

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	Kindergarten-2

Dear Sponsor,

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

My name is *** and I am 12 years old. I have survived years of childhood spent in labour working for my father who was a fisherman.

My father engaged me in his fishing business since infancy without sending me to school. My typical day began at dawn when the weather was cold. My father always woke me up so that we could go fishing on the lake. I always felt very cold on the lake at dawn. This routine continued every day until I was rescued by IOM in 2011.

Before being rescued, my father engaged me initially in scooping water from the canoe and unscaling fish. As time went on I undertook other activities like paddling his canoe, casting and pulling nets, diving into the lake to disentangle nets and mending nets.

Soon after my rescue, IOM enrolled me in a school called Galilea D/A No.1 .But I was frequently sick so I did not attend school regularly and it has affected my academic performance. I am currently in Kindergarten Two and hope to be fit this term so that I can attend school regularly.

My current family situation is that, my biological parents divorced soon after my rescue. I now live with my stepmother who does not have a regular source of income. My father left us over a year ago for another region in search of greener pastures and not returned. This has affected our family life so much so that sometimes we go hungry.

On behalf of IOM, we thank you for your support of Ernest. 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



*** on his way home after running errand for his guardian (January 2014).

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