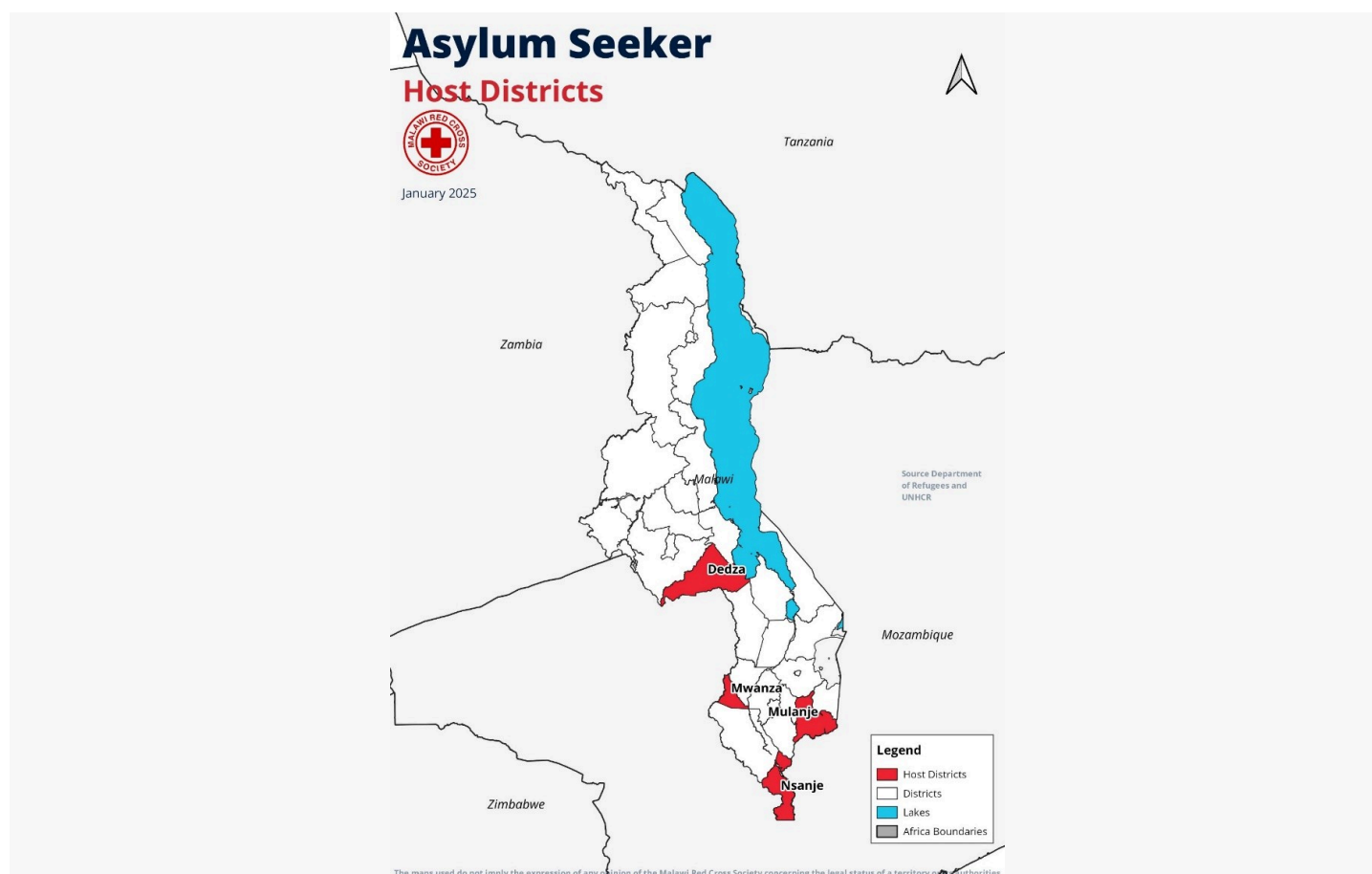




MRCS staff and volunteers responding in Nsanje District

Appeal: MDRMW022	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 499,942	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Population Movement
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 7,456 people	People Targeted: 14,877 people	
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 11-02-2025	New Operational End Date: -	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 11-02-2025		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 31-08-2025	
Additional Allocation Requested: 0		Targeted Regions: Southern Region	

Description of the Event



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

Date when the trigger was met

29-01-2025

What happened, where and when?

Following post-election unrest in Mozambique, Malawi has been hosting 7,456 asylum seekers across Nsanje, Dedza, Chikwawa, Mwanza, Mulanje, and Dzaibuka since December 2024. On February 27, 2025, Mozambique's Minister of Home Security led a delegation of Mozambiquans to discuss with the Malawi Government and outline the plans for a voluntary repatriation process for Mozambican asylum seekers in Malawi. After the discussions between the two governments, it was agreed that for those willing to return should be allowed to do so.

The two governments embarked in a registration of the Asylum Seeker who expressed their willingness to return. The Mozambique government provided vehicles to carry voluntary repatriates to the Shire River Dock where they were being ferried to the Mozambique side of the river by speed boats. The repatriation process began on February 28, despite logistical challenges such as high Shire River water levels due to heavy rain and flooding, and reluctance from some asylum seekers due to security concerns. The repatriation of 7,076 registered Mozambicans was finalized on 13th March.

Although a good number of the Asylum Seekers have left, there are also some who are not willing to return back to their country, expressing a number of challenges and fears. Especially those who had political affiliation, who fear for their safety, others said that they are still traumatised following what happened to them as they were badly beaten, their houses were set on fire, their properties were snatched from them. They have also indicated that they got reports from their friends who were repatriated that they were promised to be provided with shelter or shelter materials which have not been received yet, and the repatriated people have nowhere to stay once repatriated.

It is also important to mention that during the repatriation process, the Mozambique government did not only repatriate Asylum Seekers who had fled the country following the current violence, but any of Mozambican citizen who had been in Malawi for any reason but was willing to go back. This makes it unclear how many of the 7,076 repatriated individuals were directly targeted by this DREF, something which will need to be verified by a verification assessment.

