

MOZAMBIQUE SITUATION POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE & CYCLONE RESPONSES

06 March 2025



Mozambican asylum seekers at Nyamithuthu settlement in southern Malawi, preparing to voluntarily return to Mozambique.
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HIGHLIGHTS

- The Mozambique government approved draft legislation to ease economic pressures, including [VAT exemptions](#) on essential goods.
- UNHCR continues to support communities affected by Cyclones Chido and Dikeledi. Last week, efforts in Cabo Delgado focused on the distribution of dignity kits and essential relief items to vulnerable communities.
- The Eswatini government and UNHCR continue their efforts to inform asylum seekers who fled post-election violence in Mozambique about the available readmission support for those wishing to return.
- The voluntary repatriation of Mozambican asylum seekers in Malawi began on 1 March. Support will continue for those who are not willing to return.

Country	Total number of asylum seekers from Mozambique	Total number repatriated as of 6 March
Malawi	7,904	3,060
Eswatini	1,104	669*
Lesotho	9	-
Zimbabwe	4	-
TOTAL	9,021	3,729

*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

- **Mozambique's post-election situation is stabilizing, with a decline in violence and civil unrest,** though sporadic small-scale protests persist, driven by concerns over the rising cost of living. In response, the government **approved draft legislation on 25 February to ease economic pressures, including [VAT exemptions](#)** on essential goods such as sugar, edible oils, soaps, and related raw materials and machinery, until the end of the year.
- Mozambican President Daniel Chapo and the country's main political parties have signed an [agreement](#) **outlining the terms for state reforms as part of a political dialogue aimed at resolving a post-election crisis.** The agreement was signed by parliamentary parties, including the ruling Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo), the Optimistic People for the Development of Mozambique (Podemos), the Mozambican National Resistance (Renamo), and the Mozambique Democratic Movement (MDM), along with five extra-parliamentary political groups.

Needs & Response

Cyclone Chido and Dikeledi Impact & Response

- On 27 February, the **Protection Cluster released an update to the Mozambique [Protection Analysis](#), outlining key protection risks, including the impact of Cyclone Chido.** The cyclone affected over 450,000 people, destroying homes, infrastructure, and essential services in Cabo Delgado, Nampula, and Niassa. It further exacerbated existing vulnerabilities, such as conflict displacement and a cholera outbreak, leaving many in overcrowded shelters with increased risks of violence against women and girls. The report underscores the urgent need for protection and recovery efforts to address these escalating challenges.
- UNHCR continues to provide emergency assistance to communities affected by Cyclone Chido in Cabo Delgado, working closely with local authorities and partners. In Mecufi District, a field mission assessed vulnerable communities for dignity kits, essential household items, and GBV case support. **UNHCR also provided plastic tarpaulins to cover the damaged Civil Registry roof. In Metuge District, 252 relief kits containing basic household necessities were distributed to 1,300 individuals in Saul village.**

ESWATINI

Key Developments

- On 27 February 2025, **UNHCR and Eswatini's Deputy Commissioner of Home Affairs met with Mozambican asylum seekers who fled post-election violence to inform them about available readmission support from UNHCR in Mozambique.** Despite this being the fourth session on the topic, **no requests to return to Mozambique have been received.**
- Currently, **405 of the 1,104 individuals who arrived from Mozambique remain at the Malindza Refugee Reception Centre (MRRC).** There are reports of spontaneous departures, with some returning to Mozambique and others relocating to urban areas in Eswatini. No new arrivals have been recorded since 13 January.

MALAWI

Key Developments

- On 25 February 2025, a Mozambican delegation met with their Malawian government counterparts to **discuss the voluntary repatriation of 7,904 Mozambican asylum seekers.** Together with UNHCR, they later met with the asylum seekers to brief them on the planned repatriation and the measures in place to ensure a safe and dignified return.

- The **voluntary repatriation exercise** coordinated by Malawi's Department for Refugees (DFR), Mozambique's National Institute of Disaster Management (INGD) and UNHCR **commenced on 1 March 2025**. The total number of departures as of 6th March 2025 stands at **3,060 individuals**.
- Registration of those willing to return is ongoing in Tengani and Nyamithuthu. **So far, 2,131 households (6,393 individuals)** have registered to return.
- **The Government of Malawi, UNHCR, and partners have reaffirmed they will continue to support asylum seekers who are unwilling to return.**



Mozambican asylum seekers at Shire River Dock preparing for their journey back home. ©UNHCR/Noel Kabanda

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.

Protection

- IsraAID will set up children's corners in Nyamithuthu and Tengani, providing safe spaces where children can play, learn, and receive psychosocial support. Each site will have a trained case worker, with training scheduled for early March 2025. Activities will include recreation, sports, and art therapy.

Food Security

- The distribution of food and essential items from Concern Worldwide was successfully completed across four sites, **reaching 2,200 vulnerable households with maize flour, beans, soya snacks, buckets, and soap.**

- This week, CADECOM has committed to **supporting 500 households with food and providing 100 vulnerable households with non-food items**, including mosquito nets and utensils, to improve nutrition and health.

CCCM/ Shelter & NFI

- On 27 February 2025, heavy rains and strong winds caused several family tents to collapse, most of which were re-erected.
- **Land clearing for 33 new family tents was put on hold due to the ongoing Voluntary Repatriation**, while tents from departing asylum seekers are being dismantled and stored.
- On 27 February 2025, World Vision International and Malawi's Department for Refugees **provided blankets, bed linen and soap to all asylum seekers in Khope, Tengani, and Chazuka.**

WASH

- Heavy rains in Nsanje caused a power outage, disrupting water trucking and leading to shortages at the Nyamithuthu settlement. **Red Cross and TROCAIRE will drill two boreholes to ensure sustainable water access, while IsraAID will repair one at Nyamithuthu Primary School.**
- With ongoing rains increasing the risk of waterborne diseases such as diarrhea and bilharzia, the **WASH task team is addressing sanitation gaps by digging new latrines in Tengani, constructing soak pits in Nyamithuthu, and strengthening hygiene promotion to prevent outbreaks.**

Health

- WHO has provided clinic furniture and medical supplies and is leading community sensitization efforts to improve healthcare access. They have also funded salaries for five medical personnel, strengthening services such as under-five care, antenatal care, and reproductive health. They also supplied 5,200 health passports and other essential items.
- IsraAID has committed to extending support for outreach clinics at the Nyamithuthu settlement beyond the initially planned end date of February 2025.
- **The District Health Office still lacks medication for bilharzia treatment. Meanwhile, diarrhea cases have been reported in Tengani, and health teams have been advised to monitor the situation closely.**

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