

## OPERATIONS UPDATE

ShelterBox currently has ongoing deployments in Pakistan, Haiti, Guatemala and Niger. Here is a brief update on our operations in these regions.

### Pakistan

We continue to work with our key partners, NRSP and World Vision, to ensure that our operations in Pakistan can run smoothly. Water purification systems are being distributed in partnership with the Pakistani and German Red Crescent Societies. The following aid has been committed with the majority distributed and a small percentage still in transit or awaiting distribution:

2,224 full ShelterBoxes (250 awaiting dispatch from UK)  
9,323 tents  
20,000 water purifiers  
10,000 water carriers

### Haiti

ShelterBox Response Teams remain in Haiti to monitor ongoing distribution with partners and are working to clear the final deployment of boxes that have been designated to the country. ShelterBox's response to the Haiti disaster has seen approximately 27,217 ShelterBoxes distributed throughout the ravaged country, directly assisting over 250,000 Haitian victims during times of great hardship.

### Guatemala

Deadly mudslides have recently ravaged Guatemala, leaving thousands homeless and the nation in a state of disaster. 200 ShelterBoxes will arrive in the country shortly, with a further 200 in transit. There have been several obstacles facing deployment, as the Trans American highway is closed and freight options have been difficult. As the rains in Guatemala are set to continue and are predicted to be the worst in 80 years, we are anticipating a large need for deployment to come.

### Niger

In late August, Niger experienced its worst flooding in 80 years, leaving thousands of people homeless. The ShelterBox team was quick to respond and 200 boxes have arrived in the country, with 50 distributed so far. Two UK ShelterBox SRT members are currently in Niger, travelling to the east where there is a great need for humanitarian assistance. A further 200 ShelterBoxes and four school boxes are en route to the ravaged country and the situation will be assessed on an ongoing basis.



## WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE A SHELTERBOX RESPONSE TEAM VOLUNTEER?

ShelterBox Response Team members (SRTs) are vital to our operations at ShelterBox, providing assistance where it's needed most – at the scene of an international disaster.

Peter Pearce, the ShelterBox Response Team Leader from New South Wales, has been a volunteer SRT on several occasions and has been involved in deployments in Sudan, Rwanda, the Congo and the Philippines. He believes that SRTs are what distinguishes ShelterBox from other international aid organizations.

“Because SRTs are on site during a disaster, we can ensure that that the boxes are reaching the right destination in the right way. This means that people can be assured that their donations are directly helping the cause,” said Peter.

Peter believes that the greatest aspect of being an SRT volunteer is the opportunity to make real difference to the lives of disaster victims, stating that it is rewarding to leave an area knowing that you have housed and protected a group of people. “An SRT's job is to provide shelter, warmth and dignity to victims of disasters,” said Peter. “And that's an important and worthwhile responsibility.”

### Sound intriguing?

SRTs are indispensable assets to ShelterBox as they assist in managing operations at the scene of a disaster and as ShelterBox's operations grow, so does the demand for volunteers.

**So what qualities do you need to be a member of a SRT?** Volunteers must be hard working, resourceful, fit and self sufficient, with the ability to make the right decisions under pressure. They are often deployed at short notice to remote corners of the globe, where they are often confronted with the devastating aftermath of a disaster.

**If you think you have what it takes to be an SRT volunteer or if you would like to find out more, visit the ShelterBox Australia homepage, click on 'About Us' and select the ShelterBox Response Team tab. You can then click to visit the Academy's website to register your interest. Alternatively, contact the Response Team Leader, Peter Pearce, on 0414 5533 27 or 04599 59501.**

## HOW OUR AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL KIDS CAN HELP OUR CAUSE

After the students of Berkley Vale Public School on NSW's Central Coast recently pulled together and raised money to fund a ShelterBox for Pakistani flood victims, we have identified an opportunity to challenge other schools to follow suit by also contributing to the ShelterBox cause.

By raising awareness of international disasters in schools, students will be able to identify why their contributions would go a long way in assisting victims.

Furthermore, if the situation is made relatable to them and they can understand how children such as themselves have been affected by these tragedies, they will be more eager to contribute to the cause.

Schools have the capacity to raise both awareness and funds for ShelterBox and we should make it our goal to garner more positive support from our local schools, as they are a valuable and enthusiastic resource.

## SHELTERBOX RESPONDING TO RECENT LANDSLIDES IN MEXICO

ShelterBox are responding to a devastating triple pronged disaster in Southern Mexico. Recent flooding combined with the damage caused from Hurricanes Karl and Matthew and landslides in the region have resulted in a desperate need for disaster relief.

A three person ShelterBox Response Team is being dispatched this week and will be heading to the Oaxaca region of Southern Mexico where recent landslide damage has been particularly severe. Upon their arrival they will partner up with local Mexican Rotarian groups. The SRT members will be working closely with the ShelterBox operations team to coordinate their response and assess where disaster relief is most needed.

"Mexico is a country that repeatedly suffers from natural disasters," said ShelterBox Australia Board Member, John Cameron.

"Our thoughts go out to all of those who have been affected by the recent events and we hope aid can be delivered quickly to assist the disaster areas," he added.

## DUBBO ROTARIANS SHOW SUPPORT

ShelterBox cannot fail to recognize the invaluable commitment that our Rotary District Representatives have invested towards our cause. District Representatives are vital members of the ShelterBox team. They ensure that ShelterBox receives recognition and support from their local communities and acquire crucial donations.

Peter and Lorraine Croft, ShelterBox Representatives from District 9670, have been encouraging residents and local businesses of the Dubbo community to dig deep and contribute to the ShelterBox cause. So far, they have raised enough money to fund fifteen ShelterBoxes, which will be deployed in Pakistan.

The couple has been passionate about garnering support and has done so by raising awareness about the ShelterBox cause and how it is benefitting disaster victims.

ShelterBox appreciates the ongoing dedication of District Representatives and understands that the organisation would not be able to operate without the important donations that they secure.



Last month we also established a new donation hotline for ShelterBox Australia. Donations can also be made via an electronic funds transfer to the following account:

### SHELTERBOX DONATIONS ACCOUNT:

Westpac  
BSB: 032 189  
Account: 230 147  
Deposits to be marked clearly and/or email to advise to [shelterboxjc@optusnet.com.au](mailto:shelterboxjc@optusnet.com.au)

# DONATION HOTLINE: 1300 996 038

0 9 5 3 6 0

Our goal is to help 500,000 people every year.  
So far we have sent out this many ShelterBoxes.

ShelterBox Australia  
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