

Survivor Voices of Human Trafficking
Biography
Ishmeal Charles

Born in Freetown, Sierra Leone, Ishmeal Charles was kidnapped by rebel forces during a civil war and forced into child soldiering when he was 12 years old. After two harrowing years, he escaped and got back to his family. Today, he works for Caritas, a confederation of 165 Catholic relief and development organizations operating in over 200 countries and territories worldwide, in a youth intervention project. He now manages 46 staff and volunteers. He co-founded and leads 'The Sick Pikin Project' to raise funds to help children with critical medical conditions. To date, Charles has helped dozens of children, sometimes sending them for medical treatment in more developed countries. His life's work now is to aid helpless, sick, and impoverished children and babies.