

Cash-based Interventions (CBI)

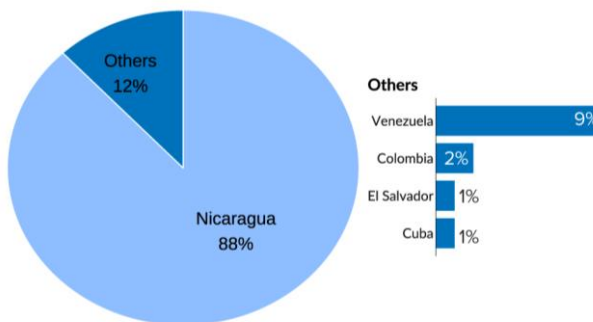
April 2023

Costa Rica is host to asylum-seekers primarily from Latin America and the Caribbean, and a transit point for others. The last five years the country has experienced an upward trend in the number of asylum applications received because of political unrest and violence in the region. As of

December 31, 2022, Costa Rica was hosting about **253,758** people in need of international protection, the majority are Nicaraguans (87%). To address the significant gaps faced by the most vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees in meeting their basic needs, a multipurpose cash

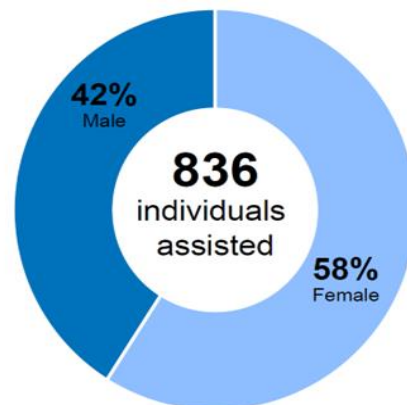
assistance (MPCA) Basic Needs Program is managed by UNHCR under direct implementation since 2019. Over **eight hundred** people have benefited throughout the country in the year's fourth-month period, delivering more than **USD 740,000** in cash assistance for basic needs.

Individuals Assisted by Country of Origin







Source: UNCHR CBI Unit
UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency

Beneficiaries by Gender



Key figures 2023

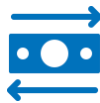
	242,441	Dollars distributed in monetary transfers since January 2023
	670	Transfers
	836	Total of beneficiaries of the economic assistance program for basic needs
	58%	Women and girls beneficiaries





Assistance Delivery

- Assistance is delivered through a prepaid card. People receive a brief training, and printed and video material with information on how to use it.
- Those who qualify for MPCA receive three months of assistance.
- Beneficiaries are identified during the Registration process through a socioeconomic evaluation.
- The selection criterion is the same for all the country and the amount is calculated based on the family size.
- The transfer value is different in the Greater Metropolitan Area (GAM) than in the North.
- The operation has exclusive telephone lines to answer questions or problems with the use of the prepaid card and assistance.



Cash Assistance Activities in 2023

- The operation began in February the implementation of a new socio-economic assessment tool. This was revised with the support of the Regional Bureau's Cash Assistance and Data, Identity Management and Analysis Unit (DIMA).
- The transfer value for the northern zone was updated since March. The change was decided after the analysis of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket.

- The operation conducted a mapping of financial service providers to identify new financial products and services that can continue to enhance the basic needs program.
- The Supply unit began the tender process to search for new financial service providers in the country.
- The CBI Unit is providing support to Livelihoods for the delivery of prepaid cards for seed capital and self-employment



Basic Needs Program

- As of April 30, 284 family groups, representing 836 individuals, received assistance for a total of USD 242,441. Most beneficiaries are female (58%) and 87% are from Nicaragua.
- Fifty seven percent of the individuals benefited are minors.
- 61% of assistances took place in UNHCR offices. The remaining percent was delivered through Correos de Costa Rica.
- In May, the operation will hold the first focus group of the year with beneficiaries, to analyze the strengths and areas for improvement of the basic needs program.

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