforcing the digital platform developed with WFP's support for timely and effective disbursement and oversight; and investing in the capacity of social assistants and local communication strategies on access to cash payments.<sup>33</sup> Based on lessons learned, WFP has also identified opportunities to use its expertise and flexibility to help to strengthen the shock responsiveness of national safety nets, including by cultivating strategic partnerships, in particular with organizations representing marginalized population groups such as people with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ people and Roma.

## **2.2 Alignment with national development plans, the United Nations sustainable development cooperation framework and other frameworks**

21. WFP's efforts under the ICSP are primarily aligned with the regional refugee response plan and the role envisaged for the United Nations under the government decision on temporary protection. The ICSP is also aligned with the national development strategy Moldova 2030 and the 2022 Ministry of Labour and Social Protection strategy: "Building Social Resilience to Safely Navigate through Turmoil: Five programmes to ensure social stability in the Republic of Moldova".
22. The ICSP is further aligned with the Republic of Moldova United Nations sustainable development cooperation framework (UNSDCF) for 2023–2027. The UNSDCF sets out four strategic priorities that have been jointly identified by the United Nations development system, the Government of the Republic of Moldova and key stakeholders: just and inclusive institutions and equal opportunities for human development; participatory governance and social cohesion; enhanced shared prosperity in a sustainable economy; and green development, sustainable communities and disaster and climate resilience.

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<sup>31</sup> Seventy percent of the total population.

<sup>32</sup> Provision of emergency cash assistance to crisis-affected populations and integration of shock response into the national social protection system in the Republic of Moldova, April 2023.

<sup>33</sup> Social assistants play a vital role in monitoring activities, gathering community feedback, conducting outreach and linking social cash assistance with other forms of social service benefits.

### **2.3 Engagement with key stakeholders**

23. To inform the design and development of the ICSP, WFP held partner and beneficiary consultations, which were used to validate the overall strategic direction and programme priorities. These consultations involved line ministries, other United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international financial institutions and civil society groups. Beneficiaries were consulted through focus group discussions with representation from across demographic groups, and information was gathered from the community feedback mechanisms, including through the hotline, through post-distribution monitoring and through workshops on lessons learned. WFP's participation in inter-agency joint planning and sectoral coordination mechanisms also informed ICSP design.

## **3. WFP strategic portfolio**

### **3.1 Direction, focus and intended impacts**

24. The focus of the ICSP will continue to address the urgent needs of refugees and asylum seekers from Ukraine as well as vulnerable Moldovans, prioritizing assistance for the most vulnerable refugees, including new arrivals at the border and those residing in refugee accommodation centres, and for vulnerable Moldovans to address the cost-of-living crisis caused by the energy and global food crises. Simultaneously, through a nexus approach, WFP aims to equip the Government with a more efficient and effective social protection system, improving vulnerability profiling, optimizing data access, and better beneficiary targeting and inclusion, enhancing their ability to respond to shocks and supporting the transition from humanitarian assistance to inclusion in a more robust national social protection system.
25. In collaboration with sister United Nations agencies, WFP will pay special attention to the needs and interests of specific groups in situations of vulnerability, including women, older people, people with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ people, Roma and young people. WFP will work to empower these groups while implementing conflict-sensitive measures that focus on ensuring protection and accountability to affected populations.
26. The ICSP focuses on three mutually reinforcing outcomes in the areas of crisis response, institutional capacity strengthening and service provision, contributing to the achievement of SDGs 2 and 17.

### **3.2 Interim country strategic plan outcomes, WFP strategic outcomes, focus areas, expected outputs and key activities**

#### ***Interim country strategic plan outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations in the Republic of Moldova, including refugees, are able to meet their food and other essential needs throughout the year***

27. Work under ICSP outcome 1 focuses on providing immediate relief to vulnerable people and communities affected by the war in Ukraine. WFP aims to provide assistance where and when it is needed most, ensuring an inclusive and equitable response.

#### ***WFP strategic outcome***

28. ICSP outcome 1 is aligned with WFP strategic outcome 1: people are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs.

#### ***Focus area***

29. The focus area of ICSP outcome 1 is crisis response.



**Alignment with national priorities**

30. ICSP outcome 1 contributes to the overall humanitarian crisis response as reflected in the regional refugee response plan, which emphasizes supporting the government response to the immediate needs of refugees while strengthening the resilience of host communities and building social cohesion with refugees.

**Expected outputs**

31. The following output will contribute to the achievement of ICSP outcome 1:
  - Output 1: Targeted refugees and other crisis-affected populations receive unconditional assistance to meet their essential needs, including food.

