

Because people
give, others
can live...



Annual Report **2023**

Contents

Message from the Board of Trustees	5
Our Mission	7
Our Approach	8
Our Work	11
Success Stories	14
Our Board	15
Financial Information	16



Message from the Board of Trustees

Dear Stakeholders,

As we reflect on the remarkable journey of Bóthar over the financial year 2023, we are filled with gratitude and pride for the achievements made possible by your support. The Board of Trustees is profoundly aware that the foundation of our success lies in the dedication of our partners, volunteers, and donors who together strive to create a meaningful impact on the communities we serve.

In 2023, Bóthar has continued to harness the power of sustainable agriculture and gifting of livestock, helping families break the cycle of poverty and empowering them towards self-sufficiency.

This year, we have witnessed an increase in the number of families benefiting from our innovative programmes. Through emergency response in Malawi; strategic partnerships in Rwanda and grassroots initiatives in Kosovo, we have started to rebuild our reach after a period of adjustment within Bóthar.

A livestock gift is not just an animal; it represents hope, opportunity, and a stepping stone towards a brighter future. We are proud to report that our beneficiaries have experienced improved livelihoods and enhanced food security as a direct result of their participation in Bóthar's initiatives.

Looking ahead, we are committed to furthering our mission by embracing new sustainable practices. Our focus will remain on education and community engagement, as we believe that empowering individuals with knowledge is key to lasting change. The resilience of our communities inspires us daily, and with your continued support, we aim to create even more opportunities in the years to come.

Thank you for being an integral part of Bóthar's mission, and we look forward to achieving better results together.

Regards

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 the Irish international charity that enables families and communities worldwide to overcome hunger and poverty and to restore the environment in a sustainable way, specialising in improved livestock production and support-related training.

Our Vision

Bóthar offers practical solutions to rural families. One of the charity's impactful programs involves gifting livestock, such as Irish dairy cows, to struggling families. Unlike local breeds that typically yield about 4 litres of milk per day, Irish dairy cows can produce up to 20 litres. This significant increase in milk production not only provides families with enough for their daily needs but also allows them to sell surplus milk, generating crucial income. This newfound financial stability enables families to purchase essential food items, access medical care, and invest in their children's education. As a powerful testament to their success, families become self-sufficient over time and are encouraged to share the prosperity by passing on the first female calf to another family in their community, ensuring the gift of livestock continues to thrive and uplift others. By focusing on livestock as a sustainable solution to poverty, Bóthar is significantly contributing to transforming lives and fostering stronger, educated communities.

Our Work


At the heart of our agricultural programs are the animals that empower farming families to improve their livelihoods. The safety and well-being of these animals is our top priority. From the initial sourcing to the moment they are received by new families, we do our utmost to ensure that our animals are safe, healthy, and comfortable throughout the entire process.

We partner with farmers who are committed to providing only the highest quality livestock. Our projects focus on sourcing premium animals to guarantee the best beginnings for each recipient family. Before welcoming an animal into their care, families undergo an extensive training program designed to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary for effective animal husbandry.

To further support the well-being of these animals, we offer veterinary assistance for up to three years following the initial gift. This ongoing support helps maintain their health and ensures that they produce optimal yields for their new families. Once the animals are settled and thriving in their new environment, we send updates to the original donating farmers, keeping them informed about the positive impact their gifts continue to make.

A unique aspect of the Bóthar program is our emphasis on community benefit. Each family is encouraged to "pass on" the first female offspring of their animal to another family in their community. This not only maximizes the benefits of the original gift but also fosters a spirit of sharing and cooperation. Over time, this approach allows entire communities to flourish, building a sustainable agricultural ecosystem that supports many families.



A close-up photograph of a young child with dark skin and short, curly hair, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The child is holding a light blue plastic cup. In the background, other children are visible, slightly out of focus, also holding similar blue cups. The lighting is warm and natural, suggesting an outdoor setting.

“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 Tanzania



Tanzania: Farm Training to Support Trafficked Victims – Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Since 2003, Daughter of Mary Immaculate (DMI) have been supporting vulnerable groups of trafficked women and children, through various development programs. DMI is working with these groups to help them understand trafficking issues, educate, rehabilitate and finally help reintegrate them with their families and communities. In addition to counselling and rehabilitation, DMI teach farming and agriculture skills and livestock management at their care centre, Spring of Hope. These skills give the women and children the tools to help them eventually be self sufficient.

