

2021 PARTNERSHIP IMPACT REPORT



RESPONSE UPDATES

Where we have been
working this year

ROTARY IN FOCUS

Stories of our amazing
Rotary Supporters

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Tackling global inequalities



ShelterBox

Rotary





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Thank you

**FROM SANJ SRIKANTHAN
(SHELTERBOX CEO)**

As the pandemic continues to threaten the world's most vulnerable people, our work remains more important than ever. Through providing emergency shelter and other essential items we are supporting people to stay healthy and forming a critical part of prevention, mitigation, and recovery efforts.

Once again, global travel restrictions have been in place for most of the year. Not only making it difficult for teams to travel, but also bringing a global shortage of shipping containers making transport arrangements even more challenging.

It has been amazing to see the resilient and innovative ways that you have all found to continue to support communities. I was thrilled to meet RI President Shekhar Mehta in person to discuss our shared commitment to working together. It was wonderful to join Rotary Denmark's 100 year celebration, where I was able to thank Copenhagen Rotary club for their role in creating ShelterBox Denmark, and to thank all Danish clubs for supporting ShelterBox on tour, which you can read about on pg 15.

Rotary supports our responses in a variety of ways, from helping us get aid into the country, introducing us to affected communities and being members of our response team who are ready to respond whenever they are needed. In August we were very pleased to be able to send a team to Haiti – the first time a ShelterBox team has deployed since early 2020.

Our response in Honduras demonstrated how our global partnerships with Rotary International and Habitat for Humanity play a vital role in helping families receive the support they need to recover and rebuild. We are all stronger when we work together.

ShelterBox and Rotary are moving forwards to tackle some of the world's biggest challenges, including the increase in climate related weather impacting lives of the most vulnerable communities around the world.

We are supporting communities every day and responding to crises that often don't reach the mainstream news. We don't know what the next challenges will be but with the support of Rotary around the world, we know we will be ready as people of action.

**SANJ SRIKANTHAN
Chief Executive**



ShelterBox CEO Sanj Srikanthan and Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta.

