



ONE VOICE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2009

A YEAR IN REVIEW



DISASTER RELIEF

www.shelterbox.org
Donation Hotline: 0300 0300 500

Namibia 2009 · SRT Member Tom Lay

DEAR FRIENDS,



Another year is drawing to a close and it's times like these when we all pause for just a moment and reflect on the last twelve months. When I look back at this last year I'm reminded of the dedication, passion and commitment of everyone involved with ShelterBox. I'm reminded of our supporters and volunteers, the life blood of ShelterBox, the people who give everything and expect nothing back; and, of course, I'm reminded of the people, that together, we've all helped. But there's always the next person to help and our job for the next year, ShelterBox's ten year anniversary, is to keep on going that extra mile and to deliver shelter, warmth and dignity to even more people who have lost everything, through no fault of their own.

With my continued heartfelt thanks and best wishes during this season of giving,

Rotarian Tom Henderson, Founder & CEO

COUNTRIES AND BOXES 2009

Month	Region	Location Country	Boxes Sent	Disaster Type
Nov-09	Asia	Philippines	624	Typhoon
Nov-09	Central America	El Salvador	324	Floods & Landslides
Nov-09	Africa	Niger	400	Floods
Oct-09	Asia	Pakistan	400	Conflict IDPs
Oct-09	Africa	Burkina Faso	250	Floods
Oct-09	Asia	Indonesia	624	Earthquake
Oct-09	Asia	Philippines	600	Typhoon
Oct-09	Oceania	Samoa	80	Tsunami
Sept-09	Central America	Mexico	48	Hurricane
Sept-09	Africa	Niger	700	Floods
Sept-09	Asia	Indonesia	874	Earthquake
Aug-09	Asia	Taiwan	324	Typhoon
Aug-09	Asia	Philippines	334	Typhoon
Aug-09	Asia	China	50	Typhoon
July-09	Asia	Pakistan	400	Conflict IDPs
Jun-09	Asia	Sri Lanka	200	Conflict IDPs
May-09	Asia	Bangladesh	200	Cyclone
May-09	Asia	Pakistan	1062	Conflict IDPs
May-09	Asia	Philippines	100	Typhoons
May-09	Asia	Sri Lanka	448	Conflict IDPs
Apr-09	Europe	Italy	294	Earthquake
Apr-09	Africa	Namibia	530	Floods
Mar-09	Asia	OPT (Gaza)	200	Conflict IDPs
Mar-09	South America	Colombia	52	Floods
Feb-09	Asia	Australia	79	Bush Fires
Jan-09	Asia	OPT (Gaza)	200	Conflict IDPs
TOTAL			9397	

ShelterBox 2009 – A Year in Review

JANUARY

The start of 2009 saw ShelterBox hit the ground running. The world saw horrific scenes being beamed back from Gaza. Innocent people were caught between fierce fighting. Many of them lost their lives. Countless more lost their homes and livelihoods. With the expertise of ShelterBox Response Team (SRT) member, Mark Pearson, and the help of Rotarians in Egypt, the UN and ACTED, ShelterBox was able to deliver 400 ShelterBoxes – the first shelter aid to reach Gaza.

FEBRUARY

Fresh on the back of the deployment to the Gaza Strip came an altogether different beast. A disaster that raged out of control and struck close to the heart of the ShelterBox family. The Australian state of Victoria was ravaged by the country's worst ever bush fires. Close to 900 homes were destroyed and more than 7,000 survivors registered for assistance with the Red Cross. ShelterBox helped hundreds of people start the rebuilding process and gave them the assistance they needed to return to their homes. General Manager of ShelterBox Australia, Jenni Heenan, said: 'When people saw what the ShelterBoxes contain, they could not believe they were being given a tent, blankets, a cooker and other equipment.'

MARCH

March saw ShelterBox travel to South America, providing emergency shelter for around 500 people in Colombia who had been made homeless by severe flooding. Around 2,000 homes were destroyed when the Mira and Telembi rivers broke their banks in February. A similar number of homes were left badly damaged. ShelterBox worked with local charity Fundamira, the National Disaster Response Committee and local Rotarians to ensure the aid was delivered most effectively.

APRIL

One thing ShelterBox understands is that disasters can occur anywhere in the world, at anytime, even in places where it is least expected. This was the case with the earthquake that rocked central Italy. More than 40,000 people were left homeless in and around L'Aquila. A response team drove through the night from ShelterBox HQ in Cornwall, UK to make sure the aid arrived as quickly as possible. 294 ShelterBoxes were eventually sent to Italy. At the same time, Namibia in southern Africa, was hit by floods which left 13,000 people homeless. In total, ShelterBox sent enough aid for more than 5,000 people to the country.

MAY

May was marred by brutal conflict in two different countries. In Pakistan, thousands fled the fierce fighting between the Pakistan army and militants in the north west of Pakistan. The UN estimated that more than two million people were displaced by the conflict. SRT member Mark Pearson worked extremely closely with his contacts in the region, amidst huge security risks, to distribute aid for more than 10,000 people. While in Sri Lanka, more than 150,000 people were displaced as a result of the civil war. 648 ShelterBoxes were sent to the country and more would later follow. In a busy month, ShelterBox also responded to flooding in Bangladesh and for the first time in 2009, but by no means the last, sent aid to the Philippines after two typhoons.

