

Because
people give,
others can live...



Annual Report **2019**



The strategic priorities which guide Bóthar's work are:


- Sustainable development: Striving for highly efficient agriculture in communities in the developing world;
- Women's empowerment towards gender equality;
- Climate change and environmental degradation; and
- Value addition.



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A young child with a serious expression looking directly at the camera. The child has short, dark hair and is wearing a black t-shirt. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and a path.

“The gift is not
just monetary.
It is dignity.
It is hope.
It is love.
It is a life-line.”

Message from the Board of Trustees

Working to empower communities in the developing world is still the most important aspect of our work and our mission, despite difficulties faced.


During the financial year ended 30th June 2019 the board received correspondence from an anonymous whistleblower which expressed concern regarding inappropriate travel expenses and the failure to comply with recruitment policies within the organisation. The board appointed a director to undertake an internal review. This internal review was subsequently presented to the board and indicated that there were matters which required further enquiry. The board determined that it was appropriate that external consultants should be engaged to undertake an overall review of the financial affairs and procedures of the organisation.

Significant changes have taken place in the organisation since then. All financial controls were examined and overhauled, in line with the Charities Governance Code. A new board was recruited and appointed, using the transparent services of Boardmatch. Today we are embracing the new organisation with full governance and financial controls.

We are confident that there will not be a repeat of the past. We are committed to making the best use of our donors' funds which are entrusted to us. We strive to assist as many families as possible in the developing world.

We are forever grateful to our loyal donors, and appreciate all of the work, dedication, time and effort that has been given to our organisation by you over the years. We welcome your feedback at any point and hope that you will continue to work together with us in the future.

Board of Bóthar.

A woman with a black headwrap and a vibrant, patterned dress stands in a rustic wooden structure made of logs. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The structure appears to be a stall or a fence, with a black animal partially visible behind her. The ground is dirt, and there is some green grass in the foreground. The overall scene is outdoors and suggests a rural or traditional setting.

“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 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 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'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.

