



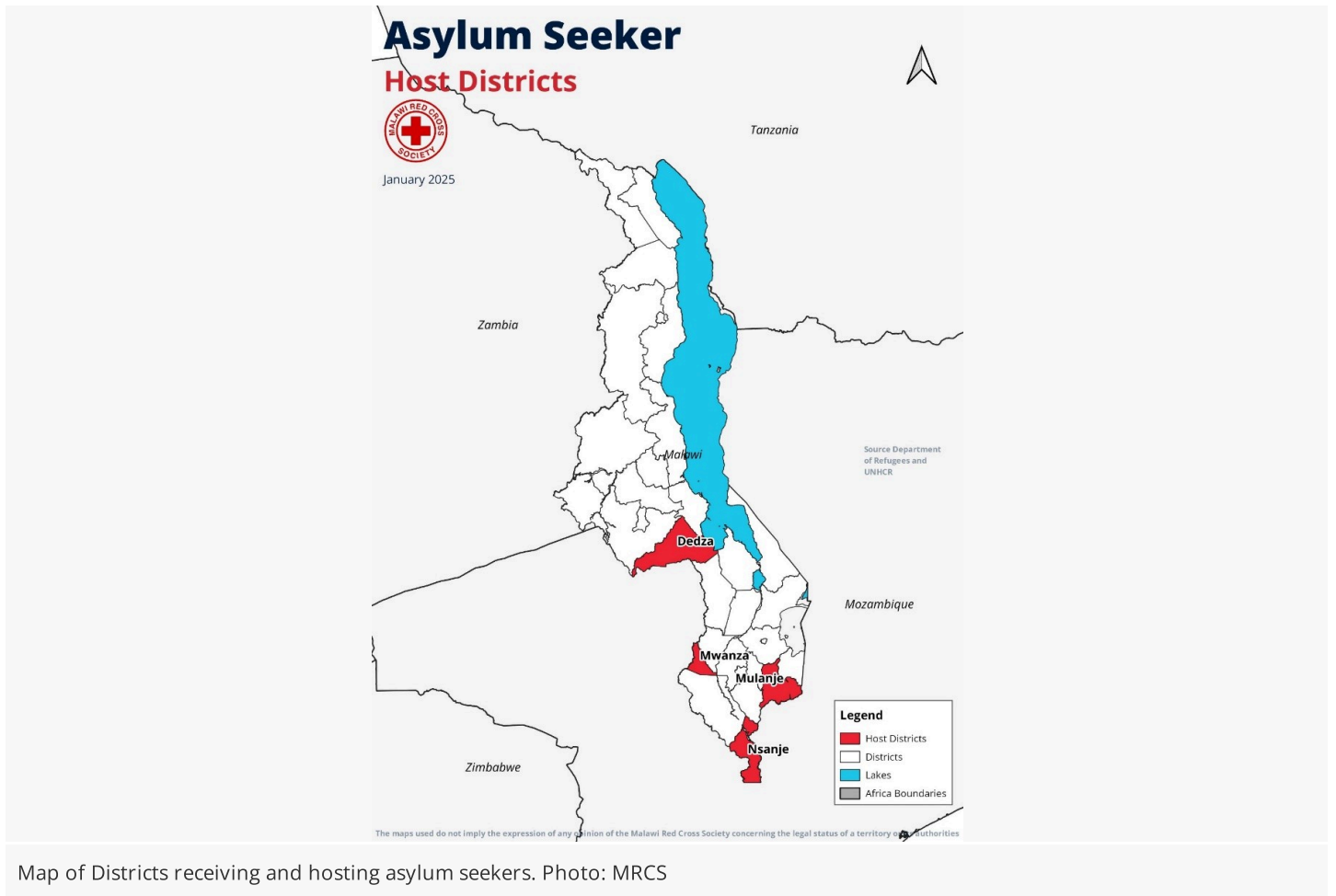
MRCs staff and volunteers responding in Nsanje District

Appeal: MDRMW022	Country: Malawi	Hazard: Population Movement	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Slow	DREF Allocation: CHF 499,942	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 7,456 people	People Targeted: 7,456 people	
Operation Start Date: 11-02-2025	Operation Timeframe: 6 months	Operation End Date: 31-08-2025	DREF Published: 13-02-2025
Targeted Areas: Southern Region			

Description of the Event

Date when the trigger was met

29-01-2025



Map of Districts receiving and hosting asylum seekers. Photo: MRCS

What happened, where and when?

The nationwide protests following the contested results of Mozambique's 2024 General Elections have led to significant unrest in Maputo, Nampula, and Zambezia, forcing thousands to flee to neighboring countries, including Malawi. As of now, 7,456 Mozambican asylum seekers have arrived in Malawi, primarily settling in Nsanje and Dedza districts.

The influx has steadily increased over the past months. By December 25, Nsanje District Council reported the arrival of 2,182 Mozambican households seeking refuge in Traditional Authorities Mlolo, Mbenje, and Tengani. Similarly, 96 asylum seekers were reported in Chikwawa District and were temporarily housed at Chang'ambika Old Community Day Secondary School in Traditional Authority Chapananga. From December 27, 2024, to January 6, 2025, the Department of Refugees, with support from UNHCR, conducted a Joint Assessment Mission to screen and register asylum seekers, providing a clearer overview of the growing humanitarian situation.

