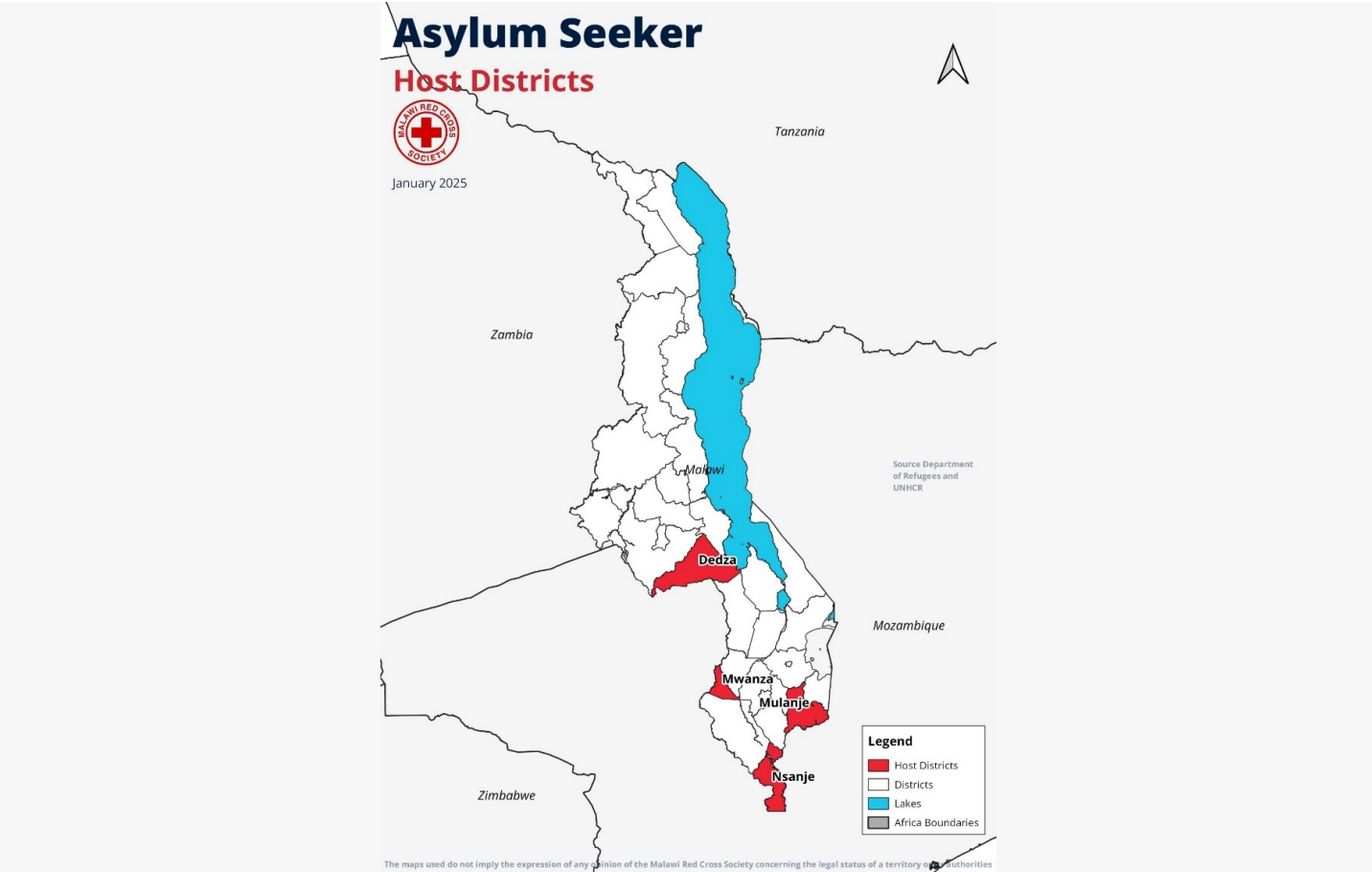




Appeal: MDRMW022	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 499,942	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Population Movement
Glide Number: -	People at Risk: 7,456 people	People Targeted: 14,877 people	
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 11-02-2025	New Operational End Date: 30-09-2025	Total Operating Timeframe: 7 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 11-02-2025		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 31-11-2025	
Additional Allocation Requested: -		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 Dzaleka 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 7076 registered Mozambicans was finalized on 13th March. From 13th March to 30th April, the Malawi Government has been undertaking different activities to ensure closure of the camp.

