

MOZAMBIQUE SITUATION POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE & CYCLONE RESPONSES

27 February 2025



Distribution of clothing to asylum seekers at the Malindza Refugee Reception Centre in Eswatini by World Vision, the National Disaster Management Agency, and the Ministry of Home Affairs. ©UNHCR/ Mmone Moletsane

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The situation in Mozambique remains generally calm, with occasional small-scale protests and roadblocks**
- **UNHCR continues to support communities affected by Cyclones Chido and Dikeledi.** In Cabo Delgado, efforts focus on assessing and restoring civil registry buildings in Pemba City and Mecufi. While in Nampula, a [rapid protection assessment on the impact of Cyclone Dikeledi](#) was released.
- Mozambique's National Institute for Disaster Management (INGD) is in Malawi to [facilitate the repatriation](#) of Mozambican asylum seekers who fled due to post-election-related violence.
- UNHCR fielded a **water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) mission to Eswatini** to assess conditions and identify necessary interventions at the Malindza Refugee Reception Centre (MRRC).
- As of 25 February, the number of new arrivals in Malawi and Eswatini, verified with support from UNHCR, **remains at over 9,000.**

Country	Total number of new arrivals from Mozambique
Malawi	7,904
Eswatini	1,104
Lesotho	9
Zimbabwe	4
TOTAL	9,021

MOZAMBIQUE

Security and Political Developments

- **The post-election situation in Mozambique remains mostly calm**, though sporadic protests and roadblocks, particularly in the south, including Maputo. While initially driven by dissatisfaction with the October election results, recent demonstrations are largely related to the [rising cost of living](#).
- The President of Mozambique [travelled to Cabo Delgado on 25 February](#) for a three-day working visit. During the visit, he is scheduled to meet with the **Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator (OCHA)** and the **Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP)**. The meeting will also include the **Resident Coordinator, UNHCR's Head of Sub-Office, and representatives from other UN agencies**.

Needs & Response

Cyclone Chido and Dikeledi Impact & Response

- During the reporting period, UNHCR, in collaboration with the local government, **assessed and mapped civil registry buildings damaged by Cyclone Chido in Pemba City and Mecufi, both in Cabo Delgado Province**. These facilities are crucial for issuing civil documentation, such as IDs and birth certificates. Restoring them is essential to reinstating legal and civil services for displaced communities and their hosts.
- **The Protection Cluster released a [rapid protection assessment](#) as part of efforts to monitor the impact of Cyclone Dikeledi in Nampula Province**. Key findings highlight that vulnerable groups, especially people with disabilities and the elderly, are severely affected as their support networks are also in crisis. Women, children, and persons with disabilities face increased risks, including early marriage, harassment, and domestic violence, exacerbated by limited access to safe spaces and protection services. Many are resorting to harmful coping mechanisms such as child labor, asset depletion, and begging. Housing insecurity remains a major challenge, with the loss of shelter hindering recovery efforts.

Coordination & Partnerships

- 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

- Currently, **405 individuals who arrived from Mozambique are still at the Malindza Refugee Reception Centre (MRRC)**.
- There have been no new arrivals since 13 January, with the total recorded figure remaining at 1,104. Since then, some individuals have reportedly left the MRRC spontaneously, either returning to Mozambique or relocating to urban centers within Eswatini.

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

- From 19 to 21 February 2025, the **UNHCR WASH Officer visited the Malindza Refugee Reception Centre (MRRC) in Eswatini to assess water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions and identify necessary interventions**. During the mission, the Officer met with representatives from the National Disaster Management Agency, World Vision, and the Ministry of Home Affairs to review challenges and explore potential solutions. The Officer also engaged with the refugee community and

stakeholders through meetings to gather firsthand feedback. Additionally, a bilateral discussion with UNICEF focused on reviewing their WASH interventions and addressing coordination gaps to enhance service delivery at the centre.

