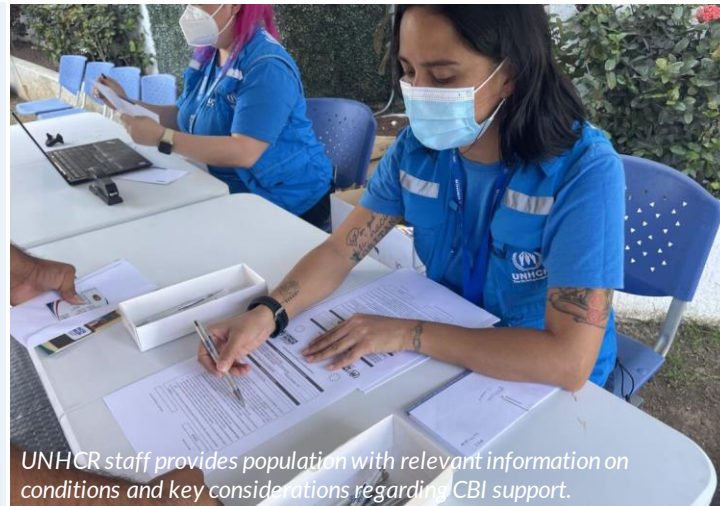


Costa Rica is **host to asylum-seekers** primarily from Latin America and the Caribbean, and a **transit country for mixed movements**. The last five years the country has experienced an upward trend in the number of asylum applications received because of political unrest and violence in the region. As of 30 June 2023, Costa Rica was hosting about **210,000 people in need of international protection**, most are **Nicaraguans (86%)**.

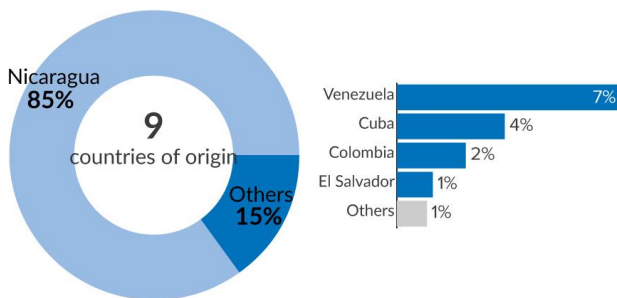
To address the significant gaps faced by the most vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees in meeting their basic needs, since 2019 UNHCR manages a **Multi-purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) Basic Needs Program**, which is under direct implementation. In the first nine months of 2023, **2,773 people country-wide** have benefited of this program, which has meant that over **USD 942,119** has been delivered in cash assistance aimed at covering basic needs.

KEY FIGURES

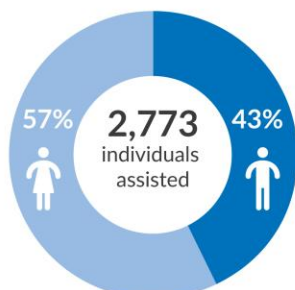
USD 942,119	distributed through cash transfers since January 2023
2,656	transfers for an average amount of USD 340
2,773	total beneficiaries of MPCA program for basic needs
57%	women and girl beneficiaries



Individuals assisted by country of Origin



Beneficiaries by gender



HOW IS CBI ASSISTANCE PROVIDED?

- Beneficiaries are **identified during the Registration process** through a socioeconomic evaluation in which basic needs, protection needs, and coping strategies are assessed and scored.
- The **selection criteria are the same** for all the country. Those who qualify for MPCA receive **three months** of assistance.
- The **transfer amount varies among regions**: e.g., it is different in the Metro Area (GAM) than in the North; also, this amount is calculated based on the family size.
- Assistance is delivered through a **prepaid card**. People receive a brief training, as well as printed and video material with **information on how to use it**.
- 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

- In **February**, UNHCR CBI team started the implementation of a new **socio-economic assessment tool**. This was revised with the support of the UNHCR's Regional Bureau Cash Assistance and Data, Identity Management and Analysis (DIMA) Units.
- Since **March**, an analysis and update of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket resulted in an increase of the transfer amount for the Northern zone.
- Along the year**, the CBI Unit is providing **support to Livelihoods Unit** for the delivery of prepaid cards to provide seed capital for self-employment initiatives and training.
- In **September**, the Supply Unit finished the **procurement process** to identify new financial service providers in the country.
- Currently**, the CBI Unit is working on the phone calls for post-delivery monitoring (PDM). During 2023, four focal groups with beneficiaries were organized, the information from these activities will complement the PDM analysis.

BASIC NEEDS PROGRAMME

- From January to September 2023, **1,069 family groups**, representing **2,773 individuals**, were reached through assistance for a total of USD 942,119.
- Most beneficiaries in this period were **female (57%)** and **84% are from Nicaragua**; while forty-nine per cent of the individuals benefitted are **children**.
- The average household size was **2.6 members**, while the average age of beneficiaries was **22 years old**.
- 67%** of CBI assistance was provided **in UNHCR offices**, the remaining was delivered through *Correos de Costa Rica*.

UNHCR appreciates the contributions of donor countries that contribute to Costa Rica and global programs with unearmarked funds:

As of 4 October 2023



UNHCR Costa Rica also appreciates the contributions of our private donors globally:
 Australia / Japan / Italy / Republic of Korea / Spain / United Kingdom / United States