The Malawi Government planned to move all the remaining Asylum Seekers who will satisfy the requirements for Refugees status Determination to Dzaleka which is a designated refugees camp in the country. The Malawi Department for Refugees (DfR) has conducted Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process which is the government use to determine a person seeking international protection which allows one to be considered and recognized as a refugee so that those who will satisfy this will be moved to Dzaleka Camp.

As of 7th April, 336 households had officially (671 people) re-registered as Mozambican asylum seekers who remain in the Nyamithuthu camp, out of more than 1,000 individuals currently residing in the camp. However, the number is constantly fluctuating, as individuals arrive and depart from the camp, including some individuals who were repatriated to Mozambique but returning due to lack of shelter and other services in Mozambique. There is also a plan to decommission the Nyamithuthu refugee camp in Nsanje, and relocate the remaining individuals to Dzaleka camp. This closure is now yet to be concluded and partners are called to support the closing activities.



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

The displacement crisis stems from post-election unrest in Mozambique following the October 2024 presidential elections. As a result, 7,456 Mozambican asylum seekers sought refuge in Malawi (across Nsanje, Dedza, Chikwawa, Mwanza, Mulanje, and Dzaleka). Displacement was both political and protection-related, with many individuals reporting experiences of violence, destruction of property, and trauma. Main flux were registered at Nyamithuthu Camp.

The displacement crisis evolved significantly between February and April 2025, beginning with a voluntary repatriation process launched on 28 February and finalized by 13 March 2025, during which 7,076 individuals were returned to Mozambique. This initiative was jointly led by the governments of Mozambique and Malawi. While the repatriation was successfully carried out despite challenges such as high-water levels on the Shire River and concerns around the safety of returnees, many of those repatriated reported a lack of shelter and essential services upon arrival, prompting some to return to Malawi shortly thereafter.

As of April 2025, 336 households—comprising 671 individuals—remained in the Nyamithuthu camp. However, this number remained fluid due to continued movement into and out of the camp. The Malawi Department for Refugees (DfR) conducted a Refugee Status Determination (RSD) exercise, during which 221 individuals were interviewed. All were denied refugee status due to insufficient or non-credible claims. As a result, they are no longer considered persons of concern and are scheduled for deregistration or relocation.

The government was planning to decommission the Nyamithuthu camp by the end of April 2025. Those who meet the criteria for refugee status will be transferred to Dzaleka, the country's designated refugee camp. Despite ongoing efforts to manage the situation, Malawi continues to experience a rising influx of asylum seekers. The arrival rate has escalated from an average of 300 individuals per month to approximately 120 per week, reflecting persistent insecurity and unrest in Mozambique. This trend indicates a continued risk of displacement and underscores the need for sustained humanitarian coordination and contingency planning.

The host communities' trees and forest have been destroyed as the asylum seekers have been cutting down the tree for the purpose of firewood or selling as a means of Livelihood. This has left a huge the host communities to be struggling in getting energy sources from their own forest. There is need to minimize the use of the remaining shrubs and trees to allow for regeneration hence need to provide means to facilitate minimal usage of the firewood. The number of latrines which are in good conditions in the two of the three schools servicing the children of the Asylum seekers are in unusable condition increasing the pressure of the remaining facilities. Girls are particularly affected especially as each school lost their menstrual exchange rooms. While deforestation is recognized as a longer-term environmental concern linked to resilience, the National Society will prioritize addressing the immediate risks related to WASH and health, particularly the gaps in facilities within shared spaces between host and displaced families.

Source Information

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

Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	No
Are you changing the operational strategy	Yes
Are you changing the target population of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	No
Are you requesting an additional allocation?	No

Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

This DREF update #1 inform stakeholders on the changes in the context and the subsequent operational adjustments made by MRCS. Since February, the Governments of Malawi and Mozambique embarked on a process of repatriating the asylum seekers whom this operation was targeting, forcing to a reduction of target.

The repatriation process began on February 28, despite logistical challenges such as high Shire River water levels due to heavy rain and flooding, and reluctance from some asylum seekers due to security concerns. The Malawi Department for Refugees (DfR) has conducted Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process which the government use to determines a person seeking international protection which allows one to be considered and recognized as a refugee so that those who will satisfy this need be moved to Dzaleka Camp. However, these households were not approved after the assessment. The repatriation of 7,076 registered Mozambicans was finalized on 13th March. The Malawi Government started to move all the remaining Asylum Seekers who will satisfy the requirements for Refugees status Determination to Dzaleka which is a designated refugees camp in the country. As of 13.03.2025, only 336 households remained in the camp and Government called the partners to support the closing activities for the camps and orient the support to the remaining asylum seekers.

Following the remaining 336 households of asylum seekers who were not repatriated, MRCS interventions will continue, in order to achieve the following:

- Provide services to ensure their safe and dignified self-repatriation or integration into the host communities. Among other actions, Volunteers will continue to support DfR and the District Council to undertake camp closure activities such as camp dismantling, cleaning and disinfections, disinfection and demobilization of latrines.
- Distribution of Shelter, Non-food items and WASH Supplies. Some being to replenish and other yet to be distributed.
- Support 336 households with multipurpose cash for a period of one month, with each household receiving Mk70,000.00 per month MRCS will also support government authorities to participate in the distribution process.



- Continuous PGI interventions and ensure CEA approach remains streamlined with continuous feedback management. MRCS will also continue providing restoring family link services.
- Address the challenges on WASH facilities, access to Water and health risk which have been emanated from this displacement situation. MRCS will prioritize to maintain the Hygiene and health promotion efforts. Aiming to reach at least 14,000 people from both displaced communities and host. This will include:

Assisting the remaining 336HHs asylum seekers, NS will continue to provide essential humanitarian services to them in the transition to the new camps, extending these services to the related host communities that were also impacted. The following services will benefit the displaced families but also the host communities considering they shared the same risks:

- Provision of Health interventions, disease prevention awareness and Hygiene promotion
- Extend the WASH services and repairs to address the assessed gaps for the asylum seekers but also host communities. E.g: Drilling of 3 boreholes to the host communities; Rehabilitation of 6 latrines at Nyamithuthu school and Tengani school; Solarization of 2 boreholes including installation of 2 x 10,000 litres tank and 5 taps per school; Installation of 8 permanent hand washing facilities in 2 schools; Support Hygiene and sanitation promotion activities in communities and schools. This approach aligns with feedback from communities, promote social cohesion and ensure effective mitigation of health risk considering both displaced families and host share these facilities. It also aims at reducing the vulnerabilities generated by the impact of long stay of displaced communities on the available facilities and environmental conditions.

With the above adjustments and reduction on the target, The IFRC-DREF initial allocation of CHF 499,942 will not be fully utilized. As per planning adjustments until today, expected balance to be returned to the DREF pot will be around CHF 52,306 considering the budget needed is now CHF 447,637.

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

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	The following Government agencies are active and lead the response. - 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. 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. Department of Refugees in collaboration with UNHCR is leading the support in both refugee settlements where different partners are providing different supports.
UN or other actors	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] UNHCR: - Provided tents, non-food items, and support for protection services. - Assisted in coordination and logistics for the relocation of asylum seekers. WFP (World Food Programme): - Distributed food aid (25kg maize per household). - Provided one-time cash assistance (MWK 25,000 per household). 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

UNICEF:

- 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) were registered in Nsanje and Dedza districts. The figure has remained unchanged for some days 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.

By early February, the camp hosted 7900 people before the repatriation and a total of 7076 people were repatriated in the month of March. The shelter needs were 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. By then, asylum seekers were housed in Community Based Child Care Centres and or public facilities such as churches. An important gaps in terms of tents was noticed with only 500 supplied by early February. This overcrowds situation in the shelters and absence of protection 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.

As of 12 March 2025, a total of 336 household Asylum Seekers (671 people) who were in the camp and were at Nyamithuthu Camp in the country and were provided with different NFIs which were borrowed from the NS warehouse. This followed on the latest assessments remaining Asylum Seekers are still in need of essential household items such as blankets, sleeping mats, cooking utensils, and solar lanterns to ensure dignity and survival, as many asylum seekers have arrived to the camp without these items.

There are also some items which were earlier on distributed to the camp such as communal tents, Public Flood lights and kitchen sets which will be replenished



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Food and basic need shortages remained a critical concern, requiring immediate attention from humanitarian organizations. This need was covered through the assistance planned with WFP. MRCS with support from WFP provided asylum seekers with a one-time distribution of a 25kg bag of maize and MK25,000.00 per household which was done in the month of February. In March, MRCS with support from IFRC provided cash transfers to 336 households of Mk 70,000.00 per household.

Beyond the basic household basket, there was also an urgent need to access basic services, items but also additional food supplies, including maize flour, CSB flour, salt, sugar, milk, and dry fish, to ensure food security and prevent hunger-related complications. The

cash was important as it helped the Asylum Seekers to buy maize flour, CSB flour for under five children, salt, sugar, milk, and dry fish, to ensure food security and prevent hunger-related complications from prolonged food insecurity. Since their livelihoods were affected, the cash received also helped them to sustain their livelihoods at the camp.



Multi purpose cash grants

The provision of a multipurpose cash grant may be an effective solution to address various challenges faced by asylum seekers, especially considering the camp's proximity to the Nyamithuthu trading center, where essential commodities are available. So far, MRCS has provided two cash transfers of MK25,000.00 per household to 3,500 households with support from WFP and Mk 70,000.00 cash distribution to 336 households with support from IFRC. Other organisations such as Self-Help Africa withdrew their support due to the repatriation process. There is need to sustain such support as the cash assistance will help refugees purchase essential items such as salt, sugar, soap, relish, and other urgent household needs.



Health

The remaining asylum seekers continue to face challenges in accessing health services. MRCS distributed various WASH items such as 2172 hygiene kits and 672 mosquito nets. These items are stock which has been borrowed from the National Society and the action will replenish by the action. The general health condition of the camp needs to be continuously supported up to the camp closing date. Additionally, there is a high risk of mental health issues emanating from the results of the RSD which has denied the asylum seekers any protection status by the Malawi government when some of them continue to express fear to go back to Mozambique due to bad memories of the loss of relatives, property, and livelihoods, emphasizing the need for mental health and psychosocial support services. As we await for everyone to move out of the camp, MRCS will continue addressing major healthcare gaps persist, including the lack of transport for medical referrals and the absence of integrated outreach services to ensure access to healthcare and essential medical supplies. This situation necessitates the continued support for the District Health Office to carry out mobile outreach clinics across all sites until the camp is completely closed. Given the ongoing rainy season, the risk of malaria and diarrheal diseases such as cholera is high.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Despite of the fact that only 336 asylum seekers remained at the cam, hygiene practices issues were still a big challenge. Limited access to hygiene materials and infrastructure made it difficult for residents to maintain basic cleanliness.

Menstrual hygiene management (MHM) was particularly affected, with many women and adolescent girls lacking privacy, disposal facilities, and adequate hygiene supplies, forcing them to manage menstruation in unsafe and undignified conditions.

Furthermore, the Asylum Seekers were using boreholes which were drilled in the host communities as their source of drinking water. When the results of the Refugee Status Determination were communicated that none of them qualified for the refugee status and that they do not qualify for further government protection, they went violent which among others destroyed and store pipes, rods and Pedestals with their holes filled with mud for the community boreholes rendering them nonfunctional.

In relation to Sanitation in Schools, the children of the asylum seekers were enrolled in three schools around Nyamithuthu Camp. Two of the three schools' toilets were left in a delapidated condition requiring urgent attention. The Department for Refugees has been providing the request to the Humanitarian actors which were not addressed due to other priorities within the camp. As all the humanitarian actors are moving out of the Camp, there is a great need to have this addressed so that we avoid creating an environment for Cholera outbreak as this area is prone to it.

The number of latrines which are in good conditions in the two of the three schools servicing the children of the Asylum seekers are in unusable condition increasing the pressure of the remaining facilities. Girls are particularly affected especially as each school lost their menstrual exchange rooms. The action will seek to address the above challenges which have been emanated from the actions and impact of the Asylum Seekers.

