



ShelterBox

Disaster relief

eNewsletter December 2019

ShelterBox is proud to be a Project Partner of Rotary International



It's been six years since Typhoon Haiyan, one of the deadliest typhoons on record, tore through the Philippines. Now the country is reeling again after the latest storm Kammuri has caused severe damage. ShelterBox is sending an assessment team to find out if our emergency aid will be needed.

This year, your support has helped over **29,000 families** (or 'households') which is **145,000 people***.

That's **over 25,800 families** (129,000 people) supported with emergency shelter aid and other essential household items including tents, tarpaulins, tool kits, blankets, mosquito nets, solar lights, cooking set, water carriers and water filters.

Over **3,200 families** (16,000 people) have been assisted with essential household items, including blankets, mosquito nets, solar lights, cooking sets, water carriers and water filters.

You've helped us respond 11 times to reach communities affected by natural disasters and conflict. You've helped people in **4 conflict responses** and **7 natural disasters** including tropical cyclones, flooding, drought, earthquakes.

Your help has reached across **9 countries**: Bangladesh, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, Paraguay, The Philippines, Somalia (Somaliland), Syria.

We also sent assessment teams to a **further 5 countries**: The Bahamas, Comoros, Greece, Republic of Congo and Burkina Faso.

Our **Volunteer Response Team Members** have given over 1000 days of their time, energy and skill, leaving their own families to help provide emergency shelter and vital support to families around the world who have lost so much.

ShelterBox is proud to be an official project partner of Rotary International. Local Rotary groups and **Rotarians** around the world have helped in **almost all of our responses to natural disasters**.

This month's newsletter takes on a slightly different format, with a review of what we have achieved in the previous 12 months. When speaking to people who have been affected by disaster, four themes become clear. Below, you'll read about these four themes

This month's quote comes from Desmond Tutu, "*Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness*".

Many thanks for your support in 2019 and all the best for the festive season and the New Year.



Mike Greenslade
CEO ShelterBox Australia
0459 959 501
mike.greenslade@shelterbox.org.au

*Numbers as of 12 Dec 2019 - based on completed responses from 1 January 2019 to date, and anticipated responses to 31 December 2019 and therefore aren't final.

1. Creating a space and place of home

A home is more than a physical structure. It's a place to spend time with friends and family. A place where people can come together and process what has happened - especially after traumatic experiences. It's a place to get some sleep, to feel safe and secure. It's a place to find privacy and time to yourself. It's somewhere for everyday things like cooking, eating, working, children doing their homework. It's a place where you can think about the future.

- In the Philippines, 83% of people interviewed who had been supported by ShelterBox agreed that after building or repairing their home, their family had improved levels of privacy. When asked what the solar lights were used for, 96% said that they were useful for household chores, 85% for cooking meals, 76% for going to the bathroom and 82% for doing schoolwork.
- In Syria, 84% of people interviewed who had been supported by ShelterBox agreed that our emergency shelter aid helped them to quickly stabilise their situation.
- In Paraguay, 84% of people interviewed who had been supported by ShelterBox said that the provision of emergency shelter gave them the confidence to return to their original home.

- In Minawao camp, Cameroon, people who had been supported by ShelterBox were asked where they were living before they received emergency shelter; 96% of respondents were sleeping in community centres, 4% were sleeping outside. 100% of respondents agreed that they had improved levels of family privacy after receiving the shelter.



45-year-old Grace from Malawi lived in a small village called Mwalija with her husband and four children. Her entire home and all the family belongings were washed away after severe flooding caused by Cyclone Idai swept through the village. The family were forced to flee when the fast-flowing water swamped their home in the middle of the night.

Grace received a shelter tool kit and other essential aid items including a tarpaulin, mosquito net, a hoe, and a kitchen set. She used the tool kit and tarpaulin to build a new shelter for her family.

Grace's new shelter gave her the space for everyday life to resume. When talking about the aid she received she said: *"We were very happy to now have our own place to stay". Not only did it give them back some privacy, she added that it made a difference to their family life, smiling broadly she said: "It means that my husband and I can live together as man and wife again."*

2. Rebuilding as a community

Communities come in many forms – they can be towns, villages, groups, or even just extended families. What's important is the sense of togetherness. The life-force of a community lifts the spirit of its members. It helps recovery by providing essential physical, financial, and emotional support. When a community begins the recovery process, people are there for each

other, and focus on the future together. They exchange work and goods. This provides a means of earning a livelihood and accumulating resources.

- In Paraguay, 43% of people interviewed who had been supported by ShelterBox said that the solar lights enabled them to socialise more.
- In Malawi, people stated that they used the solar lights in the evenings for activities like attending the Mosque, visiting neighbours and sitting around and talking.
- In Malawi where families were living in schools, teachers reported that by helping people return home schooling activities improved.



Solar lights help communities feel safe at night and enable them to socialise after dark

3. Returning to work

Work is more than a means to an income or food. It represents independence and can be an indication that people have an eye on the future. For many affected by a conflict or natural disaster, the ability to begin working again means they can take back control of their lives. From a psychological perspective alone, the point people return to work is when we can begin to imagine a vision for the future.

