

## SHELTERBOX: THE LAST TENT

**Who is this activity for:** Age range (11-15) – Key stage 3-4, Scouts, Guides, Explorers, Interact

**How long should it take:** 45 – 60 minutes

**Resources needed:** Printout of the five **applicants** and the **instruction** sheet.

**Instructions:** This activity is designed to encourage debate and empathy, leading a group towards making a very difficult decision. It's a mock-up of the kind of situation a ShelterBox Response Team (SRT) volunteer could find themselves in – having to weigh up emotive issues and make judgements in the field.

**Step 1:** Split the group into five teams. If there aren't enough people for five teams, remove one or two of the **applicants**.

**Step 2:** Read the **introduction** sheet to everyone.

**Step 3:** Give each team one of the **applicants** sheets to read. Tell the teams they have 10 minutes to put forward a case as to why their applicants should receive the last ShelterBox.

**Step 4:** Each team has a couple of minutes to present their case, with a few minutes after each presentation for questions and cross-examination.

**Step 5:** Ask the whole group to vote for the applicants they believe should receive the last ShelterBox, but stress that you should not vote for the applicant your group represented.

**Step 6:** Once a 'winner' has been decided, explain that there is no right or wrong answer, that any of the applicants would be equally worthy. ShelterBox Response Team volunteers often find themselves in situations of this kind, and have to use their own judgement to determine the best course of action.

Also point out that the more money ShelterBox can raise, the more people we can help.

## INTRODUCTION

ShelterBox, an international disaster relief charity, has recently responded to a devastating earthquake in the North of Pakistan. ShelterBox HQ assessed what was needed and have sent volunteers to deliver boxes of aid to the region. As a member of the highly trained ShelterBox Response Team (SRT), you have travelled with the boxes to the worst affected area. There you assessed various sites and made a decision about the most suitable location for camp, from which you distribute ShelterBoxes.

Towards the end of your deployment, you reach the end of your allocation of ShelterBoxes and you have only one left to distribute. You now have the difficult task of deciding who gets that box.

Each team is about to receive information one of five groups of applicants who say they need it. In your teams you have 10 minutes to read through this and build a case for your applicants. After the time is up, you will appoint a spokesperson to present your case to the rest of the group as a whole. When each team has presented their case you will all be asked to vote for the applicants who should get the box.

Note: you cannot vote for the applicants represented by your team.

Good luck!

## APPLICANT GROUP 1

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- Aamir is a 13 year old boy. He is caring for his five younger brothers and sisters, since the children have been separated from their parents during the aftermath of the earthquake. As the oldest boy of the family, he has taken overall responsibility for the care of the family, but is finding it hard to cope. The group of children have walked four miles to get to the camp in search of their parents.
- Benazir is a 12 year old girl. She is doing her best to look after the youngest of her brothers and sisters, but she is very weak from hunger and tired from carrying the smallest member of the family on their trek to the camp.
- Salma is a 10 year old girl. She has been suffering from sickness and diarrhoea during their journey and is extremely weak and dehydrated.
- Gabir is a 9 year old boy. He is very quiet and withdrawn, probably suffering from shock.
- Ebrahim is a 5 year old boy, he refuses to leave the side of his older sister Benazir.
- The littlest member of the family is Zainab, she is only 3 years old and very noisy. She is extremely hungry and tired, her sister Benazir fears that she may also be falling ill.

## APPLICANT GROUP 2

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- Habib is a healthy adult male, in his early thirties; he has been working tirelessly over the past several days: digging through rubble; helping to move the injured; distributing and putting up tents. His help and determination have been invaluable, but now it is obvious that he is growing weary and cannot continue to help in this way without a warm place to get some proper sleep. He is also becoming increasingly worried about his pregnant wife.
- Nasreen is Habib's wife, she is very heavily pregnant, and although she keeps telling everyone that she is fine, it is obvious that she is suffering regular pains and is possibly in the early stages of labour.
- Afra is Habib and Nazreen's daughter, age 13. She knows that her mother is about to go into labour and is very determined that she should have somewhere warm and safe to give birth.
- Kadir is Habib's brother. He is also a healthy adult male and has just arrived at the camp, after a long and difficult journey. He has many useful skills and has offered to help alongside his brother. It is obvious, however, that without a good rest, he will not be in a fit state to help anyone in the morning.
- Safia is the second daughter of Habib and Nazreen, age 11. She is suffering from a minor injury, but has already received medical attention.
- Muhammad is the youngest child of Habib and Nasreen, age 9. He is determined to help his father and uncle.

## APPLICANT GROUP 3

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- Karim is in his late-forties and suffering from a serious leg injury. It looks as though his leg is broken in more than one place. So far, he has not received any medical attention. He has travelled here, with his family, from a village high up in the mountains to seek help. He is feverish, may have lost a lot of blood, and drifts in and out of consciousness.
- Yasmin is Karim's wife, it appears that she is suffering from a minor injury; her arm is wrapped in a rough dressing, but she is reluctant to let anyone examine her, or seek help from strangers. Three of her children are still missing, whilst she worries about the health of her husband and youngest son Aziz, she tries to prevent her two grown up children from making the dangerous journey back to their village.
- Fareeda is the grown-up daughter of Yasmin and Karim. She is impatient and does not want to stay in the camp without a tent. She thinks it will be better for her to begin the dangerous journey back to the village, despite the frequent threat of landslides etc.
- Ahmad is the grown-up son of Karim and Yasmin. He is also impatient and wants to return to the mountains with his sister in order to look for the other members of their family who are still missing.
- Seeta is the second daughter, aged 13, she is becoming more and more frightened as it begins to grow dark and terrified that her older brother and sister intend to make the dangerous journey home.
- Aziz is the 11 years old, son of Karim and Yasmin; he has a head-injury. He has not yet received any medical attention and is suffering from dizzy spells

## APPLICANT GROUP 4

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- Bashir is a very old man; he is blind and relies on his family to care for him. He is very fragile and confused.
- Inas is Bashir's wife, she is very old and infirm. She cannot stand for long, is shaky and extremely confused.
- Jafar is the son of Bashir and Inas, he is very cross because he has been waiting all day with his elderly frail parents.
- Habiba is Jafar's wife; she is exhausted from helping Inas and Bashir, as well as dealing with her twin boys. She is suffering from extreme stress.
- Hanif is one of 8-year-old twin brothers. He is extremely bored. It is very difficult for his parents to keep tabs on him. He is getting into all kinds of trouble, disappearing regularly and fighting with his brother.
- Jamil is the older of the 8-year-old twin brothers. He is suffering from a very nasty, chesty cough, which is serious enough to cause concern and is irritated when his brother starts to fight.

## APPLICANT GROUP 5

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- A medical aid agency need the tent to set up an inoculation station. There are concerns that disease could spread through the camp.
- They need somewhere to use for assessing and treating those that have been injured during the earthquake; more and more injured people are arriving and, as yet, there is nowhere undercover for their injuries to be assessed and for them to receive treatment.
- They need somewhere for a handful of seriously injured/critical patients to spend the night, where they can remain in the warm and under medical supervision until further help arrives in the morning.
- The lorries that delivered medical supplies are now required to return to base for further supplies and they need a dry secure place in order to store the medical supplies.
- The medical team are worn out, as they have been working on the ground for several days without proper rest and require somewhere warm to get some sleep.
- They need somewhere undercover where we can set up a communication centre in order to remain in contact with other team members working on the ground elsewhere, as well as distribution depots, and other agencies who can help them obtain the best help for those who are seriously injured.