

a gift of Life





Since its formation in 1992, Aquabox has distributed more than 110,000 boxes to communities suffering from natural disasters or man-made conflicts, helping hundreds of thousands of people in more than 50 countries around the world. In Yemen, the latest estimates suggest 3.3 million people are now displaced, and a child dies every 10 minutes.

Innovative AquaFilter technology produces safe and clean drinking water instantly and reliably without the need for chemicals. The AquaFilter Family and Community units are based on sub-micron filters which are impenetrable to bacteria and most viruses.

Aquabox rely entirely on the donations and fundraising activities of their supporters in order to purchase filter components and items which are supplied in the aid boxes. Without the generosity of our supporters, they would not be able to continue this work. The production capacity could be expanded, with the key limit of current capacity being the amount of donations received.

Table of Contents

- 1. News of the recent Aquabox aid shipment to YEMEN.
- 2. News of other Aquabox shipments.
- 3. How does Aquabox aid actually get there?
- 4. Aquabox aid to the Phillipines January 2020.
- 5. A brief extract of events in 2019.
- 6. Aquabox aid to Nepal storage.
- 7. Aquabox makes a difference in Nepal.
- 8. Aquabox springs into action after Hurricane Dorian.
- 9. Photos from Aquabox in the U.K.

1. News of the recent Aquabox aid shipment to YEMEN.

Yemen January 2020

The third and latest consignment to Yemen left the Aquabox depot on 16 January 2020. The planned shipment date from the depot was originally meant to be December, as previously reported, but it was decided to modify stocks so that the gold boxes would include the new Mark3 filters and also meet the latest request for additional items.

The shipment comprised of 250 Gold boxes, 5 Community filters and 120 Family filters. This consignment will provide the means of dispensing safe drinking water for 4000 people.

It went by truck to Shipley, where our partners JOY (Jubilee Outreach Yorkshire) are based, to have medical and educational supplies added to the container before going by train to Southampton for shipment to Aden and onward distribution into the communities that have been so badly hit by the ongoing conflict in Yemen.

Many thanks to the Aquabox team of volunteers for all their help in getting this donation ready and for assistance with loading the container, including repacking the 120 Gold Boxes so as to replace Mark2 filters with Mark3 filters. A very special thanks to lan for his very hard work moving boxes of 19 kilos 250 times during this exercise.

Cost of shipment to Aquabox:

Well done to all and a very big thanks to all Aquabox supporters who have helped to make this aid possible.

2. News of other Aquabox shipments.

There follows an updated list of Aquabox shipments worldwide since the previous shipment to Yemen. Note that this GlobalGiving project #38995 has been created specifically to raise funds to support Aquabox in their efforts to help Yemen. The Rotary Club of Dronfield is an Aquabox Ambassador Club.

You can click on the Aquabox link below to display a more complete map of the shipment targets over the years..

https://www.aquabox.org/what-we-do/aquabox-shipments.html

The more recent shipment details are also listed below.

Shipments Detail

The date below is the date of dispatch from the Aquabox warehouse.

DispatchedDestination	Number boxes/filt			Partner Agency
Gold Community Family				
16/01/2020 Yemen	250	5	120	Jubilee Outreach Yorkshire
25/09/2019 Nepal	200			British Gurkhas Nepal/Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
17/09/2019 The Bahamas		10	360	PharmaChem Technologies/Rotary in The Bahamas
02/08/2019 Malawi	150			CART
02/08/2019 Assam, India			180	Water Survival Box
21/06/2019 Malawi	150			CART
31/05/2019 Mozambique		5	180	Rotary in Mozambique
01/05/2019 Nepal	260			British Gurkhas Nepal
24/04/2019 Yemen	270		48	Jubilee Outreach Yorkshire
03/04/2019 Malawi	100	5		Red Cross International
03/04/2019 Zimbabwe			180	Rotary in Zimbabwe

3. How does Aquabox aid actually get there?

As soon as Aquabox hear about a major event, they look for ways that might be able to help the relief effort. If it's in an area where local contacts have already been established Aquabox immediately make contact via WhatsApp to identify their need.

