

Cash-based interventions (CBI)

December 2023

Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)

are a form of assistance that facilitates access to basic goods and services for refugees, migrants, Colombian returnees, Internally Displaced People (IDPs), and members of host communities.

CBIs represent a swift and efficient response to emergency and protection situations, providing dignity and autonomy to beneficiaries. CBIs empower individuals to make decisions, prioritize expenses, and meet their families' most pressing needs, typically housing, food, hygiene items, and health.

In 2023, **UNHCR provided USD 2.1 million in cash transfers** and has delivered over **USD 9.8 million** since 2020. Of the overall humanitarian budget, 67.9% is allocated to multipurpose humanitarian assistance, with an additional 25.5% dedicated to livelihood programs. The remaining 6.5% is specifically earmarked for the Cash-Based Intervention (CBI) program focused on resettlement initiatives.



KEY FIGURES 2023

- 4,857 families assisted.
- 15,716 individuals supported.
- USD 2.1 million in cash transfers.

Venezuelan women in Cúcuta, Norte de Santander were able to obtain their skills certificate through the National Vocational Training Service thanks to the cash support given to them to cover their needs during the training process. 2023. ©UNHCR/Mónica Liliana

Types of assistance



Multipurpose cash

3,147 families (11,376 individuals) received **multipurpose assistance** to cover basic needs. Each family received two cash transfers to cover a total of 4 months.



Consumption support

551 families (1,919 individuals) received consumption support under UNHCR's **livelihood programs**. Partner organizations included Comfenalco Antioquia, Corporación Ayuda Humanitaria, Bogotá Mobility Secretariat, and CUSO, with CBI assistance delivered through direct payment implementation. This cash assistance is provided to cover families' needs for a period ranging from 2 to 6 months.



Productive units

404 families (1,463 individuals) received assistance as an incentive to **strengthen their entrepreneurial activities**, following participation in various capacity-building workshops aimed at improving their productive units. This assistance is a one-time delivery, with a value ranging between \$2,500,000 COP to \$3,000,000 COP, depending on the economic context of the region and the funding availability of each UNHCR sub-office in Colombia.



National Vocational Training Service

578 individuals received financial support as part of their participation in **skills certification** processes with the National Vocational Training Service (SENA). This support aims to cover transportation expenses, purchases of materials for these processes, as well as basic household needs.



DAFI scholarships

20 students have been receiving a monthly **educational support** of COP 1,060,000 since March 2023 so they can afford basic services and goods, as well as items that allow them to continue their higher education (transportation and educational materials). The scholarship program of the German Academic Initiative Albert Einstein (DAFI, in German) offers qualified refugee students the opportunity to obtain an academic degree in their home country. Read [here](#) the results of the DAFI project in Colombia.



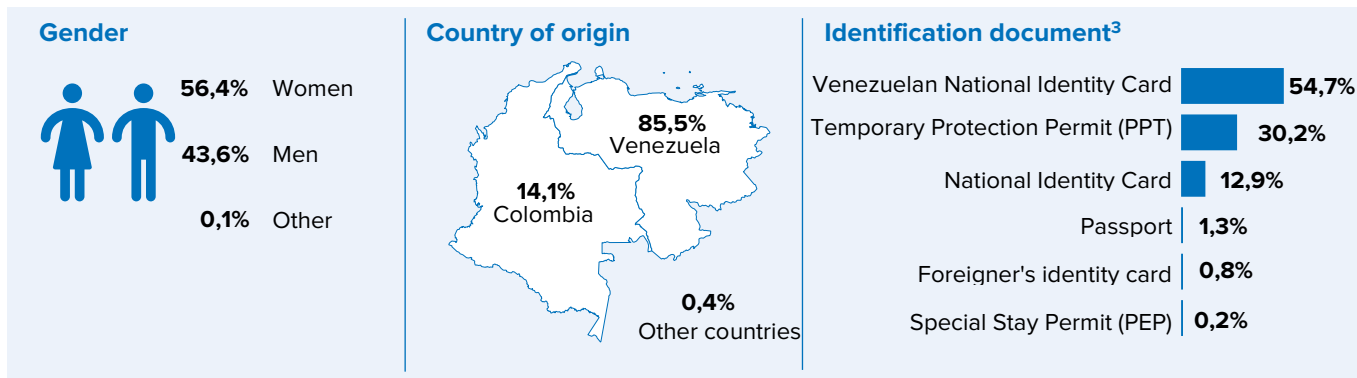
Resettlement¹

447 families (1,268 individuals) participating in the Safe Mobility program have accessed the cash support provided to cover basic needs for up to three months while awaiting a response on their cases. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Safe Mobility Program.

