

UNHCR PERU'S WORK IN CASH BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBIs)

July 2023



OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Peru hosts over **1.5 million Venezuelans**, out of which some **532,000 asylum seekers**. The population is mainly centralized in Lima and Callao (75 per cent) with the rest spread mostly in coastal areas, meaning most refugees live in environments where they have access to markets and services in the same way that local communities do. Providing refugees with cash enables them to **fulfill their needs in a dignified manner and contributes to the local economy**.



60%

of Venezuelan families experiences worry about not having enough food to eat.



30%

of Venezuelan families living under the poverty line.

Source: ENPOVE II

UNHCR RESPONSE IN 2023

As part of “why not cash” approach, UNHCR provides multipurpose cash (MPC) and sectorial cash for health and livelihoods to ensure that refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrants in Peru are **protected, can meet their needs with dignity and successfully transition to sustainable solutions**. MPC helps them to cover a part of their basic needs for a period of 3 months, providing greater flexibility and choice and enabling them to prioritize their expenses.

Moreover, cash assistance implemented by UNHCR

- Contribute to building and supporting livelihoods, through financial inclusion, investments, purchase of productive assets, and boosting own production.
- Have multiplier effects and benefit the local economies, contributing to peaceful coexistence of refugees and migrants with host communities.
- Make people in need less likely to resort to harmful coping strategies, such as survival sex, child labour, family separation or forced marriage.

There is strong evidence¹ that people use cash according to a **hierarchy of needs**, satisfying the most immediate needs first such as food, shelter, primary or emergency health care and other needs later such as essential goods and income-generating activities. For this and the above reasons UNHCR will keep enforcing the implementation of MPC, complemented by targeted sectorial cash assistance.

(1) May 2018, Study commissioned by UNHCR Global Cash Operations in collaboration with members of the Advisory Board.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2022



\$ 2,66 million

Total cash delivered



23,003

Total number of people assisted

Select type of CBI implemented	Amount distributed in USD	Number of unique individuals assisted
Basic needs (multi-purpose)	1,509,042.00	16,077.00
Health	364,269.00	3,537.00
Education	41,082.00	725.00
Livelihoods / business grants	693,069.00	1,745.00
Other*	38,576.00	919.00
	2,646,038.00	23,003.00

(* Other includes immediate and irregular one-off contributions to specific sectorial expenses to cover costs such as transportation, documentation and funeral.

3 months multipurpose cash assistance

Contributed to overall improvement of the living conditions of 97.7% of the benefiting families

The assistance helped them avoid engagement in negative coping strategies, such as survival sex, illegal activities, sending minors to work or begging.

As a result, **52.8%** of the families ranked food as the highest expenditure covered from the cash grant, followed by rent **19.9%** and healthcare related expenditures **17%**.

98% of the families reported that their **living conditions improved**

92% of the families reported experiencing **less stress**

93% of the families reported the **decrease of the financial burdens** of their households



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2023 AND THE WAY FORWARD

In line with UNHCR's commitment, **as of 2023**, Peru is **delivering cash through direct implementation**, mainstreaming **strong financial management and accountability**, including the required global roll-out of UNHCR's cash management system CashAssist. Partners, with an emphasis on local capacities, continue to play a critical role in the assessment, response analysis, targeting, community outreach, case management and monitoring.

Contributions of our donors AECID, European Union, Japan and the United States have been of vital importance to provide cash based assistant for refugees and migrants in Peru. UNHCR will also like to thank its donors for their support:



Belgium
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Private donors of Japan, Republic of Korea and Spain