

= Cyclone Kamisy =

Cyclone Kamisy was considered the worst tropical cyclone to affect northern Madagascar since 1911 . A tropical disturbance formed near Diego Garcia on April 3 , 1984 and subsequently moved westward , intensifying into a moderate tropical storm two days later . Given the name Kamisy , the storm gradually intensified into an intense tropical cyclone by April 9 . Kamisy reached winds of 170 km / h (105 mph) before making landfall in extreme northern Madagascar near Diego Suarez . It weakened upon entering the Mozambique Channel , but briefly re-intensified on April 10 . That day while passing near Mayotte , the cyclone turned to the southeast , striking Madagascar again near Majunga . Kamisy quickly crossed the country . After emerging into the Indian Ocean off the east coast of Madagascar , the system reintensified into a moderate tropical storm before dissipating on April 16 .

In northern Madagascar , Kamisy produced wind gusts of 250 km / h (155 mph) , which destroyed 80 % of the city of Diego Suarez . About 39 000 people were left homeless in the area , and there were five deaths . In western Madagascar , the cyclone dropped 232 mm (9 in) of rainfall in 24 hours in Majunga , which damaged rice fields in the region after causing widespread river flooding . Additionally , the storm destroyed about 80 % of Majunga . Throughout the country , Kamisy caused \$ 250 million in damage and 68 deaths , with 215 people injured and 100 000 left homeless . Fifteen people were killed and 30 others were injured in Mahajanga . Following the storm , emergency food and medical supplies were rushed into the nation . In addition to the impact to Madagascar , one death and severe damage was reported in the Comoros Islands , where all of the banana crop was destroyed .

= Meteorological history =

Cyclone Kamisy originated from an area of convection that formed in early April . On April 3 , the system was assigned a Dvorak rating of T2.0 and was respectively upgraded into a moderate tropical storm by the Météo France office on Reunion (MFR) . However , the storm was not classified by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) until that evening . The storm initially tracked west-southwest , but after briefly weakening into a tropical depression , Kamisy began to turn west . On April 5 , the storm was upgraded into a moderate tropical storm for the second time ; the JTWC followed suit and upgraded Kamisy into a tropical storm several hours later while located about 1 000 km (620 mi) west of Diego Garcia .

Kamisy steadily intensified and on April 6 , the JTWC reported that it attained hurricane force winds despite MFR estimating winds of 80 km / h (50 mph) . Early on April 7 , however , Kamisy was upgraded into a severe tropical storm as it had earned a rating of T4.0 on the Dvorak scale . Thereafter , the storm began to undergo rapid deepening . Later that day , the JTWC announced that Kamisy attained winds of 170 km / h (105 mph) , equivalent to a mid-level Category 2 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale . Meanwhile , MFR upgraded the system into cyclone intensity . After briefly leveling off in intensity , the storm attained peak intensity of 170 km / h (105 mph) later that day . Early on April 8 , the JTWC estimated that it reached its peak intensity of 185 km / h (115 mph) . Around this time , Kamisy was assigned a T6.0 rating via the Dvorak technique .

After maintaining peak intensity for less than a day , it weakened slightly . On April 9 , the storm brushed the northern Madagascar coast as a severe tropical storm , though the JTWC suggested that Kamisy was considerably stronger . However , the afternoon storm emerged into the extreme northern Mozambique Channel , where it passed near Mayotte , with little change in strength . After sharply turning south-southwest , Kamisy briefly regained tropical cyclone intensity , but resumed weakening as it approached the coast . While still a moderate tropical storm , it made landfall along the north-central part of the nation on April 12 , near Tamatave . At the time of landfall , the JTWC noted that Kamisy was a minimal hurricane . The storm quickly weakened overland and was a tropical depression by the time it had emerged into the Indian Ocean . Shortly thereafter , the storm restrengthened into a moderate tropical storm , but this trend was short-lived .

lived . The JTWC downgraded Kamisy into a tropical depression at 0600 UTC on April 14 . The agency issued the last warning on the system the following day , even though MFR kept tracking the system until the morning hours of April 16 . At this time , Kamisy was located about 500 mi (805 km) southwest of the southern tip of Madagascar .

