

MOZAMBIQUE SITUATION POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE & CYCLONE RESPONSES

11 February 2025



Additional water tanks installed to improve WASH services at Eswatini's Malindza Refugee Reception Centre. ©UNHCR/ Mmone Moletsane

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The situation in Mozambique remains largely stable despite ongoing political tensions and small-scale protests.**
- **UNHCR continues to support communities affected by Cyclones Chido and Dikeledi.** Recent efforts include NFI distributions, site assessments, and coordination with partners to address critical needs.
- Eswatini's Commissioner for Refugees has informed asylum-seekers at Malindza Refugee Reception Centre MRRC of **the planned de-escalation, urging them to consider returning to Mozambique** based on reported improvements. A three-month transition period has been set, ending in March 2025.
- **Malawi's Minister for Homeland Security visited the Nyamithuthu settlement** on 7 February, acknowledging cultural ties between Mozambicans and Malawians. He thanked UNHCR and partners for their support and reassured asylum seekers that their concerns would be addressed.
- As of 0 February, Malawi and Eswatini, with support from UNHCR, **have verified over 8,200 new arrivals from Mozambique to Malawi and Eswatini.** The reduction in numbers is as a result of a data clean-up exercise in Malawi.

Country	Total number of new arrivals from Mozambique	Number of new arrivals since the last update (17 January 2024)
Malawi	7,114	-422
Eswatini	1,104	-
Lesotho	9	-
Zimbabwe	4	-
TOTAL	8,231	-422

MOZAMBIQUE

Security and Political Developments

- Mozambique's **post-election situation remains relatively calm, though isolated protests persist**, driven by grievances such as the high cost of living. Some demonstrators reportedly [blocked major roads](#), causing disruptions to transport and economic losses. Meanwhile, opposition presidential candidate Venâncio Mondlane has [announced his departure](#) from the PODEMOS party, accusing it of "selling out the people's struggle."

Needs & Response

Cyclone Chido and Dikeledi Impact & Response

- The humanitarian response to **Cyclone Chido in Cabo Delgado faces significant challenges** amid ongoing displacement and multiple crises. With 272,000 people affected and 217,000 in need of assistance, funding gaps continue to strain relief efforts, leaving 159,000 without food security. **Despite progress—225,000 people reached, 82% receiving emergency food, and 95% covered by WASH services—critical gaps persist in nutrition, protection, and livelihood support.** The Chido Humanitarian Response Plan seeks **\$88 million to assist 320,000 people by June 2025.**
- UNHCR conducted a mission to the Megaruma IDP site in Chiure District to assess conditions after Cyclone Chido and the distribution of non-food items (NFIs). **While the site now hosts 668 families following the return of 103 families to their places of origin, protection concerns remain high.** Site leaders report a rise in gender-based violence (GBV), worsened by food shortages. UNHCR is working with partners to address these risks, strengthen protection efforts, and coordinate with humanitarian actors to support GBV survivors and other vulnerable groups.
- On 5 February, **UNHCR distributed 330 non-food item kits to support 1,120 displaced individuals** affected by Cyclone Chido in Metuge District. Another distribution is planned for 13 February to assist additional affected families.
- UNHCR provided **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support sessions for 10 women and 10 girls affected by Cyclone Chido**, including individual consultations for GBV survivors. The sessions aimed to help them cope with trauma from both the disaster and the violence they experienced.
- An Emergency Operations Center (COE) meeting in Nampula on 10 February, led by the Secretary of State, assessed the impact of Cyclone Dikeledi and response efforts. According to INGD, heavy rainfall from 1 to 31 January, caused by Tropical Storm Dikeledi, severely affected coastal districts like Mossuril and Ilha de Moçambique. Although rainfall weakened between 1 and 7 February, localized heavy showers and thunderstorms continued. **Cyclone Dikeledi affected 283,334 people and damaged 80,865 shelters, particularly in Mossuril, Ilha de Moçambique, and Monapo.**
- **While all emergency accommodation centres set up after Cyclone Dikeledi have closed, many returning families still face challenges.** Preparedness efforts continue, including early warnings, awareness campaigns, and community engagement. Coordination with partners continues to assess damage, distribute aid, and restore infrastructure and essential services in affected areas.

Coordination & Partnerships

- Regular meetings between international humanitarian organizations and the National Institute for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction (INGD) ensure coordination on cyclone response, priorities, and challenges in assisting affected populations.
- UNHCR developed a Multi-Sectoral Response Monitoring matrix to track humanitarian activities in affected districts. **This tool helps coordinate efforts, identify gaps, and ensure effective aid delivery by providing real-time data on interventions.**
- The humanitarian response in Mozambique is coordinated through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) cluster system, with Area Humanitarian Country Teams (AHCTs) managing local efforts and engaging key responders. Coordination of the refugee response in Nampula and Maputo is led by the government under the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), with support from UNHCR.