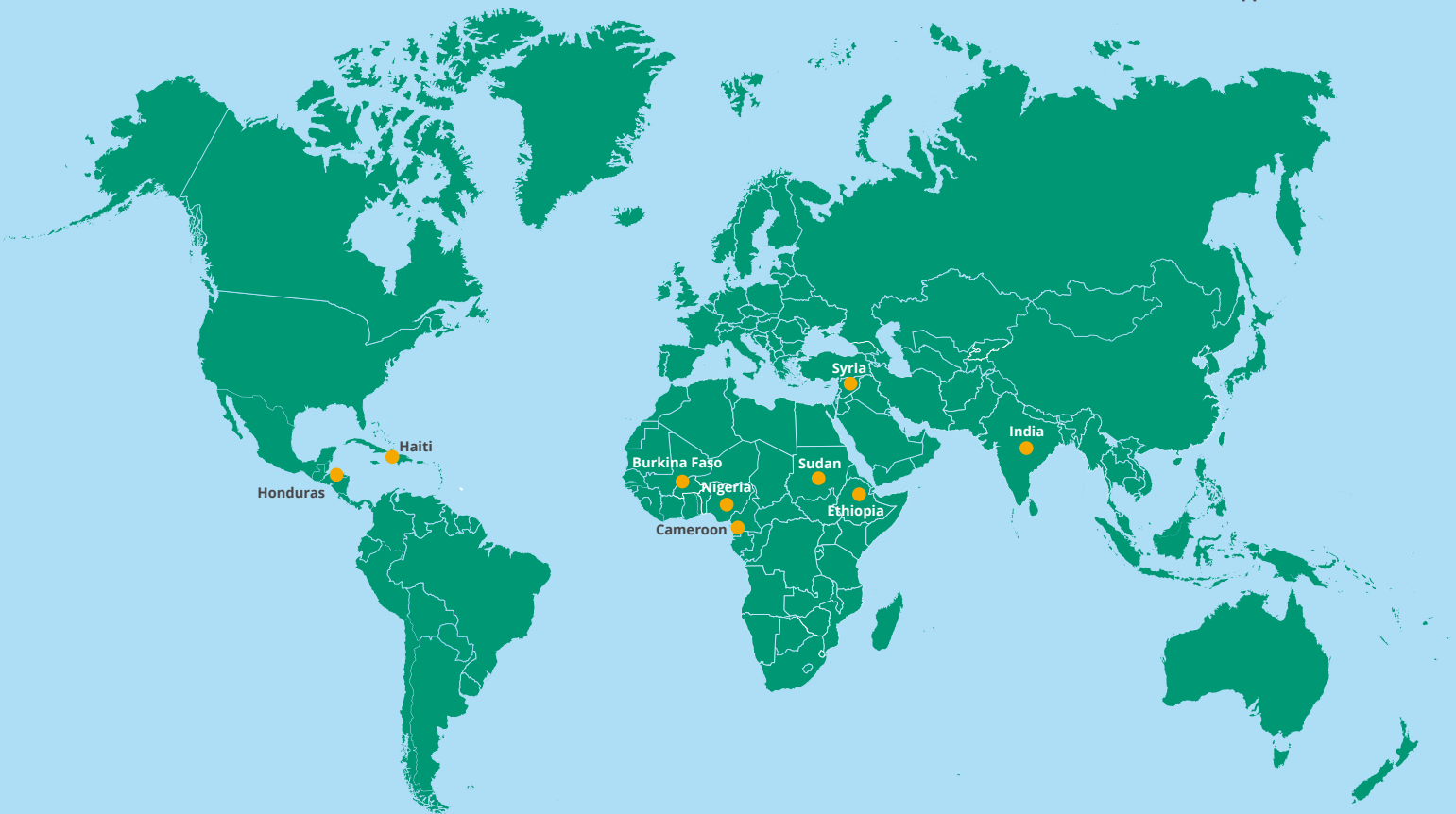
Image: © Philip Muneer Flindt

2021 IMPACT

EACH YEAR, ROTARY HELPS US TO GO FURTHER, SUPPORT MORE PEOPLE, AND ACCESS AREAS THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH.

We made this report to say thank you. It is because of you, our partners, volunteers and global network of supporters, that we can provide vital support to people who have lost their homes to conflict or disaster.

● Countries supported in 2021



140,000*
PEOPLE SUPPORTED



28,000
FAMILIES SUPPORTED

YOUR HELP HAS REACHED ACROSS AT LEAST NINE COUNTRIES AFTER:



HURRICANES



FLOODING



EARTHQUAKES



CONFLICT

Almost all with the added threat and challenges posed by coronavirus.

*Numbers as of November 2021 - based on completed responses from 1 January 2021 to date, and anticipated responses to 31 December 2021



DEPLOYMENT FOCUS: HAITI EARTHQUAKE

When Haiti was struck by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake in August, the country had little time to recover before Tropical Storm Grace hit just days later. As the storm approached, the nation was still experiencing aftershocks and search and rescue teams were still searching for survivors in the rubble. With so many homes already damaged or destroyed, people had nowhere safe to turn.

“*People faced an impossible choice: stay outside, exposed to the elements, or seek shelter in damaged, dangerous homes*”.

- Alice Jefferson, Head of Emergency Response.

For two days, at least 25cm of rain hammered the southwest of Haiti, followed by flash floods and mudslides.



THE COMBINED FORCE OF THE EARTHQUAKE AND STORM IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE

**DESTROYED 61,000 AND
DAMAGED 77,000 HOMES**

We knew that a response in Haiti would be challenging. The country is still recovering from 2010's catastrophic earthquake, as well as Hurricane Matthew in 2016. A quarter of Haiti's population live in extreme poverty, and the President's assassination in July made an already fragile security situation more volatile.

This was the first time that we were able to send a team to a response since the pandemic limited international travel.

Dave Nichols, a member of Club Rotary de Boquete and ShelterBox Response team volunteer, was amongst the first response team to deploy following the earthquake in Haiti. This was not his first deployment to the country, he was also part of the response team following hurricane Matthew in 2016.

“*Returning in 2021 several things hit me right away. I saw many buildings damaged from Hurricane Matthew that were still damaged, the hotel we resided in during the hurricane was damaged by the earthquake. The people we met were moving on and working to help themselves and their neighbors with the recovery even with all the turmoil in the country*”.

- Dave Nichols, a member of Club Rotary de Boquete.

