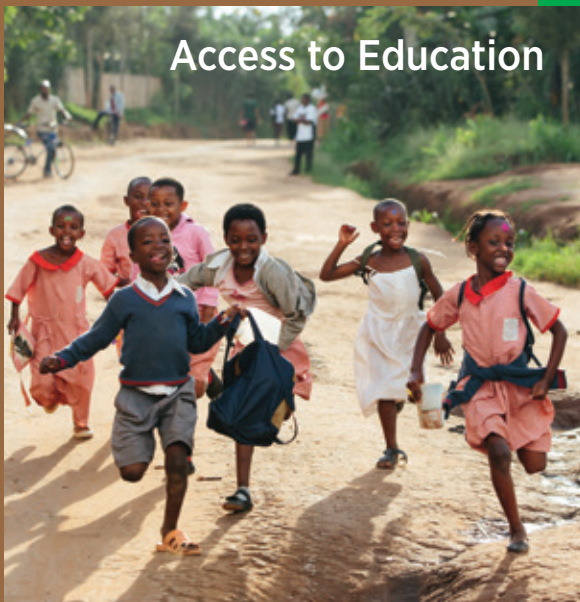


Because people
give, others
can live...

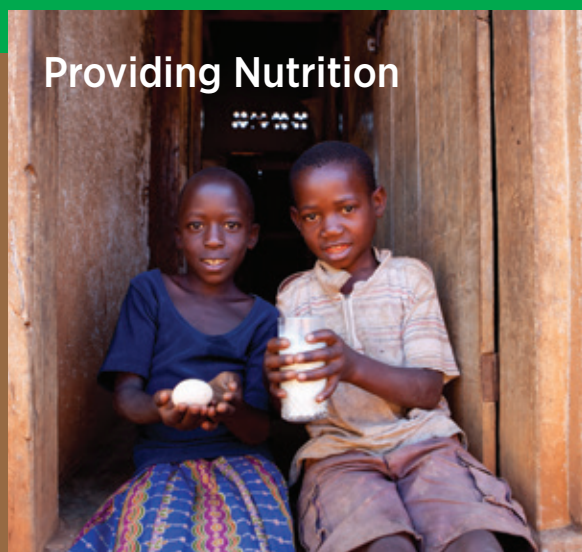


Annual Report **2020**



The strategic priorities which guide Bóthar's work are:


- Sustainable development: Striving for highly efficient agriculture in communities in the developing world;
- Women's empowerment towards gender equality;
- Climate change and environmental degradation; and
- Value addition.



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A close-up, profile view of an elderly Black woman looking towards the right. She is wearing a vibrant, patterned headwrap and a matching short-sleeved top with intricate geometric and organic designs in green, yellow, orange, and black. The background is dark and out of focus, showing horizontal wooden beams.

“The gift is not
just monetary.
It is dignity.
It is hope.
It is love.
It is a life-line.”

Message from the Board of Trustees

Working to empower communities in the developing world is still the most important aspect of our work and our mission, despite difficulties faced.

During the financial year ended 30th June 2020 the board undertook an overall review of the financial affairs and procedures of the organisation. Significant changes have taken place in the organisation since then. All financial controls were examined and overhauled, in line with the Charities Governance Code.

A new board has since been recruited and appointed, using the transparent services of Boardmatch. Today we are embracing the new organisation with full governance and financial controls. We are confident that there will not be a repeat of the past. We are committed to making the best use of our donors' funds which are entrusted to us. We strive to assist as many families as possible in the developing world.

In addition to this we experienced the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic which put constraints on our operating model. We are proud to say that we adjusted to these challenges and continued to support farming communities across the developing world.

We are forever grateful to our loyal donors, and appreciate all of the work, dedication, time and effort that has been given to our organisation by you over the years. We welcome your feedback at any point and hope that you will continue to work together with us in the future.

Board of Bóthar.



“A donation can actually be the difference between a terrible existence and a beautiful life.”

Our Mission



Why we do what we do

Bóthar is proud to be the Irish charity that specializes in livestock in development aid. Bóthar works with families and communities worldwide to overcome hunger and poverty. Bóthar specialises in improved livestock production and support-related training and community development.

