Improving livelihoods and well-being in rural communities: Safe access is a human right.
More than 1 IN 7 rural residents struggle to reach markets, jobs, schools, clinics, and hospitals because of a lack of connectivity²
Bridges to Prosperity envisions a world without poverty caused by rural isolation

Rural isolation is a root cause of poverty.

Bridges to Prosperity uses a community-driven approach and intelligent technology to deliver multi-dimensional impact to thousands of communities worldwide.

Our trail bridge programs are built to unlock opportunity, expand the reach of other development interventions, and ultimately eliminate poverty caused by rural isolation.

Trail bridges are proven to transform rural economies and can be easily scaled by local governments.
What is a trail bridge?

A trail bridge serves rural communities that most commonly travel by foot, bicycle, or small vehicles like motorcycles and bajaj.

- Cost-effective, durable, and safe
- Easy to build, maintain, and replicate
- Rarely considered in the development of rural infrastructure investments, despite a high ROI
- B2P trail bridges leverage locally sourced and repurposed materials
Trail bridges link resources and services to the people who benefit from them the most, serving as a single intervention that addresses a myriad of symptoms.

Safe, reliable access impacts day-to-day behavior and influences long-term decision-making.

Connecting rural communities is a cost-effective, efficient tool for improving livelihoods and well-being.

Trail bridges return **49%** their annual investment.¹¹

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**Health**  
**Education**  
**Income**  
**Investment and Savings**  
**Gender Equity**  
**Climate Resilience**  
**Civic Engagement**  
**Social and Family Networks**
The trail bridge theory of change culminates in 10 Sustainable Development Goals influenced by the provision of safe, reliable transport access. Our theory of change is the foundation for our Evidence and Impact program.

**Trail bridges theory of change**

**Inputs**
- Trail bridges are built

**Outputs**
- Safe and reliable river crossings
- People with new safe access to important destinations

**Short term outcomes**
- Access to markets and agricultural resources
- Access to education
- Access to healthcare
- Reduced travel times
- Access to government
- Access to social networks

**Helping to achieve**

**Sustainable development goals**
1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and well-being
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality
6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Decent work and economic growth
8. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
9. Sustainable cities and communities
10. Peace and justice
11. Partnerships for the goals
Access to healthcare

57% of rural households must cross a river to reach a hospital³, and communities with new trail bridges saw:

±18%
Health Facility Visits⁷

Every minute of every day, at least one woman dies as a result of complications of pregnancy and childbirth, and 99% of those deaths occur in lower-income nations.

The World Bank estimates that more than 75% of maternal deaths could be prevented by timely access to essential childbirth-related care.⁹
Access to healthcare

Rural access that targets walking rural households is powerful. Communities with better access to existing road networks saw:

- **+45%** Vaccination Rate$^{10}$
- **-33%** Health Center Transport Costs$^{10}$

Investing in consistent and reliable access to health resources that already exist means leveraging existing resources and investments to improve public health on a regional scale for the most vulnerable among us.
Access to education

More than 30% of rural households must cross a river to reach a school. Improved rural access led to:

- +60% Literacy for Women
- +200% Attendance for Girls
- +12% Student Enrollment
- +22% Student Attendance

New trail bridges alone led to:
Access to economic opportunity

Households in communities with new trail bridges saw:

- +75% Farm Profits\(^1\)
- +60% Women Entering the Labor Force\(^1\)
- +36% Labor Market Income\(^1\)
- +30% Overall Household Income\(^1\)

In addition, the volume of agricultural goods transported across the river increased by nearly 14x (1,350%)\(^7\)
The Multiplier Effect

Bridges are an effective development tool themselves, but they also have the power to expand the reach of other development interventions, broadening the market of potential beneficiaries and connecting networks of services to the people who will benefit from them.

- **5,500+ access barriers identified**
- **29 countries assessed**
- **9M+ people without safe access**
A track record of performance

B2P partners with local governments and community leaders to develop, enable, and advocate for national infrastructure programs that acknowledge the needs of rural populations and the potential for safe access to be transformative for households, communities, and countries.

B2P has demonstrated its ability to deliver impact at scale quickly and on budget.
A tech-enabled, data-driven, community-led approach

B2P collaborates and partners with other implementors, governments, the private sector, and funders to maximize investments.