Our partnership with Habitat for Humanity Haiti was essential to ensuring a community-led response and that we could reach the most vulnerable families. Quality shelter materials were in scarce supply,' remembers Jean Frenel Tham, National Director of Habitat Haiti. *'Even families whose homes were still standing were choosing to sleep outside for fear their damaged homes could still cave in.'*



Despite being an affected community, The Rotary Club of Les Cayes supported us with on the ground information and validated information on the context in Haiti before we arrived in the country. They helped us find accommodation in the rural area of Cayes, which was a real challenge as there was a high demand for places from humanitarian agencies in the wake of the earthquake.

For this response, we chose shelter kits rather than tents, to help families stay on their home sites. This avoids the unplanned 'tent cities' that carry higher risks of poor sanitation, crime and exploitation.

We also included a cash payment for families to buy materials or hire a labourer to clear rubble and help with construction. And it could cushion them financially from selling their aid items just to be able to eat.



The ShelterBox team working with the Habitat for Humanity ^ team, whilst carrying out some shelter kit training.



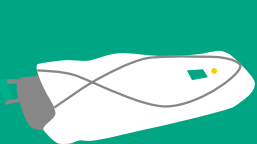
© Habitat for Humanity International

Marcel lives in the rural community of Chantal, Haiti with his son Maxo (5) and his sister Gilaine. Their community is so remote that Habitat for Humanity had to drive through two rivers and walk through streams and over hills to reach them.

When the earthquake struck, he was very frightened and felt helpless. Afterwards he made a wooden tent for them to sleep in, which kept them safe from the elements and protected them from the storms that followed.

He said the most useful item in his Shelter Kit was the tarpaulin, which helped him secure his home where the walls collapsed and kept him and his family safe during hurricane season.

AID ITEMS DISTRIBUTED:



shelter kits



solar lights



tarpaulins & fixings



thermal blankets



kitchen sets

Plus sleeping mats, mosquito nets, and water carriers.

10 YEARS OF SYRIAN CIVIL WAR



This March marked a tragic milestone for Syria as the country reached the 10th anniversary of its civil war. Over 12.3 million people have been displaced since the conflict began. Many have left the country, seeking safety in neighbouring countries whilst others have left the cities to find safety elsewhere in Syria.

The Syrian crisis has been the largest and most sustained response in ShelterBox's history. Since December 2012, we have supported over 400,000 people, both within Syria and in countries hosting refugees from the conflict and wider conflict in Iraq.

The harsh Syrian winters further endanger people who have fled for their lives. Living in internal displacement camps across the country, people are not prepared for freezing temperatures. As well as providing emergency shelter, our winterisation projects provide children with warm clothes to protect them from the cold.

In January, more than 16,000 people in the Northwest lost their shelter and belongings due to storms, snowfall and flooding. To ensure that families and their belongings are better protected from flooding and any standing water, we are trialling a tent base project this winter. We will provide families with non-permanent concrete blocks, sand and gravel.

Before the civil war, Khaled was a schoolteacher and his family had everything they needed. When heavy bombing hit their community, they had to flee their home taking only their clothes and a few possessions.

Khaled and his family now live in a displacement camp. When severe storms swept through camps in Syria this January, their tent and belongings were damaged.

Working with our partners ReliefAid, ShelterBox distributed emergency materials including carpets, mattresses and blankets to families like Khaled's.

“ Thank you for helping after the flood. The help was good, for example the mattresses we had previously were damaged by the flood, the carpets you provided were good. The tarpaulin that we had ruptured and now we have new tarpaulin to cover the tent and protect it from the rain.

- Khaled



- Peaceful pro-democracy protests, motivated by high unemployment and a lack of political freedom in the country.
- The reaction to the peaceful pro-democracy protests led to violence that developed into a civil war.



SYRIAN GOVERNMENT FORCES ATTACKED HOMES AND OTHER CITIES

- Opposition group the Free Syrian Army seized Aleppo.
- ShelterBox supported Syrian refugees in Jordan and Iraq.

2011

2012

2013

THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT USED CHEMICAL WEAPONS AGAINST REBEL POSITIONS IN GHOUTA.

- The UN began the process of destroying chemical weapons stocks with the permission of the Syrian government.



SHELTERBOX BEGAN WORKING IN SYRIA FOR THE FIRST TIME

- The so-called 'Islamic state' (IS) declared a 'caliphate' of territory from Aleppo to Diyala, Iraq
- UN brokered peace talks collapse.
- Airstrikes by US and five Arab states against IS around Aleppo and Raqqa.
- Families in northern Syria were amongst the first people to use new Shelter Kits from ShelterBox.
- ShelterBox began supporting Iraqi IDPs displaced by IS.

