



## ACTS MINISTRY – Burkina Faso

*“Providing love and hope for mother and child”*

Dear Friends,

This letter is to tell you that this may be a year of great misery, death and disease for the people of Burkina Faso, West Africa.



ACTS has already provided a small quantity of corn to the 200 widows coming to the Center located in Saonré, in the district of Komsilga, the first area of ACTS activities.

80% of the people in Burkina Faso are subsistence farmers. They barely survive on what they can produce year to year. The grain that is harvested every September is put away and must last until the next year's harvest. There is no surplus of basic food stuffs as in the US. There is no government aid. Many years when there are poor crops, there are several months of “lean time” when the poor go hungry, eating leaves off bushes stewed in water to fill empty stomachs.

Millions suffer. The poorest, the weakest, the widows and the orphans suffer and die. Today, preliminary reports from the countryside indicate that this year's harvest failed. The precious seeds were planted, but they never grew due to bad weather.

**«After the rain and floods earlier this season, suddenly the rains stopped; therefore rain did not continue to insure a good harvest. This is the widespread condition for the 28 districts of the Southwest region in Burkina »**

--Governor of the region on radio news, October 20, 2007

The Southwest region of Burkina Faso is called the “barn” for Burkina because the food grown in this region of the country feeds the rest of the country. With poor harvest there will be serious famine this year.

A pastor from Wisga (Ouisga) in the district of Arbolé, another village where ACTS works with widows and orphans, said:

**«We have not harvested anything this year; everything dried up. We have never seen a season like this one. »**

UN News Service announced that 18,000 hectares of crops and 2,300 cereal warehouses were destroyed during the floods earlier this summer. Then suddenly the rains stopped and the grain that was left dried up.

ACTS Ministry serves the poorest of the poor. We endeavor to put into practice the commandment of the Lord Jesus, **“love your neighbor.”** Through community development bringing spiritual, economic, social and physical relief to widows, orphans and other poor and vulnerable people in rural areas, ACTS empowers them for a better future filled with love and hope.

The misery and death of millions in rural regions is not “big news.” Jesus said we would always have the poor with us, but we are to do what we can to alleviate suffering and show the Savior’s love. We will be keeping you posted about developments. Please pray.

If you are able to send a donation earmarked for food relief, we would be grateful.



ACTS distributed portions of rice to the widows.

The famine will drive up the price of food staples in Burkina Faso markets. Joanna, ACTS Executive Director, wants to buy food now before the price rises out of sight and we can’t buy any more.

Even a small amount would be helpful. Every penny sent to ACTS Ministry in the United States will be sent immediately to Joanna in Ouagadougou to buy food.

The poor in Burkina are subsistence farmers and have nothing in storage because of the failed harvest. Your help today will reduce death from famine during the coming year.

ACTS Ministry provides daily meals for 725 orphans and 200 widows who are enrolled in our programs. But every day more women and children line up at the gates asking for food. Because of the crop failure additional food will be needed throughout the year. If you would like to help Joanna purchase grain and other food supplies, here is a short list of staples for meals showing how many individuals can be fed.

- **\$77** – 100 kilogram bag of corn ground and cooked with other foods will feed 10 people for 2 months
- **\$25** – 50 kilogram bag of rice mixed with other ingredients will feed 10 people 1 month
- **\$59** – 100 kilogram bag of beans to mix with other food
- **\$28** -- 20 litre bottle of oil for cooking
- **\$ 2** – extra large can of tomatoes for sauces over rice

Thank you very much for partnering with ACTS Ministry in Burkina to smooth the sorrow of orphans and widows. Your gift will bring hope and show that others care about them.

Yours very sincerely,

Joanna Ilboudo  
Executive Director  
Burkina Faso

Sharyl J. Sieh  
President  
USA

ACTS is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agency in the US and a registered NGO in Burkina Faso. All donations are tax deductible.

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