On January 7, the Department of Refugees, in coordination with UNHCR and district authorities, recommended relocating all asylum seekers to Nyamithuthu to facilitate better management and coordination. This recommendation was implemented on January 29, when the Government of Malawi called on partners to support the settlement process and provide humanitarian aid. This reaffirmed the National Stakeholders' Consultation Meeting outcome from January 22, where the initial appeal for assistance was made.

As a background of what triggered the displacement in Malawi, the unrest in Mozambique stems from the highly contested general elections held on October 9, 2024. On October 24, the Electoral Commission declared Daniel Chapo of the FRELIMO party the winner with 70.7% of the vote. However, the following day, an independent candidate from the Optimistic People for the Development of Mozambique (PODEMOS) rejected the results, claiming victory based on a partial parallel vote count and threatening violence if he was not recognized as the winner. This dispute sparked nationwide protests, with security forces using live ammunition to disperse

demonstrators. The escalating violence led to mass displacement, with thousands of Mozambicans seeking refuge in Malawi, further straining humanitarian response efforts in the region.



MRCs volunteers supporting Food Distribution



MRCs Staff supporting Cash Distribution



Shelter and Preparedness Focal person handing over dignity Kits to the District Commissioner



MRCs volunteers supporting digging of latrines at the Asylum seekers camp site

Scope and Scale

Nyamithuthu Camp faces critical humanitarian challenges and gaps in the humanitarian response that are critical to communities' survival, well-being and dignity.

High concerns on the humanitarian gaps and needs are reported from NS information from the visit of 25 January and from the assessment conducted by UNHCR, the Department of refugees, Immigration. The big flags include the noticed overstretched capacity, severe WASH deficiencies, food insecurity, lack of healthcare services, and associated risks linked to this context. The concerns can be summarized as follows:

- 1) The camp's capacity which is overstretched. With only 500 tents available for 3,600 families, forcing many people in overcrowded public spaces such as schools and churches increases the risks of SGBV and disease transmission.
- 2) Important and growing WaSH challenges/gaps. The lack of a permanent water source makes the current bowser-dependent supply costly and unsustainable, while sanitation facilities are severely inadequate, with only 10 latrines for 4,070 people, heightening cholera risks in the rainy season.
- 3) Food insecurity is extreme for the displaced groups, and the protracted nature of this crisis will likely escalate to host communities. As asylum seekers have only received one month of food assistance, urgent supplies like maize flour, CSB flour, and protein sources are needed. Health services are completely absent, with no medical personnel, referral system, or mobile clinics, putting residents at risk of outbreaks and untreated illnesses.
- 4) Security, social cohesion, and protection remain critical risk and concern that must be addressed. Overcrowding and a limited police presence continue to heighten vulnerabilities, despite ongoing community policing efforts. These security challenges impact both asylum seekers and the host community. To mitigate risks, the Immigration Department is working to prevent the entry of weapons and ensure that only those fleeing the conflict in Mozambique are admitted. Overcrowding and the limited police presence heighten vulnerabilities, despite ongoing community policing initiatives.

Immediate interventions are required to expand shelter, improve WASH infrastructure, increase food aid, establish mobile health clinics, and enhance security measures for the displaced communities but also ensure inclusion of host community in the emergency analysis and medium-term impact. Indeed, the coming of asylum seekers has also affected the host community in a number of ways such as pressure on water, wanton cutting down of trees for fuel wood, sanitation and health services. The action will deliberately include activities such as hygiene promotion and access to safe drinking water to the host community.

As for the scenario so far, no continued influx is expected until after the 100-day ultimatum that the opposition leader has given. This situation keeps the political situation in Mozambique still volatile as reported by the National Intelligence Service. Currently, Malawi is still

receiving asylum seekers though not in bigger numbers a before. This is evidenced by increasing numbers on the data uploaded on the DfR dashboard.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Appeal to support Nyamithuthu	https://malawiredcross-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/stembo_redcross_mw/ESOlCj6dMwpKj6b43h0KS7MBzvfB4xCP6KRuCOlvikRe9w?e=6fltSu
2. Field Report	https://malawiredcross-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/stembo_redcross_mw/EZjQgcj4tRBGgOw84GR4gkQBg9rMCh52eixsBiMYM9B_Dg?e=5aw3CQ

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
Did it affect the same population group?	No
Did the National Society respond?	-
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	-
If yes, please specify which operation	-

If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:

-

Lessons learned:

Although a similar event has not occurred in the same area in the past three years, the Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) has extensive experience supporting population movement, particularly at Dzaleka Refugee Camp in the Central region since the 1980s. Through this operation, MRCS has learned several valuable lessons, which are being applied or need to be considered to the current situation:

a) Stakeholder Collaboration: Previous operations have underscored the importance of strong coordination between humanitarian organizations, government agencies, and local authorities. In the current operation, MRCS has actively engaged with the Immigration Department, DfR, the police, and local communities to ensure a unified response to security and protection challenges, leveraging these existing partnerships to streamline efforts.

b) Long-Term Planning and Sustainable Funding: Experience at Dzaleka revealed the need for sustainable funding and long-term planning to ensure the continuity of services in case the asylum seekers stay longer than expected. To mitigate the challenge of fluctuating resources, MRCS has begun to strengthen partnerships with donors and government bodies, ensuring the stability of services in the face of ongoing asylum seekers' needs.

c) Local Branch Involvement: In past operations, involving local branches close to refugee camps was key to maintaining operations on the ground. Building on this, MRCS has empowered local branches around the Nyamithuthu site to play an active role in coordinating and implementing response activities. This ensures that there is local ownership of the operation and continuity in the provision of support even after initial interventions. The branch will also act as a bridge between the asylum seekers and the host community in case of some disagreements.



Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

30-12-2024

Shelter, Housing And Settlements	MRCS provided and installed 5 Communal Multipurpose tents. The NS has also supported the installation of 503 family tents as well as clearance of the camp area where tents are being installed.
Livelihoods And Basic Needs	MRCS with support from WFP made a once of maize and cash distribution of 25kgs maize and Mwk 25,000 cash. Dashboard above provides a summary of MRCS support. [Source 1]
Multi Purpose Cash	MRCS collaborated with World Food Program to distribute multi-purpose cash to 3,500 families. each family received Mwk 25,000 (USD 15).
Health	MRCS volunteers joined Ministry of Health personnel in assessment and treatment of children with minor illness.
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	MRCS supported the pitching of 18 latrines which are currently being used. It provided 500 x 20 – litre buckets while volunteers are continuously disseminating health and hygiene promotion messages. Furthermore, MRCS provided 1,200 hygiene kits.
Protection, Gender And Inclusion	MRCS also supported the Installation of 10 flood lights, 100 kitchen sets as well as provision of Family Links and Restoring services at Nyamithuthu camp.
Community Engagement And Accountability	MRCS supported Department for Refugees and District Council in conducting regular meetings with camp dwellers in order to hear and discuss their concerns and to agree with them in registration, distributions and other information.
Assessment	MRCS joined Department for Refugees and District Council in conducting assessments on the detailed needs of the asylum seekers.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	IFRC has status in Malawi and has been providing MRCS with technical support and guidance in the current response to the Asylum seekers.
Participating National Societies	The Danish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, and Belgian Red Cross are Partner National Societies (PNSs) bilaterally working with the Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) and have their country offices in Malawi. They are providing technical support on how to approach the response and part of movement coordination platforms where information are shared with membership.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) implements its mandate through MRCS and through the ongoing program support with the National society, they have provided Restoring Family Link services such as provision of free phone calls and tracing of unaccompanied children.



Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<p>Government has requested international assistance</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>National authorities</p>	<p>The following Government agencies are active and lead the response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Department for Refugees (DfR): Coordination and oversight of the interventions; oversight of asylum seeker registration, relocation, and settlement management. - Malawi Defense Force (MDF): Provided transportation support for relocating asylum seekers to Nyamithuthu resettlement camp. - Malawi Immigration Department: Assisted with registration and verification of asylum seekers. - DoDMA (Department of Disaster Management Affairs): Emergency response, including provision of food and shelter coordination. - Ministry of Health (MoH): Mobile health outreach services, particularly for pregnant women and children under five. - As for the security, there has been initiative to increase the safety and contribute to limited the security concerns resulting from the overcrowding situation. The police have been tasked with providing security for the asylum seekers. <p>The DfR with UNHCR are coordinating the actions of the other actors, updating the positioning and actions from all partners, they are also supporting the gap analysis for further action.</p> <p>Department of Refugees in collaboration with UNHCR is leading the support in both refugee settlements where different partners are providing different supports.</p>
<p>UN or other actors</p>	<p>The different UN agencies have been on the ground proving various support on the following pillars. Details of the assistance provided as of January is in the Malawi situational report link above. [Source 1]</p> <p>UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provided tents, non-food items, and support for protection services. - Assisted in coordination and logistics for the relocation of asylum seekers. <p>WFP (World Food Programme):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distributed food aid (25kg maize per household). - Provided one-time cash assistance (MWK 25,000 per household). <p>WFP is working with MRCS as an implementing partner in the distribution of food and cash for asylum seekers on a once-off basis to 3500 households</p> <p>UNICEF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) services. - Provided child protection and support for education programs. - WHO (World Health Organization): Provided medical supplies and public health support.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

There are two coordination mechanism, one at National level and another one at camp level. The operation is done hand in hand with the Nsanje district council.

- The operation is coordinated by the Department for Refugees (DfR) and is working hand in hand with Nsanje District Council which is hosting the Asylum seekers.
- The DfR with support from UNHCR has activated the Joint coordination efforts for the emergency response to Mozambican asylum-seekers in Malawi. They have supported the identification of land for resettlement, screening and registration of asylum seekers, transporting of the asylum seekers from other camps to the resettlement Centre, coordinating the actions of the other actors, updating the 5Ws. provision of the gap analysis for further action.

So far, there have been strategic meetings involving humanitarian partners and Government leading agencies. On January 14, NGO humanitarian organizations held a breakfast stakeholder meeting to discuss strengthening national-level coordination.



