



# SHELTERBOX: PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT



## CLIMATE CHANGE, EXTREME WEATHER AND CONFLICT

Climate Change is a humanitarian crisis. It is creating an unprecedented need for emergency shelter around the world.

Our changing climate is making extreme weather events even stronger and more severe, and worsening already complex situations in conflicts and war zones. The effects of climate change disproportionately affect the poorest communities around the world, as well as increasing the numbers of people living in poverty.

Vulnerable communities are on the front line, often forced to leave their homes to survive – either because disasters are becoming more severe, or to find food, water or to make a living.



## A SHELTER FOR SAGARIKA

**When Cyclone Amphan hit West Bengal, India, it destroyed Sagarika’s home, as well as the crops the family depended on for food and income.**

ShelterBox provided Sagarika with a shelter kit, along with hygiene kits, face masks and essential household items.

But while the family now feel relatively safe and are starting to rebuild, Sagarika lives with the fear that the storms will return. She has noticed the weather has become more extreme and disasters like Cyclone Amphan are growing more common.

**“NOW IT IS RAINING MORE THAN BEFORE AND IT IS HOTTER THAN BEFORE DURING THE SUMMER. WHAT IS SUPPOSED TO OCCUR IN THE MONTH OF BHADRA (AUGUST TO SEPTEMBER), IS NOW HAPPENING IN THE MONTH OF ASHWIN (SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER) AND THINGS FROM ASHWIN ARE HAPPENING IN THE MONTH OF SHRABAN (JULY TO AUGUST).”**



## IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 1.2 BILLION PEOPLE COULD BE DISPLACED BY THE CLIMATE CRISIS BY 2050

Storms are getting stronger, creating cyclones and hurricanes that rip up homes and infrastructure. Temperatures are rising, causing droughts that lead to devastated food supplies and displacement. Rising sea levels lead to floods that wash lives and livelihoods away.

Competition for land and resources is rising, which can lead to conflict between communities trying to survive in an increasingly challenging environment. In some cases, those tensions are being exploited by groups seeking to sow division for political or military advantage.

Working with Professor Andrew Collins, Professor of Disasters and Development at Northumbria University, ShelterBox has projected that if extreme weather events continue to increase at current rates, we face losing 167 million homes by 2040. That’s the equivalent of all homes in the UK wiped out six times.

Shifting weather patterns have devastating and wide-reaching implications.





## HOW SHELTERBOX HELPS PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

ShelterBox is on the frontline, helping those in the immediate aftermath of extreme weather events, which are becoming more severe because of our heating climate.

We provide emergency shelter, tools, and training to help people to recover and rebuild their homes. Our responses are guided by those we help and who are bearing the brunt of the crisis. They include providing sturdy tents and shelters that can withstand strong winds, providing water filters so people have safe water to drink if their supply is contaminated. We offer training to help communities affected by extreme weather to 'build back better' post-disaster by putting climate resilience at the heart of their recovery.

ShelterBox stands with others in calling for governments around the world to unite to find a global solution to this global issue – for both people and planet. We have joined other charities to add our voice to a unified call for governments to work together to tackle climate change and to advocate for the people we support.

**'WE HAD NEVER SEEN A CYCLONE LIKE THAT ON PENTECOST BEFORE... BECAUSE WE HAD NEVER SEEN A CYCLONE LIKE THAT IT MEANT WE WERE NOT READY ENOUGH TO MOVE QUICKLY TO THE SCHOOL.'**

- John

John's village was decimated when a Tropical Cyclone hit Pentecost, an island in Vanuatu. Like many others, he was not prepared for the power or severity of the category 5 cyclone.



Nimo from Somalia was forced to leave her home due to drought. 'We used to sell our goats in Hargeisa for a good price, we were living happily and could buy basic necessities and even meat. It was a very good life. But over time, things have changed. The livestock died, even the ones that are left cannot be sold to the market because they are in poor health. We are struggling with life now.' Nimo from Somalia."



## SUSTAINABILITY AT SHELTERBOX

As a humanitarian organisation, we need to be careful that our support to families in the short term does not make them more vulnerable in the long term.

ShelterBox is taking action to understand and to limit the impact our work has on the environment. Our supply chain is our biggest source of emissions. Being able to transport aid around the world quickly and efficiently is vital to our work. Our priority will always be to support people whose homes are damaged or destroyed as soon as possible after disaster. Through changing our supply routes and only transporting aid by air when it is essential, we have cut our transport emissions by **30% in the last three years.**

**Our procurement team is working hard to eliminate all non-essential plastic packaging from our supply chain. We are:**



**CHALLENGING OUR SUPPLIERS TO REMOVE PROBLEM PLASTIC AND PROVIDE NON-PLASTIC ALTERNATIVES**



**REMOVING THE NEED FOR NON-ESSENTIAL SINGLE USE PLASTICS IN OUR AID ITEMS AND FUNDRAISING MATERIALS**



**CONSIDERING THE WHOLE LIFE CYCLE OF PRODUCTS WE USE, INCLUDING AID ITEMS**

In the past few years these measures have **avoided 123,000 pieces of problem plastic from our supply chain.** We worked with our Shelter Kit supplier to remove all problem plastic, which **has reduced 60,000 pieces of plastics per year.** This specification is now used by aid organizations around the world. We are sharing our learnings and best practice to encourage the whole emergency sector to reduce their use of non-essential plastics.