

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. The most vulnerable cases are identified through a socioeconomic evaluation. The amount of assistance is defined by the size of the family group.

The assistance is delivered for **three months** through a prepaid card. With the prepaid card families can make ATM withdrawals or make purchases in stores, granting them **flexibility to prioritize their expenses**. From October 2023 to April 2024 **2,015 people country-wide** have benefited of this program, which has meant that over **USD 994,378** has been delivered in cash assistance aimed at covering basic needs.

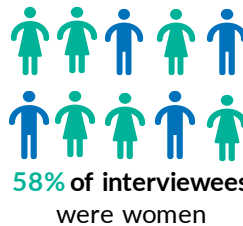
## OUR BENEFICIARIES: RESULTS FROM OUR SOCIO ECONOMIC EVALUATION

In 2023, UNHCR developed **7,380 socioeconomic assessments** that identify households' **basic needs, protection needs and coping strategies**.

82% were Nicaraguans



81% lived in the Metro Area



84% were persons in working age/capacity



58% are adults from 18-59 years old

Households' main expenses were **food (25%), rent and utilities (17% each), and hygiene items (13%)**.

To face the **lack of food or money to buy it**, households often resort to coping mechanisms such as **reducing food portions (17%), reducing non-essential expenses (16%), borrowing for money (15%) or selling productive assets (8%)**.

Some of these mechanisms put refugees' safety or well-being at risk, like **begging (11%) or finding food scrap (8%) on streets, sending children to work (7%) or resorting to survival sex (2%)**.



Income Sources:

48% informal  
17% formal  
16% friends/family



Housing type:

48% rented apt/house  
19% hosted (family/friends)  
16% rented room



Food Sources:

57% cash (purchase)  
25% donations (family/friends)



Sanitation:

64% private toilet  
27% shared toilet

## BASIC NEEDS PROGRAMME

- From October 2023 to April 2024, **864 family groups, representing 2,015 individuals, were reached** through assistance.
- Most beneficiaries in this period were **female (54%)** and **81% are from Nicaragua**, while **43%** of the individuals are **children**.
- The average household size was **2.3 members**, while the average age of beneficiaries was **24 years old**.
- 70%** of CBI assistance was delivered **in person**

## KEY FIGURES

October 2023 - April 2024

**USD 994,378** distributed through cash transfers since January 2023

**2,135** transfers for an average amount of **USD 324**

**2,015** total beneficiaries of MPCA program for basic needs

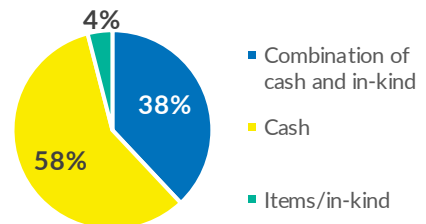
**54%** women and girl beneficiaries

**IMPACTS OF MPCA: RESULTS OF POST-DISTRIBUTION MONITORING**

UNHCR developed its 2023 Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) in October and November with **137 families** that received cash assistance. From these households, **95% indicated they felt safe going to spend the amount of assistance**, and 98% by keeping your money at home.

The most common expense items were **food (96%)**, **rent (64%)** and **personal hygiene items (52%)**. More than half of the families (**62%**) perceive that **the program improved their living conditions significantly**; also, most households also reported a relevant reduction in their **stress levels (63%)** and in the household's **economic burden (62%)**.

Households preferred assistance modality


**2024 CBI STRATEGY**

- In 2024, the operation decided to establish a **single amount of assistance for the country** (previously it was divided into two regions with different amounts). This implies a **decrease in the amounts delivered in the Metropolitan area** and will allow UNHCR to reach more family groups.
- From the **post-delivery monitoring (PDM) focus groups**, the beneficiaries expressed the need for **basic financial education** to better manage assistance and their income. As a result, for 2024, in coordination with the Livelihoods Unit, the partner agency *Omar Dengo Foundation* offers **training in financial education to all CBI beneficiaries**.
- This year, **socio-economic evaluations of families** applying for the Basic Needs Programme will also be **carried out by UNHCR partners**. Consequently, UNHCR expects an **increase in families assessed and, ultimately, eligible for assistance**.

**CHANGES IN IMPLEMENTATION: REMAINING GAPS**

Due to budgetary restrictions, from **October 2023 to April 2024, 998 households did not receive assistance**, even though they met the socioeconomic assessment criteria. This is **54%** of the households who met such criteria

**Not reaching households with increasing basic needs** negatively impacts their access to food, housing/shelter and hygiene, and **increases their chance to resort to negative coping strategies** to cover such needs, exposing them to **protection risks** and increasing their vulnerability.

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As of 31 March 2024



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