From the movement partners side, the Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) with senior management visit in Nyamithuthu helped to also assess the situation and confirmed the gaps in the humanitarian needs while engaging with actors present. On January 27, MRCS conducted a partners' call and provided an update on the Go platform.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

As of 23 January 2025, a total of 3,640 households (7,456 individuals) have been registered in Nsanje and Dedza districts. The figure has remained unchanged for some days now due to a deliberate pause in registration to give priority to the ongoing relocation of asylum-seekers from Tengani transit centre to the Nyamithuthu settlement. The shelter needs are very high considering that the camp has over 3,600 households and this is making it hard for families to stay together in one shelter/tent but rather separate members to mix with other people in a group tent. There is a requirement to have 3,600 family tents but currently, only 500 have been supplied and more refugees are expected and will soon be registered. Furthermore, the provision of essential household items is critical in ensuring dignity, comfort, and basic survival for asylum seekers residing in the camp. These items address immediate and ongoing needs related to shelter, hygiene, cooking, and personal well-being. The majority of the asylum seekers did not bring with them EHIs due to the conditions surrounding their departure from Mozambique. Given the temporary nature of asylum camps and the vulnerability of the displaced population, ensuring an adequate supply of these items enhances living conditions and promotes stability.

Key household items required include bedding materials such as blankets and sleeping mats to provide warmth and comfort. Cooking utensils, including pots, plates, cooking stoves and briquettes are necessary to enable families to prepare their meals. Additionally, lighting solutions such as solar lanterns improve safety and mobility within the camp at night.

In all other camps, asylum seekers are been housed in Community Based Child Care Centres and or public facilities such as churches. There is huge need of both communal and family tents in all the camp sites more especially at Nyamithuthu. There is a need for additional 300 family tents and 10 communal tents which will complement the ones to be provided by UNHCR. There is limited capacity for some volunteers in tent-pitching

The number of asylum seekers at Nyamithuthu camp is so alarming thereby straining the capacity of the reception centre, leading to prolonged stays and delays in plot allocations. This situation heightens protection risks for persons of concern like women, children and those who have disabilities. The insufficient shelter capacity exposes new arrivals to harsh weather conditions such as rain while they stay in overcrowded spaces, increasing vulnerability to respiratory infections and communicable diseases such as malaria, especially among children, the elderly, and those with chronic illnesses. The government and various partners are trying their level best to assist but still, the support is not sufficient for all the asylum seekers and there are major gaps in shelters as highlighted.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Food shortages remain a critical concern, requiring immediate attention from humanitarian organizations. Current support efforts, such as WFP's partnership with MRCS, have provided asylum seekers with a one-time distribution of a 25kg bag of maize and MK25,000.00 per household. However, this assistance is insufficient for sustaining affected families over a longer period. There is an urgent need for additional food supplies, including maize flour, CSB flour, salt, sugar, milk, and dry fish, to ensure food security and prevent hunger-related complications.

Similarly, livelihoods have been severely affected, leaving many asylum seekers without reliable means to sustain themselves. Additional support through cash or food assistance is crucial to ensuring that affected families, especially those with young children, families with under-five children can meet their daily nutritional needs and reduce the risk of malnutrition. Addressing these gaps is essential in preventing further deterioration of living conditions among vulnerable populations. Malawi is already in the lean season (projected from October 2024 and March 2025). With the displacements, these families' livelihood is limited, and capacity to cover the nutritional needs could get worst and threaten their health and overall wellbeing. Especially as the lean season progress. With no further humanitarian support to meet their basic needs, these groups may be particularly vulnerable to the food insecurity. WFP assistance is currently oriented to 3,500 families. The food assistance at the moment considering the provision from WFP is not prioritized under this DREF.



Multi purpose cash grants

Provision of multipurpose cash grant may be the perfect solution to address numerous problems among the asylum seekers bearing in mind that the camp is located close to trading center at Nyamithuthu where different commodities can be sought. So far WFP in partnership with MRCS has managed to provide a once off cash transfer amounting to MK25,000.00 per household which is not even



enough to take them through for a week. This cash assistance is intended to help refugees procure other necessary items such as salt, sugar, soap, relish and other small pressing needs within the household. The action will target 2,000 households with MK 70,000 as a one-off support.



Health

The unrest in neighboring Mozambique has caused significant effects regarding access to medical care in all the camps in Nsanje, Dedza, Mwanza, Chikwawa and Mulanje Boma, and resulting in disruption to the continuity of care for individuals with chronic illnesses and long-term conditions, such as HIV (those on ART), TB, and non-communicable diseases.

Under five children and pregnant women on immunization programs have been affected with the movement and are in great need for assessments and support in order to prevent child illnesses. There is also a high likelihood of mental health problems, including distress and anxiety, arising from the loss of relatives, property and livelihood. This highlights a pressing need for mental health and psychosocial support services to help individuals cope with the aftermath of the unrest.

Currently there are still some major gaps on health as there is no transport arrangement to support referrals as well as no integrated outreach services to ensure access to medical services and supplies. This calls for a special request to consider supporting the District Health Office with mobile outreach clinics in all the sites. This being the rain season and the likelihood of having Malaria and diarrhoea diseases is very high. In view of the above, the action will provide mosquito nets and ORS and train volunteers to intensify Health promotion using the eCBHFA approach.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

There are a number of WaSH needs and gaps identified for the asylum seekers currently hosted in Malawi. Access to clean water is one of the major challenges although water is being trucked and supplied to the refugee population. The current water supply system is very expensive and not sustainable if the population increases and extend their stay in the camps. The newly identified settlement of Nyamithuthu is struggling to access safe water and provide proper sanitation, putting themselves at high risk of water borne diseases including cholera.

