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BÓVINE

BÓTHAR NEWS UPDATE - SUMMER 2020

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PLEASE
PASS ON TO
A FRIEND

COVID-19
URGENT
APPEAL

SPECIAL REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM BÓTHAR CEO, DAVE MOLONEY

Dear Friend,

We find ourselves living in extraordinary times and I hope that this message finds you and your family well.

There are many people who have passed away during this time and if your family has been touched by the virus, please accept my deepest sympathies.

It has been a truly desperate time for so many families here in Ireland.

In the countries where we are working, Covid-19 has also had a huge impact. Huge social and economic costs. But they do not have a wage subsidy scheme, a Covid-19 payment, a decent healthcare service to help them through this. They have little to nothing.

This is not new to the families we are working with. They have come from a place of "little to

nothing" and have spent years trying to eke out a living from very primitive conditions.

Families with amazing resilience and hope.

But this is probably the greatest living crisis facing our farming families because the world that once helped them is now facing their own difficulties.

But they still need our help. Your help.

For the past number of weeks, the Bóthar team has been discussing and planning how best we can support our partners to respond to needs arisen from COVID19.

It has been very challenging.

We are facing problems that we never faced before.

We are working to get help where it is needed, so that families who are already so vulnerable,

can benefit.

Families who would normally go to their local market to sell their goods, cannot. With nowhere to sell their goods, there is no income. With no income, no government subsidy, no welfare payments, no handouts of any kind, no savings, families are facing a grim reality.

And we still haven't even tackled the spread of disease. Hand sanitizer, running water, plastic gloves are luxury items in the rural communities where we work. They are rare.

Entire families crammed into makeshift dwellings that have the most basic services.

Social distancing cannot exist here.

Can you imagine?

I struggle sometimes because I feel helpless as to what these families are going through.

But, the good news is

that with your help, we can help.

We are currently working with our project partners on delivering emergency supplies of food, because that is what is needed most urgently. In addition to food, seeds are also being delivered, so that there will be food on the table in the weeks and months to come.

Our learned President Michael D Higgins echoed my thoughts in a recent opinion piece in The Irish Times, 23rd April, 2020

"While Covid-19 is a global threat, it is the

most vulnerable who are most at risk."

I hope you can support our urgent Covid-19 appeal.

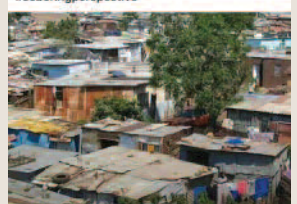
Yours faithfully,



Dave
Dave Moloney,
CEO, Bóthar

While we navigate our way through Covid-19, let us think of those less fortunate than ourselves. Spare a thought for those where social distancing is just not possible.

A thought-provoking quote by a doctor in India:
"Social distancing is a privilege. It means you live in a house large enough to practice it. Hand washing is a privilege too. It means you have access to running water. Hand sanitizers are a privilege. It means you have money to buy them. Lockdowns are a privilege. It means you can afford to be at home. A disease spread by the rich as they flew around the globe will now kill millions of the poor."
#soberingperspective



**What will life be like for them during and after Covid-19?
IT WAS HARD ENOUGH BEFORE IT...**

**COVID-19
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Support our Covid-19 Urgent Appeal today
Call **1850 82 99 99**
or visit **www.bothar.ie**



Bóthar, Old Clare St., Limerick V94 X4X9. Tel: 1850 82 99 99

Bóthar Northern Ireland, The Mount, 2 Woodstock Link, Belfast BT6 8DD. Tel: 028 90627308





Please read this report from our Nepalese representatives Shriya Khadka and Neena Joshi and Bóthar's International Development Programme Manager, Patty Abozaglo.

TO date there has been no reported cases of Covid 19 amongst our farming families.

The biggest risk facing Nepal is the threat posed by open borders with India.

Restrictions are easing to ensure that planting season is not missed with farmers being granted permission as essential workers to work in the field and transport food and vegetables.

The impact is felt at economic level. Markets are not functioning. Farmers cannot sell their animals. There are restrictions for farmers to operate. They need quick cash crops to keep going. With inactivity resulting from the



Women farmers participating in the project are grateful for the support provided. It has made them stronger as individuals and as organisations and institutions.

lockdown, things are looking quite bad. Sowing season is coming and if there are no seeds planted, there won't be food at time of harvesting.

