

For Immediate Release
18 August 2010



Boxes of hope for Pakistani flood victims

6,000 families affected by the Pakistani floods will be given the means to survive as 6,000 more ShelterBox disaster relief packages are sent into the disaster-affected area.

ShelterBox Australia is playing a significant part in ensuring that the displaced survivors of the disaster are provided with the aid they need to survive.

“In a disaster area such as flood-ravaged Pakistan, a ShelterBox can represent the difference between life and death for a family of up to 10 people,” said ShelterBox Australia’s Lasse Petersen.

“For floods of this magnitude, we are thankful that the death-toll was only 1,600, but the United Nations estimates that 20 million people are now homeless as a result. That’s more people affected than the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, the 2005 Kashmir earthquake and the 2010 Haiti earthquake combined.”

“The immediate survival needs of these victims must be a priority for the international community and that’s where ShelterBox can offer the most practical help possible,” he added.

Distribution of ShelterBox tents to Pakistan flood victims commenced two weeks ago and more shelterboxes and tents continue to be flown in as the disaster worsens. ShelterBox has initiated a large scale response and urgently seeks further donor support to enable much greater numbers to receive rapid assistance.

ShelterBox has extensive experience in Pakistan having responded to separate disasters twice already this year as well as numerous occasions in 2008\9.

To ensure the aid gets to people who need it quickly, ShelterBox is working with the French Military and Pakistan’s National Disaster Management Authority, both of whom have extensive experience working with ShelterBox in several disaster responses.

A ShelterBox contains:

- a disaster relief tent for an extended family especially designed to withstand extreme temperatures, winds and rainfall
- thermal blankets and insulating ground sheets
- mosquito nets
- family water purification unit & water containers for carrying and storage
- a basic tool kit, including a hammer, axe, saw, hoe head, pliers and wire cutters
- a wood burning stove
- plates, cups, cutlery and cooking utensils
- a children’s pack, containing small gifts such as colouring books and crayons.

ShelterBox was founded in 1999 in order to provide disaster-affected people with the means to survive the first few days, weeks and months as they work to rebuild their lives. Now ShelterBox is one of the largest disaster-relief organisations in the world, operating from 15 countries, including Australia.

-Ends-

Images depicting ShelterBoxes being deployed in Pakistan is available on request. ShelterBox team members are available for interviews. Visual opportunities include displaying and discussing the contents of a Shelterbox – what it takes for a family to survive a natural disaster.

For more information and interviews:
Scott MacKillop

P 0404 020 476

E smackillop@brilliantlogic.com.au



ShelterBox Trust

is a registered charity and a global Rotary Club project **President Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall**

DISASTER RELIEF

www.shelterboxaustralia.com.au