



PHILIPPINES – Covid Response

Distributions

Several thousand cases of Coronavirus have now been confirmed in the Philippines, with over a thousand deaths. However, due to limited testing in the Philippines, the true figures are likely to be higher. Hospitals, especially public facilities, are often stretched at the best of times. In April, ShelterBox Operations Philippines (SBOP) were approached by Eversley Sanatorium - a public hospital - in Cebu requesting support to create extra space for emergency admissions and triage areas. We currently have stock stored in our warehouse in Cebu, which allows us to respond quickly when needed. We were quickly able to respond to their request, providing tarpaulins, ropes, and fixings to be used in the triage area with an estimate of 50-100 patients (consultation limit per day) for Coronavirus patients. This will aim to help the hospital from becoming overcrowded.



SYRIA – Conflict displacement

Remote distributions

With the arrival of Coronavirus in Syria, the need for humanitarian support is greater than ever for families already living in harsh conditions. More than 900,000 people have now fled the ongoing violence in Idlib province, currently living in small camps scattered around the countryside. Throughout these difficult times we have continued to work with our partners in Syria to support those displaced by the ongoing conflict. Together with our partner ReliefAid, we're providing essential aid items which will help people to keep distance from each other and stay as healthy as possible. We are also providing hand soap and washing basins which will enable families to protect themselves from the deadly virus. Throughout April, distributions to 1,450 families were successfully completed by the ReliefAid team who implemented precautionary measures against Coronavirus throughout. We're also working with Bahar Organization to support families in the north-east with tents and other household items. Aid for this project is currently at the border waiting to cross into Syria.



ETHIOPIA – Conflict displacement

Remote distributions

In Ethiopia, conflict, disease outbreaks, rainfall shortages and flooding, have forced people from their homes. With the help of our partner, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), we have supported over 4,500 families in total since late 2018. Due to the spread of Coronavirus, the Ethiopian government has closed its borders, except for the import of essential goods including humanitarian aid. Our current project will support the coronavirus country response as well as the emergency shelter displacement needs. The aid for this project arrived in Ethiopia in April. Coronavirus mitigations are put in place for distributions which are planned for May. We are also hoping to add soap and a washbasin to the aid package which will help families protect themselves from the virus.



VANUATU – Cyclone Harold

Remote assessments

On April 6, Cyclone Harold made landfall in Vanuatu as a Category 5 cyclone, bringing devastation to communities in the north. It is estimated that up to 90% of buildings and houses in Sanma were either damaged or completely destroyed, and around 160,000 people were reported to be affected. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, access to the country is extremely difficult right now. Despite the challenges, we are currently working with our local partner CARE to help us get much-needed aid to families who are the most vulnerable.



CAMEROON – Conflict displacement

Remote distributions

In the Far North Region of Cameroon thousands of men, women, and children have been forced to flee their homes - a result of violent attacks from Boko Haram insurgents. The region is now home to more than 110,000 Nigerian refugees as well as over 290,000 people who are internally displaced. We have been working in Cameroon with our partner IEDA Relief since 2015. We are now on Project 8 with them, which is still proceeding throughout these difficult times. IEDA Relief is taking extra precautions to keep the people needing support and the team as safe as possible from the risk of Coronavirus. ShelterBox tents will help to reduce the number of people in collective centres and help measures to prevent the virus. By the end of April, distributions for Project 8 had started in Cameroon.



SOMALILAND – Drought

Remote distributions

Severe and persistent drought across Somaliland in 2017 resulted in sudden widescale displacement across the country. Those worst hit were from nomadic pastoralist communities who had lost lives, livestock, and livelihoods. Since then, we have been working with our trusted partner ActionAid in Somaliland to distribute vital aid to families still unable to return home. Distributions for phase 2 of Project 5 began in April. The project aims to provide 1,800 families with tarpaulins, rope, kitchen sets, and other essential aid items. These aid items will go to families living in camps for internally displaced people in Burao and Hargeisa regions. Ahead of the second phase of distributions, ActionAid developed a Coronavirus strategy and contingency plan that we are now applying to the project. This includes preventative measures such as handwashing stations. Distributions have been limited to 50 people at a time to minimise physical contact.



BURKINA FASO – Conflict

Remote distributions

Burkina Faso is one of the fastest-growing displacement crises in Africa. Almost 800,000 people have been forced to flee their homes due to extremist violence. Some of the families who have fled can stay with relatives or friends, but many more are in crowded camps or buildings such as schools. Insecurity and instability make it difficult to reach some of the people in need, and Coronavirus is making the situation even worse. Despite the many challenges, including travel restrictions, we are working with our new partner HELP to support the most vulnerable communities. This new project began in April. It will support families with emergency shelter and household items in three regions in the north. We will help to decongest camps and host communities where people have been living collectively.