"Many of us may not be able to restart the farm at the same scale. We need some immediate support of seeds, fertilizers, and inputs so that we can revive our farm, despite the loss."

In Dhading, there is a very strong community

spirit. Villagers are acting as "watch dogs". They know who are the most vulnerable and speak out, making sure those who are, get support available from the government. This gives little space for corruption. This attitude in the community comes from the experience of the earthquake that affected 70% of the population.

Women from the project have been instrumental in this as they are very outspoken. This has had

a positive impact on Bóthar's project in the area and local government has been very supportive to farmers of the project.

But this is not enough to survive. With help from Bóthar, the following supports could be provided to farming families.

Ways in which the Bóthar Covid-19 appeal will support farmers in Dhading district:

- **Focus on food security and water/sanitation** rather than medical equipment, which are being provided by other NGO's.
- **Farmers need to become self-reliant.** This is necessary at this time as markets are restricted at the

moment.

- **Farmers need cash flow to buy food.** The Nepalese government has donated some food packages. This is not sufficient.
- **Farmers need seeds** and manure from their own animals can be used.

People are becoming more accountable, and are showing that community structures have become stronger and are working at this time of crisis.

Training and education provided through Bóthar's programmes here have helped our farming families focus on "social capital".

We wait in hope for further help. Thank you.



Please read this report from Bóthar representative Sute Mwakasungula.

THE impact of COVID-19 on the community is mainly affecting the selling of their agricultural produce. Karonga, being a border district some 700kms away from Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi, depends more on buyers and vendors from neighbouring Tanzania.

The borders between the two countries are closed, which has reduced trading. As a result prices for buying farmers agricultural products have gone down. This is impacting hugely on their income, but there is no government subsidy to offset this loss and it is

having knock-on consequences.

The harvest season is the only time that farmers can have some money in their pockets and also save some cash to plan for the next agriculture season. The few vendors therefore reap the profits of farmers, as there is no competition. It is very unfair.

Local markets are experiencing food shortages as food items are not forthcoming to local markets due to restrictions on the number of people that are allowed to gather at one time.

Boreholes have put restrictions on the number of women allowed to draw water, resulting in delayed water chores at households.

Funeral gatherings have been restricted to few close relations of the deceased, which really works against the norms and traditions of the community.

All these issues have completely affected the way of living for our farmers and we are very uncertain for the future if the disease spreads like it has in the rest of the world.

With your help, we can help...



Pictured are the deserted streets of Kigali during lockdown. No deaths have been recorded in the capital. For now, the most urgent request is to provide food. People in the rural areas where Bóthar operates its programmes have very limited food sources.

Rwanda



Please reads this report from Bóthar representative Damascene Ntambara.

DAMASCENE and his team are ensuring all preventative measures are being adhered to, whilst staying in contact with beneficiaries and caring for the animals. To date there have been no deaths and none of our farming families have been infected. Just like everyone here in Ireland, they are doing their best, but they do not have government benefits and many do not have access to clean running water.

"I hope you and everyone at Bóthar and your families are doing well. I, my colleagues, our families and all our beneficiaries are fine and none are affected

with COVID-19 yet. In a bid to contain Covid-19, the government of Rwanda announced a lock down and put in place precautionary measures, which everyone in the country including our beneficiaries are obliged to abide to. Such measures included closing all borders except for goods and cargo as well as Rwandan citizens and legal residents returning to Rwanda, frequent washing of the hands with clean water and soap, the meetings/ gatherings are completely banned, the unnecessary movements are banned, restaurants, bars and hotels closed.

The food stores are

allowed to open from 7:00 am and close at 3:00 pm local time. People who are selling food are supposed to keep a distance of one meter while delivering their services (one meter distance between the customers/ clients).

As the weeks go on, these restrictions are being relaxed. While it is easier for those in urban areas to access food, it remains quite difficult for those living in rural villages as many traditional food routes have been closed.

When staff are called for insemination, treatment of animals or provision of technical back up, we put on the masks, go with hand

sanitizers, put on gloves, and we always observe one meter distance from the beneficiaries where the interventions are taking place. During this period, we only go to the field on call.