Sanitation is another critical gap, with many settlements lacking adequate latrines and waste management systems. There are 18 latrines against a population of over 7,000 representing only 12.8% latrine coverage which is creating a big threat to cholera outbreak and other water related diseases. This situation is particularly troubling as the asylum seekers may remain for many months or even years and spread to various neighbouring communities.

Hygiene practices are also another concern, with limited access to hygiene materials and facilities, making it difficult for the refugees to maintain proper hygiene practices.

Menstrual hygiene management services have been severely impacted, as many women and girls of puberty stage are finding it difficult to help themselves in open places due to absence of adequate latrines for proper disposal. Additionally, the lack of hygiene supplies has significantly affected the women and girls of the childbearing age.

Immediate WASH response needs are dire. These include clean water as many refugees have limited access to safe and clean water. A solarized boreholes with water reticulation system of not less than 2 litres per second shall be required to adequately support and sustain water supply in the Nyamithuthu refugee camp. It is expected that with such amount of water daily consumption of 15 Liters of water per person per day shall be met as per the Sphere Standard unlike the current situation whereby less than 15liters of water per person is supplied through water trucking. The drilling of borehole is the best option compared to water trucking by Oxfam which is helpful for now but not sustainable in the coming months. The area has no existing old boreholes for rehabilitation as no Malawian has been living there except farming hence no other water sources.

Sanitation and hygiene are also crucial to prevent the spread of diseases. The camps need adequate latrines of at least 140 latrines and handwashing facilities as per the Sphere Standards of 1 latrine per 50 people and the hygiene kits to maintain a clean environment and reduce the risk of water borne diseases. At the moment there are only 18 latrines supported by Malawi Red Cross Society and few other partners.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The current population requires over 3,600 family tents, unfortunately there are only 500 tents available. This situation has resulted in overcrowding for sleeping space thereby exposing vulnerable population such as women, children, and persons with disabilities to abuse and exploitation including gender-based violence. The lack of privacy, security, and proper shelter heightens their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse. It is essential to implement protection measures and ensure the inclusion of vulnerable groups in all response activities to mitigate these risks and safeguard their well-being.





Migration And Displacement

MRCS discharges its mandate of Restoring family links and shelter support which is being done with technical support from the International Committee for the Red Cross and the Federation. As a partner, MRCS is also participating in different committees operating in the camps and has been supporting with Protection, WASH and food support in addressing humanitarian needs within the camps/settlements for refugees. The humanitarian needs above will be needed as emergency needs and supporting medium and long-term requirements. There are some people who are unable to communicate back to their families back home and also there are some unaccompanied children. MRCS will have to provide phone calls for these people and provide an extra package to households fostering unaccompanied children.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Environmental degradation within the camp is becoming a growing concern as trees are being indiscriminately cut for firewood. Asylum seekers rely heavily on wood fuel for cooking, posing a significant risk to the surrounding environment and leading to deforestation around the camps as well as to the host community. Without intervention, the continued depletion of trees could have long-term ecological consequences, including soil erosion and loss of biodiversity.

To mitigate these risks, there is an urgent need to provide alternative cooking fuel sources. The introduction of briquettes and energy-efficient stoves could help reduce reliance on firewood, preserving the environment while ensuring that displaced families have sustainable cooking solutions. Addressing this issue is crucial in preventing further environmental damage and promoting sustainable resource management within the camp. MRCS will work in close partnership with local communities and structures to promote environmentally sustainable adaptation measures.



Community Engagement And Accountability

MRCS, in collaboration with the DfR and UNHCR, engaged MRCS volunteers to carry out different activities. Volunteers also supported the councils in conducting rapid assessments of affected households. During the cash and food distribution exercise the beneficiaries were engaged and conducted meetings before the distribution to explain the beneficiary selection criteria, distribution processes and entitlements. A help desk was set up at the distribution site to answer questions and address concerns in real time. Looking ahead, volunteers will play a key role in mobilizing efforts to engage the asylum seekers more to facilitate a environment where the asylum seekers are able to provide feedback and participates in issues affecting their day to day life. MRCS will establish a complaints and feedback mechanism which through suggestion boxes which will remain on site, ensuring that issues raised are addressed accordingly. Additionally, settlement committees will be formulated to handle prompt feedback from the beneficiaries.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

The delay in the registration process caused by the demand from the host community as they are also seeking to be registered for similar support.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

To enable 7,456 asylum seekers in Malawi to meet their immediate essential needs in a safe and dignified manner for 6 months. This includes lifesaving relief assistance to 2,500 households (around 5,000 people).

Operation strategy rationale

The Malawi Government, through the Department for Refugees (DfR), is currently relocating all asylum seekers entering the country through various boarder units to Nyamithuthu resettlement site. While this centralization facilitates coordination and management, it significantly strains the camp's already limited resources.

Currently, only 500 family tents are available for 3,640 relocated households, with an additional 1,000 households expected. Water supply remains unsustainable, relying on costly bowser deliveries, forcing some to use unsafe open wells. Sanitation facilities are severely



inadequate, with a latrine-to-user ratio of 1:400, and hygiene promotion is limited. Growing numbers also raise protection concerns, including gender-based violence, while basic needs like shelter, communication, and essential supplies remain critical. This is happening at a time while the number of partners supporting the site has drastically reduced.

