



## DEAR ROTARIANS,

Across this Rotary year, the Project Partnership with Rotary International has allowed us to respond to disasters across 16 countries around the world. You have helped to provide shelter for families across the Caribbean after the most powerful storm ever recorded in the Atlantic Ocean.

You have helped to provide stability and a sense of normality to families caught in some of the world's most extreme conflict zones including the Syrian conflict and the Lake Chad Basin crisis, and also in one of the world's largest refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Families whose homes were devastated by flooding in Peru, Tropical Storm Urduja in the Philippines and those enduring the ongoing drought in Somaliland have all been helped thanks to Rotary support.

*ShelterBox, working with in-country partners and with global Rotary support, has reached the milestones of supporting 10,000 families across the Lake Chad Basin crisis and over 45,000 families displaced by conflicts in Syria and Iraq since our work there began.*

As the new Rotary year draws closer, we look forward to the prospect of working together to reach even more families in need.

### Working in partnership

In the Dominican Republic, ShelterBox worked closely with Rotary and Habitat for Humanity to support 800 families.

Clara lives in the Dominican Republic with her five children aged between four and 14. After her home was badly damaged by Hurricane Maria, she received a ShelterKit and training: "having the ShelterKit is going to stop the rain from coming into my house."



ShelterBox, Rotary and Habitat for Humanity working together to shelter families in the Dominican Republic.

"It will provide security and health for my family. I think this project is a good one because the community have to help each other."

### Stay connected

To stay up to date with our latest deployments, stories and activities you can join our weekly operations update on Facebook Live every Tuesday at 2.30pm (GMT time). More operational information is available on our website at [www.shelterbox.org/operations-update](http://www.shelterbox.org/operations-update).

We hope you enjoy reading the stories in this newsletter and we wish you all the very best for the Rotary year ahead.

Thank you for your ongoing kindness and passion.

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YOURS SINCERELY,

**Alex Youlten**  
Rotary Partnership Manager

P.S. Don't forget you can get in touch any time by emailing us at [rotaryrequest@shelterbox.org](mailto:rotaryrequest@shelterbox.org)



# SYRIA'S STRUGGLES



37-year-old Noor lives in a camp for internally displaced people with her husband and children. The family were cattle farmers before they fled their home. They once had plenty of land and more than 50 sheep, which were their main source of income.

The family was badly affected when ISIS took control. "We suddenly lost all our sheep and furniture because of the conflict in the area. We do not have anything precious left now," explained Noor.

With their entire livelihood gone, the family had no choice but to leave their home and move to a safer place. "When we arrived at the camp, there were many displaced families, one family offered us a space in their tent until we got a shelter of our own. They were very kind, we were hosted by them for a short time, and then you came and gave us a tent and told us that it's our own from now on."

When they received the tent, Noor told staff from Bahar Organisation, one of ShelterBox's implementing partners in Syria, how much of a difference it made to their family, her children were especially pleased.

*"My children rejoiced a lot and they were very excited, they jumped with joy, and drew a circle on the sands around the tent and said jokingly, this is our house now. Thank you so much for this valuable help."*

Noor's 10-year-old son Adnan, spoke about his feelings towards their new home: "I am happy here, and I currently have new friends, me and my family also have our own tent, and my dad said that we will have some blankets and mattresses soon, so everything is good."

Since the Syrian conflict started in 2011, more than 11.4 million people have been forced from their homes. Some have sought safety in neighbouring countries, while others have fled to the inhospitable desert or remain trapped in ruined city streets. With shifting front lines and extreme conditions to contend with, this has been one of ShelterBox's largest, longest and most complex responses. But our global networks and the tangibility of our aid has given us the flexibility to deliver aid to families in need across the region.

Thanks to ongoing Rotary support, we will continue to work with local partners in Syria to support families like Noor's that are innocently caught up in the chaos. Providing the practical help they need to survive.

\*For safety reasons real names have been changed

## IMPACT

Since 2012 we have helped over



**45,000**  
**FAMILIES**  
DISPLACED BY THE WAR IN SYRIA



# TORONTO 2018

If you are attending the RI Convention in Toronto there will be many opportunities to meet the ShelterBox team and hear from our Response Team Volunteers about their experiences:

## House of Friendship Booth 523/525

An opportunity to meet the team, and hear about our recent responses and developments.

## Rotaract Workshop:

### High Stakes Leadership

Friday, 22 June - 15:30-16:20 Rotaract Pre-Convention

When our ShelterBox disaster response teams deploy around the world, they can be dropped into extreme and dangerous environments at a moment's notice, in remote areas which may be difficult to access. In this session, you will learn and experience how to exercise situational leadership in high-stake environments.



## Breakout session:

### ShelterBox and Rotary: The Impact of Our Partnership

Monday, 25-Jun-2018, 13:00-14:00, Room 713

Have you ever wondered how ShelterBox and Rotary work together after a disaster occurs? Hear the personal stories of Rotarians and response team members who have supported families that have lost everything. Learn about the powerful collaborations that link your club with global communities, and discover how you can get involved.

