

## MOZAMBIQUE SITUATION POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE & CYCLONE RESPONSES

20 March 2025



A Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) in Ilha de Moçambique to assess the urgent needs of displaced communities.  
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### HIGHLIGHTS

- The European Union reaffirmed its [commitment](#) to supporting government reforms during a meeting with Mozambique’s Executive Coordinator of the Government’s Office of Reforms and Strategic Projects (GREP).
- Nearly 340,000 people have been affected, and thousands displaced across Madagascar, Malawi, and Mozambique after Tropical Storm Jude swept through Southern Africa, leaving widespread destruction.
- 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 of asylum seekers who fled post-election violence in Mozambique to Malawi has been completed.** A total of 7,076 individuals returned to Mozambique out of the 7,904 registered asylum seekers.

Country	Total number of asylum seekers from Mozambique*	Number of those repatriated as of 18 March	Remaining as of 18 March
Malawi	7,904	7,076**	828
Eswatini	1,104	701***	403
Lesotho	9	-	9
Zimbabwe	4	-	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,021</b>	<b>7,745</b>	<b>1,244</b>

\*Arrived between December 2024 and January 2025.

\*\*This comprises 6,410 repatriated from Nsanje and Mulanje districts and 666 self-repatriated from Dedza and Chikwawa districts.

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

## MOZAMBIQUE

### Key Developments

- On 13 March, the European Union reaffirmed its [commitment](#) to supporting government reforms during a meeting with the Executive Coordinator of the Government's Office of Reforms and Strategic Projects (GREP). This comes after an [agreement](#) was signed by President Daniel Chapo, along with the country's main political and non-parliamentary parties, setting the framework for state reforms as part of ongoing political dialogue to resolve the post-election crisis.

### Needs & Response

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

- On 15 March, [President Chapo visited Cyclone Jude-hit areas in Nampula Province](#), to show his solidarity with those affected. He visited an accommodation centre and key roads that had been cut by the cyclone.
- As of 17 March, **Cyclone Jude has [reportedly](#) left 16 dead and affected 302,653 people across Tete, Manica, Zambézia, Nampula, Niassa, and Cabo Delgado**, according to the National Institute for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction (INGD). The cyclone caused widespread destruction, damaging 70,163 homes, flooding 988, and affecting 134 places of worship. It also impacted 247 schools and 674 classrooms, disrupting education for over 91,000 students and 1,182 teachers. Infrastructure damage includes 18 bridges, 41 aqueducts, and 101,239 hectares of agricultural land, further exacerbating the crisis.
- **Nampula, the hardest-hit province, also faced widespread power outages and communication blackouts.** Many of the affected communities had yet to recover from previous cyclones this season, compounding their vulnerabilities. Infrastructure damage, including the [collapse](#) of a 200-meter bridge over the Monapo River in Meconta District—a key link on the north-south highway (EN1)—has disrupted road access between Pemba and Nampula. **No casualties were reported in Maratane or Corrane.**
- From 14 to 16 March, the **UNHCR-led Protection Cluster conducted 62 rapid protection assessments in six of the most affected districts in Nampula**—Ilha de Mozambique, Monapo, Mossuril, Nacala, Memba, and Meconta—with eight cluster members participating. UNHCR trained and coordinated the data collectors, ensuring a structured approach to the assessments, which are still ongoing. On 14 March, UNHCR also participated in a Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) across seven districts in Nampula, including Angoche and those previously mentioned.
- Despite challenging road conditions, field visits to affected districts have **identified urgent needs for food, clean water, healthcare, mosquito nets, shelter, and sleeping mats.** Many villages remain submerged, facing critical sanitation issues that heighten the risk of malaria and waterborne diseases. Engagement with affected communities has also revealed that single female-headed households are among the most vulnerable, as they live in damaged shelters and face **heightened risks of gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse, insecurity, and economic hardship.**
- The **Protection Cluster has so far assessed 11 temporary accommodation centres, where many cyclone-affected people have relocated**, to ensure that protection considerations are effectively mainstreamed and integrated. Key issues observed at the centres include overcrowded tents with poor privacy, especially in mixed-gender settings, heightened GBV risks due to inadequate shelter and lack of lighting, and limited access to reporting channels.
- A **snapshot of funding needs and response priorities for tropical cyclones in Mozambique (Jan–Jun 2025)** is [here](#).

## ESWATINI

### Key Developments

- 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 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.**

## MALAWI

### Key Developments

- The voluntary repatriation exercise, coordinated by Malawi's Department for Refugees, Mozambique's National Institute of Disaster Management, and UNHCR, successfully concluded on 13 March. **A total of 7,076 individuals voluntarily returned to Mozambique out of the 7,904 registered asylum seekers.** This includes 6,410 repatriated from Nsanje and Mulanje districts and 666 who self-repatriated from Dedza and Chikwawa districts.
- A **verification exercise of the remaining population was successfully completed on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2025.** The final figure will be available after the data-cleaning exercise.

### Needs & Response

#### Protection

- The Department for Refugees will continue assessing the protection needs of those who remain and providing necessary support. Plans are in place to conduct Refugee Status Determination to evaluate their claims. Those granted refugee status will be relocated to Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Dowa District, while rejected cases will be referred to the Immigration Department for further action.

#### Food and other essential items

- Following the completion of the voluntary repatriation exercise, all distribution activities have been temporarily suspended pending the outcome of the verification exercise to confirm the number of individuals who remain in the area.

#### Health

- The Outpatient Department continued providing uninterrupted primary healthcare services to the remaining asylum seekers.

#### WASH

- With the completion of the voluntary repatriation exercise, partners are preparing to close and rehabilitate the sites and settlements. This process will include dismantling temporary structures and conducting a comprehensive clean-up to restore proper sanitation and hygiene in the area.

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