

= Cyclone Favio =

Cyclone Favio was the first known tropical cyclone that passed south of Madagascar to strike Africa as an intense tropical cyclone . Early on February 11 , 2007 , a zone of disturbed weather formed east of Madagascar . Four days later , Favio was named as intensified to a moderate tropical storm while moving southwest . On February 18 , the storm was upgraded into a severe tropical storm . Then , it turned west in the general direction of Mozambique . Continuing to intensify , Favio was upgraded to a tropical cyclone early on February 19 . Subsequently , the storm began to undergo rapid deepening ; the small storm reached intense tropical cyclone status the next day before peaking in intensity . However , the cyclone had weakened somewhat prior to making landfall on February 22 in the Inhambane Province in Mozambique . It rapidly weakened over land and dissipated the next day .

While strengthening , Favio brought heavy rains to southern Madagascar . After making landfall , Intense Tropical Cyclone Favio brought widespread damage to Vilanculos in Mozambique , where the cyclone killed four people and injured at least 70 in the town . About 80 % of the town was destroyed . Overall , a total of ten people were killed by the storm and nearly 100 others were injured , and combined with an earlier flood , the storm caused \$ 71 million (2007 US \$]]) in damage . Around 130 @, @ 000 homes suffered damage and 130 schools were leveled by the tropical cyclone . Across the nation , a total of 33 @, @ 000 people were left homeless during the system . Cyclone Favio destroyed 277 @, @ 000 ha (684 @, @ 480 acres) of crops . In Zimbabwe , 400 electricity poles were downed . During the aftermath of the storm , a number of agencies provided assistance to victims of Cyclone Favio in Mozambique . One agency donated \$ 626 @, @ 500 , helping transport 50 @, @ 000 mosquito nets to the devastated area . A total of 5 @, @ 500 bars of soap , 1 @, @ 600 buckets , 50 baths , and over 180 latrines were distributed to the victims of the devastated area . In all , the government was praised for how well they handled the disaster .

= = Meteorological history = =

Cyclone Favio originated from a zone of disturbed weather that was first classified by the Météo @-@ France office on Réunion (MFR) at 1200 UTC February 11 , 2007 . Twelve hours later , the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) issued their first advisory on the system . Midday on February 12 , MFR upgraded the system into a tropical disturbance and noted that its rating at that time on the Dvorak technique was 2 @. @ 0 .

According to the JTWC , an area of convection developed 340 mi (545 km) south @-@ southwest of Diego Garcia . Initially , however , the convection was not very concentrated near the center . However , sea surface temperatures in the area were somewhat warm so gradual intensification was predicted and the storm was projected to become a severe tropical storm within 48 hours . Situated in an environment of low wind shear and good outflow , thunderstorm activity soon increased and thus started to consolidate around the storm 's atmospheric circulation . Continuing to encounter more favorable conditions , the JTWC issued a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert (TCFA) on February 14 . Meanwhile , MFR upgraded the system into a tropical depression . Eighteen hours later , the system was named Favio by the Meteorological Services of Mauritius as the system ; according to MFR , had intensified into a moderate tropical storm .

Moving very steadily southwest , the storm gradually intensified . Early on February 15 , the JTWC announced that that system had intensified into a tropical storm . After intensifying slightly (based on JTWC data) that evening , the storm briefly weakened overnight , only to re @-@ intensify the next morning . On February 16 , Favio turned southwest in response to a large subtropical ridge . Despite low wind shear , Favio remained a moderate tropical storm for several days ; however , on February 18 , MFR announced that Favio had intensified into a severe tropical storm . Subsequently , the storm turned west as the ridge merged with another one centered over South Africa . Two days later , the agency then upgraded the system into cyclone status . At 0000 UTC that day , on February 19 , the JTWC upgraded the system into a Category 1 hurricane @-@ equivalent on the Saffir ? Simpson hurricane wind scale (SSHWS) though not much additional intensification was

predicted .

