

SHELTER

The design is constantly being adapted to improve functionality and durability. 2008 saw the introduction of a heavy-duty tent that can better withstand extreme temperatures and UV exposure. Already it has been distributed in the African states of Swaziland, Somalia and Sudan, as well as the mountains of north Pakistan.

A HEART TO THE HOME

A key piece in every box is either a wood burning or multi-fuel stove - that can burn anything from diesel to old paint. This provides the heart of the new home where water is boiled, food is cooked and families congregate. In addition, there are pans, utensils, bowls, mugs and water storage containers.

WARMTH AND
PROTECTION

In addition to the tent, the boxes contain a range of other survival equipment including thermal blankets and insulated ground sheets, essential in areas where temperatures plummet at nightfall. Where malaria is prevalent mosquito nets are supplied, as well as a life saving means of water purification. Water supplies often become contaminated after a major disaster, as infrastructure and sanitation systems are destroyed, this presents a secondary but no less dangerous threat to survivors than the initial disaster itself.



A SMILE

Every box contains a children's pack containing drawing books, crayons and pens. For children who have lost most, if not all, their possessions, these small gifts are treasured.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY

A basic tool kit containing a hammer, axe, saw, trenching shovel, hoe head, pliers and wire cutters can be found in every box. These items enable people to improve their immediate environment, by chopping firewood or digging a latrine, for example. Then, when it is possible, to start repairing or rebuilding the home they were forced to leave.

FIT FOR PURPOSE

Every item is durable, practical and brand new. The box itself is lightweight and waterproof and has been used for a variety of purposes in the past - from water and food storage containers to a cot for a newly born baby.

ADAPTABILITY

We keep a broad range of equipment in stock so we can adapt the contents of a box to a specific disaster. For example, following the Javanese earthquake in 2006, when some resources were available locally or could be salvaged from one storey buildings, the overwhelming need was for shelter – so we just sent tents, packing two in each box.

ShelterBox also issues school boxes, which contain supplies for a teacher and 50 children, which are dispatched to disaster zones where the local school has been destroyed and there is little prospect of it being rebuilt in the short term. This provides a return to some form of routine and normality for children who are often deeply traumatised by the disaster that has hit their community.