



# SHELTERBOX: BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY



## THE EFFECTS OF DISASTER AND CONFLICT ON A CHILD'S EDUCATION

Disaster, conflict and lack of adequate housing significantly reduces a child's access to education. Nearly 40 million children a year have their education interrupted by disasters, such as earthquakes and disease. And the number of child refugees fleeing conflict and extremism, violence or disaster has risen to over 13 million in recent years.

Conflict and disasters bring extensive damage and destruction to infrastructure. This often leaves children without a place to call home and without a place to learn. When children are forced to flee their homes during war and conflict, they leave their teachers and schools behind. Even if they are able to access a makeshift school in a camp or settlement for displaced people, children often have no place to do their homework.

Schools are often the most spacious and robustly built structures within a community. When homes are destroyed by disaster schools often become emergency evacuation shelters.

**The dangers for children out of school are clear. Girls who are taken out of the classroom due to conflict or disaster are vulnerable to sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, child marriage and teenage pregnancy. This entrenches women's economic inequality. Conflict and disaster can lead to children being taken from school and sent out to earn money to support their family. In the most extreme circumstances, children are recruited as soldiers in conflict zones.**

**'I CARE A LOT ABOUT MY CHILDREN'S EDUCATION, BUT I AM AFRAID THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO WORK TO GET FOOD BECAUSE OF THE BAD CONDITIONS.'**



### KHALED

**Before the Syrian civil war, Khaled was a schoolteacher. Despite the challenges of raising children in a displacement camp, Khaled is determined that his children will get a good education.**

They go to a school in the camp built of tents, where the children sit on mats and carpets on the ground. Learning conditions are even more difficult during the harsh winter months.

In the winter months Khaled and his wife teach the children in their tent after school. To protect them from the cold, his children spend most of the winter inside their tent where he tries to fill their time with studies or games.

**'FOR THEIR FUTURE I HOPE THAT THEY LIVE HAPPILY, MOVE AWAY FROM A LIFE OF DISPLACEMENT AND RETURN HOME. ALSO, THAT THEY COMPLETE THEIR EDUCATION BECAUSE SCIENCE IS THE BASIS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS, THEN THEY SHOULD HAVE GOOD JOBS IN THE FUTURE.'**

Umm with her daughters



# BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY

## HOW SHELTERBOX SUPPORTS EDUCATION

By providing shelter to families fleeing disaster and conflict, ShelterBox provides a home for children from where they can study and pursue their education.

Solar lights mean they can do their homework even if they don't have electricity. Across the world, coronavirus forced many schools to shut their doors and children were forced to learn from home. This was only possible if a child had a home where they could study.



### SWAPPING SCHOOL FOR SHELTER IN THE PHILIPPINES

Often when a disaster hits, schools become places of shelter for families who have lost everything. But so long as the schools are housing families, children can't get an education.

This was the case when Typhoon Mangkhut devastated Luzon Island in the Philippines, where Melody and her son Adrian live. They sought shelter in a school building, which quickly became home to dozens of women, men and children.

Melody's home was destroyed by the cyclone, but when ShelterBox provided her with a shelter kit she was able to leave the makeshift sanctuary of the school and build a temporary home.

**THE MORE WE COULD HELP FAMILIES BY PROVIDING PRIVATE, INDIVIDUAL SHELTERS, THE FASTER THE SCHOOLS COULD RE-OPEN AND CHILDREN COULD RETURN TO EDUCATION.**



### JULIA

ShelterBox supported Julia and Dioneccio after their home was badly damaged by severe flood waters in Peru. 'The roof was damaged, now it is much better. The tarpaulins help against the wind and the cold, and keep the children warm which is very important. 'We like the solar lights and it means the children can do their homework in the evenings. It is important they get their education.'

A roof over a family's head can also allow a mother and father to earn their own living. Shelter promotes livelihoods – and when a family has an income, they can afford schoolbooks and uniforms for their children.

**FOR THE CHILDREN THEMSELVES, EDUCATION MEANS LITERACY, CONFIDENCE, INCREASED SELF-ESTEEM, THE CHANCE TO GO ON TO FURTHER EDUCATION OR BETTER LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES. FOR GIRLS IN PARTICULAR, EDUCATION MEANS AGENCY TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN PATH.**

45-year-old Jennifer lives with her 12-year-old daughter in Camarines Sur, Philippines. She has lived in the area for over fifteen years and was one of the many families whose livelihood was destroyed by the typhoon.