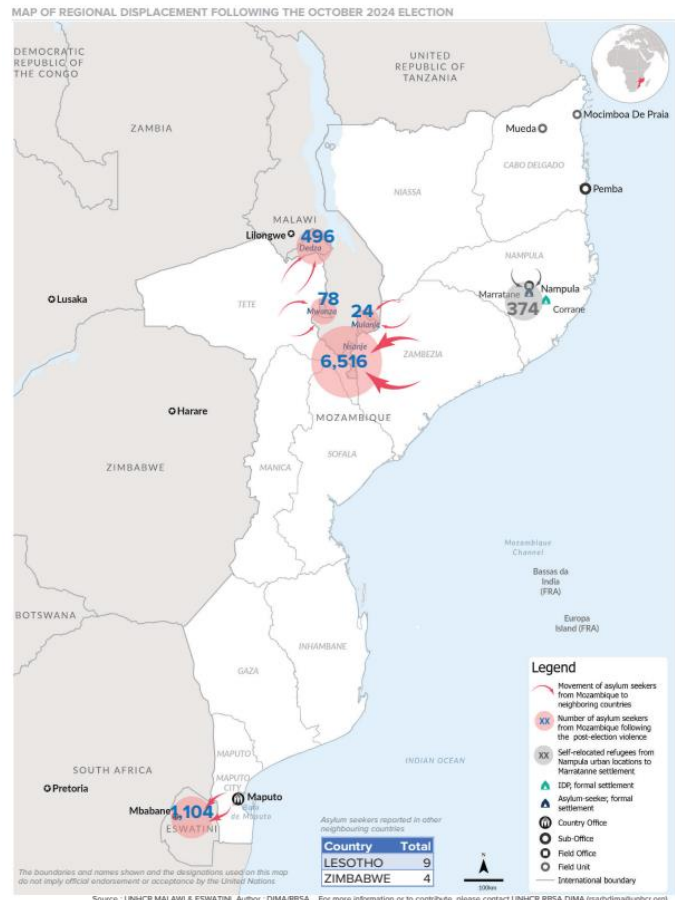
MALAWI

Population Movements & Registration

- As of 10 February, **Malawi's Department for Refugees, with UNHCR's support, has registered 7,114 individuals**, most of whom arrived in Nsanje, Dedza, Mulanje and Mwanza districts in late December 2024. The population has decreased from the previous estimate of 7,536 individuals following a data cleaning process. An undetermined number of unregistered asylum seekers at the Tengani transit centre **are pending clearance from the immigration authorities before they can be registered.**
- UNHCR has not received any confirmed cross-border arrivals or returns have been reported in the past week.

Needs & Response

- On 07 February, the **Honorable Minister for Homeland Security, Ezekiel Peter Ching'oma**, visited the Nyamithuthu settlement, accompanied by key partners, including the Commissioner for Refugees and Nsanje District Commissioner. He expressed appreciation to partners for supporting Mozambican asylum seekers, highlighted the deep ties between the two nations, and assured displaced families that their concerns, including food shortages, would be addressed.



Protection

- The relocation of asylum seekers is ongoing, **with 171 households (231 individuals) moved from the Bitilinyu evacuation centre to Tengani on 3 February.** On 4 February, **185 individuals from Mmembe site and 23 households (30 individuals) from Nyacilenda were relocated to Nyamithuthu.** Meanwhile, UNHCR and the Department for Refugees (DFR) completed a household listing at Nyamithuthu, documenting 211 households (461 individuals).
- To strengthen security and community engagement, Nsanje Police, the Red Cross, and Youth Net & Counselling (YONECO) held a town hall at Nyamithuthu. UNICEF and the Malawi Police provided three additional complaint boxes.
- On 3 February 2025, Nsanje Police, the Red Cross, and Youth Net & Counselling (YONECO) held a community town hall at Nyamithuthu settlement with asylum seekers. **Three complaint boxes from UNICEF and the Malawi Police were provided for reporting concerns and complaints anonymously.** Police advised residents to report serious cases like GBV and child abuse directly to settlement management while encouraging the resolution of minor disputes within the community.
- On 6–7 February 2025, Plan International conducted **Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH)** and child protection training at Nyamithuthu for 30 community policing and forum members. The training aimed to strengthen their capacity to detect and respond to cases, raise awareness of **gender-based violence (GBV)**, improve reporting, and enhance referrals to appropriate channels, ultimately ensuring better protection for people of concern.

Food Security

- The ongoing food shortage in the settlement poses a significant protection risk, as it can lead to health issues, rising tensions, exploitation, and negative coping mechanisms, including increased vulnerability to GBV and child labour. **Many asylum seekers have already run out of food from previous**

distributions. Those most affected include children under five, pregnant and lactating mothers, the elderly, and the ill. Through the National Institute of Disaster Management (INGD), the Mozambican government recently donated 72 tonnes of essential supplies, including food, which will be distributed this week.

CCCM/ Shelter & NFI

- As of 9 February, 500 UNHCR family tents were installed at the Nyamithuthu settlement with support from the Malawi Defense Forces (MDF), Malawi Red Cross volunteers, and Welthungerhilfe (WHH). An **additional 164 family tents from UNHCR and 20 communal tents from the Department for Refugees (DFR) have also been received, and 31 have been pitched.** Tents provided earlier by the Mozambican government will be pitched later this month as more asylum seekers are relocated from Chadzuka, Chang'ambika (Chikwakwa), Khope, and Tengani.

