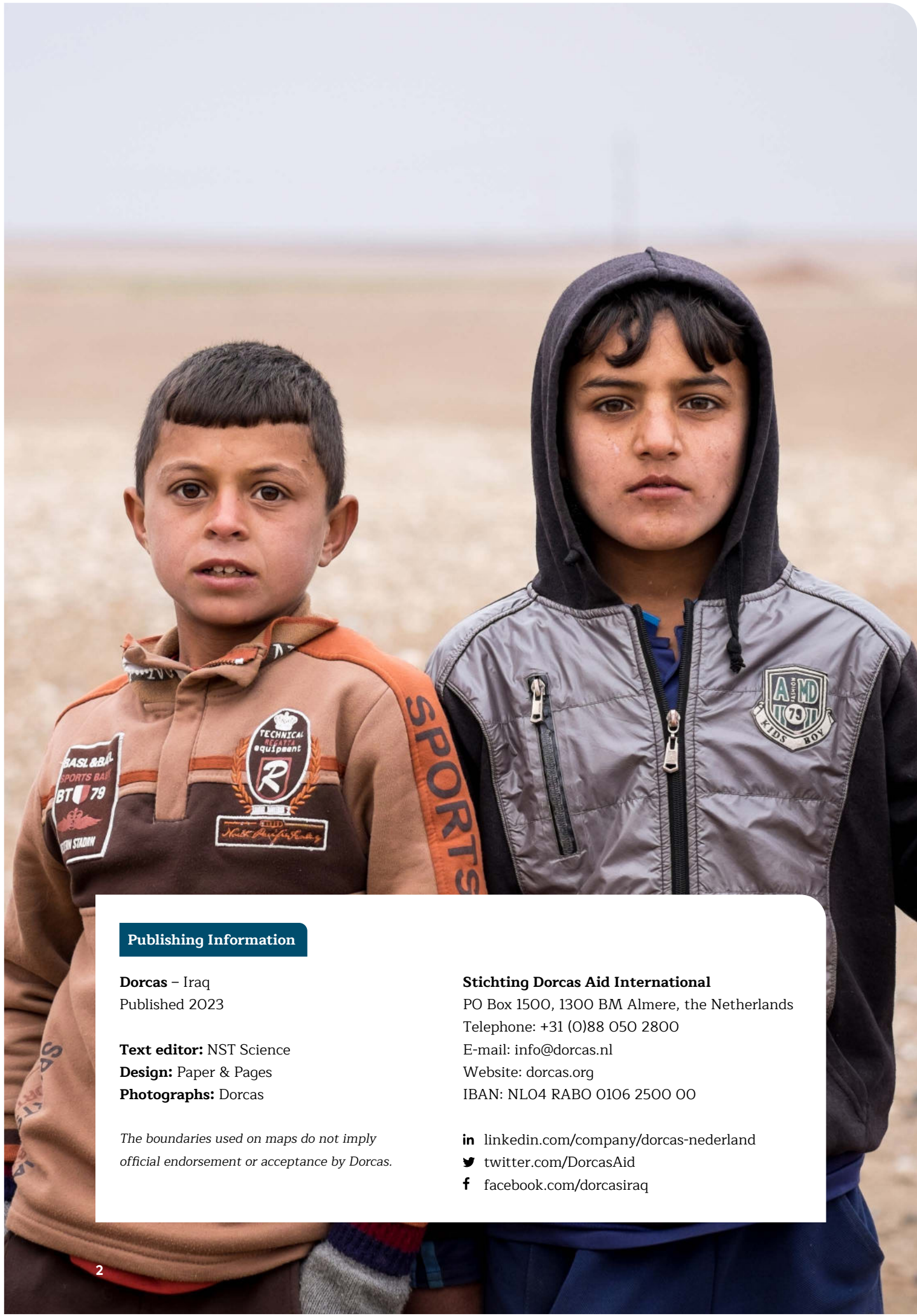


# Dorcas

## *Iraq*

Helping people rebuild  
their lives





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# We are Dorcas

Dorcas is a faith-based organisation that provides humanitarian assistance and facilitates development cooperation. We invest in sustainable change in the lives of people who are marginalised. In the event of poverty, exclusion or a crisis, we create opportunities for them to flourish.

#### What we believe

We believe in the value and God-given potential of every single person. We are called to demonstrate God's love for those in need.

#### What we see

We see a world where poverty, exclusion and crisis marginalise people. We also see the potential of these people and their communities to flourish despite their difficult circumstances.

#### How we work

**Accountable:** We do what we say, work transparently and use resources wisely.

**Compassionate:** We see those in need and stand next to them.

**Determined:** We have an entrepreneurial spirit and do not give up.

**Locally led:** We work through local leadership, staff and partners.

#### What we do

We empower people who are marginalised to develop their talents. And we enable disadvantaged communities to flourish. We equip individuals and communities to promote and ensure participation of all.

