



Dorcas *Tanzania*

Strengthening resilience in
the face of climate change



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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. This is how we follow Jesus Christ.

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 Tanzania



Dorcas has been active in Tanzania since 1995, a country where three-quarters of the population subsists on agriculture. Tanzania’s economy is highly vulnerable to weather shocks and fluctuating commodity prices, which severely threaten people’s livelihoods and existence. Dorcas Tanzania therefore seeks to empower marginalised people by increasing their access to inclusive basic services, dynamic community structures and resilient livelihoods. We also work to safeguard their rights and improve gender equality. Our projects fall under the programme concepts Inclusive Entrepreneurship and Social Empowerment and Protection.

Inclusive Entrepreneurship

Our Inclusive Entrepreneurship (IE) approach has four approaches. The first is making clean cooking technology affordable for the rural poor to help break the cycle of energy poverty and mitigate the impact of climate change. Secondly, our integrated farm plan approach boosts rural incomes and increases food security and disaster preparedness. Thirdly, we encourage the production of affordable and reusable sanitary pads, which boosts young girls’ health and improves their school attendance. And finally, our village community banking initiative stimulates entrepreneurship through access to loans.

Social Empowerment and Protection

We have three approaches under Social Empowerment and Protection (SEP). Our children’s programme focuses on giving marginalised children access to inclusive education and training their careers and other adults to recognise child abuse and provide child protection support. Our work with older people promotes community safety nets that improve older people’s safety, well-being and protection. Finally, our work with (ex-)prisoners and their families focuses on protection, support and creating perspectives.



Clean Cooking Energy

We see that clean cooking energy positively impacts the lives of many Tanzanians on a daily basis and mitigate the impact of climate change. We therefore facilitate a value chain in the production and distribution of fuel pellets and briquettes combined with an inclusive market development of ultra-clean cooking stoves.

This programme:

- Increases household resilience
- Improves family health
- Facilitates adaptation to climate change
- Provides new income-generating opportunities
- Reduces the workload for women
- Decreases deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions

Village Community Banking

We support the setting up of Village Community Banking initiatives. This loan system promotes people's ability to start and improve their businesses, so they can generate an income and improve their family life.

This programme:

- Increases household income through access to loans
- Improves people's living conditions
- Improves people's financial literacy
- Allows people to improve their entrepreneurial skills

Integrated Farm Planning (PIP)

We advocate inclusive, bottom-up approaches that enable farmer families to realise change and improve their livelihoods. We empower these families to tackle land degradation and invest in their farm business.

This programme:

- Increases the number of resilient farms with healthy land
- Increases household income and food security
- Helps communities to be better prepared for disasters
- Facilitates the implementation of climate-smart agricultural practices
- Improves knowledge about agriculture and livestock
- Boosts the yield from production methods



Menstrual Hygiene Management

We promote gender equality and access to facilities in the area of water, sanitation and hygiene. Girls' school attendance is improved by providing them with appropriate facilities and a supportive environment where menstruation is not taboo.

This programme:

- Increases girls' school attendance during menstruation
- Results in a higher number of girls completing their school education
- Results in communities having greater knowledge and awareness of menstruation and its impact
- Boosts the confidence of girls and women in rural areas
- Ensures poor families can gain access to affordable and reusable sanitary pads
- Provides a supportive environment and facilities for girls in schools
- Improves gender equality

Support for (ex-)prisoners

In Tanzania, Dorcas is one of the few NGOs that supports prisoners and their families. We work closely with local partners and the government. Together we address individual needs and provide support for the families of long-sentenced inmates to increase their overall income. We also invest in a better climate in prisons and inform inmates about their rights.

This programme:

- Ensures protection systems are active and functioning
- Increases community initiatives in supporting prisoners and their families
- Improves the dignity and perspective of prisoners and their families
- Improves prisoners' entrepreneurial skills
- Increases the income of prisoners' families
- Provides prison wards with training in criminal justice
- Helps realise organisational structures that advocate for community members' rights

Future4Children

Every child has the right to education, food, and clean drinking water. And every child should grow up free from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence. This programme helps children in extreme poverty to reclaim these rights.