If no local contacts are yet available, Aquabox seek out the local Rotary clubs, or go through International Red Cross or other large aid suppliers. It's essential to know that there is a reliable, trusted partner 'on the ground' before any aid is dispatched.

Either way, the needs must be established to determine what should be sent, and how well the selected contact can partner Aquabox in terms of final distribution. They must identify what paperwork is required to send to that particular location, and request an import duty waiver if there isn't a general waiver in force. Without that, costs can be much higher: the import duty in Cameroon, for instance, is 47% of the declared commercial value of the shipment. The normal arrangement is that Aquabox is responsible for the shipment as far as the port of entry, and the local receiving partner takes responsibility from then on.

What is sent and how it is sent depends very much on the nature of the need. If it's urgent – a response to an earthquake, for instance – speed is of the essence, so air freight is used to sending either Community filters or Aqua 12s.

Gold boxes are not sent by air – they are too heavy for air freight to be affordable. They go by sea in cases such as long-term refugee camps and ongoing situations like Syria and Yemen.

Nearly all the aid is shipped by established and trusted partners. For shipment by sea Aquabox have accounts with two long-standing agents; for air freight they use DHL, and SOS in Manchester. Shipments are always put out to competitive tender to obtain the best deal. For example, when sending aid to the Bahamas after Hurricane Dorian the best price Aquabox could obtain for a direct shipment was £2,800 – but then it was discovered that by shipment to PharmaChem, a known company in Miami, they in turn would send the shipment onward to the Bahamas and oversee the distribution, with the total cost being less than half of what had been quoted for a direct shipment. And the aid still got there in a matter of days.

Typically, a consignment by sea can take eight to 12 weeks including customs clearance – by air, it's much quicker. But either way, the aim is the same: to get the right sort of aid to the right place, quickly, cost-effectively and efficiently – and to make life a little easier for people living in extreme deprivation.

4. Aquabox aid to the Phillipines January 2020

On 12th and 13th January this year, Taal Volcano erupted on Luzon Island in the Philippines. Within a very short time after the eruptions, local villages were showered with a thick layer of ash, noxious sulphur dioxide fumes filled the air and 500 metre plumes of molten lava shot into the atmosphere.



Taal is a small but complex volcano with many eruption points making it highly unpredictable. A 17 km danger zone, with a population approaching half a million, was designated around the volcano. An estimated 300,000 plus inhabitants were relocated to shelters and designated evacuation centres, leaving their homes, belongings and access to safe water supplies behind.

Aquabox already had a supply of aid boxes in storage in Manilla, and so were quickly able to deploy these to displaced peoples, working in partnership with the charity Humanity First. The boxes were distributed just one week after the eruptions to 245 families giving more than 1000 people the potential to access safe drinking water.

5. Aquabox: A brief extract of events in 2019

Aquabox continued to send water filters and humanitarian aid around the world. April 2019 saw 100 Gold boxes and five community filters on their way to Malawi, shipped via Red Cross International and with distribution overseen by Malawi Red Cross. The same month, 15 Aqua 12s (180 family filters in total) were sent to Zimbabwe, forwarded by the Rotary Club of London Centenary, and distributed by the Rotary Club of Harare.

In May 2019, there were 260 Gold boxes sent to Nepal, shipped and distributed by the Gurkha regiment, and 15 Aqua 12s and five community filters to Mozambique with the help of the Rotary Club of Maputo. A further shipment of 150 Gold boxes went to Malawi in June, this time with the help of the Christian African Relief Trust (CART), and CART again assisted with a third consignment to Malawi in August – another 150 Gold boxes.



Desperately needed Aquabox aid arrives in Nepal during May 2019

August 2019 also saw a shipment of 15 Aqua 12s – another 180 family filters – to Assam in India, this time in a joint shipment with another charity, Water Survival Box.

In September 2019, the focus was on the Bahamas, reeling under the impact of Hurricane Dorian, and with support from PharmaChem and the Rotary Club of Freeport, Aquabox sent 30 Aqua 12s and 10 community filters, that is a total of 370 filters.

The same month, another 200 Gold boxes left the Wirksworth depot on their way to Nepal, and in October a volunteer took a community filter to Kenya as hand luggage.