Although a good number of the Asylum Seekers have left, there were some who were 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 traumatized 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. 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



As of 26 April 2025, a total of 336 households, comprising 671 individuals, were officially re-registered as Mozambican asylum seekers remaining in the Nyamithuthu camp. This was out of a larger population of over 1,000 individuals residing in the camp. On 27 April, the Malawi Department for Refugees (DfR) conducted a Refugee Status Determination (RSD) exercise to assess who among the asylum seekers met the criteria to be granted refugee status. The majority of applicants claimed they had fled Mozambique due to post-election violence that followed the 9 October 2024 presidential elections.

Of the 268 individuals targeted for interviews, 221 appeared and underwent the process. However, the claims presented during the RSD interviews were found to be lacking credibility. Most individuals were unable to provide convincing facts regarding their place of origin or respond coherently to general questions about their experiences. Consequently, all 221 individuals were recommended for denial of refugee status. The government concluded that these remaining asylum seekers no longer qualified as persons of concern needing protection.

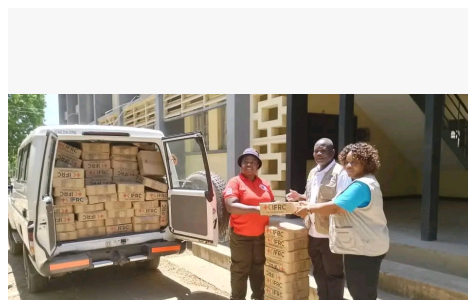
As a result, the Nyamithuthu camp was officially closed by the Malawi Government on 30 April 2025. In response to the closure and the impact the asylum seekers had on surrounding communities, the Malawi Red Cross Society, with support from the IFRC Harare Cluster, submitted an operations update in May 2025. This update requested approval for additional support activities geared toward rehabilitating host communities, specifically through WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) initiatives in schools and communities.

Following the approval of these activities, a detailed WASH assessment was conducted between 20 and 25 June. The findings showed that important sanitation activities such as the solarization of water systems, desludging, and latrine maintenance could not be completed before the official end date of the DREF operation in August 2025. This highlighted a clear gap between planned interventions and their feasible implementation timeline.

The arrival and temporary settlement of asylum seekers at Nyamithuthu Camp placed significant strain on host communities and public infrastructure. The host villages lacked the capacity to provide essential health services such as First Aid and Mental Health support, as well as adequate public awareness on epidemic prevention, which increased vulnerability to potential health crises. The camp and surrounding areas suffered from a critical lack of reliable water sources, with asylum seekers relying heavily on boreholes drilled in host communities for drinking water. These boreholes were later damaged pipes, rods, and pedestals destroyed or filled with mud when tensions escalated following the announcement that none of the asylum seekers qualified for refugee status or further government protection. In the education sector, children of asylum seekers were integrated into three nearby schools, and due to overcrowding, latrine facilities were severely overused. Two of the schools now face delapidated and filled up latrines in urgent need of rehabilitation. Despite repeated requests from the Department for Refugees to humanitarian actors, sanitation concerns in schools went unaddressed due to competing priorities. As humanitarian actors exit the camp, urgent action is required to remedy these impacts and prevent the risk of cholera outbreaks, to which the area is especially prone.