WASH

- SELF-HELP Africa took over water trucking from UNICEF and Oxfam on 1 February and will continue until 15 February, after which UNICEF and Oxfam will resume for two weeks. Currently, **SELF-HELP Africa delivers 96,000 litres of water daily to Nyamithuthu,** but increased consumption due to recent relocations from Mnembe and Nyacilenda may lead to shortages.
- Last week, Oxfam, UNICEF and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) **completed 73 additional latrines and 20 bath shelters at Nyamithuthu, bringing the totals to 152 latrines and 64 bath shelters, still short of the pledged 350.** More facilities are urgently needed to meet the emergency standard of 20 people per WASH unit, as open defecation remains widespread, particularly in areas without nearby latrines.

Health & Nutrition

- On 04 February 2025, the Ministry of Health's Family Health Services and District Health Office (DHO), with funding from IsraAid, conducted a **Mobile Clinic and Outreach at Nyamithuthu Settlement.** Services offered included STI screening and treatment, GBV counselling, voluntary HIV testing services (HTS), distribution of family planning methods (condoms), and an outpatient department (OPD). During the outreach, **over 230 individuals received medical services.** IsraAid plans to run this Mobile Clinic and Outreach every Tuesday in the month of February.
- Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) continue to provide outreach services to asylum seekers at Nyamithuthu. So far, they have **screened 1,653 children under five (795 boys and 858 girls), identifying 26 cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 196 cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).** Additionally, 170 pregnant and lactating women were screened, with 15 diagnosed with MAM. All identified cases have been referred to Nyamithuthu Health Center for treatment.

Education

- UNICEF has pledged to support the Ministry of Education by providing teaching and learning materials for Mozambican and Malawian learners at Nyamithuthu Primary School. The materials will be handed over to the school this week to enhance learning opportunities for students.

ESWATINI

Population Movements & Registration

- As of 10 February, **1,104 individuals had arrived in Eswatini, with many initially housed at the overcrowded Malindza Refugee Reception Centre (MRRC).** The current population stands at 693, as 200 have spontaneously left, some reportedly returning to Mozambique, though unverified. Additionally, some asylum seekers are believed to have moved to urban areas. **No new arrivals have been recorded since 13 January.**
- Following reports of spontaneous departures, the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) launched a verification exercise at MRRC, supervised by Home Affairs. **As of 6 February, 307 households have been verified.**

Needs & Response

- UNHCR, the Ministry of Home Affairs, NDMA (Health and Social Workers), and World Vision met with both newly arrived asylum-seekers from Mozambique and long-stayers at the Malindza Refugee Reception Centre (MRRC). **The Commissioner for Refugees provided an update on the response, stressing the need for de-escalation and urging asylum-seekers to consider returning to Mozambique**, citing improved conditions as reported by the governments of Eswatini and Mozambique. **A three-month period, ending in March 2025, has been set for this process.** UNHCR continues to engage with Eswatini and Mozambique on the potential formal returns to Mozambique.

Protection

- UNHCR organized a community engagement session with asylum seekers to **discuss available support for voluntary return to Mozambique**. Many, however, cited fears of violence, safety, and loss of income due to destroyed properties and businesses as key deterrents to returning. Some indicated a preference for returning to their countries of origin. Further assessments are ongoing.
- UNICEF has deployed two social workers to support NDMA under World Vision's supervision for six months. An information session was held with UNHCR, World Vision, Home Affairs, and the Red Cross to ensure coordinated interventions. Discussions focused on refugee protection in Eswatini, partnerships, child protection, handling high-risk cases, PSEA, anti-fraud measures, and community feedback mechanisms.

WASH

- Efforts to enhance WASH facilities are ongoing. On 10 February, **Eswatini Water Services donated three additional water tanks, increasing capacity from 27,000 to 42,000 litres**. The Environmental Health Department has introduced a regular sewage drainage schedule, while the NDMA WASH team and Camp Management are collaborating with the MRRC community on cleaning campaigns, waste collection, and hygiene awareness.

Education

- At the MRRC school, **53 asylum seekers have enrolled their children and are covering their school fees**, as refugee children are currently not eligible for free primary education. UNHCR is working to mobilize resources to support those still in need while continuing to advocate for refugee students to be included under Eswatini's 2010 Free Primary Education Act.

Health

- NDMA has informed new arrivals at MRRC about the **de-escalation of emergency health services and access to healthcare at the centre**. The number of staff supporting local nurses has been reduced from four to two, while support from two Public Health Emergency Operation officers (logistics and WASH) and one ambulance continues. Furthermore, the Rapid Response Team has handed over border surveillance to the Regional Coordination Structure.

Contacts: Tina Ghelli – Head of External Engagement, Regional Bureau for Southern Africa (ghelli@unhcr.org); Edward Ogolla – Communications Officer, Regional Bureau for Southern Africa (ogolla@unhcr.org)