- IS 'Caliphate' defeated in the Baghouz offensive.
- Syrian government airstrikes escalated in Idlib province, which displaced more than 300,000 people.
- Turkish government launch 'Operation Peace Spring' offensive into North Eastern Syria.
- 50,000 families supported across the region.



We reached the milestone of having supported 250,000 PEOPLE IN SYRIA AND THE SURROUNDING REGION



WITHIN ONE YEAR, SHELTERBOX SUPPORTED MORE THAN 11,000 FAMILIES IN SYRIA, INCLUDING THOSE FLEEING THE GOVERNMENT LED OFFENSIVE ON ALEPPO.

- Syrian government retook Aleppo, supported by Iran and Russia.
- Turkey crossed the border into Syria in support of Turkish aligned Syrian opposition.

Through our partners, our work continued in Syria with over 4,000 families supported with shelter and household items across Idlib.



10,000 FAMILIES

HELPED ACROSS THE REGION SINCE 2012

2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021

- Russia commenced airstrikes in Syria, in support of the Syrian government.
- Kurdish forces pushed IS out of Turkish border area.
- IS seized the ancient city of Palmyra in central Syria, destroying monuments.
- Islamist rebel alliances took control of Idlib province.
- Syrian government regained control of Homs.
- ShelterBox began to source aid from neighbouring Turkey, enabling us to reach people more quickly and making a wider range of materials available, with shorter delivery times.
- We established a new partnership with ReliefAid which increased our reach in northern Syria.
- First 'winterisation' project to help displaced people survive winter conditions.



100 LARGE TENTS

provided in Lesvos, Greece, to shelter those fleeing from Syria to Turkey.

- Syrian government launched an operation against rebel held enclave off East Ghouta.
- Syrian government accused of using chemical weapons again. US, France and UK launch missile attack in response.
- 45,000 supported across the region.

- Turkey, Russia and Iran brokered a deal to establish 'de-escalation zones'.
- IS was driven out of Raqqa.
- ShelterBox supported 14,000 families within this year, aided by a new partnership with Bahar organisation.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL WAR

INTERNATIONAL FUNDRAISING CONFERENCE

Our network of international Affiliates works tirelessly to fundraise for ShelterBox. Their passion, commitment and experience helps us raise the awareness and vital funds we need to support those who have lost their homes to conflict and disaster. We have 14 different international teams, all of which were set up by dedicated Rotary volunteers.

Last September, the annual International Fundraising Conference brought our network of Affiliates together to share ideas, challenges and celebrate the successes of the past year. This year we celebrated the innovation, creativity and determination that kept our international teams fundraising throughout a global pandemic.

The conference also gave us the opportunity to honour two longstanding members for their huge voluntary contributions to ShelterBox. Clements Witt who has run ShelterBox Germany for 16 years and Karsten Thuen who has run ShelterBox Denmark for 10 years. Both Clements and Karsten discovered ShelterBox through Rotaract and Rotary. Clemens established ShelterBox Germany and Karsten was ShelterBox Denmark's first Chair.



We were honoured to be joined by both Shekhar Mehta, the President of Rotary International and RI President Elect Jennifer Jones.

“How can we deepen these conversations? As partners, we must ensure that we are jointly moving the needle together and not doing it individually. I think at the end of the day that is how we are going to succeed. We are not looking for personal victories as organisations. We are in it together and we are in it to win it. And we need to be able to rely on each other to do our very best.”

- Jennifer Jones



Bill Tobin from the USA team, refused to let Covid restrictions get in his way. He organised a virtual 'road trip' across the United States – going online to speak to over 208 Rotary Clubs in one year!



DEPLOYMENT FOCUS: ETHIOPIA

ShelterBox has been working in Ethiopia since 2018. In November 2020, escalating tension between Ethiopia’s federal government and the regional leadership in Tigray erupted into armed conflict. Over 2 million people have been internally displaced within Tigray.¹

There is a deepening humanitarian crisis, with emergency shelter needs only set to increase. The UN has declared a state of famine in Ethiopia, and the country is experiencing a fuel crisis and a constant threat of coronavirus.

