



PLSO MOZAMBIQUE

Weekly Update

Reporting Period:
01 – 07 November 2024



We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the Implementing Partners who were exceptionally active in our WhatsApp Groups this week. Your efforts in sharing safety and security information have played a vital role in keeping our community and colleagues safe. Your contributions have significantly enriched this week's report, and we truly appreciate your commitment and collaboration.

Elections Related Developments

Over the past week, protests organized by opposition candidate Venâncio Mondlane have escalated significantly, resulting in widespread unrest across multiple provinces particularly Maputo and Nampula. What initially began as demonstrations against the government has turned violent, with reports of hundreds of injuries, arrests, and at least 20 fatalities. Clashes between security forces and protesters have intensified, leading to heightened tensions throughout the country. The unrest underscores growing political divisions and dissatisfaction with the current leadership.

Government Response: The Mozambican government has condemned the protests, calling them "violent uprisings" and accusing Mondlane and his supporters of attempting to destabilize the country. Security forces have been deployed in large numbers to disperse crowds and restore order, but this has only fueled further tensions.

Economic Impact: The closure of the Mozambique-South Africa border has resulted in substantial financial losses. Daily cross-border trade has been halted, affecting businesses that rely on the smooth transit of goods between the two countries. Affected sectors include agriculture, retail, and manufacturing, with supply chains disrupted and costs for businesses significantly increased.

The border is a major route for South African exports to Mozambique and other Southern African Development Community (SADC) nations, and vice versa. The loss of this key trade link has not only affected bilateral trade but also had a ripple effect on the regional economy, disrupting the flow of goods throughout the Southern Africa region.

Prolonged protests could further hurt Mozambique's economy, which is already vulnerable due to a combination of political instability, inflation, and a reliance on external debt.

Humanitarian impact: There are concerns about the humanitarian impact of the unrest, particularly in rural and conflict-prone areas. Food insecurity, displacement, and lack of access to basic services may worsen if violence and instability continue. Access to basic services such as healthcare and education could deteriorate further, particularly in rural regions where local governments and services are already stretched thin.

International Reactions: The international community has expressed concern over the increasing violence in Mozambique. Human rights organizations have called for restraint from both the government and protesters, urging all sides to prioritize dialogue and peaceful resolution. The United Nations and several Western nations have also expressed concern about the deteriorating political situation.

Predictions for the Coming Week

Likely Continuation of Violent Clashes: Protests and clashes are expected to persist, with the potential for further escalation. The government's heavy-handed response, including the use of security forces, could provoke more resistance from protesters, especially in key urban centres like Maputo and Nampula.

Confrontations between protesters and security forces could intensify, particularly if the authorities continue to deploy live ammunition or other aggressive tactics. Given the high number of casualties and arrests in the past week, the risk of additional fatalities remains elevated.

Increased Government Crackdown: Security forces are likely to maintain a strong presence in protest hotspots, particularly if the government views the unrest as a threat to national stability.

Targeted arrests and further restrictions on freedom of assembly may be implemented to prevent new demonstrations from gaining traction, though this could heighten tensions and lead to more violent confrontations.

Political Deadlock and Limited Dialogue: Despite growing international pressure, it is unlikely that meaningful negotiations between the government and opposition will occur within the next week, given the high level of distrust and the government's ongoing accusations of destabilization.

The opposition's calls for political reform and greater government accountability may continue to be met with resistance, further prolonging the standoff and potentially deepening political divisions.

International Intervention or Diplomacy: International pressure from the United Nations, human rights organizations, and Western governments could mount in response to the violence. There may be calls for dialogue and peaceful resolution, but without significant shifts from both sides, international actors may find it difficult to broker a ceasefire or peace talks in the short term. However, external diplomatic efforts** to de-escalate tensions could gain momentum if the situation worsens, especially if there is an increase in casualties or large-scale displacement.