**Key activities***Activity 1: Provide food assistance to refugees and other crisis-affected populations*

32. Under activity 1, WFP will continue to provide nutritious snacks at the border for new arrivals from Ukraine and will maintain a contingency measure for scaling up food assistance in the event of further population displacement from Ukraine.
33. WFP will continue to provide CBTs for Ukrainian refugees and Moldovan households hosting refugees. This will include covering the needs of refugees residing in accommodation centres<sup>34</sup> as part of a broader package of social services<sup>35</sup> and providing supplementary support to meet the food needs of vulnerable households hosting refugees to reduce their economic burden and encourage their continued provision of accommodation for refugees while promoting social cohesion.<sup>36</sup>

**Partnerships**

34. WFP will implement activity 1 in collaboration with humanitarian and development partners and with the Government. WFP's cash assistance will be implemented in coordination and complementarity with the multi-purpose cash assistance provided by UNHCR and IOM and other humanitarian and development actors for registered refugee households. WFP will collaborate with UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF and UNFPA to improve the quality of food preparation and waste management facilities and invest in the skills of community members to ensure the dignified delivery of assistance for those most in need. WFP will also work with cooperating partners and local and other subnational administrations to expand support to local organizations and institutions representing at-risk or marginalized groups in order to support their inclusion in services, ensuring more inclusive outreach, assistance and community engagement.

**Assumptions**

35. WFP assumes that humanitarian needs will continue, the security situation remains stable and adequate funding is secured.

**Transition/handover strategy**

36. WFP will maintain readiness to scale up humanitarian assistance while assisting the Government in gradually assuming responsibility for and the protection of refugees and asylum seekers. As part of its efforts to facilitate a responsible exit, WFP will provide technical support for the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (under ICSP outcome 2)

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<sup>34</sup> The Government has defined a strategy to consolidate the refugee accommodation centres with the aim of providing cost-efficient support for refugees for as long as they need to reside in the centres, while encouraging their integration into Moldovan society.

<sup>35</sup> Including child support, counselling and psychosocial support for women, provided through UNFPA and UNICEF.

<sup>36</sup> Post-distribution monitoring conducted in February 2023 indicated that as many as 70 percent of households would be unable to continue hosting refugees without additional cash assistance.

to enhance the existing social food service system<sup>37</sup> so that it can be used to deliver localized and community-led food assistance to refugees and vulnerable Moldovans, allowing for a phase-out of the use of the refugee accommodation centres to deliver food assistance.

***Interim country strategic plan outcome 2: The Government of the Republic of Moldova has enhanced capacities and programmes to address the essential needs of vulnerable populations by 2026***

***WFP strategic outcome***

37. ICSP outcome 2 is aligned with WFP strategic outcome 4: national programmes and systems are strengthened.

***Focus area***

38. The focus area of ICSP outcome 2 is resilience building.

***Alignment with national priorities***

39. ICSP outcome 2 is aligned with UNSDCF outcome 2, “By 2027, more accountable and transparent human rights-based and gender-responsive governance empowers all people of Moldova to participate in and to contribute to development processes”.

***Expected outputs***

40. The following outputs will contribute to the achievement of ICSP outcome 2:
- Output 2.1: The Government benefits from an enhanced shock responsive social protection system that more effectively reaches the most vulnerable populations.
  - Output 2.2: Vulnerable populations in the Republic of Moldova are provided with social assistance cash top-ups that help them to meet their food and other essential needs.

***Key activities***

*Activity 2: Provide assistance to national institutions on social protection, including through the provision of transfers for targeted populations*

41. Activity 2 aims to support the Government, particularly the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, in its rollout of the RESTART reforms aimed at enhancing the shock-responsiveness of the national social protection system. This work will address the essential needs of the most vulnerable refugees and Moldovans whose economic vulnerability has been exacerbated by the war, and thereby mitigating potential social tensions between refugees and host communities. Building on lessons learned, this intervention utilizes existing cash assistance programmes to provide cash top-ups to the most socioeconomically vulnerable Moldovans, in order to prevent the poorest populations from falling deeper into poverty.
42. Drawing on improvements achieved in targeting, beneficiary identification, cash delivery, verification and monitoring, and community feedback mechanisms, WFP will identify opportunities for achieving cost-efficiencies and identify gaps in social assistance for vulnerable and conflict-affected populations, including refugees, taking into consideration the adequacy, coverage and timeliness of social assistance. WFP will provide technical capacity support, policy advice and operational guidance for the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to address identified gaps and promote the expansion of programmes in order to improve the shock-responsiveness of the social protection system.

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<sup>37</sup> Part of the RESTART programme.

43. Together with United Nations partners, WFP will support the use of digitalization to address data gaps and accuracy, improving interoperability and linkages between databases for referrals and access to services. WFP will build on the cash platform already established for registration, delivery of government-to-person payments and monitoring and will support the development of a more sophisticated information management system to scale up the capacity and reactivity of existing cash assistance. This work will be aligned with the national e-governance strategy<sup>38</sup> and data protection protocols and will comply with WFP data privacy requirements.
44. Drawing on its expertise, WFP aims to enhance the capacity of local social food services, leveraging concurrent investments made by UNHCR, UNFPA, IOM and UNICEF in expanding these community structures to serve both refugees and vulnerable Moldovan populations as one-stop shops for social services. In this regard, WFP will facilitate the establishment and strengthening of social food services through food vouchers and/or community kitchens,<sup>39</sup> including those in refugee accommodation centres, to ensure that food assistance is provided alongside nutrition awareness initiatives. The organization will also support the overall reform of social food services and the implementation of new standards for food vouchers and community kitchens.
45. WFP will work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, FAO and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), providing technical expertise to understand underlying challenges related to food systems and social food service institutions. To support government reform of the social food service system, WFP aims to strengthen linkages between local food producers and institutions providing social food services, based on evidence from market assessments and food system value chain analysis.
46. In collaboration with the Government, the United Nations system in the Republic of Moldova and NGO partners, WFP will monitor activities aimed at fostering social cohesion between refugees and their hosts, including through clearly communicated and accountable targeting approaches, community outreach and communication campaigns, the tracking of social cohesion gains, and the identification and mitigation of any risks related to conflict sensitivity.

