

Communities continue to strengthen and grow under the Bóthar programme. Bóthar specialises in the empowerment of poor rural communities in the developing world. Since its origins, Bóthar has focused on the provision of livestock (primarily in-calf dairy heifers and in-kid goats) and training to needy families in developing countries.







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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, HARRY LAWLOR

When I think of the families Bóthar helps every year, I am reminded of the wise words of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.

#### "For it is in giving that we receive."

In 2017, because of the generosity of our partners, Irish Aid, Heifer International, Msaada and the constant generous donations received from the Irish public, Bóthar had another successful year fulfilling promises to struggling families and changing their lives for the better.

Sounds simple when put like that, but it takes a lot of planning and expertise to ensure that the projects that we fund are successfully coordinated.

As is testament to our supporters, our fundraising income was slightly up on the previous year however overall income was down due to the decrease of larger legacy gifts.

Even with this decrease in overall income, Bóthar was able to meet all of its programming obligations and every family that was promised an animal received their life-changing gift, received the necessary training in the months prior to receiving their animal and will benefit from three years veterinary support to ensure the animals receive healthcare of the highest standard.

This year we also continued to work with Co. Kildare priest, Fr. David Conway, on the drilling of an additional borehole in the East Pokot region. This area of East Africa suffers from severe drought. Feedback from Fr. Conway has been nothing short of excellent and even when faced with difficulties in the course of the project, Fr. Conway found a way to get it completed, saving and improving hundreds of lives in the process.

That's his motto – "Never give up". Words to live by. Because if we give up on helping others, who will help them? I continue to be humbled by the amount of people, down to earth, honest to goodness people, who want to give some of what they have to help someone they have never met. In essence this is what charity is all about.

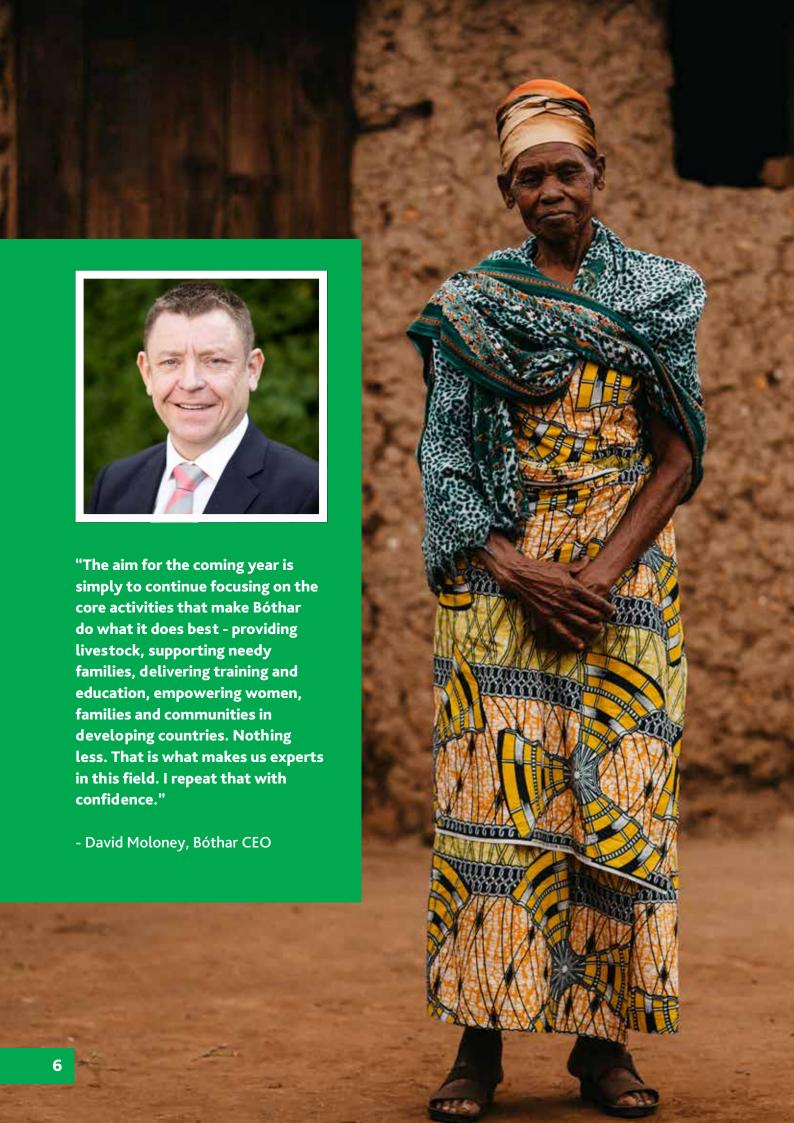
I am proud to be associated with a charity who fulfils its obligations and goes above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that each family gets the animal they were promised. Bóthar does that and more. It gives dignity, respect and above all, hope to hundreds of families every year who would otherwise be forgotten.

