

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 13 years old. I have survived two years of my childhood spent working for a cattle owner.

I was trafficked at the age of eight by my mother after my father divorced her and neglected the family resulting in my mother's inability to take care of me and my siblings. I spent two years working as a herder in a village. During my stay with the cattle owner, I worked herding cattle under very dangerous conditions. This continued on a daily basis until IOM rescued me in 2011 and reunited me with my mother.

Before being rescued, my master used me mainly for cattle herding. I normally left home with the cattle at 5am and return at 6pm every day. In the field, the only food I had to eat was "gari," which is not very nutritious. When I returned from field, I was then engaged in domestic work by my master.

After my rescue, I was enrolled in school. I am currently in Basic School Class Five. I am glad to be learning in school and my academic performance is very good. I am usually between the first and fourth highest ranked student in class each term.

My current family situation is that, I live with my mother and my stepfather. My mother is quite serious about my studies so she is doing her best to ensure that I do not drop out.

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



*** relaxing during break time (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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