### **Partnerships**

47. WFP will work closely with relevant United Nations entities, development partners and civil society organizations to identify areas where in-depth analysis is required to shape programme implementation and policy learning in support of government reforms. WFP will collaborate with UNICEF and UNFPA to support digitization, information systems strategies and programme delivery, paying special attention to shock response. With UNHCR, WFP will advocate the inclusion of refugees under existing social services, including social food services.
48. WFP will work closely with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and, in line with RESTART priorities, will ensure that CBT design, implementation and monitoring is coherent with national systems and capacity.
49. With a view to facilitating a smooth and responsible exit from the Republic of Moldova, WFP will advance strategic partnerships with the Government and with other United Nations entities around common objectives. WFP has developed joint road maps with UNICEF, UNFPA and UNHCR in support of the refugee response and reforms in social protection; with FAO and IFAD on food security information systems; and with the United Nations

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<sup>38</sup> Government of the Republic of Moldova. 2023. *Digital Transformation Strategy of the Republic of Moldova 2023–2030* (in Romanian).

<sup>39</sup> Social food service is a priority area of the RESTART reform agenda.

Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) on early warning systems. These road maps will focus WFP efforts with regard to reform in the areas of social protection, food security and emergency preparedness, for the establishment of sustainable technical foundations.

### **Assumptions**

50. The achievement of ICSP outcome 2 assumes that partners and donors contribute expertise and funding; and the Government delivers on the social protection reform agenda, with sufficient resources available to accomplish agreed milestones.

### **Transition/handover strategy**

51. In line with government reform, WFP's transition strategy is to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Government to implement shock-responsive social protection, allowing the Government and partner United Nations entities to assume the implementation of social protection activities.

### ***Interim country strategic plan outcome 3: Humanitarian and development actors in the Republic of Moldova have improved capacities to prepare for and respond to emergencies throughout the year***

#### **WFP strategic outcome**

52. ICSP outcome 3 is aligned with WFP strategic outcome 5: humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective.

#### **Focus area**

53. The focus area of ICSP outcome 3 is crisis response.

#### **Alignment with national priorities**

54. ICSP outcome 3 is aligned with the regional refugee response plan. Through work under this ICSP outcome, WFP seeks to ensure the effective coordination of partners and enable the delivery of assistance to vulnerable populations, in support of government efforts.

#### **Expected outputs**

55. The following output will contribute to the achievement of ICSP outcome 3:
- Output 3: Crisis-affected populations benefit from the enhanced operational capacity of humanitarian and development actors.

#### **Key activities**

##### *Activity 3: Provide on-demand services to humanitarian and development actors*

56. Should the humanitarian situation deteriorate to such an extent that humanitarian actors are unable to secure the required technical assistance and support services, WFP, where feasible and required, will provide on-demand and common services to ensure that humanitarian needs are met in a timely and coordinated manner. These services include cash delivery services, information management and the provision of WFP software systems and logistical services.

#### **Partnerships**

57. Based on identified needs and requests from partners, WFP will provide common services that enable humanitarian and development actors to respond rapidly and in a coordinated, gender-sensitive and gender-responsive manner to humanitarian needs.

#### **Assumptions**

58. The achievement of ICSP outcome 3 assumes that partners request services and they have adequate resources to cover the costs of service provision.

### ***Transition/handover strategy***

59. Service delivery for the humanitarian and development community will be provided on request and as needed.

## **4. Implementation arrangements**

### **4.1 Beneficiary analysis**

60. Through the ICSP, WFP aims to assist 227,424 beneficiaries, including refugees, households hosting refugees and vulnerable Moldovans; the plan also contains a contingency to increase the number of people assisted in the event of further displacement from Ukraine. Most refugees receiving support will be women, children and older people, with close to 70 percent being women and girls.
61. Under activity 1, a total of 2,500 refugees residing in refugee accommodation centres will receive food assistance through communal kitchens or food deliveries. As part of the ongoing optimization of the centres, there is an expectation that women, children, older people and people living with disabilities will be given priority to continue living in communal accommodation, while refugees who are able will be encouraged to participate in the rental assistance programme and move to more permanent accommodation. To meet the immediate food needs of Ukrainian refugees arriving at the border with the Republic of Moldova, WFP will continue to provide one-off nutritious snacks for 18,800 refugees<sup>40</sup> and will maintain the operational agility to assist an additional 50,000 refugees based on the inter-agency contingency planning threshold.
62. WFP will also assist 3,000 refugee-hosting households (amounting to 9,000 people), applying an incentive-based approach to support and recognize the important role that these households play in accommodating refugees and facilitating their integration. This approach identifies and assesses the needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of host households based on predetermined vulnerability criteria in close alignment with vulnerability criteria set out in the UNHCR Vulnerability Scorecard. Beneficiary selection will be carried out in consultation with the Government, partners and beneficiaries.
63. For activity 2, the selection of Moldovan households eligible for assistance is based on existing social registers, in line with the Government's social protection registry, which represent the most vulnerable groups at greatest risk of experiencing increased food insecurity and poverty. WFP will target 150,000 vulnerable people in 2024 and 2025,<sup>41</sup> applying targeting developed with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in order to prioritize the most economically vulnerable people. The criteria for targeting vulnerable host communities will be updated annually in coordination with the Government, based on vulnerability assessments, data analysis, programme monitoring, community feedback and beneficiary consultations.
64. Informed by consultations with communities and local organizations and applying a "do no harm" principle to avoid creating additional gender, social and environmental risks, food assistance will be provided through social food services to 2,500 vulnerable Moldovans in districts with the highest concentration of refugees. The use of an appropriate CBT mechanism will be explored in accordance with the standards adopted by the Government and other partners.
65. To further address inequality related to gender and diversity, WFP will undertake community-based participatory planning, an inclusive community-driven process that ensures that women and men, with and without disabilities, including members belonging