Hygiene promotion efforts continue through MRCS volunteers, who have reached 5,320 people with key messages, distributed 1,172 buckets and soap, and supported household-level chlorination. However, hygiene kit supplies remain limited, and there is an ongoing need for items such as soap, menstrual hygiene products, and disinfectants. All the distributed items will be replenished through this action.

Access to safe water remains critical for both displaced families and host communities. The registered asylum seekers, the constant movement and the host families' safety and wellbeing depends on the availability of safe water and safe sanitations such as latrines. The



Asylum Seekers were using boreholes which were drilled in the host communities as their source of drinking water. When the results of the Refugee Status Determination were communicated that none of them qualified for the refugee status and that they do not qualify for further government protection, they went violent which among others destroyed and store pipes, rods and Pedestals with their holes filled with mud for the community boreholes rendering them nonfunctional.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The current population in the camp is exposed to many forms of protection issues due to varied vulnerability ranging from lack of access to adequate food, non-availability of livelihood means which exposing vulnerable populations, such as women, children, and persons with disabilities, to abuse and exploitation, including Gender-based violence. To address some of these challenges MRCS has distributed solar lumps to 336 household, installed 10 floodlights to provide lights at the camp and Volunteers conducted 24 sessions on disadvantages of Gender-based violence.

It is essential to implement protection measures and ensure the inclusion of vulnerable groups in all response activities in order to mitigate these risks and safeguard their well-being until the camp is finally closed.



Migration And Displacement

Nyamithuthu Camp has become a regular site for hosting displaced people both from Mozambique as well as Internal Displacement. The camp has been hosting the Mozambiquin Asylum Seekers for the 4th time now due to different situations. It has also been hosting IDPs since 2015 once the lower side of the camp gets flooded. Volunteers and branches in such locations need to be capacitated in different aspects to ensure their readiness to support and similar incident. During the current incident, MRCS struggled to identify volunteers to provide different services such as First aid, Mental Health services as RCCE activities. There is need to still undertake planned volunteer capacity building activities as was initially planned.

The findings of the assessment were that overall, the applicants (remaining asylum seekers) claimed that they fled their country of origin because of the post-election violence following the 9th October 2024 presidential elections. Out of the targeted group of Three Hundred Thirty - six (336) households 671 (individuals), a total of Two Hundred Sixty- Eight (268) individuals were scheduled for interviews however, Two Hundred Twenty-One showed up for the exercise and were interviewed. All the Two Hundred Twenty- one (221) have been recommended for denial of a refugee status for they presented claims that were not credible enough for the RSD consideration. Most of them could not ably present convincing facts about their place of origin in Mozambique and failure to competently answer questions in respect to general information of their claims. These results means that all these remaining asylum seekers are no longer people of concern requiring government protection. DfR has since planned to close the camp and has requested the humanitarian community to support the camp closure process and finalise all the commitments made to the host communities.

MRCS fulfills its mandate of restoring family links and providing support with technical assistance from the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC). The Asylum Seekers at Nyamithuthu have been assisted with different services related to restoring links with their families. This action will continue the provision of phone calls for these individuals and offer additional support packages to households fostering unaccompanied children.

The overall picture of the migration linked to Mozambique population displacement remains preoccupant. The Malawi Department for Refugees (DfR) reports that the number of asylum seekers arriving to Malawi has increased drastically from the average usual 300 individuals per month to around 120 individuals per week. There are still reports of insecurity and continued violent protests in Mozambique despite an ongoing reconciliation process, and the growing number of currently internally displaced Mozambicans may still continue to seek refuge in Malawi.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

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

Despite that the number of residents in the camp have reduced, some level of harm to the natural environment has already been identified in the few months as that the refugees were at the camp. Much as the numbers have reduced, the risk still remains of cutting down trees for firewood. MRCS will provide alternative cooking fuel sources to the remaining refugees and the host community through Introduction of briquettes and 1500 energy-efficient cooking stoves which could help to 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 Nyamithuthu camp. This activity will be done as one of the close-up activities and will benefit both the remaining asylum seekers and the host community. MRCS will collaborate closely with local communities and structures to promote environmentally sustainable adaptation measures.

During the discussions with the local communities at the time of identification of land for the Asylum Seekers to settle, the local leaders located a land which had a lot of trees and good forest cover. During the 4 months stay of the Asylum Seekers at the camp, most of the trees were cut down as the asylum seekers found trees as an easy livelihood means as well as the only free and available source of energy creating a new firewood challenge which needs to be addressed.



Community Engagement And Accountability

MRCS, in collaboration with the DfR and UNHCR, engaged MRCS volunteers to carry out various activities. Volunteers also supported the councils in conducting rapid assessments of affected households. During the cash and food distribution exercise, beneficiaries were engaged in 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. With the volatility of the situation, strong community engagement and communication remains a key need. MRCS volunteers will continue to play a key role in mobilizing efforts to engage asylum seekers more effectively, creating an environment where they can provide feedback and participate in decisions affecting their daily lives. MRCS has established a complaints and feedback mechanism and will provide suggestion boxes, which will remain on site to ensure that issues raised are addressed accordingly. Additionally, settlement committees will be formed to handle prompt feedback from 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.

Among the risks and needs identified that also impact the host communities, this DREF will focus on addressing urgent humanitarian concerns during the remaining weeks of the intervention. Therefore, while deforestation is acknowledged as important, because it mainly fall under the support to resilience, the National Society will prioritize immediate WASH and health-related risks generated by facilities gaps in shared spaces between host and displaced populations.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

This intervention aims to continue providing critical humanitarian support to the remaining asylum seekers at Nyamithuthu Camp, while also addressing the needs of surrounding host communities in Nsanje district in the new scenario of volatile returns. The operation focuses on facilitating safe and dignified self-repatriation or integration of asylum seekers, while mitigating the impact on host communities through health promotion, environmental restoration, WASH improvements, and protection activities. Therefore, the objective is extended to 14,877 people, include the 336 household's asylum seekers and the 1,500HHs host communities.

In parallel, MRCS will support camp closure efforts and deliver services such as borehole drilling, latrine rehabilitation, hygiene promotion, and address the vulnerabilities generated by the displacement situation since last year.

