

## MOZAMBIQUE SITUATION POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE & CYCLONE RESPONSES

13 March 2025



Widespread destruction as Tropical Cyclone Jude made landfall in northern Mozambique on 10 March, tearing off roofs and damaging buildings. ©UNHCR/Noel Kabanda.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Mozambican President, the country's main political parties and non-parliamentary parties have signed an [agreement](#) outlining the terms for state reforms as part of a political dialogue aimed at resolving a post-election crisis.
- On 10 March, **Mozambique was hit by its third cyclone in just three months, putting at least 780,000 people in Nampula, Niassa and Zambezia at serious risk** from strong winds, torrential rains and flashfloods. Many of those affected were still struggling to recover from the impact of Cyclones Chido and Dikeledi. **The heavy rains and strong winds from cyclone Jude has also affected communities in [Malawi and Madagascar](#).**
- The Eswatini government and UNHCR continue efforts to inform asylum seekers who fled the post-election violence in Mozambique, **about available readmission support for those wishing to return.**
- **The voluntary repatriation exercise to assist Mozambican asylum seekers in Malawi has been completed with 6,382** opting to be voluntarily return.
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Country	Total number of asylum seekers from Mozambique	Total number voluntary returned r as of 13 March
Malawi	7,904	6,382
Eswatini	1,104	669*
Lesotho	9	-
Zimbabwe	4	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,021</b>	<b>7,051</b>

*\*Spontaneous departures from Eswatini's Malindza Refugee Reception Centre, with some reportedly returning to Mozambique and others relocating to urban areas in Eswatini.*

## MOZAMBIQUE

### Security and Political Developments

- **Despite signs of recent stabilization, Mozambique's post-election situation remains unpredictable.** Protests driven by high living costs and other social grievances have reportedly caused significant **damage—including more than [500 kilometers](#) of roads in Maputo Province damaged by burning tires.** Additionally, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission, which began on 19 February, concluded without approving two pending disbursements or confirming future financial support.
- Mozambican President Daniel Chapo, the country's main political parties and non-parliamentary parties have signed an [agreement](#) **outlining the terms for state reforms as part of a political dialogue aimed at resolving a post-election crisis.** [Amnesty International](#) has called on the government to urgently open investigations into all reports of human rights violations committed since the election.

### Needs & Response

#### Cyclone Chido, Dikeledi and Jude Impact & Response

- **On March 10 , Mozambique was hit by its third cyclone in just three months, as Tropical Cyclone Jude made landfall in Mossuril district, Nampula province,** with sustained winds of 140 km/h and gusts reaching 195 km/h. [Forecasts put 747,000](#) people at high risk of strong winds, heavy rains, and flash floods in Nampula, Niassa, and Zambezia. Many of the affected were already struggling to recover from Cyclones Chido and Dikeledi. **Humanitarian response capacities are overstretched due to simultaneous ongoing responses to two previous cyclones (Chido in December 2024 and Dikeledi in January 2025)** other shocks including cholera, food insecurity, conflict, and political tensions, and mobilization of resources will be a challenge amid the overall decline in humanitarian funding.
- Ahead of Cyclone Jude, **the Protection Cluster led by UNHCR convened a meeting on 9 March with partners, including the National Institute for Disaster Risk Management (INGD), to coordinate preparedness efforts across its different Areas of Responsibility.** They jointly assessed available resources, identified response capacities, and outlined strategies to effectively address protection needs during the cyclone. Although partner capacity for direct protection activities in Nampula remains limited, efforts are underway to fill these gaps, potentially drawing support from partners in Cabo Delgado.
- In Pemba, **service and referral pathways were updated, while protection mainstreaming and accountability to affected populations (AAP) recommendations have been shared with partners.** In Nampula, temporary shelters were identified by the government, while UNHCR-led Protection Working Group issued early warning messages and alerts in areas at risk.
- As part of the planned response to Cyclone Jude, **UNHCR has prepositioned nearly 1,000 core relief item (CRI) kits—500 in Cabo Delgado and 497 in Nampula—along with 2,500 dignity kits in Nampula.** Additionally, posters on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) are ready for distribution.
- **The response to Cyclone Chido continues, with UNHCR conducting an outreach session in Mecufi District, reaching over 300 individuals** with information on gender-based violence prevention, mitigation, and response. Many participants were unaware of existing support services, highlighting the urgent need for continued awareness efforts. To further support the protection response, **UNHCR distributed 220 CRI kits in Sassalene, Mecufi District, Cabo Delgado, and 492 in Erati District, Nampula, benefiting approximately 3,560 individuals.** Additionally, dignity kits were provided to women and girls of reproductive age in both provinces—124 in Sassalene, Mecufi District, and 212 in Fabrica community, Namapa city, Erati District.

