



Scared and Unprepared

By Sharmilla Reid, Donor Relations Director

Hurricane Matthew slammed into Haiti with a force that Emilien had not seen before in his 79 years.

Emilien's father had been a fisherman. He died in 1954. At the age of 17, Emilien was forced to leave school and start fishing to support his family.

He lives very close to the sea in Roche-a-Bateau, a community of approximately 25,000 people on Haiti's southern shore.

The devastation of Hurricane Matthew is apparent from the moment the town comes into view from the road that winds along the shore. As one enters the town it is impossible to ignore. Trees are lying on the ground, a shipping container hangs on its side over the beach by the road, houses with various degrees of damage are everywhere, and a few coffins are visible on front porches.

Emilien did not know the storm was coming. He was completely unprepared for the strength of the winds and the



waves. He spent the night trembling in fear, afraid he was going to die. His life was spared, but his home and his livelihood were not. His small seaside house was completely destroyed. His fishing equipment was also lost.

His community leader has given him a place in his own house, which was also damaged.

Other fishermen in the community have suffered just as much. Their houses, boats, fishing pots, and nets have also been swept away. One of Emilien's grandsons lost 46 goats. Others have lost entire crops of bananas, plantains, coconuts, and breadfruits. Banana trees can mature in as little as six months. For other trees it will be years before they begin to bear fruit again.

Many in this local community fear that the aftermath of the storm will be just as devastating. They fear that the destruction of the crops and fruits will mean hunger for their families. They fear that their water sources are now contaminated with bacteria which will make them sick. They fear a cholera outbreak that could kill thousands. They fear that it will be decades before the island has fully recovered from the impact of one fateful storm.

Emilien is now living on his savings and the kindness of his neighbours. He hopes that some gracious people will send him back to the sea so he can once again support himself and his family.

The ADRA network was monitoring Hurricane Matthew for days before it hit Haiti. Once the scale of the devastation was suspected an emergency response team was deployed. Unable to immediately reach Port au Prince because the Haitian airports were closed, they flew instead to Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic and drove overland to Port au Prince.

Within days of the storm ADRA began distributions of emergency food and hygiene items to communities in the Les Cayes area, which encompasses Emilien's community.

ADRA also partnered with GlobalMedic, who specializes in water,

sanitation, and hygiene responses in disaster situations. They were able to install community water filters, as well as distribute household water filters and aquatabs, to ensure that affected families have access to clean water for all their needs to prevent the spread of water-borne diseases.

ADRA's response will encompass further assistance initiatives, including shelter repair and livelihood restoration, to help the Haitian people to recover.

We thank you, our generous supporters, for your help in giving emergency relief to the survivors of this tragic event. You are truly saving lives!





Eating Like a Refugee

It was lunch time on Sabbath and the fellowship hall was full of people. But rather than gathered around tables laden with potluck favourites, the church family sat on blankets on the floor, balancing plates of humble rice and beans on their knees. This was the 2nd annual ADRA Canada Ration Meal Challenge at the Edmonton South Church.

The Ration Meal Challenge invites participants to experience first-hand one aspect of refugee life: hunger. Participants can eat the BP-5 compact food bars that ADRA distributes in refugee camps, or they can eat a simple meal of rice and beans. Participants join the fight against hunger by raising money for ADRA's hunger projects.

Rosa Galdamez, the ADRA Ambassador for the Edmonton South Church, has organized this challenge for her church for the last two years. "I saw it as an opportunity to raise awareness among our youth and our church about the urgent needs in the world and ADRA's work in helping those in need."

After setting a date for the church-wide Ration Meal Challenge, Rosa launched a month-long awareness campaign to educate church members regarding the need, to inspire interest in the challenge, and to touch hearts to give.

Rosa took very seriously this opportunity to involve the youth of her church. She roped them in to lead a special program for the meal time. The participants brainstormed practical ways they could reach out more in their church, in their community, and in the world.

"I think the church members appreciate the opportunity to pause and simply acknowledge our blessings, to come together to pray and engage in a dialogue on how we can help those in need."

Over the last two years, around 150 people have participated in the Edmonton South Church's Ration Meal Challenge, raising over \$12,000 to date. As each of those dollars is matched by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, a partner with ADRA Canada in fighting world hunger, that amount is actually \$24,000!

On behalf of ADRA Canada and those whose lives are changed by your sacrifice, thank you!



SHARE YOUR ADRA STORY

We'd love to hear from people involved in ADRA's mission. Why not send us a few lines about what you and/or your group are doing? Send 200 words, a picture* of your activities and your contact details to stayintouch@adra.ca.

*Digital photos should be a minimum of 3 megapixels.

