



Countering Child Trafficking in Ghana

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL DONORS

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Ghana Child Counter Trafficking Project aims to meet the needs of trafficked children and their parents/guardians in the West African nation of Ghana. For the past ten years, the project has rescued, rehabilitated, returned, and reintegrated 731 children. These children were engaged in fishing under hazardous conditions in the Volta Lake in the Brong-Ahafo, Volta and Northern Regions of Ghana. These children were reunited with their families and enrolled in schools or apprenticeships in their communities of origin in the Central, Eastern, Western and Volta Regions and are currently receiving reintegration, and follow-up assistance.



Below is a list of frequently asked questions related to the project:

Q1: How can I sponsor a rescued child on a regular basis?

A1: There are a number of ways in which you can sponsor a child. IOM Ghana develops profiles on any of the 731 rescued children. Through IOM's "Sponsor a Trafficked Child in Ghana Project", an individual or group of individuals could choose to support a child/children based on his/her profile for a minimum of USD30 per month for at least one year. This support would provide various forms of continuous reintegration assistance, including education, vocational training, and healthcare, extracurricular and recreational activities. In addition, some of this funding could be used to monitor the children and update their case files in order to provide them with more tailored, sustainable reintegration assistance. You will be contacted one month prior to the end of the year-long sponsorship period to inquire if you intend to extend your commitment. This gives us time to prepare children/families who no longer receive assistance.

Q2: What if I would like to make a one-time donation?

A2: If this is the case, then your money will be channeled into a scholarship fund for trafficked children who have proven to be highly motivated, attend class regularly, and excelled academically in their respective schools. Scholarships enable these children to attend senior high schools and in some cases tertiary institutions, and could also be earmarked for a particular child. One-time donations could also be used to provide continuous reintegration and follow-up assistance such as counseling and medical support to rescued children.

Q3: How can I sponsor the rescue of a trafficked child?

A3: Although one of IOM's priorities in Ghana is to rescue trafficked children from forced labor exploitation in fishing communities, it is not feasible to rescue 2 or 3 children at a time. It is more cost-effective and practical to rescue larger groups of at least 20 children. This is because the logistics, staff, and time involved in rescuing 2 or 3 children is similar to that involved in rescuing 20 children.

Moreover, children feel more comfortable undergoing the rehabilitation process with their peers, which helps to reduce their trauma, build their self-esteem, and regain their sense of well-being. However, when children are rescued and referred to IOM by other agencies, we can assist them on an individual basis by providing rehabilitation and reintegration assistance.



Above: Trafficked boys working on Lake Volta.
Photo: © IOM Ghana (Dyane Epstein)

Rescuing a child involves a number of processes, which are very costly. Therefore, it is ideal for individual donors to provide funds for rehabilitation, reintegration, and follow-up assistance, while governments, corporate entities, and other organizations continue to fund rescue missions.

These bodies are generally in a position to provide greater amounts of funding over a shorter period of time, while individual donors can usually provide smaller amounts over a longer period. Thus, the receipt of individual donations helps to ensure sustainable reintegration efforts through the provision of continuous support that will reduce a child's vulnerability to being re-trafficked once government and other agency-sponsored funding runs out.



Above: A child participates in arts and crafts.
Photo: © IOM Ghana

For the above reasons we encourage individuals and small groups virtually “adopt” a trafficked child who has already been rescued and sponsor him/her. IOM continually seeks and procures funding from donor governments and various other agencies to rescue additional trafficked children.

Q4: Despite the high costs involved in a rescue mission, I still prefer to sponsor the rescue of a trafficked child. What should I do?

A4: If your primary interest is to rescue rather than rehabilitate, reintegrate, and monitor trafficked children, the following guidelines would need to be kept in mind: We need to rescue at least 20 children at a time and provide them with sustained support for at least two and a half years. IOM and the donor(s) would agree on a payment schedule, ensuring the receipt of funds prior to the start of the rescue mission. IOM will document all aspects of the rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration process and donors would be provided with bi-annual updates regarding their group of rescued children.

To obtain details of costs associated with a rescue mission, you can contact IOM Ghana via e-mail at the addresses provided below.

Q5: How will IOM account for my contribution?

A5: IOM issues brief bi-annual progress reports by e-mail to all individual sponsors providing monthly support to a rescued child. For those participating as part of the “Sponsor a Trafficked Child in Ghana Project,” a report on your specific child will be provided. This will include a summary of assistance provided to the specific child and observations on the progress and/or challenges encountered during the reintegration process. Individual and group donors who fund a rescue mission will also receive bi-annual reports regarding the reintegration process for children they assisted to rescue.

Q6: May I provide in-kind assistance instead of making a donation?

A6: This may be possible in some specific cases, especially for Ghanaians or expatriates residing in Ghana, but in general it is too difficult to receive (import/export controls), and a lengthy and expensive process to send, receive, and distribute assistance to the children when donations originate from outside of Ghana.

The provision of rehabilitation and reintegration assistance provided to rescued children includes school supplies, school uniforms, schoolbags, hygiene kits, toiletries and other accessories, games, sports equipment, etc. Therefore, when you enroll in the “Adopt a Trafficked Child in Ghana Project,” your financial assistance is partly used to provide such items to the children.

