

## MOZAMBIQUE SITUATION POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE & CYCLONE RESPONSE

24 January 2024



*New arrivals from Mozambique - the vast majority of whom were formerly refugees and asylum seekers in Mozambique- being registered by the government with the support of UNHCR in Eswatini, helping them to access essential assistance, services and protection.*  
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### HIGHLIGHTS

- While some small-scale protests continue, the situation in Mozambique remains largely stable and calm.
- In coordination with the Mozambique National Institute for Disaster Risk Management (INGD), UNHCR and partners have continued to reach communities affected by last week's Cyclone Dikeledi. As more communities are reached, the sheer scale of devastation wrought by the cyclone is becoming clearer, with almost 250,000 people now estimated to have been affected and over 24,000 houses destroyed. At the same time, protection services and ongoing assistance continue to be scaled up to communities in Cabo Delgado affected by conflict and December's Cyclone Chido.
- As of 23 January, host governments, with support from UNHCR, have verified over 8,400 new arrivals from Mozambique to Malawi and Eswatini. UNHCR and the Malawi Department of Refugees

have completed the registration of 7,330 individuals (3,603 households), the vast majority of whom arrived in the Nsanje District in early January or the last week of December. The number of people who have arrived in Eswatini and have been screened/ transferred to the Malindza Refugee Reception Centres (MRRC) remains at 1,104.

- There have been **no new arrivals to either Malawi or Eswatini reported during the last week**. The number of registered asylum seekers in Malawi is increasing as the registration of the previous arrivals continues.
- **Despite the stabilization of the situation in Mozambique, UNHCR has not received any confirmed reports of returns.** In Eswatini, UNHCR did receive reports that some people attempted to return to Mozambique but faced challenges at the border and were unable to do so. UNHCR is liaising with the relevant authorities around the return process, while simultaneously advocating that those who wish to return are allowed to do so.

Country	Total number of new arrivals from Mozambique	Number of new arrivals since last update (17 January 2024)
Malawi	7,330	+468
Eswatini	1,104	-
Lesotho	3	-
Zimbabwe	4	+4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,441</b>	<b>+468</b>

## MOZAMBIQUE

### Security and Political Developments

- Although **the situation across Mozambique has remained relatively calm over the last week, small-scale protests linked to the post-election unrest continue to be reported across different areas of the country**. This includes a refusal to pay road toll fees (one of Venâncio Mondlane's '25 urgent measures' issued in his 17 January '100-day ultimatum' to the Government was the removal of all road tolls). However, as per Mondlane's 100-day ultimatum issued on 17 January, there is a de facto pause on large-scale, organized protests pending the Government's response to these '25 urgent measures'. Mondlane has called for the continuation of 'symbolic and peaceful protests', including a 'coordinated noise protest' every evening at 9 pm and a singing of the national anthem by citizens every Friday.
- Despite the improvement in the security situation, **ongoing lawlessness and criminality continue particularly in the northern provinces of Zambézia, Nampula, and Cabo Delgado**. Unknown groups are reportedly stopping motorists to extort money and goods, including looting two trucks that were carrying humanitarian food supplies in the Muidumbe District of Cabo Delgado over the last week, impacting the emergency humanitarian response.

### Needs & Response

#### Post-election Violence

- Following the completion of the registration and verification of those refugees who had self-relocated from Nampula city to the nearby Maratane settlement following an eruption of violence on 23 December 2024, **the National Institute for Refugees (INAR) confirmed the registration of 327 self-relocated refugees (206 households) in the settlement**. Approximately 1,000 individuals were initially estimated to have self-relocated to Maratane, and many of them having returned to the city once the violence subsided. In addition, some of those who self-relocated to Maratane were already registered in the settlement. A further 49 individuals (31 households) who had previously been in Maratane but had not been registered were also registered as part of this process. On 18 January and 20 January, UNHCR distributed CRI kits to these groups.

