

IOM Ghana Counter-Trafficking Sponsorship Update



**January
Month**

**2014
Year**

Name of Sponsored Child	*** name removed for safety
Estimated Age at Rescue	9
School/Class	Primary-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 three years of childhood spent working for a fisherman.

I was trafficked at the tender age of six by my mother after my father divorced her and she could no longer take care of me and my siblings. I spent three years of my childhood working for my fishing master. During the period of trafficking I worked from dawn till evening every day under harsh conditions. I was not enrolled in school. I was maltreated with little food to eat, worked in cold conditions, ate the same food every day, and beaten, until IOM finally came to my rescue in 2011 and reintegrated me with my mother.

Before being rescued, my fishing master used me for all activities pertaining to fishing on the Volta Lake such as , diving into the Lake to disentangle nets, paddling canoe, scooping water from canoe, smoking fish and domestic services.

After my rescue, I was enrolled in school by IOM at D/A Primary 'C' and I am currently in my Basic School Class Two (2). I am happy to be learning in school because my performance is very good although challenging. I always take the first or second position in class every term.

I have two siblings and both my mother and stepfather are unemployed. As a result, they find it very difficult to feed us regularly and provide other basic needs. In addition, my mother is asthmatic a condition that makes it impossible for her to work.

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



*** playing Soccer at home after school (January 2014).

©IOM 2014(Photo: Wisdom Doe)

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

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