In all, shipments in 2019 include 1,380 Gold boxes, 81 Aqua 12 boxes containing a total of 972 family filters, and 21 community filters. Apart from the community filters, which are bought in, all the filters and all the boxes were assembled, tested, packed and despatched by Aquabox volunteer teams. Total cost of all the filter components, Gold box contents, and shipping costs so far in the year to December 2019: £248,000. Total number of people helped – incalculable, but it must run into the tens of thousands.

6. Aquabox delivery to Nepal storage.

Back in August 2019 aid was distributed to communities in Nepal where they had experienced devastating floods. The Aquabox team of volunteers had been busy over the previous few months building up stocks of Family filters and Gold Boxes. Thanks to the relationship built up with Nepalese Rotary Clubs, the Royal Gurkha Rifles and Nepalese Police, Aquabox have been able to provide a strategic stock of Gold Boxes that can be speedily deployed when the inevitable disaster occurs.

The latest consignment of 200 Gold Boxes to Nepal was delivered to MOD Bicester on the 25th September to the order of the Royal Ghurkha Rifles who arranged to transport them to Nepal for storage with the Nepalese army.

The 200 Gold Boxes were intended as replacements for those distributed to Sindhuli, Siraha and Gulmi following the Monsoon floods that badly effected these locations. The distribution is facilitated with co-operation of Rotary District 3292 and in specific Kiran Lal Shrestha and RC Durbarmarg. The physical distribution is enabled by the Nepalese Army who not only store the Gold Boxes but also deliver them to areas that are difficult to access. The boxes were ready for delivery when the next monsoon occurs, as this mountainous country is regularly affected by the annual rains.

7. Aquabox makes a difference in Nepal



Aquabox has been a significant participant in a disaster relief effort co-ordinated by the Rotary Club of Butwal Downtown in Nepal. Recent floods and landslides directly affected 120 families residing in village of Satyawati, in Gulmi District, and the victims were provided with relief materials made available with combined support from Aquabox and other Rotary charities.

A total of 120 shelter tents, 120 Aquabox Gold boxes, 90 portable beds and 120 food boxes were distributed, with more than 500 local residents taking part in the relief effort.

"The program was immensely successful and had great impact," said a spokesman for the Rotary Club of Butwal Downtown. "We express our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed to make it happen."



Every year, Nepal experiences serious landslides and floods, often in remote areas which means they get little or no media coverage, and the statistics make grim reading. In August, the Rotary partners in Nepal reported that so far this year at least 12,000 households had been displaced as a result of landslides and flooding, 117 people were known to have died, with at least 80 injured and 38 missing. An estimated 176,800 people were facing food security issues as a result of the disasters.

8. Aquabox springs into action after Hurricane Dorian

After first receiving the news in late August 2019 of the devastation being caused by Hurricane Dorian, the most intense tropical cyclone ever to strike the Bahamas, the Wirksworth disaster response charity Aquabox moved swiftly into planning out how best to respond to this major disaster.

The hurricane centred itself above Grand Bahama and the outlying islands, and stayed there for a number of days, 'wreaking havoc on the island communities, before moving north towards the Carolinas.

Aquabox immediately contacted NGOs and Rotary clubs in Nassau and Freetown, the capital of Grand Bahama, as well as linking up with local companies to carry out a needs assessment and determine the most effective way to support the affected island communities. It immediately became clear there was a great need for safe drinking water, particularly in the eastern end of the Grand Bahama and the outlying islands like Abaco.

Transportation was obviously a major challenge, since most of the airports on the islands were closed due to hurricane damage. The Aquabox team worked with partners on the ground to secure alternative secure supply and distribution routes into Eastern Grand Bahama and Abaco. A consignment of 30 Aqua 12s and 10 Community Filters was prepared at the Aquabox depot, sufficient to provide safe water for between 7,000 and 8,000 people – and by mid-September the shipment was on its way, ready for reception and distribution by members of the Rotary Club.

9. Photos from Aquabox in the U.K.



Aquabox set up for demonstration



Aquabox volunteers receiving a donation raised by CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale)



Use of fork lift truck to load a container destined for the Phllipines



Loading Aquaboxes before there was a fork lift truck