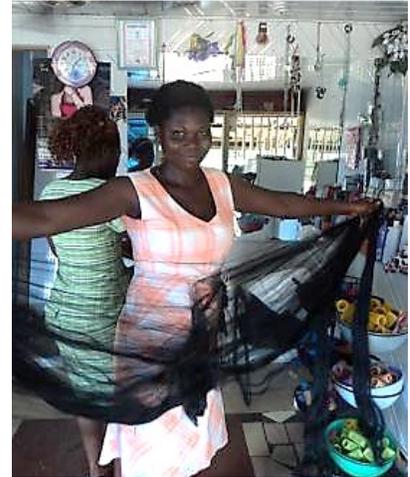


Above: A rescued child enjoys time at school.
Photo: © IOM Ghana

Q7: How can I be assured that my contribution will go directly to the children?

A7: There are three separate ways in which IOM accounts for the money spent on the children, depending on the type of sponsorship package.

1. If you are an individual donor contributing to the provision of rehabilitation, reintegration, and follow-up assistance to trafficked children **in general**, you will receive a bi-annual narrative report on activities undertaken and results obtained by IOM and its partners.
2. Once you have committed to adopting a child/ren, you will receive biannual progress updates on the child/ren you have selected for sponsorship. Until you have committed to adopt a child/ren, information provided will be limited. No photos or names of the child/ren will be given; rather, codes and basic information will be included in their profiles. Once you have signed a confidentiality agreement to protect the identity of the child/ren, we will send you full details on the child/ren with photos. A bi-annual update will be provided on you specific child/ren so you can see progress made during their reintegration.
3. If you have contributed funds for a **rescue** mission, then you will receive a more generic financial bi-annual report regarding the reintegration process of the rescued children.



Above: Sponsorship has allowed this former child trafficking victim to thrive and grow. She is now undertaking an apprenticeship. Photo: © IOM Ghana

Q8: What percentage of my contribution will go to IOM and its local partners' staff and office costs?

A8: We guarantee that no more than 30% of every contribution will go to IOM or local service providers assisting the children. In the particular case of rescue missions, which requires additional project officers to participate in securing the release of the children, no more than 35 percent of every contribution will go to IOM or local service providers assisting the children.

The IOM is a nonprofit international intergovernmental organization and uses a projectization approach or activity-based costing of projects. Each project is assigned a code for budgeting and expenditure purposes. We follow IPSAS accounting standards (internationally recognized), and have mechanisms and strict guidelines in place for accounting, procurement, and financial management.

Q9: How can I obtain more background information and make donations?

A9: You can obtain a detailed description of the Counter Trafficking Project in Ghana in English and French from the IOM Ghana [website](#) You can obtain more general information on IOM's counter-trafficking activities worldwide from the main IOM [website](#)

You can make an online donation by:

-  Clicking on IOM's donation [website](#)
-  Visiting USAIM's donation [website](#)
-  Visiting Global Giving's donation [website](#)



Above: A young trafficked child forced to scoop water out of the boat and get fish out of nets. Your support can make a difference! Photo: © IOM Ghana (Dyane Epstein)

Q10: Is there an alternative to donating money online?

A10: You can send cheques to IOM Washington DC and/or our 501c3 partner US Association for International Migration (USAIM) for a tax-deductible contribution. In the memo line please note that you are making the donation for Trafficked Children in Ghana.

For additional questions regarding donations please contact USAIM at usaim@iom.int To send cheques see below:

Cheques

IOM Washington DC or US Association for International Migration
International Organization for Migration
1752 N Street NW Suite 700
Washington DC, 20036

Q11: Can I create an association to raise money for trafficked children in Ghana and then send funds to IOM?

A11: You are free to set up an association and send the funds you have raised to IOM, but the association cannot be affiliated with IOM through an official partnership. Due to its status as an inter-governmental organization, IOM is not in a position to assist in the establishment of associations or in their fundraising efforts.

Q12: Can I create a website and then link it to IOM’s website in order to raise awareness and funds for the trafficked children in Ghana?

A12: You are free to create a website and send the funds you have raised to IOM, but that the website cannot be affiliated with IOM through an official partnership. Before posting any information that derives from IOM or placing any petition on behalf of IOM beneficiaries on your website, please write to IOM Ghana to seek written permission. Likewise, please seek such permission when considering presenting information to government officials on behalf of IOM beneficiaries.

Q13: How can I access the profiles of trafficked children in order to make my selection?

A13: You will be asked to complete a questionnaire once you have indicated that you are interested in participating as a sponsor. We will provide you with a number of profiles that suit the preferences and interests you have indicated in the questionnaire and send them to you via e-mail with further instructions about how to enroll in the “Adopt a Trafficked Child in Ghana Project”. The profiles will include some brief background information, which should be kept confidential in to protect the children’s right to privacy.

Q14: For additional information or if you have specific questions that are not answered by this list of frequently asked questions?

A14: Please contact the IOM focal points for the “Sponsor a Trafficked Child in Ghana Project,” Daniel Sam at: dsam@iom.int or Doris Yiboe at: dyiboe@iom.int

