

## MOZAMBIQUE SITUATION POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE & CYCLONE RESPONSES

26 March 2025



Fatima, a single mother of nine, stands with her youngest children—twins—outside what used to be her shelter in Memba district, Nampula province. Cyclones Chido and Jude left her home in ruins. ©UNHCR/Eduardo Burmeister.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **As of 20 March, Mozambique’s National Institute for Disaster Management (INGD) has recorded 1,002,259 individuals affected and 225,030 houses either fully or partially damaged due to Cyclone Jude.** This cyclone season has been particularly severe, with Nampula and Zambezia previously hit by Tropical Cyclones Chido (December 2024) and Dikeledi (January 2025)
- **Less than 40 per cent of the asylum seekers who fled post-election violence in Mozambique continue to stay at Eswatini’s Malindza Refugee Reception Centre (MRRRC).** Efforts are ongoing to inform asylum seekers about the available readmission support for those wishing to return.
- Following the completion of the voluntary repatriation of Mozambican asylum seekers in Malawi, **the Department for Refugees (DfR) conducted a verification exercise to determine the exact number of individuals who remain.**

Country	Total number of asylum seekers from Mozambique*	Number of those repatriated as of 25 March	Remaining as of 25 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>7,777</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

- Tropical Cyclone Jude made landfall in Mozambique's Nampula Province on 10 March 2025, bringing heavy rainfall and strong winds. **As of 20 March, the National Institute for Disaster Management (INGD) has recorded 1,002,259 individuals affected and 225,030 houses either fully or partially damaged.** Severe flooding and extensive infrastructure damage have been reported in Nampula and Zambezia provinces, further exacerbating vulnerabilities in communities already struggling with food insecurity, displacement, and limited access to essential services. This cyclone season has been particularly severe, with Nampula and Zambezia previously hit by Tropical Cyclones Chido (December 2024) and Dikeledi (January 2025).
- **Due to extensive damage caused to roads, vital access within Nampula and towards other provinces has been cut off.** For instance, the national road (N1) connecting Cabo Delgado and Nampula remains impassable, particularly at the Monapo River bridge. **As fuel for Cabo Delgado is sourced in Nampula and transported by road, shortages are being reported in Pemba.** Humanitarian operations in Cabo Delgado could be affected if the fuel shortage is not addressed.
- The findings from the **UNHCR-led Protection Cluster's rapid protection assessments, conducted from 14 to 16 March, reveal that the most urgent protection needs are the loss of livelihoods (77%), followed by emotional distress (65%), and a lack of civil documentation (63%).** Women and girls face heightened risks of domestic violence and exploitation. Children are particularly vulnerable due to disrupted education, psychological distress, and family separation. Persons with disabilities face major obstacles in accessing assistance, while older persons report emotional distress and difficulties evacuating due to limited mobility.
- Joint protection teams, comprising multiple partners, have been actively engaged in some of the most affected areas by Cyclone Jude, **carrying out awareness-raising sessions, promoting the Prevention from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and identifying and referring vulnerable cases for necessary support.**
- As part of the overall response, **UNHCR distributed 257 hygiene parcels to women and girls of reproductive age** identified from three accommodation centres in Mossuril District, Nampula, ensuring access to essential sanitary products.

## ESWATINI

### Key Developments

- Currently, **403 of the 1,104 individuals who arrived from Mozambique fleeing post-election violence remain at the Malindza Refugee Reception Centre (MRRC),** indicating that 701 have spontaneously departed. Reports suggest that some have returned to Mozambique, while others have relocated to urban areas in Eswatini. The Government of Eswatini and UNHCR continue to inform asylum seekers about the available readmission support for those wishing to return. No new arrivals have been recorded since 13 January.
- In collaboration with **UNHCR, UNICEF has installed solar streetlights at MRRC** as part of its emergency response efforts. Additionally, **UNICEF has initiated the cleaning of the sewer system at MRRC** to address water, sanitation, and hygiene issues crucial for the health and well-being of refugees at the centre.
- **A ceremony to hand over the completed school expansion project, funded by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,** was held on 21 March. The project delivered eight additional classrooms at Malindza Central Primary and Mpaka High School, along with laboratory equipment, a school feeding kitchen, chairs, uniforms, and a variety of clothing items. The initiative will benefit both refugees and the host community learners alike, fostering social cohesion and creating a favorable protection environment in Eswatini that promotes inclusivity, understanding, and collaboration among diverse groups.

## MALAWI

- Following the completion of the voluntary repatriation of Mozambican asylum seekers, **the Department for Refugees (DfR) conducted a verification exercise to determine the exact number of individuals who remain.** The results are still pending as data cleaning is being finalized. In the meantime, the Outpatient Department has continued to provide uninterrupted primary healthcare services to those still present.
- **Food distribution remains suspended until the verification outcomes are confirmed.** This issue, along with other ongoing challenges faced by the remaining group at Nyamithuthu settlement, was discussed during a national stakeholder coordination meeting held on 25 March, which brought together DfR, UNHCR, and other partners.
- The Department of Refugees is also planning to **initiate Refugee Status Determination (RSD) for the remaining population to assess their eligibility and determine the appropriate next steps.**

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