



ShelterBox

Disaster relief

eNewsletter February 2020

ShelterBox is proud to be a Project Partner of Rotary International



For a second year in a row, Southern Malawi has experienced heavy rains and thunderstorms causing flash floods in some parts of the region, including Chikwawa. Thousands of families like Grace's have been affected. A ShelterBox Response Team will be in country soon.

Disasters come in many forms. Here in Australia, we've recently experienced unprecedented bushfires, swiftly followed by hail storms and floods. On my recent visit to the UK, I've witnessed the destructive force of Storms Ciara and Dennis. In Syria, Ethiopia and other countries, the disasters are man-made, with conflict displacing millions of people.

Increasingly, the lines that define what is a natural disaster and a man-made one are getting blurred. The changing climate means that countries like Malawi can expect more storms and greater levels of flooding, the Philippines will be hit by stronger typhoons, the Pacific by more destructive cyclones. Many of the affected countries are not as well resourced and prepared as advanced economies like Australia and the UK. That is why ShelterBox focuses its efforts on the most vulnerable. We can never help everyone, but we can strive to help those that need it most.

If you haven't watched our film, 'Kunyumba' yet, I urge you to do so. The film illustrates the impact our aid can have on communities as they work to recover from disaster and rebuild their

lives. Simple items, like tarpaulins and tools, provide the means for families to self-recover. I think the film puts our work into real perspective. To watch it click the link below:

WATCH THE FILM 

This month's quote comes from journalist Eduardo Galeano, "*Disasters are called natural, as if nature were the executioner and not the victim.*"

Many thanks for your support



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Malawi - Floods



Following heavy rains and severe thunderstorms, Southern Malawi has experience flooding for a second year running. The Operations team has identified a small but significant shelter gap. A total of 666 households had their houses affected with 189 houses completely damaged and 169 partially affected.

A high risk of disease, including malaria, was reported due to swamp-like conditions, a lack of life-saving and essential items including bedding, cooking sets, sanitation facilities, and dignity

kits was recorded. A team will be deploying to determine the emergency shelter needs - present and ongoing - of affected communities and to develop a greater knowledge of logistical processes.

Watch our beautiful film, 'Kunyumba' about our work in Malawi last year by clicking here:



Syria - Conflict



The ongoing civil war in Syria has left over 13 million people in Syria in need of humanitarian assistance. In 2019, there has been renewed airstrikes and artillery incursions focused on the last rebel stronghold, Idlib. This has resulted in additional mass displacement of civilians fleeing from the violence in Idlib. It has been reported that a further 359,000 have been displaced in the past twelve months. Working with Relief Aid and Bahar, ShelterBox is working to provide emergency shelter for a further **2,733 families**

Ethiopia - Conflict



The rise of the current Ethiopian Prime Minister, Mr Abiy and his reform programme, has coincided with an increase in inter-communal violence in several states, leading to mass displacement. ShelterBox has been working in the country for some time now and our second project, assisting **1,100 families** is now complete. Partnering with the **International Organisation for Migration (IOM)**, plans are developing to help a further **3,500 families**.

Ayano's Story

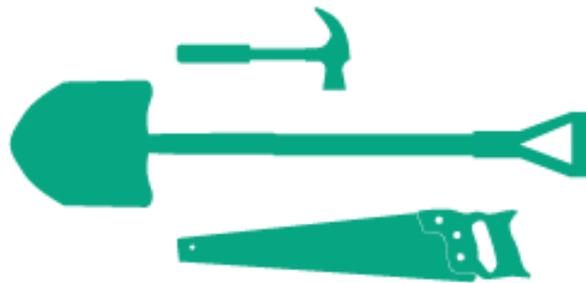


Ayano and his family live in a makeshift house with a roof made of overlapping banana leaves. He has ten children with his wife expecting again. The only aid they had received before the ShelterBox and International Office for Migration (IOM) intervention in November 2019 was one blanket from the local government.

Before the conflict, Ayano said he had a “*normal*” house with a corrugated iron roof, plaster and mud walls and a “*nice big kitchen*.” But when the conflict between Gedeos and Gujis erupted in 2018, he and his family decided to flee. “*We loaded up one donkey and whatever we could carry*,” he said.

Five months ago, with the conflict over. Ayano, who is a farmer, returned to find his crops and his home destroyed. “*My house had been burned to the ground. All our possessions were smashed or stolen. It was all gone*”, he said.

Now Ayano is working as a farm labourer on someone else’s land, trying to save money to rebuild his life. With another baby due in four months’ time (March 2020) the warm blankets and mosquito nets provided by ShelterBox will make a huge difference, and Ayano will use the tarpaulins and rope to replace the banana leaf roof. “*All these items are really useful*,” he said with a smile.



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



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!

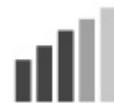
[Find out more](#)



7-11 November 2020



5-day adventure
5 challenge days



Moderately challenging

[Register your interest](#)

Gold Coast Ramble 2020

Fancy exploring the Goldie with a bunch of friends in fancy dress? Then register for the 2020 Gold Coast Ramble and raise valuable funds for ShelterBox. It promises to be a great day out.



10am
Sunday 22 March 2020
Macintosh Island

**Register Now for 2 hours' of Team Fun,
win prizes, exploring and discovering
Main Beach & Surfers Paradise**
goldcoastramble.org.au/register.html



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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