By sending Irish dairy cows, Irish dairy goats, Irish chickens, Irish pigs, Irish AI straws, we know that we are working with a quality animal that will yield more than any local animal. Greater yields and a superior output (milk, eggs) results in larger incomes in a quicker period of time. This means that families can turn their lives around much quicker than if they were to rely on local breeds.

An Irish Dairy Cow can produce an average of 20 litres of nutritious milk per day in our project countries. A local African cow produces just 1-4 litres of milk a day.

Each family trains extensively prior to receiving their animal. They have the expert knowledge and they use it. For up to three years after they receive their animal, they will have access to veterinary services so that their animal receives the very best care. Our animals usually live far longer in our programmes overseas than they do here in Ireland because of the individual attention they receive.

**It's a simple idea and it works.
And we are going to keep it simple.**

Short-term solutions do not build communities. It's long term. It's sustainable. And it's working because of support from the Irish public and the Irish government.





Our approach

Bóthar's approach is different to other NGO's operating in the field. The beauty of Bóthar is that it provides very practical assistance to destitute families. Through a gift of a food-and-income producing animal we are equipping them with the tools to change their circumstances themselves. After a family receives the gift of livestock, enormous changes in health and nutrition are evident straight away. But the most dramatic improvement is in the recipients sense of self-worth. Each participant gains knowledge and understanding that they carry with them for the rest of their lives and impart to others in their network. It is the gift that keeps on giving.

Passing on the gift

Beneficiaries become donors as each family that takes part in Bóthar projects must formally agree to pass-on to another selected family the first female offspring born to their animal. (In the case of the bee, rabbit and chicken projects the recipient family must save money earned from the sale of produce and offspring and with this must purchase breeding rabbits, flocks of chicks or hives to pass on to other families that have been trained to receive them). In this way the gift is multiplied and over time many families and even whole communities benefit.

Accountability

Before a farmer ever receives an animal, they must train and prepare to receive their animal, so that they can maximise the gifts their animal can give. Each farming family will report to the Bóthar team at regular intervals throughout the year. If an animal is not yielding as it should, steps can be taken to ensure that productivity increases. Bóthar is now supplying all donor farmers with Heifer Progress Reports which highlight how their gift has impacted on the recipient family.



Sustainability

Bóthar encourages and facilitates sustainable development in all the projects we support in a number of ways. The codependent ecology of plants and animals is evident in all of our projects, where plants and tree plots are established alongside our livestock, thus maximizing the gains of both. In the case of our heifer projects, manure is used as a natural fertilizer while animal urine is used as an insecticide which in turn leads to the improved production of the plants and fodder which returns again to the cycle to feed the animals. In this way both the stock of the beneficiary and the surrounding plant life mutually prosper.

Improved Animal Management

As Bóthar project recipients know, it is in the farmer's best interest to provide the best possible care for his or her livestock. The knowledge that improved care leads to improved productivity compels the beneficiaries to take great care of their animals for the simple reason that the health and well-being of the animal is directly linked to the owner's own prosperity. Seeing as the animals are the primary source of income for project families and the fact that the farming is done on an easily manageable scale means that in many cases the animal lives for several years longer than they would in large scale farming enterprises. To many families, the animal's importance is such that it is treated very much so as part of the family.

Nutrition & Income

Receiving the gift of an Irish dairy cow or goat will be the first time that many of the families Bóthar works with will earn an income and this gift of a food-and-income-producing animal is like winning the lotto. Once family takes what they need for themselves, they sell the surplus. This extra income allows them to buy other foods that are rich in nutrition and improves their overall diet and health. Additional income is also used to send their children to school.

Building Communities

When there are many farmers in one local area and milk yields are high, the greater community benefits through the establishment of creameries. By supplying to the creamery, who in turn can sell the milk in bulk, higher prices can be commanded. This has a knock-on effect in the local community as people have a little extra money and can buy additional items at market and avail of more services. It's a win-win for everyone in the village.

