

Aida Manuncha Ernesto's Account of the Flood and Her Family's Escape from Nhamatanda

The tragedy that happened in Lamego with the cyclone started during the night of Thursday [March 14] around 10 pm. The roofs started flying away and the houses were being destroyed until practically 4 am. Then it rained until 1 am on Saturday.

We went to sleep on Thursday and slept all night despite the bad weather. But on Friday morning we woke up around 5am with the floods. When we woke up and put our feet out of bed, we put our feet in water. We suddenly saw water coming out of the school and also from the river.

There was a lot of water and it kept on rising. Soon it was already on our knees, and we could still feel the water rising and rising, and we could not escape the water.

God knows how we did it, but we managed to open the doors and get out. We ran away and hid in the tent of an acquaintance in the market. Some people, including students, had to move across the water with the help of teachers, who used ropes to get the students out of the water.

Others went to their roofs, others suffered physically, some were rescued, but many people lost their lives because of the flooding. [All students and staff of the teacher training college are alive and accounted for.]

There were many, many deaths in Lamego. And still, people continue to find bodies as the water recedes.

To this day the population of Lamego has nowhere to be. The children are starving. They have no shelter. They have nothing to eat.

It's the most difficult situation I've seen in my life.

