



ShelterBox

Disaster relief

eNewsletter May 2020

ShelterBox is proud to be a Project Partner of Rotary International



The COVID-19 crisis has complicated every humanitarian response, but we are determined to help those made homeless by disaster. Above, our partners in Cameroon employ COVID-safe practices.

Disasters don't stop during a pandemic, and early this morning Cyclone Amphan slammed the shores of Bangladesh and India. It is one of the most powerful storms ever recorded in the Bay of Bengal.

Millions have been evacuated already, but these efforts are complicated by Coronavirus concerns. Many evacuation centres are currently being used as isolation and quarantine facilities, and social distancing is not a priority when you are fleeing for your life.

There is a major concern for families living in low-lying areas. Storm surges and heavy rains are expected to continue to impact these families. It is likely that many will lose their lives, and millions will lose their homes and livelihoods.

We don't have all the information yet, we don't know the full impact of this Super Cyclone, but we are ready. **Thanks to your ongoing support, ShelterBox is on red alert and standing by.**

As restrictions ease in Australia, you might like to think about your next trip away. Why not make it extra special and do it for ShelterBox? There are still places available on November's Tasmania Trek and a few last places on the postponed Kokoda Trek, now due to take place

next April. Details for both adventures are below, along with information on how you can join our Book Club. We've just finished our first book, the wonderful 'Beekeeper of Aleppo'. Now is a great time to join as we vote on our next book.

This month's quote comes from George Eliot, "*Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together.*"

Many thanks for your support.

Stay safe.



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Vanuatu - Cyclone Harold



The devastation caused by the cyclone on Vanuatu's Espiritu Santo Island. Image © Dr. Christopher Bartlett/VBRC

On April 6, Cyclone Harold made landfall in Vanuatu as a Category 5 cyclone, bringing devastation to communities in the north and affecting 160,000 people.

Existing challenges facing any disaster response in the Pacific region, including logistics and communications, are further exacerbated by the Coronavirus pandemic and the resulting

restrictions around movements, etc. Vanuatu is currently COVID-19-free and would like to stay that way; this is delaying any humanitarian response and the recovery period for this cyclone is mooted to be at least 12 months.

Despite these difficulties, we are currently on track to support around **2,000 families** with ShelterKits, tarpaulins and essential household items such as cooking sets and solar lights.

Our aid travelled by air from Abu Dhabi to **Brisbane** last week where it was then transferred onto a ship bound for Port Vila. Given the restrictions on personal travel, ShelterBox will be operating in partnership with Care Vanuatu. We worked with Care previously in 2015, following Cyclone Pam, and they will provide support on the ground plus aid for an additional **2,000 households**. The project will be targeting families on **Pentecost** and **Ambryn islands**.

Philippines - Taal Volcano/COVID-19



Nancy Sabuero (pictured right), the Head of Medical Social Services Unit (MSSU) with a colleague from the Eversley Sanitarium, a public hospital in Cebu.

ShelterBox provided tarpaulins, ropes, and fixings to Eversley Sanitarium, a public hospital in Cebu, Philippines. The aid was used to create extra spaces to treat vulnerable patients in both emergencies and triage areas to ease overcrowding.

Nancy Sabuero, the Head of Medical Social Services Unit (MSSU) unit from the hospital said: *"We would like to thank the ShelterBox for donating supplies for our much-needed Holding Area and Triage. These facilities were set-up adjacent to the Emergency Room. All cases/patients therefore before entering the emergency room passes through the triage area. The Holding area serves as temporary accommodation for patients that may need a referral or transfer to our Isolation Ward (quarantine ward) or a referral to another hospital but cannot be transported yet for some other reasons. We are thankful that ShelterBox Operations Philippines came in at the most important time and that our patients needed it the most."*

Meanwhile, ShelterBox Operations Philippines continue to work with partners on the ground to decongest camps set up following the Taal Volcano eruption. Communities will be supported with ShelterKits, tarpaulins and household items.

Somaliland - Drought



39-year-old Kaltun lives with her husband and five children (two boys and three girls) in a camp for displaced people in the Togdheer region of Somaliland

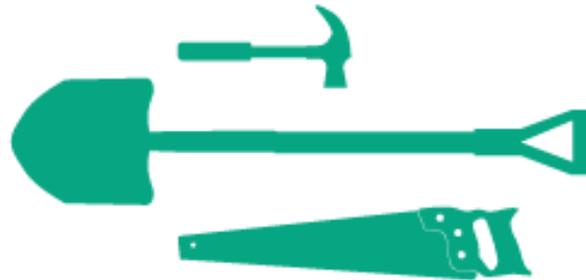
Our latest project with Action Aid in Somaliland is now complete, with **1,800 households** supported. The aid was in the form of ShelterBoxes, with tarpaulins and rope deemed more appropriate than tents. COVID-safe practices were employed during distributions, limiting the number of beneficiaries attending at one time and the provision of face masks and handwashing stations.

Kaltun, pictured above, was forced to leave her home when the area she was living in was devastated by severe drought. Kaltun described her journey to the camp as one of the most difficult times in her life. The family walked for four days, and during that time Kaltun carried her youngest child on her shoulders as she searched for food and water.