And finally, I am genuinely excited about what the coming year will bring for Bóthar and all the families it supports. The future is bright for Bóthar. Amongst the many opportunities being developed are plans to reach poor farmers in rural Malawi and Tanzania whilst continuing to support many programmes in developing countries including Rwanda, Zambia, Nepal and Eastern Europe. We aim to help deserving farming communities who are struggling to survive. The climatic conditions are very suitable for Irish dairy cows and goats and the villages are reachable as local infrastructure is improving all the time, thanks to international aid.

Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine.



Harry Lawlor Chairman



## MESSAGE FROM BÓTHAR CEO, DAVID MOLONEY

As I look back on 2017, I can say we had a good year, in that we delivered what we set out to deliver. And for that, many families, who a year previously may have given up hope, were presented with the opportunity of a new life.

We continue to deliver our lifechanging Irish dairy cow and goat programmes in Africa and Eastern Europe.

In Kenya we are working with Co. Kildare priest, Fr. David Conway, bringing clean water to the drought-ridden region of Barpello, East Pokot in Kenya, East Africa. We have had great success there in terms of providing water for individuals, families, communities and livestock. If you thought about the scale of the problem before you tried to solve it, you might shy away from it, but little by little, community after community are benefitting. Small steps that eventually create big impact.

That's what we have been doing since 1991. Making small measured steps each year, but the impact left in villages in Africa and Eastern Europe mean hundreds of thousands of people have had their lives changed forever. That is quite an achievement and it cannot be done without help from people like you and from our partners, Irish Aid, Heifer international, Masada, our donor farmers and our programmes with the Irish Prison Service.

The sustainable nature of the Bóthar approach is best highlighted by the fact that families who receive an animal must donate the first female off-spring or the equivalent value of what they received to another needy family. The beneficiary becomes a donor and the benefit multiplies within the community. Bóthar places significant emphasis on 'Adding

Value'. Therefore, even in the absence of new livestock from Ireland, new families continue to receive livestock. To further enhance financial sustainability, Bóthar has established revolving funds and micro-credit loans in many projects, which provide local people with the resources to purchase animals, goods or other necessities. The repayment of the loan, reimburses the fund and provides credit opportunities for other families. Bóthar is continuing to support and also plan to develop more co-operatives and establish further groups (women's groups, community groups) in programme countries. Bóthar continues to promote and foster gender empowerment, which is key to success within the programme countries.

In Ireland, our Spring Calf Appeal means that we are securing top quality dairy cows to export. Big milk yielders that will make a difference to the families they are being sent to. Our relationships with Shelton Abbey Open Prison and Loughan House Open Prison are still going strong nearly ten years on as the project continues to make a difference to people here and halfway across the world.

We continue to come into line with the changes in GDPR and are constantly striving to strengthen links and communications with donors, supporters and volunteers in Ireland. We are in the process of broadening our educational programme with schools, institutions and support groups.

These things take time but we are getting there.

The aim for the coming year is simply to continue focusing on the core activities that make Bóthar do what it does best - providing livestock, supporting needy families, delivering training and education, empowering women, families and communities in developing countries. Nothing more. Nothing less. That is what makes us experts in this field. I can say that with some certainty.

