



GHANA

THE PROBLEM FORCED LABOR SLAVERY

Ghana's Lake Volta is one of the world's largest man-made lakes. Thousands of children work in its massive fishing industry—and many of these children are held in slavery. Children as young as 4 years old are abused and malnourished. Their work is dangerous; drowning and other hazards are a constant threat. While some NGOs have focused on negotiating the release of children from Lake Volta, there has been very little accountability for slave owners or systemic change in the justice system.



Above: a boy on Lake Volta.

THE FACTS

Nearly **50,000** children work in Ghana's fishing industry, with tens of thousands working at Lake Volta alone.¹



An IJM investigation in 2013 revealed that as many as **60% of nearly 800 children** we observed on the lake may be slaves.

25 million people live in Ghana, and more than 20% of the population lives on less than \$2 per day.²



“It quickly became quite easy—and heartbreaking—to spot the boys who were being held as slaves.”

—IJM senior investigator on his first trip to Ghana

How IJM Ghana Combats Forced Labor Slavery

We will rescue children from slavery in the fishing industry by helping law enforcement locate children being held as slaves, and will work with Ghanaian police and anti-trafficking forces to rescue them and bring them to a safe place.

We will bring criminals to justice by supporting law enforcement partners to collect evidence and by assisting public prosecutors as they take traffickers and criminals to trial for slavery crimes under Ghanaian law.

We will restore survivors by helping them heal from the trauma and finding a safe place where they can thrive—either back home with their families or in a shelter where they will receive an education or job training. We will work with aftercare providers and other NGOs already on the ground.

We will strengthen justice systems by equipping Ghana’s anti-human trafficking unit and law enforcement agencies to investigate and respond to child trafficking, and strengthening the coordination between law enforcement and social services that is essential to successfully prosecuting traffickers.

IJM GHANA MILESTONES

2013

IJM’S FIRST INVESTIGATION

IJM investigators spend six weeks undercover documenting the harsh conditions of children forced to work as slaves on the lake.

2014

IJM GHANA OPENS



FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR KAIGN CHRISTY

Kaign leads a team of Ghanaian professionals to rescue children from slavery and strengthen the public justice system. He first joined IJM in 2004, and he has led IJM teams in Cambodia and the Philippines. Under Kaign’s leadership, nearly 400 victims of trafficking were rescued, and 100 suspects were arrested. Kaign was a lawyer for 20 years before joining IJM.



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INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION is a global organization that protects the poor from violence throughout the developing world. IJM partners with local authorities to rescue victims of violence, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors, and strengthen justice systems.

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