

Dear Fellow 5450 Rotarians,

I'm coming to you today to ask for your support in one of the biggest disasters ShelterBox has ever responded to anywhere in the world. I lived in Venezuela for many years and have been glued to the news reports coming out of the areas impacted. I have not heard from anyone I know there and can only hope they are safe. As you know, two powerful earthquakes measuring **7.2 and 7.5 magnitudes** struck Venezuela's northern coast within minutes of each other, leaving communities, including the largest population centers, devastated.

Thousands of people have lost their lives, tens of thousands have been injured, and hundreds of thousands of families are expected to need emergency shelter and essential household items. A state of emergency has been declared as rescue efforts continue.

ShelterBox is responding alongside our local partner, CADENA. Together, we are conducting rapid assessments to identify the greatest shelter needs and prepare emergency shelter and essential aid for families affected by the earthquakes. We have extensive experience supporting families after major earthquakes, including in Türkiye and Syria, Morocco, and most recently Mindanao in the Philippines, where our teams are actively responding today.

Our prepositioned emergency aid in Panama and Barbados, including shelter kits, tents, solar lights, blankets, mosquito nets, cooking equipment, and other essential items, allows us to move quickly when disaster strikes.



We have responded across the region before, including after Hurricane Beryl devastated Grenada in 2024, and we stand ready to provide families in Venezuela with the emergency shelter and essential support they urgently need.

Your support makes this possible. ShelterBox relies on the generosity of Rotarians as well as private donors to deliver life-saving aid wherever disaster strikes. Please remember that no donation is too small, every single donation will provide desperately needed aid.

In addition, I'm asking each of you to please help spread the word. Tell your friends and family, post links on social media and do what you can to support our efforts. This will be a massive response in a country that was already on its knees economically, politically and socially. Our aid could not be more important than it is now.

If you are able, please:

- Share this appeal on your social channels
 - [Venezuela Earthquake Webpage](#)
 - [Donation Page](#)
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [LinkedIn](#)
 - [Instagram](#)
- Encourage your communities to learn more about ShelterBox's work
- Invite others to donate and support families affected in Venezuela

We could not do what we do without you.

With deep gratitude,

Kathleen Pierz

ShelterBox Ambassador

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