



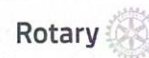
ShelterBox and Rotary International are partners in disaster relief.
ShelterBox Australia is a registered charity, independent of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation

Patron

Air Chief Marshal (Retd) Sir Angus Houston AK AFC

Chair

PDG Rowley Tompsett CRLSS FICDA ASO JP



October 2019

Rotary Clubs in Australia

Dear Rotarians

On average, only one in five families receive the emergency shelter so desperately needed in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. Today, Rotary and ShelterBox are working in partnership to change this; a partnership that has helped us to become who we are today. Our global network of ShelterBox affiliates around the world evolved from Rotary relationships.

By working together with Rotary, we collaborate and combine resources to ensure that we support more communities in desperate need of shelter. Rotarians and Rotary Clubs across the world support us in a variety of ways, from raising funds to providing support in-country during our response to a disaster. This enables us to cross boundaries and work together to reach even the most remote communities.

In 2018, global Rotary support enabled ShelterBox to provide shelter and life-saving items for 42,000 families who lost their homes because of disaster and conflict. Together, we were able to help 210,000 people on the road to rebuilding and recovery.

We received vital in-country support across most of our 18 responses. With the help of Rotary in Guatemala - following the deadly eruption of Mount Fuego - we were able to erect tents in collective centres to provide families with safe, private spaces. In Indonesia - following a series of earthquakes - Rotary was instrumental in helping to provide ShelterBoxes to families on the islands of Lombok and Sulawesi.

Already this year, we have worked in eight countries, often side-by-side with local Rotarians. In the Philippines we responded in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Usman. In Malawi, where over one million people were displaced by Cyclone Idai, we were there, with our local Rotary supporters, supporting 2,000 families. We have provided shelter to almost 13,000 families and essential disaster aid to another 673 families.

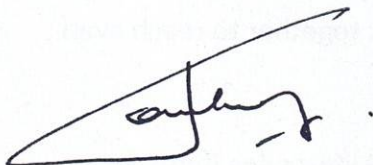


The continued support of Rotary Clubs and Rotarians around the world helps us as we strive towards our vision of no family being left without shelter after disaster. It is not only the practical, in-country support that makes a difference, thanks to the continuing financial support of Rotary Clubs like yours, we are able respond swiftly to help families rebuild.

With this letter, I have enclosed a copy of our Strategic Plan, enabling you to learn a little more about ShelterBox Australia: our Vision, our Mission, our Values and how we plan to move forward over the next five years ... because disasters don't stop, and neither will we. The latest update included will keep you abreast of our activities around the world.

As a Rotarian, I know the many demands placed on Rotary Clubs as we strive to make a difference in the world. I also know, when we see a just cause, we rise to the challenge. Disaster and conflict continue to leave families around the world without safe shelter. The need is truly overwhelming. Therefore, I have no hesitation in asking for your continued support. As part of your Club's international avenue of service, I urge you to consider your partner in disaster relief – ShelterBox – and help us to ensure no family is left without shelter after disaster.

Sincerely



ROWLEY TOMPSETT

Chair

ShelterBox Australia



DEAR ROTARIANS,

Support from Rotary clubs across 2019 has meant that, to date, we have been able to provide families with the tools to start rebuilding their lives after disaster across 9 different countries. From flooding in Paraguay, to conflict-based displacement across the Lake Chad Basin region, your support has meant we've been there.

Right now hurricane season is here. Hurricane Dorian wreaked havoc in the Bahamas at the beginning of September, it was the first major hurricane of the year. With more expected over the coming months, your support means we're always able to be on standby, ready to help if needed.

This newsletter brings you an update from Paraguay, we reflect on our response earlier in the year to Cyclone Idai in Malawi and we give you an operational update of all our active responses.

Power in Partnership

I have just come back from Paraguay where I joined our team, responding to the devastating flooding across the region. It was great to team up with Rotaractors from The Rotaract Club of Asunción and The Rotaract Club of Asunción Catedral, who were working with our Response Team assisting with translation and logistical preparations for distributions.

From HQ

Sanj Srikanthan has recently been appointed as the new Chief Executive of ShelterBox Trust. Sanj will join in December after 10 years at the International Rescue Committee. Earlier in his career he worked for UN OCHA (the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) and was previously a Captain in the British Army.

 @shelterboxaus

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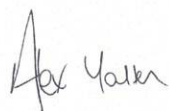


ShelterBox and Rotaract in Paraguay

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Sanj brings a wealth of humanitarian expertise to lead ShelterBox forward and we are excited to welcome him to the team.

We hope you enjoy reading the stories in this newsletter and sharing the updates with your Rotary Club. We wish you and your Club all the very best for this Rotary year.

