



Left: Enyoman shortly after her rescue in 2008. Right: Enyoman proudly posing in front of her classroom. © IOM (2008 and 2014)

Trafficking Survivor Reaches Top of the Class

Enyoman* was among the 36 trafficked children rescued by IOM Ghana in 2008. Her mother, who is poor and was struggling to take care of her children, gave her away to a fisherman at the age of five. Her mother was unaware of the fate that soon awaited Enyoman; as the fisherman had promised that her daughter would be well looked after and receive an education. Sadly, Enyoman endured over seven years of forced labour working under dangerous and harsh conditions along Volta Lake.

Before being rescued by IOM, Enyoman had to work from dusk till dawn, casting and pulling nets, scaling, smoking and selling fish. She also had to help with domestic chores and most days, went to bed exhausted and hungry.

Shortly after her rescue, she was reunited with her mother and immediately enrolled in school. Thanks to her determination and hard work she is currently in Junior High School, Form Three, soon to write her Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE). Her academic performance is excellent and she has consistently ranked first in her class and is currently the girls' prefect of her school. Despite the disadvantage of missing school while she was trafficked and the economic difficulties of her family, Enyoman is determined to succeed in life.

During a recent monitoring visit Enyoman commented on IOM's assistance, saying "I am so thankful to you [IOM] for rescuing me and enrolling me in school. I'm happy to be in school. May God bless you".

IOM is grateful to all our donors and sponsors for their support. Thanks to your donations, many children like Enyoman have been given a second chance in life and can now experience the joys of childhood to play, laugh and learn. However much remains to be done. Thousands of children remain enslaved in fishing communities and are in desperate need of help and hope for a better future. Community sensitization is also needed to help end the cycle of child trafficking and prevent child protection abuses.

Together we can make a difference in the lives of rescued children so they can reach their highest potential in life. We invite you to learn more about our counter-trafficking programmes. Please visit our website www.iom.int/cms/ghana.

Considering a donation? A little can go a long way to change children's lives!

*Note: name was changed.