



PLSO MOZAMBIQUE

Weekly Update

**Reporting Period:
25 - 31 October 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.

Political Tensions, Economic Impact, and Security Concerns

Overview

Following Mozambique's contested October 9 elections, unrest has intensified. Key developments include:

- **Protests and Crackdowns:** Opposition-led protests, notably by Venâncio Mondlane's supporters, have led to numerous injuries, arrests, and fatalities across provinces.
- **Economic Strain:** Strikes and disrupted border trade have cost the state an estimated 4.5 billion meticaís, with significant economic losses affecting businesses and public services.
- **Insurgent Activity in Cabo Delgado:** Insurgent attacks, including ambushes and looting, have continued in Cabo Delgado, particularly impacting rural security and displacing communities.

Analysis

Social Division and Political Mobilization

Mondlane has rallied substantial public support against the government, leveraging discontent over election results. His four-phase plan aims to create sustained disruption, focusing on economic impacts through strikes and tax boycotts. The government has responded forcefully with crackdowns and internet shutdowns, showing minimal tolerance for dissent, while international criticism has had limited effect.

Escalation Toward November 7 Protest Deadline

Mondlane's push for large-scale protests aims to pressure the FRELIMO-led government by branding November 7 as a "day of liberation." This focus on economic disruption risks further strain on public services and may provoke confrontations between protesters and security forces.

Prediction (Next 7 Days)

- **Increased Protests and Security Response:** Mondlane's nationwide general strike starting October 31 will likely peak in Maputo by November 7, possibly drawing in public servants and security personnel. Authorities are expected to tighten security in urban centers, risking further clashes and potential fatalities if protests swell.
- **Economic Disruptions:** Ongoing strikes may strain essential services like healthcare and transportation. The economic boycott could lead to shortages and price hikes, particularly in urban areas, as small businesses and markets are affected.
- **Potential Insurgent Exploitation:** Insurgent groups in Cabo Delgado may capitalize on diverted security resources, potentially increasing attacks in less-secured areas, adding to the complexity of managing both rural and urban security.

- **Risk of Public Fatigue and Fragmentation:** As disruptions continue, the public, particularly those economically vulnerable, may grow fatigued, potentially weakening support for sustained protest actions.
- **Limited International Intervention:** Despite international calls for transparency and a forensic audit, government responsiveness has been minimal. Support for an audit may grow among civil society, but a significant international intervention remains unlikely.



Police during protests, Maputo City.

Incidents Summary

Maputo Province

- **October 25:** Demonstrations in Maputo, led by Venâncio Mondlane, caused widespread disruption, with many public services and schools closed or operating at reduced capacity. The protests, sparked by election results and police violence, left the streets deserted and public transport limited.
- **October 26:** Mozambique's ruling FRELIMO Party postponed a planned victory march in Maputo due to security concerns following protests against alleged electoral fraud. The internet shutdown that coincided with these events was blamed on the government, aiming to prevent the spread of news about the demonstrations.
- **October 26:** The Junta's interprovincial transport operators are calling for the cancellation of the national strike led by Venâncio Mondlane, which caused significant disruptions and losses over three days. The strike led to widespread riots, road blockages, and a halt in transport services, severely impacting both national and international carriers.
- **October 26:** Adássia Macuácuá's life changed dramatically overnight between October 18 and 19, when she survived a political assassination that claimed the lives of Elvino Dias and Paulo Guambe.

Initially mistaken for dead, Adássia is now recovering in the hospital and has become a key witness in the investigation. The incident has sparked widespread rumors and conspiracy theories, adding to the public scrutiny and pressure she faces.

- **October 26:** The Mozambican police arrested 371 people during Thursday's demonstrations called by Mondlane to protest the election results, which he claims were fraudulent. The protests led to violent clashes, with 20 people injured and significant property damage reported. Despite the government's calls for normalcy, much of Maputo and Matola remained shut down, reflecting the widespread impact of the unrest.
- **October 26:** Frelimo organized cleaning days in Maputo's Ka Mubukwana district to clear debris from recent protests and restore sanitation. First Secretary António Niquice emphasized the importance of municipal leadership in the cleanup and announced plans for regular neighborhood cleaning days and psychosocial support for affected families.
- **October 29:** A Portuguese businessman who owns an IT and electricity company was kidnapped on Avenida Armando Tivane by unknown individuals.
- **October 30:** The recent demonstrations in Maputo and other parts of Mozambique led to significant economic losses, totaling 4.5 billion meticaís, due to the disruption at the Ressano Garcia Border. These protests, sparked by demands for electoral transparency, also resulted in violence and property damage across the country.
- **October 30:** Former RENAMO guerrillas stormed the party's national headquarters to pressure leader Ossufo Momade to return to armed conflict. In response, Momade offered his resignation, acknowledging that he was the problem within the party, and the National Political Commission is now working on a transition plan to avoid further division.

