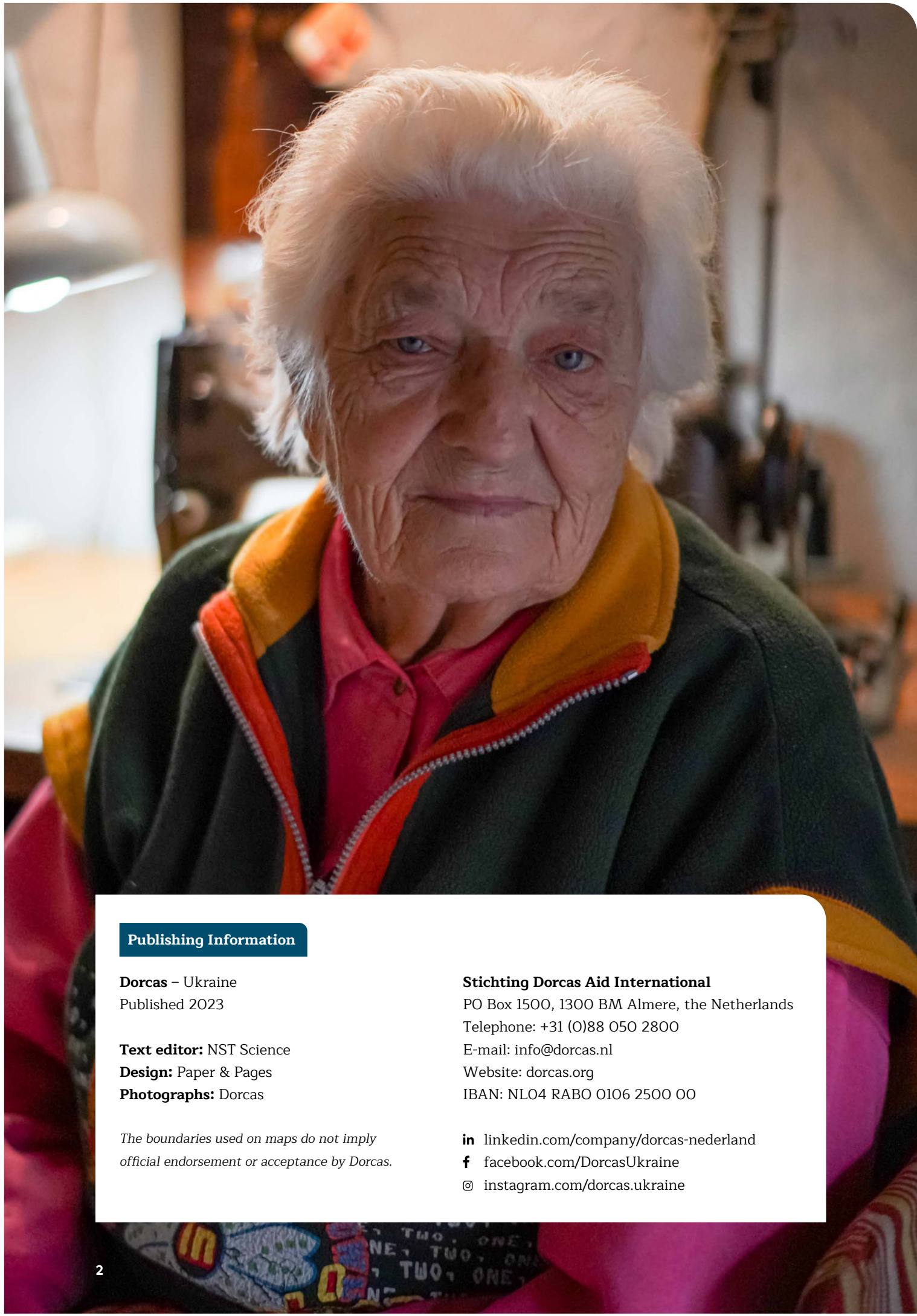


# Dorcas *Ukraine*

Living hope





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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 Ukraine



Dorcas has worked in Ukraine for over 25 years. We seek to improve the well-being and resilience of vulnerable groups and people affected by the conflict - such as internally displaced persons (IDPs), orphans and the country’s large older population. Dorcas has actively responded to the Ukrainian crisis since 2014, and stepped up its activities with the outbreak of the full-scale conflict in February 2022. We provide emergency assistance, shelter repair, mental health and psychosocial support and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The main focus of our programming lies within the Humanitarian Assistance and Recovery programme concept, with additional attention to Social Empowerment and Protection. Dorcas works in two areas in Ukraine: Transcarpathia (in the West) and Zaporizhzhya/Donetsk (near the contact line in the South-East).

