

# HUNTING TO SURVIVE

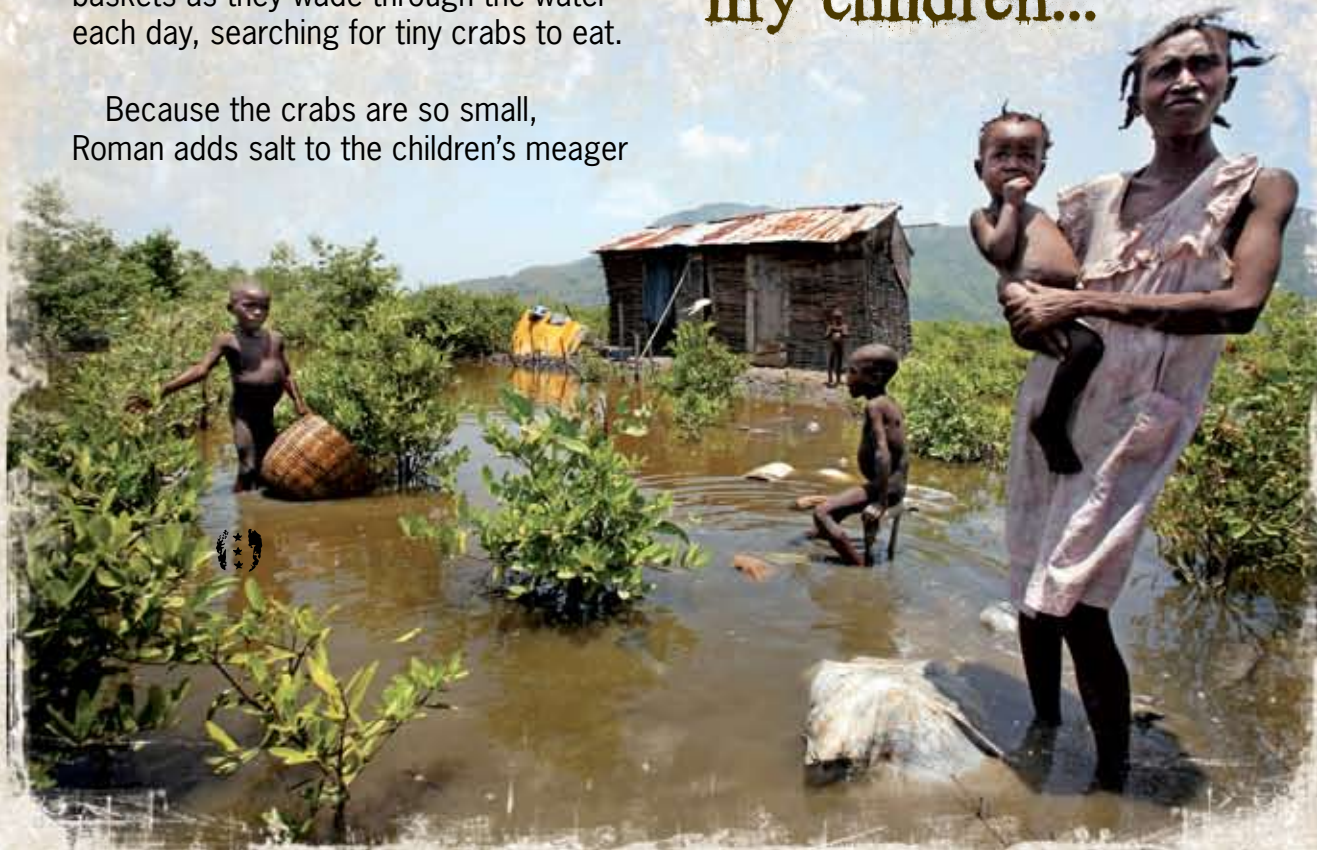
In northern Haiti, Roman Vilbrun and her family live in a shack surrounded by swamp waters. Discarded strainers and baskets litter the area. Although these instruments are commonly used for preparing and serving food, it's cruelly ironic that here they serve a different purpose: the starving family uses them to scour the polluted waters for something to eat.

With no other source of nutrition, Roman's children use the strainers and baskets as they wade through the water each day, searching for tiny crabs to eat.

Because the crabs are so small, Roman adds salt to the children's meager

catches and concocts a makeshift soup. But even with something to fill their empty bellies, the health of her young ones is at risk. The swamp waters and the crabs are infested with parasites, so Roman's children are often dangerously sick. In the heart of a desperate mother, however, illness is better than starvation.

**"God help me, I don't have anything for my children..."**



"God help me, I don't have anything for my children," Roman laments. "They are crying. I leave it in Your hands."

The only time Roman's family receives food that is safe to consume is through a random act of kindness by a neighbor or stranger. But the family has no regular source of food or income.

In the streets of Haiti, starving children eat mud "cookies" made of dirt, salt and bouillon to ease hunger pains. In rural areas like the Vilbrun's, young ones search the landscape for something to eat. Without proper nutrition, innocent children like Roman's struggle daily to survive and have little chance of a better future.

Roman often prays to God, "You are the only one who can help me."

This Thanksgiving, please be a loving neighbor to suffering families like Roman's by acting as an instrument of God's love and mercy. By simply sharing our blessings with those in need, our collective Christian charity has the power to save countless lives. 🙏

The swamp waters surrounding the Vilbrun's shack are littered with empty baskets and strainers. The children use them to catch tiny crabs to eat.



A mother mired in despair, Roman Vilbrun often prays for food for her children.

Equipped with baskets, Roman's desperately hungry children scour polluted swamp waters for food.