



**ShelterBox**  
Disaster relief

## 2019 PARTNERSHIP IMPACT REPORT



*Alina hangs up her solar light in her temporary home, provided to her by ShelterBox, following the flooding in Asunción*

*Paraguay, August 2019*

ShelterBox USA is a registered charity, independent of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation.

**Rotary**



© Rotary International/Alyce Henson

# Thank you

TOGETHER WITH ROTARY WE HAVE SUPPORTED  
OVER 1.5 MILLION PEOPLE IN 100 COUNTRIES



2019 has been another incredibly busy year with the numbers of displaced people at the highest ever recorded. Now more than ever, our partnership with Rotary International is fundamental to what we do.

Reaching communities with vital aid is only made possible with help from our partners, volunteers and global network of supporters. We have created this report to say thank you and show how this partnership of action has helped so many families rebuild their lives following disaster.



## 2019 IN FIGURES



\*Numbers as of 12 Dec 2019 - based on completed responses from 1 January 2019 to date, and anticipated responses to 31 December 2019.





## DEPLOYMENT FOCUS: PHILIPPINES

**The Philippines is hit by devastating natural disasters every year, and since 2004 ShelterBox has responded 27 times, more than in any other country.**

Taking this into account, ShelterBox Operations Philippines was established as an NGO in 2017, allowing us to operate more efficiently in country.

It all started at a regular club meeting of the Rotary Club of Cebu back in 2013, when Rotarian Stephen Castillo was so inspired by the ShelterBox demonstration, he decided to generously donate use of his company's warehouse space. Shelter aid for 10,000 families has since passed through these warehouses, showing the key impact of this global partnership.

We now hold stock in our own warehouses to support a further 3,000 households, including tents, shelter kits, and other aid items such as water carriers, mosquito nets, solar lights and corrugated iron sheets for roofing.

In January 2019, a ShelterBox team was deployed once again to the Philippines in response to the devastation caused by Tropical Storm Usman in December 2018. More than a million people across 15 provinces were affected. Upon arrival, the team met

with Stephen Castillo who was already well prepared, having set up meetings with Rotary clubs in the worst affected areas. Thanks to Rotary's access to contacts in the highest levels of government, within 24 hours of arrival our team was meeting with the Mayor of Lope De Vega municipality and discussing plans for distribution. Despite initial apprehensions about the use of shelter aid in forms other than of wood or concrete, we were able to provide reassurance about the impact of our aid with the post-distribution monitoring report from our response to Tropical Storm Ompong only a few months before.

In just over one month, with support from Catarman and Calbayong Rotary Clubs, we completed distributions of ShelterKits and accompanying aid items to 2,214 families in the Philippines. Our partnership with Rotary has been instrumental to our continued operations in the Philippines - Rotary have assisted us on every single deployment since 2004. Year over year we have been able to build on the connections and expertise provided by Rotary to facilitate a more rapid and efficient response each time disaster hits.

**SINCE 2004 WE HAVE RESPONDED 27 TIMES IN THE PHILIPPINES TO:**



**3**

Earthquakes



**2**

Floods



**20**

Cyclones



**2**

Conflicts



## FROM THE FIELD:

# SHELTERBOX AND ROTARY WORK TOGETHER IN MALAWI

Cyclone Idai made landfall in March, causing widespread chaos along the South Eastern coast of Africa. 100,000 homes were destroyed or damaged, with at least one million acres of crops ruined. The severe damage to infrastructure and land meant communities were particularly at risk of experiencing poverty and food insecurity.

A ShelterBox team was deployed, and upon arrival met with District 9210's Governor Hutch Mthinda in Lilongwe. Transferring south to Blantyre, conversations continued with President Eric Chinkanda, of the Rotary Club of Limbe, which was raising funds to carry out a food distribution. We explored ways to support them by connecting them with relevant government and humanitarian actors. They were able to move forward quickly with the delivery of food aid, complementing the emergency ShelterBox response supporting nearly 2,000 families with tarpaulins, water filters and carriers, solar lights and mosquito nets.