In Transcarpathia, we support IDPs who had to flee from their houses with psychosocial support for both parents and children. Dorcas enables them to restore their lives and regain their dignity. Another focus in Transcarpathia is Social Empowerment and Protection. With this, we support the most marginalised and poorest communities with Asset-Based Community Development, flourishing families, sponsorships and the creation of Community Safety Nets. Our final focus is livelihoods. We improve the sustainable economic resilience of selected conflict-affected households by enabling them to acquire the knowledge, skills, tools, finance and confidence

they need to access employment or small business livelihood opportunities.

In the Zaporizhzhya region, the programmatic focus is on conflict-affected households. Cash and Voucher Assistance is provided to the people affected to cater for their needs. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support is given to people suffering from distress and anxiety, which enables them to cope with these difficult conditions. We also provide in-kind assistance when the market is no longer functional (generally closer to the contact line). Lastly, we provide shelter repairs for houses damaged by explosives.

Dorcas Ukraine works with local communities, churches and partners on the ground or near the contact line. This local approach really helps to address the needs of the most affected people and contributes to building a sustainable future where the community is strengthened and empowered.





#### Immediate access to food

In 2022, Dorcas could realise a prompt and suitable response by providing immediate access to food for conflict-affected people in South-East Ukraine. The volatile security situation made it difficult to reach people near the contact line in the Zaporizhya region in towns such as Orikhiv. Staff had to hide in bomb shelters for safety reasons and attacks on the energy infrastructure resulted in days of blackouts. Dorcas has strict security procedures in place, which meant, for example, that food distributions had to be carried out very quickly (100-150 food parcels within half an hour) to reduce the risk and danger of many people in one place coming under fire. When Zaporizhya suffered a rocket strike Dorcas' partner organisation, City Aid Center, was able to almost immediately reach the site and distribute food parcels. As a result of this, people who had lost their homes and belongings at least had enough food for a month. Other food packages were distributed to IDPs in the city of Zaporizhya to help them get through the winter despite the sharp increases in food prices. A total of 3,655 food parcels were distributed.

#### Integrated response package

Dorcas provides an integrated response package of support to individuals in three rural communities close to the frontline in Zaporizhya oblast. The package provides emergency multi-purpose cash and protection assistance to conflict-affected individuals, non-food item kits to households, light and medium repairs to damaged houses, and communal bomb shelter kits. The project will provide assistance to over 5,000 project participants.

#### Rebuilding homes

Dorcas provides support to rebuild the damaged homes of non-displaced persons. We carry out small and medium repairs on houses damaged by shells and rockets in the Zaporizhya region. The houses are occupiable but need repairs to make them secure and ensure they can be adequately heated during the winter. Repairs typically involve replacing damaged doors and windows and occasionally mending roofs. Local authorities draw up an exhaustive list of damaged houses. Dorcas visits these to make an assessment and then selects which houses will be repaired.

#### Mental health awareness and support

In Transcarpathia, Dorcas implements a mental health awareness and support programme for IDPs and their host communities. The project helps to build mental health awareness, boost resilience, teach people coping mechanisms, and provide access to referral pathways for vulnerable IDPs and host community members. Furthermore, the capacity of Community Safety Net groups in the area of mental health is increased.

A range of activities are deployed in the project. These include CONNECT trainings (seven group sessions over two months with a facilitator) in which participants learn what stress is, its symptoms, and how to deal with it. CONNECT can be used with both adults and children. Individuals with more specific issues are referred for weekly one-to-one counselling with a psychologist. Case managers are also available to provide assistance where needed. Individuals living in remote rural areas receive mental health support from mobile teams that visit each community once a month. Finally, Dorcas provides capacity-building sessions for its partners in this project, Nehemia and New Beginnings.



#### Blue Bucket Campaign

The Blue Bucket Campaign is organised by Dorcas Country Offices in Albania, Romania, Moldova and Ukraine in cooperation with local partner organisations. They organise food collections in blue buckets and offer these buckets to marginalised people, such as older persons and families living in difficult circumstances, in communities across Eastern Europe.

