



**20**  
YEARS  
2000-2020

# 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

[ShelterBoxUSA.org](https://ShelterBoxUSA.org)

*Category 5 Cyclone Harold response, Vanuatu, 2020*



# ShelterBox

## THANK YOU FOR MAKING AN IMPACT



## 2020 IMPACT



**People supported**  
with emergency shelter  
aid and other essential  
household items.



**Families can now rebuild**  
their homes and maintain good  
health with custom shelter and  
hygiene supplies including: tents,  
tarpaulins, tool kits, kitchen sets,  
water carriers, and soap.



**Responses in 12 countries**  
including Burkina Faso, Cameroon,  
Ethiopia, Honduras, India, Nigeria,  
Philippines, Somaliland, Sudan,  
Syria, Tanzania, and Vanuatu.

*Your generous support has helped bring shelter and life-saving supplies to vulnerable families devastated by disaster or conflict who are now facing the added threat of COVID-19.*



## GLOBAL COVID-19 PANDEMIC

### A CRISIS WITHIN A CRISIS

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*Cameroon, 2020*

In November 2019, the start of the COVID-19 pandemic began in Wuhan, China propagating a respiratory disease that has now spread person-to-person to almost every country in the world.

Right now, COVID-19 is spreading in low-income countries due to high population density, poor access to water and sanitation, and high levels of poverty.

**The three essential components to mitigating the global spread of disease are healthcare, hygiene, and shelter.**

Already vulnerable populations including internally displaced people, refugees, ethnic minorities, the disabled, elderly, children, and people with low-income will be at an even greater risk with limited access to basic necessities. These include clean water and soap for hygiene, suitable shelter that allows social distancing, and access to basic healthcare.

As emergency shelter experts, ShelterBox has an important part to play in the global response to COVID-19. Amidst this global pandemic, the work of ShelterBox has never been more critical.

Our top priority is to follow core humanitarian principles and do no harm. We are adapting and scaling our work to serve displaced communities that are most at risk of being devastated by the COVID-19 virus.



*Aid distribution, Burkina Faso, 2020*

# HOW CORONAVIRUS IS AFFECTING OUR OPERATIONS

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**Though the global pandemic has made our work more challenging, we are committed to providing vulnerable families with a place to call home through this coronavirus outbreak.**

It is vital that we maintain our ability to reach people affected by disaster but also do no harm while we deliver aid. We are implementing precautions and measures to protect our staff and volunteers as well as the communities we work with.

We are pro-actively researching new ideas and adapting to ever-changing circumstances. Here are a few of the ways we are working to support families around the world after disaster:

- We have aid prepositioned and ready to distribute around the world, in Belgium, Dubai, Panama, and the Philippines.
- We are working with our partners around the world to provide families with the emergency shelter they need now more than ever.
- We have a global network of affiliate organizations, volunteers and Rotary contacts, and when disaster strikes, we work together to find new and innovative ways to reach communities who need support.

## ADAPTING OUR GLOBAL RESPONSE

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### TENTS AND SHELTER KITS CAN HELP PEOPLE SOCIALLY DISTANCE

*Emergency shelter is vital for helping people move from overcrowded camps and collective centers to a more private space where they can socially distance or self isolate.*



### WE HAVE MODIFIED OUR DISTRIBUTION PRACTICES AND ARE WORKING THROUGH PARTNERS

*Distributing to smaller groups, using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and conducting post deployment monitoring via phone helps to limit exposure to the virus.*



### PERSONAL AID ITEMS LIMIT SHARING BETWEEN FAMILIES AND HELP MITIGATE THE SPREAD

*Personal cooking equipment, sleeping mats, and water filter tools help families reduce their physical interaction and potential contraction of the virus.*



### CUSTOM AID PACKAGES IMPROVE ACCESS TO GOOD HYGIENE.

*Adding soap and hand-washing basins to our kits dramatically improves a family's ability to maintain good hygiene and stay healthy. Adding health educators and educational banners to trainings improves a family's understanding of how to mitigate COVID-19.*



*Fanne collects and sells wood to buy food and cook for her eight children in her ShelterBox kitchen set. ShelterBox's aid gave her family stability, after she lost her husband*

# CAMEROON RESPONSE TO THE LAKE CHAD BASIN CRISIS

Cameroon, 2020

## A NEW BEGINNING

Thousands of families fleeing violence and economic instability in Nigeria and Cameroon have escaped to Minawao Refugee Camp in northern Cameroon to access protection and humanitarian aid. As more families flee to the region, local communities and Minawao Refugee Camp are no longer able to absorb and meet the needs of the displaced families on their own and need support. The camp was originally designed to meet the needs of 30,000 people and has grown to 67,000 people in residence. ShelterBox is the sole provider of tents to new arrivals in Minawao Refugee Camp, fulfilling the critical and lifesaving need for emergency shelter as families integrate into the community and establish a new home.

