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Rebuilding and Reinforcing Damaged Centers

In April and May 2017, southeastern Bangladesh experienced extremely heavy rainfall, which produced devastating flash floods and destructive landslides throughout the region. The amount of rain recorded during this time was the highest in over 100 years, and the results damaged structures and claimed the lives of many people living there.

Three Compassion Child Development Centers were most affected by these storms. Flash floods filled Pangkhua Para Child Development Center and Jamunachari Child Development Center with water for days on end. Hebron Child Development center fared better, but was also damaged. The flooding at these centers was so severe that staff members were not able to retrieve valuable items, including critical documents for and records of the registered children there and all program activities were suspended.

These centers serve an important role in their communities, providing vital services to families in extreme poverty. No infrastructure or government services exist in these rural, agricultural communities. Because of this, these Compassion centers have provided an enormous amount of resources, encouragement and hope to community members over the years. Shutting down these centers left children and their families in an extremely vulnerable position.

Compassion Bangladesh and community members from the centers developed a plan to get them up and running again by rebuilding and reinforcing center facilities. Two centers were moved to a new location on higher ground and added new kitchens and toilet facilities and the third center remained in its current location, but was reinforced and also added a new kitchen and bathroom facilities. These new centers were designed to withstand any future heavy rainfall.

We are thankful to report this initiative is complete and has allowed Compassion programs to resume at these three centers, providing a safe environment for the registered children to continue to grow and develop. At one time, the work was halted due to 4 months of instability where funds could not be

received. Once resumed, parents eagerly worked alongside contractors and laborers, contributing their own labor and skills to complete the buildings. The support of the parents was vital to a sense of ownership and accomplishment.

Ultimately, this initiative has provided beacons of hope to the families in the program and the surrounding community. Through the church, the pastors and staff were able to demonstrate to all that God answers prayer and provides for their needs.

To date, our church partners have completed the following milestones:

- Added finishing touches on the classrooms and kitchens
- Completed latrines and plumbing
- Completed electricity installation
- Introduced the children and caregivers to the new classrooms
- Began courses and program activities in the new classrooms
- Two churches added Survival programming serving 15 mothers and babies at each center.