

= 2000 Sri Lanka cyclone =

The 2000 Sri Lanka cyclone (IMD designation : BOB 06 JTWC designation : 04B) was the strongest tropical cyclone to strike Sri Lanka since 1978 . The fourth tropical storm and the second severe cyclonic storm of the 2000 North Indian Ocean cyclone season , it developed from an area of disturbed weather on December 25 , 2000 . It moved westward , and quickly strengthened under favorable conditions to reach top wind speeds of 75 mph (120 km / h) . The cyclone hit eastern Sri Lanka at peak strength , then weakened slightly while crossing the island before hitting and dissipating over southern India on December 28 .

The storm was the first cyclone over Sri Lanka with winds of at least hurricane strength since a 110 mph (175 km / h) cyclone hit in the 1978 season , as well as the first tropical storm to hit the island since 1992 . The storm was also the first December tropical cyclone of hurricane intensity in the Bay of Bengal since 1996 . It produced heavy rainfall and strong winds , damaging or destroying tens of thousands of houses and leaving up to 500 @, @ 000 homeless . At least nine people died as a result of the cyclone .

= = Meteorological history = =

An area of atmospheric convection developed and persisted on December 21 in the central Bay of Bengal forming within an active near @-@ equatorial trough . Located within an area of weak vertical wind shear , the system steadily organized , and after initially remaining nearly stationary it began to move slowly westward . Deep convection continued to develop , and on December 23 a mid @-@ level circulation began to form . Later that day , the Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) issued a Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert . By the night of the December 23 , a low @-@ level circulation developed in the system , located to the south of the deep convection . The disturbance continued to organize , with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) classifying it as a deep depression early on December 24 . Later that day , the organization of the system degraded slightly , though it quickly reorganized . On December 25 , the Joint Typhoon Warning Center initiated advisories on Tropical Cyclone 04B while it was located about 155 miles (250 km) east of Sri Lanka . On the center 's first advisory , the tropical storm was drifting west @-@ northwest at 3 mph (5 km / h) with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph (70 km / h) . Shortly thereafter , the IMD upgraded the deep depression to a cyclonic storm as a central dense overcast developed over the center .

A subtropical ridge to the north of the cyclone resulted in it continuing generally westward . Deep convection continued to develop over the center of circulation , and the storm steadily strengthened as outflow improved throughout the circulation . By late on December 25 , a rainband wrapped tightly into the center , and it intensified into a severe cyclonic storm as it approached the coast of Sri Lanka . The next day the cyclone developed an eye as it turned west @-@ southwestward . On December 26 , the cyclone made landfall on near Trincomalee , Sri Lanka . The JTWC assessed the cyclone as attaining peak winds of 75 mph (120 km / h) . However , the IMD estimated the cyclone reached a maximum intensity of 105 mph (165 km / h) , making it a very severe cyclonic storm . It weakened slightly over land and emerged into the Gulf of Mannar early on December 27 as a tropical storm . Initially , forecasters predicted it to slowly re @-@ intensify ; instead it weakened as its convection degraded in organization and intensity . After turning west @-@ northwestward , the storm struck southern India near Kanyakumari on December 28 with winds of 45 mph (70 km / h) , with minimal convection due to land interaction and increased wind shear . It rapidly weakened to tropical depression status over land , and its remnants degenerated into a low pressure area after emerging into the eastern Arabian Sea early on December 29 .

= = Impact = =

Government officials in Sri Lanka issued a last @-@ minute evacuation order for potentially affected areas , though few received the evacuation order . The cyclone hit the eastern and western

coastlines with powerful waves , wrecking 25 fishing boats in eastern coastal towns and washing away 109 boats near Puttalam . Eight people were left missing and feared dead . The cyclone was accompanied with a storm surge as made landfall that flooded areas up to 330 feet (100 m) inland . While crossing the country , the cyclone dropped between 4 and 8 inches (100 to 200 mm) of precipitation , compounding the effects of severe monsoonal flooding from the previous month . Wind gusts from the cyclone reached 110 mph (175 km / h) near where it made landfall .

The area most affected by the cyclone was in and around Trincomalee : 57 people checked into the local hospital as a result of falling trees or debris , with one person killed due to a falling tree . An entire fishing village was completely destroyed , and heavy rainfall flooded rivers , lakes , and canals , covering roads and crops with floodwaters . The flooding destroyed about 77 square miles (200 km ²) of rice fields , and an additional 19 square miles (50 km ²) of other crops . Strong winds damaged or destroyed around 83 @, @ 000 houses across the country , including 2 @, @ 000 houses destroyed in Kinnia and 6 @, @ 600 in Trincomalee . The passage of the cyclone left up to 500 @, @ 000 temporarily homeless on the island , most of whom fled to churches , schools , temples , and shopping centers . The winds blew off the roofs of several police stations and military camps , and flooded several refugee camps . The winds damaged electrical systems and disrupted about 3 @, @ 000 telephone systems , and many roads were left impassable . Large areas remained without power for several days . No damage reports exist for regions under control of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam , despite the fact the storm made landfall there . Throughout the country , at least nine people died as a result of the cyclone , and over 48 @, @ 000 families were affected .

Prior to the arrival of the storm in India , government officials there issued a severe storm warning for Thoothukudi District , and also warned fishermen not to go out to sea . Thousands were evacuated to emergency shelters prior to the storm 's arrival . The cyclone produced rough surf along the southern Indian coast , and heavy rainfall in and around Thoothukudi , causing flooding in a few low @-@ lying areas . The rainfall caused some damage to banana crops , uprooted several trees , and left some roads impassable , but was largely beneficial in alleviating drought conditions . Across southern India , the cyclone damaged 749 houses and destroyed 81 more , but no deaths were reported in the country .

= = Aftermath = =

Sri Lanka governmental aid was slow at first , with the media criticizing the government for its initial response . A street protest occurred in Trincomalee due to lack of aid . Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickremanayake organized a meeting of government officials to propose an increase in relief funds . A family of five or more received \$ 5 @. @ 50 a week (2000 USD , (\$ 7 @. @ 56 2016 USD) , 500 in 2000 LKR) for dry rations , while the families of those who died received \$ 183 (2000 USD , \$ 251 @. @ 46 2016 USD , 15 thousand 2000 LKR) in compensation . The government also gave \$ 122 (2000 USD , (\$ 167 @. @ 64 2016 USD , 10 thousand 2000 LKR)) to those whose houses were damaged or destroyed , and delivered rice rations to those stranded , while state @-@ organized radio broadcasts appealed for donations .

Within two days of the cyclone striking , the Sri Lankan Red Cross began an operation with 4 @, @ 000 volunteers to help those most badly affected . The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies issued a preliminary appeal for \$ 323 @, @ 000 2000 USD (\$ 519 thousand 2016 USD , \$ 525 thousand in 2000 CHF) to assist about 10 @, @ 000 people by making blankets , shelter , food , and kitchen utensils available . To kick @-@ start the operation , the Federation released about \$ 61 @, @ 000 (2000 USD (\$ 83 @. @ 8 thousand 2016 USD , \$ 100 thousand in 2000 CHF)) within a few hours of the cyclone making landfall . After about a month , the Red Cross distributed 10 roofing sheets each to 1 @, @ 720 families , and also sent a set of cooking utensils , bed sheets , and sleeping mats to 3 @, @ 000 families . Relief ended on November 7 , 2001 , roughly 40 weeks after the cyclone struck .