#### Cyclone Chido and Dikeledi Impact & Response

- Based on community engagement activities carried out by UNHCR over the past week, **there are indications that the situation for cyclone-affected communities is becoming increasingly dire.** Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in the Ntoka and Ngalane IDP sites in Cabo Delgado reported to UNHCR that their food reserves- already severely depleted by Cyclone Chido- are nearly exhausted. Similarly, many of these communities have faced multiple crises in recent months; an intensification of the conflict in November reportedly led to the displacement of over 23,500 people in November alone. The situation of these communities was exacerbated by December's Cyclone Chido, which led to further displacement, the breakdown of community structures, loss of livelihoods, psychological distress, and ultimately increased vulnerability to exploitation.
- Preliminary findings from the Initial Rapid Assessment (IRA) conducted by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) team in collaboration with the Mozambique National Institute for Disaster Risk Management and Reduction (INGD) **indicate that at least 234,104 individuals (56,729 households) were affected by Tropical Cyclone Dikeledi which made landfall in Mozambique on 13 January.** This includes an estimated 37,456 individuals living with disabilities.
- Preliminary data from the IRA further indicates that a total of 31,898 houses have sustained partial damage, while 24,101 houses have been destroyed. The most affected districts in order of the number of people estimated to have been affected were Ilha de Mozambique, Mossuril and Monapo- all in Nampula Province. These figures are likely to continue to be revised upwards as data collection continues. In collaboration with INGD, UNHCR has deployed six staff members to support the Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA), which started on 23 January. The MIRA is a more detailed and systematic rapid assessment tool which should provide a more granular analysis of needs across sectors. Immediate priority needs that have so far been identified are for shelter materials, Non-Food Items (specifically tarpaulins, mosquito nets and mattresses), safe drinking water and sanitation facilities
- As of 24 January, **access to the main cyclone-affected districts in Nampula has improved slightly;** however, access to Erati District- one of the districts hardest hit by December's Cyclone Chido- remains restricted on security grounds.
- **In Cabo Delgado, UNHCR and partners have continued to prioritize community engagement and protection interventions that mitigate the risks that populations face due to both insecurity and Cyclone Chido.** Over the past week, UNHCR and its local partners have conducted awareness campaigns and provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to almost 200 individuals in Pemba. Targeted engagement also reached 50 men through similar outreach activities in the Manigane IDP site in Pemba District.
- **In Nampula province, UNHCR and other partners are continuing to prioritize efforts to reach communities affected by last week's Cyclone Dikeledi with essential assistance.** Over the last week, in coordination and consultation with INGD, UNHCR distributed NFIs to 302 families affected by the cyclone across three accommodation centres in Mossuril District. These NFIs comprised 604 blankets, 604 mosquito nets, 604 sleeping mats, 302 kitchen sets, 302 ten-litre buckets, 302 solar lamps, 302 jerrycans, 302 (4x5 m) plastic sheets and 302 UNHCR bags. It is hoped that these NFIs help to facilitate a safe and dignified return that enables families to start the process of rebuilding their lives.

## Coordination & Partnerships

- The overall humanitarian response in the country continues to be coordinated under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) cluster system framework. At the local level, Area Humanitarian Country Teams (AHCTs) are coordinating the response, ensuring the engagement of key local responders. For the refugee response in Nampula and Maputo, coordination is led by the government under the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), with support from UNHCR.
- Regular meetings continue to be convened between international humanitarian organizations and INGD to discuss the cyclone response, critical priorities and challenges in responding to affected populations.