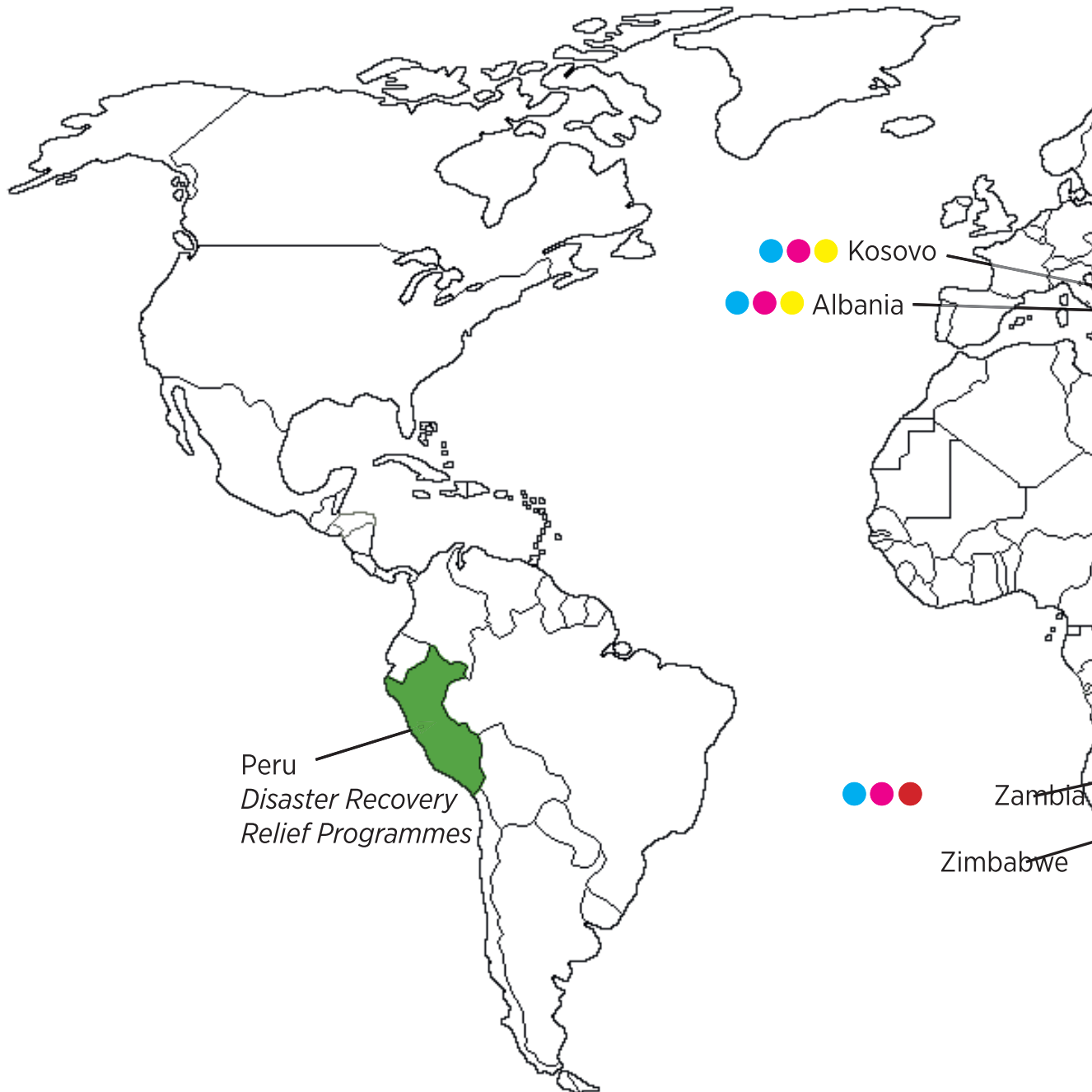
Nutrition & Income

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.

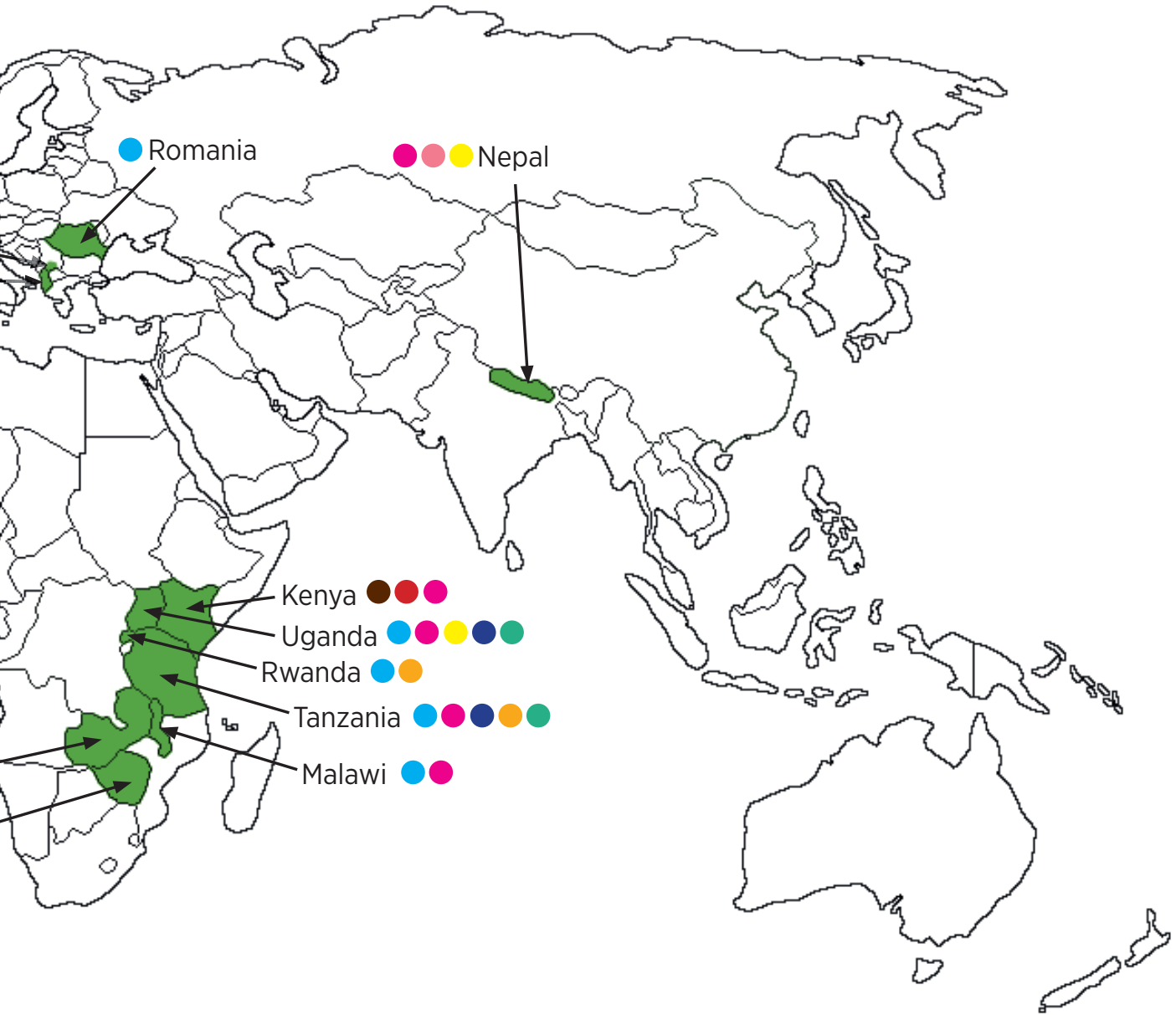
Building Communities

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



Bóthar currently works in 12 countries across 4 continents with 8 species of animal. Over the past 29 years, the organisation has delivered thousands of animals to struggling families in countries across Africa, Asia, South America and Eastern Europe.



