

ShelterBox Australia

Ambassador Update 24th February 2016

ShelterBox is proud to be a Project Partner of Rotary International

I have returned from Nepal a couple of days early after a very interesting and informative evaluation deployment (more on that later). Obviously Fiji is the focus of everyone's attention so please find the latest information below. The team has arrived in Fiji this morning, keep an eye on the [blog](#) and our [Facebook](#) page for the latest news. We will not be launching a specific appeal for Fiji so please bear this in mind when soliciting donations.



ShelterBox already has pre-positioned aid in Fiji, which includes tents, water purification units, ground sheets, mosquito nets, tools, and other essential supplies. Additional aid will be deployed based on the outcomes of the assessments currently underway. ShelterBox is working to facilitate its response with partner, **Sea Mercy**, a charity which provides volunteer fleets of vessels and yachts that are already stationed in the South Pacific and which stand ready to conduct assessments and deliver emergency aid to the affected islands. Additionally, the ShelterBox Response Team is in touch with the local **Rotary** network in Fiji.

Current responses: Afghanistan, Cameroon, DPRK, Fiji, Nepal, Niger, Paraguay, Philippines and Tanzania.

Fiji – Cyclone Winston: A category 5 cyclone hit Fiji with 160 mph winds being recorded. ShelterBox already has a small reserve of disaster relief kit on the islands but also has additional stocks in nearby Auckland and Melbourne. Our operations team has mobilised a 4-person response team who are travelling to Fiji in the next 1-2 days. The team includes Bruce Heller (US), Todd Finklestone (US), Jo Sorrentino (US) and Owen Smith (NZ). The response will involve work around partnering with Rotary, releasing our aid and coordinating with the shelter cluster, hence a fairly large team.

Syria - Conflict: Recent ongoing shipments of much needed emergency shelter for small-scale displacement has been reconfigured to support the additional displaced families following an escalation in violence.

Paraguay- Flooding: ShelterBox received a request for shelter assistance on 24 December following months of flooding, which have been declared the worst for 50 years. 170,000 people have been displaced. 2,000 shelter kits have been requested for distribution to Asuncion city and surrounding countryside. Distributions have commenced. 100 ShelterBoxes held by Rotary likely to be distributed. The response team is working with Paraguayan Red Cross.

DPR Korea (North Korea)- Flooding: Request for assistance from KOMT and DPR Korea Embassy London. Supporting 500 families with winterised tents and additional items. A response team have just returned to the UK after completing 2 week deployment to DPRK this January to oversee distributions.

Philippines (Typhoon Melor) – Following a strong typhoon in December 2015, almost 900 households have been assisted with emergency shelter in a joint response by ShelterBox and ACTED. A second ShelterBox team is back in the Philippines undertaking a follow-up of the distributions.

Nepal- Earthquake: ShelterBox are still working to support families affected by the major earthquake that struck Nepal almost one year ago. We have been working with various partner including ACTED, IOM, Nepalese Red Cross Society, Rotary and Royal Gurkha Rifles). In total 13,573 households have been assisted in response to the earthquake so far.

Tanzania- Refugee response: Due to large influx of refugees from Burundi following political violence, two camps has been reinstated in Mtendeli and Nduta. 1000 tents has now been pitched within Nduta camp. We are in early stage of looking at planning for a Monitoring and Evaluation focused deployment.

Cameroon- Nigerian refugee crisis - A team was sent on 02 November to conduct monitoring and evaluation activities and to meet with partner organisations. 224 ShelterBoxes, 1,000 tents, 2,000 solar lights and 2,000 water containers have been distributed. A further large shipment of emergency aid has just arrived in-country.

Niger- Nigerian refugee crisis- Commitment of 2,000 ShelterBoxes to support the most vulnerable families with the assistance of a partner organisation. Last stage of distribution of 584 boxes in progress.

Afghanistan- Contingency plans & earthquake; ShelterBox operations were finalising arrangements made prior to last year's earthquake for 350 tents and 2450 blankets for ACTED Afghanistan as part of contingency plan. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with ACTED and the tax exemption for importation is now in place. Shipment now in transit. Equipment to be stored in NE region in preparation for Natural Disasters. This will be used as the emergency shelter component to ACTED's longer term Transitional Shelter Program



Ambassador News

Any Ambassadors wishing to help out at this year's WOMADelaide Festival, 11th-14 March, please contact: greg.love@shelterbox.org.au

Don't forget that there are many more useful resources available on the Ambassador Portal: www.sbausambassador.org.au (please note: if you have lost your password you can retrieve from the site with your username. Your username will be your name, all one word, with capitals at the start of the name e.g JaneDoe, JoeBloggs)



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