



*****PRESS RELEASE*****

Date: 23rd April 2007
Contact: Huw Thomas
01326 569782 or 07793 803643
publicity@shelterbox.org

Aid from local Rotary club helps Bolivian flood victims

Funds raised by local Rotarians have helped contribute to a massive relief effort for thousands of flood victims in Bolivia.

The South American country was hit by devastating floods earlier this year. Weeks of heavy rain left huge swathes of Bolivia underwater – forcing around 350,000 people from their homes.

Described as the worst to hit the country in 25 years, the floods have also washed away roads and bridges, as well as wiping out crops both in the Andes highlands and the Amazon basin lowlands.

In response to the situation, the disaster relief charity ShelterBox – which was set up by a Rotary club – has sent three consignments of aid to the country and has been working in partnership with other aid organisations to help some of the worst affected communities.

ShelterBox works by sending boxes that each contains a rugged 10-person tent and various other items of essential survival gear – like blankets, mosquito nets and water containers.

The charity has now sent 600 of its ‘ShelterBoxes’ to Bolivia – many paid for with donations from Rotary clubs.

The aid mission was made possible thanks to help from the Rotary Club of, which raised £..... for the charity with a fundraising on.....

The ShelterBoxes were flown to the city of Trinidad, which was itself totally cut off by floods and nearly ended up underwater at one point – the city is surrounded by a road on a raised embankment and for a while the floods were lapping at the top the bank.

Two ShelterBox Response Teams – made up of volunteers – travelled to Bolivia to oversee the deployment of the tents and other aid.

The first team worked with Oxfam, the Samaritans and Rotary International to establish a camp at Trinidad for some of the thousands driven from their land. A second team oversaw the distribution of tents and also arranged for more boxes to be taken by boat to Santa Ana de Yacuma, another town badly affected by flooding.

As well as working in Bolivia, ShelterBox also recently sent aid to the Solomons following the tsunami there – again much of it paid for with donations from Rotary clubs, For more information about the charity’s work or to give a donation visit www.shelterbox.org or call 01326 569782.

ENDS

Editors' notes:

Pictures:

Copies of high res images can be downloaded from <ftp://www.shelterbox.org> – user name 'shelterboxmedia' password 'sh5938'. Alternatively, please contact: publicity@shelterbox.org

Shelterbox:

ShelterBox is a disaster relief charity based in Cornwall and administered by the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard. Since beginning operations in 2001, the charity has used its 'ShelterBoxes' to provide aid for approaching 500,000 people in more than 30 countries.

Each ShelterBox will generally contain a 10-person tent, blankets, water purification and cooking equipment, basic tools, a multi-fuel stove and other survival equipment. The exact contents will vary depending on local conditions and needs.

Every box sent by the charity is individually numbered and can be tracked by donors on the website www.shelterbox.org. All boxes are distributed via The ShelterBox Trust's HQ in Cornwall.

To date, ShelterBox's largest deployments have been providing aid for nearly 230,000 people in Southeast Asia following the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami and for around 138,000 people in Pakistan after the 2005 Kashmir earthquake. Recent deployments include Kenya (floods), the Philippines (typhoon) and Papua New Guinea (volcano).

ShelterBox's mission is: *"To provide on a world-wide basis humanitarian relief and aid in the form of material and equipment that provides shelter, warmth and comfort to people displaced by natural and other disasters."*

The ShelterBox Trust is supported by international affiliates set up by Rotary clubs in a number of other countries, including Australia, Canada, Germany and the USA. By working through local Rotary clubs in countries where disasters have occurred, ShelterBox is also often able to get aid where it is needed faster than any other organisation.

Each box costs £490 – including the cost of all materials, packing, storage, transport worldwide and distribution to the needy. Best value is achieved by working closely with leading UK suppliers, all items being obtained at below trade price. Assuming six month's use, this equates to shelter and warmth for less than 30 pence per person per day.