

Unfolding crisis: Horn of Africa



SRT member Dave Ray organising forward logistics from Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa. Photograph: Mike Greenslade

Emergency shelter and lifesaving supplies for 1,600 families have been committed to Ethiopia as the worst drought in 60 years has left thousands in disarray.

Australian ShelterBox Response Team member, Mike Greenslade is on site in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa and is working alongside the Rotary network, the Ethiopian government and various non-government organisations to ensure aid is delivered to those most in need.

"Our ShelterBox Response Team and our partners are working hard to deliver life saving aid to people

in desperate need," said Mike, who is working with UK ShelterBox Team Leader Dave Ray.

"The people fleeing the famine have only what they can carry and the need for emergency shelter is enormous," he added.

Along with ongoing drought and famine, burgeoning conflict in Somalia has seen over 1,000 Somalis flooding into Ethiopian and Kenyan refugee camps on a daily.

"We have been advised that the situation in the camps is exceptionally bad and aid will make a real difference," said Team Leader Dave Ray.

With invaluable help from the Rotary network and the Ethiopian government, the team has joined forces with Ethiopia's umbrella group of NGOs (non-government organisations), the CCRDA (Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Agencies) and Save the Children to assist with the deployment.

"Plans and logistics are in place to move aid quickly to the worst affected areas. Through Save the Children we'll be helping some of the most vulnerable families. We'll be working with them to provide shelter for refugee families fostering orphans and unaccompanied minors. It's the children that are the most affected by this famine," added Mike.



We need your help – a plea from the General Manager

The situation in East Africa is a humanitarian crisis of enormous magnitude and eleven million people are affected, the equivalent of half the entire Australian population. Amongst them are more than 2.3 million children who are malnourished and in need of urgent assistance. Here's the statistics:



Somalia

Famine has officially been declared in South Somalia.

Of the 3.7 million people that are affected, half are under the age of 18 and one in five of those affected are under five years of age.

A famine is declared when acute malnutrition rates for children exceed 30 per cent and death rates for children exceed four in every 10,000 of the population.

Kenya

In Kenya, more than 385,000 children and 90,000 pregnant and lactating women are suffering from malnutrition.

Conflict and drought in neighbouring Somalia has put additional pressure on resources at the border and on the limited services available in overcrowded refugee camps. There are 10,000 new arrivals each week into the Dadaab camp in north-eastern Kenya, which already holds more than 380,000 refugees.

Ethiopia

The worst drought in 60 years has heavily affected the food security situation in Ethiopia. The number of people in need of emergency food assistance has increased from 2.8 million at the beginning of the year to 3.2 million in April.

Drought and food price increases have resulted in increased malnutrition among children. Over 300,000 severely malnourished children will require life-saving nutrition treatment this year.

The high risk of large-scale flooding and a continued influx of refugees from Somalia is further exacerbating the situation.

Fellow Rotarians and ShelterBox supporters, I implore you to ask your friends, family, club members and community to donate to ShelterBox so we can assist with aid where it is needed most.

ShelterBox urgently requires your support to help deliver aid and save the lives of malnourished children in East Africa.

Australian ShelterBox members responding to deepening East African crisis

Australian ShelterBox Response Team member, Peter Pearce has landed in Kenya's capital Nairobi, on the border of Somalia to assist with the burgeoning humanitarian crisis throughout the Horn of Africa.

An estimated 10.7 million people remain in need of urgent assistance in the area due to widespread droughts in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia.

Somalia is particularly vulnerable as a result of ongoing conflict in the region and it is estimated that almost 1,500 Somali refugees are arriving in Kenyan and Ethiopian refugee camps daily.

"Food, medicine, water and sanitation all remain a priority but with the continuous influx of displaced people, the need for quality, emergency shelter is growing by the day," said Peter Pearce, who arrived in Nairobi on July 19.



"We are currently assessing immediate needs in each affected region and ShelterBox is on hand to rapidly dispense aid where required," he added.

ShelterBox Response Teams in Kenya are also working alongside local authorities and humanitarian organisations to establish any assistance ShelterBox can provide to the unfolding crisis.

ShelterBox has now committed emergency shelter for up to 2,000 families in Kenya as the worst drought in 60 years continues to cause chaos throughout the region.

"There's an overwhelming need throughout the region and our number one priority is to deliver emergency shelter to the most vulnerable groups," he added.

"Should the need for emergency shelter arise, which we predict it will, ShelterBox is more than prepared to deploy high quality ShelterBox tents to displaced families," he added.

ShelterBox is partnering with agencies such as Rotary and the Norwegian Refugee Council to ensure that aid reaches the families in most need as quickly as possible.

SHELTERBOX DONATIONS:

Westpac
BSB: 032 189
Account: 230 147
Deposits to be marked clearly and/or email to advise to shelterboxjc@optusnet.com.au

1 0 7 4 7 0

Our goal is to help 500,000 people every year. So far we have sent out this many ShelterBoxes.

REMINDER Golf Challenge Cambodia



A reminder to all Rotarians and friends of Rotary, you are invited to the first ShelterBox Australian Golf Challenge, situated in beautiful Cambodia from October 30 to November 5. Play three rounds at the luscious Championship courses to test your skills against fellow Rotarians from across the globe.

Over this week long charity event, you'll enjoy the luxurious accommodation at 5 star Victoria Angkor Resort and Spa, experience one of the world's most impressive UNESCO cultural heritage sites, win great prizes and make lifelong friends.

Non golfing partners are encouraged to attend, as you will have the opportunity to enjoy the daily champagne buffet breakfast's, lunches and memorable dinner parties all for the amazing price of US \$2,080 for golfers and US \$1,920 for non golfers. Included is a donation of US \$200 to ShelterBox Australia.

For more information on this event or to book, visit www.enjoythehit.com or contact Tim Ireland at tim@enjoythehit.com

A recount from Peter Pearce



“ I am in Kenya right now on the Somali border in a compound and it is 40 degrees. Dadaab where I am, is the largest refugee camp in the world.

I am here arranging for the distribution of 2,000 ShelterBox tents arriving by charter aircraft from the United Kingdom.

ShelterBox needs all the assistance in replacing stock levels, so I hope you can help.

For me after seeing the desperation, life will never be the same! ”

WEBSITE:

www.shelterboxaustralia.com.au

DONATION HOTLINE:

Phone: 1300 996 038

ShelterBox Australia

PO Box 217,
Wahroonga. NSW. 2076