Writing this message I am safe in the knowledge that we have exciting new developments, which I will be able to share with you as the months go on. These projects will provide Bóthar with new opportunities to help new families.

I want to thank you for continuing to trust Bóthar to deliver your donation to where it is needed most.

I want you to know that if you ever want to know something, just ask. Someone is always at the end of the phone or email.

With best wishes for the year ahead.

Yours faithfully,

**David Moloney** 

CEO

## **OUR MISSION**



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 be 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 uses cornerstones to evaluate the impact of the work being done in the field. 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.

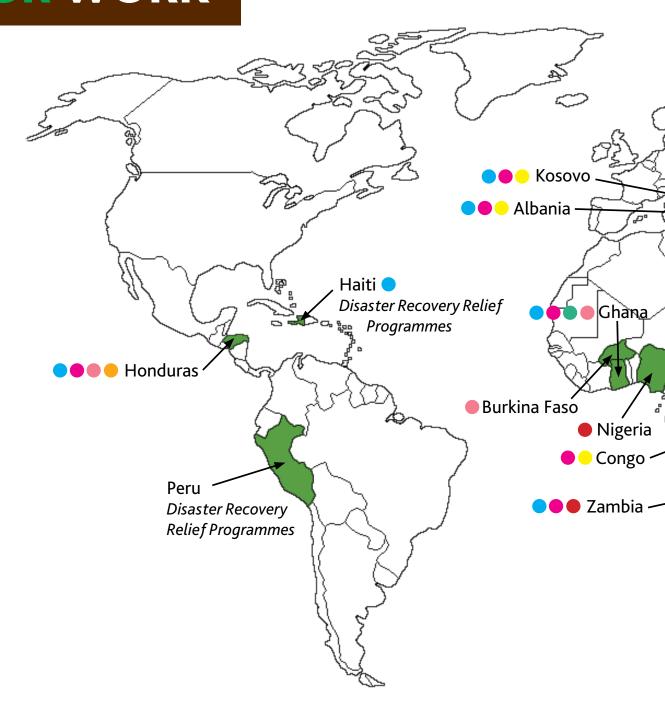
#### **BUILDING COMMUNITIES**

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.

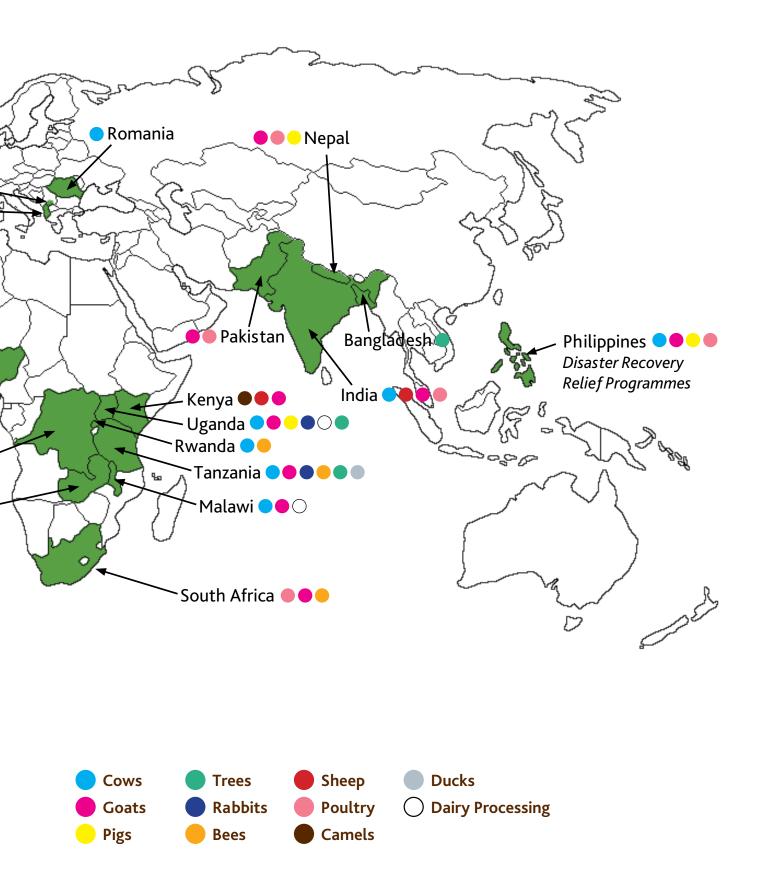




## **OUR WORK**



During 2016/17 Bóthar supported 26 projects in 12 countries in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. By way of example some typical projects are briefly described in the following pages for Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe.



