



Our experience of working in Haiti will prove invaluable in overcoming multiple challenges after the recent earthquake.

Image: Haiti 2010

Dear ROTARY PRESIDENT,

I hope you are keeping safe and well. Our thoughts go out to those of you who are currently in lockdown.

Thanks to all of you that have donated to our Haiti earthquake appeal, we've raised nearly \$100,000 and it would be great if we could double that total in the coming weeks. There are over 1.2 million people affected by the recent earthquake and following tropical storm. The situation in Haiti is dire and thousands of families need our help. It's heartening to see our community of supporters step up.

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As well as reports from Haiti and Afghanistan, this month's newsletter features a case study from our recent deployment in Honduras, news from our Larapinta

Trekkers and more trekking opportunities as part of our #Trek4Shelter campaign. There's also online shopping with a difference and a chance to support ShelterBox by purchasing a copy of our "2020 Vision" photo book.

This month's quote is from Rosalynn Carter, 'There is nothing more important than a good, safe, secure home.'

Thanks for being part of the team.

*Mike*

**Mike Greenslade**

*CEO ShelterBox Australia*



### **HAITI - EARTHQUAKE/TROPICAL STORM**

A powerful 7.2 magnitude earthquake on Saturday 14 August and continuing aftershocks have rocked Haiti. Heavy rains and mudslides from Tropical Storm Grace have made the need for emergency shelter even sharper.

Buildings have been flattened. Around 137,000 homes have been damaged or destroyed – the full extent of the damage may not be known as remote communities remain cut off. Hospitals already under strain from COVID-19 are overwhelmed. Tropical Storm Grace dumped more than 380mm of rain over some of the worst affected areas.

*'The earthquake hit Haiti early in the morning – and it hit hard. Right now, almost a million people need support. We know that will include shelter. Our teams are working round the clock to understand how to get the right aid to*



*people in Haiti. The rubble of a disaster zone is no place to shelter from a tropical storm, let alone try and continue rescuing survivors. People are being forced to choose between staying outside and exposed to the elements or seeking shelter in unsafe buildings. We will do everything we can to reach vulnerable communities after they have suffered so much.'* - Alice Jefferson, ShelterBox Head of Responses

The ShelterBox team will work with fellow humanitarians to assess damage reports, understand from communities what they need, and work on the challenging logistics of delivering aid to areas where buildings have been reduced to rubble.

A ShelterBox team has deployed to the region. This is the first time a team has deployed since coronavirus severely restricted international travel in 2020.



### **AFGHANISTAN - CONFLICT**

The news from Afghanistan is horrifying, as hour by hour we see relative security and stability descend into chaos and fear. People are fleeing across the country, causing mass displacements within Afghanistan and across its borders. Although Afghanistan is somewhere we've provided emergency shelter several times, we're not currently able to respond to this devastating crisis.

Right now, the security and political situation is incredibly complex, changing by the minute, while access for humanitarians and aid is already difficult and becoming impossible. We need to ensure that our aid reaches vulnerable families and puts no one in further danger. Even in the unlikely event

that the Taliban are true to their word, ISIS has already shown their deadly intent.

We're in contact with partners in the region and will continue to watch the situation closely, to see if we're able to help displaced families recover as the picture becomes clearer.

ShelterBox has responded to Afghanistan on 4 occasions (2002 -see image above, 2006, 2008, 2016-17), to support people displaced by the conflict as well as by extreme weather, such as floods.



### HONDURAS - ROXANAS STORY

ShelterBox, together with **Habitat para la Humanidad Honduras** and **Rotary Club of San Pedro Sula**, have united in efforts to bring relief to communities affected by Hurricane's Eta and Iota. Through working in partnership, we have provided kits, materials and tools such as tarpaulins, mosquito nets, solar lights, kitchen sets, water filters and blankets.

The Northern region of Honduras is one of the areas we supported, and this is where met Roxana. Roxanna lives with her two daughters, Gloria and Scarlet and her husband Wilmer. Having lived in Honduras all her life, Roxana has experienced several natural disasters, "[Hurricanes] *Eta and Iota* were



*unforgettable, we were just able to get shelter for me and my family at the top of the roof. With the other storms, the water level never got that high."*

Roxana spoke to us about the impact of the floods on her husband's and their community's work *"all the crops were lost; we are not even ready to plan. The irrigation canals are still damaged, and everyone lost the harvest."*

After staying away from their family home for three months, Roxana returned with her husband to see the condition of their home, *"It was hard to get in, as there was a lot of mud. I felt very sad, everything that you work very hard for was lost."* Whilst working on repairs to their house, Roxana and her husband stayed in a temporary shelter made of palm leaves, *"we stayed in that shelter for 30 days, it was not good."*

