

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL DONORS**

**IOM's Yeji Trafficked Children Project aims to meet the needs of trafficked children and their parents in the West African nation of Ghana. For the past three years, the project has rescued, rehabilitated, returned, and reintegrated 587 children. These children were engaged in fishing under hazardous conditions in Lake Volta at Yeji in the Brong Ahafo and Northern Regions of Ghana. They were brought back to their families and enrolled in schools or apprenticeships in their communities of origin in the Central and Volta Regions and are currently receiving comprehensive rehabilitation, reintegration, and follow-up assistance.**

**Below is a list of frequently asked questions related to this project.**

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

**A1:** There are a number of ways in which you can sponsor a child. IOM Accra is in the process of developing profiles for each of the 587 trafficked children who have been rescued over the last three years.

Through IOM's "Adopt a Trafficked Child in Ghana Project", an individual or group of individuals could choose to support a child based on his or her profile for a minimum of US\$ 20 per month for at least one year.

This support would provide various forms of continuous rehabilitation and reintegration assistance, including education, vocational training, healthcare, psychosocial counseling, mentoring and tutoring programmes, extracurricular educational and recreational activities, and community initiatives that bring children together with their peers and other community members such as football gala and other sports and cultural events.

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.

**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 scheme for trafficked children who have proven to be highly motivated, attend class regularly, and excel academically in their respective schools. Scholarships will enable the children to attend secondary schools and in some cases tertiary institutions, depending on the extent of funds earmarked to support particular children.

Some one-time donations could be used to provide continuous rehabilitation, reintegration, and follow-up assistance to the trafficked children (see the answer to the preceding question).

**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 suffering from forced labor exploitation in fishing communities, it is not feasible to rescue only a few children at a time. It is more cost-effective and practical to rescue larger groups of at least 25 children at a time.

It is more cost-effective to rescue groups of children at a time because the logistics, staff, and time involved in rescuing 2 or 3 children would be similar to those involved in rescuing 25 children. Moreover, children feel more comfortable undergoing the rehabilitation process with their peers, which helps to relieve 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.

Rescuing a child involves a number of processes, which are very costly. Therefore, it is preferable 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 sustainability of results and achievements through the provision of continuous support that will reduce the children's vulnerability to being trafficked once government and other agency-sponsored funding runs out.

This is the main reason that it is encouraged that individuals and small groups virtually "adopt" a trafficked child who has already been rescued and sponsor him or her on a monthly basis. IOM continually seeks and procures funding from 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 25 children at a time and provide them with support for at least two years.

Upon signing of an agreement with IOM covering the entire two-year period of assistance, each individual donor would need to provide funds for the first year.

At the end of the first year, each individual donor would need to provide funds for the second year.

Even though agreements must be signed with each individual donor contributing to a rescue mission in advance, we can only proceed to conduct a rescue mission when we are able to raise enough funds to rescue 25 children and assist them for two years. If we have not raised sufficient funds from the pool of individual donors within one year of the time of signing an agreement with any individual donor or group of donors, IOM will refund the money.

To obtain details of costs, you can contact IOM Accra via e-mail at the addresses provided below.

**Q5: How will IOM account for my contribution?**

**A5:** IOM will issue brief biannual progress updates by e-mail to all individual donors providing regular support to children on a monthly basis. This will include a summary of assistance provided to the children being sponsored by the donors and observations on the progress being made in rehabilitating and reintegrating the children.

If individual donors pool their money to contribute sufficient funds for a rescue mission, more comprehensive biannual progress updates will be sent to all those concerned.

Those who enroll into the “Adopt a Trafficked Child in Ghana Project” will be given a specific report on each child being sponsored on a biannual basis.

**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 resident in Ghana, but in general it would prove too difficult, cumbersome, time-consuming, and expensive a process to send, receive, and distribute assistance to the children when it originates from outside of Ghana.

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

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

**A7:** There are three separate ways in which to account 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 biannual narrative reports on activities undertaken and results obtained by IOM and its partners.

2. If you would like to **adopt** a child or children, it will be up to you to go through the profiles sent to you based on the questionnaires you submitted to us and choose which child/ren you would like to sponsor on a monthly basis. Once you have committed to adopting a child/ren, you will receive biannual progress updates that include financial reports categorized according to broad budget/expenditure lines for the child/ren you have selected for sponsorship.

Until you have committed to adopt a child/ren, information 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 an agreement not to violate the confidentiality of the identity of the child/ren, we will send you full details on the child/ren with photos.

3. If you have contributed funds for a **rescue** mission, then you will receive a more generic financial report on a biannual basis.

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

**A8:** We will guarantee in every agreement that we sign that no more than 20 percent of every contribution will go to IOM or local service providers assisting the children.

In the particular case of rescue missions, which require a number of extra project officers in order to be successful in securing the release of the children, no more than 30 percent of every contribution will go to IOM or local service providers assisting the children.

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

**A9:** You can obtain a detailed description of the Yeji Trafficked Children Project and our other counter-trafficking activities in Ghana in English and French from the IOM Accra website, to be found at <http://www.iom.int/ghana/>

You can obtain more general information on IOM's counter-trafficking activities worldwide from the main IOM website at the following link: [http://www.iom.int/en/what/ct\\_donation.shtml](http://www.iom.int/en/what/ct_donation.shtml)

You can make a donation by clicking on the following link: <http://iomdonations.kintera.org/>

**Q10: Is there an alternative to donating money online?**

**A10:** You can send cheques to IOM Washington DC, Paris, or Accra, or you can make a donation directly to IOM's bank account in Geneva, Switzerland, but this is a less secure, and more costly and time-consuming way of remitting money to IOM.

## **Cheques**

The IOM Washington DC, Paris, and Accra postal addresses are as follows:

International Organization for Migration  
1752 N Street NW Suite 700  
Washington DC, 20036

Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations  
6, Passage Tenaille  
75014 Paris

International Organization for Migration  
1 Tetteh-Fio Street, Shiashie  
P.O. Box 5222  
Accra-North, Ghana

Mention: Trafficked Children in Ghana

## **Bank Account Information**

UBS SA  
P.O. Box 2006  
1211 Geneva 2  
Switzerland

SWIFT: UBSWCHZH12A

To make a donation in Euro, use number: 240-C0145718.4 - IBAN: CH42 0024 0240 C014 5718 4.

To make a donation in Swiss Francs: use number: 240-C0145718.0 - IBAN: CH53 0024 0240 C014 5718 0.

Mention: Trafficked Children in Ghana

**Q11: Can I create an association to raise money for trafficked children in Ghana and then send it 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 as well and send the funds you have raised to IOM, but once again it must be noted 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 Accra at the address provided above 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:** Once you have filled out the questionnaire located on IOM Accra's website at the link provided above (to be developed and made available from August 2006), we will choose a number of profiles that suit the preferences and interests you have indicated and send them to you via e-mail with further instructions on 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 order to protect their right to privacy.

**Q14: How do I obtain more information that is specific to my situation if my questions are not answered or my concerns are not addressed in this list of frequently asked questions?**

**A14:** You could contact the IOM focal points for the "Adopt a Trafficked Child in Ghana Project", **Joseph Rispoli**, at the following e-mail address: [jrispoli@iom.int](mailto:jrispoli@iom.int) or **Eric Peasah** at the following address: [epeasah@iom.int](mailto:epeasah@iom.int) .