# **BÓTHAR**WORKING IN AFRICA

Improving poor farmers' livelihoods and enhancing capacities through Dairy Projects in Malawi and Zambia.

#### **MALAWI**

# Building Resilience of vulnerable rural communities: Livestock and Food Security Project

In Malawi, one of the poorest countries in Africa, Bóthar worked closely with SSLLP Small Scale Livestock and Livelihoods Program) in two of the worst-hit districts in the country. The 2014-2015 rainy season saw Malawi being hit devastating flush floods that had terrible effects on human life and dignity.

The project areas were Magoti Extension Planning Area in the Nsanje district and Mitole Extension Planning Area in Chikhwawa district in southern Malawi. The overall goal of this project was to ensure sustainability of food security and poverty reduction through enhancing the resilience of rural livestock farming systems. Specifically, the project sought to revive livestock small enterprises affected by climate change impacts such as the flash floods and to enhance resilience and reduce vulnerability to effects of climate



change in rural smallholder livestock farming systems.

The main beneficiaries of the proposed project were flood victims from the poorest segments of the community who raised livestock.

The project targeted 2000 households, in the project districts who were being trained and equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to address the problems at hand. The total funding provided for the project was €21,667.

#### **Success Story:**

Januale and his wife are pictured showing some of the eggs they collected from the poultry project. Mr Januale said that the project has opened the eyes of farmer communities regarding good livestock management. He mentioned the improvement on the farmers' understanding of the Newcastle Disease



Mr. Akson Januale received 6 week old Black Australop birds.

Vaccination programme, livestock diseases and treatments, a high adoption rate of good livestock housing, feeding and management. Furthermore, he says the manure from the small poultry unit that they have improves soil fertility surrounding his homestead as evidenced by his maize garden. Sale from the surplus eggs provides a little extra income for his family.

In years gone by, in this particular area, it had been very difficult to collect data from the field due to limited number of veterinary field staff available. But this project has trained 10 Livestock Lead Farmers that assist to bridge that gap. It also provided them with all necessary materials and equipment for their work starting from start-up veterinary drugs, drug boxes, work suits, and bicycles. The programme also refreshed some of our field Agriculture staff that are now able to deliver basic livestock extension. This has reduced pressure from farmer communities for livestock services.



#### **KENYA**

Fr. David Conway, a priest from Co. Kildare, has been managing water projects on our behalf, in the drought ridden area of Barpello, East Pokot in Kenya, Africa. Read his report of how the community is getting on after funding from Bóthar.

#### Tilingwa Community Bore Hole.

July 27th 2017 we began to drill for water after having three Hydrogeologist Surveys. We had promised that we would drill water for the primary school. Chemyas has 363 pupils with a total of six teachers. The school has one "pit latrine" (dry toilet) for the total population. The staff room is located under a shade tree. Classrooms are made of timber and mud walls, the seats are made of dry branches.

Due to the extreme conditions we promised a "Bóthar" bore hole. Up to now the children are bringing "Dam Water" for cooking and drinking in the school. The local hand dug dam is not fenced, animals are free to enter to drink, leaving their deposits. Malaria among other water-borne diseases are common every day events.

We engaged a Hydrogeologist Mr. Musimi from Machakos to do a survey. He did the survey on the last Bore hole and was very successful! He found water at 150mts, as it was a very small amount we ended up drilling the same to 220Mts.

