

Tuesday 26 January 2010

Tents provide shelter for the most vulnerable in Haiti



Ulrique Idal gave birth to 2 day old Edwige at the Centre D'Ebergement and is now staying in a ShelterBox tent.

*Photograph: Mark Pearson
Monday 25 January 2010*

Aid for thousands in Haiti with more to follow



Tents are being set up for families in desperate need of shelter.

Tuesday 02 February 2010

Thousands of Haitians to move into ShelterBox tent city



Soldiers from the US Military's 82nd Airborne Division unload ShelterBoxes in Port au Prince, Haiti.

Photograph: Mark Pearson

Families with newborn babies and pregnant women have been given emergency shelter by the ShelterBox Response Team operating in Haiti.

The Response Team have set up a ShelterBox camp for up to 1,000 people on the Henfrasa sports field in Delmas, Port au Prince, Haiti, providing emergency shelter for the most in need and the most vulnerable.

ShelterBox Response Team member and General Manager Lasse Petersen said: 'We agreed with the local community that the initial tent allocation would be for families with pregnant women and families with newborns.

'We're prioritising women and children, providing disaster relief tents, blankets, water containers, children's packs and kitchenware, basically enough to set up families who have lost everything.

'The Dutch marines have been very helpful for us in providing storage at Port au Prince airport as well as providing security to our team during the distribution of aid. There are hundreds of thousands of people left homeless but this is the first of our deliveries with many thousands more to come.'

Nearly 100 tonnes of additional aid is being flown to Haiti this week as thousands of people who lost their homes in the devastating earthquake are being given the chance to start rebuilding their lives in ShelterBox tents.

Emergency shelter for more than 20,000 people is now in Port au Prince and surrounding areas with small camps already set up in Delmas, Petion-Ville, Carrefour and Leogane.

Hundreds more ShelterBoxes containing disaster relief tents and other life-saving supplies are being sent to the city in the next few days from Miami, Curacao and France, meaning another 11,000 people will be given emergency shelter.

On Friday, ShelterBox is chartering a 747 aircraft with 1,800 boxes to fly from Stansted Airport to the Dominican Republic where they will be taken overland to neighbouring Haiti.

Thousands of people left homeless by the devastating Haiti earthquake are due to start moving into a camp with hundreds of ShelterBox tents this week.

Situated near to the US Embassy in Port au Prince, the encampment, named Congress Camp, will house thousands of refugees from the centre of the city allowing them to stay close to their communities and carry on with their daily lives.

ShelterBox's Response Team (SRT) in Port au Prince has been working around the clock to help set up the camp with hundreds of disaster relief tents, each of which can house an extended family of up to 10 people. The team has worked closely with the French aid agency ACTED and IOM (International Organisation for Migration) to create the tent city which is also equipped with showers and latrines.

John Leach, ShelterBox's Head of Operations, said: 'This is an urban camp which means people can carry on with their daily lives and won't be forced to locations outside of Port au Prince.