Gaza Province

- **October 28:** A bus accident in Cumbana, Jangamo district, resulted in one death and four injuries, with excessive speed and rain cited as causes. The bus was traveling from the city of Maxixe to Xai-Xai.

Sofala Province

- **October 25:** Unknown individuals burned six tent rooms in the Munhava area of Beira, Sofala province. The tent rooms served as temporary classrooms

Manica Province

- **October 28:** The upcoming demonstration on 10/29/24 is legitimate, but it's crucial to ensure that no actions undermine the spirit of the Chimoio protesters. Any harmful police actions will not lead to a revolt. This warning came from the city of Chimoio.

Zambezia Province

- **October 28:** A 37-year-old man is being held by the PRM in Namarrói, for armed robbery, with five accomplices still at large. Police recovered an AKM firearm and 22 bullets from the suspect, who allegedly stole 220,000 meticaís from an economic agent's residence.

Niassa Province

- **October 26:** PODEMOS supporters held a protest against election results in Mecanhelas district. At least 5 protesters were wounded.
- **October 28:** In Mecanhelas, one person was killed and five were injured when police used live ammunition to disperse PODEMOS supporters protesting near a Frelimo celebration. The incident has heightened tensions, with PODEMOS members threatening retaliation and some Frelimo members reportedly fearing for their safety.
- **October 28:** The recent election results in Mozambique have raised concerns of fraud, with allegations that 170,000 fake votes were added to benefit Frelimo and Chapo. The discrepancies in voter turnout and ballot counts suggest manipulation, particularly in Zambézia and Inhambane provinces.

Tete Province

- **October 21:** The Malawian Consulate in Tete has issued a travel alert due to ongoing protests in Mozambique following disputed elections. The protests, led by Venâncio Mondlane and supported by the Podemos party, have caused significant disruptions and heightened tensions in major cities.

Nampula Province

- **October 27:** PODEMOS supporters set fire to the Frelimo party HQ in Chalaua administrative post of Moma district, Nampula province
- **October 28:** During a protest in Chalaua, Moma, Nampula, police reinforcements failed to contain the unrest, leading to the burning of the local command, vehicles, and homes of officials, with demonstrators seizing an abandoned AK-47 and releasing detainees.
- **October 28:** Unknown individuals set fire to around 14 houses allegedly belonging to members of the Frelimo Party in the Administrative Post of Nametoria, district of Angoche.
- **October 29:** An unspecified group of people invaded a mining company and seized 300km of precious stones in the Moma district in Nampula province.

Cabo Delgado Province

- **October 26:** During FRELIMO's victory celebration march in Pemba on October 26, 2024, First Secretary José Kalime condemned the demonstrations, urging political parties to stop exploiting protests and emphasizing that vandalism and violence are not solutions to popular frustrations.
- **October 26:** Protests in Montepue, resulted in one death and several injuries after clashes between protesters and security forces, with demonstrators erecting barricades and burning tires. The unrest, marked by acts of vandalism and roadblocks, reflects widespread dissatisfaction with the October 9 election results.
- **October 26:** Residents discovered the bodies of 3 fishermen suspected to have been beheaded by insurgents on the banks of Messalo River in Macomia District. The bodies showed signs of decapitation.
- **October 27:** The Islamic State in Mozambique claimed that its fighters ambushed joint Mozambican and Rwandan patrols near Nagulue, located north of Mucojo, in Macomia district. They also claimed to have detonated an explosive device, damaging a vehicle and killing and wounding several soldiers. This claim remains unconfirmed.
- **October 27:** A group of insurgents was reported to have attempted to enter Homba village, along the Muidumbe/Mueda border, but were repulsed from the area by local forces militia.
- **October 27:** Islamic State-affiliated media released a statement where they detailed an attack on the Christian village of Nkoe which took place on Friday, 25 October.
- **October 28:** Islamic State says that, yesterday, insurgents ambushed Mozambican & Rwandan patrols near Nagulue, Macomia district. They attacked with machine guns & rocket-propelled grenades. They also detonated an explosive device which damaged a vehicle & killed & wounded several soldiers
- **October 28:** Militants reportedly attacked Xaxaxa village, along the Meluco - Muidumbe Border.
- **October 29:** Armed insurgents looted various food products from the local population of Namigure, Macomia district. Following the deployment of the Defense and Security Forces to the area.
- **October 29:** A vehicle hit an IED along the R765 road between Chinda and Mbau, MdP district. Unconfirmed reports added that insurgents also fired shots to the vehicle, resulting in an unknown number of casualties.
- **October 30:** A group of over a hundred citizens armed with sticks and stones attempted to attack the Moma Administrator's entourage, leading to security personnel firing into the air to disperse them. This group had previously vandalized and set fire to several social infrastructures and mining company facilities in Mavuco, causing significant destruction and theft.