Operation strategy rationale

The Malawi Government, through the Department for Refugees (DfR), has been hosting the Asylum Seekers at Nyamithuthu Camp in Nsanje. The relocation of 7,076 of around 7,900 originally targeted individuals means that the operational target has significantly reduced. A repatriation process which took place was the genesis of the camp closure as all the asylum seekers who refused to return back home were denied the awarding of the Refugee status by the Malawi Government. The MRCS provided support to the 336 households who were the last team to go back home upon government announcement of its intention to close the camp. However, MRCS continued with provision of services to the 336 households which remaining before the denial of their RSD. In addressing different sectoral needs, MRC provided Shelter & NFI supplies, WASH supplies, health supplies and protection supplies which needs to be replenished back to the National Society.

Furthermore, the Asylum Seekers were using boreholes which were drilled in the host communities as their source of drinking water.



When the results of the Refugee Status Determination were communicated that none of them qualified for the refugee status and that they do not qualify for further government protection, they went violent which among others destroyed and store pipes, rods and Pedestals with their holes filled with mud for the community boreholes rendering them nonfunctional. With regards to Sanitation in Schools, the children of the asylum seekers were enrolled in three schools around Nyamithuthu Camp. Two of the three schools' toilets were left in a delapidated condition requiring urgent attention. The Department for Refugees has been providing the request to the Humanitarian actors which were not addressed due to other priorities within the camp. As all the humanitarian actors are moving out of the Camp, there is a great need to have this addressed so that we avoid creating an environment for Cholera outbreak as this area is prone to it. Furthermore, the number of latrines which are in good conditions in the two of the three schools servicing the children of the Asylum seekers are in unusable condition increasing the pressure of the remaining facilities. Girls are particularly affected especially as each school lost their menstrual exchange rooms.

Operational changes: In response, MRCS has adjusted its operational focus and target around the following results:

- Continue supporting the 336 remaining households (instead of the initial 2000hhs) through multipurpose cash assistance (MWK 70,000 per household), provision of shelter and non-food items, health and WASH services, as well as restoring family links (RFL), protection, gender, and CEA interventions. So far, the NS volunteers have reached 5,320 people, the coming weeks MRCS will ensure replenishing the WASH stocks and shelter items already distributed while completing the other humanitarian services pending such as cash, awareness, wash repairs and protection services.
- Assist government authorities with the safe and dignified self-repatriation or integration of these individuals. Ensuring in the process that WASH facilities gaps is addressed (including borehole drilling, latrines access) and operation mitigate health risks, protection concerned and maintained environmental and protection awareness for both displaced and host communities.
- MRCS will also provide equitable humanitarian services to both host families and displaced communities. This includes ensuring that WASH facilities gaps and health and protection risk is mitigate for both groups. MRCS will ensure as a priority that volunteers reach both groups with the awareness messaging, protection, and WASH services. This approach aimed at mitigating the pressure experienced by the facilities and services in hosting population due to the prolonged displacement crisis.

So far, the NS volunteers have reached 5,320 people with key messages, distributed 1,172 buckets and soap, and supported household-level chlorination. However, hygiene kit supplies remain limited, and there is an ongoing need for items such as soap, menstrual hygiene products, and disinfectants. All the distributed items will be replenished through this action.

Until the end of this DREF, MRCS has reviewed the operational response strategy as follows:

- a) Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI): The initial plan targeted 3500 households. In this revised plan, MRCS will procure and distribute items immediately for the remaining 336 households. This procurement will be done locally, due to the time sensitivity, although currently the country is facing high inflation which may affect the pricing negatively. Items to be procured per households include: 02 Sleeping mats; 02 Blankets, 01 Solar lamps, 01 Kitchen set (total for 336 HHS + 100 for replenishment). Support to improve the conditions for 25 Communal Tents is also planned with the provision of 25 Communal solar lamps while each families (336HH) will receive 01 Family Tents. Assistance also include the replenishment of 10 Flood lamps and the procurement of 300 Bush jackets (for NDRT).
- b) Health: MRCS will provide mosquito nets and oral rehydration salts (ORS) to mitigate current health risks including malaria and cholera. MRCS has trained volunteers to enhance health promotion efforts using the eCBHFA approach. Furthermore, the action will continue deploying MRCS volunteers that have been conducting health promotion activities in the sites. MRCS will engage 50 volunteers from the host community to conduct health promotion activities until the camp is closed. These volunteers will also be trained in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, Community Health and First Aid.
- c) WASH Support aiming to reach 836HH asylum seekers with relief distributions and scale-up to Host communities with services. The selected activities align with the identified gaps. In addition, the selected facilities are being used by both displaced communities and host families.
 - MRCS will reach the remaining 336 households directly, as well as any other residents in Nyamithuthu camp and host communities with the hygiene promotion while distribution of hygiene supplies such as buckets, soap, chlorine, and dignity kits will be focused on the Asylum seekers. 02 units of 20L buckets w. lid without Tap (2 per HH for 336hh in total 1172 that also include 500 for replenishment); 03 Bathing soap, 05 Laundry soap, 02 Dignity kits (2 per hhs for 336 hhs + 1500 for replenishment). In addition, NS will prioritise the hygiene, sanitation and access of safe water in the camps and surroundings. MRCS based on updated situation will prioritised in coming weeks the following intervention:
 - MRCS will contribute to the access of safe water by ensuring drilling of 3 boreholes to the host communities. Due to the increasing water need in host communities MRCS will drill three (03) boreholes in the host communities which do not have access to clean water and were benefiting from the water which was being supplies through bowsers to the camp. This is an increase from the originally approved. This DREF allocation will also cover the solarization of 2 boreholes including installation of 2 x 10,000 litres tank and 5 taps per school which contribute to a large water coverage.
 - As for the hygiene and sanitation, MRCS will rehabilitate 6 latrines at Nyamithuthu school and Tengani school. 4 latrines at Nyamithuthu Camp and 2 at Tengani camp; Desludging 16 latrines: 10 latrines at Nyamithuthu Primary school and 6 at Tengani Primary School. This DREF will also support the installation of 8 hand washing facilities in 2 schools. Volunteers will also conduct hygiene campaigns, engaging communities in the sanitation activities. Cholorine and material will be provided for effective maintenance of environmental hygiene and sanitation around the shared spaces and facilities such as : water sources, the schools, the latrines and the camps.
- d) Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery: The support to access alternative cooking energy and facilities such as provision of

cooking stoves and briquettes are no more prioritized as they do not fall again on the emergency but recovery and risk reduction strategies. NS will continue to engage partners on the support for that aspect considering it could contribute to long-term wellbeing and ensure cohesion of the host community and asylum seekers.

