

MOZAMBIQUE SITUATION POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE & CYCLONE RESPONSES

17 February 2025



Distribution of food items to asylum seekers donated by the Mozambican government to asylum seekers at the Khope Site. ©UNHCR/ Bernard Kimaiyo

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The situation in Mozambique remains largely stable despite ongoing political tensions and small-scale protests.**
- **UNHCR continues to support communities affected by Cyclones Chido and Dikeledi**, addressing urgent needs in Cabo Delgado and Nampula. Recent efforts include mental health and psychosocial support, infrastructure assessments, coordination with authorities and partners to enhance aid delivery, and long-term resilience.
- The verification exercise in Eswatini concluded and confirmed that **712 asylum seekers and refugees remain at the Malindza Refugee Reception Centre (MRRC)**, including 405 new arrivals from Mozambique and 307 from the existing population.
- **Malawi’s Minister of Gender, Community Development, and Social Welfare visited Nyamithuthu settlement to assess key services.**
- As of 17 February, Malawi and Eswatini, with support from UNHCR, **have verified over 9,000 new arrivals from Mozambique to Malawi and Eswatini.**

Country	Total number of new arrivals from Mozambique	Number of new arrivals since the last update (17 January 2024)
Malawi	7,904	790
Eswatini	1,104	-
Lesotho	9	-
Zimbabwe	4	-
TOTAL	9,021	790

MOZAMBIQUE

Security and Political Developments

- **The post-election situation in Mozambique remains largely calm, but small protests continue.** During the reporting period, provincial roads linking the South and North, as well as the N2 road from Maputo to South Africa, were [intermittently blocked](#). In Maputo and Beira, demonstrators blocked roads to protest high living costs and safety concerns.
- According to media reports, Mozambican former Presidential candidate and *de facto* opposition leader **Venancio Mondlane is progressing with plans to [launch a "unique new movement"](#)** that he says will be launched in 2025.

Needs & Response

Cyclone Chido and Dikeledi Impact & Response

- During the reporting period, UNHCR's response to **Cyclone Chido in Cabo Delgado included mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and an assessment mission to Mecúfi, a coastal district south of Pemba.** In Muinde village, UNHCR and District Administrators engaged with youth groups to strengthen collaboration, enhance transparency, and ensure equitable access to relief distribution. UNHCR assessed cyclone damage to the Civil Registry building's roof, highlighting the urgent need for repairs.
- Key issues identified by a UNDSS and UNHCR assessment in Cyclone Dikeledi-affected Momba and Erati districts, Nampula, include instability, infrastructure damage, and urgent humanitarian needs. In Namapa, post-election violence reportedly by local militia groups and youth destroyed government buildings and led to widespread looting. The loss of essential services has forced residents, including gender-based violence (GBV) survivors, to travel long distances for care. At ODINEPA Rural Hospital, women raised concerns over insecurity, food shortages, and critical medical supply gaps.

Coordination & Partnerships

- The Solutions Working Group (SWG) in Cabo Delgado, co-chaired by UNHCR, held a meeting focusing on resilience-building after Cyclone Chido. Partners emphasized the urgent need for durable infrastructure, sustainable livelihoods, and better coordination. Discussions highlighted the need for localized decision-making, protection integration, and long-term recovery. The SWG will meet once a month and share information and data to drive progress.
- Regular coordination between humanitarian organizations and the National Institute for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction ensures an effective cyclone response. The humanitarian effort in Mozambique is coordinated through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) cluster system. Coordination of the refugee response in Nampula and Maputo is led by the government under the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), with support from UNHCR.

ESWATINI

Population Movements & Registration

- As of 10 February, **1,104 individuals had arrived in Eswatini, with many initially housed at the overcrowded Malindza Refugee Reception Centre (MRRC). No new arrivals have been recorded since 13 January.**
- Following reports of spontaneous departures, the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), conducted a verification exercise at MRRC. The exercise confirmed a total of 712 asylum seekers and refugees, including 405 new arrivals from Mozambique and 307 from the existing population. The decrease is attributed to spontaneous departures, with some individuals relocating to urban areas and others reportedly returning to Mozambique irregularly. UNHCR has noted that some individuals left their families behind at MRRC while considering their options, a practice discouraged by the government.

