



HOW SHELTERBOX SUPPORTS DISEASE PREVENTION



Disease prevention and treatment is at the very heart of Rotary. As Rotary’s partner in disaster response, ShelterBox is proud to be providing emergency shelter and other essential items to help communities stay safe from disease when they have been displaced from their homes.

INADEQUATE SHELTER INCREASES RISK OF DISEASE

When people’s homes are damaged and destroyed due to conflict or disaster, they often have limited access to shelter, healthcare, water, food, and ways to earn a living, leaving them even more vulnerable to diseases like coronavirus, cholera, diphtheria, HIV/AIDS, malaria, dengue fever and trachoma.

Shelter plays a vital part in preventing the spread of disease. Without a place to call home, people are often forced into overcrowded and unsanitary conditions in evacuation centres, or to live in the open air. Lack of shelter is often linked to not having access to water and basic hygiene.

▽ Gregoria and her daughter airing the mosquito net from ShelterBox following the flooding in Asunción, Paraguay



MALARIA IN MINAWAO CAMP, CAMEROON

When Boko Haram attacked her village, Falmata had to flee her home in Nigeria with her husband and seven children. When they arrived in Minawao camp in Cameroon, she struggled to protect her children from malaria.

“The problem was that during the rainy season there are too many mosquitoes in the camp, and we had no protection against them. Consequently, my children were always sick.”

ShelterBox provided Falmata with mosquito nets so she and her children were protected from malaria and other diseases spread by insects. Falmata hung the nets with pride in the tent, determined to keep her children safe.

“THE DIFFERENCE IS CLEAR NOW THAT WHEN WE USE MOSQUITO NETS THERE IS LESS MALARIA. INDEED, THESE NETS PROTECT US FROM MOSQUITOES, AND WE CAN SLEEP BETTER THAN THE PAST.”



LIVING IN THE OPEN AIR CAN LEAVE INDIVIDUALS EXPOSED TO DISEASES SUCH AS MALARIA AND TRACHOMA.

Poverty and homelessness can leave people – especially women and children – vulnerable to exploitation and the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS. This is especially true in the aftermath of conflict and disaster caused by extreme weather.

The destruction of infrastructure by disasters such as earthquakes, extreme weather events and conflict can make it hard to access clean water, leading to the spread of diseases like cholera.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been unanimous agreement that inadequate shelter increases the likelihood and severity of the risk of contracting COVID-19.

Living in crowded camps with limited access to water and sanitation makes it hard to take safety measures to stop the spread of the virus – making people lacking proper shelter much more vulnerable.

DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

PROVIDING SHELTER AND OTHER ESSENTIAL ITEMS PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN DISEASE PREVENTION

ShelterBox supports people who have lost their homes to disaster and conflict with emergency shelter and other essential items that start them on their road to recovery. We provide locally appropriate items that assist with disease prevention, such as soap and hygiene supplies, water filters and mosquito nets.

Shelter helps move people out of unsanitary, collective living spaces into their own tents and homes. Emergency shelter provides a roof over a family's head so they can safely self-isolate while tarpaulins extend people's homes to reduce overcrowding. Emergency shelter kits reduce the need to share essential household items, like cooking sets, between groups, stopping the spread of disease. We also provide, soap, hygiene supplies and hygiene information.

We provide water filters and water carriers, so people can drink clean, safe water. Our water filters remove bacteria, viruses and protozoa that can be found within contaminated water. The provision of mosquito nets, alongside shelter, can protect people from malaria-spreading mosquitos and other dangers.

< ShelterBox aid arriving in Yemen

“THE SOAP IS GOOD TO CLEAN OUR HANDS AND STOP THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS.”

- Nadin (10) washing her hands in the camp in Idlib, Syria.



SHELTER HELPED ABU KEEP HIS FAMILY SAFE FROM COVID-19

Abu and his family of nine were forced to flee their home when severe bombing hit their village in Syria. When they arrived at the displacement camp, they had to share a small tent with friends and family from their village.

“Of course, I am worried about the coronavirus because the camp does not have medical services, means of protection, or support to counter the virus. We are afraid of infection due to crowding between people.

Sometimes there are two or three families living in one tent. This is the reality we live in.”

ShelterBox provided Abu and his family with a shelter kit, which enabled them to build a secure and private shelter. They no longer had to borrow blankets and kitchen utensils from other families. The soap and washbasin helped the family better protect themselves from COVID-19. We also provided education and hygiene information in the emergency kit to help stop the spread of disease in vulnerable communities such as this one.



“I WISH FOR MY CHILDREN TO GET A GOOD EDUCATION AND STAY SAFE FROM DISEASE.”