## THE HUMAN LINK

ShelterBox Response Team Volunteers provide the link between the people who donate to ShelterBox and those that receive ShelterBox support.

They work tirelessly, climbing mountains, crossing rivers and navigating their way through customs procedures, to reach families who have lost their homes.

To ensure team members are mentally and physically prepared applicants face a gruelling year of preparation, before being selected.

At the end of last year only 20 of the initial 350 candidates, made it through to face one last challenge. Three Rotarians were part of this elite group invited to Cornwall, where they were greeted by a no-nonsense trainer announcing "this is your final exam".

Ryan Hyland joined the trainees for the final 10 days to write an article for The Rotarian about their experience. Ryan later stated "I would tell a candidate to expect the

unexpected – and then await the arrival of yet another unexpected immediately on its heels." That's part of the rigor of the final exam.

Katelyn Winkworth, a member of the Rotaract Club of Brisbane Rivercity, felt ShelterBox was a natural fit for her, except for one problem; she lacked confidence. "At every stage (of the vetting process), I thought, I'm not going to make it through." Midway through the course Winkworth was designated as her team's leader. "I struggled at first," she recalls. "There's fear, excitement, and a lot of anxiety when you're responsible for a team. We were really tired, and I found it very difficult to communicate clearly."

But as the days passed, and lessons previously learned kicked in, the team's ability to collaborate improved. After 10 long, rigorous days, the training concluded. The ShelterBox candidates were exhausted and having subsisted on meagre rations, they were hungry. The ordeal had taken its toll.

*To read the whole article check out the latest issue of The Rotarian online*

[www.rotary.org/en/shelterbox-daunting-final-exam-volunteers](http://www.rotary.org/en/shelterbox-daunting-final-exam-volunteers)



# CURRENT OPERATIONS BOARD

**MAY 2018**

COUNTRY	DISASTER	ACTION
<b>Bolivia</b>	Flooding and landslides	Heavy and prolonged periods of rain have caused severe flooding and landslides. Heavy rainfall is forecast to continue. A team was recently deployed to undertake needs assessments of affected communities and to explore import procedures. Permissions are currently being sought. A response would be to provide ShelterKits, which include the tools and tarpaulins to build shelters, and essential aid items such as water filters and mosquito nets. The desired outcome would be to support families to self-recover and prevent mosquito borne disease.
<b>Syria</b>	Conflict	So far in 2018 alone, 2,354 families have been supported. A range of different shelter solutions have been provided, as we work with several different implementing partners in Syria to reach families within camps and those that are living outside of planned camps. In April, 183 tarpaulins, 194 water carriers and 176 solar lights were distributed, all to households across two different displacement camps.
<b>Somaliland</b>	Drought	Somaliland has experienced three years of drought and it's estimated that over 3 million people are at risk due to this protracted crisis. Phase two of ShelterBox's response working with in country partner ActionAid, is now complete which saw aid distributed to 1000 households. Planning for a third phase is now underway, which will look to support a further 2,000 families with shelter and items such as mosquito nets, ground mats, solar lights and water carriers.
<b>Nigeria</b>	Conflict	This year we have partnered with ACTED to support distributions of much needed aid in Nigeria. Together we aim to provide lifesaving assistance to those most in need. Initially 94 families have been given ShelterKits, which include the tools and tarpaulins for families to build their own robust shelters. Plans are in place to support a total of 765 families across camps in the north-east. These distributions will specifically target new arrivals to the camps that are expected due to the ongoing military offensive.
<b>Cameroon</b>	Conflict	Our response has involved supporting Minawao camp, with our implementing partner IEDA Relief, a camp initially opened to house 35,000 people, however the numbers have almost doubled. We have also supported displaced families outside of a camp setting and provided support to 487 ex Boko Haram captives, freed but then ostracised from their own communities. In recent weeks, 100 tents and supporting aid items have been given in Minawao camp. To date in Cameroon, 7,086 families have been supported.
<b>Chad</b>	Conflict	In 2017 ShelterBox partnered with ICAHD to support displaced families and host communities. Distributions for phase three continue, providing tarpaulins and supporting aid items to families. So far in 2018, 1,850 families have received help. In total to date, 2,306 households have been reached in Chad.
<b>Niger</b>	Conflict	As well as refugees from the conflict in Nigeria, Niger is also vulnerable to cross border attacks, forcing many people to find shelter in host communities, spontaneous sites in the bush or in camps. So far 1,980 households have been supported. Working with in country partner Plan International Niger, our second phase of support is underway with which we plan to support a further 2,264 families. This will be to provide tarpaulins and supporting aid items, such as solar lights and water carriers.

**WE CONTINUALLY MONITOR GLOBAL DISPLACEMENT CAUSED BY CONFLICT AND UNREST, AS WELL AS IMPACT FROM NATURAL DISASTERS TO ENSURE WE ARE ALWAYS READY TO SHELTER VULNERABLE FAMILIES IN NEED.**

\*Information correct at time of print. Charity No: 1096479