

YOU HERD IT ON THE BóVine



Why we do what we do

Bóthar is proud to be the Irish charity that specialises in livestock in development aid. Bóthar works with families and communities worldwide to overcome hunger and poverty. Bóthar supports sustainable development through improved livestock production, related training and community initiatives.

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) result 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. Because of the training they have 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.

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

For more information
visit our website
www.bothar.ie



Bóthar Working in Eastern Europe



Albania: Goat project to improve the quality of many lives

This project has been implemented in Perondia and Rogozhina, Albania. Farmers participating in this project, which started in 2021 and continue until 2024 will improve their skills and knowledge of dairy goat production through training and technical assistance provided from our partners LRD. Training session will focus on goat breeding and management, feeding and reproduction, disease prevention, milk quality and home processing of milk for cheese and curds. Dairy goats are very valuable indeed. The milk yield from local goats in Albania is about 1/4 of a litres per goat. However, Irish dairy goats, donated by Irish farmers through Bóthar have a milk yield that's three times higher. The main outcomes from this project will be more milk and milk products, better income for the family, improved health and greater knowledge and skills of the farmers and their families.

Increasing the number of quality cows and increasing the family income in Eastern Europe.



Kosovo: Improving rural livelihoods

Our cow project in Kosovo is aimed at improving the livelihoods of farmers through training and education with an emphasis on improving cow's milk value and learning marketing skills to help with the sales of milk products. To implement this project, Bóthar's longstanding partner Meshqerra carried out thorough training with the participants. This training started before the farmers received their animals and will continue for the duration of the project. Training includes animal breeding, milking, health, animal welfare, and farm management. This is an ongoing project.

Bóthar Working in Africa



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

Malawi: Tropical Cyclone Ana

A 3 year Emergency Relief and Resilience Project, running from 2022 to 2025 has been set up by our partners SSLLP and funded by Bothar following the tropical cyclone Ana. "Ana" has heavily impacted Malawi and has led to widespread flooding across the country. This 3 year project seeks to provide immediate food and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) support to affected families, revive crop and livestock enterprises affected by the flash floods, supply of water filtration systems and also to enhance resilience and reduce vulnerability to effects of climate change.

Rwanda: Widows Empowerment Project

We continue to work with our already established livestock projects in Rwanda, and we are in the process of expanding! This includes the Widows Empowerment Project. This project will see us continue to work with vulnerable genocide widows in the East of Rwanda to better their farms' productivity, improve their gender relations and involvement of women and girls in decision making, establish small enterprises to increase their household incomes and introduce crop sowing all with the aim of improve their livelihoods.

Tanzania: Agricultural Farm to Support Trafficked Victims

We are working with DMI, Daughters of Mary Immaculate, Tanzania to support their project "Agricultural Farm to Support Trafficked Victims". Tanzania has a high rate of men, women, and children trafficked for forced labour and sexual exploitation. DMI are working to support and give a safe haven to these victims at their Farm Centre while providing rehabilitation programs, counselling, life skill training and teach farming skills. The DMI Farm includes chicks, goats, rabbits and a piggery. There is also a big focus on sowing seeds and trees.



Bóthar Working in Asia



With full support of the local government, the project has expanded to reach more families. Success also perceived in improved nutrition through household dietary diversity, kitchen gardening, gender and justice, and reproductive health.

Participants have engaged in homestead vegetable production, and have changed their existing practices and behaviors regarding food consumption. Other areas where change at family level is perceived are personal hygiene and environmental health.

Nepal: Strengthening women smallholder farmers' marketing and production of Goats value chain for poverty reduction and economic growth in five wards of Siddhalek Rural Municipality, Dahding district

Nepal is another of the poorest countries of the world with 25% people living in poverty with high rates of disease, malnutrition and child mortality. This was a four year project. Implemented by our partner Heifer International Nepal, this initiative aimed at integrating input supply, production systems, core market actors and the enabling environment for a sustainable, inclusive goat value chain. 1,391 families, represented by women, are being empowered and organised in Self Help Groups and a Cooperative.

This project was visited in September 2019 and Bóthar are satisfied with the impact it is having in the communities.





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 maximising the gains of both. In the case of our heifer projects, manure is used as a natural fertiliser 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 a 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.



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