

= Tropical Storm Cecil ( 1989 ) =

Severe Tropical Storm Cecil in May 1989 caused devastating floods in central Vietnam , killing 751 people . The storm developed as a tropical depression over the South China Sea on May 22 . Tracking north @-@ northwestward , the system steadily intensified , attaining peak winds of 110 km / h ( 70 mph ) . The Joint Typhoon Warning Center ( JTWC ) assessed Cecil to have been slightly stronger with one @-@ minute sustained winds of 140 km / h ( 85 mph ) . The storm made landfall near Hoi An , Vietnam late on May 24 and quickly weakened . The system later dissipated over Laos on May 26 .

In Vietnam , heavy rains accompanied the storm , amounting to over 510 mm ( 20 in ) in some areas , triggered catastrophic and deadly flooding . Widespread structural and agricultural losses took place in addition to the significant loss of life , with damage estimated at ? 300 billion ( \$ 71 @.@ 7 million ) . In the wake of the flooding , some international aid was sent to Vietnam , though most relief work was conducted by the nation 's government , local agencies , and the Red Cross .

= = Meteorological history = =

On May 20 , following Typhoon Brenda 's passage through the South China Sea , a monsoon trough extending from the area into the Bay of Bengal received enhanced low @-@ level southwesterly flow . An environment of weak wind shear in the wake of the typhoon allowed a new area of low pressure to form within the southwesterly flow on May 21 . With convection becoming persistent and the system 's overall presentation more organized by May 22 , the JTWC issued a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert at 0300 UTC . Around this time , the Japan Meteorological Agency ( JMA ) classified the system as a tropical depression . Later that day , convection wrapped entirely around the center of circulation ; this structural improvement , combined with nearby surface observations , prompted the JTWC to designate the system as Tropical Storm Cecil .

Initially , Cecil was forecast to maintain a northward track into a weakness in a subtropical ridge left behind by Typhoon Brenda ; however , Cecil turned westward on May 23 due to another ridge over China . With favorable atmospheric conditions , Cecil continued to intensify through May 24 . By 0600 UTC , a ragged 75 km ( 45 mi ) wide eye developed over the center of circulation , indicating it had become a typhoon . The storm ultimately attained peak winds of 140 km / h ( 85 mph ) while situated just off the coast of central Vietnam . However , the JMA reported Cecil to have been slightly weaker , classifying it as a severe tropical storm with ten @-@ minute sustained winds of 110 km / h ( 70 mph ) . Around 1800 UTC , the storm made landfall near Hoi An with winds of 130 km / h ( 80 mph ) . Once onshore , Cecil quickly weakened to a tropical depression . Turning slightly to the west @-@ northwest , the remnants of Cecil continued inland before dissipating over eastern Laos early on May 26 .

= = Impact and aftermath = =

In addition to the considerable losses that took place in Vietnam , Cecil also produced heavy rains in Laos and northeastern Thailand , resulting in flooding and crop damage .

= = = Vietnam = = =

Tropical Storm Cecil was regarded as the worst storm to strike Vietnam in 50 years . In some areas , rainfall exceeded 510 mm ( 20 in ) . Approximately 105 @,@ 600 hectares of rice and other crops were destroyed and another 78 @,@ 300 hectares were otherwise inundated . About 7 @,@ 500 metric tons of rice seeds were also lost . The hardest hit areas were in Quang Nam Province , where damage reached ? 300 billion ( \$ 71 @.@ 7 million ) . The storm destroyed at least 10 @,@ 000 homes were destroyed and damaged another 27 @,@ 000 buildings , leaving an estimated 336 @,@ 000 people homeless . Approximately 60 percent of the forests and forestry nurseries in the province were ruined . By June 5 , 151 people were confirmed dead across the country with another

600 missing . Eventually , the death toll was revised to 751 as all missing persons were considered dead .

In the wake of the storm , Vietnamese soldiers were deployed to rescue survivors . Local police forces were also stepped up to prevent looting . On June 5 government also requested international assistance to deal with the scale of the disaster . However , this was later retracted on June 16 , though spontaneous donations were appreciated . The governments of Australia and France provided Vietnam with \$ 75 @, @ 188 and \$ 73 @, @ 964 in funds respectively . Additionally , the Swedish Red Cross donated clothing , which was later distributed by the local Red Cross along with medicine and relief supplies . A total of ? 52 million ( \$ 124 @, @ 000 ) worth of funds and relief supplies , including 1 @, @ 600 m ( 5 @, @ 200 ft ) of fabric , and two tons of clothing , was sent to Quang Nam province .