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ShelterBox CLUB CHAMPIONS HANDBOOK

WHO IS SHELTERBOX?

At ShelterBox, we hand-deliver emergency shelter and essential aid items, to help families rebuild, following natural disaster and conflict.

Right now, more than 104 million people around the world have been made homeless by natural disaster and conflict. We're working to change this.

We know that shelter is more than just a roof - it's a home and a foundation for life. Having somewhere dry and warm to sleep, to prepare meals, and to be with your family is vital for starting the long process of rebuilding your life.

Every disaster is different and so is every community, so we spend time with those affected to make sure we can offer the right support at the right time to help them recover.

Our teams travel by boat, helicopter or tuk-tuk to reach the worlds most vulnerable.

OUR VISION: A world where no family is without shelter after disaster.

OUR MISSION: To provide emergency shelter to families who have lost their home to disaster, enabling them to rebuild their lives. We work with our global network to go to hard-to-reach communities, often those overlooked by others, to provide vulnerable families with a place to call home. We support communities around the world to recover from some of the worst days of their lives.

OUR VALUES: We put families first. We are focused. We go further. We are global.



GOING THE EXTRA MILE

DISASTER STRIKES:

We immediately contact our partners on the ground to establish the scale of the disaster and how we can help.

A CUSTOMISED SOLUTION:

The aid we provide comes in the form of ShelterBoxes and ShelterKits, which are customised to the needs of the community.



DELIVERY:

We go to the ends of the earth to deliver the essentials people need to begin rebuilding their lives after disaster.

COMMUNITY RECOVERY:

We don't just give people what they need to survive, we give them the tools to self-recover - to keep families and communities together.

RESPONSE MAP

OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS, WE'VE PROVIDED AID TO 1.5 MILLION PEOPLE IN 97 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE:



AID ITEMS

The ShelterBox (\$1500): a ShelterBox is a practical solution to help families in the midst of disaster. We select the most appropriate items to put in it, depending on the communities needs.

Tents (\$500): our tents have the power to transform lives. They provide protection against the elements and have internal dividers to add privacy. They are very durable, and can stand extreme weather.





Blankets, mattresses, and groundsheets (\$75): these not only provide vital warmth, but comfort too, when families are recovering from disaster.

Solar lights (\$30): these can help create safe environments where people can pick up their daily routine, enabling families can cook meals, and children can finish their school work after it gets dark. They last up to 24 hours on one charge.





Cooking sets (\$250): so that families can spend quality time cooking together, for normality and nourishment.

Tools (\$100): these help families make repairs and rebuild their homes. Our versatile tools can help with everything from cleaning rubble, to building shelters, and even tending crops.





Water containers and purification (\$50): when disasters devastate the landscape it can be hard to access safe, clean water. By providing families with water purification equipment, safe drinking water is one less thing for families to worry about.

Mosquito nets (\$20): in countries where insect-borne diseases are common, our mosquito nets are a simple and effective way to keep families safe.

We also provide ShelterKits. Whilst our ShelterBoxes are designed for those who have lost everything, our ShelterKits are designed to help families repair damaged buildings, and make emergency shelters straight away. These Kits include hard wearing tarpaulins, nails, rope, and tools.

FROM THE FIELD

Every box holds a story. These are just a few of the stories of those we've been able to help over the past 20 years:

SHELLEY (VANUATU)

"Thank you to those that have saved us, for using your time to look out for us".

Earlier this year, Category 5 Cyclone Harold hit Vanuatu. Shelley's home, alongside thousands of others, was completely destroyed. However, Shelley and her community received ShelterKits, containing vital home equipment and tool sets, which have enabled her to not only rebuild her house, but also, return to work on her garden, planting food for her village.



DIANE AND YOKIMI (FIJI)

"I'm so happy to have a tent – to have a safe place of our own to sleep".



Baby Yokimi was just three months old when Cyclone Winston - the worst storm ever recorded in the southern hemisphere, hit Fiji. Diane and Yokimi's house was destroyed, and they lost all of their belongings. When we met them both, they had been living at the local community centre for six weeks. However, we were able to provide them with a ShelterBox, which enabled them to rebuild their home and return to normal life.

ADIJA ALI (CAMEROON)

"My goal is to become a doctor and with the provision of a solar light from ShelterBox, I've been able to continue my studies at night".

After Boko Haram attacked her village, Adija fled with her family to Mokolo in Cameroon. It is from here they were able to travel to Minawao refugee camp, where ShelterBox has supported over 2,500 families so far. Adija has been living in a ShelterBox tent for almost a year now. She goes to school in the camp and helps her mother with keeping their tent clean and tidy.



THE ROTARY PARTNERSHIP

Did you know ShelterBox all started with Rotary?

In 2000, the Rotary Club of Helston Lizard, in Cornwall, championed a simple idea to package up essential shelter items, in our now-iconic green ShelterBoxes, to help those who were left with nothing after natural disasters. Little did they know that it would become the largest Rotary Club project in the world, with affiliates in 15 countries across the globe...

We are now proud project partners with Rotary International, a global community of 1.2 million people of action. Together, we have been able to reach and support more communities in desperate need of shelter.

Whenever disaster strikes, Rotary is beside us - from the earliest planning stages to final evaluations, helping us to make contact on the ground, organise logistics, and reach remote communities who might otherwise go without shelter.