MRCS volunteers supporting Food Distribution



Handover of dignity kits to the district



DG-ECHO Field Visit to Nsanje District Council 16.7.25

Scope and Scale

The displacement crisis following the October 2024 presidential elections in Mozambique led to the arrival of 7,456 asylum seekers across several districts in Malawi, with Nyamithuthu Camp experiencing the highest concentration. Driven by political instability and protection-related concerns, many asylum seekers reported experiences of violence, trauma, and loss of property. Between February and April 2025, a voluntary repatriation exercise, jointly undertaken by the governments of Malawi and Mozambique, successfully returned 7,076 individuals. Despite logistical challenges, including high water levels on the Shire River and uncertainty surrounding reception arrangements, the operation was completed. However, some returnees soon came back to Malawi citing inadequate shelter and essential services upon arrival in Mozambique.

During and after the repatriation process, the remaining asylum seekers at Nyamithuthu Camp placed immense pressure on nearby villages and public systems. Host communities lacked the capacity to respond effectively to health-related needs, especially in First Aid and Mental Health support. Risk communication and understanding of epidemic risks were limited, leaving these communities vulnerable in an area known for recurrent cholera outbreaks. The overreliance on local boreholes by asylum seekers led to their eventual damage pipes, rods, and pedestals were destroyed or buried in mud after tensions escalated following the denial of refugee status. These actions rendered critical water sources unusable for surrounding residents.

Schools near the camp were equally strained, as asylum seeker children were integrated into local classrooms. The influx led to overcrowding and overuse of sanitation facilities, with latrines in two of the three schools becoming filled and severely degraded. Despite consistent appeals from the Department for Refugees, humanitarian actors were unable to respond to sanitation challenges due to competing operational priorities. Now, with all humanitarian support withdrawn and the camp officially closed, urgent action is needed to rehabilitate essential school infrastructure, restore safe water systems, and strengthen community health capacity. These measures are critical to preventing disease outbreaks and ensuring long-term resilience especially as Nyamithuthu has historically served as a host site during recurring displacement waves from Mozambique.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Field Report	https://malawiredcross-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/stembo_redcross_mw/EZjQgci4tRBGgOw84GR4gkQBg9rMCh52eixsBiMYM9B_Dg?e=5aw3CQ
2. Appeal to support Nyamithuthu	https://malawiredcross-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/stembo_redcross_mw/ESQIcj6dMwpKj6b43h0KS7MBzvfB4xCP6KRuCOlvikRe9w?e=6ftSu

Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	No
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:

The Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) requests a one-month no-cost extension to complete its ongoing interventions following the closure of Nyamithuthu Camp. Following the February 2025 repatriation initiative led by the governments of Malawi and Mozambique, the number of asylum seekers in Nyamithuthu Camp fell sharply, with only 336 households remaining by March. After the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process concluded in late April, finding that none qualified for refugee status, the government officially closed the camp on 30 April 2025. MRCS, which had supported the asylum seekers throughout their stay, has since shifted its focus to host communities, addressing WASH infrastructure damage in schools and villages caused by overcrowding. Current efforts prioritize restoring water systems, rehabilitating school latrines, and building local capacity to strengthen resilience and preparedness for future displacement.



Implementation timelines were affected by these developments, requiring MRCS to revise its operational plan to focus on host communities, including new assessments, activity redesign, and procurement adjustments resulting in delays to certain interventions :

- Shift in operational focus: Post-closure, MRCS expanded support to host communities, introducing new activities such as borehole drilling/solarization, school latrine rehabilitation, and hygiene kit distributions, requiring additional planning and mobilization time.
- Access constraints: Poor road conditions, worsened by seasonal rains, hindered timely delivery of assistance.
- Logistical and environmental challenges: Flooding and high water levels delayed repatriation logistics; borehole damage after RSD results disrupted water supply; overcrowded schools increased cholera risk, prompting urgent WASH interventions.
- Procurement and cost constraints: Limited local availability and import procedures for certain NFI and shelter items, combined with high inflation, slowed procurement.
- Volunteer training needs: Additional volunteers from host communities required training in MHPSS, First Aid, epidemic control, and hygiene promotion; trainings resumed only after the repatriation phase.