e) **Multi-Purpose Cash:** Through this action, MRCS will support 336 households with multipurpose cash for a period of one month, with each household receiving Mk70,000.00 per month MRCS will also support government authorities to participate in the distribution process. Post distribution monitoring will be conducted 2 weeks after the cash distribution. The MRCS Communications department with support from the national media houses will profile the planned interventions to increase visibility and capture key impact of the support.

f) **Migration and Displacement:** MRCS has been supporting the asylum seekers with RFL services and will continue to do so. 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.

g) **Community Engagement and Accountability:** MRCS will conduct operation close up meetings with DfR, Nsanje District Council and host communities. It will also undertake two lessons learnt workshops at district and national levels. These lessons learnt will help MRCS to draw lessons from the response while on the other hand, it will help the Malawi government through the DfR refugees to also draw lessons from the operation.

h) **PGI:** MRCS will seek to ensure provision of safety and well-being of all individuals as the camp closes, particularly those most vulnerable, promoting equitable access to resources and opportunities as well as ensuring that all the people have moved out of the camp with dignity. Volunteers will be supported to continue undertaking PGI activities.

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 is working 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 is being prioritized to ensure continuity of essential services. Through this MRCS will continue providing resources and technical support to DfR to enable them smooth closure of the camp including exit meetings with the host community leadership and Nsanje district council

2. Community-Led Management and Ownership

Asylum seekers and host communities are 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, are being 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 is working 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 are being institutionalized within community structures.

4. Integration with Host Communities

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

5. **Engagement of MRCS volunteers:** MRCS has facilitated the 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 targeting has been updated with the changes on the context:

- In January/February, MRCS planned to support 3,500 families before some of them got repatriated.
- Before the repatriation process began, 7,456 asylum seekers were reached with various services. details in the actions conducted so far.
- After the repatriation process, MRCS will support at least 336 asylum seeker households (671 persons) remaining in Nyamithuthu camp - Providing services to ensure their safe and dignified self-repatriation or integration into the host communities, Volunteers will continue to support DfR and the District Council to undertake camp closure activities such as camp dismantling, cleaning and disinfections, disinfection and demobilization of latrines

The action will continue to target all the eligible asylum seekers registered by DfR at the camp with different interventions, currently totalizing at 336 households but it will likely increase again. The targeted are hosted in Nsanje district in the Southern Region of Malawi. Furthermore, the MRCS will support 1,500 households (approx. 6,750 persons) in the host community. The host communities will be



reached with different messages on health, environment, protection, feedback mechanisms and access to safe drilling water through the drilling of boreholes.

In total, not counting the households potentially reached with pre-positioned items, the intervention will now reach at least 14,877 persons.

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 for 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 provided to them by the DfR targeting everyone who has been registered.

The response will further support 1,500 households from the host community with humanitarian services, access to enhanced WASH conditions and restored WASH facilities that are being shared between host and asylum seekers communities.

Total Targeted Population

Women	-	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	-
Men	-	People with disabilities (estimated)	0.6%
Boys (under 18)	-		
Total targeted population	14,877		

Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have child protection/child safeguarding policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have whistleblower protection policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?	Yes
Please analyse and indicate potential risks for this operation, its root causes 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.
The primary emerging risk is on the targeting inclusion and exclusion error considering the significant volatility of the displacement context, particularly regarding the uncertainty in population figures and shifting government plans. The unclear legal and protection status of many residents in Nyamithuthu Camp increases the likelihood of inclusion and exclusion errors during targeting under the current DREF operation. This uncertainty is further compounded by a rapid increase in new arrivals, rising from 300 per month to approximately 120 individuals per week, which could overwhelm current operational capacity and render initial response plans outdated.	To address this, the operation includes a scenario-based adaptive planning approach, supported by a brief scenario analysis embedded in the operational strategy. This allows for flexible adjustment of activities and targeting criteria as the situation evolves. Ongoing coordination with the Department for Refugees (DfR) and other stakeholders ensures that the response remains aligned with official guidance, while minimizing risks of misallocation or gaps in coverage. Continuous monitoring and real-time analysis will support timely decision-making and mitigate potential exclusion or duplication of assistance.
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: 7,456

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance	7,456	2,567
# of families provided with Essential households items and tents	336	0
# of people that benefited from communal tents at waiting areas	5,000	2,567

# of families provided with family tents during their stay in the camps	839	503
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Progress Towards Outcome

The target for shelter and NFI support was to reach out to 7,456 People with shelter and environmental management awareness and distribution of Shelter materials and NFIs to 2500 households. During the reporting period MRCS managed to provide 10 communal tents which were used to host 2567 asylum seekers as waiting areas. MRCS volunteers also supported pitching of 503 family tents and disseminated awareness information all the asylum seekers (7456 people) residing in all the camps. Distributions of NFIs were temporarily suspended to pave way for the repatriation process.

The reach so far include:

- Support to clear camp areas where the camp was established
- Installed five communal multipurpose tents,
- Supported the installation of 503 family tents that benefited
- Distributed 356 kitchen sets
- Distributed 672 Blankets
- Distributed 336 Sleeping mats

Most of these distributions will be replenished in the procurement that are ongoing.

Since the repatriation has been concluded, the preparations to commence distributions will commence. In the planned activities, MRCS will procure and distribute various items as outlined above, to 336 households instead of 2,000HHs initially planned. The pending activities include the procurement and provision of relief EHI to 336 HHs while replenishing the items distributed at the onset as per the first section above.

