

UNHCR Ecuador

Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)

March 2024

Key figures:

USD 1.8M

used to support people forced to flee in Ecuador in 2023

22,474

People assisted with cash-based interventions in 2023

10,298

with multipurpose cash grants (MPG) for basic needs

5,140

with cash for documentation

2,778

with cash for resettlement procedures

2,059

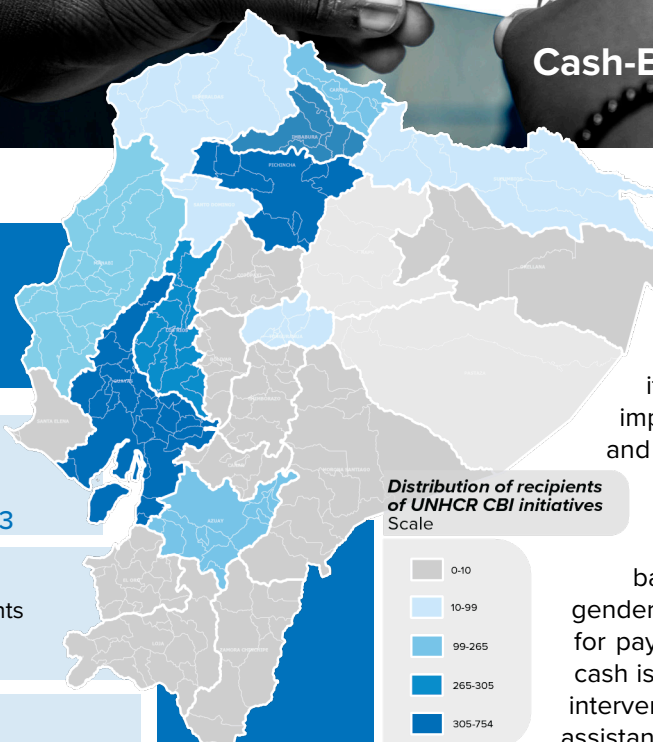
with cash for community mobilization

1,223

with cash for education

976

with cash for livelihoods, child protection, among others



Distribution of recipients of UNHCR CBI initiatives Scale



73%

implemented by UNHCR through prepaid bank cards



27%

implemented by partners with ATM codes, bank window, among other methods

Context

UNHCR Ecuador employs cash-based interventions (CBI) as part of its protection and solutions strategy. Since 2023, UNHCR has streamlined its cash interventions through direct implementation, enhancing efficiency and the best use of resources. Cash distributions are facilitated through prepaid bank cards provided by Banco Pichincha, the main Ecuadorian bank and a key UNHCR partner. A gender-sensitive approach prioritizes women for payment distribution methods. The use of cash is integrated across the different UNHCR interventions, primarily providing multipurpose assistance for basic needs. The annual post-distribution monitoring (PDM) ensures alignment with the evolving needs of recipients. Data from 2023 indicates positive impacts on recipients' well-being, yet diminishing funds limit coverage, especially against rising living costs. Hence, multipurpose cash is largely allocated for rent and food. Cash assistance is integrated into protection areas like child protection, education, and livelihoods. Cash is also used in the [Safe Mobility Offices \(SMOs\) Initiative](#) to support targeted cases to avoid drop out. UNHCR's CBI programmes are also implemented through partner organizations like NRC, FUDELA, AISOS, and HIAS, which provide cash support for documentation, community activities, livelihoods, and during resettlement procedures. The primary goal for implementing cash initiatives is to alleviate immediate needs and achieve sector-specific objectives while mitigating the risk of resorting to negative coping strategies among forcibly displaced people.

98%

prefers cash as their assistance modality

94%

of recipients of prepaid cards for MPG in 2023 were women

83%

mentioned their living conditions improved with MPG*

76%

mentioned a reduction in stress thanks to the MPG*

52%

covers half or more than their full needs with MPG*

81%

used MPG for rent or housing*

*Data from the 2023 CBI Post Distribution Monitoring Report

UNHCR is grateful for the critical and generous support provided by private and public donors who contributed with earmarked and unearmarked funding to the operation in Ecuador so far in 2024.



For more information on funding, please visit reporting.unhcr.org/ecuador