We create hope and long-term perspectives in volatile and complex situations. We meet people's basic needs in times of crisis and increase their ability to

overcome poverty and exclusion. We persist despite frequent setbacks and invest in durable relationships to realise sustainable change.

We are part of a global movement of individuals and organisations working for a just and fair world. We recognise and appreciate everybody who supports our work. And we actively partner with others to create synergy and amplify our impact.



# Theory of Change

Dorcas views poverty as a condition in which people cannot realise their intellectual, material, physical, social and spiritual needs and capacities. This kind of poverty is often related to exclusion mechanisms and barriers within society. We want to contribute to the protection, inclusion and resilience of people living in poverty, experiencing exclusion or caught in a crisis. Our Theory of Change recognises that transformation is needed at the individual, community and societal levels. We seek to realise a six-fold impact that results in flourishing people and communities.

Dorcas works towards change on three levels:

### 1. Individual

We create opportunities for people and, if necessary, we also provide for their basic needs.

### 2. Community

We invest in resilient, self-organising communities; we strengthen the position of certain groups, such as older people, people with disabilities and minority groups, and we encourage community members to support each other and stand up for themselves.

### 3. Society

We cooperate with local authorities and partners and motivate them to take their responsibilities. We tackle taboos by ensuring that everyone has a voice and that everyone is included.

The Dorcas Theory of Change is translated into programme concepts that create impact,

demonstrate our added value and inform the programmatic priorities set by each Country Office.

The three programme concepts are:

### Humanitarian Assistance and Recovery

Humanitarian Assistance and Recovery focuses on saving people’s lives and preserving their dignity during disasters or crises. People’s immediate needs are met, communities are enabled to become resilient to shocks and governments are actively involved in contributing to safer and more peaceful communities.

### Social Empowerment and Protection

Social Empowerment and Protection seeks to ensure that the poorest and most marginalised have access to basic services, like health and education, and are empowered in their social development. This is realised by organising and mobilising communities to solve their own problems and work on opportunities through asset-based community development processes.

### Inclusive Entrepreneurship

Inclusive Entrepreneurship enables disadvantaged people and groups to acquire the attitudes, competences and skills they need to earn an income and build their dreams. This is realised by creating social and economic value through entrepreneurial livelihoods and applying it to self-employment, small businesses, member-based entities or social enterprises.



# Dorcas in Iraq



Dorcas has worked in Iraq since 2014. We enjoy strong relationships with local authorities and local and international NGOs and we are a proactive partner with various UN clusters. Our priority is reaching vulnerable groups that need support, such as women, children, female-headed households, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees. Dorcas has been operating in Dohuk as well as in the Ninawa governorate in the areas of Sinjar, Telkeif, Telafar and Baaj since 2018. Also, where possible, we operate in other areas of the country in line with the priorities of the humanitarian response plan for Iraq.

Dorcas Iraq mainly works with the programme concept Humanitarian Aid and Recovery and our projects use the approaches Protection, Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). These projects effectively contribute to shielding affected communities from risks and ensuring they have access to basic services. Skills development and capacity building are also incorporated into these projects. Dorcas Iraq sees changing needs of IDPs due to the closure of refugee camps. Therefore we are

increasingly focussing on development programmes that help create more stability and opportunities for IDPs and the communities they live in. We are realising this through the introduction of Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) and capacity building with local partners and through gradually introducing the programme concept of Inclusive Entrepreneurship so that people, in the context of Recovery, can start generating their own income and rely less on humanitarian aid. Our approaches in Iraq are illustrated by three projects.





### Gender-based violence prevention and response and livelihoods

This is an integrated project that strengthens the skills and capacities of women and girls to advance their rights, contributes to the prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and improves access to income-generating opportunities to reduce their economic dependence. The project is being realised among vulnerable IDPs and returnees in the Telkaif District, Ninawa governorate. Through the project, women and girls have access to essential services to prevent and address GBV. They can also receive community-based education on legal and human rights and timely access to high-quality legal aid.

The income-generating opportunities fall under our FSL activities. We provide some participants with the resources they need to establish home gardens to help meet their food needs. Other participants have farms and they receive free consultations and advice to help them improve their income. A cash for work component is used to engage members of vulnerable households in helping to solve community challenges. One example is vulnerable households receiving cash for participating in a clean-up campaign, which also contributes to increased social cohesion.

### Specialised protection services for vulnerable returnees and IDPs

Dorcas and its local partner Harikar are realising an integrated humanitarian intervention to address the critical protection needs of 7,260 vulnerable IDPs and returnees in Ninawa and Duhok. Protection Community Centres and mobile teams provide the services needed at three locations, namely Al-Baaj and Al-Hatra in Ninawa and Sumeil district in Duhok.

