



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8th marks International Women's Day - a global celebration of women and their achievements.

Here at ShelterBox, we know that women are disproportionately affected by disasters. After a disaster strikes, forms of violence against women increase. They face higher death rates, gender-based violence, economic loss, and loss of education. They are more impoverished. They are more likely to make sacrifices for their family, like eating less food.

But, women also play a pivotal role in disaster recovery.

They are often the first responders to a crisis, and they play a central role in the survival and resilience of families and communities.

When empowered with the tools and resources they need, women can help their communities recover more effectively and efficiently. That's why our teams work with brave, strong, resilient women to provide the tools they need to lead their recovery.

Take Mariam - as a woman, she hadn't been taught how to use tools before. But, with our training, she learnt how to rebuild her home - something that brought her great joy: "as a woman, I had never been taught how to use tools. Because of the training, I am now able to use them to help build the shelter in the day when my husband is working. This makes me very happy".

Every day, we meet brave strong, resilient women, just like Mariam, who have rebuilt their homes and protected their families in the face of disaster.

Today, we want to share their stories. But, we also want to invite you to stand with us, and help empower women around the world.



She is a survivor. She is an entrepreneur. She is a mother.

At just 17 years old, Esther was forced to flee her home in Nigeria, with nothing more than the clothes on her back, after Boko Haram attacked her village and murdered her family.

After travelling for days, Esther made it to Minawao Refugee Camp, where she was able to recover and rebuild, after her terrifying escape.

But, Esther has done so much more than just escape and survive. She is now married, has two children, and owns her own business as a seamstress.

This once terrified and traumatised girl has emerged as a strong, independent woman, with hopes for a successful future.



She is a survivor. She is inventive. She is a community leader.

In 2017, Yolanda's home was one of thousands that were destroyed by the hauyco – a flood of mud, debris, and soil that swept through communities, leaving devastation in its wake.

Then, Yolanda received a ShelterKit.

With the cooking utensils, Yolanda was able to organise a community kitchen to feed 100 people each day.

Every day, a new family would take turns cooking meals for the other community members.

Yolanda's kitchen gave hope to those living in the midst of disaster and chaos.



WILL YOU HELP #SHELTERHER?

<https://www.shelterbox.org.nz/international-womens-day/>