As there was so much at risk we consulted a Mr. Kamau for a second opinion and he found water at 145Mts again a very small amount. Now we had two drills, we went with the first and called back Mr. Musimi for a confirmation, both drills after 365Mts were dry. The Hydrogeologist looks at the "rock formation" and gives his conclusion based on what he finds, even a small quantity of water, found, will show up positive. The Hydrogeologist is independent of the Drilling Rig company. The Driller goes on the report of the Hydrogeologist and drills as the survey suggests and has to be paid for same.

A month later we employed a new Hydrogeologist who used in addition a GPS along with his own equipment. He found water in the remote area of Tilingwa, about 70KMS from Chemyas/Barpello at 150 Mts. We drilled 150 Mts and got a good supply of water.



**Beneficiaries:** 

Tilingwa Primary School has 174 boys, 142 girls, 2 Pokot Teachers, 2 teachers from outside East Pokot and 2 volunteer untrained teachers. The school relies totally on the borehole for cooking and in the cleaning the school.

The area has a second primary school who equally rely on the borehole, Adich primary has 118 boys, 52 girls, 1 Pokot teacher, one from outside and 2 volunteers (Untrained teachers).

Tuwit Primary (3) has 104 boys and 75 girls.

There are also three remote ECD (Early Child Centers) with up to 60 children in each.

Up to now, the community in times of drought carried water from the Kerio River some 10 Kms away but this activity had to end because of insecurity making the Bothar Borehole a "God Send".

Tilingwa community is remote and isolated, the community has a dispensary. The dispensary has clinic every day, especially for immunizations and attending to mother who seek ante-natal treatment. The dispensary has about 110 clients/patients per week.

Tilingwa has a community of 180 households with a population of 1,100 people who are served with water on a daily basis from the new borehole.

The bore hole has been a big success and is serving this remote community. There has been a significant decrease in Water-Bourne diseases, with the cattle trough, the area of the borehole is kept clean.

With many thanks.

David Conway, C.S.Sp.



## Integrated Livelihoods Agribusiness Support Project (ILASP)



This project was kindly supported by Irish Aid.

#### **Project Summary and Key Updates**

- 180 families received livestock: 100 families received an in-calf dairy heifer each, 47 received a Pass on the Gift (POG) dairy heifers each and 33 families received 7 goats each. These animals helped to create an asset base for improving nutrition and income for the project participants.
- 1,948 families actively participated in training, entrepreneurship skills training, access to market through bulking facilities and linkages established with the private sector, veterinary services, Artificial Insemination services, agro forestry, conservation farming and pasture development.
- 257 families grew a variety of pasture species (pigeon peas, banner grass, sun hemp, and leaucaena, mulberry and velvet beans) to feed

their livestock, to improve soil fertility status and the environment.

• 72 groups were formed for the purpose of bulking farm produce (milk, cow peas and goats) for sale, organisational capacity, easy information flow and enhancing social capital. The associations are involved in aggregating agricultural produce like milk, crops and goats on behalf of its members and then sell the produce to more lucrative and profitable markets. Bulking of produce reduces the cost of doing business for farmers as the cost of transport is shared and in most cases, the buyer collects the produce from the source. The government came in to establish a modern milk collection after seeing the effort of the community and appreciating the large number of people the facility will serve.



#### **Success Story:**

### A dairy heifer brings hope to Maureen's family

Bóthar, along with Irish Aid, is working with families in the Kabwe district of Zambia.

Maureen's life changed dramatically when her husband was involved in a road accident and lost his right leg. He frequently got ill and eventually, he lost his job. In a bid to help her husband, Maureen spent huge sums of money in taking him to different hospitals and on medication. no longer able to survive in the city, Maureen moved to Kabwe's Balaka village.

"I never thought of engaging in farming. In order to survive, I depended on seasonal jobs. I could barely pay school fees as a result, my children stopped going to school." she said. Whilst nursing her husband, Maureen joined a community group which was scheduled to receive a heifer from the project funded by Irish Aid and Bóthar. "In 2013, I received one dairy heifer and since then, my income has improved from milk sales. From the cornerstone trainings, I have learned how to be business

oriented. I have a garden and always keep records." she said. I'm deeply indebted for the help I received," she said.