People waiting to vote.

National

- **October 25:** Protests in Mozambique turned violent after the announcement of election results, with police using live ammunition and tear gas, resulting in multiple fatalities. Demonstrations continue as opposition supporters contest the election outcome.
- **October 25:** The CNE confirmed Frelimo's victory in the October 9 elections, with Daniel Chapo winning over 70% of the votes, marking the largest electoral victory in Mozambique's multi-party history. Podemos, formed by Frelimo dissidents, will become the second largest political force, pushing Renamo to third place. The results, considered highly fraudulent by some, are still subject to validation by the Constitutional Council.
- **October 26:** Mozambique is intensifying restrictions on cattle movement to control foot-and-mouth disease in specific districts, while easing restrictions in others due to improved animal health. Authorities are also investigating virus strains to develop a suitable vaccine for further immunization efforts.
- **October 26:** Members and supporters of the Frelimo Party are marching today in all provincial and district capitals to thank the electorate for their victory and the election of Daniel Chapo as president. The party's spokesperson emphasized the importance of peace, condemned acts of violence, and called for unity and constructive dialogue to ensure Mozambique's progress.
- **October 26:** The Constitutional Council (CC) denied appeals from RENAMO and the Democratic Movement of Mozambique (MDM), stating these are electoral offences under district judicial courts' jurisdiction. PODEMOS's appeal was referred to the election validation phase, while the CC ordered relevant case files to be submitted to the Public Prosecutor's Office. The CC also dismissed MDM's

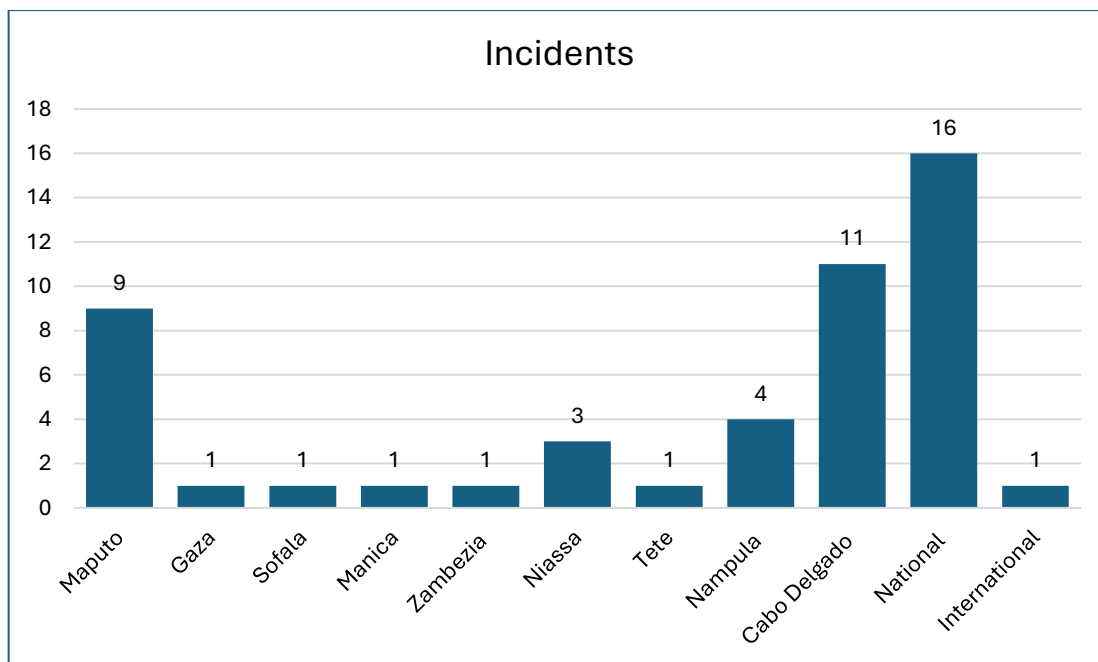
appeal regarding ballot box stuffing, emphasizing that unprotested irregularities cannot be grounds for an appeal