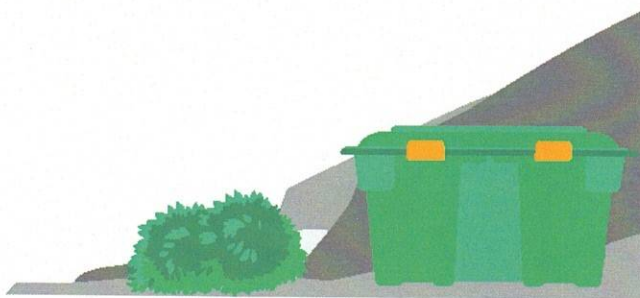
YOURS SINCERELY,



Alex Youlten

Rotary Partnership Manager
ShelterBox Trust

P.S. Don't forget you can get in touch in Australia any time by emailing office@shelterbox.org.au



RE-BUILDING IN PARAGUAY

Paraguay saw abnormally intense rainfall between March and May this year, which led to widespread flooding and the overflow of the river Paraguay in the capital city Asunción.

The unusually heavy rain was linked to the climate pattern El Niño, displacing nearly 20,000 families. Cecilio and his family live south east of the Paraguay River. In March they were forced out of their home when rising water levels flooded their town.

Alongside Rotaract, ShelterBox worked with our trusted partners Habitat for Humanity and the Paraguayan Red Cross to provide vital aid to nearly 3,000 families in Asunción. Families received ShelterKits, mosquito nets, solar lights and high thermal blankets and, through our train the trainer model communities were provided with training on how best to repair, rebuild and use the aid provided.

Over the years, Cecilio said the high-water levels had become more frequent. "The waters rise far quicker than they used to, they used to rise slowly, and people had time to self-evacuate", he said. On this occasion Cecilio's family had little warning. Cecilio said he was pleased to collect the aid items from ShelterBox.

When the team returned 2 weeks later, as part of our monitoring and evaluation process, he explained how receiving the aid was well-timed, as he could return home just as the river levels receded. The items had given him the motivation to return to his original home and begin repairs.

Cecilio used the hammer and nails to repair his old roof and build the frame for another section of his house. He planned to use the tarpaulins to build the roof and weatherproof the section of the house he was framing. He used the shovel to level out and heighten the ground for both his and his neighbours' properties to be rebuilt on. He also dug trenches for drainage, and post-holes to support the frame of his building.

“

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.

Cecilio



FAMILIES IN ASUNCIÓN RECIEVED NEARLY 3,000



SHELTERKITS



MOSQUITO NETS



SOLAR LIGHTS



BLANKETS

KUNYUMBA - HOME

When Cyclone Idai tore through Southern Africa in March, it separated parents and children, ripped up homes and destroyed livelihoods.

"On the day of the flood the rain started at 5pm. By the middle of the night, all the houses had fallen. Our livestock were getting carried away with the water. The crocodiles were so close to us, attacking the cows." – Stephano

Thanks to your support 2,000 families were supported with ShelterBox aid including tarpaulins, water filters and solar lights so they could begin to rebuild their lives. With tools and emergency shelter, the Mwalija community were able to move from focusing on immediate problems like where to sleep tonight, to planning for a better tomorrow. But aid and training alone do not lead to recovery. It's what people like Stephano, Lucida and Mary are able to achieve when offered the right help at the right time.

"Now, life is improving. We appreciate the aid you have given us, it has made us feel like human beings again. At first, we did not know where to start from. It gave us the courage to start moving forward." - Lucida

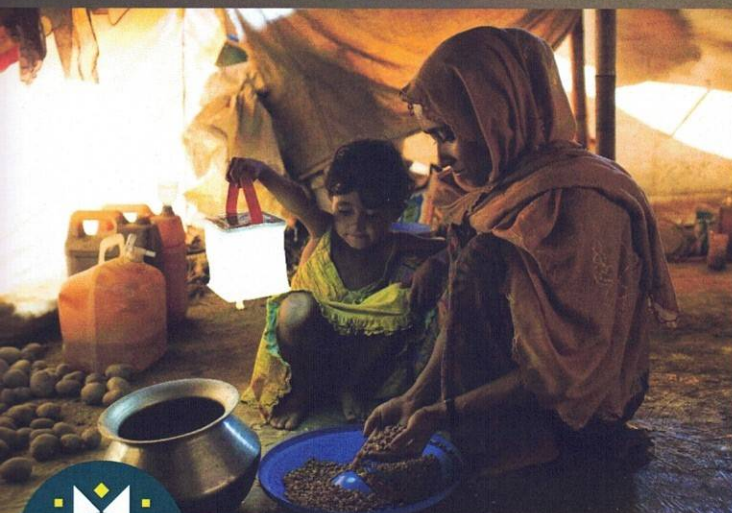
ShelterBox returned to understand what the recovery process has been like. Joined by renowned photographer, Sian Davey, we are celebrating the incredible things that these families have achieved.

