UNHCR ACNUR
Agência da ONU para Refugiados

CASH ASSISTANCE IN BRAZIL

MARCH 2023

UNHCR uses cash assistance to provide protection support and access to services to refugees and other forcibly displaced people.

Cash-based interventions, where feasible, are often a more dignified way of assisting affected populations, as they empower people to determine their own needs and the best way of meeting them.

Well-designed and operationalized cash-based interventions also have a multiplier effect as they can directly benefit the local economy.

BRAZIL CONTEXT

The Brazilian Government, through social programs, provides families in situation of vulnerability and extreme poverty - including asylum-seekers, refugees, and migrants - with access to social assistance, health, education, employment and income.

The Multi-Purpose cash Grant (MPG) implemented by UNHCR ensures greater flexibility and power of choice for refugees and other forcibly displaced families: in Brazil, cash assistance is provided both for those in vulnerable situations and those participating in the voluntary relocation strategy (known as *interiorização*) led by the Federal Government.

UNHCR's cash assistance interventions in Brazil act as a bridge until refugee families find a way to support themselves or until they receive the government assistance. They are also a tool that promotes social and financial inclusion of forcibly displaced people.

TARGET

Refugees, asylum-seekers, displaced and stateless people

FREQUENCY

Monthly

DURATION

From 1 up to 3 months of assistance

DELIVERY

Through non-nominal **prepaid cards**

Can be used in ATMs and commercial establishment.

The card flag is accepted countrywide.

VALUES

From BRL 839 to 1284[2]

PRIORITIZATION & DISTRIBUTION

Done by UNHCR's **implementing partners** by means of evaluation and interviews[1]

For distribution of multipurpose grants, UNHCR Brazil works with **11** implementing partners.

1. *Assessing socioeconomic vulnerabilities, specific needs, and coping capacities.*
2. *Assigned according to the family composition*

KEY FIGURES

BRL 4,680,633 *delivered in 2022*

4,113 *installments*

6,066 *beneficiaries*

1,585 *female heads of household*

2022 POST DISTRIBUTION MONITORING (PDM)

The **PDM report** provides an analysis of the impact of cash assistance for the families who have received such support during the year.

In cooperation with the Federal University of Uberlandia (UFU), UNHCR interviewed **181 people** through online survey and telephone.

The report shows that cash assistance has a positive impact in the lives of the benefitted families:

90% reported that cash assistance improved their living conditions

84% acknowledged that it reduced the feelings of stress

Top two expenditures made with cash assistance

94% food

72% rent

In 2019, this percentage was **17%**

74% families declared to have a bank and/or mobile money account

For specific information on the cash assistance delivery process

Video in Portuguese

Video in Spanish

UNHCR partners in Brazil

UNHCR supporters in Brazil

Donor countries of UNHCR in Brazil and global programmes with flexible funding that supports the humanitarian response in the country

UNHCR's private sector donors

UNHCR Brazil is also thankful for the important support of and partnerships with other UN agencies, Brazilian authorities (at federal, state and municipal levels) and civil society organizations working together to deliver the emergency response and in the regular programmes of the Brazilian operation.