Recommendations

- **Prepare for Increased Security Risks:** Organizations should reinforce safety protocols, restrict non-essential movements, and ensure secure communication for personnel in protest areas.
- **Economic and Supply Chain Preparations:** Given the potential for ongoing disruption, secure necessary supplies, including food, fuel, and medical essentials, especially for those in protest-prone areas.
- **Enhanced Monitoring of Cabo Delgado:** Given the likelihood of insurgent attacks in vulnerable areas, monitor developments closely to adjust security measures for those on the ground.

Conclusion

The coming week in Mozambique is likely to see continued unrest, with the potential for further violence, economic disruption, and humanitarian challenges. Without substantial movement toward dialogue or a political resolution, the situation remains highly volatile, and the risk of escalation remains high.



Police carrying an injured child.

Incidents Summary

Political Protests and Elections

Maputo Province

- **November 1:** Protesters reported to have gathered in different areas, preventing easy circulation of transport. Protesters also barricaded sections of the EN4 road.
- **November 2:** PRM UIR security forces opened fire on protesters during a peaceful march by the Islamic community.
- **November 2:** Hundreds of protesters held a protest march in across Maputo city. Police lobbed tear to disperse them. At least one protester was wounded.
- **November 4:** Protesters blocked the road near the toll at Ressano Garcia Border and forced drivers to park their vehicles.
- **November 4:** The police repelled protesters who demonstrated along the bridge and burned cars in Machava neighborhood, Matola.
- **November 4:** Hundreds of protesters were prevented by the police from continuing their march near the Universidade Eduardo Mondlane UEM campus on Av. Julius Nyerere.
- **November 4:** A child was shot dead by the police in the Magoanine neighborhood, Maputo city.
- **November 4:** The police launched tear gas at a group of young people who were planning to hold a protest march.

- **November 4:** The police reportedly shot a woman and her son in the Chamanculo neighborhood.
- **November 4:** Protesters in the Patrice Lumumba neighborhood set fire to a telecommunications antenna belonging to Movitel.
- **November 4:** Protesters barricaded the N1 Road, preventing the circulation of transport, in Marracuene.
- **November 5:** Violent protests were reported at the Ressano Garcia border crossing, where police reportedly fired on and wounded a protester.
- **November 5:** Several neighborhoods throughout the capital, apartment residents carried out "pots and pans" protests.
- **November 5:** In Alto Mae, protesters set up barricades and clashed with police, who fired tear gas to disperse demonstrators.
- **November 5:** Protesters attacked an ambulance from Maputo Central Hospital in the Casa Branca area, breaking its windows. The driver was able to escape unharmed.
- **November 5:** Demonstrators attacked a statue of President Nyusi, removing the head of the statue and parading it through neighborhoods.
- **November 5:** Protesters set fire to the administrative building in the Machava kilometer 15 neighborhood.
- **November 5:** Schools continue to operate irregularly, due to the chaos in the country, following demonstrations called by presidential candidate Venâncio Mondlane.
- **November 5:** The medical community of Mozambique carried out a march in defense of health and human rights.
- **November 5:** Three Mozambican civil society organizations submitted on November 5th an injunction against telecommunications operators.
- **November 5:** Immigration official shot a young man during protests, they responded by burning his residence.
- **November 5:** OAM condemned the internet restrictions as a violation of fundamental rights and civil liberties.
- **November 6:** More than thirty Mozambican police officers have taken refuge with South African border security at the Lebombo Border Post.
- **November 6:** Protesters vandalized and looted supermarket trucks in Kilometer 4 area, Maputo.
- **November 6:** Five police officers invaded a house in the Singathela neighborhood in Matola and shot a man. The victim was taken to the hospital.
- **November 6:** Angry protesters in Ressano Garcia destroyed several migration services properties, including cars and offices.
- **November 6:** A group of protesters at the end of the day yesterday set up barricades and set fire to tires on Avenida Julius Nyerere in the Xiquelene area in the city of Maputo.
- **November 6:** Reports indicate that on the night of November 6th police officers in the Albazine area of the city of Maputo killed a young man who was returning to his home.
- **November 6:** Apartment residents in Maputo city carried out a third day of "pots and pans" protests.
- **November 6:** Protesters set fire to the mobile phone operator's antenna, totaling two cases in less than a week in Matola.
- **November 6:** Sources reported that protesters in the Xinavane district, took to the streets to join the demonstrations called by Venancio Mondlane. No incidents reported.
- **November 7:** Avenida Eduardo Mondlane, Military blocked road, preventing protesters from reaching Avenida Julius Nyerere.
- **November 7:** Police shot at protesters in Avenida de Maguiguana, causing dispersal.
- **November 7:** In Avenida Joaquim Chissano, the Police shot and injured a 16-year-old girl; and a young man was arrested.

