

## **Fact Sheet 8**

### **Ground Nuts (Peanuts) in Ghana**

Izaqu has been living with his uncle and his family since he was about 8 years old. He thinks he is now 12 years old, but is unsure of his age. Izaqu is very muscular, tough, well-mannered and savvy. But, his growth is stunted because of the lack of nourishment in his meals. As well, his muscles have not developed properly from all of his heavy labor in the peanut fields.

Izaqu works everyday from sunrise to sunset (6 AM to 6PM) in his uncle's peanut field. He is responsible for planting the seeds, picking the weeds, and tilling the soil with a hoe. When the land is hard and dry, and the peanuts are ready, he must pull them up (they grow like carrots). All of this work requires constant bending. When asked how he feels, he says, "My lower back hurts the most".

The next thing to do is to shell all of the peanuts. Because there are a lot of peanuts it takes many hours to do this. But, since Izaqu has been doing this for many years, he is very quick!

When there are enough peanuts, he will carry a big, heavy bag of them to the market 15km away. This will take 3 to 4 hours each way. It is often very hot (over 30C) and there is little protection from the sun. The bag can weigh over 10 kg. (Think of the small bags of peanuts we buy here and how much they weigh. These bags are a lot heavier!)

Although he works every day on his uncle's farm, he is not a child slave. Izaqu contributes to his family because they need to save for expenses like food and clothing. Izaqu works on the farm because his family really needs him and there is not enough money for him to go to school.

This story is drawn from Sandra Adamchuk's work experience in Northern Ghana. She is the Global Education Specialist for CHF. For more information please feel free to contact Sandra at 1-613-237-0180 ext.210 or 1 (866) 242-4243 or by email at [sadamchuk@chf-partners.ca](mailto:sadamchuk@chf-partners.ca) or visit CHF's website at [www.chf-partners.ca](http://www.chf-partners.ca)