



SHELTER KIT

The International Federation Shelter Kit provides a rapid, flexible, and cost effective way of providing people affected by disaster with immediate shelter assistance.

The International Federation Shelter Kit is a package including plastic sheeting, tools and fixings suitable for repairing damaged houses or building emergency shelters. Comprising familiar items, it is an appropriate response to a broad range of disasters and locations. With a Shelter Kit – and the support of additional labour as required – disaster affected households can begin to build their homes and restart their lives. —

Flexible solution

The items provided in a Shelter Kit can be combined with existing materials such as timber, bamboo and metal roof sheets to construct temporary shelters according to need, or used to repair damaged houses.

Shelter kits are cost effective

The price of a Shelter Kit is approximately 60 US dollars, whilst a standard one-family tent to internationally agreed standards can cost up to four times as much. The use of Shelter Kits provides the opportunity for maximising the shelter assistance that can be provided with available financial resources.

Fast and simple to deploy

The shelter kit consists of commonly available items. The packaged Shelter Kits can be simply prepositioned in global, regional or national warehouses and can be readily deployed without requiring specialist handling. In the field, individual Shelter Kits can be transported by recipients by hand if required.

Supports local shelter solutions

Disaster affected households can combine the kit with existing materials either salvaged, locally harvested or purchased with available resources. The households themselves can determine the type of shelter constructed or repaired, reflecting their specific household needs and local standards and cultural preferences. The materials provided can be reused if the households need to relocate or construct more permanent homes, and the tools will remain of use as the households upgrade or maintain the houses.





Building from scratch

Shelter kits can be combined with salvaged materials to provide a quick and flexible solution for sheltering a family. Later the shelter can be upgraded into a more permanent solution.

Repairing existing structures

Shelter kit can be used to repair existing structures. Here the wind has blown the roof of a traditional hut made of bamboo. Instead a new roof has been made from plastic tarpaulins from a shelter kit.



➤ **After the cyclone:** Providing shelter kits in Myanmar

Cyclone Nargis made landfall late into the night of 2 May 2008, leaving 84,500 people dead in its wake and up to 53,800 people missing. According to United Nations estimates, 2.4 million people were affected. With a storm surge of between 3.5 and 7 metres high careening towards Myanmar at wind speeds of up to 194 kph, the cyclone has been rated as one of the deadliest in the North Indian Ocean Basin.

Along the Irrawady river delta in the southern part of the country more than 95 percent of the houses were destroyed.

Keeping people alive

A top priority in the early days after the disaster was to secure the survival of victims who suddenly found themselves without even the most basic necessities of life: Clean water, food and shelter.

Many households only lost the roof, something that can fairly easily be repaired with tarpaulins and tools from the shelter kit. Others had to build emergency shelters from scratch using the shelter kit tools to fashion bamboo or timber into a structure.

As of October 2008 some 40,000 thousands Shelter Kits have been distributed in Myanmar, ensuring that several hundred thousand people have been able to construct emergency shelters or repair their houses.



Shelter kit

Note: This kit does not provide any materials to build structures. Often the beneficiaries will have access to salvage timber or bamboo from existing structures – or the existing structures can be repaired with the tools in the kit. If there are no existing structures or materials, timber will have to be provided.

Tarpaulins

Tarpaulins are made of woven plastic. This is the key component of the shelter kit. It can be used for roofing and walls. → Quantity per kit: 2



Rope

A universal tool with many uses, such as stabilising structures. → Quantity per kit: 1



Hoe

If the ground is hard and dry, the hoe can be used to treat it. Like most of the tools, the hoe will continue to be useful as an everyday tool (in this case for farming) when the victims are re-establishing their livelihood. → Quantity per kit: 1



Machete

The machete is shaped like a very big knife. This tool is necessary for working with bamboo. It's also useful for removing twigs from bigger pieces of timber or clearing the ground before building. → Quantity per kit: 1



Tin snips

The tin snips are for cutting wire or tin roofing plates (if such are available). → Quantity per kit: 1



Handsaw

The hand saw for fashioning timber when building structures for a shelter. → Quantity per kit: 1



Roofing nails

Roofing nails are special nails with washers used for fixing tarpaulins to timber. When used properly the nails won't let rain seep through their own holes. → Quantity per kit: 500g



Shovel

The shovel is useful when preparing the foundation of a shelter. It can also be used for digging trenches around the shelter if it's raining. → Quantity per kit: 1



Nails

These are simple nails for building with timber. → Quantity per kit: 1kg



Tie wire

Tie wire is for tying together bamboo structures or fixing tarpaulins. → Quantity per kit: 500g



Claw hammer

For nails. → Quantity per kit: 1



For further information, please contact:

Graham Saunders

Head, Shelter Department

E-mail: graham.saunders@ifrc.org

Phone: +41 22 730 42 41

Fax: +41 22 733 03 95

P.O. Box 372

CH-1211 Geneva 19

Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 730 4222

Telefax: +41 22 733 0395

E-mail: secreteriat@ifrc.org

Web site: <http://www.ifrc.org>