In 2020, ShelterBox met the shelter and basic household item needs of 3,745 families in Far North Cameroon including Minawao Refugee Camp and to surrounding communities. The aid provided to new camp arrivals helped families increase their resilience and stay protected while they started the process of constructing a permanent shelter, restarting their lives in Minawao

Refugee Camp, and recovering from their displacement. ShelterBox will continue to work in Cameroon to support families displaced by the Lake Chad Basin Crisis in 2021, as humanitarian needs continue.

*“ I collected a tent, blankets, solar lamps, bucket, water carriers and much more. The other items helped me a lot in keeping water, covering the children, and lighting the house at night.”*



## VANUATU: CATEGORY 5 CYCLONE

*Vanuatu, 2020*

### CYCLONE HAROLD RESPONSE

**On April 6, Cyclone Harold made landfall in Vanuatu as a Category 5 cyclone, bringing devastation to communities in the northern provinces.**

It was the strongest cyclone to hit the islands since Cyclone Pam in 2015.

Harold destroyed thousands of houses, damaged food crops and caused widespread power outages. An estimated 80% of homes on the islands of Malampa, Penama and Sanma were affected by the cyclone. Pentecost experienced the worst of the damage, with reports of up to 90% of houses, schools, and evacuation centers severely damaged.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, access to the country was extremely difficult, and we were not able to send ShelterBox Response Teams. Instead, we partnered with CARE Vanuatu to get much-needed aid to the most vulnerable families, who distributed much needed shelter-aid island to island in small boats.

ShelterBox through CARE, were the only humanitarian actors outside of the South Pacific to transport aid and respond to Tropical Cyclone Harold in Vanuatu. As a result of the response, ShelterBox provided 4,365 families with critically needed shelter kits, solar lights, and tools to support in their recovery.



## 4,365 FAMILIES SUPPORTED

*Thanks to our partners and your support, 4,365 families have received tarpaulins, rope, solar lights, kitchen sets, and shelter kits.*

## 2020 EMERGENCY RESPONSE VANUATU



*Our distribution partner recently met village chiefs in South Pentecost island. They expressed their deep appreciation to ShelterBox and their supporters. Many of the community members said they had almost given up hope of receiving support.*



## SYRIA

*“The soap is good to clean our hands and stop the spread of the virus.”*

**NADIN**, 10 years old Idlib, Syria

Since 2012, ShelterBox has responded to the Syrian crisis, providing over 60,000 families with lifesaving shelter and essential household items they need to survive continuous displacement.



**5,900 FAMILIES SUPPORTED**

*with tarpaulins and rope, mattresses, carpets, thermal blankets and kitchen sets.*

Since December 2019, nearly a million people have left their homes in southern Idlib and western Aleppo following the significant escalation of violence. Alongside displacement, the United Nations has warned that COVID-19 cases in Syria are under-reported, and that the transmission of COVID-19 was widespread.

Together, with local partners ReliefAid and Bahar Organization, ShelterBox adapted responses in 2020 to provide families in northern Syria with the critical items they need to stay healthy and safe through the COVID-19 pandemic including education, hygiene tools such as soap and washbasins, and shelter materials such as shelter kits and tents.

By the end of 2020, ShelterBox and partners ReliefAid and Bahar Organization will meet the shelter and COVID-19 mitigation needs of over 5,900 displaced families.

# ETHIOPIA



*Ethiopia, 2020*

**Ongoing conflict, drought, flooding, and a locust invasion has destabilized Ethiopia, leaving 16.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance throughout the country. Of the 1.8 million displaced people in Ethiopia, most are unable to return home due to livelihood challenges and their home being destroyed.**

**4,600 FAMILIES SUPPORTED**

*with vital aid like tarpaulins, ropes, wash basins, soap, water carriers, and sleeping mats*

Displaced families are living in overcrowded shelters and sharing household items. In the meantime, COVID-19 is on the rise in Ethiopia, with the highest rates of transmission among young adults, and the highest rates of death among the elderly.

ShelterBox has partnered with the International Organization for Migration to deliver critical shelter aid and household item support to families displaced in West Guji and Gedeo regions of Ethiopia. In 2020, we provided an aid package of tarpaulins, rope, water carriers, thermal blankets, sleeping mats and mosquito nets to 4,600 displaced families, and will likely serve many more as civil unrest builds in the Tigray region.





