

SHELTERBOX AND ROTARY FAQs

What is the Rotary Project Partnership?

Since starting as a Rotary club project in 2000, ShelterBox has grown, with the support of Rotary clubs around the world to become an internationally recognised, independent disaster relief organisation. We have responded to more than 300 natural disasters and conflicts in 100 countries and are proud to be an official Rotary Project Partner, further strengthening a global circle of friendship.

Rotarians and Rotary groups across the world support ShelterBox in a variety of ways, from raising funds to providing support on the ground during our response to a disaster. This partnership has helped us to become who we are today, including our global network of ShelterBox Affiliates, which evolved from Rotary relationships.

By supporting ShelterBox is the foundation missing out?

The partnership we have with Rotary International works so well because our work doesn't duplicate that of the Rotary Foundation. We firmly believe that the work that we do compliments the work of the Rotary Foundation, as Rotary International is not a disaster relief organisation. By working together, we can amplify our impact and help meet the many needs of communities around the world.

Local Rotarians, being part of communities, are often on hand to help ShelterBox with the emergency phase of the recovery process, if a ShelterBox response is deemed appropriate. Local Rotarians then remain to help families with their onward journey of recovery. For this reason we very much hope that clubs will want to support both ShelterBox and the Rotary Foundation.

Do you coordinate with Rotary in country, when a disaster strikes?

Rotarians on the ground often reach out directly to ShelterBox following a disaster, especially in a location where we have worked with Rotary on a previous deployment.

When ShelterBox responds in an area with an active Rotary presence, we will make every effort to inform the District Governor of the team's presence and, where possible, will try to connect with at least one Rotary club in the affected area. Teams will always try to provide progress reports and information on the wider response that may be of interest to Rotary. In circumstances where Rotarians cannot be involved, ShelterBox will ensure that they receive sufficient information to enable them to coordinate with the wider relief effort should they wish to.

Rotarians are under no obligation to engage with ShelterBox. If they feel able and willing to do so they could help with networking and introductions or provide practical support such as with transportation, temporary storage of aid items or translation. In some situations, there may be an opportunity for Rotarians to participate actively in a ShelterBox response.

You can learn more about supporting ShelterBox through practical assistance after disasters at www.shelterbox.org/actiontoolkit/operations

Why despite Rotarians all over the world supporting ShelterBox, do you never give credit to Rotary in any of your publicity?

We are very proud of our project partnership with Rotary International and you're right Rotary is the back bone of ShelterBox, as ShelterBox has grown so has global Rotary support. We seek to celebrate the impact of the partnership as much as possible, we feel strongly that by working together we can have a greater global impact, helping more people recover after disaster.

As a separate organisation we do have publicity that doesn't reference Rotary. The terms of our Partnership agreement with RI are very strict with regards to using the Rotary logo and any solicitation of money cannot show the logo unless it has been approved by RI in Evanston in advance. One current material that has been approved is our new supporter welcome pack which talks about the project partnership, we also have a fundraising pack, general leaflet, partnership leaflet, press ad template, fundraising resources like posters, a selection of short films, the website and of course the visitor centre in Cornwall, UK. In addition, we often highlight and celebrate an aspect of our partnership on our social media channels and through wider media channels.

Why don't we work with other 'box' charities?

The challenge is huge, there are millions of people globally in need of emergency shelter, and unfortunately, the number of people who will lose their home each year is likely to significantly increase. With so much need, we don't see ourselves in competition with other organisations.

As a Shelter organisation, wherever possible we operate in the UN Cluster System with a focus on the Shelter Cluster.

At some level ShelterBox almost always works with other organisations. At the very least we coordinate with other organisations and share information on where the need is, who is doing what (to avoid duplication), and to share other importation information like logistics processes, infrastructure conditions and the security situation.

Organisations that we partner with in a more formal way (such as the Red Cross where ShelterBox provides the materials and training, and the Red Cross provides the local contacts and the personnel to undertake the distributions) go through a rigorous process of checks to ensure that they are not only capable of fulfilling their side of the agreement, but also the right fit for ShelterBox, with regards to principles and working practises.

These steps guide who we work and liaise with, though we are always reviewing the ways in which we share information and collaborate – to meet beneficiaries' needs

How many of your Response Team volunteers are Rotarians?

As of 2018, 37 of our 163 ShelterBox Response Team volunteers are Rotarians (22%).

What proportion of your income comes from Rotary?

UK Rotary income makes up between 10-15% of our overall income. This obviously doesn't include International Rotary income, collectively this is around 40% of our total income.