In honor of this, we are committed to building and nurturing our Club Champions programme, so that we can continue strengthening this partnership, and making a difference worldwide.

"THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ROTARY AND SHELTERBOX HAS PROVIDED A PLACE OF REFUGE TO PEOPLE FACING SOME OF THE MOST DIFFICULT AND UNCERTAIN MOMENTS IN THEIR LIVES"

- John Hewko, General Secretary of Rotary International

ShelterBox Rotary

YOUR ROLE

So where do you fit in?

Well, we'll provide you with regular updates about all things ShelterBox, for you to share with your Club however/whenever you see fit. However, if you'd like to help us even further, you could consider...

1) RAISING AWARENESS

Let people know about us! Whether you talk to your Club and other Rotarians, your friends and family, or share our online content across your own social media channels, it all goes a long way in helping us spread the word. We're also available to deliver presentations to Rotary Clubs, schools, and anyone else who is interested - or, we can support you to do so!

2) FUNDRAISING

You could rally your Club to get behind a unique fundraiser for ShelterBox. You could even get behind our Shine for ShelterBox campaign, by hosting a candlelit dinner or supper with your Club, to help families overseas find light in their darkest hours.

3) DONATE

We are funded by public donation, so every dollar counts, in helping us reach vulnerable communities worldwide.

In return, we can help raise awareness within the community of the work your Club does and the impact of our partnership.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following are some of the questions we are frequently asked about ShelterBox, that may be useful for you to understand.

Who funds ShelterBox?

We are funded by public donations, so we rely on the generosity of kindhearted individuals, groups and businesses, to enable us to support the worlds most vulnerable.

Where are we delivering aid?

Over the past 20 years, we have delivered aid to people in 97 countries across the world from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. We have responded to The Philippines more than any other country (27 times since 2004), and our work in Syria is our largest and longest running response (we've been working there since 2012). At the time of writing, we are delivering aid to Syria, the Philippines, Sudan, India, Honduras, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, and the Lake Chad Basin.

What impact are we having?

In 2020 alone, we supported over 40, 000 families (almost 200, 000 people), in 13 countries. Over the past 20 years, we have provided aid to 1.5 million people, in 97 countries worldwide.

How do we decide where to send aid?

When natural disasters and conflicts occur, our ShelterBox operations team make careful assessments to ensure that ShelterBox aid is right for the situation. Unfortunately, the need is ever growing and we aren't able to help everyone. That is why we have developed our 'Response criteria', to help us prioritise the most vulnerable families around the world who wouldn't otherwise receive the vital support they need. As part of this we consider factors such as how many families are in need of help, how long the support will be needed, and what the local capacity is.

How do we source aid items?

Our items are specially sourced and designed to ensure that the families we support have exactly the aid they need. The aid is designed to withstand extreme conditions, from torrential rain to hurricane winds, and to last for a long time – until families are able to rebuild their homes. For this reason, we are unable to accept donations of items.

Do we work with other aid organisations?

We often collaborate with other aid organisations, from specialists in one country to UN agencies. Combining our expertise with that of our partners enables us to go further - faster.

How quickly can we respond?

ShelterBox aims to get its boxes and a response team to the scene of a disaster – anywhere worldwide – within two to three days of a major natural disaster. The exact time will depend on the circumstances, and we can only distribute aid within safe and achievable, operational parameters. We store boxes in strategic locations around the world to reduce our response time.

How does the aid get to its destination?

Aid is delivered to the disaster area by whatever means are appropriate, and accompanied by volunteer ShelterBox Response Teams (SRTs). SRTs are used to finding alternative forms of transport, whether using donkeys in the mountains of Kashmir or building rafts in Sri Lanka to reach communities cut off by flooding.

Who takes care of the tents when families move into their new housing?

When the SRT sets up the tents, they usually work with representatives from the local community, as well as Rotarians and representatives from local aid agencies, to train them on how to look after the tents. This includes maintaining the tents while the families are in them, and helping to ensure that they are stored or disposed of responsibly once the families are ready to move back into their own homes. ShelterBox's Operations department also carries out monitoring and evaluation visits after a deployment to check that the response was effective and to follow up on any issues with the equipment that was provided.

What happens with the used ShelterBoxes?

ShelterBoxes are given as a gift from the donor to the recipient. Many recipients find a use for the empty box, such as for water storage or to keep their belongings dry. ShelterBoxes have even been used as a cradle or a mobile library.

How big are the Boxes and what do they weigh?

Each ShelterBox is 57cm wide by 84cm long, and 60cm deep - giving a capacity of 185 litres. Fully packed, a box weighs between 50-60kg.

How are we adapting to Covid-19?

Coronavirus has presented a huge challenge to our organisation, but for those families left in despair following disaster, the challenge is far greater. Our life saving aid is needed now more than ever. The ban on international travel has made deploying our SRTs difficult - so we've been working with our international partners to get our aid to families in need. We have also adapted our aid packages to include soap, handwashing basins and PPE. Families are now receiving virtual trainings on how to use their aid items, and how to prevent the spread of the virus.



ShelterBox

Thank you so much for the crucial role you are playing in helping families worldwide recover after disaster. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out:

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Rotary

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