

IOM Ghana Counter-Trafficking Sponsorship Update



January **2013**
Month **Year**

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

Dear Sponsor,

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

My name is *** and I am 15 years old. I have survived two and half years of my childhood spent working for a fisherman.

My mother trafficked me at a time when life became very challenging for the family due to my parents' divorce. I spent almost three years of my childhood working for a fishing master. During my stay there, I worked on the lake and as a house help too. My typical day often began from 4:30am to 9:00pm, this continued until I was rescued in 2010 by IOM and reunited with my mother.

Before being rescued, my master used me on the lake to undertake activities such as scooping water from canoes, puddling canoes, casting and pulling nets, selling fish and descaling fish. At home I smoked fish, washed, swept the compound, cooked, fetched water and did any other work I was assigned to do. On the lake, even though I found it quite tough as a girl doing all these activities I had no way of escaping.

After my rescue, I was enrolled in school, however, it was a long walk. Later, I transferred to a school near-by school so that I only had a short distance to walk. I was doing very well academically until I became pregnant and dropped out of school. In spite of that I still hold on to my dream of having a good education. As such, I would like to go back to school next term now that I have given birth.

I am still living with my mother and my siblings. My mother has no reliable source of income and does menial jobs to feed the family. Regarding my father, I do not know his whereabouts. As a result of these problems, my mother finds it extremely difficult to meet the basic needs of the family. My fear now is how to pay my fees when I go back to school. I therefore appeal for support.

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



*** with a smile on her face after receiving food items (December 2013).

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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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