= = Impact = =

= = = Madagascar = = =

Throughout Madagascar , a total of 68 casualties were reported and 100 @, @ 000 people were left homeless . Damage totaled to more than \$ 250 million (1984 USD) . Kamisy was considered the worst system to strike Madagascar since 1911 . According to Relief Web , 7 @, @ 000 buildings were at least partially destroyed , including 1 @, @ 020 schools and 450 hospitals . Approximately 215 people were injured due to the storm . Overall , Kamisy was the strongest storm to hit the nation between 1980 and 1993 .

In Diego Suarez , the storm caused significant damage , especially in residential areas . Warehouses , schools , and other public buildings suffered extensive damage . Throughout the city , 80 % of the buildings were damaged and the town was 85 % destroyed . Electrical and water supplies were cut in Diego Suarez . Nearby , in Befaria , a leprosarium , which housed 200 patients and their families , was damaged . The small village of Mangaoka was forced to move inland 100 m (330 ft) . In Tamatave , a daily peak rainfall total of 294 mm (11 @. @ 6 in) was measured , and 711 mm (28 @. @ 0 in) fell in a six @- @ day period . Due to the rainfall , 70 % of the town 's population moved to high ground . In Antsiranana , 30 @, @ 000 of the 40 @, @ 000 inhabitants were left homeless and were left with little food or water . Throughout northern Madagascar , about 39 @, @ 000 people were left homeless in the area ; there were five deaths .

After making its second landfall , 80 % of the port of Mahajanga was destroyed , where 42 @, @ 120 people were reportedly homeless . Many neighborhoods of the town , whose population was 45 @, @ 000 , were completely washed away . Many rice fields in the region were destroyed due to widespread river flooding . In Mahajanga alone , 15 people were killed while 30 others were majorly hurt . Several schools throughout the city were destroyed . Winds greater than 112 mph (180 km / h) were reported in Mahanjanga as well . Elsewhere , the town of Movoya was also mostly destroyed .

= = = Elsewhere = = =

After making its first landfall , the storm struck Mayotte , in the Comoros island group , where severe damage was recorded . One death was also reported . Dozens of others were severely hurt . Around 25 @, @ 000 people were displaced . All of the banana and rice crop were destroyed by the storm in both Comoros and Seychelles .

= = Aftermath = =

Following the storm , emergency food and medical supplies were rushed into the nation . Due to Madagascar 's small budget , it did not have the resources to repair all the damage alone . Two French rescue missions , including one from Reunion , provided victims with food and medical assistance to Madagascar and Mayotte . Furthermore , the Malagasy Red Cross launched an appeal for blankets , clothes , tents , and medicine . The United States provided \$ 25 @, @ 000 in cash and \$ 15 @, @ 000 worth of other items . Moreover , Italy donated \$ 41 @, @ 500 to Madagascar . Netherlands provided \$ 65 @, @ 000 worth of supplies while the nations ' the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies decided to send a disaster team to the devastated area . The United Kingdom provided \$ 74 @, @ 000 in cash ; France provided 2 @. @ 2 short tons (2 @. @ 0 t) of medicine , 500 short tons (450 t) , and 4 tents . The government asked for 60 @, @ 000

short tons (54 @, @ 000 t) of rice , 5 @, @ 000 short tons (4 @, @ 500 t) of flour , 200 short tons (180 t) of edible oil , and 20 short tons (18 t) of milk and canned food . Aside from food items , they also asked for 20 @, @ 000 short tons (18 @, @ 000 t) of cement and 50 @, @ 000 packages of iron sheets . Additionally , the head of Minister of State , Foreign and Commonwealth Office intended to focus on the reconstruction of bridges and roads . A private consulting company was later hired to conduct a post @-@ storm assessment ; a training program was subsequently launched , which had a budget of \$ 3 @. @ 5 million . The training program lasted until the 1985 ? 86 South @-@ West Indian Ocean cyclone season , when Cyclone Honorina devastated the nation .

Sailors from the US Navy 's warship USS Hector , were diverted to assist in the relief effort in Diego @-@ Suarez , between April 23 and May 1 , 1984 . The warship was the first American naval vessel to visit the port after Madagascar ' s Government banned the superpowers including France and the United States from using it during the 1970s and were awarded two Humanitarian Service Medals . Amongst other assistance provided they restored the roof and power to the ports hospital and repaired the leprosarium at Befaria , near Diego @-@ Suarez . Two French naval vessels also supplied brought food , medicine and other emergency supplies to help with the aftermath of the cyclone .