Upon receiving support from ShelterBox, Roxana said, *"we felt very good, we were able to start cleaning and preparing to fix our shelter."* When asked what the most useful item she received was, Roxana explained *"we used everything, it was all very handy."*

With the ever-changing climate crisis, storms like Eta and Iota are becoming more frequent and devastating. When asked if she felt the storms were getting stronger and if she was aware of Climate Change Roxana said, *"not directly no. Every day is getting worse though, the time is not the same, things have changed."*

## WHERE WE ARE WORKING

### Supporter Stories

#### Larapinta Trekkers Raise \$49,020!



At the end of July, an intrepid group of ShelterBox supporters set off on the glorious Larapinta Trail, in aid of ShelterBox. Due to last-minute border closures, six of our trekkers had to miss out this time and have been offered

places on future treks (hint: there will be another Larapinta Trek in 2022 😊 ). The group combined with a team from another charity and together they formed close bonds and shared the sights and sounds of the Larapinta.

### What a wonderful way to raise \$49,020!

"I slept for the first time in a swag under desert stars, hung out with the most delightful group of people, beheld ancient vistas, desert colours, and rare native flowers that blew my mind." Danielle, NSW

## CHECK OUT OUR ADVENTURE TREKS

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### TREK AUSTRALIA'S HIGHEST PEAK, MT KOSCIUSZKO IN JANUARY 2022

On this epic adventure, you'll ascend Australia's highest peak, Mount Kosciuszko, beneath starry skies to be rewarded with breathtaking views of the Australian Alps at sunrise.

## SIGN-UP TODAY

### BETTER THAT - THE NEW ONLINE SHOPPING PLATFORM THAT GIVES BACK

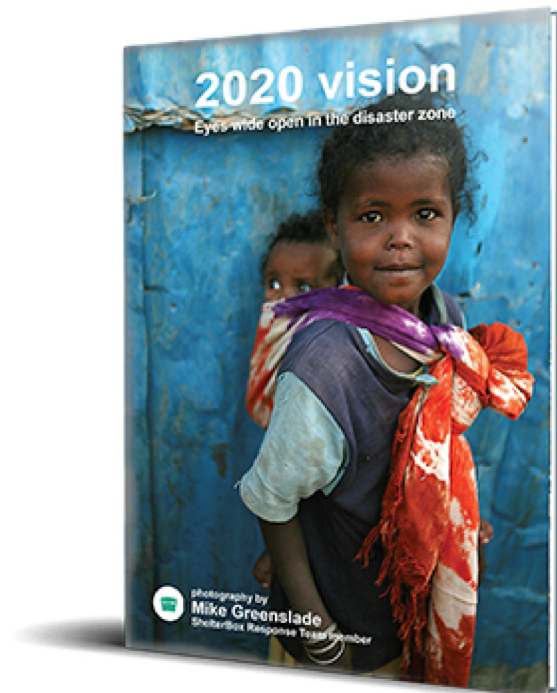
We're excited to announce our partnership with Betterthat.com – a new online marketplace helping you shop with purpose. Up to 25% of their net commission revenue goes to good causes (like us!) Not only will you shop exclusive brands and get better prices, but you'll also be



making a social impact too.  
Use this link to start shopping and  
supporting us today.

<https://bit.ly/3u45prK>

**SHOP NOW WITH BETTER THAT**



*“ Humanity is at its  
rawest in disasters and  
yet there are moments  
that capture true human  
dignity and hope.  
Brilliantly shown  
in Mike’s work. ”*

**TIM COSTELLO, AO**  
CHIEF ADVOCATE  
OF WORLD VISION  
AUSTRALIA

## **'2020 VISION - EYES WIDE OPEN IN THE DISASTER ZONE'**

This book provides shelter! **All proceeds go to ShelterBox Australia**

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of ShelterBox, *2020 Vision* is full of images of determination and hope. Even in the darkest of hours, communities shine bright. Families pull together to help one another, and organisations like ShelterBox work tirelessly to provide emergency shelter and other essential items to support them in rebuilding their lives.

The book features several images from our 2010 response to the Haiti earthquake and provides a poignant reminder of what is happening in the country right now

**BUY NOW**



POST ON FACEBOOK



SHARE ON TWITTER



FORWARD TO A FRIEND

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## DISASTERS DON'T STOP NEITHER DO WE.

Please help us to continue to support families affected by disaster and crisis by making a donation, or becoming a regular giver.

EFT: Bendigo Bank: ShelterBox Australia: BSB 633 000: Account no. 166 780 163 (please email [office@shelterbox.org.au](mailto:office@shelterbox.org.au) to notify us of your donation and receive your tax receipt).

Cheques can be mailed to: ShelterBox Australia, PO Box 6625, Norwest, NSW, 2153

All donations above \$2 are fully tax-deductible.

### MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION



**ShelterBox**

**Rotary**



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