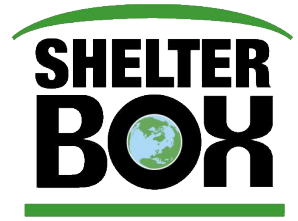


HOPE IN A BOX!



Aid for disaster victims worldwide

The ShelterBox Trust is a registered, Cornwall-based charity that provides humanitarian aid for disaster victims worldwide.

This aid is delivered in rugged green plastic containers – the ‘ShelterBox’ – each one of which generally holds a 10-person tent and other material designed to help an extended family survive following a disaster.

In the eight years since ShelterBox began operating more than 38,000 boxes have been despatched worldwide – providing shelter for an estimated 500,000 people in approaching 43 countries.



The ShelterBox idea was thought up and developed by Rotarian & ex-Royal Navy search-and-rescue diver Tom Henderson (Founder & CEO) and was subsequently adopted by the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard Club, of which he is a member, as their millennium project.

The concept behind ShelterBox is that disasters such as flood, earthquake, war and volcanic eruption happen worldwide on a regular basis. But whatever the cause, the impact is the same: huge numbers of people left injured, displaced and homeless.

In this kind of situation, the initial challenge is to get medical aid to the injured and ensure access to water and food.

But another essential is **shelter**, as without some kind of protection from the elements survival following a disaster can still be a battle, particularly for the young, old and infirm.

ShelterBox's unique approach is simple. Wherever disaster strikes, its mission is to provide relief in the form of shelter, warmth and comfort.

In addition to the tent in each ShelterBox, other equipment normally includes thermal blankets, a multi-fuel stove, cooking equipment, water containers and purification tablets, a basic tool kit and a children's pack.

The exact contents will vary according to local conditions and what is most needed.

Each box costs £490 – including all materials, packing, storage and distribution to individual recipients worldwide. Based on six months use only – this equates to 27pence per person per day.

Every ShelterBox is also individually numbered and donors can track where they are sent via our website www.shelterbox.org



Young earthquake victim in Pakistan

Making it happen

The ShelterBox Trust is operated by the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard – supported by partner Rotary clubs in Australia, Canada, United States, Germany, Southeast Asia, Denmark, Luxembourg and a growing number of countries around the world

ShelterBox relies entirely on public support to make its work possible. Around half of the charity's income is in the form of direct donations; the other half is raised from the public on our behalf by Rotary clubs across the UK and around the world.

At present around 80% of our income comes from UK donors, 10% from Australia, 2% from Canada and 8% from the USA. ShelterBox receives no income from governments or large grant-giving bodies. As donations are received, boxes are assembled, numbered and held in store ready for distribution as and when required.

Audited figures show that around 90% of our income goes directly on the boxes and their contents. The organisation Intelligent Giving, which ranks the transparency of charities, gives ShelterBox its *Top-Rated* ranking.

Working in partnership

Rotary has clubs in most countries of the world and this worldwide network not only assists with fundraising but also helps ShelterBox get the right aid to where it is required.

When a disaster strikes, the charity's first point of contact is often a local club. They can advise on what has happened, where is worst affected, what aid is actually needed, plus how best to get it into the country and to the scene – often bypassing bureaucratic channels that can hold up organisations without local knowledge.

ShelterBox also operates alongside other aid agencies where appropriate – for example with UNICEF in Somalia and with Oxfam and the Salvation Army in Southeast Asia.

The ShelterBoxes and their contents are sourced from leading manufacturers. To distribute our aid worldwide we work in partnership with international companies like DHL Global Forwarding.



ShelterBox Response Team leader Joe Cannon with children in Somalia, where ShelterBox is working with UNICEF to help house thousands of people displaced by 15 years of civil war.

Trained volunteers from the ShelterBox Response Teams base themselves in the affected area so that they can co-ordinate action on the ground and make sure aid gets to the people who need it.

Getting boxes to their destination can be a massive logistical challenge but one the teams are used to dealing with – whether building rafts to ferry ShelterBoxes to communities cut off by flooding in Sri Lanka or hiring donkeys to get boxes into the mountains of Kashmir.

Because Rotary and ShelterBox are totally non-partisan and use volunteers who work and live with the local population the charity can also often cross political divides and reach areas where some organisations are reluctant to or cannot operate.

All these factors mean that ShelterBox is often first on the scene with help. In Sri Lanka and Indonesia following the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004, in Pakistan following the Kashmir earthquake of 2005 and in Java following the earthquake and tsunami of 2006 our teams were able to get help to disaster victims well ahead of many other agencies.

A Million In Africa

The priority for ShelterBox will always be responding to the emergency needs of disaster victims around the world. But there's also an ongoing humanitarian crisis to which the charity has turned its attention.

There are an estimated 15 million displaced people in Africa – often predominately women and children – who have lost their homes as a result of famine, war and other disasters.

ShelterBox has set itself the ambitious target of providing emergency accommodation for one million of these disaster victims over the next five years – a project designated as *A Million In Africa*.

Tents, and other aid, from the charity have already been deployed in numerous African countries: including Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Kenya, Liberia, Sudan and Uganda.

ShelterBox is also one of only a handful of agencies to have recently supplied aid to Somalia, where we have been working through UNICEF.

The value of what ShelterBox is doing – and the quality and suitability of its equipment – is reflected by the fact that UNICEF has requested 10,000 more boxes in Somalia alone, while UNHCR say they could use 30,000 in Sudan and elsewhere.

Providing the 100,000 tents and other equipment necessary to house one million people will cost £50 million. It's an ambitious challenge and so far ShelterBox is only just starting to tackle the problem in Africa but making *A Million In Africa* happen is possible.



Somali girl in camp provided with ShelterBox tents

Learning about disasters

In 2006 ShelterBox launched its first schools project, developed in consultation with headteachers and other education professionals.

An education pack was sent to all state primary schools within the UK and a special website set up – www.shelterboxschools.org – aimed at younger pupils. As well as pages for children, the schools website also features pages for teachers, including an online forum and lesson resource materials.

More than 300 schools have already taken part in the project, helping thousands of young children to have a greater understanding of both how disasters happen and what can be done to help the victims.

The ShelterBox Trust is a registered charity operated by the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard
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Patron: Lady Mary Holborow JP – Lord Lieutenant of the Duchy of Cornwall