Pray Psalm 56:8

Gisèle, a single mom of four, was cooking dinner when her 23-year-old son, Givenson, alerted her that the overflowing river waters following Hurricane Matthew were heading straight toward their two-room, tin-covered, cinder-block shack in Dupuy, Haiti.

“I heard a crashing sound,” she says. “Waters savagely overran the whole house.”

Her other three children — Gislène, 18; Judith, 17; and Danie, 13 — ran for dear life along with Givenson. Still in the house with her sister Ronia, Gisèle hastily opened all the doors to make way for the raging waters.

Then they watched helplessly while floodwater battered their house and swept away most of their belongings. Following the Category 4 hurricane, their community faced a scene out of a nightmare: damaged roads, destroyed buildings, flooded homes, families separated, crops wiped out, and dead livestock.

“We are so lucky that it didn’t happen during the night,” Gisèle says. “It would have been worse.

We would have been overrun by the waters as sheets of rain poured over the community during the night.”

With the death toll exceeding 1,000 and more than 1.4 million people displaced, Haiti is still counting its losses after Hurricane Matthew. World Vision is working with families like Gisèle’s and partnering with other relief groups to assist those in need and make progress toward recovery.

Join us in praying Psalm 56:8 over the people of Haiti.

“You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.”

—Psalm 56:8 (NLT)
Gisèle is one of thousands who lost her home in the storm. World Vision’s assessment team and partners in the hardest-hit area of Haiti’s southwest peninsula are seeing 80 to 90 percent of homes damaged or destroyed. “Our teams are just shocked at the depth of the destruction,” says World Vision’s Haiti National Director John Hasse. On the island of La Gonâve, where World Vision assists 10,000 sponsored children and their families, as many as 50 percent of houses are damaged. “I just don’t know what I’m going do to now,” says Gisèle. “I don’t have any money. I don’t have anybody to help me. God only knows.”

“My dream was to build a home,” says Marie, a single mom of three. “But it was destroyed by the hurricane.” Marie’s sadness mirrors hundreds of people who lost it all on the island of La Gonâve. Marie’s isolated village, Boudain, was flooded and almost reduced to rubble. This already impoverished community produces maize, cantaloupes, and peanuts. Now crops are destroyed, and there are no seeds to plant. Marie and her children’s livelihood depended on salt. “Everything is flooded,” Marie says. “I’ve lost the salt sacks I sell for a living.”

World Vision programs in 200 rural and urban communities in Haiti serve more than 900,000 people, including 58,000 sponsored children. Before the storm hit, World Vision began prepositioning emergency supplies. As a result, only hours after the storm passed, World Vision began helping those affected with hygiene kits, blankets, and tarps. World Vision’s relief operations are in Nippes and Sud, on the southwest peninsula, as well as on La Gonâve island and the outskirts of Port-au-Prince.

Almighty Comforter, our hearts are breaking for the people of Haiti. You know their sorrows. Be with people like Gisèle, Lord, Watch over them. Let them find peace in Your presence as they rebuild.

Good Father, wipe away the tears of people like Marie. Comfort those who have lost loved ones, who are injured, and whose homes and livelihoods are destroyed. Give them hope and the strength to rebuild.

Faithful Provider, You know the names and tears of each of your children. Help us all unite as one in this time of relief, recovery, and rebuilding. Work through World Vision’s staff to wrap the people of Haiti in Your great love.

"You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book."
—Psalm 56:8 (NLT)