So far so good, none of our staff or beneficiaries are affected. We are scared though, because most of our beneficiaries are old, have other chronic diseases and different vulnerabilities mostly resulting from the Genocide which all weaken their body immunity and may aggravate the disease should it attack them.

Our biggest problems right now in our projects are sanitation

and hunger. We are worried that if the virus gets there, it will spread very quickly. Many of our families are living in cramped conditions with basic services and do not have access to hand sanitizer or running water.

As the local markets have not yet reopened, families cannot sell the milk their animal is producing, they cannot buy other food items and food is scarce. Worryingly so. Without government supports, we are their only help.

I fear for the coming weeks and months ahead.

I wait in hope."

*Kindest regards,
Damascene.*



IMMEDIATE RESPONSE REQUIRED TO HELP FARMERS IN WARDS 19 & 22 OF BIKITA DISTRICT IN MASVINGO PROVINCE, ZIMBABWE

Please read this report from Bóthar representative Kainos Musvinu.

THE government of Zimbabwe is faced with a challenge to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has mainly relied on well-wishers for the provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) and testing kit.

They have not been adequate for an effective response that can help mitigate the spread of the virus.

The lockdown parameters of restricting movement and trade may be helpful in urban centres and for those families that were able to stock up on food supplies.

However, for those that survive on hand to mouth, the restrictions have a negative effect.

More than 24% of the population is unemployed and of those that are economically active, only 23.2% are formally employed while the rest are informal. This

makes it difficult for families to remain indoors and this leads to them risking going out to fend for their families.

A rural setting poses a greater threat to the spread of the pandemic. Rural communities must fetch water, firewood, go to the grinding mills, access rural service centres, and herd their livestock – all of which are done at open communal points.

This means that at any given time, a household member is exposed to the risk of contracting the virus when they are at a communal borehole fetching water or the local watering hole where they water their animals.

Some households rely on borrowing tools from neighbors to complete some chores and given how long the virus can survive on hard surfaces, they risk contracting the virus through sharing of tools amongst households.



Coupled with the lack of proper water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities and a lack of adequate minimum PPE, the rural population may be at a higher risk of contracting and spreading the virus.

Social distancing and frequent washing of hands may prove near impossible for rural households due to the nature of their livelihood activities.

We urgently need help to improve farmer preparedness in the response to COVID-19. This objective will be achieved in two main ways:

- 1) **Make farmers aware of how COVID-19 is spread and measures to take to avoid this.**

This will be achieved through activities that raise awareness on what COVID-19 is, how it is spread and what measures can be taken to reduce its spread. One of the key activities will be the provision of information in local languages (flyers, pamphlets, podcasts, and animated videos). Coupled with this, will also be trainings and information on how to properly care for those that are

suspected to be infected with COVID-19 without risking transmission to other family members and avoiding the stigmatization of those that would have contracted and recovered from the pandemic. This could cause difficulties for someone living in the community.

- 2) **Farmers have basic sanitation and hygiene material to ensure a COVID-19 free environment.**

This output will be achieved through the provision of fabricated tippy taps that will be used as hand washing facilities in homesteads. The intervention will also provide young women farmers with protective equipment, bio-security material, alcohol-based sanitizers, face masks and other protective clothing.



Organise a Fundraiser

Help raise funds for Bóthar during the Covid-19 crisis

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* Walk run or cycle within the recommended radius of your home and help raise funds for a struggling family right now in the developing world.



Pictured here is Gerry Furlong who picks litter off the streets of Portlaoise and gets local businesses to support him. To date he has fundraised over €5,500 for Bóthar! What will you do?

Use your time to change a life in the developing world

Phone Barry on: **061414142**
or email: **barry@bothar.ie**



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What will life be like for them during and after Covid-19?
IT WAS HARD ENOUGH BEFORE IT...

Support our Covid-19 Urgent Appeal today.