# PHILIPPINES

**2,000 FAMILIES SUPPORTED**

*with essential items like shelter kits, tarpaulins, rope, mosquito nets and solar lights.*

## TAAL VOLCANO RESPONSE

**In January 2020, the Taal Volcano erupted in the Philippines.**

Over 580,000 people were affected, with many taking temporary shelter in crowded evacuation centers or staying with loved ones. Many families were living in cramped conditions and were unable to take precautions like social distancing.

ShelterBox Operations Philippines staff and our partner Yakap sa Kaunlarang Bata worked together to develop and distribute shelter-based aid solutions to support self-isolation to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. The aid supported 1,937 permanently displaced families, who were mostly living with families and friends. These items allowed host families to extend the footprint of their homes, providing more space for social distancing and helped families protect themselves from the spread of coronavirus.



**ShelterBox provided tarpaulins and rope to Eversley Sanatorium, a public hospital in Cebu serving the poorest and most marginalized members of the community. Our aid was used to create extra spaces to treat patients in both emergency admissions and triage areas during the pandemic.**



# PHILIPPINES

*Philippines, 2020*

## TYPHOON VONGFONG

**Category 3 Typhoon Vongfong (local name Ambo) made landfall in May in Eastern Samar, Philippines. Torrential rains brought devastating damage, affecting nearly half a million people.**

ShelterBox Operations Philippines partnered with Terres des Hommes, an organization that works in Eastern Samar. Together we supported 998 families with shelter-based aid. These families were living in congested evacuation centers or were being hosted by relatives across 19 communities from the municipalities of Oras and Arteche.

The choice of aid was designed to decongest evacuation centers and to give additional space to families currently living with host families, helping to lower transmission risks of COVID-19. The aid also supported displaced families in rebuilding their homes on their original homesites with local materials.

**COVID-19 mitigations were put in place to ensure the safety of our team members and our partners attending the distributions, as well as the families we were helping including: physical distancing, hand-washing, and the use of personal protective equipment.**





Super Typhoon Goni (known locally as Rolly) made landfall on 1 November, bringing 140mph winds and torrential rainfall, and became the most powerful storm to hit the country since Typhoon Haiyan (2013). Hundreds of thousands of people evacuated their homes. The first town hit by Goni was said to have lost 90% of its homes.

# PHILIPPINES

*Philippines, 2020*

## SUPER TYPHOON GONI

**Super Typhoon Goni tore through the Philippines with 140mph winds and torrential rain on November 1. The most powerful storm since Haiyan in 2013, Goni destroyed local infrastructure, ripped off roofs, knocked out power, and caused landslides and flooding.**

Over two million people were in the path of Goni, and at least 109,000 homes were totally or partially destroyed with the number expected to rise.

With 5,000 sets of prepositioned aid in Cebu, ShelterBox aims to meet the shelter needs of displaced families with shelter kits, hygiene kits, and basic household items in the coming weeks.



**ShelterBox aid arriving in the wake of Super Typhoon Goni in the Philippines.**



# INDIA

*A woman carrying her aid package home after waiting in queue, India, 2020*

## CYCLONE AMPHAN RESPONSE

**When Cyclone Amphan wreaked havoc in India and Bangladesh in May, millions of people lost their homes.**

Rapid waves of displacement forced thousands of people into crowded evacuation centers at a time when COVID-19 was spiking across the country. ShelterBox quickly responded, working with our partner Habitat for Humanity India to distribute essential aid items to families affected in the Sundarbans, one of the worst hit areas. We successfully distributed tarpaulins and rope, household items and a hygiene kits to 1,400 families. The hygiene kits included masks, soap, and a bucket to help families prevent the spread of coronavirus.

**1,400 FAMILIES SUPPORTED**

*Thanks to our partners and your support, 1,400 families have tarpaulins, rope, household items and hygiene kits after Cyclone Amphan*



*Beneficiary feedback station at a distribution site*

34-year-old Nongoma and her seven children are just one of the thousands of families who fled the violence. Here she is in front of her ShelterBox tent that will serve as her home while she figures out her next steps, providing a safe environment for her children and enabling them to cope with the challenge of displacement

## BURKINA FASO

### 1,200 FAMILIES SUPPORTED

*with emergency shelter and essential household items, including kitchen sets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets and solar lamps.*

**Right now, Burkina Faso is the fastest-growing displacement crises in Africa. Almost 1 million people have fled from their homes due to extremist violence that increased through 2019 and has continued in 2020. The situation has uprooted entire communities and forced many to stay with relatives or seek refuge in crowded camps or buildings such as schools.**

In addition to the conflict related displacement, severe flooding throughout the country has created a new wave of displacement, forcing humanitarian organizations to constantly adjust to reach those in need. In overcrowded spaces, like urban settlements and camps, shelter is extremely vital. It enables families to apply physical distancing and isolate where necessary.