This programme:

- Improves children's access to education
- Increases the number of organisations that advocate for children's rights
- Increases household income

- Increases openness to discuss taboos and addresses abuse and its causes
- Helps community actors feel responsible for each other's well-being
- Gives children hope and improved perspectives for their future
- Increases the cognitive, social and emotional development of children
- Creates healthy, safe and loving environments for children and their families

Community Safety Nets

Every person deserves to be taken care of regardless of their age. Our Community Safety Nets programme provides vital support to vulnerable older persons who live in extreme poverty.

This programme:

- Improves access to basic health and other services
- Encourages community actors to feel responsible for each other's well-being
- Provides older persons with the skills and knowledge they need to make use of their potential
- Ensures victims and people at risk of harm have access to safe spaces
- Improves the income and economic resilience of older persons
- Encourages governments and institutions to take their responsibility
- Facilitates organisational structures that advocate for older people's rights
- Strengthens protection platforms

Sustainable Development Goals: Leave no one behind

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



Impact Story



Taking care of the environment

Barely a week before the long-awaited rainy season in Tanzania begins, we meet Joseph, a father of four and a real businessman. He has always worked hard, but a low income meant he constantly struggled to take care of his family. Thankfully, that has now changed.

‘I heard from my neighbours that I could attend a training on agriculture and entrepreneurship. And I instantly knew that this was for me. Thanks to that training I learned how to make a business plan, how to save and invest, how to breed animals, and how I can irrigate my land and take good care of the environment.’

Joseph knew that climate change was causing droughts in Tanzania and that the felling of many trees had made this problem worse. If there are too few trees, the rainwater runs off the land instead of being absorbed by the soil, and that causes erosion. Joseph decided to do something about this, and so he now grows trees.

‘I wanted to set up my own company and do something positive for the environment.’

However, trees need a lot of water to grow, and where Joseph lives, it only rains for a few months per year. So he decided to build a large pond in his back garden to collect rainwater. He spent four months digging at least three hours a day. Now he has a pond with a capacity of 30 cubic metres. ‘That provides enough water to grow trees all year round’, he says proudly. ‘And there is such a high demand for trees that my work inspires other people and I can now help them realise their dreams.’

Dorcas in Eastern Africa

Dorcas is active in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, South Sudan and Tanzania. These countries in Eastern Africa share borders but also cross-border root causes of poverty: conflicts, fragile ecosystems, the impact of climate change, disasters, food insecurity, youth unemployment and migration.



Our work

In Eastern Africa, Dorcas operates on the Triple Nexus of humanitarian aid, development and peace and reconciliation. We foster resilience through climate entrepreneurship, youth employment, WASH, entrepreneurship, agricultural value chain development, peacebuilding and community empowerment. We provide life-saving assistance to people afflicted by conflict and droughts. At the same time, we work towards strengthening social protection for vulnerable groups throughout the region.

Partners in Tanzania

Our Programme Partners:

- International Evangelism Church - Tanzania
- The Free Pentecostal Church of Tanzania
- The Anglican Church of Tanzania
- New Life in Christ
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania

Our Strategic Partners and Donors:

- Human Development Innovation Fund - UKAID
- AfriPads
- Supamoto
- ANZA Entrepreneurs and LEAD foundation- Kisiki Hai
- TAREA- Tanzania Renewable Energy Association

Partner with us!

I am Lilian Michael Urassa, Country Director of Dorcas Tanzania. 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 Tanzania or would you like more information about a specific topic? Then please visit www.dorcas.org/tanzania or contact us.

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



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We fight poverty, exclusion
and crisis. We empower
marginalised people and
communities to flourish.
This is how we follow
Jesus Christ.