



# SHELTERBOX AND ROTARY: FAQ'S



## Who is ShelterBox?

We are an international disaster relief charity that hand-delivers emergency shelter and essential aid items, to help families rebuild, following natural disaster and conflict. Driven by our vision to see a world where no family is without shelter after disaster, 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.

## What aid does ShelterBox deliver?

We deliver the essentials families need to begin rebuilding their lives after disaster. Each disaster is different, and so is every community. We don't believe that one size fits all, so we spend time talking to affected families to make sure we provide the right support at the right time. For some disaster-hit communities, our family-sized tents are the best solution until they are able to start rebuilding their homes. In other disasters, heavy duty tarpaulins, ropes and nails are needed to create emergency shelter or to patch-up damaged buildings. We know that a home is much more than bricks and mortar or tarpaulin and tent pegs. That's why we also offer other disaster relief items that are essential for survival and can help to turn a shelter into a home.

## How do we decide where to send aid?

When 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 a robust 'Response criteria', which helps us prioritise the most vulnerable families around the world who wouldn't otherwise receive the vital support they need.

## How do we deliver aid?

We deliver aid to wherever it is needed, by any means possible. Our teams travel by foot, boat, helicopter or even tuk-tuk to get there. Whatever it takes.



## What is the Rotary Project Partnership?

Since starting as a Rotary club project in 2000, ShelterBox has grown, with the support of Rotary clubs around the world to become an internationally recognised, independent disaster relief organisation. We have responded to more than 300 natural disasters and conflicts in 100 countries, and are proud to be an official Rotary Project Partner, further strengthening a global circle of friendship. Rotarians and Rotary groups across the world support ShelterBox in a variety of ways, from raising funds to providing support on the ground during our response to a disaster. This partnership has helped us to become who we are today, including our global network of ShelterBox Affiliates, which evolved from Rotary relationships.

## By supporting ShelterBox is the foundation missing out?

The partnership we have with Rotary International works so well because our work doesn't duplicate that of the Rotary Foundation. We firmly believe that the work that we do compliments the work of the Rotary Foundation, as Rotary International is not a disaster relief organisation. By working together, we can amplify our impact and help meet the many needs of communities around the world. Local Rotarians, being part of communities, are often on hand to help ShelterBox with the emergency phase of the recovery process, if a ShelterBox response is deemed appropriate. Local Rotarians then remain to help families with their onward journey of recovery. For this reason we very much hope that clubs will want to support both ShelterBox and the Rotary Foundation.

## Do you coordinate with Rotary in country, when a disaster strikes?

Rotarians on the ground often reach out directly to ShelterBox following a disaster, especially in a location where we have worked with Rotary on a previous deployment. When ShelterBox responds in an area with an active Rotary presence, we will make every effort to inform the District Governor of the team's presence and, where possible, will try to connect with at least one Rotary club in the affected area. Teams will always try to provide progress reports and information on the wider response that may be of interest to Rotary. In circumstances where Rotarians cannot be involved, ShelterBox will ensure that they receive sufficient information to enable them to coordinate with the wider relief effort should they wish to. Rotarians are under no obligation to engage with ShelterBox. If they feel able and willing to do so they could help with networking and introductions or provide practical support such as with transportation, temporary storage of aid items or translation. In some situations, there may be an opportunity for Rotarians to participate actively in a ShelterBox response.