Working with our partner IOM, we’re supporting people who’ve fled their homes within Tigray with emergency shelter, household essentials and hygiene items. Whilst we are providing some families with materials to build individual shelter, we are also helping set up communal shelters for some groups currently living in crowded classrooms.

When fighting broke out in her community, Shewit ran to get her young children and fled. They had to walk for five days, covering 80km to find a safe place to shelter.

“
With the new shelter provided by IOM and ShelterBox, our living conditions have improved a lot. We do not have to sit outside and fear for our safety anymore”.

- Shewit

¹ UNHCR Regional Update #21: Ethiopia Situation (Tigray Region), 6 September 2021 - Ethiopia | ReliefWeb



ETHIOPIA

1991 - 2018

Ethiopia was ruled by the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF).

2018

April: Abiy Ahmed became leader of the EPRDF party, and Prime Minister of Ethiopia.

July: End of the Ethiopia-Eritrea war.

September: ShelterBox and IOM partnered in Ethiopia, supporting 3,495 households.

2019

November: Abiy Ahmed set up a new party (the Prosperity Party) and removes key Tigrayan government leaders accused of corruption and repression.



ShelterBox and IOM support

4,600 HOUSEHOLDS

2020

September: Tigray defied the central government to hold its own regional election. The central government, which had postponed national elections because of coronavirus, said it was illegal.

October: The central government suspended funding for Tigray.

November: An attack on a federal army base in the region sparked armed conflict. Internet, mobile phone and landline communications cut off in Tigray.

December: ShelterBox and IOM agreed to respond in Tigray.

2021

January: The Ministry of Peace heavily restricted humanitarian access to the region, stating it is too dangerous for access.

February: Eritrean soldiers were accused of killing hundreds of civilians and carrying out systemic rape in Tigray.

March: ShelterBox aid reached Tigray.

June: The UN said more than 350,000 people in Tigray are facing famine conditions.

June: Ethiopia held its twice-delayed elections – but there were no polls in Tigray and other parts of the country due to security and logistical challenges. The government in Addis Ababa announced a “unilateral ceasefire” in Tigray, which is not acknowledged by the TPLF.

November: A State of Emergency was declared by Abiy Ahmed, and he encouraged ordinary citizens to take up arms to stop the advance of Tigrayan forces. No aid entered Tigray since early October, and no fuel since August. Aid agencies evacuated all nonessential staff and dependants from Addis Ababa.



DEPLOYMENT FOCUS: HONDURAS

In November 2020, Central America was hit by two consecutive hurricanes within weeks. Hurricane Iota and Eta brought a wave of destruction across the region.

Iota was the strongest hurricane of 2020, breaking records by being the 30th named storm of the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season. ShelterBox responded in Honduras, where an estimated 82,307 homes were damaged and 174,241 people had to shelter in collective centres.

This response is a key example of the strength and effectiveness of our global partnerships with Rotary International and Habitat for Humanity International. Coronavirus travel restrictions meant ShelterBox could not deploy a team to Honduras. We partnered with the Rotary Club of San Pedro Sula, Hábitat para la Humanidad Honduras and Habitat for Humanity International to support those who could return to their homes to clean up and repair their homes. Together we distributed Shelter Kits, tarpaulins, tools, training and household items to 3208 families.

Working with ShelterBox was part of The Rotary Club of San Pedro Sula's wider efforts to provide support and services to those impacted by Iota and Eta. They also distributed food, clothes, personal care items, medical support and facemasks. This response showed the power of partnership: each party brought their capacity, skills and resources to the table.

“The partnership ran smoothly because every party was clear on the role it had to play in the process; it was pure teamwork”.

- Alex Ulloa, The Rotary Club of San Pedro Sula.

ShelterBox provided equipment and aid items, organised international logistics and provided digital training and technical support. Our pre-positioned stock in our Panama warehouse enabled us to respond more quickly to the disaster.

Habitat para la Humanidad Honduras and The Rotary Club of San Pedro Sula's local knowledge, connections, and networks, were vital throughout the response from arranging importation to ensuring a community-led response.

Habitat for Humanity Honduras were responsible for implementing the response: identifying need, delivering trainings, running distributions and post distribution monitoring activities.

They made sure we reached the most remote and hard to access communities, including those in La Mosquitia where kits were transported by barge and then by canoe. Through working closely alongside communities and local government, they ensured that the people we worked with were at the heart of the response.