- **October 26:** People in Mozambique are back online after a day-long mobile internet outage from Friday afternoon to Saturday morning, with no explanation from operators or the National Communications Institute. The disruption affected various activities, causing significant inconvenience and losses for residents who rely on the internet for communication, academic work, and business transactions.
- **October 27:** For the first time in 30 years, RENAMO has lost its status as the largest opposition party in Mozambique, replaced by PODEMOS, which secured 31 seats compared to RENAMO's 20. The National Elections Commission (CNE) announced these results, highlighting PODEMOS's rise and RENAMO's significant loss of seats. Frelimo, meanwhile, consolidated its majority, potentially occupying 195 of the 250 seats, pending the Constitutional Council's final decision on the election's validity amidst claims of fraud.
- **October 27:** MISA Mozambique claims that the internet service limitations between Friday and Saturday were deliberate actions by the government to restrict information exchange during protests against the election results
- **October 27:** Frelimo, the winning party in Mozambique's general elections, has expressed openness to dialogue with Venâncio Mondlane, the presidential candidate contesting the results, but only after the Constitutional Council promulgates the results. Both President-elect Daniel Chapo and Mondlane have shown willingness to engage in discussions to address the post-electoral tensions and find a peaceful resolution.
- **October 28:** The official results of Mozambique's October 9 elections, released by the National Elections Commission (CNE), declared Frelimo and Daniel Chapo as the winners, sparking widespread protests over alleged fraud. Renamo, previously the largest opposition party, lost significant ground to PODEMOS, which will now have 31 representatives in the Assembly of the Republic. The results are pending final validation by the Constitutional Council, which may still alter the outcomes.
- **October 28:** Presidential candidate Venâncio Mondlane announced the start of new protests beginning Tuesday, promising "hard and very difficult days" ahead in response to the October 9 election results and the murders of Elvino Dias and Paulo Guambe. Mondlane, who claims victory in the elections, has called for further demonstrations and demanded transparency and compensation for those affected by the recent violence.
- **October 28:** The Mozambican Constitutional Council (CC) is currently addressing disputes from the October 9 general elections before validating the results, a process expected to take 24 days. The National Electoral Council (CNE) announced Daniel Chapo's victory with 70.67% of the votes, but opposition candidates do not recognize the results, leading to protests. The CC's validation will determine the timeline for the new parliament's first session, which must occur within 20 days of the official results proclamation.
- **October 28:** Samuel Simango argues that electoral issues must be resolved before any dialogue between candidates Venâncio Mondlane and Daniel Chapo, emphasizing that only the current President Nyusi, can discuss state matters. Fernando Lima criticizes the CNE's results, claiming they do not reflect the popular will and expressing scepticism about the Constitutional Council's role.

- **October 29:** PODEMOS presidential candidate Venancio Mondlane called for a third phase of demonstrations, calling supporters from November 31 to march to Maputo City which would culminate in a "final victory" on November 07.
- **October 30:** Between October 18 and 26, demonstrations in Mozambique led to 10 deaths and 73 gunshot injuries, primarily in Maputo. The Mozambican Medical Association emphasized the need for the government and police to prioritize human life and urged demonstrators to avoid violence.
- **October 30:** Opposition parties in Mozambique have signed a joint declaration challenging the October 9 election results, demanding a forensic audit and calling for peaceful demonstrations. They argue that the election was marred by significant flaws and violations, urging popular support to safeguard the rights of Mozambicans.

International

- **October 30:** General Paul Valentino Phiri of the Malawi Defence Force (MDF) assured that the military is on high alert due to tensions in Mozambique following disputed electoral results, urging border residents not to panic. He highlighted the MDF's preparedness through extensive training and reforms, emphasizing readiness to defend Malawi if provoked.



Incidents by Province.

Conflict in the North

Recent Developments:

- **Insurgent Activity:** Insurgents, possibly linked to the Islamic State, have targeted Mozambican and Rwandan forces in areas like Macomia, resulting in casualties. These attacks have heightened tensions and led to further community displacements.
- **Social Unrest:** Election-related protests in Cabo Delgado, particularly in Pemba and Montepuez, have led to clashes with police, injuries, and an increased security presence.
- **Community Displacement:** Insurgent threats, including attacks in Macomia and Muidumbe, continue to displace residents, disrupting local economies and stretching humanitarian resources.

Outlook for Cabo Delgado:

- **Heightened Insurgent Activity:** Insurgents are expected to intensify attacks in Macomia and Muidumbe, especially on rural transit routes, posing risks for both military and civilian movement.
- **Urban Security Operations:** Mozambican and Rwandan forces are anticipated to focus on securing urban centers like Pemba and Mocímboa da Praia, which may lead to increased road checkpoints and restricted movement around these areas.
- **Sustained Protests:** Mondlane's continued mobilization could lead to ongoing demonstrations in Cabo Delgado's urban centers. Assertive security responses, including possible curfews and restrictions, are likely in high-risk areas.
- **Humanitarian Challenges:** Continued violence in rural areas could increase displacements, further straining humanitarian access and resources, especially in already affected areas.
- **Potential Communication Blackouts:** To manage anticipated protests, authorities may impose communication restrictions, potentially impacting organizations' ability to operate and coordinate in real time.

The convergence of political unrest and insurgent violence presents significant security challenges in Mozambique. Effective management will require a balanced approach that addresses both insurgency and civil discontent while ensuring essential humanitarian support remains accessible.

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