



ShelterBox

Disaster relief

eNewsletter May 2020

ShelterBox is proud to be a Project Partner of Rotary International



We have over 35 supporters of all ages going #OffTheGrid this Saturday to raise funds and awareness for ShelterBox! Learn how you can support their efforts and DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT below.

Tomorrow is World Refugee Day. A day dedicated to the nearly 80 million refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people around the world. That's 1% of the global population.

Forced to flee their homes, they settle in overcrowded camps and displacement centres, where living conditions are often dire. People who don't have a place to call home struggle to stay safe and healthy.

Coronavirus is making the situation even worse.

In congested refugee camps, it's almost impossible to follow social distancing guidelines. For many families, water and soap are rare luxuries, making it difficult to wash their hands regularly. Household items are also often scarce, and different families are forced to share everyday items like pots and pans, which increases the risk of spreading the virus.

Below, you'll meet some of the people who have had to flee their home because of conflict in [Syria](#) and Nigeria and learn more about how, with your help, we've supported them.

This month's quote comes from Khaled Hosseini, "*Refugees are mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children, with the same hopes and ambitions as us—except that a twist of fate has bound their lives to a global refugee crisis on an unprecedented scale.*"

Many thanks for your support.

Stay safe.



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Cameroon - Conflict



Vadzai lives in Minawao refugee camp with her family. She explains how coronavirus is affecting her community and how the aid items she has received can help her to prevent catching the virus.

Are you concerned about coronavirus?

'I feel concerned about coronavirus because it is a dangerous disease. Even powerful countries in the world are afraid of this disease so I am anxious for all of us here since we live in precarious conditions.

To prevent the spread of the virus I need to wash my hands with clean water and soap, avoid handshaking, wear a mask and avoid crowded places.'

What are the challenges you face in trying to keep yourself and your family protected from the virus?

'The real challenge is to respect all the measures prescribed, like avoiding crowded places. For instance, during food distribution and despite the precautions taken, it is difficult to stay away from others or to avoid touching them. Another challenge includes the scarceness and cost of soap in this village. We have no real jobs, so the money we earn allows us to buy food and medicines. There is not enough money to buy face masks for the whole family.'

How do you think the aid items you have received might help you?

'The items I received will help me in respecting the distancing measures. My children can stay at home rather than going from house to house. Now I can avoid crowded places and stay away if somebody falls sick.'

Syria - Conflict



Umm and two of her children outside their shelter in a Syrian displacement camp.

Umm Khaled – Idlib Syria

“We have to work to build our lives again from the beginning.”

Umm Khaled’s family is one of the thousands who have lost their homes in Syria as the conflict enters its tenth year. When ShelterBox’s partner in Syria, ReliefAid met her in January, the weather was freezing, and she was living in a bare tent with just a handful of possessions. She told us how, along with her husband and children, she became displaced and what little items they brought with them.

“We were in the village, and two rockets fell next to us. We fled from our house and took refuge in a cave. The children were crying, and the situation was scary, so we left the village quickly. We went north and we moved from one area to another and we could not find a place to live. We had two houses and many possessions, in addition to agricultural land, but left without

taking anything from them, just some clothes and light things because I thought we would be back in a few days. But we have not been able to return yet and we are now homeless in this camp with the few things that we brought with us.”

What is it like living in a displacement camp?

“Life is hard here, everyone lives in a small tent and everything we do is in the tent. It is where we wash and where we eat, the situation is never easy. Children are always in the tent so that they stay warm and do not go outside to prevent them from getting sick. We don't have enough blankets or things to keep them warm. We use our clothes and everything we have to keep warm. We were used to a different life in the village and when we got here, we found life very difficult.”

Do you spend time with other women in the camp?

“Yes, we sit together and talk about our problems, our stories, and console each other. If a child gets sick, we help each other take care of him. Sometimes we cook together and gather to talk and try and forget what has happened. We talk about our village, our homes that were, everything we have built and worked for that we've lost.

“Sometimes we try to forget, sometimes we feel sad, remember the past and feel depressed. Then we say that this is our destiny and we must accept what has happened. We were working and collecting money to improve our lives and in one moment everything went.”

ShelterBox provided a shelter kit to Umm Khalid and other families at the camp. ReliefAid visited her again after distributing aid to her and asked her how things had been since they had first met her.

“The winter was very difficult for us, water leaked in from under (the tent) and we were crying from the cold, sometimes from hunger and everything. I couldn't do anything for my kids except cry for them and our condition. Now we are in the spring and I hope the situation will be better than winter.

“You helped us with the materials, and we thank you very much because the kit helped us a lot. We used to feel cold and now we are keeping warm with our children. Now we sleep and sit on the mattress, we used to sleep on the ground and stones in the tent. The blankets are good for keeping warm, the water containers we put the water in to keep the water clean for drinking. The lamp for the lighting, tarpaulins we put one on the ground and the other on the tent. Thank you, I hope that you will continue to help us.”

Lastly, the ReliefAid team asked what Umm had planned for the future.

“We do not want to be displaced again because we have been displaced and have suffered so much. We will try to work and collect some money to replace this tent with a stone building to live in and to buy a goat.

“Because there is no school for children they play outside the tents. I am trying to find a school and my husband is trying to find a means of transportation to take children to it, children should continue studying and learning.

“To improve our lives and situation we must work to build our lives again from the beginning, as if we were born again. I try to be optimistic about the good things.”