Upon becoming a hurricane , thunderstorm activity began to develop around an eye . Favio turned west @-@ northwest , traversing the Mozambique Channel while beginning to deepen . At 0000 UTC February 20 , the JTWC declared that Favio had intensified into a Category 2 hurricane @-@ equivalent on the SSHWS . Several hours later , Favio was then upgraded into an intense tropical cyclone by MFR as the system developed a very small eye . Simultaneously , Cyclone Favio was upgraded into a Category 3 hurricane on the SSHWS via the JTWC . During the afternoon hours of February 20 , the JTWC reported that Favio had developed winds equivalent to Category 4 intensity . That evening , MFR noted that Cyclone Favio had peaked in intensity , with winds of 120 mph (195 km / h) , becoming the most intense tropical cyclone south of the 25th parallel over the Mozambique Channel since the satellite era began . Six hours later , the JTWC announced that Favio had peaked in intensity , with 140 mph (225 km / h) winds . This made Favio equal to a mid @-@ level Category 4 hurricane . At the time of its peak , Favio had developed a well @-@ defined eye .

Shortly after its peak , Cyclone Favio began to weaken ; the core of the storm started to become disrupted on the northwestern quadrant . The JTWC expected Favio to continue to weaken , and dissipate within 48 hours over land . The eye disappeared off of satellite imagery , though by early February 22 , this feature had re @-@ developed . That afternoon , the storm was estimated to have made landfall in southern Mozambique . At that time , the JTWC reported winds of 90 mph (145 km / h) , a Category 1 system on the SSHWS . On the other hand , MFR estimated winds of 105 mph (170 km / h) (an intense tropical cyclone) . Upon making landfall , it did so on the seventh anniversary of the last intense tropical cyclone , Eline , to strike Mozambique . Favio was also the first tropical cyclone to hit the country since Cyclone Japhet did during the 2002 ? 03 South @-@ West Indian Ocean cyclone season . By early February 23 , winds had dropped below hurricane @-@ force according to the JTWC , while the storm dissipated later that day . Around that time , MFR stopped monitoring the system as well .

= = Preparations = =

Prior to the arrival of Favio , flooding swept over Mozambique weeks earlier , forcing 163 @, @ 000 persons to seek shelter . The floods started in late December 2006 when the Cahora Bassa Dam overflowed its banks . The floods escalated in February 2007 when the Zambezi River broke its banks , flooding the surrounding areas in Mozambique . A total of 80 @, @ 600 people were evacuated from their homes in the Tete , Manica , Sofala and Zambezia provinces on February 14 . Twenty @-@ nine people were confirmed dead due to the pre @-@ Favio flood .

While at peak intensity , the storm threatened Mozambique and forcing authorities to put the country on high alert . The British Foreign Office also issued a travel warning to Britons who were planning visits along the Bazaruto Archipelago . Additionally , the South African disaster management team was on full alert in the eastern portion of Mpumalanga . In addition , thousands of volunteers were placed on stand by .

Some residents of Vilankulo attempted to flee the area carrying belongings and children as the government urged residents to seek shelter on higher ground further inland before the storm hit . They evacuated many of the people who remained , taking them to tent camps . Officials said that Favio could also bring heavy rains to Zambia , Malawi and Zimbabwe . Authorities in the latter issued a flood warning . Because of the topography of the region , meteorologists noted the potential for flooding in Zimbabwe .

= = Impact = =

= = = Madagascar = = =

While intensifying , Cyclone Favio brushed the southern tip of Madagascar while bringing heavy

rains to the nation . Along the southeastern portion of the nation , road access was reduced . Favio disrupted relief operations to 582 @, @ 000 people , who were struggling to cope with a drought in the southern portion of the nation . Moreover , the cyclone disrupted relief efforts during an aftermath of flood that killed three persons and displaced 33 @, @ 000 people throughout the country . Overall , the cyclone was one of several storms to affect the nation during the season .