The Rotary Club of San Pedro Sula played a vital role in the response taking on the large and complicated task of getting our shelter kits into Honduras. They coordinated the arrival and unloading of eleven 40ft containers, arranged the tax exemption and provided and managed a warehouse for safe and secure storage. They also utilized their Rotary networks and coordinated other Rotary clubs around the district to support Habitat for Humanity Honduras to select project participants, mobilize communities and distribute emergency shelter solutions.



89%
OF FAMILIES

we supported had achieved a minimum level of basic shelter within 2 months*.

“*Every party was responsible for their role in the partnership, so each was able to focus on the critical aspects of their part of the project. Overall these aspects led to lower costs, faster transit time, and therefore the families receiving this aid were benefited at a faster rate*”.

- Alex Ulloa, The Rotary Club of San Pedro Sula.



Our partnerships with organisations like Rotary International and Habitat for Humanity International are crucial for ensuring that the communities we work with get the best and most appropriate support as they recover.

* Figure taken from 10% sample of those supported.

Following the destruction of hurricanes Iota and Eta, Maria and her family moved from shelter to shelter for weeks.

“*When I finally returned home, I saw everything was mouldy and useless. The aid we received from ShelterBox helped us rebuild our home after the storm. Everything was handy, but especially the tarpaulin. I used it to cover the corners and walls of the house that had been damaged*”.

- Maria





DEPLOYMENT FOCUS: BURKINA FASO

Burkina Faso is one of Africa's fastest-growing displacement crises. Extremist violence has forced more than 1 million people to flee their homes in search of safety.

Less than ten years ago, Burkina Faso seemed like a beacon of stability in West Africa. In 2015, the country held its first democratic election ever, paving the way to what seemed a bright future.

But since 2015, Burkina Faso has seen an increase in violence from Jihadist groups spreading from Mali. Armed groups quickly started expanding, crossing borders and setting up local groups across the Sahel region – including Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

Efforts by both government forces and local militias to fight these groups have uprooted even more communities. The insecurity and instability in the country make it difficult for aid workers to reach many of the people in need.

Despite the challenges for humanitarian organisations, we have been working with our partner Help to support the most vulnerable communities since 2020.

With our team unable to deploy due to Covid > restrictions, we did remote training with Help.



THIS YEAR WE HAVE BEEN SUPPORTING FAMILIES WITH



tarpaulins



kitchen sets



sleeping mats



blankets

and other essential items, including soap and buckets.



This is Yimdi and her son in their emergency shelter, which has been covered with tarpaulins provided by ShelterBox.

When we visited the country for the first time in November 2019, local Rotarians provided on the ground support, organising a driver and translator for our trip, and helping us make important in country connections, including setting up a meeting with the Minister of Social Action, who was responsible for the relief effort for Internally Displaced People. We also met with Lancina Pare, Past President of Rotary Club Ouagadougou Crystal, and Simon Kafando, Past District President of District 9101, West Africa, to discuss how best to respond in the country.

Before the attacks, Yabre lived a quiet life with his family in their home village. *“We didn’t know that what was happening in other countries could happen to us too. We lived peacefully and had no problems living together. I am a farmer and a herder, we all worked together without any problems.”*

“Our life has completely changed now,” he continued. “We no longer have land for farming, and we are embarrassed to sit idle while it rains. We are entirely dependent on donations from humanitarians”.

- Yabre



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2021

Although Coronavirus brought the Rotary International convention online again this year, we were delighted to be able to join the virtual event.

This year we were honoured for our CEO Sanj Srikanthan to take part as a keynote speaker. In his speech he celebrated the strength of our partnership with Rotary International and highlighted how this year it has been more important than ever with the triple threat facing communities – coronavirus, climate and conflict.

'Rotary is the cornerstone upon which ShelterBox is built and remains in the DNA of everything that ShelterBox does. It was a Rotarian's "people of action" spirit that founded ShelterBox in 2000 and because of Rotary's vast global network, our two organizations have helped over 2 million people.'



Sanj was in good company. The next Keynote speaker was Vanessa Nakate from Uganda, a Climate Activist and Founder of the Rise Up Movement. Vanessa's speech brought home how the changing climate and increasing extreme weather events and unpredictable weather patterns across the African continent is affecting so many of the communities that we work with.

