

IOM Ghana Counter-Trafficking Sponsorship Update



**January
Month**

**2014
Year**

Name of Sponsored Child	***name removed for safety
Estimated Age at Rescue	15
School/Class	Primary-6

Dear Evan,

Please find below a message from your sponsored child collected during a recent monitoring visit.

My name is *** and I am 17 years old. I have survived almost a year of childhood spent working for a fisherman.

I was trafficked at age 14 when my father neglected the family and my mother could no longer take care of me and my four siblings. I spent about a year working for my fishing master at. During the period of trafficking, I worked from 2:00am-1:00pm on the river every day and the rest of the day doing domestic work under very challenging conditions. I was not enrolled in school despite the fact that I was in school before being trafficked. I was also maltreated by my master until IOM came to my rescue in 2011 and reintegrated me with my mother.

Before being rescued, my master used me for all kinds of activities pertaining to fishing such as paddling his canoe, pulling nets, mending nets when they get torn, unscaling fish, smoking and selling fish as well as domestic service.

After my rescue, I was enrolled in school again by IOM and I am currently in Basic School Class Six. I am happy to be learning in school and my performance is average due to my inability to get money for food at school and frequent stomach aches suspected to be hernia. These pains make it difficult to school regularly. I know I can do better once these challenges are resolved.

My current family situation is that, my mother is a single parent and also experiences ill-health, making it difficult for her to work regularly to support the family. She sometimes spends several days at home taking herbal medicines as she cannot afford to go to hospital for treatment.

On behalf of IOM, we thank you for your support of ***. Together we can make a difference in the lives of rescued children, so they can attain or reach their highest potential in life through a safe and dignified manner. Your funds are used to provide basic essentials for children to attend school or their apprenticeship programme and include school supplies, food and hygiene items. Should you have any questions about the sponsorship programme, your sponsored child or other ways to get involved, please contact our counter-trafficking team at IOM, Accra-Ghana.

Sincerely,
Wisdom Doe
Counter Trafficking Assistant
IOM Ghana

Please visit our website to review our Sponsorship FAQs and Child Safety Policy.

www.iom.int/cms/ghana



*** running to welcome the CT team during a monitoring visit (January 2014).

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Please visit our website to read FAQs regarding our sponsorship programme and to review our child safety policy.

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