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<sup>40</sup> Culminative for the implementation period.

<sup>41</sup> On the assumption that this support will transition into the national system by winter 2025/2026.

to minority groups, are equitably involved in the planning, targeting and implementation of programmes.

66. Aligned with WFP's support for the reform of RESTART under activity 2, and in support of the full integration of refugees into the social protection system, UNHCR is working to develop and roll out a road map to ensure that refugees with temporary protection status can access national social assistance schemes in line with humanitarian principles.

## 4.2 Transfers

67. Under activity 1, through its partners WFP will provide the refugee accommodation centre management committee with monthly commodity vouchers to be used to serve nutritious hot meals for refugees in the centres in order to meet their food and nutrition needs.<sup>42</sup> Hot meals will be prepared on site or delivered, depending on the availability of suitable cooking facilities. WFP expects the number of refugees hosted in refugee accommodation centres to gradually fall as the basic needs of refugees are increasingly met through existing social safety nets in accordance with the government decision on temporary protection. A similar transfer modality will be provided through the social food services so that refugees in communities and vulnerable Moldovans will be able to continue accessing food.
68. Upon arrival at the border, through value vouchers, WFP will provide refugees with a one-off nutritious snack. As a contingency measure, WFP will be prepared to provide up to 50,000 additional refugees with a one-time value voucher (worth USD 26) so that they can meet urgent food requirements for a period of two weeks. The voucher is redeemable at a country-wide supermarket chain.
69. WFP will provide Moldovan households hosting refugees with USD 40 in multi-purpose unrestricted cash per person per month (USD 120 per household),<sup>43</sup> intended to cover the gap in minimum essential expenditures identified through WFP monitoring analysis and the government-set minimum food subsistence level.<sup>44</sup> This assistance is aimed to prevent the depletion of the resources of host households while they accommodate refugees. To encourage those eligible to register for this assistance, the assistance value is equivalent to 53 percent of the minimum wage in the Republic of Moldova (USD 229). The number of refugees being hosted is expected to gradually reduce over the ICSP implementation period as they transition towards more permanent accommodation.
70. Vulnerable Moldovan households targeted for assistance under activity 2 will be provided with unrestricted multi-purpose cash for a period of six months during the winter, with the transfer value preliminarily set at USD 40<sup>45</sup> per household. Complementing the cash assistance of other humanitarian and development actors, the value will be aligned with the Government's safety net values to enable households to meet their essential needs and facilitate the eventual handover of the programme. WFP may adjust the transfer duration, value or number of beneficiaries in line with government priorities and identified needs.
71. To the extent possible, beneficiaries of cash assistance will receive entitlements through existing financial service providers as part of efforts to align with government systems. Utilizing national systems and infrastructure will benefit from beneficiaries' familiarity with such systems, supporting ease of access to assistance, especially in rural areas, while ensuring the sustainability and effectiveness of interventions.

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<sup>42</sup> In accordance with government regulations and based on the cooking facilities available, food can only be prepared communally by members of the refugee accommodation centre management committee.

<sup>43</sup> February 2023 post-distribution monitoring indicates an average of three members per household.

<sup>44</sup> National Bureau of Statistics. 2022. [Living standard of the population](#).

<sup>45</sup> The WFP-supported cash transfer is a top-up to the assistance provided through Ajutor Social and APRA (heating allowance).

### **4.3 Country office capacity and profile**

72. WFP has been working in the Republic of Moldova since March 2022 with a multidisciplinary team of national and international staff equipped with the skills required to respond to operational needs. To facilitate WFP operations, particularly the capacity strengthening components under ICSP outcome 2, WFP will recruit new staff to boost its capacity in the Republic of Moldova and support the Government in the areas of social protection, food security (markets), climate change mitigation and early warning analysis and monitoring.
73. WFP will prioritize the recruitment of national staff to enhance the programme and strengthen the skills and capacity of qualified staff in the Republic of Moldova, ensuring operational sustainability. Particular attention will be paid to gender parity in the overall staff ratio and within grades, in line with corporate guidelines. WFP will continue to prioritize the improvement of staff wellness, safety and security while promoting a diversified, safe, respectful and inclusive work environment.

