



A child participates in the 'Tree of Life' activity. © IOM 2013

“FREE TO BE ME” Campaign and Toolkit

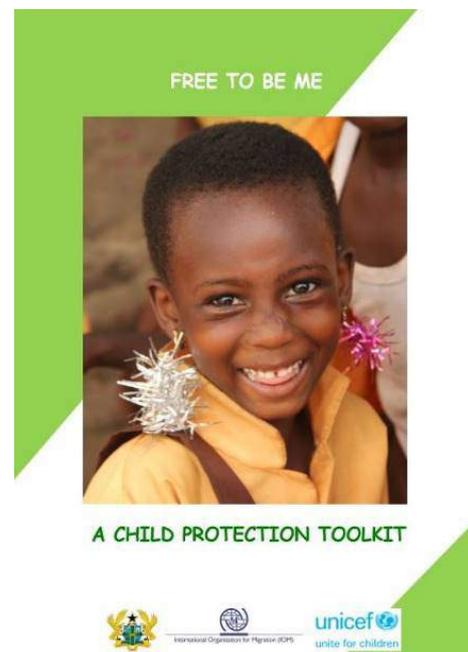
In November 2012, IOM launched a new initiative aimed at building the capacity of local communities to address and prevent child trafficking and protection violations occurring in the Volta region of Ghana. With support from the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), IOM developed a toolkit piloted in 6 communities in Ketu South & North and South Tongu Districts of Ghana’s Volta Region in 2013. Programme partners include UNICEF, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the sector Ministries of Health and Education and the District Assemblies.

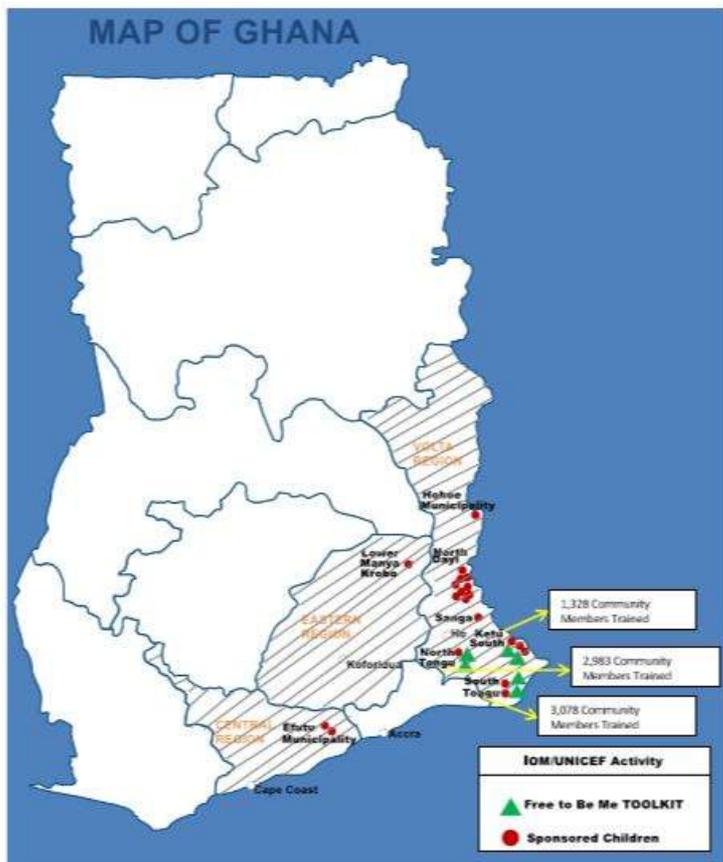
non-profit Breaking The Chain Through Education (BTCTE), for the **sustained support** of the 18 reintegrated children plus an additional 12 reintegrated children to continue after the close of the UNICEF project.

- A total of **7,389** community members were trained during **104** toolkit training sessions.
- An **internal evaluation** of the toolkit and related activities was conducted.

Main Accomplishments

- **Development** of a child protection facilitation toolkit with **12 modules**.
- Formation of a **stakeholder network** and **buy-in** from local and regional leaders.
- Pilot **testing** in 3 of the selected project communities.
- **Training of trainers** on the toolkit.
- **Roll-out** of the CP toolkit (6 pre-selected modules) in 6 communities.
- **18 reintegrated children** in 15 communities were provided with **school supplies** (text books, pens, pencils, erasers, rulers and sharpeners) and **monitored** accordingly.
- IOM formed **sponsorship linkages** with the US-based





future by nourishing them with love and care.”

- * *“Dedicate time and energy to their growth and development.”*

The Fruits: As a child, I commit to...

- * *“Attend school regularly and punctually.”*
- * *“Stop misbehaving towards my teachers and parents.”*



Above: A focus group discussion is held with women. © IOM 2013

Quotes/Testimonials from the Field

Children’s Feelings

- * *“I have realized my present situation as a child.”*
- * *“I have learnt how to keep calm/in good spirits when I feel sad, frustrated and angry.”*
- * *“I can have bright future if I study and work hard.”*

Commitments made during ‘Tree of Life’ Activity

The Roots: As parent, I commit to...

- * *“Be a strong pillar behind my children for their education by providing their books and paying their fees.”*
- * *“Ensure that my children do not go hungry and exposed to all sorts of dangers.”*

The Trunk: As opinion leaders, we pledge to...

- * *“Liaise with authorities so that they can help improve the state of the community.”*
- * *“See the community, the people and especially the children as our responsibility.”*

The Branches: As adult members of the community, we will...

- * *“Be the reasons why the children will have a bright*

Planned Activities

Phase I of the Child Trafficking and Child Protection campaign was completed 31 November 2013. Phase II is currently underway to test the remaining toolkit modules and to strengthen community prevention strategies. Activities of Phase II include:

- Training of staff, stakeholders and facilitators on the 6 remaining modules.
- Roll-out of 6 remaining modules in each of the six target communities.
- Support to and monitoring of 30 reintegrated children.
- Expansion of the toolkit sessions to four communities in Western Region with support from the Dream Foundation Project.

What Is Child Trafficking?

According to the [Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children](#) (2000), “child trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation.” Child trafficking is therefore a violation of the rights of children, their well-being and it denies them the opportunity to reach their full potential.