Below activities are summarized below by sector, divided into completed interventions and ongoing/planned actions.

Completed Interventions

1. Repatriation

- Supported DfR and Nsanje District Council in safe and dignified self-repatriation and community integration.
- Supported verification and refugee status registration processes.

2. Shelter & NFIs

- Distributed shelter materials and NFIs to 1,336 households.
- Provided communal tents for temporary use, including as ECD centres.

3. Health

- Trained volunteers in hygiene promotion, epidemic control, first aid, and MHPS.
 - Distributed hygiene kits, insecticide-treated mosquito nets, and sanitation items to households.
- Conducted hygiene and sanitation awareness campaigns.

4. WASH

- Installed and rehabilitated toilets.
- Distributed buckets, soap, and other hygiene materials.

5. Livelihoods / Multipurpose Cash

- Food distribution (50kg maize per household) to 3,500 households (one-off).
- Cash distribution:

MK 25,000 per household as complementary food cash (3,500 households).

MK 70,000 per household as unconditional cash for basic needs (336 households).

6. Restoring Family Links (RFL)

- Provided communication access to reconnect separated families and offered psychosocial care.
- Trained volunteers and stakeholders on RFL and supported foster parents with NFIs.

7. Community Engagement & Protection

- Conducted community meetings, awareness sessions on GBV risks, and promoted use of energy-efficient cooking stoves.
- Built capacity of volunteers, government stakeholders, and community members through targeted trainings.

Ongoing / Planned Actions

1. WASH

- Drill three boreholes (one with solarization).
- Install two 10,000-litre water tanks.
- Rehabilitate school latrines and install school handwashing facilities.
- Continue hygiene promotion in schools and host communities.

2. Health

- Continue volunteer trainings in MHPS, first aid, and epidemic control.

3. Livelihoods

- Ongoing cash support to households as per operational plan.

4. RFL, CEA & PGI

- Maintain RFL services and awareness campaigns.
- Continue community engagement activities and PGI measures in host communities.



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 12 March 2025, a total of 336 households (671 people) were residing in Nyamithuthu Camp and received a range of non-food items (NFIs) borrowed from the National Society's warehouse. These included blankets, sleeping mats, cooking utensils, and solar lanterns to support dignity and survival, as many asylum seekers had no basic essentials. Communal items such as tents, public floodlights, and kitchen sets, which were distributed earlier in the response, are scheduled for replenishment.

However, following the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process conducted in April, none of the remaining households met the criteria for relocation, and Nyamithuthu Camp was officially closed on 30 April 2025. As such, there is no longer a need for shelter-related support under activities targeting the host communities. The operational focus has now shifted to reinforcing host community systems particularly school and WASH infrastructure that were strained during the asylum seekers' stay.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS), with support from IFRC, provided cash transfers of MK70,000.00 per household to 336 asylum seeker households residing at Nyamithuthu Camp. These cash grants enabled the recipients to meet their immediate household needs and purchase essential food supplies including maize flour, CSB flour for children under five, salt, sugar, milk, and dried fish contributing to household food security and helping prevent hunger-related health complications. Given the disruption to their livelihoods during displacement, the cash support also offered temporary relief to stabilize their living conditions within the camp. At that time, there was a recognized need for additional support to ensure dignity and access to basic services. However, following the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process conducted by the Department for Refugees, none of the remaining households qualified for refugee status, and Nyamithuthu Camp was officially closed on 30 April 2025. All 336 households have since departed. With the camp now closed, the current phase of operations has shifted focus entirely to host communities that were impacted by the presence of the asylum seekers. As a result, livelihood support is no longer required or planned for asylum seekers, and all ongoing activities are designed to benefit host populations.



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.

