

## MOZAMBIQUE SITUATION POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE & CYCLONE RESPONSES

23 April 2025



*A mother and child outside their shelter at Maratane Refugee Settlement. While many displaced families remain vulnerable to storms, more durable homes like this one, standing strong after three cyclones, offer critical protection. ©UNHCR/Kazy Rainy.*

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Mozambique’s political environment remained relatively calm.
- Mozambique’s Public Prosecutor has opened 742 criminal cases related to post-election demonstrations in late 2024 and early 2025.
- As of 23 April, 403 individuals who fled the post election violence remain at the Malindza Refugee Reception Centre.
- Malawi’s Department of Refugees concludes Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews for 221 individuals. None of the claims were found to meet the criteria for refugee status.

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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,021</b>	<b>974</b>

\* 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, **though some localized protests were reported in Quelimane, Zambezia Province, following the [shooting of a well-known musician](#)** whose songs had mobilized opposition supporters ahead of last year's elections.
- In response to incidents linked to post-election demonstrations that took place in late 2024 and early 2025, the **Public Prosecutor's Office has [reportedly](#) opened 742 criminal cases, including 31 involving law enforcement personnel.**
- Amnesty International released a [report](#), primarily based on interviews and open-source analysis, that **examines reported human rights violations by units of the Mozambican security forces, in relation to the protests between 21 October 2024 and 24 January 2025**, as well as possible actions of internet service providers which resulted in impeded access to information during that time.
- **Movement along the N1 highway between Nampula and Cabo Delgado remains disrupted due to damage caused by Cyclone Jude.** A temporary bridge over the Monapo River in Namialo (Meconta District) was completed just last week but was swept away only a few days later by heavy rain and strong currents. With the road cut off once again, trade, transport, and humanitarian operations between the provinces continue to be affected.

## ESWATINI

- As of 23 April, the situation at the Malindza Refugee Reception Centre remains unchanged **403 remain at the centre**, while the rest of the group have spontaneously departed, many reportedly returning to Mozambique or relocating to urban areas within Eswatini. An additional 462 asylum seekers, whose arrival is unrelated to the political unrest, are also hosted at the site.
- **Designed to accommodate just 250 people, MRRC remains severely overcrowded.** While the emergency response has been scaled down, UNHCR, together with the Government, other UN agencies, and partners, continues to respond to the most pressing needs, particularly in the area of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). **Recent interventions by UNICEF and UNHCR have led to significant improvements in WASH conditions at the centre.**
- The Government of Eswatini and UNHCR continue to inform asylum seekers about available support for voluntary return. No new arrivals have been reported since 13 January.

## MALAWI

- Following the conclusion of the voluntary repatriation of Mozambican asylum seekers from Malawi, the Department of Refugees conducted a Refugee Status Determination (RSD) exercise to assess the eligibility of those who remained. Although a verification exercise had earlier confirmed that 558 individuals were still present, **only 221 presented themselves for the RSD interviews. None of the claims were found to meet the criteria for refugee status.**
- Services at Nyamithuthu settlement have been progressively scaled down. **The settlement is scheduled for closure by the end of April 2025.**

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