



*International Organization for Migration*

## HELP US FIGHT CHILD TRAFFICKING

**We need your support!**

**The story of “Kwame” illustrates how the project is achieving its goals and can continue to do so in a sustainable manner with continuous support from donors like you.**

***“My name is Kwame and I am now 15 years old. I was rescued by IOM in 2008. While working as a fishing boy on the lake, I had hurt myself and lost my left eye. Thanks to IOM, I have undergone several surgeries and I now have an artificial eye.”***

*“Kwame”  
with his  
injured eye*



“Kwame”, now 15 years old, was among the 36 trafficked children rescued by IOM Ghana in 2008. He comes from one of the fishing communities in the North Tongu District of the Volta Region of Ghana. Prior to his rescue, he was working with a fisherman as a fishing boy in one of the fishing Islands along the Volta Lake.

During his rescue, it was discovered that his left eye was severely injured and needed medical attention. Before being rescued, he informed the IOM team that his injury was as a result of sand entering into the eye but later confessed during rehabilitation that he was injured as a result of diving under the water to disentangle a fishing net. While under the water, a stick pierced his left eye. As he did not receive proper medical attention at the time of the injury, it became infected which led to the removal of his whole eyeball. He was warned by the fisherman never to divulge this information.

During and after rehabilitation, IOM, with the support of private donors, took him through several medical assessments and surgeries at the Ridge and the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospitals in Ghana. Today, a temporary artificial eye has been fixed, while he continues to visit the eye specialist monthly to determine the eye socket’s readiness to receive a permanent artificial eye.



*Kwame (right) in class studying*

“Kwame” now lives with his grandfather and has been attending school since 2008. He is in the third grade. IOM Ghana continues to support the young boy to receive medical attention, school supplies and assisted his grandfather to establish a micro-enterprise.

*“Kwame”  
with  
temporary  
eye after  
surgery*



“Kwame” says he is very relieved not to be in constant pain anymore, and his primary happiness is that he now feels more comfortable among his peers as he no longer has to cover his eye to avoid being teased. This underscores the need for all of us to help combat child trafficking in Ghana.

IOM Ghana

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