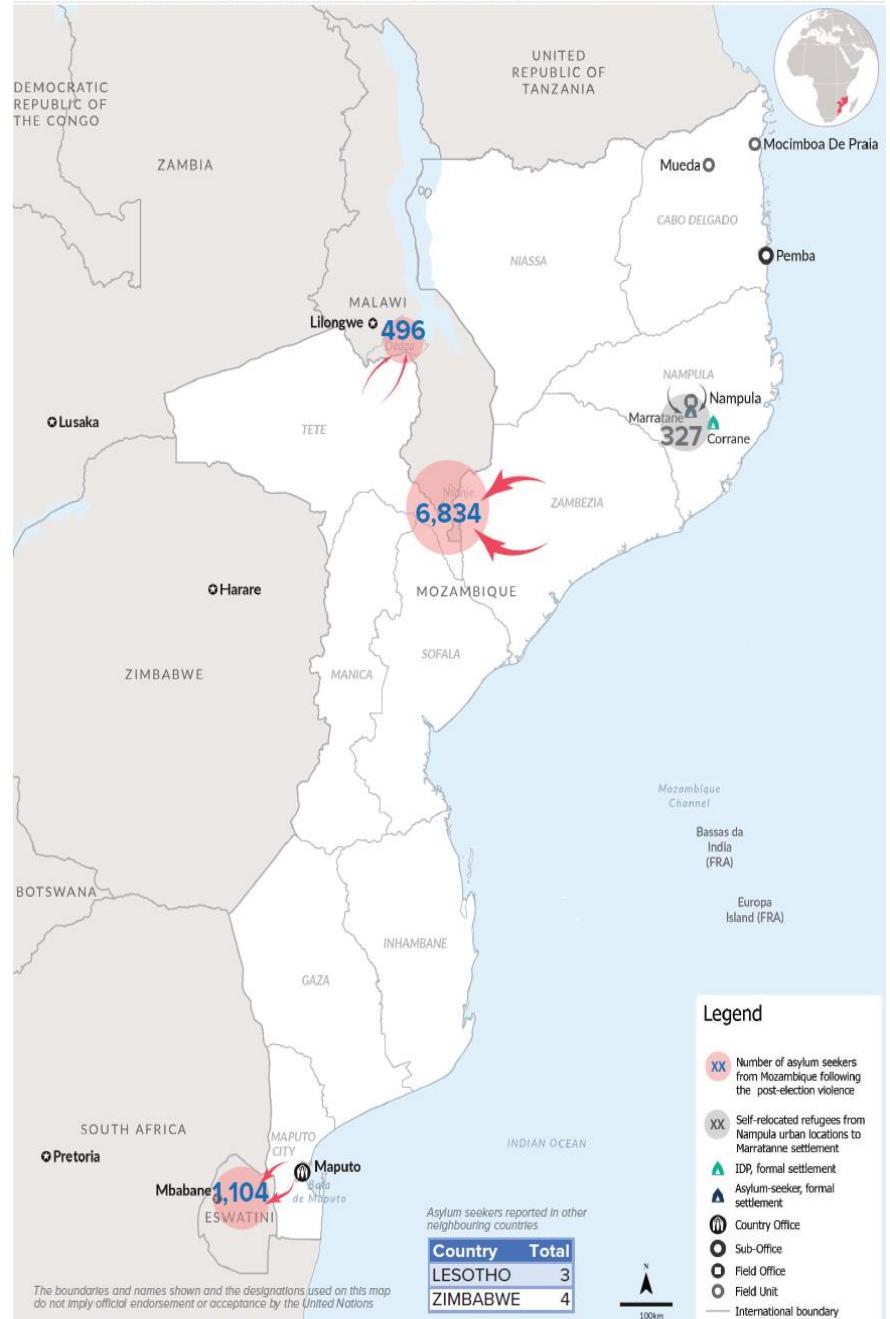
## MALAWI

### Population Movements & Registration

- As of 23 January, **Malawi's Department for Refugees, with the support of UNHCR, had completed the registration of 7,330 individuals (3,603 households)** in the Nsanje and Dedza Districts of Malawi. The increase of 468 persons is due to a registration backlog in Nsanje, with all those newly registered arriving in previous weeks. Over the past week, no new arrivals have been reported from Mozambique. Consistent with previous trends, the vast majority of those newly registered are from the Morrumbala District of Zambezia Province, which directly borders Malawi's Nsanje District.
- Since 20 January, the registration exercise has been **on hold** to enable the local authorities, UNHCR and partners to prioritize the relocation of asylum seekers from the five remaining collective centres to the new Nyamithuthu settlement. There reportedly remain a number of unregistered new arrivals in Nsanje District as well as the neighbouring Mulanje and Mwanza districts.
- Following the resumption of the relocation exercise earlier this week, **a further 581 people (132 families) have been relocated to Nyamithuthu, bringing the total population of the settlement to 2,449.** The resumption of the relocation exercise follows the completion of the initial site clearance work.