*"We were able to stay with each other without any problems because we were coming from the very same village. We were staying like one big family. No matter what problems we had, we would easily solve it as one big family."*

Members of the community of Mwalija

“

*On behalf of District 9210, I would like to thank ShelterBox for coming to our rescue. We value your relief work during the Cyclone Disaster and we trust that you will continue to partner with us in future disaster response programs in our district.*

- DG Hutch Mthinda

## MALAWI RESPONSE

86,980

Malawians displaced

15

affected districts

2,000

families supported with ShelterBox aid



1

## THE IMPACT OF OUR AID

Shelter is more than just tents and tarps. It's a process of recovery, a way of keeping communities and families together and allowing them the space to focus on the future.

To fully understand the impact of our response, we sent teams back to Malawi to listen to the people we supported tell their stories. We found that shelter helped to provide or enhance these four pathways to recovery:



### CREATING A HOME

A home is more than a physical structure, it's a place to spend time with friends and family, or to find privacy and time for yourself. A place to reconnect and start thinking about the future.



2

### REBUILDING AS A COMMUNITY

Shelter connects people to the land and keeps communities together.

*Communities help recovery by providing essential physical, financial and emotional support.*



3

### RETURNING TO WORK

Once critical shelter needs are satisfied, the community can return to their farms and work. Returning to work represents independence and the ability for people to take back control of their lives.

4

### SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

Building a safe and durable shelter requires skills and knowledge. Some draw from their own experiences, while others require training provided by us. These new skills can then be shared with the community.



All photos ©Sian Davey



## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

June saw Hamburg host the 2019 Rotary International Convention. The ShelterBox booths were visited by Rotary friends old and new, including the District Governor of Malawi, Hutch Mthinda, a key contact from our recent response in Malawi.



We also launched the new Rotary Action Toolkit, which was developed to provide Rotarians with all the resources needed to support the partnership with ShelterBox, through activities to raise awareness and funds, to how they can offer practical assistance in the field.

Every year we look forward to the convention as a chance to reconnect face to face with our international teams, many of whom are Rotarians. The success of this year's event would not have been possible without the dedicated support and commitment of the ShelterBox team in Germany so a big thank you to them, and to everyone who is a part of our Global Network.



## RENEWAL OF THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

**In May we celebrated the renewal of the partnership agreement, which will see ShelterBox continue as Rotary International's Project Partner in Disaster Relief for another three years.**

First adopted as a millennium project by the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard in 2000, the support of Rotary members and clubs around the world saw ShelterBox first become Rotary's Project Partner in Disaster Relief in 2012. Since then, Rotarians around the world have raised over \$70 million for ShelterBox and have helped transform ShelterBox into an internationally recognized, independent disaster relief organization.

The partnership however means so much more to us than just financial support. Rotary clubs worldwide offer valuable, practical assistance to help us reach more families fleeing disaster or conflict with 90% of our natural disaster responses

benefitting from Rotary assistance or logistical support. Around 1,000 Rotary members are also directly involved in ShelterBox as volunteers, staff or response team members, and our international teams, which allow us to connect with our supporters all around the world. We are an alliance in the true sense of the word.

***“This partnership has helped ShelterBox become who we are today. Our global network of 15 ShelterBox affiliates, who raise funds and awareness worldwide, evolved from Rotary relationships.”***

*Caroline White, interim Chief Executive at ShelterBox*



### ROTARIANS IN FOCUS

Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Saucon in Pennsylvania who hosted another great event this year in support of ShelterBox. Their 2019 event was a Dueling Pianos fundraiser and exceeded \$30,000 in support of ShelterBox's work.



In October, Hazera received a shelter tool kit and training to help her rebuild her home which was damaged by floods.