Bóthar has funded a one year Project with DMI which will see 50 woman farmers and 45 trafficked girls directly helped.

The outcome of this one year funded project will see increased agriculture and livestock training for trafficked victim along with counselling, supports and education.



Bóthar Working in Malawi



The Malawian Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) played a crucial role in the distribution of these filters, ensuring that they reached the district councils of Salima, Phalombe, and Chikhwawa. The filters were distributed in emergency camps set up for those displaced by the cyclone, providing a vital resource to mitigate health risks associated with contaminated water. So far, SSLLP has delivered a total of 15 pallets of these life-saving filters to DoDMA in Blantyre district, reflecting the dedication of Bóthar and SSLLP to improving the livelihoods and health of communities impacted by natural disasters in Malawi.

Malawi: Emergency relief

The Bóthar and Small Scale Livestock and Livelihoods Program (SSLLP) has played a pivotal role in supporting vulnerable communities in Malawi following the devastating impact of Tropical Cyclone Ana in 2022. In response to the immense challenges faced by families in the regions of Phalombe, Salima, and Chikhwawa, the organisations launched the “Malawi Integrated Emergency Relief and Resilience Project.” This initiative aims to address immediate needs by providing food and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) support while also promoting long-term resilience through crop restoration and the provision of livestock, along with essential training for sustainable income generation.

The project targeted 2,000 households, reflecting a comprehensive approach to both short-term relief and longer-term recovery.

A significant aspect of this project was the donation of 11,000 water filters to enhance access to clean drinking water. These filters reached Malawi in April 2023, shortly after Cyclone Freddy exacerbated an ongoing cholera outbreak, highlighting the urgent need for effective WASH interventions.





Bóthar Working in Rwanda

Rwanda: Working with Genocide survivors

Bóthar, in partnership with Ripple Effect, has achieved transformative outcomes through the AVEGA Widows Empowerment Project, aimed at supporting vulnerable genocide widows in Rwanda in the districts of Rwamagana and Kayonza. By focusing on smallholder farmers in these communities, the project has addressed critical issues such as poor productivity of crops and livestock, which have long impacted food security, nutritional status, and household income.

With an average participant age of 55.45 years, many of these widows have faced daunting challenges since the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. The project has evolved into a lifeline for 1,870 individuals across 374 households, leading to remarkable changes in their daily lives.

By the conclusion of the second project year, evaluations revealed a steady increase in food security among participating families—beneficiaries reported an average of nearly three meals per day, a substantial rise from less than two at the outset of the project. The project initiatives have successfully empowered these households, with income-generating activities reportedly tripling for many participants. This has resulted in the establishment of small agrifood businesses and greater engagement in savings schemes, enabling a sustainable path toward economic stability.

Among those impacted is Liberatha Mukagihana, a 59-year-old former teacher from Rwamagana, who poignantly reflects on her life before the project. Once struggling to support herself and her family, she now owns four cows and a young calf, signifying both food security and economic opportunity. Liberatha credits the project for turning her life around, stating, “I am now able to feed myself and my family well, I can save some money and invest.” Her recognition as an exemplary leader within her community is reflected by her award of a rainwater harvesting tank. This underscores the profound personal growth participants can undergo through the programme. Liberatha’s story is a testament to the far-reaching impact of the AVEGA Widows Empowerment Project, highlighting how targeted support can create ripples of change in the lives of the most vulnerable.



Bóthar Working in Kosovo

Kosovo: Improving the economic and social conditions of 90 farming families

In the heart of Kosovo, the collaboration between Bóthar and the local non-profit organisation Mëshqerra has made significant strides in advancing agricultural practices and improving livestock welfare. This partnership has been particularly focused on the introduction and nurturing of in-calf heifers, a pivotal initiative aimed at enhancing the dairy sector's productivity and resilience. In partnership since 2014 Bóthar had provided 13 consignments with a total of 424 in-calf heifers to families supported by Mëshqerra.