Before the drought, the family used to live in a small village where they reared livestock. Sadly, she lost around 150 sheep and goats, and 47 camels to the harsh climate. *“Our lives were entirely dependent on our livestock. After we lost the assets, only two small goats survived, our children starved, then nutritious food and water became very expensive. So, I sold the two goats and bought some small food for the children,”* Kaltun recalled.

Just when they thought they had settled and could move forward with their lives, Kaltun and her family faced further problems. They were evicted from the land they had built their shelter on and relocated to a new camp. She said the land they had been moved to was permanent. Land rights uncertainty is a common issue in Somaliland. Many families already displaced from the drought are being evicted and becoming homeless again.

Kaltun said she needed to rebuild her shelter and with new materials. *“The old clothes and cartons that we used to cover our temporary shelter had been destroyed while we were evicted. I worried a lot as the rainy season has started. In addition to this, I was also fearful of coronavirus.”*



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

Tasmania Trek November 2020 - Places Filling Up Fast



With our Kokoda Trek postponed until next year, the Tasmania Trek is currently still going ahead, sign up with confidence as bookings are guaranteed.

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 surroundings.

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



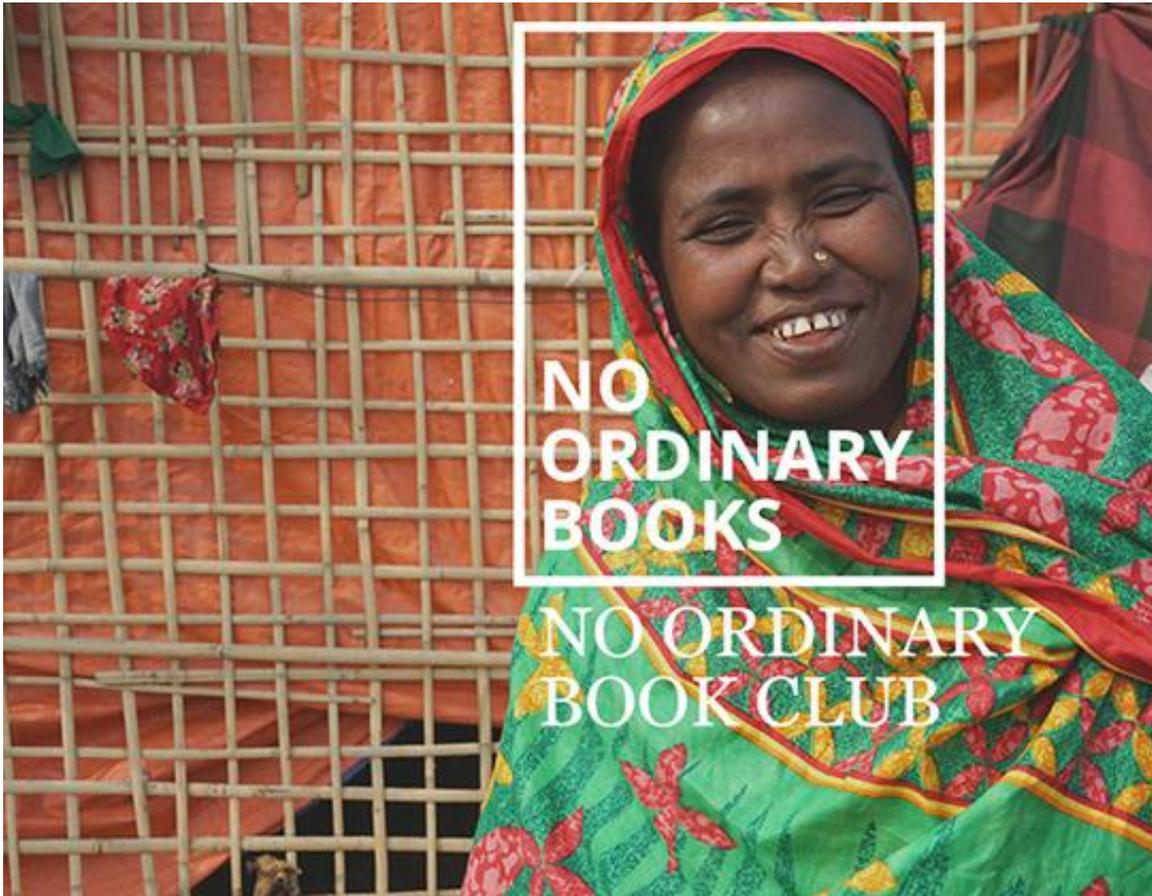
5-day adventure
5 challenge days



Moderately challenging

[Register your interest](#)

[Join The ShelterBox Australia Book Club](#)



Join the ShelterBox Australia Book Club – a unique community membership designed for Australians who share the love of a quality read.

Each member can vote on the next book – a shortlist of 3 books carefully selected by our Head Bookworm, who is always on the lookout for compelling stories from around the world and strong characters with depth.

Join the ShelterBox Book Club community today with a monthly payment to ShelterBox, and you can look forward to delving into a new, exciting book every 6 weeks. Read along at your own pace and join the discussion online, via our private Facebook group.

And with every story you read, you'll be transforming the lives of disaster-hit families around the world.

JOIN TODAY

"The Beekeeper of Aleppo", our first ShelterBox Book Club book, a great choice. Yesterday, it was chosen as the winner of the 2020 Aspen Words Literary Prize'. Bronwyn Klar -Book Club member.



There are just 4 places left on this trip of a lifetime!

[LEARN MORE](#)



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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