Dear Rotarian

You enter the last quarter of your year in very trying circumstances. We at ShelterBox share many of the same problems of communication and physical project activity as do you. We hope you and your Rotarians are adapting to the new conditions, knowing we will find light at the end of the tunnel.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on our ability to deliver aid, we are still operational and our aid is being delivered around the world.

Of topical interest to those of us in Australia is the impact of Cyclone Harold in the south Pacific, particularly in **Vanuatu** since it made landfall in Vanuatu as a Category 5 cyclone, bringing devastation to northern provinces in Vanuatu. The decision has been made, based on the response criteria, for us to proceed with a response and we are currently working through the supply chain challenges and importation options. Any support you and your Rotary Clubs can offer will make a great impact. I can assure you, funds contributed specifically for this cause, will find their way to delivering the aid so important to provide shelter in this time of great need. Please pass this information to your Clubs and Rotarians.

As well as our attention to Vanuatu, the last week has seen ShelterBox aid going to:

Cameroon– The first two shipments of aid have now arrived in the far north region. The shipment of tents is due to arrive in Douala this week, with the remaining shipments due to arrive by the end of April. Discussions have been held with IEDA Relief on how to ensure distributions and project activities can be carried out whilst ensuring the safety of IEDA Relief staff and the beneficiary community.

Ethiopia – our aid has arrived in Djibouti and been offloaded. We are waiting for the aid to clear customs, before onward transit to Addis Ababa.

Syria– Aid importation is now complete for the Idlib project with ReliefAid. Distributions started yesterday, and discussions have been held with ReliefAid around ways to limit any risk of transmission of COVID-19. The decision was also made to include soap and a basin with the aid package for this project to help provide some mitigation against the spread of the virus.

We have been very fortunate to have Dame Judy Dench come on board to support our efforts around the globe.



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ShelterBox and Rotary International are partners in disaster relief. ShelterBox Australia is a registered charity, independent of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation