ShelterBox APRIL UPDATE

CENTRAL AMERICA

• **Honduras:** We're currently working with the Rotary Club of San Pedro Sula and Habitat for Humanity Honduras to distribute ShelterKits to 3, 208 families who were affected by Hurricanes Eta and Iota.



AFRICA

- **Sudan:** Heavy rains and severe flooding have forced thousands of Sudanese families to flee their homes. We have now distributed 1, 000 ShelterKits to vulnerable families in the region of Gederef.
- Lake Chad Basin: Extremist attacks, severe weather conditions and the impact of coronavirus have resulted in a dire humanitarian crisis in Cameroon. We recently started distributions for a 6-month long project that will provide 5, 280 families with emergency aid, as well as protection from extreme heat and coronavirus.
- **Ethiopia:** In November 2020, escalating tension between Ethiopia's federal government and the regional leadership in Tigray erupted into armed conflict. We're aiming to provide emergency shelter to 3, 948 families who have fled their homes. Our first distribution is now complete.
- **Burkina Faso:** Extremist violence has turned Burkina Faso into the world's fastestgrowing displacement crisis. We have been working to support over 900 newlydisplaced families.

ASIA

- India: Last year, torrential monsoon rains and severe flash flooding caused widespread damage across many Indian states. Our distributions of ShelterKits to 1, 800 families in Odisha are now complete.
- **Syria:** In January, severe flooding devastated displacement camps across Idlib. With freezing temperatures, nowhere to sleep, and an increase in coronavirus cases, families were in dire need. We delivered a rapid response to 550 families. We continue to provide emergency shelter and essential aid, in response to Syria's ongoing conflict.

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE CONFLICT IN SYRIA

The Syrian conflict is described as the worst humanitarian crisis of our time. It dates back to March 2011, when peaceful public demonstrations began, calling for democratic reforms. But, these peaceful protests were swiftly met by government opposition - giving way to a brutal war.

Year after year, more heartbreaking milestones are passed. Today, the conflict remains complex and violent. Every child under 10 in Syria has known nothing but war. More 'crises within a crisis' unfold, some in the media spotlight, but many go unnoticed.

Financially, Syria is on its knees, and coronavirus poses an additional deadly threat, where the mitigations we're familiar with, including distancing and hygiene practices, are almost impossible. After 10 long years of prolonged violence, Syria's future is as uncertain now as it was when the fighting first began. But, one thing remains constant: Syria's civilians continue to pay the price.

Key Facts:

- The war has now lasted 10 years, and counting.
- Over 11 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance.
- 40% of schools have been damaged or destroyed.
- Over half of Syria's hospitals are no longer functioning.
- 12.3 million people have been forced to flee.

Our Commitment:

When families are far from home, and traumatised from their experiences, having a safe place to call home is invaluable.

We are providing shelter for families who have been forced to flee their homes. Syria faces extreme heat in the summer, and freezing temperatures in the winter - so our aid is designed to reduce vulnerability to weather and environmental extremes. Since 2012, we have supported more than 400, 000 people affected by the conflict - making this our longest and most sustained response ever. To date, we have provided:



175, 000 thermal blankets, plus mattresses, stoves, and clothing, to combat the freezing temperatures.



20,000 family tents, to shelter those who were previously sleeping under trees, or in crowded collective centres.



58,000 solar lights, which have provided 500 million hours of light, during dark nights.



UMM'S STORY OF SURVIVAL

After a plane bombed their village, Umm's family were forced to flee, with nothing more than the clothes on their back: *"two rockets fell next to us. We fled from our house and took refuge in a cave. The children were crying, and the situation was scary".*

Umm and her family now live in a crowded displacement camp in northern Syria. Life is hard, and coronavirus has added an extra threat: "the children are always in the tent to prevent getting sick. We don't have enough blankets ... we use everything we have to keep warm. When we got here, we found life very difficult".

However, alongside our partner ReliefAid, we were able to provide Umm, and thousands of other families, with a ShelterKit: "you helped us with the materials. We used to feel cold and now we are keeping warm. Now we sleep and sit on the mattress, we used to sleep on the ground. The blankets are good for keeping warm, the water containers keep the water clean for drinking. The lamp for lighting, tarpaulins we put on the ground. Thank you".

Now, Umm is able to look to the future: "to improve our situation we must work to build our lives from the beginning. I try to be optimistic about the good things".

Right now, as thousands of Syrians flee, they are facing harsh winter conditions, plus the danger of Covid-19.

Recently, snow and torrential rain have led to flooded tents and increased the suffering of displaced families. Families are in desperate need of homes, blankets and warm clothes.

Your donation could give a family the supplies they need to make it through the winter and beyond. Head to shelterbox.org.nz/donate.

A DECADE OF SUFFERING THE SYRIAN CONFLICT

2011 Peaceful demonstrations are met with strong governmental opposition, giving way to the start of a civil war that has now **displaced 12.3 million people.**

2012 ShelterBox forms **new partnership with ReliefAid**, and launches our first 'Winterisation' project - providing newly-displaced families with household items and warm winter clothing for children.

2013 ShelterBox becomes the first aid agency in the world to distribute tents to Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

2015 ShelterBox **partners with Hand in Hand or Syria**, to support families in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and Greece.

2018 ShelterBox is **nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for our work in conflict zones.**

2019 Syrian government airstrikes escalate in Idlib province, displacing more than 1 million people. **ShelterBox reaches the milestone of supporting 250, 000 people in Syria.**

2020 ShelterBox supports over4, 000 families with shelter and household supplies during the Covid-19 pandemic.

2021 ShelterBox continues to address the needs of families impacted by the violent conflict and harsh winter conditions with our **sixth Winterisation project.**