



## ShelterBox heads to West Africa as global work continues

Tuesday, October 26 2010

Nearly 700,000 people affected with a desperate need for emergency shelter, food and water. This is the scene coming out of the West African country Benin.

A two-person response team from international disaster relief charity, ShelterBox, is set to leave the UK for Benin today. Highly-trained ShelterBox Response Team (SRT) members James Webb (UK) and Chris Donald (UK) will be working to establish the areas of greatest need in the country.

James Webb, who worked in Haiti earlier this year, said ShelterBox will be doing all they can to deliver emergency shelter and lifesaving supplies to the people in most need.

'This year's annual flooding in West Africa is causing chaos across the region,' he said. 'Only a couple of months ago we were working in neighboring Niger in response to floods there. The floods in Benin have been the worst to hit the country in close to 50 years and show no sign of letting up.'

Each ShelterBox contains a disaster relief tent for an extended family, cooking utensils, a stove, blankets, water purification and storage equipment, a tool kit, a children's activity pack and other vital items.

As well as heading to Benin, ShelterBox are continuing to work in Haiti, Pakistan, Mexico and the Philippines.

600 ShelterBoxes are set to be distributed in Mexico, where thousands of families have been affected by flooding. A further 200 ShelterBoxes have been sent to the Philippines after super-typhoon Megi left a trail of destruction in its wake last week.

ShelterBox Head of Operations John Leach added: 'This has been an extremely busy time for us but our efforts have been matched by the support we're receiving from around the world which is nothing short of sensational.'

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**Public donations are vital to ShelterBox's continuing work. To make a donation please ring +44 (0)300 0300 500 or go to [www.shelterbox.org](http://www.shelterbox.org) to donate online and get the latest updates on our response to disasters around the world.**

## NOTES TO EDITORS (1)

- For more information on where ShelterBox has delivered aid in the last decade, go to <http://www.shelterbox.org/deployments.php>
- For high resolution images you can either:
  - contact Nina Gullan on +44 (0)1326 569782 or [ninag@shelterbox.org](mailto:ninag@shelterbox.org)
  - or go to <http://www.flickr.com/photos/shelterboxuk/sets/>
- For more information on ShelterBox please contact Nina Gullan on +44 (0)1326 569782

## NOTES TO EDITORS (2)

### About ShelterBox

ShelterBox is an international disaster relief charity specializing in emergency shelter provision. Humanitarian aid is delivered in iconic green ShelterBoxes. Each one contains a disaster relief tent for an extended family, a stove, blankets and other items essential for survival. ShelterBox responds to disaster as quickly as possible with the aim of helping the people who are most in need.

Every ShelterBox is individually numbered and, using this unique number, the deployment location of the ShelterBox can be found by donors. A box can be sponsored for £590 – this takes into account the costs of all materials, packing, storage, transport worldwide and delivery to families most in need at a time of disaster by a team of highly trained volunteers.

All aid delivery is undertaken by international volunteer ShelterBox Response Team members who have carried out extensive training with ShelterBox.

An initiative of Rotarian Tom Henderson OBE, a former Royal Navy search and rescue diver, ShelterBox started in 2000 as a project of the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard, Cornwall. ShelterBox, now the largest Rotary Club project in the world, has responded to disasters including the Haiti Earthquake, Indian Ocean Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar (Burma).

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