



ShelterBox

Disaster relief

eNewsletter January 2020

ShelterBox is proud to be a Project Partner of Rotary International



Our recent response in the Philippines, following Typhoon Kammuri was another illustration of the power of our partnership with Rotary and the effectiveness of the ShelterBox Operations Philippines office staff.

I wish you a belated Happy New Year and hope that you and your family have not been affected by the bushfires that have been ravaging the country.

The current bushfire crises began way back in the Spring, months earlier than the usual bushfire season. Over the last month, ShelterBox has been liaising with the Australian Red Cross and local Rotary partners to understand how we might be able to help. The situation is devastating, not only for those affected but also for the wildlife and the environment, We have been working hard to understand if our type of specialist emergency shelter aid could play a role in supporting families who need help.

The current situation is that local organisations are the best placed people to help support those affected. Whilst we are continuing to liaise with our contacts and to support the response in any way we can, we will not be distributing aid at this time. Currently, no ShelterBox aid is stored in Australia (our regional stores are in the Philippines and Malaysia) and since we gained our charity tax status in 2014, ShelterBox Australia is restricted to working overseas.

We are currently working around the world supporting families who have lost their homes to disaster, including to the war in Syria, to tropical storms and an earthquake in the Philippines, and disasters in Ethiopia and Somaliland. If you would like to donate to help those affected by the wildfires, we recommend you visit some of our official project partners who are

working in Australia, doing an amazing job of providing a range of support to those affected including Rotary through the:

Rotary National Bushfires Appeal: <https://rawcs.org.au/>

This month's quote comes from author Robert Jordan, "The oak fought the wind and was broken, the willow bent when it must and survived."

Many thanks for your support



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Philippines - Typhoon



Typhoon Kammuri (locally known as Tisoy) made landfall over the Philippines on 2 & 3 December as a Category 3 storm. Initial assessments revealed that 1.56 million people have been affected, with 320,000 homes reported as damaged.

A Response Team identified 5 communities to support with aid packages tailored to their needs. These included shelter kits and household items, tarps and rope, and CGI sheets and a cash element for the purchase of timber.

Distributions took place during late December and are now complete, with **2,786 families** sheltered in total.

This is the first response to include a cash element and initial indications are very positive, with many recipients using the money to purchase lumber and cement to rebuild their homes.

Nigeria - Conflict



As the Boko Haram-inspired conflict enters its tenth year, the UN reported that there are 1.9 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in need of assistance in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states.

Project 4 supported families across five camps, targeting those who recently suffered damage due to harsh weather and fires in the camps, as well as new arrivals to the camps.

Distributions of the locally procured shelter kits by partner **ACTED** are now complete, with **1,263 families** sheltered and **677 households** assisted.

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.

ShelterBox continues to work with trusted partners on the ground to help some of the most vulnerable families. A recent winterisation project with **ReliefAid** proved shelter packages to **2,297 households**. The Idlib 4 project will support **2,000 families** who have been newly displaced due to the escalation of violence in southern Idlib, with an emergency shelter and household items package.

A new project agreement has been signed with the **Bahar Organisation** and permissions are now being sought to allow a shipment Flex 3 tents and household items, targeting a total of **734 households**

Abd's Story



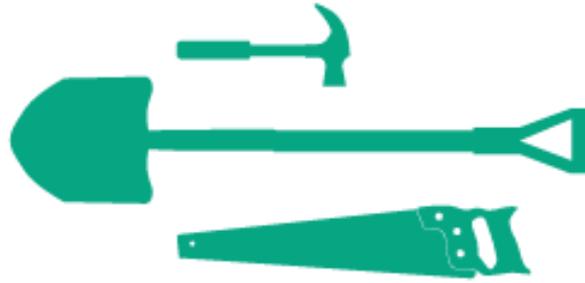
34-year-old Abd lives in a camp for internally displaced people with his wife and six children in the Syrian countryside. Before the crisis he was working as a porter, which he hopes to do again, “since I am the breadwinner for my family and the only one who can secure their daily needs,” he said.

In October 2019, Abd and his family were displaced for the fifth time when the area they were living in was being hit by bombing. They were forced to leave along with hundreds of families already displaced by the conflict.

Speaking to the team from **Bahar Organisation** - ShelterBox’s trusted partner working in Syria – Abd said the crisis has affected the mental health of the children after being deprived from education. “*One of the children had problems with talking and pronunciation because of the shelling,*” he explained. “*We were waiting for the situation to get better but unfortunately it didn’t, I am worried about the future of my children.*”

Abd and his family were given a tent, distributed to them by Bahar Organisation. They were also given household items including thermal blankets and mattresses to insulate the inside of the tent. “*This was suitable for my family and me, since the tent provided us with protection from the sun, cold and dirt, it is shelter for us after our displacement from the previous camp. But still there are additional things that we need,*” said Abd. “*This is the only place that I have, there are no other places where I can go.*”

When Abd’s 10-year-old daughter Doua spoke to the team about her situation, she said: “***I am in the second grade in school, but currently I don’t go to school. I play with the children and with my siblings. I wish to go home with my family.***”



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

**SIGN UP FOR ONE OF ADVENTURES TREKS BEFORE 31st
JANUARY AND REGISTER FOR JUST \$440!**

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!

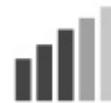
[Find out more](#)



7-11 November 2020



5-day adventure
5 challenge days



Moderately challenging

[Register your interest](#)

Trek The Kokoda Track with ShelterBox in 2020



ONLY 4 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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