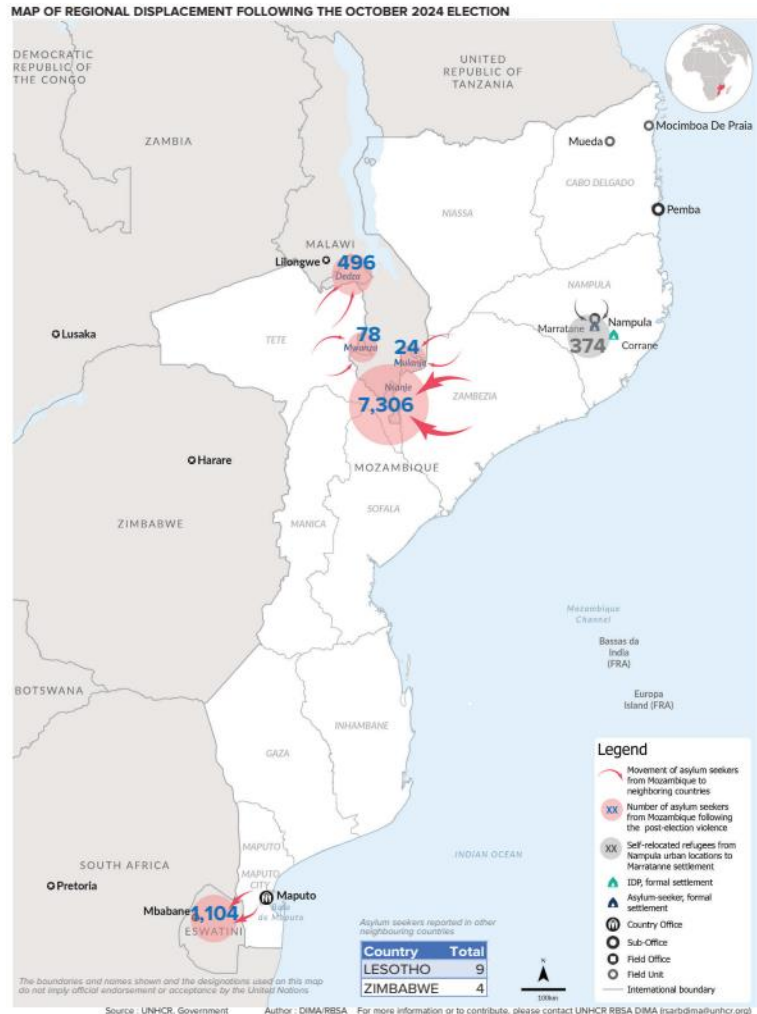
MALAWI

Population Movements & Registration

- The total number of **registered new arrivals in Malawi stands at 7,904** (3,898 households) in 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

- **Mozambique's National Institute for Disaster Management (INGD) is in Malawi to facilitate the repatriation of Mozambican asylum seekers** who fled due to post-election-related violence. The **registration of those willing to return began on 26 February, with the first group expected to depart on 27 February**. Discussions between INGD and Malawian authorities suggest the process will take about a week. UNHCR is present to support efforts to ensure the **returns are voluntary, carried out safely and in dignity**.
- 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

- UNHCR continues to conduct awareness sessions to prevent gender-based violence (GBV), monitor cases, and ensure follow-up with local authorities. Additionally, UNHCR is planning caregiver training to strengthen childcare best practices and provide better support for unaccompanied minors.

Food Security

- The distribution of food donated by the Mozambican Government has been completed in Nsanje and is ongoing in other locations. Concern Worldwide is distributing food to 2,200 households comprising 20kg of maize flour and 2kg of beans per household. Malnourished children and pregnant or lactating women are receiving nutritional support, with UNHCR advocating for enhanced services to meet their needs.

CCCM/ Shelter & NFI

- During the reporting period, 33 family tents were erected out of the 194 available. UNHCR and its partner Welthungerhilfe (WHH) are stepping up efforts to clear land and pitch the remaining tents.

WASH

- **UNICEF and Oxfam will continue daily water trucking of 96,000 litres to the Nyamithuthu settlement up until 31 March 2025.** Hygiene education has significantly reduced open defecation. UNHCR supplied the WASH task force at Nyamithuthu settlement with personal protective equipment and sanitation supplies, including gumboots, gloves, soap, and masks. Additionally, sanitation tools have been procured and will be distributed soon. UNHCR continues to advocate for sustained hygiene promotion and additional disability-friendly latrines.

Education

- Nyamithuthu Primary School **serves 1,900 learners, including 700 asylum seekers, with a congested classroom-to-learner ratio of 1:60.** To ease congestion, UNICEF provided five tents, but more classroom space is still needed. Additionally, **1,800 children received mosquito nets and learning materials.** However, the school continues to face water shortages and inadequate sanitation facilities. In response, UNHCR engaged the Ministry of Education and UNICEF, with stakeholders committing to collaborative solutions.

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