MRCS volunteers joined Ministry of Health personnel in assessment and treatment of children with minor illness. Training of 50 volunteers on Sanitation and Hygiene promotion, Volunteers conducted awareness campaigns on sanitation and hygiene, MRCS volunteers joined Ministry of Health personnel in assessment and treatment of children with minor illness. Training of 50 volunteers on Sanitation and Hygiene promotion, Volunteers conducted awareness campaigns on sanitation and hygiene, Distribution of hygiene and sanitation kits-1336hhs, Distribution of insecticide treated mosquito nets-1336hhs and provided communal Tents where were among others health services were being provided from.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

MRCS supported the pitching of 18 latrines which are currently being used. Supported installation of Toilets including digging of the pits through red cross volunteers, Distributed both bath and laundry soap: 3 and 5 tablets per household respectively for 1336 households, Distributed 20 litres buckets with taps: 2 per household to 1336 households, Distributed 20 litres bucket with tap: 2 per household to 1336 households, Provided 500 x 20 – litre buckets for communal use at the camp while volunteers continuously disseminated health and hygiene promotion messages. Furthermore, MRCS provided 1,200 hygiene kits.

Before its closure, Nyamithuthu Camp continued to face serious hygiene challenges, despite hosting only 336 remaining asylum seeker households. The limited access to hygiene materials and infrastructure made it difficult for residents to maintain basic cleanliness. This was especially devastating for women and adolescent girls, whose menstrual hygiene management (MHM) was compromised by a lack of privacy, inadequate disposal facilities, and insufficient hygiene supplies. Many were forced to manage their periods under unsafe and undignified conditions.

Drinking water access further deteriorated when asylum seekers began using boreholes originally drilled for host communities. Tensions rose dramatically after the government communicated that none of the remaining asylum seekers qualified for refugee status or further protection. In response, violent protests broke out, damaging borehole infrastructure including pipes, rods, and pedestals which were filled with mud and rendered nonfunctional. This created widespread disruption in water supply for both asylum seekers and local residents.

In terms of education, children from the camp were enrolled in three surrounding schools. However, two of the schools were left with severely dilapidated sanitation facilities. Toilets required urgent rehabilitation, and the Department for Refugees had previously appealed to humanitarian actors for support requests that went unmet due to competing priorities. As humanitarian partners prepared to exit the camp, this sanitation crisis remained unresolved, raising the risk of a potential cholera outbreak, especially in a region known to be prone to such diseases. Girls were particularly affected, with menstrual exchange rooms lost in all the schools, increasing discomfort and absenteeism.

To counter these mounting issues, the Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) launched a comprehensive support initiative. MRCS volunteers actively promoted hygiene practices, reaching over 5,300 individuals with key messages, distributing more than 1,170 buckets and soap, and supporting chlorination at the household level. However, supplies remained limited, and there was a continued need for essential items like soap, disinfectants, and menstrual hygiene products which MRCS provided for and of which are set to be replenished.

Building on the previous support, the current action plan includes drilling three new boreholes and solarizing one borehole at a school (revised from two). Two 10,000-litre water tanks will be installed to help improve water access. In the education sector, six school latrines will be rehabilitated, and sixteen toilets will be desludged. Eight handwashing facilities will be set up across schools, and hygiene promotion will be extended not only within the schools but also throughout host communities to bridge existing gaps.



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

Although Nyamithuthu Camp has now officially closed, environmental degradation remains a pressing concern. During its operation, asylum seekers relied heavily on wood fuel for cooking, leading to indiscriminate tree cutting both within the camp and in surrounding host communities. This practice has contributed to deforestation, posing long-term ecological risks such as soil erosion and biodiversity loss. Despite the reduction in camp residents, the environmental impact is already evident, and the risk of continued tree depletion persists.

To address this, the Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) is committed to conducting environmental awareness sessions targeting host communities. These sessions aim to promote sustainable practices and encourage environmentally friendly adaptation measures. MRCS is working closely with local structures to support these efforts.

While the current humanitarian response does not directly focus on afforestation, host communities continue to advocate for support



from various organizations to restore degraded areas. MRCS remains actively engaged with partners to mobilize resources and promote reforestation initiatives, recognizing the importance of preserving the natural environment in the aftermath of displacement.