Needs & Response

- Efforts to improve service delivery and better meet the needs of families at the centre are ongoing. Recent sectoral response updates are outlined below.

WASH

- Challenges in the sector persist at MRRC, including inadequate toilet facilities, blocked showers, poor drainage, and stagnant water, which contribute to risks of open defecation. Efforts to address these issues are ongoing, with UNICEF initiating the procurement of six pit latrines.
- As previously reported, Eswatini Water Services has increased its water capacity from 27,000 litres to 42,000 litres. The Environmental Health Department continues to implement a regular sewage draining schedule.
- With support from the NDMA WASH team and Camp Management, the MRRC community remains actively engaged in cleaning campaigns, rubbish collection, and ongoing hygiene awareness initiatives.

Health

- Health officials have reported one case of tuberculosis (TB) in the MRRC. The individual has been isolated and is currently receiving treatment.

MALAWI

Population Movements & Registration

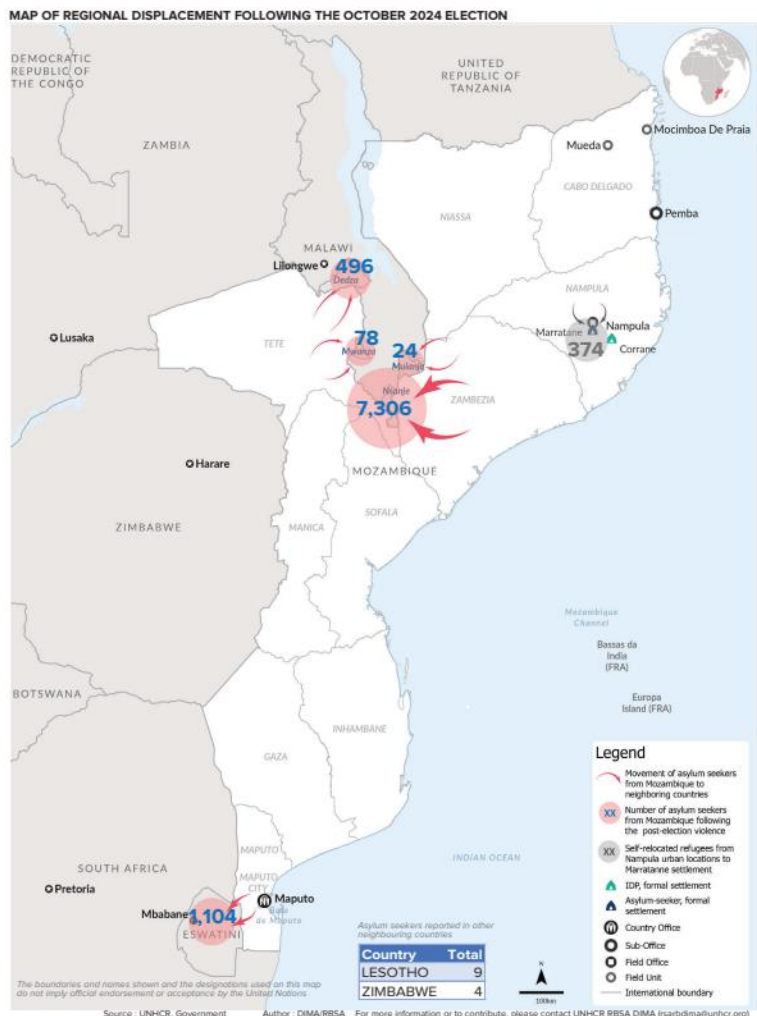
- The registration for Mozambican asylum seekers has been completed. In total, 3,898 households (7,904 individuals) are now registered across the Nsanje, Dedza, Mulanje, Mwanza and Dowa districts.
- UNHCR has not received any confirmed cross-border arrivals or returns have been reported in the past week.