Pending procurement will ensure distribution is made to 336 HHs with the same items initially planned:

- Sleeping mats (2 per household)
- Blankets (2 per household)
- Solar lumps (1 per household)
- kitchen sets (1 Per household)
- Family Tents (1 Per household)
- Procurement of 672 Mosquito Nets (2 per household)

In total 15 NDRT will be deployed to support distribution as per original plan. The intervention includes the adequate visibility and protection for the responders, volunteers and NDRTs. Purchase of 130 Bibs and 130 Shirts.

The target for shelter and NFI support is for 336 households and other households. MRCS will conduct PDM two weeks after distribution.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 93,395

Targeted Persons: 4,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# households provided with multipurpose cash grants	336	0
% of target households that have are able to meet their basic needs	85	17
# of households registered for MPC	2,000	336

Progress Towards Outcome

MRCS has managed to conduct 2 cash awareness sessions in the camp, registered 2,000 households, and engaged the stakeholders to understand the cash transfer modality and processes which MRCS uses. MRCS also conducted a meeting with the financial service

provider to agree and plan the distribution. Cash distributions were suspended due to repatriation process, and thus the 2,000 registered households were informed of the change in planning and the halting of the distribution.

Since the finalization of the repatriation process, MRCS registered and made cash distribution to 336 remaining households of MK70.000 (the national Minimum Expenditure Basket).

With partner support (WFP), NS has managed to reach the following results from January to the beginning of returns.

- MK 25,000.00 once off Cash distribution to 3,500 households
- Distribution of 25 kg of maize to 3,500 households with WFP

The activities pending to be completed in priority under this intervention in the coming weeks include:

- Mk 70,000.00 one off cash distribution to 336 households; target reduced from 2,000HHs to 336
- Post Distribution monitoring.



Budget: CHF 22,812

Targeted Persons: 14,877

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached with community-based disease prevention and health promotion programming	14,877	3,891
# of people reached via outreach clinic services	14,877	0
# of people reached with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	14,877	3,891

Progress Towards Outcome

MRCS engaged and oriented volunteers who have been providing hygiene promotion and awareness sessions in the camp. 100 volunteers reached out to 3,891 people with door-to-door visits in the camp. Identification of volunteers to be trained as first Aiders was done. Trainings were suspended to allow the repatriation process to be conducted in a smooth manner. This was completed in April. With the updated operations strategy, MRCS will keep the 100 originally engaged volunteers, as well as engage another 50 volunteers from the host communities, to carry out the sensitization and awareness raising activities targeting the surrounding host communities. They will be trained in First Aid and Mental Health.

NS intervention on the coming weeks intends to reach 14,877 people, include 336 hh asylum seekers and 1500 hh host communities with the sensitization and outreach. MRCS will also complete the procurement of 672 Mosquito Nets for the 336HH asylum seekers as a replenishment.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 66,142

Targeted Persons: 14,877

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people with access to clean safe drinking water	14,877	0



# of people provided with WASH supplies	7,456	1,807
# of people supported with Dignity Kits	1,500	1,500
# of people reached with messages	14,877	5,320

Progress Towards Outcome

MRCS volunteers have been on the ground supporting hygiene promotion activities in Nyamithuthu camp. Before the repatriation process was started, MRCS distributed 1500 dignity kits from their prepositioned stock, to meet urgent and increasing needs in Nyamithuthu camp, which was not being met by any other actor.

Reach so far include:

- Supported setting up/construction of 18 latrines
- Volunteers conducted hygiene promotion sessions in the camp and reached out to 5320 people with messages
- Distribution so far include 500 buckets (20L each);

Pending activities and revisions

- MRCS will scale up hygiene promotion activities in the camp through the volunteers.
- MRCS will engage and train more volunteers to strengthen their capacity for better service delivery.
- Procurement and Distribution of 03 Bathing soap, 05 Laundry soap, 02 Dignity kits (2 per hhs for 336 hhs + 1500 for replenishment).
- In addition, NS will prioritise the hygiene, sanitation and access of safe water in the camps and surroundings. These activities will require
 - 10 pack of Chlorine (25L).
 - Drilling of 3 boreholes to the host communities
 - Rehabilitation of 06 latrines: 4 latrines at Nyamithuthu Camp and 2 at Tengani camp
 - Desludging 16 latrines: 10 at Nyamithuthu Primary school and 6 at Tengani Primary School
 - Solarization of 2 boreholes including installation of 2 x 10,000 litres tank and 5 taps per borehole.
 - Installation of 8 hand washing facilities in 2 schools



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 4,888

Targeted Persons: 7,456

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached with PGI and prevention and response to SGBV awareness messages	7,456	5,250
% of SGBV survivors reported that are referred for services	100	54

Progress Towards Outcome

MRCS provided 10 community solar lamps in the camp to provide light for safety and protection. After the distribution of NFI's and cash, due to a surge in reports of GBV received through reporting channels in the camps, MRCS found the need to also conduct awareness sessions on the disadvantages of gender-based. Sensitization on reporting channels were also part of the awareness raising campaign.

Reach so far include:

- Distribution of solar lamps to 336 household
- Installed 10 floodlights to provide lights at the camp
- Volunteers conducted 24 sessions on disadvantages of Gender-based violence. 5250 people were reached with such messages through door-to-door visits and communal meetings.



Pending activities as per initial plan include:

- Conduct orientation of 100 volunteers in Gender based violence, referral pathways and PSS support
- Support district exit meetings (1 meeting)
- 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	Actual
% of people accessing free phone calls	7,456	2,300
# of care givers /foster parents provided with specialized support including essential household items	50	0
# of people reached with RFL information and are aware of MRCS supported RFL services	7,456	5,250
# of Unaccompanied & separated children registered and receiving support from the operation	50	5
% of tracing requests collected & acted upon	100	100

Progress Towards Outcome

MRCS oriented 10 volunteers who provided RFL services to 671 people, such as airtime, phone services as well as identified 5 unaccompanied children MRCS volunteers alongside other organizations also facilitated collection of feedback during food and cash distribution sessions conducted in the camp who were attached a foster family. Development of IEC materials was done, but the dissemination of these is pending printing. RFL services will continue to be provided. Reach so far include:

- Provision of free phone calls to 2,300 asylum seekers
- Identified 2 houses which were fostering 5 unaccompanied children

Activities that remained ongoing include:

- Provision of Airtime for volunteers for phone calls at the settlement. Planned for initial 3 months to 5 volunteers
- Conduct monthly community sensitizations on RFL. Planned for initial 3 months for RFL activities.
- Conduct engagement meeting with authorities on the migration discussions.
- Development and printing of RFL IEC materials (once off)
- Airing of RFL and other messages. Planned for initial 3 months.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 39,107

Targeted Persons: 14,877

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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# of people sensitized on safe and environmentally friendly shelter construction	14,877	5,672
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Progress Towards Outcome

- 7 sessions on importance of protection trees and the environment within the camp site were conducted. This include 3 awareness sessions on environmental management as well as green shelter construction were disseminated to 5,672 in all the camps in Nsanje.

