

OUT OF THE BOX

News and updates from ShelterBox HQ for all our Rotary supporters



Boxes delivered by the Dutch Navy

Nearly 150 ShelterBoxes have been delivered to hurricane victims in Nicaragua thanks to the crews of two vessels from the Dutch Navy.

The unusual partnership has resulted in aid from ShelterBox reaching a number of coastal communities devastated when the Category 5 storm Hurricane Felix struck the Central American country on Tuesday 4th September.

More than 150 people are believed to have been killed after winds of up to 160mph hit Nicaragua's north-eastern coastline.

Thousands were also left homeless after the immense power of the storm destroyed homes, trees and crops. Torrential rain is also reported to have destroyed as many as half the houses in the town of Puerto Cabezas.

Just weeks before the hurricane hit, ShelterBox had sent 200 boxes to the Dutch Navy's base in Curacao.

As a result, the Dutch were able to spring into action and deliver the ShelterBoxes within days of the hurricane striking Nicaragua.

ShelterBox founder Tom Henderson explained: "We've recently become involved in helping the Royal Navy with their disaster planning exercises at HMS Drake near Plymouth.

"One of the exercises involved a Dutch ship that was on its way to the West Indies and the commanding officer was so impressed with our equipment that he asked if they could take some boxes."

He added: "We gave them five boxes there and then but, after the Dutch ship reached the Antilles, I had a phone call from their senior officer in the West Indies asking for 200 boxes.

"We knew the hurricane season was fast approaching so flew them out ready for just such a situation as this."

The boxes sent to the Antilles were held ready when Hurricane Dean threatened Jamaica and Mexico last month but that storm fortunately wreaked far less damage than had been predicted.

However, Dean was swiftly followed by Felix – the first time on record that two Atlantic hurricanes have made landfall as Category 5 storms in the same season.

An officer from one of the Dutch ships involved in the relief operation said the ShelterBoxes proved extremely useful.

He said: "As every house in the area is damaged and most houses don't have a roof anymore, the people were very grateful for a roof over their head." Tom Henderson added: "We're now going to be restocking the Dutch fleet in the West Indies with more boxes. The hurricane season isn't over until December and although Felix's arrival was unprecedented we have to be ready for anything."

DEPLOYMENTS TO SIX COUNTRIES

Aid from ShelterBox has been sent to six different countries during September.

As well as Nicaragua and North Korea, the charity has responded to emergencies taking place in Peru, Ghana, Jamaica and Somaliland.

In total, almost 900 boxes – containing enough tents for nearly 11,000 people – have been sent in response to disasters including an earthquake, flooding, a hurricane and conflict.

Aid for North Korea

A consignment of 200 ShelterBoxes has been sent to North Korea, after the isolated communist nation was hit by severe flooding.

The boxes are now in the capital Pyongyang and a ShelterBox team is due to arrive in the country early in October to oversee their distribution.

Real life experience

Want to find out more about what it can be like delivering ShelterBoxes in the field?

New pages containing accounts of the different experiences of four team members have been added to the section of our website relating to the ShelterBox Response Team (SRT).

We also intend to add further field reports like this in due course – look for the SRT pages under *Support* on the website's main menu.



Clear-up operation: The earthquake in Peru flattened entire streets.

‘An appalling tragedy’

Members of a ShelterBox Response Team (SRT) say the outside world’s response to the earthquake that hit Peru in August has been very limited.

The three-man team helped erect tents for 2,000 people that were sent by ShelterBox in early September and distributed in the town of Chinchu with the support of local Rotary club members.

Wayne Robinson, an American SRT member said: *“The homes in the area suffered massive destruction with entire streets of homes entirely destroyed. Many others are not fit or safe to occupy.*

“Our eyes have been opened as to what an earthquake can do. It is unbelievable! Numerous homes just sunk down into the ground as walls and ceilings crumbled.”

ShelterBox has since sent enough tents for another 4,000 people to Peru and a second SRT will be deployed to distribute them in early October.

However, the quake – which struck on 15th August – is thought to have left 200,000 people homeless and Lasse Petersen, leader of the first team said there was little sign of other outside aid reaching Peru. He said: *“The scale of disaster warrants a substantially bigger international response. We hardly see signs of much Western aid and have yet to bump into another Western aid worker. It is an absolutely appalling tragedy to see a disaster of this magnitude and barely a sign of aid.”*



Ruined: A local man stands next to what’s left of his home.

HELP FOR JAMAICA & GHANA

Following an appeal for help from the Rotary Club of May Pen, 25 ShelterBoxes have been sent to Jamaica.

The southern half of the island was badly damaged by winds generated by the Category 5 storm Hurricane Dean and a number of local families left homeless.

ShelterBox has also sent 100 boxes to Ghana in response to severe flooding that has hit the north of the West African nation. The boxes have been flown to Accra and are being distributed to flood victims in the affected area by the Salvation Army.

US team delivers in Nepal

The first US members of the ShelterBox Response Team to be deployed in the field have helped deliver aid to thousands of flood victims in Nepal.

SRT members John and Trannie Lacquey from Florida spent three weeks in Nepal as part of the ShelterBox response to the floods.

Part of their work included delivering 137 boxes to six villages over a three-day period, working with a group of local church pastors and the Nepal Red Cross.

Trannie Lacquey said the experiences involved were unforgettable: wading rivers, travelling through jungle said to contain tigers and elephants, and meeting members of both the Maoist and Nepal Armies.

She saw many images that would stay with her: *“Seeing people waiting on a river bank where the bridge had been washed out – people whose homes have been destroyed. Waiting to carry ShelterBoxes across that river then walk two miles to their camp carrying the boxes on their backs.*

Trannie added that while tough, knowing why they were there made everything worthwhile. *“It’s about helping people as humanely as possible - to give them some comfort in time of need and help them keep their dignity. It’s remembering that it’s not how you got the mission accomplished but that you got it accomplished.”*

THANK YOU, ROTARY!

RIBI clubs continue to give generous support to ShelterBox’s ongoing work. Total income from RIBI reached nearly £45,000 in August. Too many clubs have contributed to list them all here but special mention should go to the following:

- * Tynedale £3,470 *
- * Plymouth Mayflower £2,940 * Wimborne £2,450 *
- * The Deepings £1,960 * Wolverhampton £1,470 *
- * Thorpe Bay £1,000 *

For full details of donations see the Roll of Honour on our website.

Donations from the public and Rotary worldwide during August paid for 359 boxes.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Out Of The Box is produced each month so that we can keep in touch with our Rotary supporters and update them on what ShelterBox is up to both in the UK and on deployment around the world.

If you would like to receive this bulletin by email on a regular basis please contact:

publicity@shelterbox.org



The ShelterBox Trust is a registered charity operated by The Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard.

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