= = = Mozambique = = =

About 130 @, @ 000 homes suffered damage and 130 schools were leveled by the intense tropical cyclone in Mozambique . In all , a total of ten people were killed by the storm and nearly 100 others were injured . Combined with an earlier flood , Favio caused \$ 71 million (2007 USD) in infrastructural damage . About 64 @, @ 000 people moved to tents during the storm , and 33 @, @ 000 people were displaced during the storm . Cyclone Favio destroyed 277 @, @ 000 ha (684 @, @ 480 acres) of crops , primarily in Vilanculos , Inhassoro , Govuro , and Masinga districts in Inhambane Province . Overall , 160 @, @ 000 people were affected by the storm .

Favio damaged the court in the resort town of Vilanculos in Southern Mozambique . Uprooted trees caused by the cyclone also blocked roads , cutting off access for rescuers to some homes . Power was also cut off to the city . The cyclone killed four people and injured at least 70 in the town , and thousands of homes were destroyed along with the hospital , where a total of 120 patients were evacuated . Additionally , 600 prisoners escaped when the local jail was demolished . About 80 % of the town was destroyed . A total of 73 @, @ 000 people were affected by the cyclone in Vilanculos .

Elsewhere , the storm damaged trees and blew off rooftops in Pontagea , a highly populated suburb in the port city of Beira . Cyclone Favio was responsible for widespread damage in Tofo Beach , where the storm uprooted palm trees and destroyed electric services . Elsewhere , an airplane was crushed in an airport .

= = = Elsewhere = = =

In Zimbabwe , the Bvumba Mountains received heavy winds and rain . Throughout the country , damage was minimal and was mostly due to the uprooting of trees and not nearly as bad as Cyclone Leon ? Eline , which devastated the nation seven years prior . However , electricity supplies were severely damaged . In one location , 400 wooden electricity poles were knocked down . Alongside moist air from the Intertropical Convergence Zone , Favio produced significant rains across much of Malawi , peaking at 121 @. @ 7 mm (5 in) in Mimosa . Furthermore , the remnants of the low struck southern Tanzania . Cyclone Favio also destroyed 56 houses in Hai .

= = Aftermath = =

During the aftermath of the storm , South Africa offered helicopters to Mozambique to deliver food to shelters and to help Mozambican officials assess the situation aerially . The disaster management minister of South Africa flew in to Mozambique to survey the damage . Due to the concern for potential disease epidemics including those of malaria and cholera , health officials raised public awareness through theaters and radio . A joint coalition of the United States Agency for International Development and the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance provided \$ 626 @, @ 500 , enabling transportation of 50 @, @ 000 mosquito nets to the devastated area . Oxfam International distributed 18 @, @ 000 L (4 @, @ 800 US gal) of clean water per day for 15 @, @ 000 displaced people in the Caia and Marromeu districts and housed 8 @, @ 000 residents in Chupanga , where they also distributed 5 @, @ 500 bars of soap , more than 3 @, @ 000 mosquito nets , and 1 @, @ 600 buckets . The agency also built 50 baths and over 180 latrines . In Calia , Oxfam also distributed 1 @, @ 400 nets . Marromeu was also supplied 900 mosquito nets via Calia . The agency also agreed to provide drinking water to the victims of Favio for four months .

The nation 's president flew in to the destructed area , lifting survivors ' spirits . Within 48 hours following Intense Tropical Cyclone Favio , roofs were being repaired , and power lines were

gradually being restored . Hundreds of local red cross staff and volunteers were utilized ; they worked around the clock to assist survivors . Thirty @-@ one recovery centers opened , hosting 400 first aid volunteers . According to a South African website , the government was praised for how well and quickly they handled the crisis . Key food items (rice , beans , corn meal , cooking oil , soap , and sugar) were distributed to the affected areas . On March 5 , a plan was launched to provide victims for a total of \$ 71 million worth of aid , of which \$ 773 @,@ 000 was expected to be directed towards the health . Meanwhile , water levels began to recede throughout the affected region . Moreover , a total of 28 @,@ 000 lb (12 @,@ 700 kg) of aid were distributed through the central part of the nation , and provided clean water for 6 @,@ 000 people . About 200 tents were provided for victims whose roofs of their homes were blown off . Furthermore , concerns rose about the potential outbreak of diseases like HIV . Within three months after the cyclone , 85 % of homes had used the aid they were given .