



# HOW SHELTERBOX PROMOTES PEACE AND WORKS IN CONFLICT ZONES



When war and conflict destroys homes and displaces people, shelter is one of the essential building blocks for recovery. ShelterBox provides emergency shelter to families who have lost everything to conflict, whether they are fleeing to a refugee settlement or trapped in a war zone.



## YAYA:

**When Boko Haram attacked Yaya's village in Nigeria, her husband was brutally murdered in front of her. Knowing her own life was in danger, she picked up her children and fled. Yaya was pregnant. But what choice did she have?**

"We abandoned everything we had and ran." The family arrived, traumatised and grieving, in neighboring Cameroon. Initially, Yaya stayed with a local family but when she ran out of rent money, the family kicked them out. She eventually found refuge for herself and her six children in ShelterBox's temporary shelters.

Having a roof over their heads helped Yaya and her children to start to recover from the trauma they had endured. The children finally had a home to call their own again, giving them a new sense of freedom that had been stolen by war.

**"GETTING OUR SHELTER REALLY HELPED ME TO RECOVER FROM WHAT I HAD EXPERIENCED. IT GAVE US PRIVACY AND THE FREEDOM TO DO WHAT I WANTED IN MY OWN HOME AGAIN. IT ALSO HELPED MY CHILDREN, AND GAVE THEM THE FREEDOM TO DO AS THEY WANT IN THE HOUSE WITHOUT ANY RESTRICTION."**

People displaced by conflict often have limited access to shelter, healthcare, water, food, education, and ways to earn a living. Refugee communities are especially vulnerable to a lack of safe, clean water: 41% of the world's refugees have no access to clean drinking water.

People often shelter in cramped communal centers or sleep out in the open, which alongside the lack of clean water and sanitation facilities, makes them more vulnerable to diseases like coronavirus, cholera, HIV/AIDS, and Malaria. When people flee their homes and communities in search of safety, they leave behind their schools and workplaces. For those trapped in conflict zones, schools, businesses, and workplaces are often reduced to rubble.

ShelterBox provides emergency shelter to people who have lost everything to conflict, whether they are fleeing to a refugee settlement or trapped in a war zone.

**SHELTER IS A BASIC HUMAN NEED. IT IS A DETERMINANT FOR SURVIVAL IN MOST DISASTERS: ESSENTIAL FOR PERSONAL SAFETY, SECURITY AND PROTECTION FROM EXTREME WEATHERS.**

More than just walls and roofs, shelter is vital for the maintenance of human dignity and the sustenance of family and community life. Shelter reduces vulnerability, builds community resilience and enables affected populations to recover. It is the foundation for life, for family, for community.

# PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION



## SUDAN, TRAINING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS ON THE USE OF SHELTERBOX ITEMS

Shelter is essential for recovering from trauma and the first step towards building a new life following the death and destruction of conflict. Shelter offers a place where a family can feel safe after living through fear. It provides privacy. It is a roof over a child's head so they can sleep at night. It's a place where a parent can cook a meal to share. Tents, tarpaulins, ropes and tools provide a roof over a family's head when they have lost everything.

As well as shelter, we provide emergency aid items that can help a family resume some semblance of normal life after being displaced – for example solar lights that can comfort frightened children and provide a place where children can do their schoolwork, share meals with family, and sleep.

The mosquito nets, water filters and containers we provide keep

families safe from disease that can spread after conflict, especially when infrastructure has been destroyed.

**SHELTERBOX HAS PROVIDED A SAFE HOME FOR FAMILIES DISPLACED BY CONFLICT IN PLACES LIKE NIGERIA, AFGHANISTAN, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, BURKINA FASO, SYRIA, CAMEROON, SUDAN, ETHIOPIA, UKRAINE, YEMEN AND MOZAMBIQUE.**

Now, the climate crisis is making many communities more vulnerable to conflict.

Extreme weather such as drought is forcing migration and greater competition over resources, which in turn can lead to violence. Our work in these countries and beyond is becoming even more urgent.



## UMM, SYRIAN REGION

**Umm was pregnant when she decided to flee village with her family after her two young children were injured in a bomb attack.**

Before the fighting reached their village, Umm and her family lived a happy life. They had a home and land they could farm.

**'WE LIVED A BEAUTIFUL LIFE. WE ENJOYED VISITING OUR RELATIVES AND NEIGHBOURS, WORKING AND HAVING FUN TOGETHER, LIFE WAS QUIET.'**

When they arrived in a displacement camp, the conditions were difficult. They were reliant on the generosity of other families, one of whom lent them an old tent to shelter in.



'I am afraid for my children of the cold and that the tents will not stand winter. There are no heaters. We left home in our summer clothes, we did not bring with us clothes for winter and we do not have blankets. The tents are weak and it is possible that flooding will happen here.'

Two weeks after Umm received a ShelterKit and other lifesaving items like blankets from ShelterBox, she gave birth to two twin boys. When we returned to speak with her she said, The items she received 'will of course make a difference

to my life. I have had twins and we needed mattresses for them to sleep on. Mattresses and blankets will protect them from the cold and diseases. I have never received shelter kit before. Now I have the kit my life will change for the better.'

Her favorite item was the tarpaulin, because the old tent they were borrowing is in bad condition, and did not protect them from the harsh winter conditions. Now with the tarpaulin, they will be safe and well protected all year round.



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