The local community is involved at every stage, from program design to site identification, construction, and long-term maintenance.

B2P’s sophisticated data practices and innovative use of technology power programmatic improvements, advocacy efforts, and technical assistance offerings.
Safe access is transformative for households, communities, and countries. Bridges to Prosperity partners with local governments and community leaders to develop, enable, and advocate for national infrastructure programs that acknowledge the needs of rural populations.

If just 5% of the current ODA spend on transportation infrastructure in emerging and frontier markets were to be reallocated to trail bridges, tens of thousands of lives would be saved and over 250 million people would have access to fundamentally-improved health, income, and educational outcomes.
A strategy for 2025

To help effect this change, B2P is committed to furthering the following three initiatives as outlined in our 2025 Strategic Plan:

- Gather the evidence supporting the efficacy and efficiency of safe access as a fulcrum for rural development
- Create collective action to elevate rural transport on the development agenda
- Support governments with technical assistance best practices and the capacity to make smart infrastructure investments
If we can elevate the efficiency of rural transport infrastructure for development and catalyze the resources toward meeting the demand, we can solve poverty caused by rural isolation in our lifetimes.
An opportunity for scaled impact

We are pursuing a catalytic investment to continue our work in Rwanda, Uganda, and Ethiopia and expand our systems change approach to three new countries.

- $50 million investment
- 5 years
- 10 million people connected to vital services
- Set the stage for regional and global scale
A focus on East Africa

B2P’s current efforts are centered in East Africa due to a compelling mix of need (with millions living in rural isolation due to impassable rivers), existing interest from national governments to invest, the region’s track record of safety and stability of leadership, and B2P’s long-standing relationships in the region.

B2P currently has scaled programs in three countries:

- Rwanda
- Uganda
- Ethiopia
Rwanda represents B2P’s first scaled program. Under a 5-year MoU with several national-level ministries, B2P works with district governments in a reimbursement model to construct trail bridges across the country. B2P is partnering with a team of researchers to study the impacts of connectivity provided by B2P trail bridges in the rural context through a first-of-its-kind RCT study, which is currently underway.

**Program Focus:** Prove the Impact

**B2P Role:** Designer and Implementor

**Implementing Partner:** None

**Government Cost-Share:** 30 – 40% per bridge

**Current Program Phase Duration:** 2019-2024

**Current Program Phase Total Cost:** $14.7 M

**Fundraised To-Date:** $7.3 M

**Remaining Funding Needed:** $4 M

**Significant Funding Partners:** Government of Rwanda, GiveWell, ELMA Growth Foundation, Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

200 +/- bridges to be built between 2019 and 2024

660k+ people to be served between 2019 and 2024
Uganda

In Uganda, we are utilizing our partnership with the Ministry of Works and Transport to test the country coalition approach, organizing stakeholders to define the gaps in the rural access system and design a plan to address them. This work will begin with a three-year pilot phase, under which the group will determine coalition structure and governance, test an integrated asset management system, adapt community-led rural development models, and pilot new intervention designs and rehabilitation strategies for the full rural transport system.

- **10%** of rehab backlog cleared in 4 districts
- **100%** of required new culverts, bridges, hillside ladders constructed in 4 districts
The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust has provided a generous grant in support of a three-year partnership between Helvetas and B2P in Ethiopia. The TRAIL-Ethiopia program seeks to replicate Helvetas’ successful government-owned Amhara program in five additional regions, building the enabling environment to resource the construction of thousands of trail bridges and millions of kilometers in feeder trails in the country in the future and developing a global platform (the ROUTE Coalition) to share learnings and innovations.

Ethiopia

150 bridges to be built between 2022 and 2025

1.3 M + people to be served between 2019 and 2024

Program Focus: Prove Technical Assistance, Advocacy
B2P Role: Technical Assistance, Evaluation
Implementing Partner: Helvetas, Private Sector
Government Cost-Share: 80% per bridge
Current Program Phase Duration: 2022-2025
Current Program Phase Total Cost: $20.5 M
Fundraised To-Date: $19.5 M
Remaining Funding Needed: $1 M
Significant Funding Partners: Government of Ethiopia, Helmsley Charitable Trust
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Bridges to Prosperity
Thank you.

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