Ever since Maureen started selling milk, she has managed to pay school fees for her 6 children and 4 grandchildren. In addition to this, she has already passed on the first heifer to another family. "Now that I have been empowered, I miss my late husband even more. I always wished for a better life at the time he was sick. It's a pity he died without seeing my life prosper again".



## BÓTHAR WORKING IN EASTERN EUROPE

Bóthar still making a difference after 17 years in Romania.



#### **ROMANIA**

**Capital:** Bucharest **Population:** 19.71 million

**Population below poverty line: 25.4%** 

Bóthar's first project in Romania was initiated in 2001. Since then, there have been number of projects there involving a variety of animals, including fish, dairy cows and sheep. Through this partnership, over 700 hundred Irish heifers have found a new home with in Romania, significantly contributing to lifting struggling families out of poverty and hunger. Through the "Passing on the Gift" component and the donation of artificial insemination straws several thousands of families have received support from Bóthar.

Romania is a country that is steeped in history and unfortunately poverty. Although one of our EU neighbours, the people of Romania face a daily struggle to survive. With nearly 25% of the population living below the poverty line, there are plenty of struggling families who need our help.

The Roma community has been in the news for other reasons but the focus really needs to be on tackling their abject poverty, which in their Eastern European homelands can be as bad as anything we see in Africa. Probably one of our biggest challenges with our Eastern European projects is to get it across to people that the poverty there is as bad as anything we see across the world and the Roma people we deal with are amongst the most impoverished of all.

Bóthar has been working in Romania for approximately 17 years and the majority of the Roma people Bóthar deals with aren't nomadic. They are really honest people who don't want to move, don't want to have this awful daily battle for survival, but in many instances have no support and are even ostracised and excluded from basic things like education. What Bóthar does is give them the opportunity to stay in their homeland and free them of the daily worry of putting food on the table for their children.

The Roma people Bóthar works with typically live in small country villages, battling dreadful poverty, where their day-to-day lives are a constant battle for basics that we take for granted, like food and clean water. Unlike Bóthar's African locations, they also have to deal with the harshest of winters, often with 10ft plus snow falls. It's frightening to think in



Women are often the head of the household in the farming families we are working with. By giving them an Irish dairy cow along with the training and veterinary support for three years after, you are essentially giving them the keys to a successful business.

Women, who are often marginalised in the Roma community, can use the income from the sale of the surplus milk, to buy materials to produce other goods. Here a Roma lady makes slippers to sell to tourists.

this day and age that our European neighbours are living in conditions like this.

If we don't help these families, the alternative is a move to the bigger cities of Cluj and Bucharest. Being uneducated, the chances of having to take unsuitable, unsavoury employment opportunities are quite high. For those left behind in rural villages, family life breaks down if one or two parents have to relocate to support the families they leave behind. Huge social problems develop in their absence.

easy to understand that the heifers we deliver, along with the training we give the families, change their lives.

The heifers provide recipients with a daily nutritious milk source and the surplus allows them to sell milk and make yogurt and even cheese as they grow their herd. It really changes everything for these people. They are so grateful for this and we, in turn, are grateful to our supporters who are enabling us effect this huge and positive change in the lives of some of the poorest people on the planet.



Bóthar has a project in Roades outside the second largest Romanian city of Cluj Napoca. Many of the Roma people there basically live off dumps and scavenge for food and clothes. Some of them have small holdings of 2 to 4 acres and with a little guidance from us they develop them to be suitable for a cow. So it's



Irish dairy cows are providing a solution to the problem of rural unemployment.

# **BÓTHAR**WORKING IN IRELAND

Bóthar educates young people in schools on our work in developing countries.

The Bóthar na nGabhar in primary schools and the Bóthar na mBó aim is to educate children in Ireland about the lives that children in the developing world lead; and to raise funds to send Irish dairy goats to individual families in the developing world.

