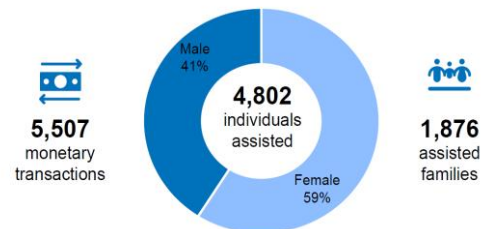
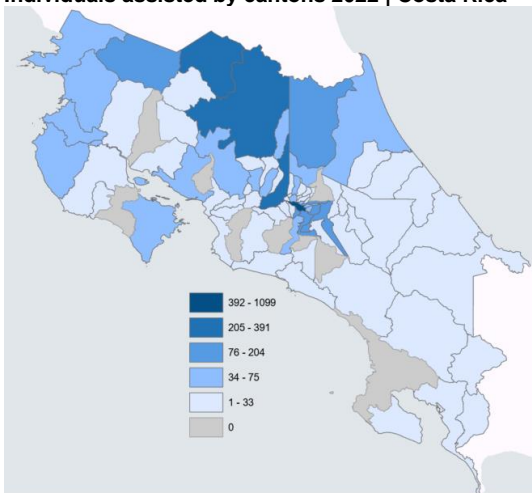


Costa Rica

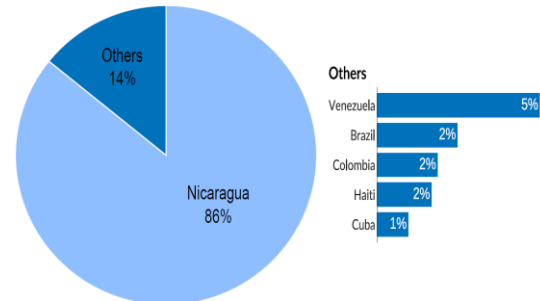
DECEMBER 2022

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 253,800 people in need of international protection, the majority are Nicaraguans (91%). 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.

Individuals assisted by cantons 2022 | Costa Rica



Individuals Assisted by Country of Origin 2022 | Costa Rica
Until December 31st



Source: UNHCR CBI Unit
© UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency

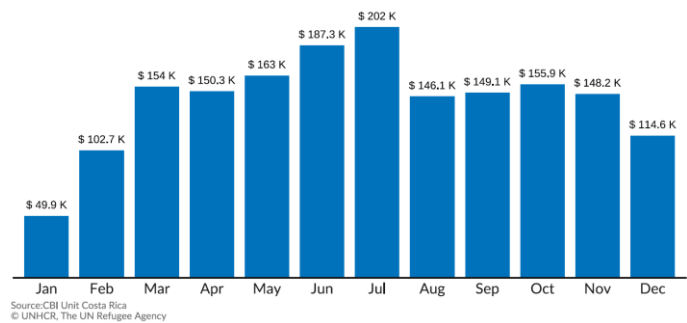
ASSISTANCE DELIVERY:

- Costa Rica has eased its restrictive measures due to the pandemic, therefore, UNHCR decided to resume on-site deliveries at the office in San Jose. For people whom UNHCR serves living in the northern zone, persons with disabilities or families with children without care options, the prepaid card is delivered through the mail service.
- Beneficiaries are identified during the Registration process through a socioeconomic evaluation.
- Those who qualify for MPCA receive three months of assistance.
- 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.

CASH ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN 2022

- With the Regional Bureau's Cash Assistance and Data, Identity Management and Analysis Unit (DIMA) the operation reviewed and updated the targeting toolkit. The new tool will be piloted and implemented in the first quarter of 2023.
- The operation carried out an analysis of the costs of food, shelter, and WASH, to update the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket. Based on the analysis, the transfer values for 2023 will be updated.
- 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 CBI Unit provided support to Livelihoods for the delivery of 157 prepaid cards for seed capital and self-employment

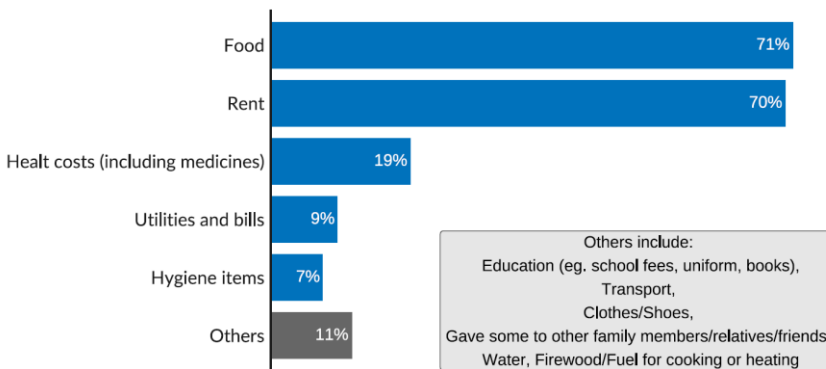
More than USD 1.7M distributed through CBI program in 2022
 Distribution by month (in thousands)



BASIC NEEDS PROGRAM

Food, Rent and Health costs are the top 3 expenditures

Beneficiaries response to ¿How do you spent the money?



Source: PDM Cash Assistance 2022 (Sample: 250 beneficiaries)
 CBI Unit Costa Rica
 © UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency

As of December 31, 1,876 family groups, representing 4,802 individuals, received assistance for a total of \$1,723,130.21. Most beneficiaries are female (59%) and 86% are from Nicaragua (86%). Fifty percent of the individuals benefited are minors. Average age of individuals is 22. The average household size of HHs benefited this year is 2.55. In 76% of the households, the head of household is a woman.

68% of assistances took place in UNHCR offices. The remaining percent was delivered through Correos de Costa Rica.

On August, the CBI Unit conducted phone interviews for the post-delivery monitoring, to 250 beneficiaries of the basic needs program. The main results showed that families did not experience problems withdrawing or spending the cash; 98% of respondents felt safe going to spend the cash and 99% kept their money at home. Most families (98%) stated they were able to find items and services needed in stores.

The top three expenditures include food, rent and health costs. Beneficiaries also reported a significant reduction in stress levels and financial household burden (56%). One participant stated: **"The assistance came to balance the gap we had; it was light in a moment of desperation".**

UNHCR is grateful for the support provided by donors contributing to this operation.



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