- There are currently 4,385 people (64 per cent of all arrivals to Nsanje) who continue to shelter in overcrowded collective centres awaiting relocation.** Of these, 2,744 people are being sheltered at the Tengani Transit Centre, where people are screened and registered before their relocation to Nyamithuthu. Given the overcrowded conditions and lack of basic infrastructure- particularly WASH facilities- at the collective centres, the local authorities continue to prioritize relocation as the primary means to improve living conditions.
- UNHCR has not received any confirmed reports of returns from Malawi to Mozambique.**

MAP OF REGIONAL DISPLACEMENT FOLLOWING THE OCTOBER 2024 ELECTION



## Needs & Response

- Site clearance has been completed, paving the way to resume and accelerate the relocation of people from the collective centres to the Nyamithuthu settlement, where living conditions and access to essential services- including sanitation infrastructure- are better. At the same time, there has been a continued scale-up in the provision of essential services in the settlement, including water supply and sanitation infrastructure, as well as basic protection and education services. Consistent with efforts to support sustainable and integrated responses that promote 'do no harm' and build linkages with the host community, interventions have aimed to strengthen the capacity of existing structures wherever possible- particularly under health and education- rather than create parallel systems. The host community continues to be fully engaged in the response through participation on settlement committees and in support of construction efforts.

## Protection

- Protection services and outreach, delivered through the Nsanje District Social Welfare Office (DSWO) with the support of UNICEF and Save the Children, have continued to be scaled up. These activities have prioritized mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services alongside specialized case management for vulnerable individuals, awareness-raising, and recreational activities that contribute to the overall well-being of the population. As of 21 January, the following people have been reached through various activities in the Nyamithuthu settlement and Tengani Transit Centre:
  - 622 children have been reached with children's corner activities, while 369 children have been reached through community-based childcare centres (CBCCs)
  - 329 children and 1,031 adults have been reached with psychosocial support (PSS)
  - 337 children and 901 adults have received psychological first aid (PFA)
  - 20 children and 33 adults have received case management services, with specialized treatment and support provided to children who experienced violence.
  - 183 children and 1,152 adults have been sensitized on violence against children and how to report cases of violence against children.
  - 511 children and 1,128 adults have been sensitized on gender-based violence (GBV) and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.
- In order to enhance accountability to affected populations, four community committees have been established. These committees act as bridges between camp management and the camp residents, ensuring that the community is actively involved in decision-making regarding camp management, service provision and overall welfare. These four community committees focus on camp management, WASH and health, Child Protection, and GBV and PSEA. Host community members have also been engaged in these committees to promote social cohesion. Under the leadership of the DSWO, these committees will receive capacity building, while feedback and response mechanisms will also be implemented to simplify and systematize the process of receiving feedback and concerns from the community and appropriately addressing them through designated referral pathways.

## Food Security

- Food provision continues to be a key gap, with no regular food distributions to either the settlement or collective centre population up to this point. Of the 335 bags of maize (each 25kg) donated by the Malawi Department for Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) on 9 January, only 135 remained as of 20 January. The Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM) distributed 10kg of maize flour per household. There remain significant concerns that food shortages may lead people- especially the most vulnerable- to resort to harmful and exploitative coping strategies.
- To address this gap, WFP will begin to distribute food and a cash top-up to those registered on 25 January. Under this distribution, each household is expected to receive 25kg of maize flour and a cash top-up of 25,000 Malawian Kwacha (roughly US\$14.3)

## CCCM/ Shelter & NFI

- To facilitate the relocation process, the Department for Refugees, with the support of UNHCR and the camp management committee, commenced a household listing exercise on 18 January. The household

lists will enable equitable shelter allocation and ensure that families receive appropriate and sufficient assistance according to their household size. As of 23 January, this exercise had covered 523 families (1,498 individuals)