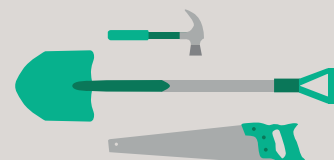


**ShelterBox**

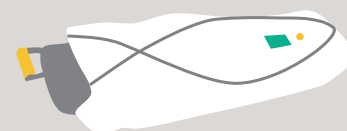
SUPPORTED

**745**

households with



tools



ShelterKits

## DEPLOYMENT FOCUS: **BANGLADESH**

**In the first six months of 2019, Bangladesh experienced unusually heavy monsoon rainfall which triggered widespread flooding, particularly in the North West districts.**

Water levels were at the highest seen for 100 years. 7.6 million people were reported to be affected with almost 600,000 homes damaged or completely destroyed. When both Rotary and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) reached out to ShelterBox at the end of July, with weather conditions predicted to worsen over the following weeks, we made the decision to send a ShelterBox assessment team to the worst affected Kurigram District, and subsequently completed four successful distributions.

It was thanks to Rotary that we were able to access the worst affected areas. Our contacts at the Rotary Club of Rangpur, Rotary Club of Dhaka Kawran Bazar and the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West arranged official invitations and organized permits; they also guided us through the process of obtaining permission to operate and import into Bangladesh.

With support from Rotary, 745 households received tarpaulins and shelter tool kits, allowing families to create a safe space to shelter from the continuing rains.

*Alongside distributions, ShelterBox conducted training sessions with community representatives to ensure proper use of the aid provided.*



# IMAGES FROM THE FIELD : PARAGUAY



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© Rotary International/Alyce Henson



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*Paraguay experienced abnormally heavy rainfall between March and May, which led to widespread flooding and the river Paraguay overflowing in the capital city of Asunción. Nearly 20,000 people were displaced from their homes and communities.*

^ Ned Morris, a member of the Rotary Club of Walla Walla, Washington, USA, is part of a ShelterBox response team sent to assess the needs of people who were displaced by the floods.

< ShelterBox Response Team member and Rotarian Ned Morris and Joel Duarte from Habitat for Humanity Paraguay prepare for a community focus group and needs assessment in Asunción.





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© Rotary International/Alyce Henson



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Gregoria and her daughter outside their temporary home with a mosquito net that they were provided by ShelterBox.

© Rotary International/Alyce Henson



Adolfo and his son Miguel used their shelter kit to construct a new temporary home. Adolfo's home had been severely damaged by the extreme flooding.

© Alex Youlten, ShelterBox



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#### Top Images, Left to Right:

Rotaractor Dulce María Uedo Burguez assists in carrying out a stock take and prepares the aid for the next round of distributions.

Members of Rotaract assist in stock take and prepare for distributions.

Liz Carolina's home in Asunción was flooded. Her family was one of 3000 who received aid items from ShelterBox including shelter kits, solar lights, mosquito nets & thermal blankets.

Rotaractor Mariana Santiviago conducting a Post Distribution Monitoring Survey with Cecelia and her granddaughter Tania. With assistance from Rotaract, these surveys were carried out by the ShelterBox Monitoring & Evaluation team to learn from the community about the impact of the aid.

## AID PROVIDED TO 2,925 FAMILIES IN ASUNCIÓN



shelter kits



solar lights



mosquito nets



blankets





## WE DO THE RIGHT THING

**Our purpose is simple - we provide emergency shelter to families who have lost their home to conflict or disaster, giving them the tools and training they need to support them in their own recovery.**

In 2018, over 88 million people were forced to flee their homes as a result of conflict or natural disaster, and the need for emergency shelter is ever growing. We recognize that we are unable to help everyone, so we prioritize the most vulnerable, those who might not otherwise receive aid, and focus on doing the right thing for the communities that we do support.

Sometimes this involves making some tough decisions. To help make these decisions we have developed a set of criteria which examines whether our aid would be culturally and contextually appropriate, and whether the scale of people affected means they cannot more quickly and easily be supported by the local community or other local organizations.

Martin Strutton, Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinator, conducting an exit interview with a woman in Malawi who had just received ShelterBox aid. The team wanted to establish how communities had felt about the distribution process, and how appropriate the support was for people on an individual level.