JUNE

With deployments ongoing in Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Philippines, ShelterBox also sent further aid to war-torn Sri Lanka. SRT member Laura Jepson, who was in Sri Lanka on her first deployment, said: 'Although the fighting has now ended, it'll be many months before these people will be able to return to their homes. The scenes here are truly haunting.'

JULY

In July, an extra 400 ShelterBoxes were sent to Pakistan as the ongoing conflict continued to affect thousands of people. Two teams also travelled to the Democratic Republic of Congo and worked closely with the UN to distribute aid to the first families returning to their homes after the devastating conflict in the region. At the same time, pre-positioned stocks of ShelterBoxes around the globe were topped up and ready to be dispatched at a moment's notice – a move that would prove vital for the months ahead.

AUGUST

The first of a series of catastrophic typhoons swept through Southeast Asia in August – Typhoon Morakot. First to feel Morakot's wrath was Taiwan, which bore the brunt of the typhoon's fury. Taiwan experienced its worst rainfall in living memory and severe flooding affected thousands of people. Meanwhile, Typhoon Morakot continued to wreak havoc with the Philippines and China next in line. Enough aid for more than 7,500 people was sent to Asia after Typhoon Morakot, with ShelterBox being one of the first aid agencies to respond.

Photographs from left to right: Niger, Italy, Pakistan, Gaza, DRC, Sumatra, Niger



SEPTEMBER

The Sahara Desert and flooding are not always mentioned in the same sentence. However, the sub-Saharan countries in West Africa experienced flooding which affected half a million people. ShelterBox, thanks to amazing efforts by ShelterBox France, were able to send 700 ShelterBoxes to the country, flown in on a French military aircraft. Another team were able to help around 500 survivors of Hurricane Jimena in Mexico while, on the other side of the globe, in Indonesia, enough aid for more than 8,000 people was delivered after the first in a series of earthquakes hit the islands.

OCTOBER

The start of October saw ShelterBox face its toughest and most demanding challenges of the year. Three disasters in less than a week made headlines across the globe. The first was a super-typhoon that hit Manila, the capital of the Philippines; the second, a tsunami that ransacked the Pacific islands of Samoa and the third, a massive earthquake that struck the Indonesian island of Sumatra. ShelterBox immediately had teams in all three countries – who were all shocked by the scale of destruction that greeted them. The response from the public and Rotarians around the world to ShelterBox's Pacific Appeal was unprecedented. ShelterBox Head of Fundraising Becky Maynard, who was on the frontline delivering aid in Sumatra, said: 'The level of destruction was tragic to see, thousands of people had lost everything. But thanks



to the incredible support we received from our donors, we were able to provide vital shelter to hundreds of families before the onset of the heavy rains.' Although attention was fixed on Asia and the Pacific, there were still people in urgent need of shelter in other places. ShelterBox worked closely with the UN to ensure thousands of people in Burkina Faso, West Africa were given emergency shelter after the worst floods in 90 years had destroyed their homes.

NOVEMBER

Conflict reared its head yet again in November as ShelterBox returned to Pakistan in the wake of fierce fighting in South Waziristan. SRT member Mark Pearson was able to facilitate the distribution of aid for thousands of people fleeing the latest fighting. Another earthquake struck Indonesia and in Central America, the tail end of Hurricane Ida caused chaos in El Salvador. As well as teams delivering aid in all these locations, ShelterBox was also still in the typhoon-battered Philippines, helping people who had faced five typhoons since August.

DECEMBER

ShelterBox Response Teams are still present in the Philippines, Indonesia and El Salvador making sure emergency shelter is delivered to the people who need it most. Thoughts now turn to 2010, the start of a new decade and the year ShelterBox celebrates ten years of delivering disaster relief. ShelterBox now has international affiliates in Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and the USA. There will be events happening around the world, that anyone can be involved in, to mark ShelterBox's ten year anniversary. The next disaster could be just around the corner but ShelterBox is ready to give people the help they need, the strength to carry on and the chance to rebuild...one box at a time.

Photographs by Mark Pearson, Mike Greenslade, Tom Lay and Becky Maynard

Indian Ocean Tsunami – 5 years on

On December 26, 2004 the world was rocked by one of the worst disasters ever witnessed. An undersea earthquake off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia triggered a series of deadly tsunamis. The earthquake had a magnitude between 9.1 and 9.3 on the Richter Scale – it was the second largest seismic activity that has ever been recorded.

ShelterBoxes were sent to Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and the Maldives. ShelterBox was able to help thousands of people but the human suffering from that fateful day still endures. Now, five years on, ShelterBox remembers the friends, families and loved ones who lost their lives in this tragedy.

Everyone involved with ShelterBox remains deeply grateful for all the support received from donors and volunteers around the world.



WHO WE ARE

ShelterBox is an international disaster relief charity, specialising in emergency shelter provision. Humanitarian aid is delivered in iconic green ShelterBoxes. Each one contains a disaster relief tent for up to ten people, water purification equipment, a stove, blankets and other items essential for survival. ShelterBox responds to disaster as quickly as possible with the aim of helping the people who are in most need.

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If you've got news you want to share, please email us on: pr@shelterbox.org contact ShelterBox in your country or write to the address below.

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