“Receiving the gift of an Irish dairy cow or goat will be the first time that many of the families Bóthar works with will earn an income”



Bóthar Working in Africa



Improving poor farmers' livelihoods and enhancing capacities through projects in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Rwanda.

Malawi: Karonga Safe Water for Women and Rural Communities

Natural disasters such as droughts and floods have affected households in Malawi throughout history. Water has become a silent crisis for far too long.

This Safe Water for Women and Rural Communities Project aims at addressing water challenges faced by women and young girls in household and primary healthcare facilities in four villages throughout Northern Malawi.

The main goal of the project is to improve access to safe and clean water for 5,000 people including 1,000 vulnerable women and girls in the targeted areas.

The project aims to develop two community-based solar-powered water distribution systems in order to provide a clean water supply, sanitation and health. Solar-powered submersible pumps will be used to pump water from drilled boreholes through a stand-alone chlorinator. Solar power will be used to power the pumping of water from a depth of between 45 to 60 metres.

The overall objective of the Project is to improve access to safe, clean drinking water for vulnerable household.

Zimbabwe: Women Inclusion and Empowerment Project in Bikita District-Masvingo Province

In Zimbabwe, poverty affects 72% of the population. This project reached 375 women smallholder farmers' households and their families and aimed at adapting, building resistance to drought, floods, pests and human diseases affecting their lives.

Implemented by Bóthar strategic partner Heifer International Zimbabwe, this project enhanced and consolidated capacities and skills learned in the previous projects supported by Bóthar with matching funds of Bank of Ireland Staff World Fund.

Young women (aged below 35) were deliberately targeted in this project as a way of engaging them into community activities, setting up 15 self-help groups. Participants attended intensive training on Capacity Building on small grains production, animal management and health, enterprise development, savings and credit and linking farmers to markets, on low cost feed formulation, environment management, among others.

The project provided an opportunity for self-transformation, resilience building and adaptive capacity to resist threats and external shocks.



Rwanda: Pandemic Relief Aid for Rwanda

Msaada (Dignity through Self Sufficiency) sought immediate relief aid to distribute two meals in one day and sanitary items including maize flour, beans, rice, cooking oil, salt, sugar, soap and fuel to 980 extremely vulnerable families (7,850 women, men and children) in the Eastern Province of Rwanda. These families are locked down due to the current disruption caused by the Covid 19 virus.

The distribution of aid was overseen by Msaada Rwanda staff, working in co-operation with the local district authorities. Rwanda is currently under strict lockdown in an effort to contain the spread of Covid 19 throughout the country. The measures to enforce lockdown are affecting everyone in Rwanda more especially the poorest people. Those people struggle just to have food for more than one day. The “stay at home” measures to enforce lockdown has greatly affected them.

This was a small 4 day project costing €2,950 and was successfully implemented.



Bóthar Working in Eastern Europe



Albania: Supporting poor family farms in Albania

The main objective of this project is to improve the lives of 35 farming families by gifting each of them an incalf Irish dairy heifer and assist in developing small scale dairy farms. The aim here is to improve nutrition and increase income for the family.

Project participants will improve their skills and knowledge of cattle production through training and technical assistance provided from our project partners, Livestock and Rural Development Centre (LRD). The main outcomes from this project will be:

- More milk and milk products for the family.
- Better income.
- Improve the health of the children and adults.
- Possibility for children to go to school.
- Greater farming knowledge and skills.



Kosovo: Improving rural livelihoods in the regions of Shtime and Gjakova

During the period covered by this report 90 families in poor rural communities received Irish heifers in Shtime and Gjakova region. Other 45 were expected to receive pass ons. This project aimed at improving the livelihoods of small-holder farmers through developing of animal farms, improving cow's milk value chain (milk quality, processing and marketing of cow's products), as well as getting skills to increasing agricultural production. The project also was geared towards increasing the number of quality cows and increasing the family income. To implement this project, Bóthar longstanding partner Meshqerra carried out thorough training with farmers participants. This training started before receiving the animals and continued afterwards and during the life of project. Families which take part of the pass ons also participated. Training included breeding, learning about the conditions for milking cows, and other aspects of animal farm management including the impact of Ecological factors in Animal Well Being. This is an ongoing project which is expected to end in 2020.