Needs & Response

- On 12 February 2025, **Malawi's Minister of Gender, Community Development, and Social Welfare, accompanied by the UNHCR and UNICEF Country Representatives, visited the Nyamithuthu settlement.** The high-level delegation assessed the state of key services, including healthcare, education, water and sanitation, and child protection.
- The following updates provide an overview of recent sectoral responses aimed at addressing the needs of asylum seekers and ensuring they receive essential support and services.

Protection

- On 13 February, a team from the Department for Refugees, UNHCR, and Malawian immigration officials **registered an additional 442 households (732 individuals)** at the Tengani Evacuation Center, concluding the mass registration of Mozambican asylum seekers in Malawi.



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Food Security

- With food supplies from previous distributions nearly depleted, Nyamithuthu Clinic has reported rising cases of hunger-related fainting, particularly among young children, pregnant and lactating mothers, and the elderly.
- On 15 February 2025, the distribution of 72 tonnes of food donated by the Mozambican Government through the National Institute of Disaster Management (INGD) began at the Khope site, where each family member received approximately 3.8 kg of maize flour, 3.8 kg of rice, 1.25 kg of beans, and 300 g of salt. Some 80 households who did not receive rations will be included in the follow-up distribution this week.
- On 16 February, food distribution continued at Nyamithuthu and Tengani, reaching 442 households, with final distributions set to be completed this week at Nyamithuthu, Chadzuka, and Chang'ambika evacuation centres.

CCCM/ Shelter & NFI

- On 10 February 2025, heavy rains and strong winds damaged 65 family tents and one communal tent at the Nyamithuthu site. Affected asylum seekers were temporarily accommodated in communal tents while Red Cross volunteers worked to restore the damaged structures. A total of 61 family tents were successfully reinstated.

WASH

- On 15 February 2025, UNICEF and Oxfam took over water trucking at the Nyamithuthu site from SELF HELP AFRICA, delivering approximately 96,000 litres daily to fill water bladders and storage tanks. Water wastage has significantly decreased due to improved weather and stricter management controls. UNICEF has committed to supporting water trucking until 31 March 2025 while exploring the possibility of drilling a solar-powered borehole.
- Sanitation remains a challenge, with a critical shortage of latrines and bath structures leading to widespread open defecation, particularly in areas lacking nearby facilities. To address this, UNICEF will install 50 temporary latrines, bathing spaces, and five 5,000-liter water storage units to improve access to clean water and sanitation services.

Health & Nutrition

- On 11 February, the Ministry of Health's Family Health Services and the District Health Office (DHO), with funding from IsraAID, conducted a **mobile clinic at the Nyamithuthu site, providing antenatal care, voluntary HIV testing, family planning, and outpatient services to over 380 individuals**. This week, IsraAID trained 13 Health Promoters on hygiene and sanitation, while UNICEF, in collaboration with Oxfam, oriented them on nutrition screening to monitor residents' health.
- Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) continue to provide outreach services to asylum seekers at Nyamithuthu. They have cumulatively screened 1,653 children under five (795 boys and 858 girls). Among them, 26 had severe acute malnutrition (SAM), and 196 had moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). Additionally, 170 pregnant and lactating women were screened, with 15 identified as having moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). All individuals identified with SAM or MAM were referred to the Nyamithuthu Health Center for treatment.

Education

- Currently, 243 Mozambican learners (137 boys, 106 girls) are enrolled at Nyamithuthu Primary School. UNICEF provided learning materials, classroom tents, and essential supplies, while Moravian Humanitarian and Development Services, with UNHCR funding, donated stationery and teaching tools to support their inclusion.
- Due to financial constraints, Mozambican learners do not benefit from the school feeding programme that nationals receive.

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