

Information about Elisha

Elisha lives with his family in Bawku East, in Ghana. He was born in 2014 and is one of a family of 4 children. Elisha speaks Kusaal, a local dialect; English is the official language in Ghana.

Elisha lives in a traditional home made entirely from thatch. These homes require regular maintenance and are vulnerable to the elements, including fire. Homes like this have just one room used for daily life and sleeping. Cooking is done outside, and women come together to pound the grains in a communal compound.

Land is communally owned in this community and is mainly used to grow food and cash crops. Women have no control over land or what is grown on it, making it difficult for them to grow enough food for their families. Many families, like Elisha's, keep animals like goats, pigs, sheep and chickens. These provide a valuable source of food and income. Some families own a bullock, for ploughing fields, or a donkey, which is used for transporting goods to and from market.

Small health clinics, staffed by nurses, are available in many communities. They provide basic first aid and treat minor ailments. It takes between 15 minutes and two hours to walk to the closest health centre.

Common water sources in Bawku East include protected sources like boreholes and wells, as well as rivers and streams which are usually polluted. Women and girls are responsible for collecting water and walk between one and four kilometres to reach the source nearest to their home.

In Ghana, primary education is compulsory. But schools in rural areas lack trained teachers, classrooms, books and basic facilities like toilets and water points. This is the situation Elisha face when he attends school. The typical teacher to pupil ratio is 1:55. Many children, especially girls, never progress beyond their primary education due to lack of facilities.

Thanks to your support, we are working hand in hand with the people of Bawku East to develop projects that will help build a brighter future. Our priorities include tackling malnutrition, improving family incomes, increasing access to education, and raising the status of women. Together with your support, we can help change the lives of children like Elisha.

If you would like to write to Elisha, he would love to hear from you. The address is: ActionAid, UK Child Sponsorship Office, Chard Business Park, Jarman Way, Chard, Somerset, TA20 1FB.



Child name: **Elisha**

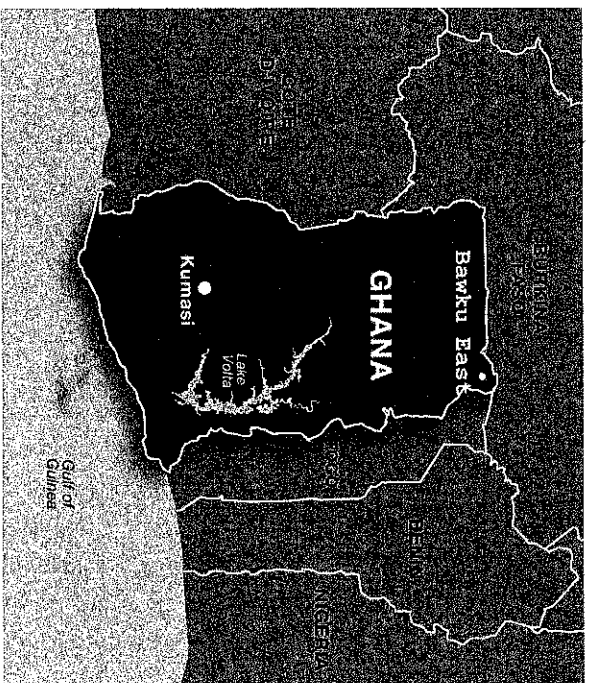
Child reference: GH01204887

Sex: Male

Year of birth: 2014

Ghana

actionaid



This map is for reference only

Life in Ghana, where Elisha lives

The Republic of Ghana is located in West Africa, bordered by the Ivory Coast in the west, Burkina Faso in the north, Togo in the east and the Atlantic Ocean in the south.

Despite being one of Africa's fastest growing economies, many Ghanaians live in extreme poverty. Around 70% of people here rely on farming for food and their income, but they struggle to grow enough to eat. If crops fail, there are few alternatives. This is a situation that directly impacts on children; four in ten children under the age of five are chronically malnourished.

Many children do not receive a quality education. Schools are dilapidated, and qualified teachers and teaching materials are in short supply. In addition, the lack of facilities like water and toilets in schools means children, especially girls, regularly miss their classes. Many children never complete their education and nearly a third of adults cannot read and write.

Despite the national laws to protect women, they continue to face discrimination. Women are often denied their right to inheritance or property. Violence against women and girls is prevalent - one in three women is likely to face domestic

abuse. Even though it is illegal, a fifth of girls are married before the age of 18. By marrying too young, girls miss out on vital years of education and may give birth before their young bodies are ready.

Our work in Ghana

Through child sponsorship, we work in partnership with children, women and young people to build resilience to the challenges they face every day, develop understanding of people's rights and fight for change. Key priorities include:

- **Improving food availability** - we are training farmers in techniques to improve their harvests including making organic compost, rainwater harvesting, creating food banks for future lean periods and providing drought-resistant seeds. We are also supporting communities to build wells and help women to claim their right to land.
- **Ensuring all children gain a quality education** - we are working with communities to encourage parents to send their children to school and lobby the government to provide every school with fully trained teachers, libraries, learning materials and basic facilities like toilets. Through adult learning classes, we are supporting women to improve their reading and writing skills.
- **Women's rights** - we are empowering women to stand up to injustice and violence. As well as providing them with training and support to start small businesses so they can earn an independent income. We are also talking to families about the importance of keeping their daughters in school and allowing them to choose when and who they marry.
- **Learning skills to earn a living** - we are training young women and men to learn a trade, such as tailoring, car mechanics or carpentry. We are also encouraging communities to allow young mothers to return to school and finish their education, as well as helping young women take on leadership positions.

Thank you - these are just some of the many projects in Ghana that your sponsorship of Elisha is making possible. Together we are changing lives in Ghana.