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Ph: 02 8837 1900
 E: admin@arh.org.au



Grace's Story

Rotary's support of ShelterBox in Australia and New Zealand has helped improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of families affected by disasters; lives like Grace's.

Grace used to live in a small village of Mwalija with her husband and four children. Mwalija is situated in a very low-lying area of Chikwawa on Malawi's largest river, the Shire. The family was forced to flee when fast-flowing water, the result of Cyclone Idai, swamped their home in the middle of the night.

When the floods came, Grace sought refuge on a nearby island.

"It was around 3am, we were asleep, then we realised the water was coming inside the house," she said.

On the island, Grace and her family were joined by almost 400 others who had fled to escape the flooding. They were now surrounded by water and had to be rescued by boat. Once rescued, Grace and her family stayed with her relatives from the day she fled her home until she received

aid from ShelterBox.

"We were very happy to have our own place to stay."

Not only did ShelterBox give them back some privacy, Grace said it made all the difference to her family life.

"It means my husband and I can live together as man and wife again," she said, smiling broadly.

As well as having shelter, Grace is pleased with the other aid items she was given. She explained how the kitchen set meant she had pots to cook with and warm water to wash the children.

Thanks to Rotary clubs and members, ShelterBox was able to support 2000 families in 2019 in Malawi alone. Your support has helped provide shelter to thousands of families, whether they were fleeing conflict or in the process of recovery following a disaster. Thank you.

Please continue your support at shelterboxaustralia.org.au or shelterbox.org.nz •