



No Longer Isolated

Your giving enabled Compassion to respond quickly after a devastating earthquake in the Philippines

On Monday morning, June 8th, the ground in the southern Mindanao islands of the Philippines began to tremble. What began as a low rumble quickly intensified into a violent shaking that destroyed homes, damaged roads and left many in chaos. The powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck without warning, devastating several provinces and leaving behind a landscape of broken structures, shattered routines and grieving families.

The epicenter was the Malapatan municipality, where Kingdom Gateway Church hosts a Compassion center. While the disaster claimed lives and destroyed many homes, the church is deeply grateful that no participants were physically harmed and that they were equipped to respond immediately to support the participants and their families whose homes were affected.

During the earthquake, simple family dwellings suffered the most. Rhian Angel, a 5-year-old participant at the center, saw her home completely destroyed. Although

the family was thankful their lives were spared, the loss of their home was a devastating blow they couldn't have faced alone.





**“I am so grateful to Compassion, to the sponsors and to the donors.
Now, we are no longer isolated.”** – RHEA JEAN, CENTER DIRECTOR

In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, the community's isolation was one of the greatest obstacles. Roads were blocked or destroyed, making travel difficult and making it almost impossible to obtain essential supplies like food and water. Power outages plunged the municipality into darkness, and the lack of internet cut off communication with the outside world.

Amid this devastation, Rhea Jean, the Compassion center director, moved quickly into action. She gathered staff and volunteers to visit children, assess the damage and identify urgent needs. Her team purchased sacks of rice and other essential groceries and coordinated orderly processes for families to collect supplies. The church's efforts were an incredible source of comfort and support to families in crisis.

Now, a couple of weeks out from the disaster, the community still faces emotional strain, uncertainty and the daunting question of how to rebuild. Rhea and the staff at the Compassion center continue to meet pressing needs as they begin plans for long-term solutions like participant home repair and trauma counseling for children and families trying to process and heal from what happened.

The road to recovery for this community will not be easy, but families will not have to travel it alone. Through your partnership, Compassion is empowering the local church to be the hands and feet of Jesus as the community heals.



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