### **MAKING THE DIFFICULT DECISION...**

In May, we deployed an assessment team to The Comoros Islands, after Tropical Cyclone Kenneth hit the previous month. Entire villages had been destroyed with estimates of at least 14,500 people displaced. Following a call from the Comorian Government for International assistance, we got in touch with our Rotary contacts on the ground who were able to offer practical support to our team including translators, drivers and local introductions.

*The team observed a strong feeling of community support and impressive early self-recovery, meaning an emergency shelter response was not felt to be necessary.*



## ROTARY UN DAY



▲ ShelterBox Head of Operations, Alf Evans with Immediate Past RI President Barry Rassin in The Bahamas

Months later, Hurricane Dorian made landfall in The Bahamas, causing widespread destruction, and impacting around 76,000 people, with the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama the worst affected.

We deployed a ShelterBox assessment team and worked closely with past RI President, Barry Rassin, and other Rotary groups, in order to understand the needs of people requiring support. Assessments showed that people who had been evacuated from affected areas were unable to return due to limited infrastructure and services.

Evacuees had been living in official shelters on other islands, staying with host families, and/or receiving support from other organisations. Ultimately the team could not identify any unmet need in emergency shelter and felt that there was no role for ShelterBox to play at that time.

*In circumstances such as these, doing the right thing means making the difficult decision not to respond.*

Ultimately this means we have the available resources to respond to conflicts and disasters in Syria, Ethiopia, Philippines, Lake Chad and Somaliland, providing emergency shelter for vulnerable families who wouldn't otherwise receive the support they need.



ShelterBox USA President Kerri Murray at Rotary UN Day sharing about the massive global displacement of families and how ShelterBox is on the front lines providing emergency shelter and relief.



Ace Robin with RI General Secretary, John Hewko (left) and RI President, Mark Maloney (right).

Ace Robin from the Rotary Club of Mataram, Indonesia was honored at the Rotary UN Day for her outstanding work with ShelterBox, supporting families who lost their homes to the devastating earthquake that hit Lombok in 2018.

“

*I was in the house by myself when the earthquake hit. For the first time in my life, I thought everything would finish. Working with ShelterBox taught us a lot – they showed us how to build a shelter and select families to help. It also gave us a chance to show what Rotary is to local people.*

- Ace Robin



# SYRIA: THE FIGHT FOR HOPE

THANKS TO SUPPORT FROM ROTARY MEMBERS AROUND  
OVER 250,000 PEOPLE IN AND AROUND SYRIA SINCE WE  
AND MOST SUSTAINED RESPONSE IN OUR 19-YEAR HIS



SYRIA

Reaction to peaceful  
pro-democracy protests,  
inspired by the 'Arab  
spring', leads to violence  
that develops into civil war

- Syrian government uses chemical weapons against rebel positions in Ghouta
- UN begins process of destroying chemical weapons stocks, with permission from the Syrian government

- Syrian government forces attack Homs and other cities
- Opposition group the Free Syrian Army seizes Aleppo



**The ongoing conflict in Syria has been long and complicated. It has seen over five million people forced to leave the country and more than six million displaced within Syria.**

Families have fled bombs and destruction, leaving behind their homes with nothing but the clothes they are wearing. The colossal need for humanitarian aid has grown larger with each year the conflict persists.

There is an additional threat at this time of year as winter further endangers families who have fled for their lives. Living in internal displacement camps across the country, people are not prepared for the harsh freezing temperatures of the Syrian winter. Our partner ReliefAid spoke to Mohamed during an assessment visit to a displacement camp before delivering aid. He told us about his life in the camp.



“

*Before we were displaced, I had a beautiful house and farmland where I had wheat and sheep. My house was bombed and I rebuilt it. Then the planes returned and bombed us again and we could not stay. Now we live in a tent and with the rain and cold, the situation is worse. Winter is hard.*

- Mohamed

Fortunately, ShelterBox were able to supply Mohamed with some essential items to protect his family from the cold including mattresses, blankets and children's clothing sets in time for the cold winter ahead.



