

BÓTHAR'S THEORY OF CHANGE



Context

Bóthar works in rural communities in both fragile and development contexts.

Direct Target Groups

Women Youth

Indirect Target Groups

Children Men Disabled

Vision

A world where rural farmers, women and men and their communities are able and capable to live a fulfilled life with dignity using all natural resources (land, animals and water) in a sustainable manner with equality and respect for each other.

The long term changes that need to happen in the lives of these target groups

Bóthar's interventions contribute to:

- Resolving power imbalances where elites and ruling classes maintain the power and employ it for their own good and not the good of the entire society
- Women's empowerment as a key process in reaching gender equality and, through that, sustainable development
- Improving the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a dignified life
- Reduce disaster risks through systematic efforts and increase resilience
- The sustainable use and development of natural resources
- Access to the physical, social and economic to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets the dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life
- Families are able to generate or increase in household income through agricultural activities and capabilities acquired.

Rationale

Explains why specific outcomes are needed in given contexts and why interventions carried out in a certain way are more likely to bring about change.

1. Bóthar supports the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. Bóthar supports Ireland's ODA strategies and goals.
3. Over 75% of the countries Bóthar works in are fragile or very fragile states where women and youth are specifically disenfranchised as a result of conflict, or/and climate change/environmental degradation/geological degradation and socio natural hazards.
4. Empowering women results in a better chance for communities to reach gender equality and, through that, sustainable development.
5. Empowering youth and increasing the quality and quantity of opportunities available to young people makes possible their full, effective and constructive participation in society. There is a strong demand for partnership by national and local government as well as local CSO, FBO, Co-operatives and NGOs to develop capacity for sustainable development.
6. Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience and good environmental and agricultural practices better protects rural communities from external shocks and stresses.
7. Over 1.5bn of people in all of Bóthar's target countries are rural based and rely on agriculture for their livelihood.
8. Quality livestock are unavailable in these contexts.
9. Irish livestock thrive in these contexts.
10. There is a strong demand by local rural communities for Bóthar themes and approaches.
11. There is strong support from the Irish agriculture community to support Bóthar's 'hand up' programming.
12. There is an innovative and strong network of Irish support for Bóthar's approach to sustainable development e.g. prison livestock management, schools.

Assumptions

Beliefs about the conditions that already exist and are not problematic to the validity of the ToC

Assumptions about the context and the actors and factors at play

- Fragile states suffer food insecurity and lack social protection for the vulnerable and poor, particularly in rural settings
- Bóthar's target countries suffer from climatic, environmental and geographical degradation and socio natural hazards as a result of their low development and fragile contexts
- Local geographic and weather conditions are suitable for Irish livestock to thrive
- Local communities support the empowerment of women and youth
- By promoting development education in Ireland, opportunities to increase levels of equality and home and in development context are higher and complex social, justice, economic and environmental issues linked to development can be addressed more inclusively and sustainably
- By working with the Irish farming community transfer of technical knowledge and support in terms of assets to Bóthar's target countries is increased

Assumptions related to the pathways of change

- Female empowerment promotes gender equality and sustainable development
- Youth empowerment and access to livelihoods promotes peace, stability and social inclusion
- Disaster Risk Reduction Resilience reduces exposure to hazards, lessens vulnerability of people and property, promotes wise management of land and the environment, and improves preparedness for adverse effects
- Food security gives all people, at all times the physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life
- Sustainable livelihoods means individuals, families and communities can cope with and recover from
- Stress and shocks and maintain or enhance capabilities and assets both now and in the future without undermining the natural resource base.

Assumptions related to conditions for and quality of implementation

- National and local government country growth strategies include agriculture – livestock and vegetables
- Local partners have the capacity to implement Bóthar programmes
- Local rural communities have the capacity to manage and house Irish livestock sustainably
- Risk to animal welfare in transit is low
- Local conditions mean livestock can thrive in these countries
- Storage of and conditions for veterinary supplies is appropriate, safe and secure
- Availability of quality livestock in these countries and regions is minimal

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