Dorcas and Harikar have split the responsibilities for the project. Harikar registers the vulnerable people who receive cash for protection. They also provide group psychosocial support for women in Al Shamal. Dorcas staff monitor and collect information from conflict victims in Hatra and ensure people with



### Water to accelerate Sinjar's Hope

Access to water is very limited in the Sinjar region of Iraq, where many IDPs originate from. Improving water facilities in the region motivates people to return and rebuild their lives. As part of our WASH project in the region, we have assessed, rehabilitated and reconstructed the existing water networks in Dugure, Borek, Hardan, Zorava, Duhola and Kani Sarki villages. We have improved the potable water supply, increased access to safe water and sanitation and established village WASH committees to help improve water management and use.



The project has also targeted emergency WASH needs in the region, restored the WASH facilities in 17 schools and provided hygiene awareness sessions in 35 schools across Sinjar. Rehabilitating the WASH infrastructure remains a major priority in the region. We are therefore continuing the project to cover more villages and project participants.



disabilities have been reached and have accessed the services provided. In Al Shamal, they support children accessing education by issuing their civil documents; in Sinjar they distribute leaflets about WASH and hygiene during awareness sessions. Furthermore, Dorcas is responsible for the overall monitoring and progress of the project. The project also provides training to project stakeholders. Harikar staff receive training to improve their technical and operational expertise. Community leaders, volunteers and local authorities are trained in General Protection and International Humanitarian Law. Finally, in Sinjar, community volunteers receive training on GBV, general protection and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

As a result of the project, vulnerable groups and crisis-affected populations will be able to access essential services such as primary health and WASH, secure their civil and family law rights and acquire housing, land and property documentation. They will acquire greater safety and financial security through the cash-for-protection initiatives. The psychosocial support they receive will improve their well-being, and thorough case management will ensure that, where necessary, individuals receive an appropriate referral for other interventions.

## Sustainable Development Goals: Leave no one behind

Our programmes in Iraq are directly linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, most notably:

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



13 CLIMATE ACTION





Sargon (39) was born and grew up in Bagdad. But in 2006, his family fled due to the conflict and moved to Dohuk. Sargon, who had recently graduated, experienced first-hand what it was like to be internally displaced and live in a new place where you have nothing.

In 2018, he joined Dorcas in Dohuk. He leads a team in the area of domestic violence and child abuse. Sargon experiences the Dorcas working environment as a family that allows him to grow and he transfers the kindness he experiences there to the people his team helps. ‘I am happy to wake up every day and know that my work for Dorcas is not just a job, but a thing that I love to do.

Safety is definitely not something you can take for granted in Iraq. Many women experience domestic violence, rape and enslavement, and child abuse occurs far too often. Ensuring the victims of such violence and abuse receive access to protection and appropriate support is far from easy. ‘We help people acquire the papers they need to obtain the right help. For example, children need papers to go

to school or divorced women need a divorce contract to be able to live independent lives. We also help people returning home to obtain the documents they need to reclaim ownership of their property even if the house where they once lived no longer stands.

‘I am happy to wake up every day and know that my work for Dorcas is not just a job, but a thing that I love to do’

Although Sargon is proud of everything his team does, he realises they still have a long way to go. ‘Of all displaced people in Iraq, 80% still have no papers and so no access to all kinds of support and assistance. We’re not there yet’, he says.

# Dorcas in the Middle East

Dorcas is active in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen. These Middle East countries share several contextual and cultural similarities and face the common concerns posed by climate change and water security. Protracted conflict and crisis in the region have led to social and economic decline and high numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons in need of assistance. People struggle with rising food prices and high inflation, and the migration of skilled workers has resulted in a chronic brain drain.



### Our work

In the Middle East, Dorcas operates on the Triple Nexus of humanitarian aid, development, and peace and reconciliation. We respond to urgent needs and work on longer-term challenges, such as access to basic and public services. Our strategy is to restore trust, strengthen human capital, reinforce social protection systems and advance gender equity. We address fragility by supporting refugees and host communities in the supply of basic needs and protection, and we provide perspective through opportunities for improved livelihoods and entrepreneurship.

# Partners in Iraq

### Our Programme Partners:

- Harikar

### Our Strategic Partners and Donors:

- UNOCHA
- World Vision
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Terre des Hommes
- Dutch Relief Alliance
- Nadia's Initiative
- PerspActive Iraq

### Partner with us!

I am Wisam Obayes, Country Director of Dorcas Iraq. I enjoy working with both (inter)national and local partners. Are you interested in a possible collaboration or wondering what contribution your organisation could make? Then please get in touch with me. I look forward to exploring the opportunities for a partnership with you.

Do you have any other questions about Dorcas' work in Iraq or would you like more information about a specific topic? Then please visit [www.dorcas.org/iraq](http://www.dorcas.org/iraq) or contact us.

Partner with us! Together we can realise lasting changes in the lives of people in need.



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and crisis. We empower  
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