'Historically Africa is only responsible for 3% of global emissions, and yet Africans are already suffering some of the most brutal impacts fuelled by the climate crisis: rapidly Intensifying hurricanes, devastating floods and withering droughts.'

**“
This is not just about
the weather. This is
about people”.**

- Vanessa Nakate, climate activist

This resonated with our own climate crisis video which we launched at the Convention and around the G7 Conference “The Human Face of Climate Change”.



OR scan me





DENMARK, 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY.

To celebrate the 100 year anniversary of Rotary in Denmark, our Danish team took a ShelterBox on tour through Denmark's five Rotary Districts, visiting more than 50 Rotaract and Rotary clubs. A huge thank you to the Danish Rotary Network for their participation and making many generous donations along the way. The tour ended at the Rotary Club of Copenhagen in November, where the 100th anniversary was celebrated – a Rotary club very close to our hearts as it was the founding group for ShelterBox Denmark in 2007.

SHELTERBOAT

In August, Rotarian Paul Weatherill and a team from Watton & District Rotary U.K sailed 40 miles in three days across the Norfolk Broads in a boat built from a ShelterBox, that they named Green Light. During the challenge Paul battled torrential rain and was almost sunk by waves. The adventure raised awareness of both Rotary and ShelterBox, as well as vital funds for families left without shelter after disaster.



Prague Zone institute

This year's Zone Institute in Prague was particularly special - it was the first time we were able to attend a Rotary event in person since the pandemic began.

“It was so wonderful to be back at an ‘in person’ event after such a long time. The buzz and atmosphere was palpable and although we can now do so much through the virtual world, there is nothing that can quite replicate the sense of fellowship when we are together in person”.

- Alex Youlten, ShelterBox Rotary Partnerships Manager and member of the Rotary Club of Cober Valley, Helston.



Alex Youlten, Kerry Atkins with ShelterBox ^
Trustee Yinka Babalola

District 7070 Canada Conference

For the District 7070 Canada Conference in June, clubs across the district camped out in a ShelterBox tent to raise funds and awareness. They raised an incredible \$15,600 with their hard work!





LOOKING TO THE FUTURE...

Tackling Global challenges together

For both ShelterBox and Rotary International it is important that our partners share our values. How we progress together to tackle some of the world's biggest challenges, has been the forefront of our partnership meetings this year. With such huge challenges, we recognise how important it is we work together.

“With a global pandemic, environmental and sustainability challenges, a world refugee crisis and global inequalities, the world needs Rotary and ShelterBox now more than ever.”

- Holger Knaack, RI President 2020-2021.



THE CLIMATE CRISIS

This year the climate crisis has been at the top of the agenda for Rotary International and ShelterBox. Rotary International launched 'protecting the environment' as its seventh area of focus, demonstrating a commitment to supporting activities that address the causes and reduce the effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

At ShelterBox we have been working hard to raise awareness of the effects of climate change on the communities we work with, and with both G7 and COP26 taking place in the UK, we joined organisations to call for governments to unite to find a global solution to this global issue.

As partners in disaster relief, we work with communities around the world who have lost their homes, livelihoods and loved ones to the impact of climate change. Through our work we have seen the human impact of the climate crisis. The changing environment is creating an unprecedented need for emergency shelter around the world. It is intensifying extreme weather and worsening already complex situations in conflicts and war zones.

The effects of climate change disproportionately affect the poorest communities around the world. Vulnerable families are on the front line, often forced to leave their homes to survive – either because disasters are becoming more severe, or to find food, water or to make a living. It is estimated that 1.2 billion people could be displaced by the climate crisis by 2050.

NO NATURAL DISASTERS

Our 20+ years experience supporting families has shown us that disasters are not natural. The term 'natural disasters' takes away the social, political, environmental, and economic context from disaster stories, failing to recognise the social injustices that are present. It ignores the human role in a disaster and suggests there is little we can do to prevent it. To suggest that a disaster is 'natural' ignores the role of climate change in making severe weather events even worse.

This is why we are moving away from the term 'natural disasters' and replacing it with more descriptive terms like extreme weather or seismic events.

“I am 63 years old. I have never seen a cyclone like this...You could hardly believe your eyes.”

- Risa, describing Tropical Cyclone Harold, Vanuatu, 2020/



MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES

As a humanitarian organisation, we need to be careful that our support to families in the short term does not make them more vulnerable in the long term. We are committed to making sure we 'do no harm' in the communities we work with and our environmental impact is no exception.