- **November 7:** Praça do Combatentes, Bairro Jardim, and Avenida Vladimir Lenine saw large protests; police deployed, with shots and tear gas fired in some areas.
- **November 7:** In Polana Caniço and Luís Cabral neighborhoods, protesters clashed with police; tear gas and stones thrown, with some arbitrary detentions reported.
- **November 7:** Protesters blocked Avenidas Eduardo Mondlane, Joaquim Chissano, Vladimir Lenine, and Julius Nyerere; tire fires caused traffic disruptions. Protestors were seen running through residential neighborhoods in an attempt to flee teargas.
- **November 7:** Stores on Avenida Acordos de Lusaka, including Ok Mobilias, looted and vandalized.
- **November 7:** Gunman, Armed individuals with no uniform, possibly affiliated with police, seen targeting protesters with live ammunition.
- **November 7:** Police Intensity, high levels of force reported, with ongoing tear gas and firing along major routes.
- **November 7:** Tensions escalated as protesters attempted to block roads, vandalize KM4 customs area, and raid Kudumba offices.
- **November 7:** Frelimo links demonstrations with coup d'état and external interests.
- **November 7:** Amnesty International calls for an end to violent repression.
- **November 7:** Protesters unsuccessfully force entry into the city of Maputo.

Inhambane Province:

- **November 6:** Protesters on the morning of 6 November barricaded the N1 road in the Inharrime district, Inhambane province and in response the police fired shots and killed a protester.
- **November 7:** City of Maxixe, the police blocked march plans by a group of protesters.

Gaza Province

- **November 6:** Three young people, allegedly members of the PODEMOS party, were "retained" in Macia. They would have been on their way to Maputo for the march called by candidate Venâncio Mondlane.
- **November 7:** Arrests reported in Xai - Xai, with a young man detained for participation in protests.

Sofala Province

- **November 6:** Police in the city of Beira block roads to stop groups of protesters who intended to march.

Manica Province

- **November 4:** One dead, two PRM officers injured, and the destruction of the Police Commander's official vehicle in Sussundenga.

Tete Province

- **November 4:** Children reported to have run away from school due to demonstrations in Tete city
- **November 7:** Protesters marched against election results; police used tear gas to disperse crowds.

Zambezia Province

- **November 4:** Opposition parties held a peaceful march in Quelimane. The police in the area reportedly showed no signs of violence.

Nampula Province

- **November 1:** Sources reported that several people suffered varying injuries after police fired live bullets at protesters.
- **November 2:** Reports indicate that over 28 protesters were shot, resulting in 7 deaths, 3 in the City of Nampula and 4 in Namialo.
- **November 2:** At least 2 people were wounded after they were hit by bullets fired by the police during protests in the vicinity of Waresta market in Nampula city.
- **November 2:** Youthful protesters armed with stones occupied a road in Namialo town.
- **November 4:** The PODEMOS party, reported the kidnapping and murder of a district committee member in Mogovolas.
- **November 7:** Protests against election results in Muhala Expansão; one arrest.
- **November 7:** Nampula-Angoche Road: Barricades and fires caused transportation disruptions.

Cabo Delgado Province

- **November 7:** In Pemba, a peaceful march held with no reported violence.