- On 17 January, the NGO Welthungerhilfe (WHH), with the support of UNHCR, completed site clearance, clearing a total area of 8.73 hectares of land which can accommodate approximately 600 family-sized tents (3,000 individuals). The total size of the site is 46.1 hectares and, at capacity, could accommodate an estimated 8,500 individuals. Following the completion of this clearance exercise, additional tents were also erected, with 420 of the 500 tents donated by UNHCR in December erected as of 23 January (up from 190 in the previous report) with the support of the Malawi Defense Forces (MDF), volunteers from the Malawi Red Cross and WHH

## WASH

- As of 20 January, 56 communal latrines and 20 bath shelters have been installed at the Nyamithuthu settlement, up from 39 and eight, respectively, as of the last update. Oxfam, MSF and WHH are constructing additional latrines, while Self Help Africa has also committed to constructing an additional 20 latrines. Despite the progress made over the last week, coverage continues to fall short of the Sphere minimum standard of 1:20, with a current ratio of latrines to population of 1:44 (inside the Sphere emergency standard of 1:50).
- Hygiene items are also being provided, with Self Help Africa readying 6,000 bars of soap, 100 vials and 10 buckets of High-Test Hypochlorite (HTH) to treat water. These supplies will be distributed over the coming days.
- UNICEF and Oxfam have extended water trucking until 28 February, covering immediate gaps. Self-Help Africa also pledged to support water trucking for 15 days starting on 28 February.
- MSF has installed an additional 30,000-liter bladder tank, enhancing storage capacity and access, with water access points to also be increased to ensure adequate coverage across the settlement

## Health & Nutrition

- Under the supervision of the local Nyamithuthu health centre, six mobile Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) are being deployed to the Nyamithuthu settlement daily. These HSAs are supporting disease surveillance, nutrition screening, sanitary facility inspection and family planning services. They also facilitate referral to local health facilities (see below) as required. In terms of health promotion and awareness-raising, the HSAs are supported by 30 WASH and health volunteers from among the settlement and host community population, who are conducting outreach in the settlement as well as the surrounding collective centres on communicable diseases such as cholera, HIV and tuberculosis. At least 474 children and 1,184 adults have been sensitized on hygiene and cholera preventative measures.
- As noted, people with communicable diseases or chronic conditions, including those with HIV, are being referred to nearby health facilities. At these facilities, those with HIV are being supported with their Anti-Retroviral Treatment. Some residents are also self-referring themselves to nearby health facilities where, as relevant, they are supported through consultations and provided with medications.
- During the reporting period, UNICEF has donated additional nutrition supplies to the local Nyamithuthu health centre, including Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tapes, height boards and scale, and plans to procure nutritional supplements.

## Coordination & Partnerships

- The Nsanje District Council- under the leadership of the District Commissioner- convened an emergency coordination committee to oversee the provision of assistance near new arrivals. This committee takes a multi-stakeholder and whole-of-government approach, comprising local and international humanitarian organizations engaged in the response- including UNHCR, the MRCS UNICEF, Oxfam, and MSF- alongside government departments, including the Department for Refugees, Malawi Immigration, the Malawi Defense Forces (MDF) and the local health authorities. A meeting was convened on 24 January to update on developments across sectors, identify priorities and address challenges. UNHCR regularly briefs UN partners, notably providing updates during two recent UN Country Team meetings.

## ESWATINI

### Population Movements & Registration

- As of 24 January, **at least 1,104 individuals have arrived in Eswatini and are being accommodated at the critically overcrowded Malindza Refugee Reception Centre (MRRC)**. There have been no reports of new arrivals to the MRRC since 13 January. Of the 1,104 new arrivals, 820 individuals have been registered under UNHCR's web-based registration system as of 20 January. As previously reported, the vast majority (over 97 per cent) of those who have sought refuge in Eswatini and been transferred to the MRRC were refugees and asylum seekers in Mozambique, mainly from Burundi and Rwanda.
- UNHCR received reports that 80 people from the new arrivals **attempted to return to Mozambique but faced challenges at the border and were unable to do so**. These reports are being verified. UNHCR is liaising with the relevant authorities and will continue to advocate for those who wish to return, to be allowed to do so.

