



SHELTERBOX: SUPPORTING LOCAL ECONOMIES



When extreme weather events or conflict destroys a community's infrastructure, people lose their homes, businesses and workplaces. People who own shops find them turned into rubble, those that make their money from farming find their crops washed away, and with the strain disaster and conflicts have on the local economy, many lose their jobs.



ESTER:

Esther lived in Nigeria when Boko Haram militias attacked her village and she saw her brothers and parents killed in front of her.

She fled to neighbouring Cameroon with nothing but the clothes on her back. When Esther became a refugee, she was only 16 years old. ShelterBox gave her a place to call home after losing everything.



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HOW SHELTERBOX SUPPORTS LIVELIHOODS AND LOCAL ECONOMIES.

We work with communities to provide emergency shelter and other essential household items to support people in rebuilding their lives after disaster.

WHEN PEOPLE DON'T HAVE TO KEEP MOVING OR WORRY ABOUT WHERE TO SLEEP AT NIGHT, THEY CAN START TO THINK ABOUT TOMORROW.

Items like tents, tarpaulins, tools, blankets, mosquito nets, cooking sets and water filters help to meet the

most urgent needs, so people can start to re-establish ways to make a living, send children to school and rebuild their homes. They can set up a dressmaking business from a tent in a refugee settlement or cultivate the land adjoining their temporary home into a vegetable garden.

Recovery doesn't happen overnight, but having a dry and warm place to sleep, prepare meals and be with your family is the vital first step.



With her new shelter in Minawao refugee settlement Esther trained to be a seamstress and quickly set up her own dressmaking business. Today, Esther has a sewing machine set up in her shelter and has become one of the most popular dressmakers in the camp – earning money to feed herself and her growing family.

“I WANT TO BECOME A FAMOUS DRESSMAKER NOT ONLY HERE IN MINAWAO. I WANT TO SEE PEOPLE WEARING MY CLOTHES OUT OF THE CAMP AND EVEN IN MY COUNTRY.”

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A NEW BUSINESS FOR NORA AND HER FAMILY

Before Typhoon Vongfong, Nora and her family made their income selling copra (coconut meat). There used to be plenty of coconut trees, but after the typhoon they became hard to find.

Nora and her family had to make some changes - changes that were more possible due to ShelterBox support.

'BECAUSE OF THE TYPHOON, THERE'S NO MORE COCONUT. NO MORE LIVELIHOOD FOR US AND FOR MY HUSBAND. I STARTED TO GET BACK TO SELLING FOOD... THANKS TO THE ASSISTANCE WE HAVE RECEIVED THAT SOMEHOW HELPED SECURE MY FAMILY FIRST. WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO START A SMALL BUSINESS AGAIN.'

∨ 'By providing cash people can spend the money on things like, local timber, carpenters. building materials most importantly it enables people to make their own choice' Dave Ray, Technical Shelter Lead at ShelterBox.



THE SOLAR LAMPS HELPED THEM SELL BARBECUES AT NIGHT AND THE MONEY THEY SAVED FROM THE NAILS AND SHELTER ITEMS, THEY USED TO INVEST IN THEIR BUSINESS.



CASH ASSISTANCE

At ShelterBox we work with communities to support and empower them in their own recovery. There are times when adding a small amount of cash to the mix helps communities recover better. Cash, alongside essential shelter materials and training can complement the support we provide.

Providing cash can help families buy exactly what they need to rebuild their homes. This may be specific materials that aren't part of our shelter kits, for example, or they might need to hire a builder to make their home safe. Either way, having cash gives families flexibility and choice.

Cash also helps kickstart local economies, because suppliers and tradespeople can start doing business again. Perhaps most importantly, it helps people feel a sense of dignity and control. After your world is thrown into confusion, that means a lot.

