



Risa pictured with her new kitchen set

FROM THE FIELD

Risa from Vanuatu

When Tropical Cyclone Harold hit Vanuatu, it destroyed much of Risa's home and many of her possessions.

The night before the cyclone, Risa visited another family to be near the evacuation centre at the school. When the cyclone hit, they went to a classroom. She says, "I was with my one-year-old grandson. We were just leaning against the wall. Luckily, I moved away just before the branch came down onto the wall. One of the children was injured from broken glass.

"All through the time we were in the classroom, everyone just stood, especially the fathers. They made sure everyone was protected. We have many newly-born babies and their mothers tried to make sure that they felt comfortable."

The next morning when people left the shelter, they found their houses and most of their belongings were damaged or completely lost. Trees were stripped and the gardens were damaged.

"I am 63 years old. I have never seen a cyclone like this!"

As for Risa, she says, "My house has been damaged. It's taken the side of the house. The back of the wall where my bedroom is has been blown off by the wind."

Most of the people spent several months in the school as the palm trees they used for roofing had been destroyed. Once ShelterBox aid arrived, Risa reported, "We received tarpaulins, a tool kit, a kitchen set, a hygiene kit, as well as other tools to help us to come back to normal life. I have had mothers who dance with joy when they open the packages."

Risa said, "I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you so much to all the aid donors and everyone who has helped us to come back slowly to the normal life we have been living before Cyclone Harold."

"I have had mothers who cried with joy!"



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