## ESWATINI

### Key Developments

- The Eswatini government and UNHCR continue their efforts **to inform asylum seekers who fled the post-election violence in Mozambique,** about available readmission support for those wishing to return, as authorities believe the political tensions in that country have eased. Currently, **403 of the 1,104 individuals who arrived from Mozambique remain at the Malindza Refugee Reception Centre (MRRC).** Reports

indicate spontaneous departures, with some individuals returning to Mozambique and others relocating to urban areas in Eswatini. No new arrivals have been recorded since 13 January.

- The recent **UNHCR WASH mission to the MRRC identified significant challenges at the site, including an inadequate sewer system, insufficient latrines, unreliable water supply, and culturally limited hygiene facilities**. Additionally, waste disposal and sanitation practices are hindered by limited soap availability, poorly maintained handwashing stations, and inadequate sanitary materials. WASH partners have in recent weeks stepped up efforts to address some of the challenges at the centre.

## MALAWI

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS - MALAWI

- The **voluntary repatriation exercise** coordinated by Malawi's Department for Refugees (DFR), Mozambique's National Institute of Disaster Management (INGD) and UNHCR **was completed on 13 March 2025**. The total number of people repatriated is **6,382 individuals crossing** Shire River by speedboat to the designated landing sites in Nota and Port Shire.

#### Needs & Response

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.

#### Shelter

- After voluntary repatriation began, the shelter committee and volunteers dismantled 96 family tents of repatriated individuals. However, the exercise has been suspended due to funding shortages. The District Commissioner has requested financial support from partners to expedite the process and procure cleaning detergents to disinfect the tents before storing them in district facilities.

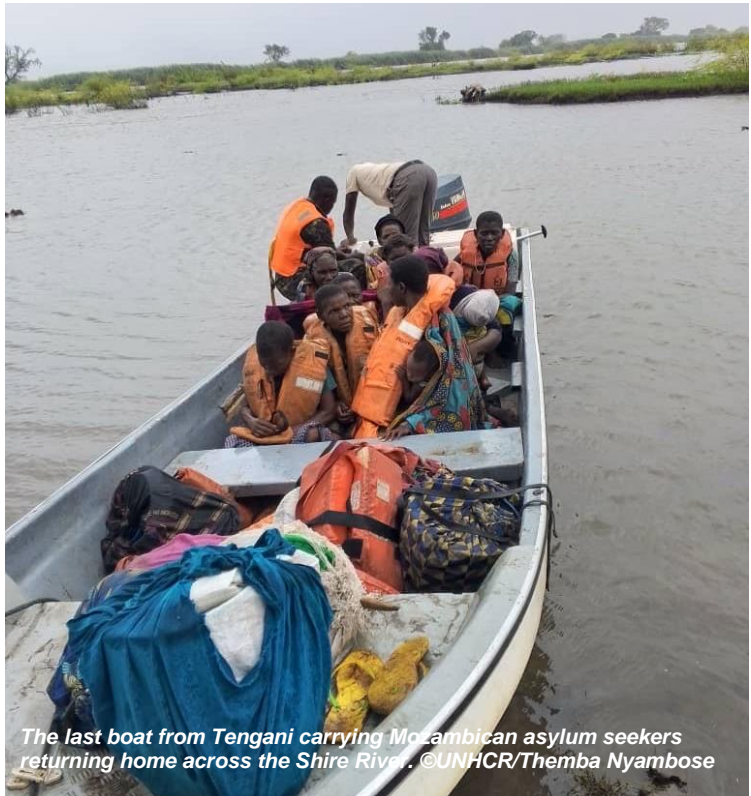
#### Food and other essential items

- The distribution of food and non-food items received from CADECOM was completed in four sites. The 600 vulnerable households targeted received each 10 kgs of maize, 10 kgs soya flour, 1 kg of sugar, 500g Salt, 1 liter of cooking oil and a mosquito net to pregnant and lactating mothers.
- IsraAID has delivered 700 pieces of soap, which are being distributed to asylum seekers throughout the week.

#### Health

- On 4 March, the District Health Office, with support from IsraAID, conducted outreach clinics in Nyamithuthu, providing essential health services to asylum seekers. Meanwhile, the outpatient department continued offering primary healthcare as usual.

## WASH



*The last boat from Tengani carrying Mozambican asylum seekers returning home across the Shire River. ©UNHCR/Themba Nyambose*

- The construction of temporary latrines at Nyamithuthu Primary School has been delayed pending further guidance from sector leads and considering the ongoing voluntary repatriation. TROCARE also postponed its latrine construction to involve the community in providing materials for semi-permanent structures. Meanwhile, temporary latrines were built in Tengani with community participation.
- In Nyamithuthu settlement, health workers and volunteers conducted joint hygiene promotion campaigns and led a latrine and household cleaning effort. UNICEF and Oxfam have pledged support to clean up the settlement after repatriation and site decommissioning.

#### **Logistics**

- IsraAID and YONECO has committed to provide fuel to four vehicles belonging to the government departments (DFR, District Commissioner, Immigration and Police) for seven days to facilitate activities on going in the sites.

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