### **4.4 Partnerships**

74. As the effects of the protracted war in Ukraine spread through the Republic of Moldova, and as part of its responsible planning for an eventual exit, WFP will intensify its partnerships with the Government, and especially with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as with other United Nations entities, in order to support the ongoing reforms in the areas of social protection, food security and crisis management. To this end, WFP will strengthen its established collaboration with agencies including UNICEF, UNHCR and UNFPA through joint planning for the provision of cash assistance to crisis-affected populations and the integration of shock responsiveness into the national social protection system. WFP will work closely with FAO and IFAD to improve food security (market) information and analysis and will work closely with UNDP and UNDRR on climate change mitigation and early warning systems as well as on general preparedness mechanisms.
75. WFP has partnership agreements with national and international NGOs in the Republic of Moldova and will continue close engagement and capacity strengthening, drawing on partners' comparative advantages and expertise to inform programming. WFP will also aim to enhance its partnerships and foster new ones with organizations representing highly vulnerable groups in order to ensure their adequate participation and inclusion in all aspects of programming. Alongside UNHCR, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and humanitarian partners, WFP will continue to support coordination mechanisms, including for refugee emergency response, and will coordinate with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection for specific interventions. WFP will continue to chair the food security working group and coordinate efforts with the cash working group chaired by UNHCR and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

## **5. Performance management and evaluation**

### **5.1 Monitoring and evaluation arrangements**

76. Capitalizing on lessons learned and guided by the corporate results framework for 2022–2025, WFP has developed a monitoring, review and evaluation plan to ensure that all process, output and outcome indicators are sufficiently monitored within specified timeframes and using data disaggregated by age, sex and disability. Results will be measured through an inclusive and risk-based approach that demonstrates results and detects issues related to gender, accountability to affected populations, protection and disability inclusion. Monitoring results will be reported through WFP corporate systems, United Nations INFO and Activity Info platforms, demonstrating WFP's contributions to SDG achievement. Vulnerability analysis will be conducted among beneficiary and

- non-beneficiary groups, including through WFP essential needs and vulnerability assessments and through data from the government national budget survey, in order to refine targeting and prioritization and generate evidence for learning and systems improvement.
77. WFP field monitors and third-party monitors will collect data regularly in order to monitor the implementation of the ICSP. Monitoring activities will be aligned with WFP's monitoring guidelines and will include regular data collection on programme outputs and processes at project sites (refugee accommodation centres and food service institutions), as well as regular household-level post-distribution monitoring. For every round of distribution, WFP will carry out perception surveys with households receiving multi-purpose cash in order to obtain feedback and assess how assistance is utilized. To complement on-site monitoring, WFP will utilize mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping technology supported by WFP's Mobile Operational Data Acquisition system and data analysis and visualization software to enable efficient remote monitoring and provide rapid feedback on programme implementation.
  78. In collaboration with other humanitarian and development partners, especially IFAD, FAO, UNDP and UNDRR, WFP will conduct food security, vulnerability and market assessments and analyses as well as research on food security and social cohesion. WFP vulnerability profiling will inform beneficiary selection criteria, in coordination with other partners including UNHCR, to ensure that the most vulnerable and food-insecure populations are prioritized.
  79. To provide an evidence-based foundation for capacity strengthening activities, an assessment will be conducted to analyse the strengths and gaps in existing government information systems, based on which WFP will identify opportunities for introducing technology that enhances government service delivery via online self-service integrated information systems. Annual follow-up analyses will assess results, derive further lessons and feed into programme adjustment processes. To facilitate a responsible exit, WFP will conduct a thematic decentralized evaluation in the first half of 2025 to document the support provided to the Government to strengthen the shock responsiveness of the social protection system, including cash assistance for vulnerable Moldovans, and to feed into corporate learning.

## **5.2 Risk management**

### ***Strategic risks***

80. The war in Ukraine is ongoing and may trigger new influxes of refugees into the Republic of Moldova. WFP has included contingency measures that will enable it to swiftly scale up operations to meet an increase in needs and has already worked together with relevant authorities and partners to establish an inter-agency contingency plan that ensures full preparedness in case of a sudden influx of refugees or a sudden increase in humanitarian needs more broadly. WFP will also strengthen emergency preparedness and disaster management capacities in the Republic of Moldova in close collaboration with relevant authorities and technical partners, including UNDP and UNDRR.
81. There is a possibility of a spillover of the war into the Republic of Moldova, which could hamper WFP's ability to operate in country (at least on a temporary basis) and lead to a significant increase in needs. WFP has established a comprehensive preparedness plan based on the regularly updated United Nations context analysis. WFP will continue to monitor the situation to ensure programme continuity and adaptation and the safety and well-being of staff, partners and beneficiaries.
82. Funding shortfalls could force WFP to reduce the number of beneficiaries targeted for assistance or reduce support for government-requested capacity strengthening activities;



either of these scenarios could affect WFP's reputation and its relationships with communities, the Government and other actors in the humanitarian system. To mitigate this risk, WFP has scaled up its advocacy and partnerships efforts. WFP will also develop a prioritization plan to ensure that available funds are directed to the most vulnerable households and the most critical elements of its technical assistance.