Since the inception of this project, Mëshqerra has diligently worked to provide education, resources, and support to local farmers, enabling them to harness both traditional knowledge and modern techniques in cattle breeding and care. In November 2022 Bóthar shipped a further 44 in-calf heifers to the Deçani Municipality. The shipment is part of Year 1 activities for a three year project with the last shipment due in October 2024.

The consistent efforts of Mëshqerra have led to an increase in the health and productivity of herds across the region. The focus on in-calf heifers has empowered local communities by creating job opportunities and fostering sustainable agricultural practices. The training programs implemented by Mëshqerra have equipped farmers with essential skills that promote animal welfare and environmental stewardship, aligning with best practices in ethical farming.

The tangible impact of this initiative is evident, as farmers report improved milk yields and enhanced herd health. Bóthar's support has been instrumental in facilitating the successful integration of these heifers into local farms, thus benefitting both the economy and food security in Kosovo. Looking forward, the ongoing collaboration between Mëshqerra and Bóthar aims to expand these initiatives, focusing on increasing access to quality breeding stock and enhancing educational outreach to ensure the sustainability and growth for farm families in Kosovo.



Bóthar Working in Albania

Albania: Supporting poor family farms in Albania

This Project, together with assistance from our partners Livestock and Rural Development Centre (LRD) Albania, aims to improve the lives and income of 60 poor families through developing small scale family goat farms. The project will begin by supporting 30 poor families with 140 good quality Irish dairy goats, each family receiving approximately 3-6 goats. The following year a further 30 farming families will benefit from POG (Passing on the gift). Participants will improve skills and knowledge on dairy goat production through training and technical assistance provided from LRD Centre.

Trainings session will focus on goats breeding and management, feeding and reproduction, disease prevention, milk quality and home processing of milk to make cheese and curds. This goat project is ideal for the smaller farmer, who may not have a lot of land. It is also helping to contribute to keeping young farmers from emigrating as it is opening opportunities to them that had not been there before.



Our Board

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

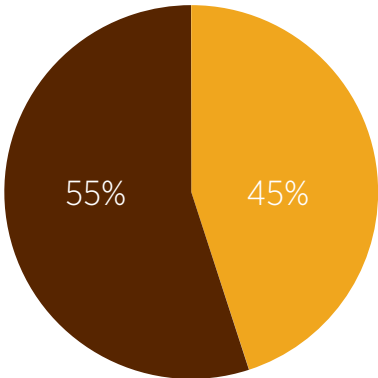
Chairman: Patrick Lavin	- Accountant, Co. Limerick
Company Secretary: Patrick Manley	- Solicitor, Co. Cork
Matt Hartnett	- Financial Management, London
John Kelly	- Marketing and Branding, Dublin
Shane McAuliffe	- Agrifood production, Co Kerry
Kenneth Arthur	- Business Development, Co Clare
Harry Lawlor	- Food Exporter, Co Limerick

Financial Information

Statement of Financial Position	2023	2022
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	430,249	436,528
Current Assets		
Debtors	74,509	211,490
Cash at bank and in hand	261,888	639,056
	336,397	850,546
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	(376,343)	(608,779)
Total Assets less current liabilities	390,303	678,295
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	-	-
Provision for Liabilities	-	(5,168)
TOTAL NET ASSETS	390,303	673,127
Charitable Fund		
Unrestricted Funds	390,303	673,127
Total Funds	390,303	673,127

Statement of Financial Activities Incorporating Income & Expenditure Account		
Total Income	768,645	478,056
Expenditure on:		
Charitable Activities	1,051,469	1,103,036
Cost of Raising Funds	-	-
Net Gains(loss) on Investment	-	17,084
Exceptional Items	-	(103,415)
Net Income/(expenditure)	(282,824)	(711,311)
Net movements in Funds	(282,824)	(711,311)
Surplus brought forward	673,127	1,384,438
Surplus carried forward	390,303	673,127

Distribution of Funds



Income 2022	€000	%
East Africa	601,607	55%
Eastern Europe	501,429	45%
Total	1,103,036	100%

Total Programmatic Funds €1,523,317



Old Clare Street, Limerick,
V94 X4X9, Ireland.

Tel: +353 61 414142
Email: info@bothar.ie
Web: www.bothar.ie