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**ShelterBox Update**

*February 2021*

**SHELTERBOX: Getting Our Aid Where it is Needed Most**

In the era of COVID-19, the challenges of transporting aid around the world are greater than ever. But as the world around us is constantly changing so too is how we get our ShelterBox aid to the families who need it most.

You may remember when all our aid was shipped from our ShelterBox operations headquarters warehouse in Cornwall, England to disaster zones across the world. Over the years our ways of working have adapted so we can provide the most effective aid package in the most efficient way. One of those changes was introducing prepositioning hubs into our supply chain. This means that we have moved to a system storing aid items in strategic locations around the world. This pre-positioned aid makes it quicker and cheaper to move the aid to where it is needed when responding to a disaster.

Our Logistics and Procurement Team constantly monitor stock levels in each of our storage locations. After stock is allocated to a response, we place orders to replenish the warehouse immediately which is why Rotary support is so important. There are many considerations when it comes to prepositioning aid, including: – Manufacturing times – Transit times – Frequency of stock use – Space and container optimisation.

Our continual improvement at ShelterBox means that over the years our aid range has developed and evolved to provide better solutions for people. Certain types of tents no longer fit in the boxes, but that doesn’t mean we stop providing the very best items we possibly can. The box is still a central part of who we are – the most important bit is that we provide the emergency shelter items that people need to help them recover.

We also often ship our boxes and stock separately rather than prepacked and this too has huge advantages. An empty box with items separated will clear customs much more easily and takes up much less space in a shipping container.

When it comes to transporting our aid after the arrival to the affected country, many of our Rotary connections become invaluable. Rotarians and Rotary Clubs not only often help us to move aid through customs, their connections and support often helps to get our aid from the port to the communities and families that need it.

After Typhoon Goni struck the Philippines in November 2020, it was these Rotary connections that helped our team secure navy ships, trucks and forklifts to get our aid from one of our prepositioned warehouses in Cebu to the most hard-hit communities in the nation. Our team is constantly handed new and ever-changing logistics challenges, but just as Rotarians don’t turn back when faced with a challenge, neither do we at ShelterBox.

Looking to learn more about Rotary and ShelterBox’s impact around the world through our annual partnership report. Visit: <https://www.shelterboxcanada.org/rotary/report>

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