### Needs & Response

- Although the situation at the MRRC remains extremely challenging, significant steps have been taken over the reporting period to address previously identified gaps in assistance and service provision at the centre. Despite this progress, the fundamental issue of overcrowding- with the MRRC operating at almost five times its designated maximum capacity- presents considerable challenges and impacts living conditions at the centre. UNHCR is currently assessing the viability and shape of a more sustainable cash assistance package. This would both support MRRC residents in covering their immediate needs and, potentially, help to facilitate the decongestion of the centre by supporting asylum seekers to secure housing, employment and education among the host community. This approach is consistent with UNHCR's policy to avoid the establishment of camps or camp-like settings wherever possible, recognizing that the MRRC is designed to be a transit centre where people stay for a short period. Therefore, the operational response should be designed in such a way as to avoid the establishment of a camp.

### Protection

- On 18 January, **UNHCR and the Eswatini Ministry of Health convened focus group discussions with some of the new arrivals at the MRRC**. Given the uncertain situation in Mozambique, many of the participants stated that they were struggling to decide whether to return or remain in Eswatini. Education is a key consideration, with schools in Mozambique scheduled to reopen and parents concerned about sending their children to school in Eswatini, where the curriculum is delivered in siSwati and English (compared to Portuguese in Mozambique). While some individuals are determined not to return, they did still express concerns about the limited livelihood opportunities in Eswatini relative to Mozambique. Reports that their homes in Mozambique had been taken over was a key concern for these people. At the same time, those who were open to return highlighted recent announcements by the Government of Mozambique calling on those whose businesses were destroyed to return. Participants also highlighted the poor conditions in the MRRC, including overcrowding, lack of blankets, lack of food and hygiene kits.

### Food Security

- In addition to the two hot meals provided per day by the government, WFP has donated additional food supplies- comprising rice, beans and vegetable oil- which will cover food requirements for the next three months. UNHCR is also on standby to provide short-term feeding support. As indicated above, UNHCR has also conducted a market feasibility assessment ahead of potential cash support to help asylum seekers cover their basic needs.

### Health

- An MoH-supported health team continue to support outreach and awareness among asylum seekers, covering hygiene, mental health and infection prevention and control

- Ministry of Health-supported health teams have conducted a health risk assessment and initiated risk communication among new arrivals. This was supplemented by a health awareness session for new arrivals, also facilitated by the MoH, which covered hygiene, mental health and infection prevention and control. Regular screening is being conducted for waterborne diseases, specifically cholera, with no cases reported so far.
- All new arrivals can access a local health clinic staffed by four nurses, which provides basic care and referral services (with an ambulance on-site) to the MRRC population and host community from surrounding areas.

## WASH

- To address WASH gaps related to the provision of water and inadequate sanitation facilities, partners have taken the following steps over the reporting period:
  - Water Supply: The Eswatini National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) has increased water storage capacity at the settlement from 5,000 litres (2 tanks) to 27,000 litres (six tanks), while damaged water taps are also in the process of being repaired.
  - Drainage: UNHCR is installing a greywater disposal system, including the construction of French drains that will direct greywater away from the MRRC and avoid the build-up of stagnant water. Plans are also underway to install additional latrines.

## Shelter

- To address the critical overcrowding at the MRRC, **the NDMA has installed an additional ten tents over the reporting period.** These tents have been placed on concrete slabs to provide a solid base in case of heavy rain and strong winds. Furthermore, the approximately 100 men and boys who were previously housed in pole tents- which were susceptible to flooding and damage in high winds- have since been relocated to a fixed building next to the clinic.

## Coordination & Partnerships

- The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), in close coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), has overseen the response to new arrivals at the MRRC, with weekly coordination meetings co-led by NDAMA and MoHA. In addition, at a more operational level, an Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) comprising UN agencies, NGOs, development partners, and government counterparts oversees the day-to-day multi-sectoral response.

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