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ● Cows | ● Trees | ● Sheep |
| ● Goats | ● Rabbits | ● Poultry |
| ● Pigs | ● Bees | ● Camels |

A photograph showing a woman in a red headwrap holding a baby, with three other children looking on, standing behind a wooden structure filled with green grass. The scene is outdoors, with trees and foliage in the background.

“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 Africa



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

Malawi: Karonga Integrated Community Livelihood Project, Northern Malawi

Malawi is one of the poorest countries worldwide with 57% the rural population living in poverty in a country badly affected by the impact of climate change. Karonga in Northern Malawi is a floods prone area. This is the first year of implementation of a two year project reaching 3,000 families, particularly women, children, and the elderly.

A key need addressed by this initiative is food insecurity and building resilience in communities living in flood affected areas. Crops such as cassava and orange fresh potato are being promoted to increase food security.

Women participants are benefitting from training in livestock management using the FEAST (feed assessment tool) tackling feed constraints, building village warehouses and emergency holding facilities in strategic project areas.

Access to clean potable water sources is also an emphasis of this project as well as building community disaster risk reduction warning systems.

Zimbabwe: Women Inclusion and Empowerment Project in Bikita District-Masvingo Province

In Zimbabwe, poverty affects 72% of the population. This project reached 375 women smallholder farmers' households and their families and aimed at adapting, building resistance to drought, floods, pests and human diseases affecting their lives.

Implemented by Bóthar strategic partner Heifer International Zimbabwe, this project enhanced and consolidated capacities and skills learned in the previous projects supported by Bóthar with matching funds of Bank of Ireland Staff World Fund.

Young women (aged below 35) were deliberately targeted in this project as a way of engaging them into community activities, setting up 15 self-help groups. Participants attended intensive training on Capacity Building on small grains production, animal management and health, enterprise development, savings and credit and linking farmers to markets, on low cost feed formulation, environment management, among others.

The project provided an opportunity for self-transformation, resilience building and adaptive capacity to resist threats and external shocks.



Rwanda: Restore the Cow Project in Rwamagana District, Eastern Province

Implemented by Bóthar's partner Msaada, this project is raising the incomes and improving livelihoods of those most in need in Rwanda. It has enabled families and communities, men, women and children, to overcome hunger, poverty and malnutrition. In 2018, the programme donated 59 in calf Irish heifers and 18 Pass on Gift heifers (77 heifers in total) to 63 poor households with 252 individuals, of whom 151 (60%) are women and children, while 14 in calf heifers were donated to the orphanage (Agahozo Shalom Youth Village) in which 525 orphans live.

Also, 5000 semen straws were donated to Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB) to improve the cattle breeds in the country through artificial insemination.

Cumulatively (previous years included), the programme has so far donated 35000 semen straws to RAB and 431 cows to 431 families with 1505 individuals, of whom 919 (61%) are women and children.

The programme aligns well with the Rwanda's One Cow per poor family Programme and effectively supports SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 2: Zero Hunger and SDG 8: Decent work and Economic Growth.

Rwanda is a poor, small country located in East Africa and one of the smallest countries on the Africa's main land. It is a country that is recovering from the horror of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in which a million lives were lost and property destroyed. 83% of Rwanda's population live in rural area and 70% of the population still work in subsistence farming. Poverty is at 39.1%, extreme poverty is 16.3%, and the Gini coefficient is at 0.448 and the Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.524. This puts the country in low human development category, positioning it at 158 out of 189 countries and territories.



Bóthar Working in Eastern Europe



Romania: Dairy Cows for Poor People in Transylvania

Between July 2018 and June 2019 Bóthar implementing partner Openfields received a total of 67 heifers in two consignments of animals; one in November and the other one in December 2018. 95 families of Romanians, Roma, Hungarians and mixed families benefitted from the animals which were placed in subsistence farms in Alba county in 10 poor communities in Feisa, Manarade, Biia, Tatarlaua, Cetatea de Balta, Panade, Sincel, Stremt, Sinmiclaus, Cergau. The beneficiaries included population in need, unemployed women and men, families with children, and the elderly. Two larger trainings were held and individual veterinary assistance and training were offered on a regular basis. All farmers recipients of animals were delighted with this project which has brought change and improvements to farmers lives. Milk has become a reliable source of nutrition, and in some cases it brings extra income from the sale of milk. This income is invaluable to cover children necessities such as school supplies, uniforms and shoes. In 2020, it is expected that 30 heifers will be passed on to other families in these communities.