Bóthar Working in Asia



Nepal: Strengthening smallholder enterprises of livestock

2020 saw the final year of this 3 year project in Nepal, where a total of 1715 families were helped.

This year has been affected by the pandemic of COVID-19. A nationwide lockdown started in Nepal on March 23, 2020 which is part of this reporting period. While the complete lockdown was gradually relaxed, there were other restrictions and precautionary measures that were enforced. This situation affected many small holder farmers who were unable to transport their Agri-products to the market. Some planned project activities had to be halted. Heifer Nepal proposed to introduce new measures to help continue with the planned work during the pandemic.

In this context, Bóthar kindly assisted Heifer Nepal by providing a vehicle to address the need for farmers to bring their products to the market and overcome transport restrictions that were having serious consequences in farmers' livelihoods, which was leading to the reduction of their family incomes and waste of products.

Overall, the project has had a very positive response. The community has now taken ownership of the project and the local government has matched additional funds to extend the project to an additional two areas in the region.

Self-Help Groups have formed through a Values Based Holistic Community Development (VBHVD) approach, which helps individuals and their communities to unleash their potential and benefit from resources around the.



Our Board

The directors of Bóthar Company that served during the reporting period are detailed below.

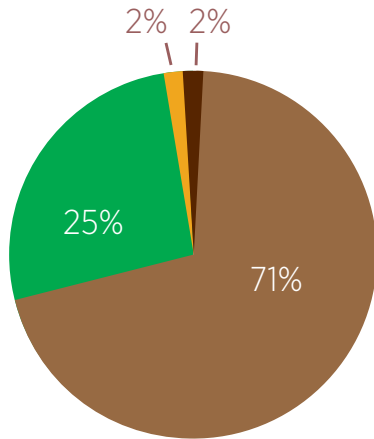
Chairman: Mr. Harry Lawlor	- Foods Exporter, Co. Cork
Vice Chair: Ms. Sinead Baggott	- Solicitor, Co. Limerick
Secretary: Mr. David Moloney	- CEO, Bóthar
Archbishop Dermot Clifford	- Clergy, Co. Tipperary
Canon Tom Sherlock	- Clergy, Co. Kilkenny
Mr. Pat Lavin	- Accountant, Co. Limerick
Ms. Helga Morrow	- Office Manager, Co. Dublin
Mr. Thomas Blackburn	- Dairy Farmer, Effin, Co. Limerick
Mr. John Finucane (<i>deceased in office 24.01.2018</i>)	- Farmer, Co. Limerick

Financial Information

Statement of Financial Position	2020	2019
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	1,016,820	1,038,023
Current Assets		
Debtors	228,194	224,775
Cash at bank and in hand	697,310	577,860
	925,504	802,635
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	546,395	213,263
Total Assets less current liabilities	1,395,929	1,627,395
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	94,300	175,440
Provision for Liabilities	11,064	12,362
TOTAL NET ASSETS	1,290,565	1,439,593
Charitable Fund		
Unrestricted Funds	1,290,565	1,439,593
Total Funds	1,290,565	1,439,593

Statement of Financial Activities Incorporating Income & Expenditure Account		
Income	3,446,174	4,623,788
Total Income	3,446,174	4,623,788
Expenditure on:		
Charitable Activities	2,786,987	3,931,138
Cost of Raising Funds	410,235	57,335
Exceptional Item	399,854	187,768
Total Expenditure	3,597,076	4,692,241
Operating Surplus / Deficit	150,902	68,453
Gains on Investment	1,874	15,457
Gains on revaluation of assets	0	309,454
Net movements in Funds	149,038	256,458
Surplus brought forward	1,439,593	1,183,135
Net movement in funds	149,028	256,458
Surplus carried forward	1,290,565	1,439,593

Distribution of Funds



Income 2020	€000	%
East Africa	1,975,202	71%
West Africa	62,087	2%
Asia	53,210	2%
Eastern Europe	696,488	25%
Total	2,786,987	100%

Total Programmatic Funds €2,786,987



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