2011

2012

2013



**100**

**SYRIAN REFUGEE  
FAMILIES**  
HELPED IN JORDAN

- Displaced people supported in northern Syria
- A response starts to support Syrian refugees in Iraq

**PARTNERSHIP WITH HAND  
IN HAND FOR SYRIA FORMED,  
HELPING PEOPLE IN  
NORTHERN SYRIA.**

- More than 2,000 families helped in Lebanon. ShelterBox is the only aid organisation to successfully negotiate importing tents into the country



THE WORLD AND WORKING WITH TRUSTED PARTNERS, SHELTERBOX HAS SUPPORTED THE FIRST RESPONDED TO THE CRISIS IN DECEMBER 2012. THIS MAKES IT THE LARGEST STORY. THIS TIMELINE OUTLINES KEY EVENTS FROM THE WAR AND OUR RESPONSE.

# KEY MOMENTS

- So-called 'Islamic State' (IS) declares a 'caliphate' of territory from Aleppo to Diyala, Iraq
- UN-brokered peace talks collapse
- Airstrikes by US and five Arab states against IS around Aleppo and Raqqa

- Russia commences airstrikes in Syria, in support of the Syrian government
- Kurdish forces push IS out of Turkish border area
- IS seizes the ancient city of Palmyra in central Syria, monuments destroyed
- Islamist rebel alliance takes control of Idlib Province
- Syrian government regains control of Homs

- Syrian government retake Aleppo, supported by Iran and Russia

- Turkey crosses border into Syria in support of Turkish - aligned Syrian opposition

- Turkey, Russia and Iran broker a deal to establish 'de-escalation zones'
- IS driven out of Raqqa

- Syrian government launches operation against rebel-held enclave of East Ghouta
- Syrian government accused of using chemical weapons again. US, France and UK launch missile attack in response

- IS 'caliphate' defeated in the Baghouz offensive
- Syrian government airstrikes escalate in Idlib province, displacing 300,000+ People
- Turkish Government launches offensive into north eastern Syria

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019



- Families in northern Syria are some of the first to use new shelter kits from ShelterBox
- Refugees in Iraq supported
- ShelterBox begins supporting Iraqi IDPs displaced by IS

## FURTHER HELP FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE IN IRAQ

- More than 11,000 families supported in Syria in one year, including those fleeing government-led offensive on Aleppo



**45,000 FAMILIES**

NOW HELPED ACROSS THE REGION - 30,000 IN SYRIA ALONE

**14,000 FAMILIES SUPPORTED WITHIN SYRIA THIS YEAR,** many of them fleeing the violence in Raqqa, aided by new partnership with Bahar Organization

- Aid starts to be sourced from neighbouring Turkey, offering a wider range of materials with shorter delivery times, reaching people more quickly

## NEW RELIEFAID PARTNERSHIP INCREASES REACH IN NORTHERN SYRIA

- 100 large tents provided in Lesbos, Greece, to shelter people fleeing across the water from Syria via Turkey
- 10,000 families helped across the region since 2012

**50,000 FAMILIES**

SUPPORTED ACROSS THE REGION

- Plans for a response to people fleeing Idlib violence put into action

*We won't stop trying to reach as many displaced people as possible, providing the simplest items to help provide warmth to families like Mohamed's to survive this cruel winter.*

# SHELTERBOX RESPONSE



# THANK YOU

*Each year, Rotary helps us to go further,  
support more people, and access areas that would  
otherwise be impossible to reach.*

Right now, we are back in the Philippines once again, following a series of earthquakes in Mindanao province; working closely with at least five Rotary clubs across the region and with District Leadership from Districts 3860 and 3870.

And thanks to our global partnership with Rotary, we are continuing to support families that have been displaced by conflict or disaster in Syria, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Cameroon.

*Learn more about  
our work*  
**SHELTERBOXUSA.ORG**

**VOLUNTEER TODAY AT [WWW.SHELTERBOXUSA.ORG/VOLUNTEER](http://WWW.SHELTERBOXUSA.ORG/VOLUNTEER)**



*Become  
an Ambassador*



*Host a  
Fundraiser*



*Serve as a  
Club Champion*



*Help spread  
the word*

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