



Cash-Based Interventions (CBI) have the potential to offer forcibly displaced and stateless people greater autonomy by providing them with choices to fulfil their needs in a dignified manner. These interventions not only strengthen the local market but also foster engagement with the private sector.


By empowering individuals to decide their own needs and the most effective means of meeting them, Cash-Based Interventions contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable approach to humanitarian assistance.

BRAZIL CONTEXT

UNHCR's Cash-Based Interventions (CBI) support the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers living in Brazil. Families are selected using a two-tier approach: meeting eligibility criteria considering specific needs, and using a scorecard, based on a multisector vulnerability score.

KEY FIGURES

 **BRL 4,853,914**
delivered in 2023
(OVER USD 1 MILLION)

OVER
5,935 →  **88%**
households
received monthly
cash assistance
headed by
women

The transfer value is based on family composition and goes from BRL 888 to BRL 1358 per month. This assistance eases the family's financial strain, enabling them to address some of their most urgent needs and reduces the need to resort to negative coping mechanisms.

Assistance is also employed to bolster internal relocation initiatives, and is an integral component of the autonomy strategy aimed at facilitating sustainable self-sufficiency for families.

Beneficiaries of UNHCR's cash assistance can access it directly from available ATMs or purchase goods directly from markets using their card which is widely accepted across Brazil.

2023 POST DISTRIBUTION MONITORING (PDM)


The **2023 PDM exercise** allowed UNHCR to understand the impact of cash assistance on the families who have received such support during the year.


In cooperation with the Federal University of Uberlândia (UFU), UNHCR conducted **160 telephone interviews**.

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

 **89%**
reported that CBI improved their living conditions

 **86%**
acknowledged that the cash assistance reduced the feelings of stress

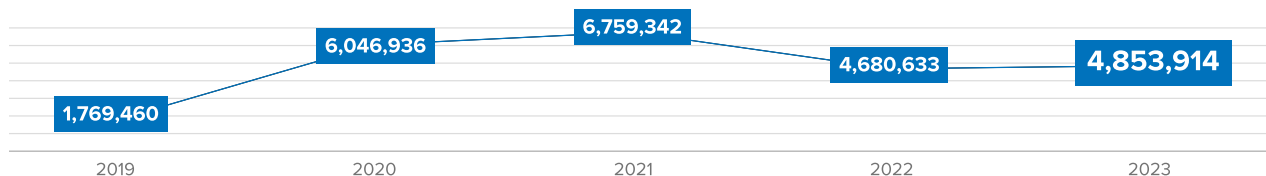
 **95%**
used cash assistance mainly for **food**

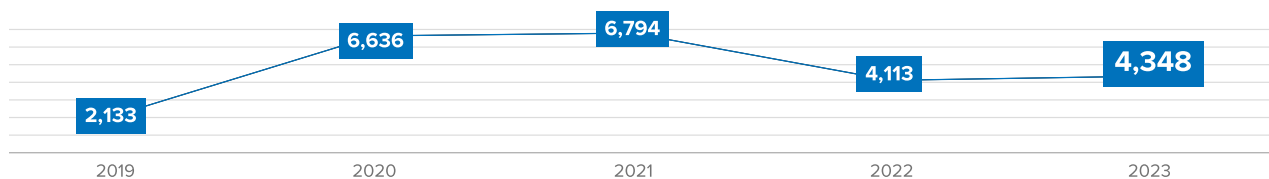
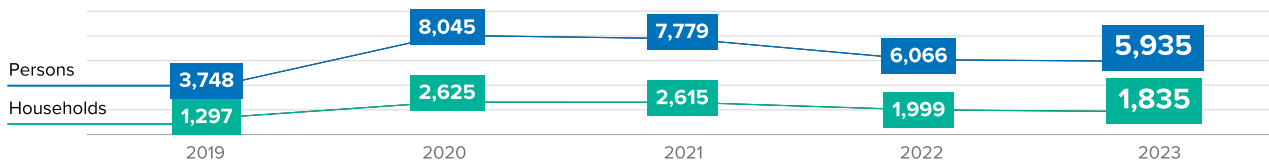
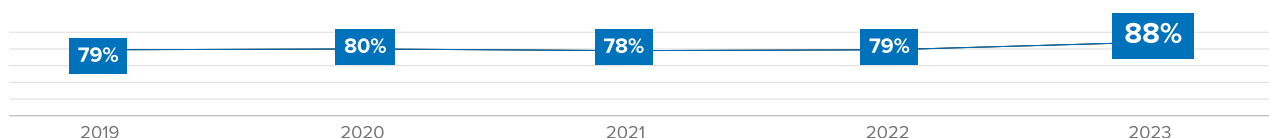
 **48%**
used cash assistance mainly for **rent**

 **85%**
felt safe reporting feedback or a complaint to UNHCR

RESULTS OVER THE YEARS

CBI DISTRIBUTED IN BRL



CBI DELIVERED (INSTALLMENTS)

PERSONS AND HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED

PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLDS

FINANCIAL PLANNER


In 2023, UNHCR Brazil developed a Financial Planner aimed at improving families' management of their resources and enhancing the effective use of cash assistance.

The planner offers brief and easy-to-understand instructions on how to assess the financial implications of the families' objectives, calculating the necessary savings to accomplish their goals.

With this tool, families can understand their financial landscape more easily. They learn to keep track of what they earn and spend, spot trends, and improve saving strategies. The planner helps them review their finances each month and set realistic goals for the next one. It comes with simple tables to monitor their financial resources, track their progress, and even make shopping lists and compare prices for smarter spending.

The planner also brings crucial information on various topics, including prevention and response to gender-based violence, sexual exploitation or abuse, violence, or discrimination as well as up-to-date content on access to documentation and basic rights.

FROM CORE RELIEF ITEMS DELIVERY TO CASH FOR HYGIENE
A pilot project to deliver core relief items through cash assistance for hygiene kits.

In 2023, refugees and other vulnerable people living in public shelters in Manaus, Amazonas, received monthly cash assistance instead of in-kind hygiene and cleaning products.

The pilot aimed to enhance services provided to individuals living in shelters and to increase ownership of actions and decisions by the affected population.

RESULTS

The PDM exercise conducted for this specific pilot showed that cash assistance instead of in-kind products was effective and provided greater autonomy to individuals.

Qualitative data also pointed out that beneficiaries were able to purchase products that better reflected their personal preferences and family or individual needs.



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For specific information on the process, **please see CBI videos** prepared for beneficiaries:



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.