



SHELTERBOX AND ROTARY

FAQ's

What is ShelterBox?

ShelterBox is an international disaster relief charity that hand-delivers emergency shelter and essential aid items to help people recover following disaster and conflict. Driven by our vision to see a world where no person is without shelter after disaster, we work with our global network of volunteers and partner organisations to go to hard-to-reach communities, often those overlooked by others, to provide vulnerable people with a place to call home.

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 disasters and conflicts in over 100 countries around the world 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.

You can read more about our partnership on the [Rotary International website](#).

Is the Rotary Foundation missing out by supporting ShelterBox?

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 we do complements 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 needs of communities around the world.

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Local Rotarians, when part of affected communities, are often on hand to help ShelterBox with the emergency phase of the recovery process if a ShelterBox response is deemed appropriate. For this reason, we very much hope that clubs will want to support both ShelterBox and the Rotary Foundation, and many clubs do so.

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

Yes. In fact, Rotarians on the ground often reach out directly to ShelterBox following a disaster.

When ShelterBox responds in an area with an active Rotary presence, we 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 or Rotaract 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 should they wish to do so.

Rotarians are under no obligation to engage with ShelterBox. However if they like and are in the affected country, 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. If not, help is always needed from Rotary clubs to generating awareness and raise funds.

Why don't we work with other 'box' charities, such as ERKs and others?

The challenge is huge. There are millions of people globally in need of emergency shelter, and unfortunately, the number of people who will lose their home each year is likely to significantly increase. With so much need, we don't see ourselves in competition with other organisations.

At some level, ShelterBox almost always works with other organisations. As a Shelter organisation, wherever possible, we operate in the UN Cluster System. At the very least, we coordinate with other aid organisations and share information about where the need is and who is doing what in order to avoid duplication. We also share other important information like logistics processes, infrastructure conditions and the security situation.

In regards to emergencies in the Pacific Islands, Emergency Response Kits (ERKs), provided by some Rotary clubs in New Zealand, are located in-country and are available immediately to help after disaster. ShelterBox, on the other hand, does not have aid stored in the islands, but can provide a much larger response. For example, in Vanuatu after Cyclone Harold in 2020, we provided aid to nearly 20,000 people. Both organisations provide critically needed aid and many clubs will provide support to both organisations.

What proportion of your income comes from Rotary?

Around 40% of our total income comes from individual Rotarians, Rotary clubs and Rotary districts. Because of the nature of our work, we are not eligible for Global Grant funding from the RI Foundation.

If you have other questions, please let us know.

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www.shelterbox.org.nz