- In Bangladesh, 77% of people interviewed who had been supported by ShelterBox said the tarpaulins would be useful for sheltering livestock, while 65% planned on using them to dry harvests.

- In Paraguay, 97% of people interviewed who had been supported by ShelterBox said the tools would continue to be useful even after they had built or repaired a shelter.
- In the Philippines, 85% of people interviewed who had been supported by ShelterBox said the tools would continue to be useful even after they had built or repaired a shelter.



23-year-old Esther was just 18 when she witnessed the tragic death of her parents and her brothers after Boko Haram violently attacked her village in Nigeria. She ran for her life.

Esther now lives in Minawao camp in Cameroon where we've been providing emergency shelter and household items to displaced families through the support of our partner IEDA Relief. Since arriving at the camp with nothing but the clothes on her back, Esther has started her own business as a dress maker. She can now earn a living of her own and has regained her independence.

Esther said: *"Anytime I see somebody wearing something that I sewed, it makes me happy. I can now take care of some family needs, like cooking and other things",*

Today, Esther is one of the most popular dressmakers on her bloc in Minawao camp. She said that many women around her go to her for their clothes, as well as those of their children. It has helped her and her family with their household needs.

Emergency shelter is deeply connected to livelihoods. It can support communities to move home or to a new site where they can tend crops or keep livestock. Providing tools help people to work the fields or start their own business. Like in Esther's case, homes can become shops or workshops.

4. Building skills and knowledge

Building a shelter needs skills and knowledge - especially if it's going to stand firm while people work for the money and resources needed to repair or rebuild a permanent home. For some, this will be second nature as they draw from their experiences, but others may need help and guidance to build their new shelter.

By working with communities on both local techniques and construction methods we've tested around the world, we can help families to build or repair reliable, weatherproof homes. We also train people to pass that knowledge on, so communities can continue to benefit.

- In the Philippines, 95% of respondents stated that they used the skills they had acquired during our training to build or repair their shelter.
- In Cameroon, 98% of respondents agreed that they felt more confident to use the shelter aid after they received training



Cecilio undertook training on how to repair his home. He said, *"I paid close attention during the training to ensure that I could make the appropriate repairs to my home, and so that it lasts longer and remains stronger the next time the floods come."*

Training can provide new skills that communities can share with each other. This helps people to rebuild using local techniques alongside tried and tested methods. It can also help people repair and rebuild their damaged or lost homes. Being able to do this can play a part in making people feel more secure so they can then look to the future.



Support families affected by disaster and crisis. Please

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DONATE NOW

EFT: Bendigo Bank: ShelterBox Australia: BSB 633 000: Account no. 166 780 163 (please email sbaoffice@shelterbox.org.au to notify us of your donation and receive your tax receipt).

Cheques can be mailed to: ShelterBox Australia, PO Box 254, Parramatta, NSW, 2124

All donations above \$2 are fully tax-deductible

2020 Vision Photo Book 2 Days to Go!



“ *Humanity is at its rawest in disasters and yet there are moments that capture true human dignity and hope. Brilliantly shown in Mike's work.* **”**

TIM COSTELLO, AO
CHIEF ADVOCATE
OF WORLD VISION
AUSTRALIA

Please support our cause by purchasing "2020 Vision" — a donation of \$65 or more will secure your copy and cover quick postage, so you can flick through the book with your family and friends on Christmas day!

Did we mention "2020 Vision" makes the perfect cause-driven Christmas gift? Get involved and show your support this weekend: bit.ly/2020-vision-book

Tasmania Trek November 2020



Have you always wanted to take on a challenge for a worthy cause? ShelterBox's Tasmania Trek could be your next adventure...

We're excited to announce our latest adventure, the **ShelterBox Tasmania Trek 2020**. On this incredible adventure, you'll trek through the rocky mountain peaks, buttongrass moorlands, glacial lakes, waterfalls and the dense rainforest of **Cradle Mountain** and its beautiful surrounds.

To top it off, you'll also be raising funds for ShelterBox Australia to **provide emergency shelter for families who have lost their homes to disaster**, enabling them to rebuild their lives.

When you sign up, you'll join a team of other passionate ShelterBox Australia supporters who will trek with you and we'll give you all the guidance you'll need to start your fundraising journey!

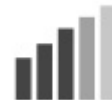
[Find out more](#)



7-11 November 2020



5-day adventure
5 challenge days



Moderately challenging

[Register your interest](#)

Trek The Kokoda Track with ShelterBox in 2020



ONLY 5 PLACES LEFT!

How will you spend ANZAC Day next year? How about trekking the Kokoda Track alongside a team of ShelterBox Australia supporters?

Picture trekking across rugged mountain terrain, through lush tropical rainforest and into unspoiled villages of Papua New Guinea. Imagine retracing the footsteps of Australian soldiers and learning about the history of the battle

sites from expert guides. **The ShelterBox Kokoda Trek 2020** is going to be an unforgettable adventure and we'd love for you to take part.

Find out more



22 April – 2 May 2020



11-day adventure
9 challenge days



Very challenging



Rotary



ShelterBox Australia is a registered charity with DGR 1 status. ShelterBox Australia is recognised by the ATO as a Public Benevolent Institution and endorsed by DFAT's Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme. ShelterBox is a Project Partner of Rotary International, independent of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation.

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