



A Sign Of Hope

After everything is destroyed, Emmanuelle struggles to rebuild her family's life.



Humanitarian Division of Power to Change

Our mission is to demonstrate the love of God, in word and deed, to hurting and needy people around the world, through relief and development projects.

Before the earthquake took place on January 12th in Haiti, Emmanuelle Sony, her two daughters and five grandchildren were all living comfortably in a house that had three rooms and a beautiful kitchen. Yet, this all changed when their house collapsed on Emmanuelle's daughter that owned the house.

With a father that left the family years ago, these children, who were now suddenly motherless, were left with only their grandmother.

Emmanuelle used to earn a living by selling clothes but everything was destroyed in the earthquake, leaving the family with no money.

With very little options, Emmanuelle took the family to an IDP (Internally Displaced People) camp where she made a makeshift shelter for the seven of them.

Within the shelter, Emmanuelle had two small beds, one that was really old and one that was extremely dirty. Both

were hard to even recognize as beds. The seven of them all slept together, but some would end up moving to the ground during the night. When it rained they would all get wet, so they would have to stand up and wait until it stopped raining. Exhausted and tired, the family had no blankets and would also get quite cold throughout the night.

As with most IDP camps, there were no washrooms and no toilets. Instead, the Sony family had to wash themselves in the open space and go to the bathroom in the bushes.

Most often, the fecal smell in these camps would become very overwhelming and the security for women and children were limited, sometimes resulting in rape.

Food has been scarce for the family. A few of their neighbors in the camp gave them scraps, and a couple organizations have previously come and distributed some food. But, overall it was still not enough. Most often, they go without.

Emmanuelle goes throughout each day with lots of doubts and questions. She has never suffered like this before and with the loss of her daughter, she feels as if she is not alive anymore.

While her faith is getting smaller, she has not lost all hope in God. She still trusts that God will change something.

Emmanuelle shares, "I would like to see my grandchildren go to school. I would like to start my business again. But, above all, a tent would make me happy as it would be a great start to helping our family."

Thankfully GAIN was distributing 620+ tents the day they met Emmanuelle and the team was able to give the Sony family one of the waterproof tents.

As the GAIN staff set up the new shelter, the entire family was happy and thankful. This was the answer to Emmanuelle's first request in rebuilding her family's life. It now gave her a glimmer of hope and showed her that she could trust God for the rest.