ShelterBox is taking action to understand and to limit the impact our work has on the environment. Our supply chain is our biggest source of emissions. Being able to transport aid around the world quickly and efficiently is vital to our work. Our priority will always be to support people whose homes are damaged or destroyed as soon as possible after disaster.

Through changing our supply routes and only transporting aid by air when it is essential, we have cut our transport emissions by 30% in the last three years.

Our procurement team are working hard to eliminate all non-essential plastic packaging from our supply chain. We are:



Challenging our suppliers to remove problem plastic and provide non-plastic alternatives



Removing the need for non-essential single use plastics in our aid items and fundraising materials.



Considering the whole life cycle of products we use, including aid items.

In the past few years these measures have avoided 123,000 pieces of problem plastic from our supply chain.

We worked with our Shelter Kit supplier to remove all problem plastic, which has reduced 60,000 pieces of plastics per year. This specification is now used by aid organizations around the world. We are sharing our learnings and best practice to encourage the whole emergency sector to reduce their use of non-essential plastics.

There is still a long way to go but the team's refusal to accept the status quo for packaging is already having a wide impact.



WORKING TOGETHER

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges of our time.

It is vital that Rotary and ShelterBox are part of a global effort to tackle the climate crisis. Whilst we are not an environmental charity, it is our responsibility to amplify the voices of the communities we serve and reduce our own impact on the environment. In partnership, we must not only think about the delivery of aid after disaster, but how we do it. As humanitarians, it is vital that we work together to protect the environment.

“The environment may, at one time have been political, but now everyone understands it is no longer political. It is existential. We will not exist if we do not act against climate change.”

- RI President Shekhar Mehta speaking to The Rotary magazine of RotaryGBI

Climate change affects every aspect of human experience. It interacts with our society in a way that not only creates new inequalities but also highlights the existing inequalities of our world. Sadly, this means many challenges ahead for peace.

If we examine how the climate crisis has impacted our work at ShelterBox with new forms of uprooting, including, land loss, extreme weather events and forced migration. We also will find ourselves discussing ongoing global human rights concerns that shape how climate is experienced amid the long-standing inequalities.

GLOBAL INEQUALITIES

ShelterBox is making a strategic commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion – both within the planning and delivery of the support we give to people after disaster, and within our organisation. Here again, ShelterBox's values and intentions align with Rotary International's :

We believe that exemplifying and embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) should be a part of everything we do at Rotary.

ShelterBox is already working hard to provide the Human Right of Shelter when it is needed the most, this we can turn to providing hope as we also aim to tackle the causes of loss of Shelter. ShelterBox is also taking the opportunity for self-reflection and learning as we look at the role of overcoming inequalities with our global organisation. Our programme of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion events, training and conversations, bring us all together, to learn and define ShelterBox's voice on overcoming inequality within our organisation and how we overcome inequalities around the world.

Through learning more about who we are, engaging with equality work, understanding and celebrating diversity and becoming more inclusive and accessible to all, we undertake our work being the best version of ourselves we can.

Our internal transformation around being more inclusive as an organisation has started, and so our perceptions as an organisation of the world we live in have also changed for the better.

This may sound a lot, but we need to do more. We need to work in partnerships. Partnerships such as our long-standing partnership with Rotary International allow us to not only align our aims for greater positive change in the world but also to work towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, The Global Goals for a better world.

"The Human Right of Shelter, is the right to a safe place to rest, somewhere people from all areas of our communities can be themselves, and most importantly start to find happiness when it is most needed. For me, ShelterBox is not just the start of rebuilding lives, it is the start of finding happiness."

Dr Tony Malone is responsible for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at ShelterBox. He has worked with many charities, corporations and governmental projects which aim to bring happiness, peace and security to communities. He is the author of one of the world's best selling books on terminology for Diversity & Inclusion and frequently lectures around the world on the ethics of overcoming inequalities.

Image: © Olly Burr



2021 has been an exciting year in partnership as we develop our mutual passion and commitment to protecting the environment and to addressing global inequalities.

We are stronger together; looking ahead and faced with many global challenges, we know that the partnership between Rotary International and ShelterBox will continue to create positive and lasting change.



ShelterBox

Rotary