Insert quote here related to Eastern Europe. Insert quote here related to Eastern Europe. Insert quote here.



Kosovo: Improving rural livelihoods in the regions of Shtime and Gjakova

During the period covered by this report 90 families in poor rural communities received Irish heifers in Shtime and Gjakova region. Other 45 were expected to receive pass ons. This project aimed at improving the livelihoods of small-holder farmers through developing of animal farms, improving cow's milk value chain (milk quality, processing and marketing of cow's products), as well as getting skills to increasing agricultural production. The project also was geared towards increasing the number of quality cows and increasing the family income. To implement this project, Bóthar longstanding partner Meshqerra carried out thorough training with farmers participants. This training started before receiving the animals and continued afterwards and during the life of project. Families which take part of the pass ons also participated. Training included breeding, learning about the conditions for milking cows, and other aspects of animal farm management including the impact of Ecological factors in Animal Well Being. This is an ongoing project which is expected to end in 2020.

Bóthar Working in Asia



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 is a four year project _ (2018-2021) which is in its second year of implementation. Implemented by strategic partner Heifer International Nepal, this initiative aims 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 last September 2019 and Bóthar Staff was very satisfied with the impact it is having

in the communities. With full support of the local government, the project has expanded to reach more families. Success is 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.



Our Board

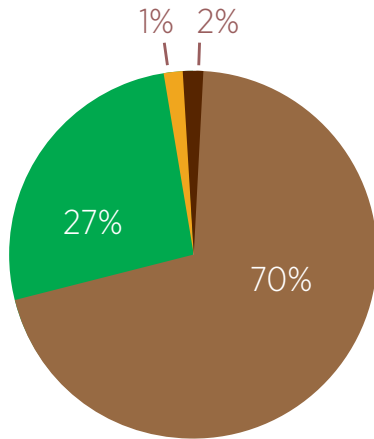
The directors of Bóthar Company that served during the reporting period are detailed below.

Chairman: Mr. Harry Lawlor	- Foods Exporter, Co. Cork
Vice Chair: Ms. Sinead Baggott	- Solicitor, Co. Limerick
Secretary: Mr. David Moloney	- CEO, Bóthar
Archbishop Dermot Clifford	- Clergy, Co. Tipperary
Canon Tom Sherlock	- Clergy, Co. Kilkenny
Mr. Pat Lavin	- Accountant, Co. Limerick
Ms. Helga Morrow	- Office Manager, Co. Dublin
Mr. Thomas Blackburn	- Dairy Farmer, Effin, Co. Limerick
Mr. John Finucane (<i>deceased in office 24.01.2018</i>)	- Farmer, Co. Limerick

Financial Information

Statement of Financial Position	2019	2018 (as restated)
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	1,038,023	761,904
Current Assets		
Debtors	224,775	253,087
Cash at bank and in hand	577,860	636,604
	802,635	889,691
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	213,263	164,801
Total Assets less current liabilities	1,627,395	1,486,794
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	175,440	272,808
Provision for Liabilities	12,362	30,851
TOTAL NET ASSETS	1,439,593	1,183,135
Charitable Fund		
Unrestricted Funds	1,439,593	1,183,135
Total Funds	1,439,593	1,183,135
Statement of Financial Activities Incorporating Income & Expenditure Account		
Income	4,623,788	4,421,449
Irish Aid Grant	0	160,000
Total Income	4,623,788	4,581,449
Expenditure on:		
Charitable Activities	3,931,138	3,836,242
Cost of Raising Funds	573,335	537,357
Exceptional Item	187,768	125,436
Total Expenditure	4,692,241	4,499,035
Operating Surplus / Deficit	68,453	82,414
Gains on Investment	15,457	0
Gains on revaluation of assets	309,454	0
Net movements in Funds	256,458	82,414
Surplus brought forward	1,183,135	1,100,721
Net movement in funds	256,458	82,414
Surplus carried forward	1,439,593	118,135

Distribution of Funds



Income 2019	€000	%
East Africa	2,741,263	70%
West Africa	88,877	2%
Asia	28,206	1%
Eastern Europe	1,072,792	27%
Total	3,931,138	100%

Total Programmatic Funds €3,931,138



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