### ***Operational risks***

83. WFP efforts to strengthen information systems under ICSP outcome 2 come with associated data protection risks. WFP will apply appropriate measures to ensure clear mapping of, and agreement on optimized data protection processes and will engage with government and other key actors to establish ownership from the outset and enable the future handover of this work. The operation will follow the standards set in the cash assurance framework and WFP's identity management guidelines.

### ***Financial risk***

84. The Ukraine war continues to disrupt local supply chains and increase the prices of food and fuel. WFP will use cash and voucher transfer modalities to mitigate the risks associated with the food supply chain and will continue to monitor prices on local markets to ensure that transfer values are sufficient to meet the needs of vulnerable refugees and host communities. To mitigate exchange rate related price increases, WFP has allocated transfer values in United States dollars, given the higher stability of that currency. WFP will retain the ability to adjust transfer values as needed, in line with the cash working group and the Government, to meet the needs of vulnerable people.

### ***Fiduciary risks***

85. WFP will make all necessary efforts to train staff and partners (including service providers) on all aspects of WFP ethics and standards of conduct, paying special attention to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. A risk officer will focus on and promote the compliance of programme implementation and monitoring with the highest standards of transparency, integrity and accountability. Senior management will be supported in assessing and mitigating the risks that may impede WFP's ability to achieve its objectives and in addressing in a timely manner any significant risk, control or other issues. Finally, special attention will be paid to staff health, safety and well-being through a variety of actions, including – but not limited to – ensuring that office equipment and infrastructure comply with corporate standards. WFP further reaffirms its commitment to addressing and preventing aid diversion, and will implement robust oversight mechanisms to ensure the effective and transparent utilization of resources and ensure that assistance reaches intended beneficiaries.

## **5.3 Environmental and social safeguards**

86. WFP is committed to ensuring that environmental and social safeguards are in place and implementing conflict-sensitive programming. Strategic environmental and social risk screening and assessment of the proposed ICSP activities has been carried out to ensure that WFP does no harm. WFP will ensure that environmental and social risk screening is carried out for specific projects and interventions that are subject to field level agreements, memoranda of understanding or construction contracts. WFP will adhere to its environmental and social sustainability framework and take into account the latest guidance on operational safety and hazards.
87. WFP will have mitigation measures in place and will endeavour to address risks of exclusion and discrimination at all levels including those associated with social discrimination, power structures, vulnerability, age, disability, sex and gender. WFP will explore the possibility of using an environmental management system to prevent and mitigate the potential negative environmental impacts of support operations, focusing on energy efficiency and

decarbonization, waste/water management and sustainable procurement and increasing staff awareness of these issues. WFP will continue to encourage remote meeting solutions to reduce emissions from air and motorized travel.

## 6. Resources for results

### 6.1 Country portfolio budget

88. The ICSP needs-based plan requires over USD 60 million in funding, with 45 percent allocated to work under ICSP outcome 1 to provide life-saving assistance for vulnerable refugees and host communities. Reflecting the scale of needs, just over half of the budget is allocated to work under ICSP outcome 2, facilitating the provision of cash assistance for vulnerable Moldovans as part of capacity and systems strengthening efforts and investment in national safety nets. The remainder of the budget falls under ICSP outcome 3, ensuring that WFP remains ready to provide on-demand services to partners on a cost-recovery basis. WFP is committing 7 percent of the ICSP budget to efforts to achieve gender equality.

<b>COUNTRY PORTFOLIO BUDGET (USD)</b>					
<b>Interim country strategic plan outcome</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	1	15 812 902	10 671 043	656 607	<b>27 140 552</b>
2	2	13 952 864	17 169 933	770 955	<b>31 893 753</b>
3	3	423 230	503 037	99 989	<b>1 026 256</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>30 188 996</b>	<b>28 344 014</b>	<b>1 527 551</b>	<b>60 060 561</b>

### 6.2 Resourcing outlook and strategy

89. WFP will continue to engage with donors through regular consultations, reporting results, demonstrating cost efficiencies and explaining operational developments in order to foster increased confidence and strengthen partnerships. To facilitate necessary adjustments to respond to evolving needs, WFP will use advocacy in a bid to increase the level of flexible and unearmarked funding. WFP will engage the Government in joint advocacy efforts to demonstrate government buy-in and strengthen appeals for further donor partnerships in order to achieve collective results. The organization will also seek new opportunities to coordinate programming with other United Nations entities and international NGOs, advocating joint resource mobilization. Joint fundraising efforts carried out with UNICEF and UNHCR, for example, will demonstrate cost effectiveness and the optimal use of limited resources. WFP will work to diversify donor support, reaching out to potential development-focused donors, international financial institutions, the private sector and foundations. WFP anticipates availing newly accessible funding once the Republic of Moldova initiates negotiations for accession to the European Union.
90. In the event of funding shortfalls WFP will prioritize transfers to beneficiaries, while maintaining a minimum critical level of capacity strengthening support at the institutional level. An analysis of the partnership landscape will be an integral part of any prioritization plan. Guided by vulnerability assessments, WFP will coordinate with other actors when prioritizing activities in order to reduce inclusion and exclusion errors or duplication.