National

- **November 4:** The medical community of Mozambique, including doctors, other health professionals and students in the medical field, called for a march in defense of health and human rights on Tuesday, Nov 5
- **November 6:** As of November 6th, CDD reported that around 24 Mozambican citizens had been killed during the ongoing demonstrations in the country since October 21st.

General

- **November 2:** The Minister of Interior, announced that the Director General of Mozambican State Information and Security Service (SISE), died in a road in Mapai District of Gaza province.
- **November 4:** A total internet shutdown was reported across Mozambique in the early hours
- **November 4:** At least nine people, including 3 children, lost their lives in a road accident that occurred in the Sussundenga district, Manica province.



Young person holding a poster 'Revolution now, the time has come'.

Conflict in the North

- **November 6:** Insurgent movement cause panic in Nangade district.

Insurgent Activity

Cabo Delgado continues to face significant insurgent threats, particularly in the districts of Macomia, Muidumbe, Nangade and Mocimboa da Praia. Key incidents during this period include, Movements, looting, and beheadings. Insurgent tactics: Focus on rural areas with ambushes and sporadic attacks, further undermining state control and hindering economic recovery efforts.

Social Unrest

Electoral protests: Following contentious elections, protests erupted in Cabo Delgado, particularly in Pemba, Montepuez, and Chiure, led by Podemos party supporters and Venâncio Mondlane. These marches, while mostly peaceful, saw heavy police deployments to maintain control.

Potential for escalation: Continued dissatisfaction with electoral outcomes may lead to further protests, increasing the risk of violence, especially if security forces attempt to suppress demonstrations.

Displacement & Community Impact

Ongoing displacement: Insurgent violence has caused significant displacement, particularly in the districts of Macomia and Muidumbe. Residents fleeing violence, including beheadings, have placed heavy strain on humanitarian resources.

Economic disruption: The displacement is disrupting local economies and complicating the delivery of aid.

Analysis

Insurgent resilience: Despite joint efforts by Mozambican and Rwandan forces, insurgent groups remain active, primarily in rural areas. Ambushes and IED attacks on military convoys are likely to continue.

Urban instability: Protests and political unrest are escalating in urban centres like Pemba, Montepuez, and Chiure, driven by grievances over the electoral process and governance. These could lead to further social unrest in the coming weeks.

Shifting insurgent tactics: With increased military pressure in urban centres, insurgents are focusing on more vulnerable rural regions, expanding their influence while avoiding direct confrontations.

Predictions for the Coming Week

Increased insurgent attacks: Expect continued insurgent activity in rural areas, especially in districts like Mocimboa da Praia, Macomia, and Muidumbe. IED attacks on security convoys and civilian traffic are anticipated.

Security operations: Joint Mozambican and Rwandan forces are likely to increase operations around urban centres to maintain control, including more road checkpoints and movement restrictions.

Protests likely to continue: Protests linked to the electoral results will likely persist, with more demonstrations expected in Cabo Delgado, including Pemba, Chiure, and Montepuez. While many protests will be peaceful, clashes are possible, and authorities may impose curfews or restrictions.

Further displacement and humanitarian pressure: Continued insurgent attacks will likely cause more displacements, exacerbating humanitarian challenges in the region.

Communication disruptions: Government responses to protests may include internet restrictions or communication cuts, further hindering humanitarian efforts and operational coordination.

Recommendations

Adjust travel protocols: Restrict travel to secure urban areas and plan any rural operations with caution, considering the high risk of IEDs and ambushes.

Enhance humanitarian coordination: Work closely with local NGOs and government agencies to support displaced populations, ensuring flexibility in aid distribution.

Monitor insurgent activity: Maintain heightened vigilance in hotspots such as Macomia, Muidumbe, and Chiure, where insurgent activity remains intense.

Prepare for communication disruptions: Establish contingency plans for communication disruptions, including the use of satellite phones, in case of internet outages or network disruptions.

Conclusion

The situation in Cabo Delgado remains volatile, with significant security threats from both insurgent groups and political unrest. Effective security operations, measured law enforcement responses to protests, and international humanitarian support will be critical in managing the region's instability in the short term.

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