In mid-June 2020, ShelterBox partnered with the German charity Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe (HELP) to implement an emergency shelter response. In total, 1,200 families were supported, 600 with tarpaulins and 600 with basic household items, across 4 communes of the Centre North region who were displaced by violence and then were again displaced by unexpected flooding. ShelterBox anticipates continuing to work in Burkina Faso in 2021 as displacement and humanitarian needs increase.

Beneficiary 52-year-old Catherine (pictured below) lives with her husband who is unwell and her six children said:

*“When we left our village we could not bring anything with us. The items we have received will allow us to better equip ourselves. We are going to use the mosquito nets to protect ourselves from malaria. Thank you very much.”*



# RESPONDING TO FLOODING IN TANZANIA

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**Torrential rain and flash flooding across the southeast regions of Tanzania earlier this year resulted in thousands of homes being severely damaged or completely washed away.**

This forced families to resettle to camps on higher ground. Those who were affected the most needed shelter to physically distance themselves from others.

ShelterBox has been working with the Tanzania Red Cross Society to support families who lost their homes to the flooding. We distributed vital aid items including shelter kits and solar lights to 677 families. Throughout the response we took additional steps to protect the field team and the families we supported from the spread of coronavirus. Red Cross has been working to comply with strict COVID-19 measures, including reducing the number of people at distributions, along with physical distancing, setting up handwashing stations and promoting health and hygiene messaging.

**ShelterBox delivered remote training for the first time to a small team of Tanzanian Red Cross (TRSC) and IFRC staff and volunteers on the best use of the kit we are supplying. The training involved basic principles of emergency structures, including anchors, bracing, and foundations.**

Flooding, Tanzania, 2020



## TANZANIA

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*Families receive their aid packages from the Tanzanian Red Cross Society, Tanzania, 2020.*



# SOMALILAND DROUGHT RESPONSE



**1,800 FAMILIES SUPPORTED**

*with shelter and basic household items*

*Somaliland, 2020*

**Prolonged drought and sporadic conflict from 2016 through 2020 displaced hundreds of thousands of nomadic pastoralists and subsistence farmers. Drought killed the livestock, decimated livelihoods, and forced communities into displacement camps where they could access humanitarian assistance.**

A needs assessment conducted in September of 2019 found that 85% of IDPs were living in temporary shelters constructed from cartons and sticks that were in dire need of repairs. The same assessment found that 97% of displaced families were worried about the safety of their shelters.

In 2020, ShelterBox responded in Somaliland in partnership with ActionAid to provide shelter

support and basic household items to 1,800 families. The aid we provided helped families repair and reinforce their traditional shelters, access clean water, and develop a semblance of safety and routine after suffering displacement. As a result of this response, families reported feeling safer and more protected in their shelters. The response also educated and provided families resources to mitigate against COVID-19.



*“From now on I will build a good house by using shelter materials given to me.”*

**HASAN**, an aid recipient who received tarpaulins, rope, a kitchen set, water carriers and solar lights. Somaliland, 2020.

# SHELTERBOX RECOGNITION

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ShelterBox is recognized in the United States and around the world for being outstanding stewards of donor resources and making a transformative impact towards international peacebuilding. ShelterBox is proud to be Rotary International's official partner in disaster relief.

A transparent organization, ShelterBox has received a Platinum Participant standing from GuideStar and a Four-Star Charity rating on Charity Navigator, the highest score in these charity watchdog organizations. ShelterBox has also been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018 and 2019, for our ongoing efforts to help families recover from disasters.

## THANK YOU

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The year 2020 has been a challenging for the for everyone. Escalating conflict, climate change and the coronavirus crisis have created record setting displacement and immense humanitarian needs, alongside import and travel restrictions that have increased the challenges to implementing humanitarian work. Thanks to the support of generous foundations like you, ShelterBox has been able to adapt to meet the needs of families in 2020.

As humanitarian needs continue to increase in 2021, we hope you will continue to support the needs of displaced families around the world. Thank you!



2019 Nobel Peace  
Prize Nominee



GuideStar  
Platinum

ShelterBox USA is a  
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ShelterBox is a registered charity  
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