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 (NFIs): 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. Chlorine 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 drinking 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 for this response consists primarily of asylum seekers from Mozambique who entered Malawi through various border points, including Nsanje, Dedza, Mwanza, and Mulanje. These individuals have been granted asylum seeker status through the collaborative efforts of the Department for Refugees (DfR) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which oversees the registration process. As such, all support will be directed to those who have been formally registered and possess identification documents issued by the DfR. In addition to the asylum seekers, the response also targets 1,500 households from the host communities surrounding the former camp site. These communities played a critical role in hosting the displaced populations during the crisis and have experienced both environmental and social pressures as a result. Further focus is placed on schools located within the affected host communities. These institutions suffered infrastructural strain and sanitation-related challenges due to population pressures stemming from the asylum seekers' presence. Selection of schools is based on factors such as documented damage, lack of adequate WASH facilities, and proximity to the former camp site. Targeted schools and communities will benefit from borehole drilling, latrine rehabilitation, desludging of existing toilets, handwashing station setup, and hygiene promotion efforts aimed at improving the health environment for students and staff.

Moreover, this selection strategy incorporates a forward-looking approach that recognizes the area's potential to host future asylum seekers. By enhancing WASH infrastructure and hygiene practices now, the response builds resilience and readiness for possible future displacement scenarios. This not only protects the health and dignity of current residents but also strengthens systems that may be called upon in future emergencies.

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

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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# 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

Progress Towards Outcome

The Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) has successfully implemented its shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) support program, reaching a total of 7,456 individuals with shelter and environmental management awareness. As part of the intervention, 10 communal tents were provided and used as waiting areas for 2,567 asylum seekers. In addition, MRCS volunteers supported the pitching of 503 family tents across all camps, ensuring every asylum seeker received shelter and essential awareness information.

During the reporting period, distributions of NFIs were temporarily paused to allow for the repatriation process. Nevertheless, several critical activities were completed, including clearing of camp areas, installation of five communal multipurpose tents, support for 503 family tents, distribution of 356 kitchen sets, 672 blankets, and 336 sleeping mats. These items are being replenished through ongoing procurement to ensure sustainability of support.

Following the conclusion of repatriation, MRCS began preparations to resume distributions. The plan was revised to reach 336 households instead of the initial target of 2,500. Each of the 336 households received two sleeping mats, two blankets, one solar lamp, and one kitchen set.

To support the distribution process, 15 National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members were deployed. Visibility and protection for responders were ensured through the purchase of 100 bibs, 100 shirts, and 300 bush jackets for the NDRTs. A Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) activity is scheduled to take place two weeks after the final distribution to gather feedback and assess the impact of the intervention.

All planned shelter and NFI support activities have now been completed successfully, demonstrating MRCS's commitment to humanitarian service and support for affected populations.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 93,395

Targeted Persons: 4,000

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

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

The Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) has successfully implemented all planned activities under its cash and food assistance intervention, with no pending tasks remaining during the requested no-cost extension period. MRCS began by conducting two cash awareness sessions within the camp, engaging key stakeholders to foster understanding of its cash transfer modalities and processes. Additionally, MRCS held coordination meetings with the financial service provider to finalize and operationalize the distribution strategy. A total of 2,000 households were registered for potential support and were duly informed when distributions were temporarily suspended to facilitate the repatriation process.

Following the completion of repatriation, MRCS resumed its activities and carried out a MK70,000 one-off cash distribution to 336 remaining households which was aligned with the national Minimum Expenditure Basket. This targeted support ensured continued access to essential goods and services for the most vulnerable individuals' post-repatriation.



