

IOM Ghana Counter-Trafficking Sponsorship Update



**January
Month**

**2014
Year**

Name of Sponsored Child	***name removed for safety
Estimated Age at Rescue	13
School/Class	Primary-6

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 one and half years of my childhood spent working for a cattle owner.

I was trafficked by my mother when I was eleven years old. I spent one and half years herding cattle for my master. While there, I spent every day in the bush so that the cattle could graze. I worked from 5am to 6pm every day prior to my rescue in 2011 by IOM.

Before being rescued, my master used me mainly for his cattle business. There were instances when I came face -to -face with snakes in the bush and I was lucky to have escaped being bitten. The animals sometimes also posed danger to me.

After my rescue, I was enrolled in Roman Catholic Basic School, where I am currently in Class Six. My academic performance is very good. So far, I have never dropped below the second position in class and I hope to continue studying hard so that I can maintain that standard.

Currently, I live with my father and grandparents. They are very concerned about my education. However, my father is worried about how he will pay my school fees as I progress in my education. This is because the cost of education in Ghana increases as you advance in school and he is currently unemployed.

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



*** listening with rapt attention during an English language dictation exercise (January 2014).

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

www.iom.int/cms/ghana