READ THE
FAMILIES STORIES
IN FULL AND
IN THEIR OWN WORDS

[www.shelterbox
australia.org.au](http://www.shelterboxaustralia.org.au)

"Life is getting restored. Now we are living on higher land, we are living without worries. I feel at home, without any hesitation."

Mary



"We had a lot of fun on our wine and cheese Shine evening. Social, Rotary awareness and 'doing good in the world' by supporting ShelterBox - What could be better?"

Mike French, The Rotary Club of Calgary West,
District 5360 Past District Governor



When disaster strikes, families flee their homes in search of a safer place. That can often mean an overcrowded space with no electricity. Having somewhere dry and warm to sleep, to prepare meals and be with your family is vital for starting the long process of recovery. Solar lights help families to re-establish their normal routine and can help transform a shelter into a home.

Host a Shine for ShelterBox dinner or BBQ this summer, raising money to support families after disaster with solar lights, emergency shelter and other essential items.

Who: you and your Rotary Club

What: host a dinner and fundraiser to support families after disaster

Where: in your community

When: throughout summer

[www.shelterboxaustralia.org.au/
shine-for-shelterbox/](http://www.shelterboxaustralia.org.au/shine-for-shelterbox/)

CURRENT OPERATIONS BOARD

SEPTEMBER 2019

COUNTRY	DISASTER	ACTION
Bahamas	Hurricane	Hurricane Dorian, a Category 5 storm, hit the Bahamas at the start of September with winds of up to 220 mph and storm surges of up to 23 feet. The storm caused widespread flooding and destruction across Grand Bahama Island, leaving over 70,000 people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. We have an assessment team in the Bahamas, working with other humanitarian organisations and Rotary contacts to understand if we might be able to help affected families.
Paraguay	Flooding	ShelterBox response to widespread flooding is drawing to a close. We have been working in partnership with Habitat for Humanity and the Paraguay Red Cross, as well as liaising closely with SEN - the authority coordinating the Government response at national level. 2,925 families have so far been supported with ShelterKits and household items. During the response, the team have been well supported by Rotary and Rotaractors, who have provided support with stock take activities, and post-distribution monitoring.
Ethiopia	Displacement	Political unrest, an increase in inter-communal violence, drought in the eastern and south eastern parts of the country and localised flooding have led to mass displacement. Between September 2018 and February 2019, ShelterBox provided 3,500 Emergency Kits for distribution to displaced families in the West Guji region. We are currently working on plans to deliver another project with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and our focus will continue to be the West Guji and Gedeo zones in the south west of the country. A second project would be to support a further 1,100 families.
Somaliland	Drought	Working in partnership with ActionAid, we recently completed our 4th project, to support families affected by the prolonged drought within informal camp settings in the Togdheer region. This project supported a further 1,000 families with tarpaulins and rope, as well as a household items package containing mosquito nets, a kitchen set, ground mats, blankets, solar lights, water carriers and water filters. Previous distributions are currently being reviewed and a strategy is being developed for possible future responses.
Syria	Conflict	ShelterBox continues to work with in-country partners to respond to the continuing crisis. With the area in and around Idlib having been the subject of further escalation in artillery and airstrikes in recent months, we initiated our joint contingency plan with ReliefAid, responding to the sharp increase in population displacement. The first phase of this project supported 275 families, the second phase supported a further 500 families in formal camp settings and aid for the third phase to support 500 additional families is in transit.
Nigeria	Conflict	With in-country partner ACTED, ShelterBox are underway with a 4th project in response to displacement caused by a spike in violence by ISWAP (Islamic State West Africa Province), a splinter group of Boko Haram. This is intended to support 982 families with vital aid.
Cameroon	Conflict	Project 7 is now underway with in-country partner IEDA Relief, with distributions both in Minawao Camp to support 1,000 families and off-camp in local villages to support 336 families. In Minawao Camp, our tents are allowing families to leave collective centres sooner and start their journey towards recovery. In more rural areas, our white tents can make families a target, so we're giving families the tools and training they need to build more discreet shelters.
WE CONTINUALLY MONITOR GLOBAL DISPLACEMENT CAUSED BY CONFLICT AND UNREST, AS WELL AS IMPACT FROM NATURAL DISASTERS TO ENSURE WE ARE ALWAYS READY TO SHELTER VULNERABLE FAMILIES IN NEED.		