With this campaign, the Dorcas Country Offices and local partners raise awareness on what individuals and community actors can do for marginalised people in their community or country. Blue Bucket Campaign initiatives motivate the community to care for and protect its marginalised members, for example with community activities, neighbours that care, volunteerism and practical support. The aim is to contribute to stronger communities that reach out to marginalised people.



In Ukraine, local churches and entrepreneurs are asked to participate in this campaign and collect food. Staff members and volunteers offer support in packing and distributing the blue buckets with food. Several hundred full blue buckets are distributed each year in communities where Dorcas and partner organisations participate in the Community Safety Nets with specific care for marginalised people.

**Helping IDPs to earn a sustainable income**

In Transcarpathia, Dorcas is helping IDP households to earn a sustainable income by finding work or starting a business. Project participants are selected based on unemployment data and vulnerability criteria. They join a local peer support group where coaches help them to produce a career development plan. They are also taught skills such as self-understanding, self-development, goal-setting, family issues, psychological well-being and motivation. Each participant receives a grant of up to 2,000 USD in instalments based on their career plan. This can be used for hard or soft skills training, a business grant, cash for agricultural inputs, et cetera. If necessary, participants can also receive additional coaching.



Impact Story

Food parcel makes a world of difference

Gerthruda (87) lives in the eastern part of Zaporizhya city with her 44-year-old daughter Anna. Before the conflict, they had a reasonable income. Gerthruda had a small pension and Anna, who is an artist, made a living from the paintings she sold.

However, the conflict destroyed the market for paintings and Anna’s efforts to find alternative employment failed because IDPs often took the few jobs available. Therefore, Gerthruda and Anna lived off their savings, but as these dried up, life became increasingly desperate as they struggled to pay for basic food items. They applied to several NGOs for assistance but did not meet these organisations’ vulnerability criteria. ‘So I started skipping my medication to pay for food even though that was not good for my health’, recalls Gerthruda. ‘And we felt too ashamed to talk about our desperate situation, even with our closest friends’, she adds.

Instead, they made discrete enquiries and scoured the internet for possible sources of help. They ended up finding a local partner of Dorcas. ‘We briefly explained our situation to the organisation’s representative, and a food parcel was brought to our

home the following day’, says Gerthruda. ‘That food parcel came at just the right moment. Due to our financial situation, we could no longer afford certain things like quality pasta, condensed milk, sunflower oil or rice, and these items were included in the package’, explains Anna.

‘It gave us the hope that we can continue to live through the conflict’.

Furthermore, thanks to that food parcel, Gerthruda could use the remainder of her pension to buy the medicines she needed instead of skipping them to buy food as she had done in the previous month.

For Gerthruda and Anna that food parcel meant far more than a few weeks of food security. ‘It gave us the hope that we can continue to live through the conflict’, says Anna.

Sustainable Development Goals: Leave no one behind

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



# Dorcas in Eastern Europe

Dorcas is active in Albania and the former “Soviet Block” countries of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. Besides the impact of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, the region is confronted by the longstanding issues of widespread corruption, high rural poverty, the rural-urban divide in welfare, a lack of care for older people, and marginalisation of certain social groups – especially Roma and people with disabilities. Unfortunately, these problems persist due to weak governance and justice systems, poor social cohesion, failing employment policies, and various human rights issues. However, on a positive note, a gradual strengthening of organised civil society is taking place.



**Our work**

In Eastern Europe, Dorcas focuses on the programme concepts Social Empowerment & Protection and Inclusive Entrepreneurship. We implement these through a bottom-up approach informed by research, data and the Country Offices’ experience. Our programmes are mainly realised in local systems by building resilient communities with community safety nets and advocating for a just system. Dorcas is committed to developing a strong regional profile in Eastern Europe based on cross-border programming, learning and exchange, and the joint development of resources and partnerships.

# Partners in Ukraine

## Our Programme Partners:

- New Hope Center
- New Beginnings
- Reformed Church of Szernye
- Nevo
- Samuel Foundation
- Enjoying Life
- City Aid Center
- Nehemiah
- Pro Agricultura Carpatika

## Our Strategic Partners and Donors:

- UNOCHA
- Help Age
- Criscon 24
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Dutch Relief Alliance
- World Vision International
- Samenwerkende Hulp Organisaties / Giro 555
- Christelijk Noodhulp Cluster (CNC)
- Stichting Kom over en Help
- Forth Global
- ZOA

## Partner with us!

I am Ferenc Katko, Country Director of Dorcas Ukraine. 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 so that together we can explore the opportunities for a partnership.

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