By sending photos and stories to ADRA Canada you give permission for either to be published at the discretion of ADRA Canada.

HOW DO WE CHOOSE OUR GIFT CATALOGUE ITEMS?

Our Really Useful Gift Catalogue* is out! As you peruse its pages, you may notice that each year the items are a little different. We have been asked how we choose our Gift Catalogue items.

There are a few steps involved in the process of gift selection. Each year projects end and others begin. We start by looking at our projects and their current needs. What items are the items that are needed to bring about positive change in people's lives? Flipping through this year's catalogue, you can see at a glance that water filters, seeds, cows, and ambulances number among the items that could make a difference in people's lives.

Then we look at the cost. We investigate the answers to questions like, 'How much does an ambulance in Rwanda cost? How much is that amount in Canadian dollars?' By teasing out the cost for a single item, we are able to ascertain the appropriate cost in Canadian dollars for our Gift Catalogue.

Each of the items in our Gift Catalogue are real things that real people will use to make their lives better. Your contributions to our Really Useful Gift Catalogue truly changes lives! Thank you!

*Haven't seen our catalogue yet? Our Gift Catalogue is available online at www.adra.ca/donate/giftcatalogue/. You can also call 1.885.274.ADRA (2372) to place an order to receive your own copy.



Saving Mothers and Children

By Heather Grbic, Church Relations Coordinator

Sinai lives in rural Cambodia. To reach her village, one must travel long hours over rutted roads. At 25 years old, she is already the mother of 3 children. Her daughter, Sinoeun, is nine years old. Sinoeun's younger brother is six years old. The youngest of the family, little Ploysai, is only 16 months old.

Her whole family suffered from frequent stomach aches and diarrhea, and she couldn't understand why. Unbeknownst to Sinai, her family's illnesses were closely linked to their water source. Sinai walked half a kilometre, two to three times a day, to fetch the water her household needed. She carried the water on her shoulders, brought it home, and boiled it. However, boiling the water wasn't enough to purify it.

To complicate matters, Sinai's family did not have access to proper sanitation. Their "washroom" was wherever they could find a private enough place outside.

When Sinai heard about ADRA's project in her community, she wanted to join. "I was worried about my children, and I felt that this project would help me help them," she said. Part of ADRA's project is teaching community members about proper sanitation. Sinai has learned the links between her family's health and the quality of water they drink, where they go to the washroom, and washing their hands afterwards.

ADRA's project doesn't stop at showing the links between health, clean water, and sanitation, but continues by empowering the community to put their learning into practice. Sinai's family received a water filter to purify their water and a latrine. Sinai and her family no longer suffer from stomach aches or diarrhea.

"This project has truly helped my family a lot," Sinai said. Her smile of gratitude is not meant for ADRA alone. It shines also on you, our supporters, who enable this life-changing work to happen. Thank you!



ADRA's Mission:

ADRA works with people in poverty and distress to create just and positive change through empowering partnerships and responsible action.

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Hurricane Matthew

On October 4, Hurricane Matthew, a category 4 hurricane, smashed into Haiti. Over two million people have been affected. Houses, crops, and livelihoods have been destroyed. Please join us as we pray for those still suffering. May their recovery be swift. May they know God's peace as He meets their needs.

Refugees

Please join us in praying for the millions of refugees around the world who are far from their homes, their livelihoods, and in some cases their families. Our hearts go out to them in their time of hardship and uncertainty. Pray with us that peace will come soon so that these refugees may return home. Please also pray that in the meantime, they may be blessed by God's provision, protection, presence, and peace.

Fort McMurray Response

Please join us in praising God for the work that is being accomplished in Fort McMurray and through the Edmonton warehouse! God has blessed our efforts, resulting in needs being met and deepening community relationships. Please pray with us that God will continue to bless the work so that lives will be touched and changed.

EMBRACE

Our EMBRACE project team is hard at work implementing this exciting program that will save the lives of mothers of children. Please pray that they will be blessed with the wisdom and understanding that is needed to successfully and meaningfully run this project. Please also pray that God will bring them the perfect team members for the various volunteer positions that need to be filled.

Syria Project

Please join us in praising God for our new project in Syria! Due to the continued conflict in Syria, millions of children have been left without an education. Our new project will meet the educational needs of over 12,000 girls and boys. Join us in thanking God for this opportunity to serve those in need in war-torn Syria. Please pray with us that God will bless this project and ensure its success.

Silent Requests

We know that many are burdened with their own difficulties. Please join us in praying for those who are facing health problems, financial struggles, and other uncertainties. May they each be blessed with God's peace and the sweet reassurance that He will provide for their every need. May they also be blessed with encouragement as they wait for God's answers.