

IOM Ghana Counter-Trafficking Sponsorship Update



**January
Month**

**2014
Year**

Name of Sponsored Child	***name removed for safety
Estimated Age at Rescue	10
School/Class	Primary-5

Dear Sponsor,

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

My name is *** and I am fourteen years old. I have survived two years of my childhood spent in forced labour for my father.

I was engaged in forced labour at the very tender age of five by my father. During the period of labour I worked on the lake fishing under very hazardous conditions. My father never spared me the hardships in anyway until IOM rescued me in 2008 and reunited me with my grandmother.

Before being rescued, my father used me for various fishing activities such as diving into the Lake to disentangle net, paddling canoes, casting nets, pulling net, mending nets when torn and scooping water from canoe. While doing this fishing work, I fell off the canoe and broke my spine and was not taken to the hospital. I was later diagnosed with TB of the spine.

After my rescue, IOM assisted me to have spine surgery twice to treat the condition. I was also enrolled in school and am currently in my Basic School Class Five (5). I am happy to be learning in school. My academic performance is very good and I always emerge at the first or second position in class at the end of school each term.

I now live with my grandparents as no one has been able to locate my father. My grandparents are doing their best to support me in school although they have no sustainable means of livelihood.

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



*** at the end of the school day (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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