

In the Shelter

E-newsletter for the Rotary Clubs of District 5180 - October 2017

Busy times at ShelterBox

Organization operating at max capacity.

When large areas are decimated by a disaster, like the recent hurricanes, disaster responses can be limited by several factors including the number of available responders, the availability of relief supplies, damaged roads, ports, airports, and Governmental controls.

One of the most difficult things I sometimes must tell people is "ShelterBox is not responding in that area at this time."

Rest assured, ShelterBox aggressively seeks to engage and fill as many disaster relief efforts as possible to ensure that no family in need of shelter goes without. Currently those response capabilities are operating at maximum capacity according to ShelterBox Int'l Head of Operations Alf Evans.

Following is the latest information on where and how we are making a difference in the lives of disaster survivors worldwide. —Bill Tobin



CARIBBEAN - Hurricanes

After suffering the wrath of Hurricane Irma, the Caribbean was pummeled again by Hurricane Maria making this one of the most ferocious hurricane seasons ever recorded, and it is not over yet.

ShelterBox teams are working with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, local Rotary clubs and other organizations evaluating need and delivering emergency shelter to the families that desperately need it.

ShelterBox is currently coordinating the provision of aid across several countries, including Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, the Dominican Republic and the British Virgin Islands.

On some islands, there will be natural resources available to quickly rebuild homes with the help of a ShelterKit. Elsewhere, our tents, and gear such as solar lights will be the best option – creating a warm, safe home while the long clean-up process takes place.

BANGLADESH - Flooding

Since the Monsoon season started in June, Bangladesh has been severely hit by constant rain, at its worst, more than a third of the land was submerged with over 100,000 households destroyed and 600,000 more partially damaged. This destruction has forced eight million people from their homes, while the same extreme weather phenomenon has affected large swathes of India, Nepal and Myanmar too.

A ShelterBox Response Team is on the ground, working with Rotary contacts, authorities and other aid organizations to understand how we might be able to help those who have lost everything in the catastrophic flooding.

The team is also working to understand more about the needs of Rohingya refugees, 400,000 of whom have arrived in Bangladesh since late August.

NEPAL - Flooding

In Nepal, the monsoon season has caused the heaviest rainfall in 15 years in the southern regions of the country.

The full extent of the damage is unknown as many places have been made inaccessible by the floods. Early reports estimated that 90,000 people were

displaced and more than 65,000 households were destroyed.

A ShelterBox Response Team is currently in the country, assessing the shelter needs of people who have been affected by the monsoon flooding.

Unfortunately, foreign aid is currently not allowed to be imported or distributed in Nepal. The team has been working closely with Rotarians in the country and potential partners to carry out assessments and working with the Nepali Red Cross Society to find a way to help in Nepal.

SYRIA - Conflict

The conflict in Syria has now entered its seventh year. What started out as a peaceful protest in 2011 has since become the longest-lasting civil war on the planet.



The internationally backed power struggle between government forces and a disparate mix of opposition groups, including Islamic State, continues.

We're working with our partners, Hand in Hand for Syria and ReliefAid, to help those affected. Since December 2015, we have helped more than 68,000 people with ReliefAid, including 47,000 children and 34,000 women and girls. This year alone, we've already provided shelter and essential aid to approximately 8,000 families in the country.

The current focus is to provide shelter and aid ahead of colder and stormier weather conditions, and to meet needs throughout the severe winter in this region. Over the years we have provided a range of shelter aid as well as warm clothing for children and practical items such as kerosene heaters.

IRAQ - Conflict

On July 10th, the Iraqi government declared that Mosul had finally been liberated after three years of Islamic State control. However, the humanitarian situation is still dire in Iraq and the need for ShelterBox aid is as prevalent as ever.

People are slowly returning to Mosul, but there is still a huge need for aid in and around the city, and a massive displacement of civilians throughout the whole country. Displaced families have struggled in the severe heat over the summer months, now they must prepare for a long winter.

With the help of its partners working in Iraq, in 2017 ShelterBox has so far provided essential aid and shelter to more than 6,000 families.

In August alone ShelterBox supported 394 households, this included 247 ShelterKits and 41 mobile essential aid kits. These kits include blankets, mattresses and solar lights.

SOMALILAND - Drought

Severe drought in Somaliland has affected an estimated 766,000 people since November 2016. This is a community of nomadic cattle farmers, and the drought has killed livestock, and brought families into urban areas in the search for water.

We are working closely with ActionAid to ensure that families have safe shelter throughout Somaliland, supporting around 500 families with ShelterKits, including tarpaulins and kitchen sets. A team has recently returned after meeting families to see how their lives have started to improve since receiving ShelterBox support. A second phase of aid distributions is currently underway to assist 2000 families.

The water filters are proving essential in combating disease, as dwindling water sources are becoming contaminated and some parts of Somaliland are in the grip of a cholera epidemic.

LAKE CHAD BASIN-Conflict

Since 2009, Boko Haram has been waging an insurgency in Northern Nigeria. The violence has since spread to the neighboring regions of Niger, Chad and Cameroon, affecting around 30 million people. Recent drought has created food insecurity and added another layer of need onto the existing crisis.

Cameroon – Our teams are distributing tents, hygiene kits and other life-saving aid to the most vulnerable in Cameroon, where rainy season has now begun. We are also sending out a shipment of SchoolBoxes to help restore children’s futures. Our partner, IEDA Relief, have alerted us to an outbreak of malaria in Minawo refugee camp, so we are in the process of procuring mosquito nets to respond to this need.

We are also preparing to distribute 2,000 hygiene kits to women and girls in the region of Logone-et-Chari.



Chad – We are partnering with the local aid agency ICAHD to

support vulnerable families in Chad.

456 shelters have been constructed and 500 kits of vital aid have been distributed to affected families.

We will be adding doors to these shelters, to help lengthen the life of the shelter and to provide extra privacy for families. ShelterBox is now working with ICAHD on the second phase of distributions.

Niger – Recent Boko Haram attacks in the Kablewa camp has led to massive population displacement in Niger. The camp, that hosted 16,000 people, has now been disbanded.

With the rainy season on its way, these people are in desperate need of shelter. ShelterBox is working with Plan International to provide emergency aid to those displaced.

The project will be split into two phases, supporting 896 families with tarpaulins and other essential aid items. Aid arrived in the country and phase one of distributions to ~800 families is expected to begin soon.

ShelterBox from Space.

ShelterBox tents at Minawao refugee center in Cameroon are visible through Google Earth.



Fleeing from Boko Haram, over 60,000 refugees are at Minawao.



www.shelterboxusa.org

Learn more and donate

Become a ShelterBox Liaison

Sign up to become a ShelterBox Rotary Club liaison and receive deployment updates and access to pertinent webinar trainings so you can be “in the know” and share disaster relief information with your club.

It's easy to sign up as a liaison:
www.shelterboxusa.org/volunteer

Create your fundraising page

An online ShelterBox fundraising page is easy to create and a great way to attract donors and showcase your Rotary club's commitment to ShelterBox.

Create your page today:
<http://tinyurl.com/5180sbox>

ShelterBox Hero Club

Make a 3-year pledge to help families in need when a disaster strikes.

Heroes made here:

<http://tinyurl.com/5180hero>

Presentations and Events:

- October 2 Walnut Grove Rotary
- October 5 Oak Ridge High School Interact
- October 18 Folsom Lake Rotary
- October 18 Vaca Valley Eventide Rotary (5160)

For a presentation or ShelterBox display at your event email: shelterboxbill@gmail.com