



Thousands of children are trapped in slavery on the shores of Ghana's Lake Volta, where masters force them to wake up before sunrise and fish. Lake Volta covers a drowned forest, therefore the fishing nets are often snagged on dead tree limbs. The boys must dive down into freezing water to untangle the nets, at the same time trying to prevent their feet from getting tangled. If they can't get themselves free in time, they die.

How can you and I continue in our daily lives without taking action to stand against the pain and death that is consuming Lake Volta?

Consider the **the facts**:

- An estimated 10 million children around the world are trapped in slavery. Children, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, are particularly vulnerable to slavery as they can be more easily tricked and manipulated than adults.
- Nearly 50,000 children work in Ghana's fishing industry, with tens of thousands working at Lake Volta alone.
- A 2013 International Justice Mission (IJM) investigation revealed that more than half of nearly 800 children observed on the lake may be slaves. Of those, the majority was under the age of 10.
- 25 million people live in Ghana, and more than 9% of the population lives on less than \$2 per day.
- Ghana's Second Lady, Samira Bawumia, became a powerful advocate for prosecution of child traffickers in 2017.

"What struck me was how small and tiny they were, how young. And they had been expected to do this hard work! These children don't know there is something else they should or could be doing."

—Anita, Director for Aftercare, IJM Ghana