#OFFTHEGRID



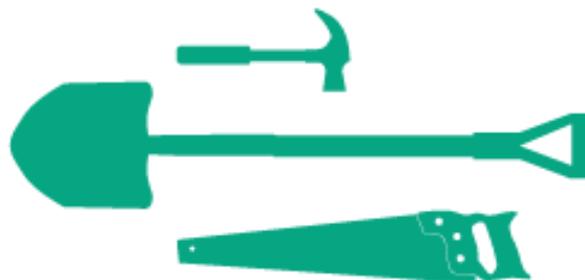
When disasters strike and power lines go down, families are left vulnerable, robbed of comfort, light and electricity. #OffTheGrid by ShelterBox Australia challenges you to camp out on World Refugee Day to understand some of the impacts of disasters on families around the world which ShelterBox Australia responds to.

Tomorrow, 35 ShelterBox supporters from around the country will #OffTheGrid for 24hrs to raise funds and awareness of our work with refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and those affected by disaster. Dan Edmonds, a ShelterBox Australia volunteer and Rotarian, will be camping out in a ShelterBox relief tent in his front garden in Handorf, Adelaide. Dan said,

'Sleeping out in the cold for one night is nothing when others have their entire lives destroyed - whether by a cyclone, flood, earthquake or war.'

Donations to #OffTheGrid will be matched by a generous private donor, so even if you can't take part you can double your impact by supporting one of "#OffTheGrid-ers"! To do so, click the button below.

#OFFTHEGRID



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



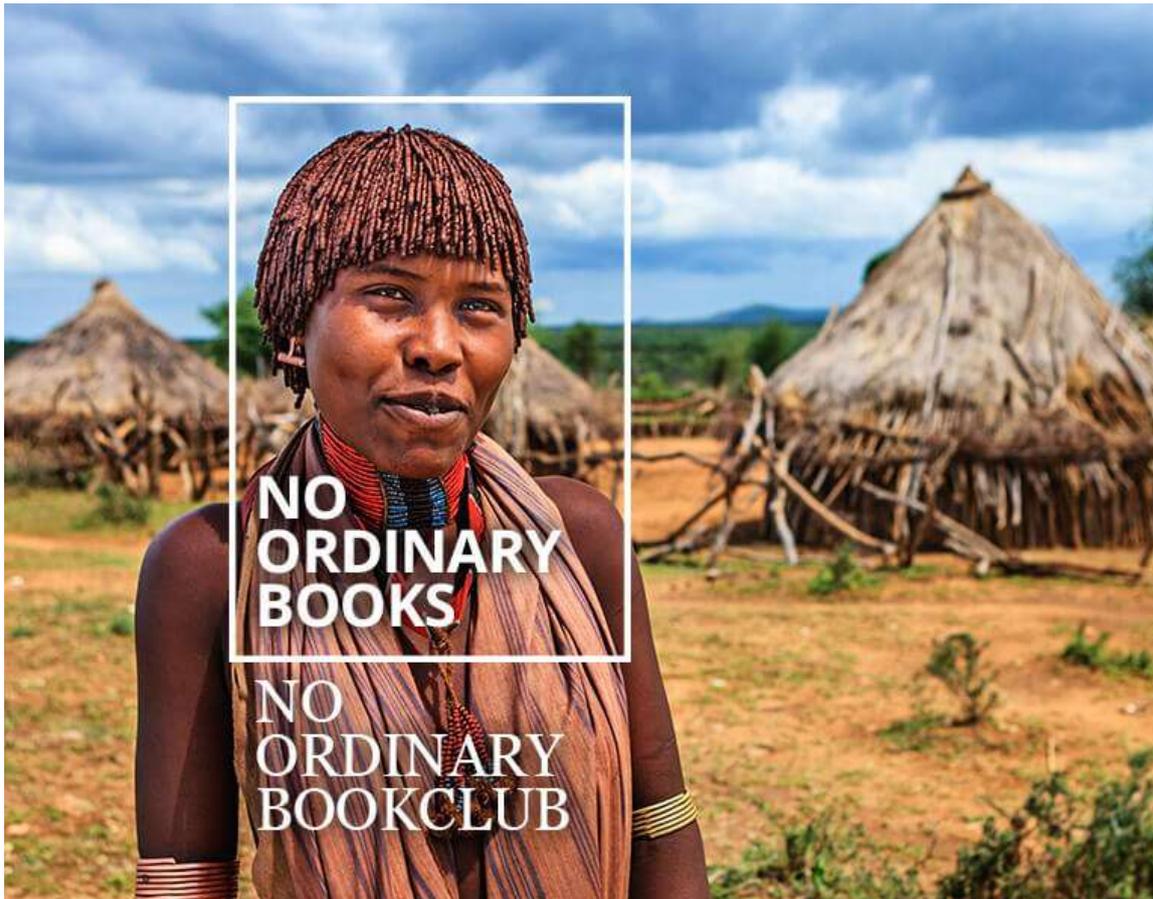
5-day adventure
5 challenge days



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, was a great choice. Yesterday, it was chosen as the winner of the 2020 Aspen Words Literary Prize'. Bronwyn Klar - Book Club member.

We're currently reading the multi-award-winning *"No Friend But The Mountains"* by Behrouz Boochani why not join the conversation?



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

LEARN MORE



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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