

MOZAMBIQUE SITUATION POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE & CYCLONE RESPONSES

30 April 2025



Mozambican asylum seekers in Malawi attend a briefing on voluntary repatriation in March 2025. Over 7,000 individuals were supported to return home in safety and dignity. ©UNHCR/Miriam Kademba.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Mozambique's political environment remained relatively calm as parliament [approved](#) a 20-year development strategy to guide national development and budgeting.**
- **In Nampula province, local authorities have shared initial plans to integrate the Maratane Refugee Settlement into the broader development of Naburi locality.**
- **As of 30 April, 403 individuals who fled the post-election violence remain at Eswatini's Malindza Refugee Reception Centre.**
- **Malawi's Nyamithuthu settlement, where the remaining asylum seekers were hosted, has now been officially closed.**

Country	Total number of asylum seekers from Mozambique since December 2024	Remaining as of 23 April
Malawi	7,904	558**
Eswatini	1,104	403**
Lesotho	9	9
Zimbabwe	4	4
TOTAL	9,021	974

* Residual number of individuals after repatriation and subsequent verification exercise.

**Verified number of asylum seekers following spontaneous departures from Eswatini's Malindza Refugee Reception Centre.

MOZAMBIQUE

- Mozambique's political environment has remained largely calm. **On 23 April, the country's parliament [approved](#) the National Development Strategy 2025–2044, a 20-year plan to guide national development and budgeting.** The strategy focuses on five pillars: economic transformation, social and demographic change, infrastructure and territorial planning, governance and security, and environmental sustainability.
- In Nampula province, local authorities have shared initial **plans to integrate Maratane Refugee Settlement into the broader development of Naburi locality**, which includes four communities. The proposal, presented to UNHCR, INAR, UN-Habitat, and other stakeholders, aims to align services, infrastructure, and land use across the area, in line with the Government of Mozambique's pledge at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum. This kind of integration is especially important in a province that has been hit by three cyclones in recent months, exposing the vulnerability of both host and displaced communities. A more unified planning framework can help ensure that future emergency responses reach all affected populations more efficiently.

ESWATINI

- Post-election violence that gripped Mozambique in December 2024 and January 2025 forced 1,104 asylum seekers to seek safety in Eswatini. **As of 23 April, 403 remain at the Malindza Refugee Reception Centre (MRRC), while the rest have spontaneously returned to Mozambique or relocated to urban areas.** An additional 462 asylum seekers, whose arrival is unrelated to the unrest, are also hosted at the already overstretched centre, which was built for just 250 people.
- Although the emergency phase has ended, UNHCR, the Government, and partners continue to address urgent needs. Information on voluntary return remains available, and no new arrivals have been recorded since mid-January.

MALAWI

- Following post-election violence in Mozambique, some 7,904 individuals fled to southern Malawi between late December 2024 and early January 2025. **As relative calm returned, the Governments of Malawi and Mozambique, supported by UNHCR and partners, organized a voluntary repatriation exercise. At the end of the exercise, a verification confirmed that 558 individuals remained behind.** Subsequently, a Refugee Status Determination (RSD) exercise was carried out by the Department of Refugees, but only 221 individuals presented themselves for interviews, and none were found to meet the criteria for refugee status. **With the process concluded, services at Nyamithuthu settlement, where the asylum seekers were hosted, were progressively phased out in recent weeks, and the site has now officially closed.**

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