In response, the Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) plans to provide:

- Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs): Through this MRCS will support 2,500 household with the provision of; 4,400 sleeping mats, 2,500 blankets, 2,000 solar lamps, 1,000 kitchen sets, 300 family tents, and 10 communal tents. Volunteers will also be engaged to support the pitching of the tents provided by other partners. The communal tents will be for multipurpose use, serving as waiting areas as they are moved from different camps to the Nyamithuthu settlement site. Few will also serve as temporary shelters for single-family member households until they are allocated family tents.
- Health: MRCS will engage 100 volunteers to conduct health promotion activities for the entire period of the response. Furthermore, the 100 volunteers will be trained in capacity building volunteers in Mental Health and Psychosocial support and Community Health and First Aid. The District Health Office will be provided with logistical support to conduct outreach health services in the resettlement site.
- WASH Support: Through this action, MRCS reach to 7,456 people through drilling of two boreholes, hygiene promotion and distribution of hygiene supplies such as buckets, soap, chlorine, and dignity kits.
- Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery: MRCS will reach 7,456 people through sensitization on safe and environmentally friendly shelter construction and distribution off 2,000 Energy Cooking Stoves and 5,000 briquettes for a period of 3 months.
- Multi-Purpose Cash: Through this action, MRCS will support 2,000 households with multipurpose cash. The cash support will target households with unaccompanied children, chronically ill persons, pregnant and lactating mother as well as those with under-five children. This is going to help them improve their nutritional needs beyond the basic needs.
- Migration and Displacement: MRCS will support 7,456 the asylum seekers with RFL services. This will be done through procurement of 3 GCM phone, provision of Airtime to volunteers for phone calls, development and printing of RFL IEC materials, airing of RFL and other messages and one-off support 50 Foster Parents with Essential Household Package.
- Community Engagement and Accountability: MRCS will train 100 volunteers in CEA to support handling of Complaints and Feedback at the resettlement sight. The complaints and feedback mechanism will include the help desk, use of social mobilization committees and Radio Stations to promote coexistence with the host community. The asylum seekers will also be involved and consulted in all the project activities for sustainability of the activities beyond the DREF period. The approach will reach out to all the 7,456 asylum seekers
- PGI: MRCS will reach out to 7,456 people with protection services. This will be done through orientation of 100 volunteers in Gender based violence, referral pathways and PSS support, Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Child safeguarding and the Code of Conduct.

These efforts aim to improve living conditions, enhance sanitation, and ensure access to essential services for displaced families.

The exit strategy for MRCS's response at Nyamithuthu resettlement site will focus on ensuring sustainability, strengthening local capacity, and facilitating a smooth transition from emergency support to long-term solutions. The key components of the exit strategy will include:

1. Handover to Government and Local Structures

MRCS will work closely with the Department for Refugees (DfR) and other government agencies and Nsanje district council to progressively transition service provision, including WASH, health, and protection services, to local authorities. Capacity building for district and community structures will be prioritized to ensure continuity of essential services.

2. Community-Led Management and Ownership

Asylum seekers and host communities will be actively engaged in managing key services such as hygiene promotion, shelter maintenance, and protection mechanisms. Committees formed during the intervention, such as social mobilization and complaints/feedback structures, will be trained and empowered to continue their roles beyond MRCS's direct involvement.

3. Strengthening Sustainable Water and Sanitation Solutions

To reduce reliance on external support, MRCS will work with partners to ensure long-term water supply solutions, such as borehole management committees, integration into local water supply systems, and promotion of household-level sanitation improvements. Hygiene promotion activities will be institutionalized within community structures.

4. Integration with Host Communities

To foster peaceful coexistence and reduce tensions, MRCS will support initiatives that promote social cohesion between asylum seekers and host communities. Joint economic activities, shared community services, and awareness campaigns will be strengthened through local leadership and community engagement.

5. Engagement of MRCS volunteers: MRCS will facilitate recruitment of volunteers within the settlement and host community, who will be involved in the day-to-day implementation of the activities. These volunteers will have to continue monitoring these activities after the DREF response ends.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

MRCS intends to support 7,456 people with direct support. The targeted camp is Nyamithuthu located in Nsanje district in the Southern Region of Malawi. The action will target all the asylum seekers at the camp with different interventions. All the interventions such as Cash, Health, livelihood and WASH will target all the people at the camp while protection, livelihood and shelter intervention will target the



most vulnerable households especially those with children under 5 years, pregnant and lactating mothers, child headed families, families hosting unaccompanied children, disabled and injured people as well as ultra -poor households. Furthermore, the response will reach out to all the households with health services such as hygiene promotion and outreach clinic services at the camp.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The targeted population consists of asylum seekers from Mozambique who have entered Malawi through the borders of Nsanje, Dedza, Mwanza, and Mulanje. These individuals have been granted asylum seeker status by the Department of Refugees in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which holds the mandate for registering asylum seekers. The support will therefore use identification documents which have been provided to each of the verified and registered beneficiary. The final list of the beneficiaries will be vetted by the DfR.