Remaining actions:

- Continue the Sensitization on safe and environmentally friendly shelter construction (total of 4 sessions were initially planned). Now, MRCS is aiming to reach 14,877 people.

Activities removed from emergency scope of the DREF.

- Procurement of Energy Cooking Stoves and briquettes to 2,000 HHs initially planned for displaced communities is removed.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 16,838

Targeted Persons: 7,456

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of staff and volunteers working on the operation who have been trained or oriented on community engagement and accountability	130	0
% of queries / feedback received through the feedback mechanisms established that were responded to.	50	25
# of operational decisions made based on community feedback	100	50

Progress Towards Outcome

MRCS volunteers alongside other organisations have facilitated the collection of feedback during food and cash distribution sessions conducted in the camp in February. Suggestion boxes were also installed in various strategic locations, where complaints were collected from. General awareness of the CFM was shared to all targeted people.

In total 7 Engagement meetings were conducted with camp management committees, sector technical working groups and the DfR. Include:

- 1 entry meeting with the district council and the DfR where the MRCS response activities were presented and approved
- 5 Engagement meetings were conducted with the camp management committee and the host communities on how the MRCS intervention should be carried out as well as on how issues of environment should be integrated.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 16,267

Targeted Persons: 7,456

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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Progress Towards Outcome

- 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.
- On the repatriation process, the Cluster office will support the coordination and facilitate the information sharing between Malawi and the Mozambique Red Cross.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 79,897

Targeted Persons: 20

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of lessons learnt conducted	1	0
# of staff and volunteers trained	109	0

Progress Towards Outcome

Identification of volunteers to be trained as first Aiders was done. Trainings were suspended to allow the repatriation process to be conducted in a smooth manner, but these was conducted.

One monitoring visit was conducted on 6th of March, where challenges which compounded the operations were discussed with the department of Refugees. MRCS has continually been engaging in national stakeholder meetings and has conducted bilateral advocacy meetings with DfR to encourage humanitarian activities to continue. The first meeting between MRCS management and the Department for Refugees was held on 17th January where solutions to the challenges were discussed. Another such meeting was conducted on 3rd of April. Financial Monitoring and Progress

As of April 2025, the Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) has received the first transfer of CHF 100,000 under the current DREF operation. To date, CHF 49,380 has been spent, representing a burn rate of 32%. This relatively low expenditure rate is primarily attributed to a temporary stop-work order issued by the Department for Refugees (DfR), which delayed key activities planned for March.

With the lifting of the suspension, operational activities are now resuming. MRCS has forecasted a significant scale-up in spending in April, with projected expenditures totaling CHF 91,227. These costs include the local procurement and distribution of non-food items (NFIs), as well as cash distributions and related financial service provider (FSP) and distribution costs. The breakdown of April's forecasted expenditure is as follows: Cash assistance: CHF 11,995; FSP fees: CHF 600; Distribution costs: CHF 4,029; NFI procurement (local): CHF 47,765; NFI distribution: CHF 26,838. This upcoming expenditure will align the project with expected financial implementation levels. Once the April activities are completed, MRCS will proceed to request the second transfer of funds to implement the remaining planned activities under the operation.

NS has been active to communicate and engage with stakeholders on this intervention, ensuring visibility and proper representations. One visit was made to the camp by the communication where some profiling materials were collected. The interventions were also shared on Facebook and Twitter. See various communication outputs under the communication section.



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.

Does your volunteer team reflect the gender, age, and cultural diversity of the people you're helping? What gaps exist in your volunteer team's gender, age, or cultural diversity, and how are you addressing them to ensure inclusive and appropriate support?

The selection of the volunteers reflects a gender, age and cultural diversity balance.

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

In this operation, there were 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. With the reduction of quantities due to operational changes, the NS has engaged the procurement locally. At the time of this update, most procurement are done. Procurements under shelter & NFIs, WASH and Health are essentially replenishment.

In the coming weeks, the MRCS will also complete the procurement of chlorine, temporary latrine construction materials and all the process for boreholes drilling. IFRC will facilitate payments depending on the type of processes and ceiling.

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 has been using social media and official MRCS and IFRC-DREF website to communicate to stakeholders on the launch and the intervention. The communication team has been on the field to collect materials and sharing fortnightly situation updates on the operation on relevant supports. 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. Main publications so far:



- MOZAMBICAN ASYLUM SEEKERS IN DIRE SITUATION AT NYAMITHUTHU CAMP, IN NEED OF URGENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE - MRCS | Malawi Red Cross Society

Also shared on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19E8dT8JZC/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

- “@MalawiRedCross with financial support from @IFRC_DREF conducted an assessment exercise at Nyamithuthu Camp from Thursday to evaluate the urgent humanitarian needs of Mozambican Asylum seekers who remain in the camp after refusing repatriation due to security concerns back home.” <https://x.com/MalawiRedCross/status/1906032208713756769>



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRMW022 - Malawi Red cross Society Mozambique Asylum Seekers Response in Nsanje District

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	353,951
Shelter and Basic Household Items	117,994
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	33,890
Health	21,776
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	146,752
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	4,888
Education	0
Migration	4,209
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	4,345
Community Engagement and Accountability	20,097
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	93,686
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	16,267
National Society Strengthening	77,418
TOTAL BUDGET	447,637

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

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