## ANNEX I

### LOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN (2024–2026)

#### SDG 2: Zero hunger

#### SDG target 1: Access to food

**Interim country strategic plan outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations in the Republic of Moldova, including refugees, are able to meet their food and other essential needs throughout the year**

WFP strategic outcome 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs

Focus area: crisis response

#### Assumptions

WFP assumes that humanitarian needs will continue, that the security situation remains stable, and that adequate funding is secured.

#### Outcome indicators

Consumption-based coping strategy index (average)

Economic capacity to meet essential needs

Food consumption score

Livelihood coping strategies for essential needs

#### Activities and outputs

##### 1. Provide food assistance to refugees and other crisis-affected populations. (URT-1.2: Unconditional resource transfer)

1 Targeted refugees and other crisis-affected populations receive unconditional assistance to meet their essential needs, including food (Output category A: Resources transferred, Standard output 1.1: Food insecure and crisis-affected populations have access to nutritious food and cash-based assistance, restored assets and services to meet their urgent needs)

**SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals****SDG target 9: Capacity building**

**Interim country strategic plan outcome 2: The Government of the Republic of Moldova has enhanced capacities and programmes to address the essential needs of vulnerable populations by 2026**

WFP strategic outcome 4: National programmes and systems are strengthened

Focus area: resilience building

**Assumptions**

Partners and donors contribute expertise and funding; and the Government delivers on the social protection reform agenda, with sufficient resources available to accomplish agreed milestones.

**Outcome indicators**

Consumption-based coping strategy index (average)

Food consumption score

Number of national policies, strategies, programmes and other system components contributing to zero hunger and other SDGs enhanced with WFP capacity strengthening support

Number of national policies, strategies, programmes and other system components contributing to zero hunger and other SDGs that have benefitted from WFP capacity strengthening support

Number of policies and legislative instruments contributing to zero hunger and other SDGs created or adapted by national stakeholders with WFP capacity strengthening support

Proportion of people participating in training, coaching, or mentoring reporting improvement in knowledge/skills contributing to zero hunger and other SDGs

## Activities and outputs

### 2. Provide assistance to national institutions on social protection, including through the provision of transfers for targeted populations (SPS-1.10: Social protection sector support)

2.1 The Government benefits from an enhanced shock responsive social protection system that more effectively reaches the most vulnerable populations (Output category C: Capacity development and technical support provided, Standard output 4.2: Components of national emergency preparedness and response, social protection and food systems are strengthened)

2.2 Vulnerable populations in the Republic of Moldova are provided with social assistance cash top-ups that help them to meet their food and other essential needs (Output category A: Resources transferred, Standard output 4.2: Components of national emergency preparedness and response, social protection and food systems are strengthened)

## SDG target 16: Global partnership

**Interim country strategic plan outcome 3: Humanitarian and development actors in the Republic of Moldova have improved capacities to prepare for and respond to emergencies throughout the year**

WFP strategic outcome 5: Humanitarian and development actors are more efficient and effective

Focus area: crisis response

## Assumptions

Services will be requested by partners; and partners have adequate resources to cover the costs of service provision.

## Outcome indicators

Percentage of users satisfied with services provided

## Activities and outputs

### 3. Provide on-demand services to humanitarian and development actors. (ODS-2.4: On-demand services)

3 Crisis-affected populations benefit from the enhanced operational capacity of humanitarian and development actors (Output category H: Shared services and platforms provided, Standard output 5.2: Partners utilize on-demand services to augment their capacity and ensure more efficient, effective and coordinated interventions)

## **SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals**

### **CC.1. Protection**

#### **Cross-cutting indicators**

CC.1.1: Percentage of beneficiaries reporting no safety concerns experienced as a result of their engagement in WFP programmes

CC.1.2: Percentage of beneficiaries who report they experienced no barriers to accessing food and nutrition assistance

CC.1.3: Percentage of beneficiaries who report being treated with respect as a result of their engagement in programmes

CC.1.4: Number of women, men, boys and girls with disabilities accessing food/cash-based transfers/commodity vouchers/capacity strengthening services

CC.1.5: Country office meets or exceeds United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) entity accountability framework standards concerning accessibility (quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR))

### **CC.2. Accountability**

#### **Cross-cutting indicators**

CC.2.1: Percentage of beneficiaries reporting they were provided with accessible information about WFP programmes, including PSEA

CC.2.2: Country office meets or exceeds UNDIS standards on consulting organizations of persons with disabilities (QCPR)

CC.2.3: Country office has a functioning community feedback mechanism

CC.2.4: Country office has an action plan on community engagement

CC.2.5: Number of children and adults who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian, development, protection and/or other personnel who provide assistance to affected populations (IOM, OHCHR, UNDP)

### **CC.3. Gender equality and women's empowerment**

#### **Cross-cutting indicators**

CC.3.1: Percentage of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality

CC.3.2: Percentage of food assistance decision making entity members who are women

**CC.4. Environmental sustainability****Cross-cutting indicators**

CC.4.1: Proportion of field-level agreements (FLAs)/memorandums of understanding (MOUs)/construction contracts (CCs) for CSP activities screened for environmental and social risks

**CC.5. Nutrition integration****Cross-cutting indicators**

CC.5.1: Percentage of people supported by WFP operations and services who are able to meet their nutritional needs through an effective combination of fortified food, specialized nutritious products and actions to support diet diversification