Bóthar works with Shelton Abbey Open Prison and Loughan House Open Prison as part of their Restorative Justice Programme, hand-rearing donated Irish friesian calves until they are in calf and ready to be sent to their new homes in the developing world.



Huge thanks to Clonmellon National School, Clonmellon, Navan, Co. Meath. They had a dodgeball tournament and raised an incredible €733 to send 2 goats and 2 sets of rabbits to help struggling families in the developing world. An amazing amount of money to raise. Well done to each and every one of you!





Great smiles all round! Huge thanks to Principal Wendy Gillespie, teacher Siobhan Hunter and the students of Castlepollard Parochial School, Co. Westmeath. The twenty-student school raised  $\leqslant$ 509.00 for a dairy goat and 50 chicks. Great going guys! They did a sponsored walk, hair dying and some students even swam in the local river! Well done and thank you to all. Pictured here are the students presenting a cheque for  $\leqslant$ 509 to Maureen Purcell, Bóthar.



Students from Cashel Community School, Cashel, Co. Tipperary were delighted to hand over this cheque for €750 to Bóthar recently. A lot of hard work went into it but their efforts were rewarded! From Christmas dinners to leg waxes, the students and teachers dug deep for Bóthar. Thank you one and all.

## **OUR TEAM**



David Moloney *CEO* 



Niamh Mulqueen

Chief Operating

Officer



Maureen Purcell

Donor Care

Manager



Elaine Moynihan
Financial Accounts
Manager



Pat Mullins
Livestock
Procurement and
Airlifts Officer



Maria McCormack *Airlifts Co-ordinator* 



Aisling Matthews

Tax Efficiency

Officer



Kate Finucane
Marketing and
Communications
Manager



Olivia Cumiskey Committed Giving Officer



Mags Moloney Donor Care



Barry Moran

Corporate

Relations Manager



Aideen O'Leary Resource Development Manager



Patty Abazaglo
Programme Manager,
International Development &
Organisational Strengthening

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

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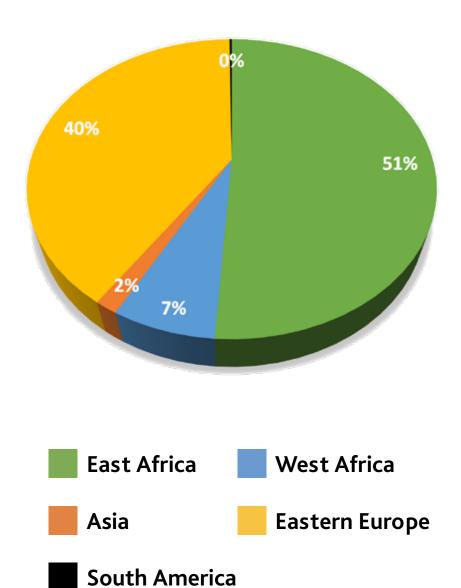


## FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	2017	2016
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible Assets	780105	759947
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	101361	2476
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>777998</u>	<u>1357153</u>
	879359	1359629
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due		
within one year	(155108)	(582596)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>724251</u>	<u>777033</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	1504356	1536980
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due		
after more than one year	(370176)	(467544)
Provision for Liabilities	( <u>33459</u> )	( <u>23188</u> )
NET ASSETS	<u>1100721</u>	<u>1046248</u>
CHARITABLE FUND		
Unrestricted Funds	<u>1100721</u>	<u>1046248</u>
Total Funds	<u>1100721</u>	1046248
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATION	TING INCOME & EXPEND	DITURE ACCOUNT
Income	5869620	6150846
Irish Aid Grant	120000	200000
Total Income	5989620	6350846
Livestock Provision and Support	(5199744)	(5198238)
Cost of Raising Funds	( <u>735403</u> )	( <u>704893</u> )
OPERATING SURPLUS/DEFICIT	54473	447715
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	-	<u>4316</u>
NET MOVEMENTS IN FUNDS	54473	452031
Surplus brought forward	1046248	<u>594217</u>
Surplus carried forward	<u>1100721</u>	<u>1046248</u>

## **DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS**

#### Distribution of funds per region %





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