



SHELTERBOX AND ROTARY: BUILDING PEACE



February marks Rotary International's Peace and Conflict Prevention and Resolution Month.

Every minute, more families lose everything in the chaos of conflict. Their homes, their livelihoods, and even family members are brutally snatched away.

When missiles and mortars leave cities in ruins, when troops storm villages, when families fear for their lives, here at ShelterBox, we believe that shelter can cut through the chaos.

Shelter is a basic human need. It is a determinant for survival: essential for personal safety, security and protection from extreme weather. It promotes resistance to ill health and disease. More than just walls and roofs, shelter is vital for the maintenance of human dignity. Shelter reduces vulnerability and enables recovery. It is the foundation for life, for community, for family.

That's why we're committed to seeing no family left without shelter.

Our work, providing families with emergency shelter, keeps families and communities together, to mitigate the consequences and escalation of violence.

We're helping families caught in some of the world's most extreme conflict zones, including Syria and the Lake Chad Basin, and also in some of the world's largest refugee camps, like Minawao Refugee Camp in Cameroon.

As ShelterBox and Rotary continue to wage peace, we must also look for ways to create opportunities for the most vulnerable, supporting families as they self-recover. Through each of our unique efforts, ShelterBox and Rotary work in tandem to create a prosperous, healthy, fair and tolerant society.

World peace means more than ending wars: it also means safety for everyone, including society's most vulnerable members.



Meet Yazida. It was a summer day in 2017, when her life changed forever.

"The military came in and started firing at us. They killed the men and raped many women, so we fled from our country. They stole all of our possessions, our money, our ornaments, even our clothes".

Yazida's husband was brutally murdered during the attacks on her village. Suddenly, she went from being a wife and mother of a two-year-old girl, to a widow at the age of 18.

To save her life and that of her young daughter, Yazida had to flee. She walked for two days from Myanmar to Bangladesh, struggling to carry her daughter the entire way:

"It was really difficult, as no one would help me".

Eventually, she made it to the border and into the Kutupalong camp, as did her parents and two brothers:

"When we arrived, I was happy to be alive and happy for us to have something to eat".

Her journey however, is not over. Although she escaped, Yazida said she now feels like a burden, as she is unable to make any money:

"There is nowhere for any woman to work and earn money in this camp. I feel insecurity for the future".

In 2018 and 2019, with the support of Rotarians and partner agencies, ShelterBox was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize, in recognition of our humanitarian efforts to shelter families in areas of extreme conflict around the globe.

Together, we can build peace, one family at a time.