¹ In April 2023, the United States Government announced the Safe Mobility Offices program to provide legal pathways for refugees and migrants in South and Central America to the United States, thereby avoiding the risks associated with movement northward.

Key data

■ Assisted population² and intervention areas



85.5% of the population assisted with cash transfers by UNHCR is **Venezuelan refugee and migrant population with a intention to stay**, **14.1%** of the assisted individuals are Colombian returnees, host population and/or Internally Displaced People and 0.4% corresponds to population of other nationalities, such as Cuban. Pendular population and population in transit are not targeted for CBI, however, UNHCR Colombia has other services and assistance routes for this population that adjust to their protection needs and contribute to guarantee their rights.

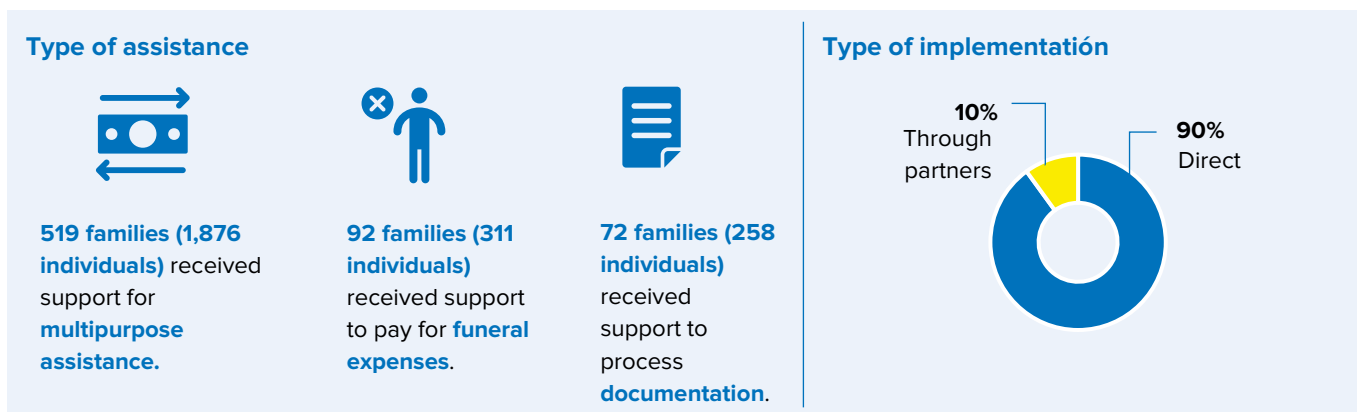
Map 1. CBI delivery areas. 2023.



In 2023, assistance was delivered in 27 departments and 243 municipalities in Colombia. The departments where assistance was most delivered were Antioquia, Norte de Santander, Cundinamarca, Arauca and La Guajira.

■ Implementation through partners

Through the **National Secretariat of Social Pastoral (SNPS)**, multipurpose assistance is provided for priority and emergency cases, for funeral expenses, and to access documentation processes (foreigner's identity card).



² This information corresponds to the focal point of the family group.

³ Identification document with which to withdraw cash at Efecty.

Results

- Multipurpose assistance has helped the people with and for whom UNHCR works to meet their **basic needs**, taking into account what households consider to be a priority: food, rent payments and health costs.
- UNHCR's CBI has made a significant contribution to **improving living conditions and well-being** in the beneficiary households.
- 92% of the respondents **reported a moderate or significant improvement in their living conditions**.
- 90% reported a **moderate or significant reduction in stress** regarding their household expenses.
- Cash assistance has also helped provide a **safety net** by reducing the financial burden for the majority (89%) of households.
- 51% of households can **cover half or more of their needs** once assistance is provided.
- 95% reported that their **preferred assistance modality was cash**, including those who prefer a combination of cash and in-kind assistance.
- In terms of secure and effective access indicators, 95% expressed **feeling secure** during the process of withdrawing, handling, or spending the money.
- During this period, there were two reports of security incidents during the assistance withdrawal process. Despite representing less than 1% of the participants, **UNHCR has improved the quality of the information provided and has included security recommendations and mitigation actions** in its communication processes with the community to reduce security risks during the assistance delivery process.

UNHCR **monitors the results of its CBI programs**, as well as their responsiveness, relevance, acceptability, and security, using **institutional Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) tools**, which contribute to UNHCR's global dashboard outcome. During 2023, the operation has conducted a round of PDM during the months of August and September, allowing for the identification of results and the contribution of the assistance provided to participants in CBI programs between May and August 2023.

Financial information

UNHCR appreciates the generous contributions of the following donors to this program in 2023:



Contact

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Links

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