

WAYS TO PACK



▶ HOW TO PACK AN OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX

- 1. SHOEBOX:** Start with a regular sized shoebox the approximate size of an A4 page or order pre-printed shoeboxes online.
 - 2. GIFTS:** Choose a boy or girl and age group (2–4, 5–9, or 10–14) and fill your shoebox with **fun** toys, clothing, hygiene items, and school supplies. Include a “**wow**” item such as a doll, soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal; then **personalise** your gift by including a note and photo.
- ▶ **DO NOT INCLUDE**
- ✗ **ITEMS THAT LEAK OR MELT:** (these can spoil boxes) including toothpaste, shampoo, bubbles and lotions.
 - ✗ **SOAP:** Due to increasing customs regulations and challenges in many countries, all types of soap will NO LONGER be allowed in shoebox gifts.
 - ✗ **FOOD OR LOLLIES OF ANY KIND:** (due to customs regulations) including medicines and vitamins.
 - ✗ **USED OR DAMAGED ITEMS:** (due to customs regulations) including worn clothing and old toys.
 - ✗ **BREAKABLE ITEMS:** including glass and porcelain.
 - ✗ **SCARY OR WAR-RELATED ITEMS:** including Halloween, war or pirate-related items such as toy guns, knives, military figures or skull and cross-bones.
 - ✗ **GAMBLING-RELATED ITEMS:** including play money or dice (unless included in a game).
 - ✗ **RELIGIOUS LITERATURE:** including tracts and Bibles (most children are given an Operation Christmas Child evangelistic book at an outreach event in their own language).
- 3. DONATE:** A donation of \$12.50 per box is essential to cover shipping and other project costs. For easiest processing, you can give online through our website, or you can give by completing the form in our “How to Pack” brochure and enclose in your shoebox gift. If you use our online option, you can “Follow Your Box” and discover the destination of your gift.
 - 4. LABEL:** Every shoebox gift must be clearly labelled. Visit the Donations & Labels page on our website to order your labels when you make your \$12.50 donation, or download the free label resource, or use the label included in the “How to Pack” brochure. Please ensure the label clearly indicates if you packed for a boy or girl and which age category, then stick it on your shoebox!
 - 5. PRAY:** Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your shoebox gift and for their family and community to be transformed by the Gospel.
 - 6. DROP-OFF:** Take your shoebox gift to a local drop-off location during **National Collection**, **13-27 October for Australia and 20-25 October for New Zealand**. Visit our website to find one near you.



GET INVOLVED



► VOLUNTEER AT A PROCESSING CENTRE

Before the millions of shoebox gifts collected each year can bring hope and joy to children around the world, each one has to be carefully inspected and prepared for international shipment by volunteers. Volunteers serve annually at shoebox processing centres across Australia and New Zealand.

Volunteering at one of Operation Christmas Child's processing centres is a great opportunity to serve as an individual or as part of a larger group. It's a fantastic activity for schools, church and corporate groups as well as family and friends, youth groups and teams to come together, have some fun and make a meaningful impact.



► HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Sign up for our volunteer alerts, and when volunteering registration opens you will be notified.



Scan this QR code for more information on **Volunteering at a Processing Centre**
Visit operationchristmaschild.org.au/volunteer or operationchristmaschild.org.nz/volunteer

2024

OVERVIEW



11,927,439

SHOEBOXES PACKED WORLDWIDE*

211,502

SHOEBOXES PACKED IN AUS & NZ*

69,059 NSW/ACT 17,263 SA/NT

37,416 QLD 12,634 TAS

31,482 VIC 13,340 NZ

24,916 WA 5,392 ONLINE

* In 2024



SHOEBOXES FROM AUS & NZ WERE SENT TO:

115,735 CAMBODIA

26,841 FIJI

10,842 UKRAINE

10,504 SOLOMON ISLANDS

42,176 PHILIPPINES

5,392 SENSITIVE COUNTRY

Country name undisclosed for security reasons



THE GREATEST JOURNEY IN 2024



5,548,138

Children enrolled



4,191,976

Children graduated



3,261,771

Decisions for Christ



3,071,078

Children praying/sharing with family & friends



305,538

Teachers trained