

MOZAMBIQUE SITUATION POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE & CYCLONE RESPONSES

23 May 2025



Boarding one of the final boats used for the voluntary repatriation of Mozambican asylum seekers from Malawi in March 2025.
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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Mozambique's political environment remained relatively calm**, with attention now turning to long-term development planning.
- **In northern Mozambique, the security situation continues to deteriorate, [spreading to areas previously considered to be relatively stable](#)**. Non-State Armed Groups have launched attacks that have displaced thousands and disrupted humanitarian access.
- **Currently, 403 individuals who fled post-election violence in Mozambique remain at the Malindza Refugee Reception Centre in Eswatini.**
- **Malawi's Nyamithuthu settlement has officially closed following the completion of the Refugee Status Determination process.**

Country	Total number of asylum seekers from Mozambique since December 2024	Remaining as of 23 May 2025
Malawi	7,904	558**
Eswatini	1,104	403**
Lesotho	9	9
Zimbabwe	4	4
TOTAL	9,021	974

* 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 remains calm, with attention now turning to long-term development planning.** During a recent [meeting](#) between President Daniel Chapo and IMF Deputy Managing Director Bo Li, discussions reportedly focused on plans for a new IMF support programme to reinforce macroeconomic and financial stability, following the government's request to align any new assistance with its development priorities. It is worth recalling that parliament recently [approved](#) the 20-year National Development Strategy (2025–2044), structured around five pillars: economic transformation, social development, infrastructure, governance, and environmental sustainability. **UNHCR continues to advocate for the inclusion of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in national development efforts, including access to social protection.**
- Mozambique's cyclone season is drawing to a close. **Earlier in the season, Cyclones Chido, Dikeledi, and Jude struck in quick succession, displacing thousands and damaging homes, schools, and health centres—many in areas already hosting conflict-displaced families.** As extreme weather events grow in frequency and intensity, sustained investment in preparedness and resilience is essential to help communities withstand future shocks.
- UNHCR is working with provincial and district authorities in Nampula to support the **transition of Maratane Refugee Settlement into a locally integrated village, as pledged by the Government at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum.** The plan includes integrating refugees into national health and education systems, with government-led planning expected from 2026. This shift is especially relevant as the region recovers from recent cyclones, which exposed the vulnerabilities of both displaced and host communities. By aligning humanitarian efforts with long-term development planning, the initiative promotes sustainable responses that benefit all.
- In northern Mozambique, the security situation continues to deteriorate, with Non-State Armed Groups launching attacks that have displaced thousands and disrupted humanitarian access. **[Over 25,000 people have been newly displaced](#) in a matter of weeks. The renewed intensity of the conflict is now affecting areas previously considered relatively stable, including Ancuabe and Montepuez, which have seen around 15,000 and 5,000 new displacements, respectively.** In Niassa Province, where displacement had until recently been limited, more than 2,000 people have been forced to flee their homes since mid-March. They join the close to 1.3 million people who the armed conflict, back-to-back cyclones and drought have uprooted.

ESWATINI

- In late 2024 and early 2025, **post-election violence in Mozambique prompted over 1,100 individuals to seek asylum in Eswatini.** The Malindza Refugee Reception Centre (MRRC), with a capacity of just 250, quickly became overstretched. Local authorities, partners, and host communities responded promptly to provide safety and basic support.
- **Although conditions in Mozambique have stabilized and many asylum seekers have returned or relocated, 403 individuals who fled post-election violence remain at MRRC.** The centre also continues to host 462 asylum seekers unrelated to the crisis, leaving it overcrowded. While the emergency phase has passed, UNHCR, the Government, and partners are continuing efforts to address urgent needs and improve living conditions.
- **To support decongestion and long-term solutions, the Government of Eswatini has allocated 1,095 hectares of land in Ndzevane.** This initiative, underway prior to the Mozambique crisis, is part of a broader plan to relocate eligible individuals and establish agricultural livelihoods, benefiting both refugees and host communities through self-reliance and reduced pressure on MRRC.

MALAWI

- **Nyamithuthu the site opened to host Mozambicans earlier this year, has been officially closed.**
- **In late 2024 and early 2025, more than 7,900 individuals sought asylum in southern Malawi following post-election violence in Mozambique.** As conditions improved, the Governments of Malawi and Mozambique, with support from UNHCR and partners, facilitated a voluntary repatriation exercise.
- **After repatriation, a verification process confirmed that 558 individuals remained.** The Department of Refugees conducted Refugee Status Determination interviews, but **none were found to qualify for refugee status.**

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