

FROM THE FIELD: MEET POPEYE

75-year-old Popeye was recently widowed and lives on his own. He lives in the district of El Porvenir, in Peru. His children and grandchildren live nearby, and he often looks after his grandchildren. He makes fishing nets and hammocks, which he sells.

In his district, the municipal government had dug a large drainage ditch, to help contain the expected rainfall coming down from the mountains. However, the drainage ditch burst its banks and many homes were completely destroyed.

A massive mudslide happened suddenly and people weren't prepared. Most fled in just the clothes they were wearing and sheltered on higher ground. Most families have now returned, many finding their homes either completely destroyed or heavily damaged.

"When I came back the house was full of mud. It took me a month to clean out the mud and clear my house. I haven't been able to work, and I still don't have any money so I cannot buy food, I am eating at the community kitchen for the first time in my life. I don't have a front door or a front wall anymore, so I am afraid to leave my home to work in case I lose my tools and my belongings. The few things I have left, I have to take care of".

We provided Popeye with a ShelterKit and other essential items like solar lights, to help him get back on his feet following the flooding and mudslides. "I really like the lights, as I don't have regular electricity. I built a shelter to live in, it took me six days to build, and I built it myself. I am a man of work, but I need some capital, I hope I will be able to earn money and buy the other materials I need to rebuild soon. I'm Peruvian and have Peruvian spirit".

Head to www.shelterbox.org.nz to learn more.

