

# BUSOMA — Bigger and Better

For decades, ICCM has supported the production of a highly nutritious porridge called “BUSOMA,” an acronym representing “Burundi Soy/ Sorghum and Maize.” Thanks to our faithful donors, we have provided about \$50,000 a year to support the production and distribution of this life-giving, whole food cereal.

Current statistics rate Burundi as the hungriest country in Africa, and one of the hungriest in

the world. Serving cooked BUSOMA to mothers and young children and distributing kilo bags of dry cereal to widows, orphans and school children has undoubtedly saved many lives. Thank you to all who give sacrificially and regularly to this key strategic initiative!

I have exciting news! BUSOMA production is being modernized and expanded so it can feed more hungry people.

Kibuye Hospital, where our BUSOMA operation has always been, has now become “Kibuye Hope Hospital.” A team of young doctors from the U.S., educated together at University of Michigan Medical School, felt called by God to serve together at a mission hospital. They chose Burundi and Kibuye Hope Hospital in order to combine medical care with education to medical and nursing students at Hope Africa Univer-

sity. I have met several of them — a pediatrician, an optometrist, a surgeon, an obstetrician-gynecologist and a dentist. Together, they are quite a gift!

In 2014 Dr. Jason Fader, the surgeon, told me, “I can’t tell you how frustrating it is to operate on

a patient successfully but then have the patient fail to thrive because of hunger!” At Kibuye Hope Hospital,

like most in Africa, the family of the patient was responsible for the meals; there was no hospital provided food service. Meals were not served to patients. Many patients’ families couldn’t provide enough nutrition for the patients to heal.

Friends of Hope Africa University worked with these doctors and ICCM to come up with a solution. The hospital is now serving patients BUSOMA for breakfast as a portion of a new hospital nutrition program. Approximately 100 hospital patients and 80 family caregivers each day are fed in the hospital.

- ▶ Hunger is the world’s #1 health risk.
- ▶ Burundi is a ‘red zone’ country identified as being among the most affected by soaring food prices.
- ▶ More than 3 million children die from hunger each year. Poor nutrition causes nearly half of deaths in children under five.

Stats from WFP.org / UN.org / worldhunger.org / globalhungerrelief.com



Two thousand children are being fed BUSOMA at Kibuye and Burenza, a clinic extension site. More than two thousand ICCM sponsored children are receiving kilo bags of BUSOMA.

## BUSOMA

Cereal made from:

**Corn, Soybeans, Sorghum.**

Dry the grains. Toast the grains.

Mix the grains, add a little sugar.

Grind (or mill) the grains.

Cooked in water it is a complete food and can sustain life.

In order to meet the need for more BUSOMA, and as part of the expansion of the hospital, the small factory has been relocated to a new building on the hospital grounds and is using new equipment. A covered, open area provides comfortable work spaces and drying areas for the grain in any season, saving electricity (which is unreliable and expensive). The building contains toilets and showers for the workers, a place to store grain and finished product and dry storage for firewood.

Large plastic storage tanks which collect rain water can take care of grain washing for 10-11 months each year.

The new BUSOMA factory and the first two years of the inpatient and outpatient nutrition programs were made possible through a grant from Herman Miller Cares. Formerly, our mixer was a repurposed Maytag wringer washing machine! Now we have a large grain mixer. Soon, thanks to a gift to ICCM we'll have a new hammer mill for grinding the grain. All of this adds up to a tremendous increase in capacity.

Along with this infrastructure



## The Burundi Food Fund supports production and free distribution of BUSOMA in Burundi.



improvement, Burundi Free Methodist Church Bishop Deogratias Nshimiyimana is working with the hospital and ICCM to increase the spiritual impact of these holistic ministries. The new partnership with BUSOMA will involve the hospital and ICCM each purchasing a share of the product, to be given to our respective clienteles.

We are honored to channel the resources our ICCM partners give us to the children who need it most — with a few other very faithful adults along the way to make it, cook it, and serve it!

**A**lmost 2,000 children

in Burundi are currently sponsored through ICCM. Sponsorship covers their school fees and materials, and provides basic life assistance. On behalf of these students and their families, we express deep appreciation to all sponsors. A special thanks goes to all who help one student to achieve the goal of graduation and then say yes to another child and start the journey anew. We are so grateful for your loyalty. God bless you, sponsors!

