

# Hunger hits

## Children starving in northwest Haiti



Severe malnutrition has turned Leony and Milouise's hair orange. The girls live in a swamp formed atop heaps of old garbage and filth. Their daily bread is a small bowl of beans shared among ten people.

Haiti is experiencing a severe food shortage. Children are begging for scraps in the streets. Mothers who once could put a wholesome meal on the table are despairing as they watch their little ones grow gaunt and hollow-cheeked. The United Nations reports Haiti is the world's third hungriest country. But the children you see in these photos are not mere statistics. They are very real, starving children who need food — now.

Take a moment to look at the faces in these photos. Now ask yourself, "Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?" (Matthew 25:37b)

Children like Leony, 6, and Milouise, 3, desperately need your help. Severe malnutrition has caused their hair to turn orange and fall out in clumps. Clothing hangs off their skeletal frames. The two girls live in a cramped, airless shack made of sticks and cardboard with their mother, brothers and another family. Their daily bread is a small bowl of beans shared among ten people.

Haiti is suffering from food shortages nationally, but it is especially severe in the northern city of Cap-Haïtien, where these precious children live. Their home is in a slum that has been built on top of mud and garbage in a saltwater swamp. Their mother is too poor to live anywhere else. She is too poor to provide enough food for her hungry babies.

Walking to the girls' house involves navigating a treacherous pathway of ankle-deep mud, filth and worse. Too poor to afford shoes, they must trudge barefoot through this disease-ridden ground every day. Women living in this swamp have little comfort to offer their children when there is no food. "What can I say? I don't say anything when there's no food. I call on God and I tell Him, 'I'm in Your hands,'" one mother says.

---

**"Lord,  
when did  
we see You  
hungry?"**

---

They cling to the Lord when despair threatens to drown them. "I thank God for what I have, and I ask God to bless us. I've got nobody but Him to help me. It's faith that keeps me going. The situation we're in right now... God will help us get through it," she says, fighting back tears.

Father Duken, the local priest, is frantically looking for some way — any way — to get food to the