Budget: CHF 22,812
Targeted Persons: 14,877
Targeted Male: -
Targeted Female: -

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

Prior to the closure of Nyamithuthu Camp, MRCS engaged 100 volunteers who conducted door-to-door hygiene promotion sessions, reaching 3,891 individuals. These volunteers were also instrumental in constructing 18 latrines and digging sanitation pits to improve living conditions in the camp. Each of the 336 asylum seeker households received hygiene support, including three bath soap tablets, five laundry soap tablets, two 20-liter buckets with taps, and access to 500 communal buckets for general use. Additionally, MRCS distributed 2,172 hygiene kits and 672 mosquito nets to reduce health risks from waterborne diseases and malaria. Looking ahead, MRCS plans to extend outreach to a total of 14,877 individuals, comprising 336 asylum seeker households and 1,500 host community households. To support this expansion, MRCS will maintain the 100 volunteers already trained and recruit an additional 50 from the host communities. These volunteers will undergo training in First Aid, Mental Health, Epidemic Control and Prevention, and Hygiene and Sanitation Promotion. Outreach efforts will also include awareness-raising activities in host communities and schools as a preparedness measure, anticipating potential future asylum situations.

Moreover, MRCS worked closely with the Ministry of Health to provide district level support in coordination and logistics, enhancing the delivery of health services. As part of replenishment efforts, 667 mosquito nets will be procured. These pending activities are designed to strengthen community resilience, build local capacity, and ensure effective health support systems are in place for both current and future humanitarian responses.



Budget: CHF 66,142
Targeted Persons: 14,877
Targeted Male: -
Targeted Female: -

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 successfully implemented a range of WASH interventions in Nyamithuthu Camp prior and after the repatriation process, responding to critical needs among displaced populations. Volunteers were actively present on the ground, conducting hygiene promotion campaigns and delivering essential services where no other actor was addressing the increasing demand. From its prepositioned stock, MRCS distributed 1,500 dignity kits to vulnerable individuals, alleviating immediate gaps in support. Furthermore, MRCS supported the construction of 18 latrines to improve sanitation facilities within the camp. Volunteers conducted widespread awareness sessions and reached 5,320 people with vital messages promoting safe water, sanitation, and hygiene practices. These efforts included household-level chlorination, bucket and soap distribution, and continued reinforcement of disease prevention behaviors. A total of 1,170 buckets and soap were distributed to households, complementing the initial 500 buckets (20L each) provided earlier in the operation. These will be replenished by the operation.

A comprehensive Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) assessment was conducted to better understand ongoing needs, guiding informed planning and response. Furthermore, procurement is underway for 2,172 dignity kits to restore depleted inventory and ensure that essential menstrual hygiene and sanitation items remain accessible to affected populations.

These completed and ongoing WASH interventions reaffirm MRCS's commitment to providing timely, targeted, and inclusive humanitarian support in Nyamithuthu Camp and surrounding communities.

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Pending activities and revisions

- Procurement of 03 Bathing soap, 05 Laundry soap, 02 Dignity kits (2 per hhs for 336 hhs + 1500 for replenishment).
- Procurement of 10 buckets of Chlorine (25L)
- Conduct school and community-based hygiene and sanitation promotion activities
- Drilling of 3 Borehole including trainings of water point committees
- Installation of 8 permanent hand washing facilities in 2 schools (4 per schools)
- Operational Support to WASH Activities
- Solarization of 1 school boreholes including installation of 2 X 10,000 litres tanks and 5 taps per borehole
- Desludging of 16 latrines in Primary Schools
- Rehabilitation of 6 school latrines



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 4,888

Targeted Persons: 7,456

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

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

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

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

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

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

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 5672 in all the camps in Nsanje.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 16,838

Targeted Persons: 7,456

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

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.
- 30 volunteers were trained in RCCE from the host community



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 16,267

Targeted Persons: 7,456

Targeted Male: -



Targeted Female: -

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.
- The cluster has supported two monitoring visits by the PMER team and operations team.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 79,897

Targeted Persons: 20

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

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.

Since approval of Operational update one in June, MRCS has fast-tracked implementation of activities that had delayed due to the asylum seekers process of repatriation. 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.

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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[Click here for the reference](#)