Total Targeted Population

Women	2,781	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	1,752	Urban	-
Men	1,277	People with disabilities (estimated)	0.6%
Boys (under 18)	1,646		
Total targeted population	7,456		

Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Continued political instability in Mozambique	Advocate for Malawi government to promote peace keeping discussions in Mozambique.
Further devaluation of the Malawi Kwacha affecting prices of goods in country	Most procurement to be done internationally.
Asylum seekers bringing harmful weapons	Conduct a detailed joint technical security risk assessment in order to ensure that all necessary information on risks is collected to mitigate potential risks to staff and volunteers. Work with immigration and police to conduct regular site monitoring and screening
Negative perception by host community	MRCS actions and selection criteria will be explained to the both asylum seekers and host communities.
Disease outbreaks due to congestion and lack of or inadequate hygienic conditions and safe water i.e. Cholera & scabies	Intensive community sensitization meetings on Hygiene and Sanitation; Conduct Pot to Pot water Chlorination; Construction of temporal Pit latrines at temporal designated camps; Provision of safe water.
Harsh weather i.e. heat wave & stormy rains	Promoted weather alert planning & implementation of interventions following the weather advisories.



Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

During the recent needs assessment, there are no security and safety concerns that might affect the operation because there are well organized community structures such as community policing group who work collaboratively with Area and Village civil protection committee who does provide security if need arises. With support from the district protection cluster led by Police in the district, regular sensitization are conducted to maintain peace and stability in the settlements.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 149,706

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance	2,500

Priority Actions

- Procurement of 4400 sleeping mats (2 per household)
- Procurement of 5000 blankets (2 per household)
- Procurement of 1000 solar lumps (1 per household)
- Procurement of 1000 kitchen sets (1 Per household)
- Procurement of 300 Family Tents
- 15 NDRT deployment to support distribution
- Purchase of 200 Bibs and 200 Shirts
- Procurement of 2500 Mosquito Nets
- Procurement of 10 Communal Tents
- Procurement of 1600 Tarpaulins (Pitching Latrines and Bathing Areas)
- Conduct PDM two weeks after distribution

The target for shelter and NFI support is for 2500 households and other households will not receive all the procured NFIs from MRCS as they will be complemented by other partners. The targeting for this will prioritize the vulnerable households such as those with under five children, pregnant mothers, children leaving with foster parents and families hosting chronically ill people.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 93,395

Targeted Persons: 4,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# households provided with multipurpose cash grants	2,000

% of target households that have are able to meet their basic needs	85
# of households registered for MPC	2,000

Priority Actions

- Conduct 4 camp awareness and sensitization on Cash and Voucher Assistance
- Beneficiary verification
- Provision of Multipurpose cash to 2000 beneficiaries, (once off)
- Payment to FSP distributing cash 5%
- Conduct 1 Post distribution monitoring
- Profiling and documentary of the operation
- Stakeholders Support during Cash Distribution (one off)

The cash support will target the 2000 households with unaccompanied children, chronically ill persons, pregnant and lactating mother as well as those with under-five children. This is going to help them improve their nutritional needs beyond the basic needs.



Budget: CHF 22,812

Targeted Persons: 7,456

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people reached with community-based disease prevention and health promotion programming	7,456
# of people reached via outreach clinic services	7,456
# of people reached with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	7,456

Priority Actions

- Support 100 volunteers to conduct hygiene promotion activities 10 days per month for 1 month
- Orient 100 volunteers on Epidemic control and prevention
- District support to deliver health services including support to coordination and logistics support to the response and ministry of health (3 months)
- MRCS and Government National Level technical support (2 twice)
- Training of 100 volunteers in Mental Health and Psychosocial support
- Training 100 volunteers in Community Health and First Aid
- Support 100 volunteers to conduct Health Promotion activities



Budget: CHF 66,142

Targeted Persons: 7,456

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people with access to clean safe drinking water	7,456

# of people provided with WASH supplies	7,456
# of people supported with Dignity Kits	1,000

Priority Actions

- Procurement of 50 Litter Buckets (100 buckets)
- Procurement of 3000 Bathing Soap (3 per HH)
- Procurement of 9000 Laundry Soap (5 per HH)
- Procurement of 5 Chlorine buckets (25l)
- Provision of 2 Boreholes
- Procurement of 20 Litter Buckets (2500)
- Procure and distribute 1000 Dignity Kits

The boreholes will be expected to support all the 7456 asylum seekers housed at Nyamithuthu Camp while the targeting for other procured NFIs will prioritize the vulnerable households such as those with under five children, pregnant mothers, children leaving with foster parents and families hosting chronically ill people

The activities will be conducted for 3 months



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 4,888

Targeted Persons: 7,456

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people reached with PGI and prevention and response to SGBV awareness messages	7,456
% of SGBV survivors reported that are referred for services	100

Priority Actions

- Conduct orientation of 100 volunteers in Gender based violence, referral pathways and PSS support
- Support district and community entry and exit meetings (2 meetings)
- Train 22 staff in Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Child safeguarding and the Code of Conduct
- Train 22 staff and 100 volunteers in PGI



Migration And Displacement

Budget: CHF 10,890

Targeted Persons: 7,456

Indicators

Title	Target
% of people accessing free phone calls	10
# of care givers /foster parents provided with specialized support including essential household items	50