CC.5.2: Percentage of WFP beneficiaries who benefit from a nutrition-sensitive programme component

CC.5.3: Nutrition sensitive score

**SDG 2: Zero hunger****CC.1. Protection****Cross-cutting indicators**

CC.1.1: Percentage of beneficiaries reporting no safety concerns experienced as a result of their engagement in WFP programmes

CC.1.2: Percentage of beneficiaries who report they experienced no barriers to accessing food and nutrition assistance

CC.1.3: Percentage of beneficiaries who report being treated with respect as a result of their engagement in programmes

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CC.4.1: Proportion of field-level agreements (FLAs)/memorandums of understanding (MOUs)/construction contracts (CCs) for CSP activities screened for environmental and social risks

**CC.5. Nutrition integration****Cross-cutting indicators**

CC.5.1: Percentage of people supported by WFP operations and services who are able to meet their nutritional needs through an effective combination of fortified food, specialized nutritious products and actions to support diet diversification

CC.5.2: Percentage of WFP beneficiaries who benefit from a nutrition-sensitive programme component

CC.5.3: Nutrition sensitive score



## ANNEX II

<b>BENEFICIARIES BY INTERIM COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY (ALL YEARS)</b>							
<b>ICSP outcome</b>	<b>Output</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Beneficiary group</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	1	1	Girls	13 692	2 795	662	<b>14 898</b>
			Boys	16 591	3 377	802	<b>18 049</b>
			Women	27 368	5 557	1 325	<b>29 773</b>
			Men	11 475	2 335	555	<b>12 484</b>
			<b>Total</b>	<b>69 126</b>	<b>14 064</b>	<b>3 344</b>	<b>75 204</b>
2	2.2	2	Girls	23 378	23 387	240	<b>23 441</b>
			Boys	28 236	28 246	290	<b>28 314</b>
			Women	60 110	60 135	619	<b>60 278</b>
			Men	40 076	40 092	411	<b>40 187</b>
			<b>Total</b>	<b>151 800</b>	<b>151 860</b>	<b>1 560</b>	<b>152 220</b>
<b>Total (without overlap)</b>				<b>220 926</b>	<b>165 924</b>	<b>4 904</b>	<b>227 424</b>

**ANNEX III**

<b>FOOD RATION (<i>g/person/day</i>) AND CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUE (<i>USD/person/day</i>) BY INTERIM COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY</b>						
	<b>ICSP outcome 1</b>				<b>ICSP outcome 2</b>	
	<b>Activity 1</b>			<b>Activity 2</b>		
<b>Beneficiary type</b>	<b>Households (hosting refugees)</b>	<b>Individuals (refugees in refugee accommodation centres)</b>	<b>Individuals (snacks at the border)</b>	<b>Individuals (refugees – contingency)</b>	<b>Households (vulnerable households)</b>	<b>Individuals (feeding for vulnerable groups)</b>
<b>Modality</b>	<b>CBTs</b>	<b>Commodity voucher</b>	<b>Commodity voucher</b>	<b>CBTs</b>	<b>CBTs</b>	<b>Commodity voucher</b>
Cash ( <i>USD/person/day</i> )	1.33	10	7	1.857	0.43	3.4
Number of feeding days per year	300 (2024) 360 (2025) 60 (2026)	300 (2024) 360 (2025) 60 (2026)	10 (2024) 12 (2025) 2 (2026)	14 (2024)	90 (2024) 90 (2025)	200 (2024) 240 (2025) 40 (2026)

**ANNEX IV**

<b>TOTAL FOOD/CASH-BASED TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS AND VALUE</b>		
<b>Food type/cash-based transfer</b>	<b>Total (mt)</b>	<b>Total (USD)</b>
<b>Total (food)</b>	-	-
Cash-based transfers		36 258 267
<b>Total (food and cash-based transfer value)</b>		<b>36 258 267</b>

**ANNEX V**

<b>INDICATIVE COST BREAKDOWN BY INTERIM COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME (USD)</b>				
	<b>SDG target 2.1/ WFP strategic outcome 1</b>	<b>SDG target 17.9/ WFP strategic outcome 4</b>	<b>SDG target 17.16/ WFP strategic outcome 5</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>ICSP outcome 1</b>	<b>ICSP outcome 2</b>	<b>ICSP outcome 3</b>	
<b>Focus area</b>	<b>Crisis response</b>	<b>Resilience building</b>	<b>Crisis response</b>	
Transfers	22 433 342	26 842 982	908 000	<b>50 184 324</b>
Implementation	1 350 740	1 019 702	45 246	<b>2 415 687</b>
Adjusted direct support costs	1 700 005	2 084 502	73 010	<b>3 857 517</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>25 484 087</b>	<b>29 947 186</b>	<b>1 026 256</b>	<b>56 457 528</b>
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	1 656 466	1 946 567	-	<b>3 603 033</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>27 140 552</b>	<b>31 893 753</b>	<b>1 026 256</b>	<b>60 060 561</b>

## Acronyms

CBT	cash-based transfer
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP	gross domestic product
ICSP	interim country strategic plan
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NGO	non-government organization
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSDCF	United Nations sustainable development cooperation framework