Call **1850 82 99 99**
or visit **www.bothar.ie**
or Fill out this form and return, along with your payment, to
**Bóthar, Old Clare Street,
Limerick, V94 X4X9.**

STEP 1 Please accept my gift towards the Covid-19 Urgent Appeal of:

☐ €50 ☐ €250 ☐ €1,000
☐ €125 ☐ €500 ☐ Any other amount € _____

STEP 2 Enter your details:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____

STEP 3 Help us minimise our administration costs:

☐ I would like to receive my receipt by email. Please fill in your email address above (Step 2)

STEP 4 Choose your payment option:

☐ I would like to pay by Cheque/Bank Draft/Postal Order (We recommend that you do not send cash).
Please make cheques/bank drafts/postal orders payable to Bóthar.

OR

☐ I would like to make my contribution by Credit/debit card (delete as appropriate)
Please debit my Visa / American Express / Visa Debit / MasterCard


Card No: _____
Expiry Date: _____ CVV No: _____

Please confirm total amount: € _____

Signature: _____ Today's Date: _____

STEP 5 Choose your mailing options: (how many mailings would you like to receive from us?)

Newsletter only ☐ Christmas & Easter only ☐ All mailings ☐
Email only (fill in email address above) ☐ No postal mailings ☐



**SUPPORTERS CLUB
SUMMER DRAW
2020**

**CASH PRIZES
TO BE WON**

**COVID-19
URGENT
APPEAL**

Your Supporters Club Draw entry will be supporting our Covid-19 urgent appeal.

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY

Call: 1850 82 99 99
OR Enter online: www.bothar.ie
OR Fill out this form and return, along with your payment, to Bóthar, Old Clare St, Limerick, V94 X4X9.

STEP 1 Choose the number of entries you wish to purchase:

☐ 7 Entries €100
 ☐ 3 Entries €50
 ☐ 1 Entry €20

STEP 2 Enter your details:

Name:

Address:

Email:

Telephone Number: (so we can call you if you win)

STEP 3 Help us minimise our administration costs:

☐ I would like to receive my receipt by email. Please fill in your email address above (Step 2)

STEP 4 Choose your payment option:

☐ I would like to pay by Cheque/Bank Draft/Postal Order

Please make cheques/bank drafts/postal orders payable to Bóthar. (We recommend that you do not send cash).

☐ I would like to make my contribution by Credit/debit card

Please debit my Visa / American Express / Visa Debit / MasterCard (delete as appropriate)

Card No:

Expiry Date:

CVV No:

Please confirm total amount: €

Signature:

Today's Date:

STEP 5 Choose you mailing options: (how many mailings would you like to receive from us?)

Newsletter only ☐

Christmas & Easter only ☐

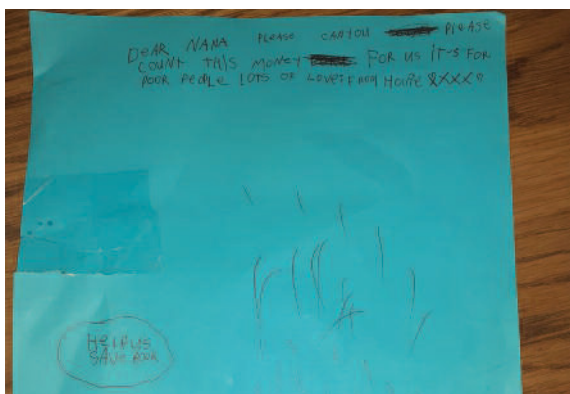
All mailings ☐

Email only (fill in email address above) ☐

No postal mailings ☐



This picture was taken before social distancing measures were in place. Big thanks to Scoil Iosef Naofa, Moy, Lahinch, Co. Clare who raised €430 for Bóthar's work. Well done and a great big THANK YOU to all involved.



Eight year old Hollie Moonan gave €150 of her own money to help. Her very proud granny, Vera Moonan, from Drogheda, Co. Louth told us the heart-warming story and sent us in this letter and drawing done by Hollie. What a kind girl you have. Thank you Hollie for your support.



Pete's BIG BIRTHDAY WALK

Pete is walking **52km** within his 20km radius on Saturday, June 27th

PLEASE SPONSOR PETE

Call: 1850 82 99 99
or donate online at:
www.bothar.ie



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Help Pete raise funds for Bóthar's Covid-19 Urgent Appeal to help already struggling communities in the developing world.