# of people reached with RFL information and are aware of MRCS supported RFL services	7,456
# of Unaccompanied & separated children registered and receiving support from the operation	50
% of tracing requests collected & acted upon	100

Priority Actions

- Procurement of 5 GCM phone s for RFL
- Provision of Airtime for volunteers for phone calls at the settlement for 3 months to 5 volunteers
- Conduct monthly community sensitizations on RFL for 3 months
- Conduct 1 engagement meeting with authorities
- Development and printing of RFL IEC materials (once off)
- Airing of RFL and other messages for 3 months
- Support 100 volunteers with meals during RFL (once a week)
- Support 50 Foster Parents with Essential Household Package (once off)



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 39,107

Targeted Persons: 7,456

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people sensitized on safe and environmentally friendly shelter construction	7,456
# of households supported with Energy stove	2,000

Priority Actions

- Conduct Sensitization on safe and environmentally friendly shelter construction (4 sessions)
- Procurement of 2000 Energy Cooking Stoves
- Procurement of 5000 briquettes for 3 months



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 16,838

Targeted Persons: 7,456

Indicators

Title	Target
% of staff and volunteers working on the operation who have been trained or oriented on community engagement and accountability	100
% of queries / feedback received through the feedback mechanisms established that were responded to.	50
# of operational decisions made based on community feedback	100

Priority Actions

- Training of 100 volunteers in CEA
- Roll out of Complaints and Feedback mechanism
- Supporting Social mobilization committees
- Create Awareness on Co existence Using Radio Station



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 16,267

Targeted Persons: 7,456

Indicators

Title	Target
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Priority Actions

- Harare CCD Technical and Operational support for implementation of DREF. Harare CCD Technical and Operational support will be combined with monitoring visits from operation, PMER, logistic and finance to support quality monitoring and accountability.
- Harare CCD Financial Support for the DREF
- Harare CCD PMER support for the DREF
- Logistic regular deployment will ensure consistency and speed on the process while supporting the alignment with IFRC standard processes.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 79,897

Targeted Persons: 20

Indicators

Title	Target
# of lessons learnt conducted	1
# of staff and volunteers trained	109

Priority Actions

- Office supplies.
- Profiling and documentation.
- Monitoring from branches and Head quarter technical and operational units.
- This operation will cover vehicle hire and other administrative costs as part of the Logistic and general management of the operation.
- Lessons Learnt exercise conducted at the end of the intervention, integrating the outcomes from the PDM, feedback management and monitoring reports.



About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

The response will involve a deployment of 100 volunteers and 8 key staff members from HQ, as well as 7 staff members from Nsanje district. In addition, the IFRC cluster disaster management, PMER, and logistics staff will provide both technical and operational support throughout the operation.

MRCS will leverage its technical team at HQ, which includes experts from the disaster management department, health department, PMER, and logistics teams, to support the operation effectively. The Disaster Management Department at MRCS will oversee the entire operation in the targeted districts.

The volunteers will be trained and equipped to support activities across key sectors, including WaSH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), Shelter, Cash and Livelihoods, Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA). This coordinated effort will ensure comprehensive support to the affected communities, with a strong emphasis on the cross-cutting areas of gender, protection, and community engagement.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

In this operation, there are huge procurements of Shelter, WASH, NFI and protection materials such as sleeping mats, blankets, solar lamps, kitchen sets, family tents, mosquito nets, communal tents, tarpaulins and dignity kits to be procured internationally requiring IFRC support. There will also be local procurements of soap, buckets chlorine and temporary latrine construction materials. IFRC will facilitate payments for the respective international procurements during this operation.

How will this operation be monitored?

The response monitoring will be led by the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) department of the National Society (NS), in collaboration with other relevant sectors. Monthly monitoring visits will be conducted throughout the operation to track progress against established indicators. Volunteers will be trained in data collection using the KOBO platform, ensuring consistent and accurate reporting from the field. National Disaster Response Teams (NDRTs) will consolidate field data and submit it to the PMER coordinator at MRCS headquarters for analysis.

The PMER department will collaborate closely with the Disaster Risk Management Coordinator at MRCS headquarters to prepare comprehensive reports. These reports will be reviewed by the Head of Disaster Management and shared with the Director of Programs for technical support and guidance. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) cluster office will be shared with progress reports for their technical advice.

At the end of the operation, the PMER department will organize a lesson-learned workshop to engage all relevant stakeholders. This workshop will evaluate the response, identify best practices, and highlight areas for improvement in future operations.

IFRC will provide monitoring and reporting support to ensure that they report meet the required standards.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The national society will be sharing fortnightly situation updates to ensure that key information regarding the operation is being shared. Frequent visits to collect materials for publication will be conducted by the communications department, with support from the IFRC cluster office. These updates and materials will be published through the NS and IFRC websites to keep stakeholders informed of the ongoing response.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRMW022 - Malawi Red Cross Society Population movement

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	403,778
Shelter and Basic Household Items	149,706
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	93,395
Health	22,812
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	66,142
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	4,888
Education	0
Migration	10,890
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	39,107
Community Engagement and Accountability	16,838
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	96,165
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	16,267
National Society Strengthening	79,897
TOTAL BUDGET	499,942

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[Click here for the reference](#)

