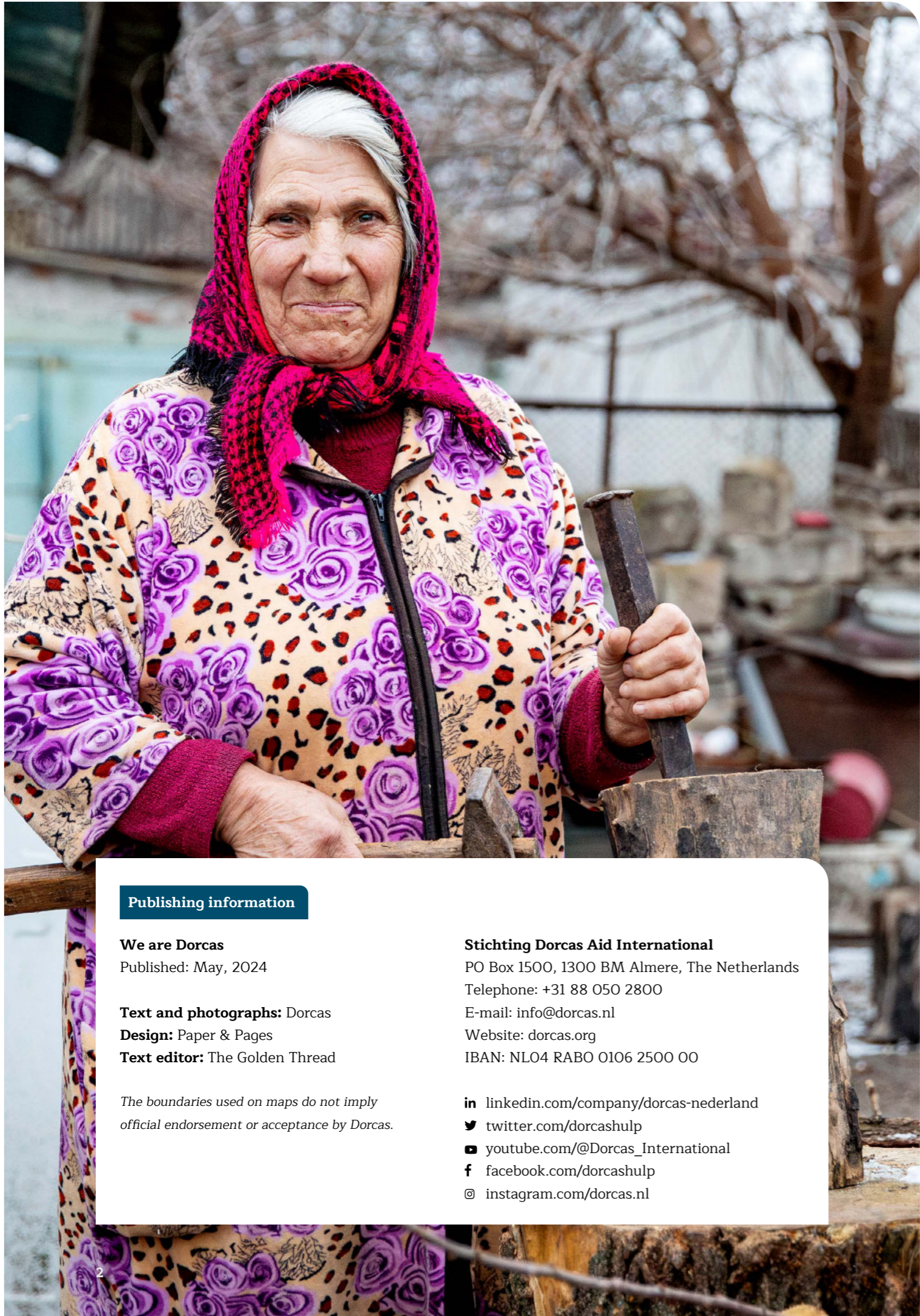


A smiling woman with dark skin and short hair is carrying a large, yellow, cylindrical water container on her head. She is wearing a yellow sleeveless top and a blue patterned skirt. Her hands are raised, touching the sides of the container. The background is a lush green field under a clear blue sky.

We are **Dorcas**

Empowering marginalised
communities to flourish



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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.

Our approach to change and impact

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:



Individual: We create opportunities for people to develop their skills and improve their confidence and relationships. If necessary, we also provide for their basic needs, such as water, food, shelter, mental health and psychological support.



Community: We invest in resilient communities, self-organising communities that work together to improve their living conditions. We strengthen the position of 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, each other and the community they live in.



Society: We make our contribution to a just society. We cooperate with local authorities and partners and motivate them to take their responsibilities. We combat taboos, ensuring that everyone has a voice and that everyone is included.

Programmatic priorities

Dorcas invests in resilient communities in which everyone can make their contribution. When a disaster or a crisis occurs, we provide assistance and support communities in rebuilding themselves. At the same time, we invest in structural remedies for poverty and social exclusion. We do this by encouraging entrepreneurship, self-reliance, and the protection of people in vulnerable circumstances.

The Dorcas theory of change is translated into three programme concepts that create impact, demonstrate our added value and inform the programmatic priorities set by each country office. These are:



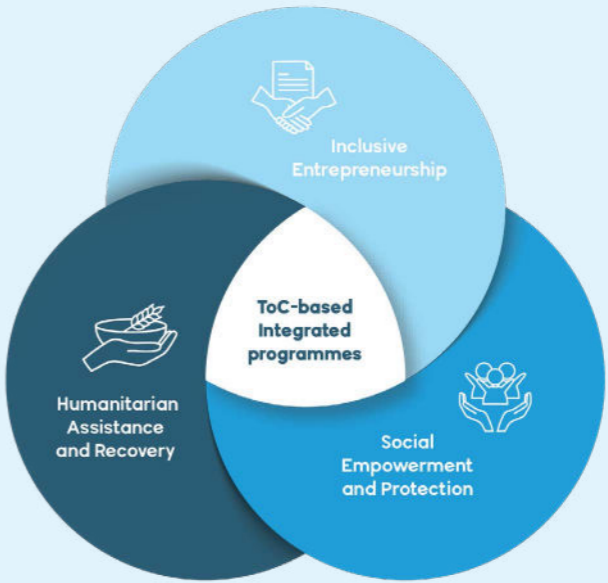
Humanitarian Assistance and Recovery. We aim to save lives and restore dignity, while ensuring all people affected by a crisis can participate and no one is left behind. We apply nexus principles, which are crucial in moving from a humanitarian crisis to a more stable economic and peaceful situation. Our thematic approaches are context-specific and include multipurpose cash, food security and livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene, and mental health and psychosocial support.



Social Empowerment and Protection. We stimulate inclusive social development of empowered communities that look after all their members including those most affected by marginalisation and poverty. We focus on mobilising and organising communities to solve problems and work on opportunities through asset-based community development. This strengthens social empowerment and cohesion and enables communities to mobilise resources and improve access to services such as health and education.



Inclusive Entrepreneurship. We support social and economic value creation and enable people to become self-reliant through entrepreneurship or employment. We enable people to overcome barriers to self-employment or employability and improve their wellbeing. We do this in cooperation with other actors from the community and wider society, such as existing entrepreneurs, local community-based organisations, the private sector and government institutions. We focus on formal and informal micro, small and medium businesses.



Where we work

Dorcas is present in Eastern Europe, Eastern Africa and the Middle East. Local colleagues lead our fourteen country offices. We have committed ourselves on a long-term basis to addressing extreme poverty, protracted crises, major inequality and social exclusion. Our staff and volunteers know the context, have access to extensive networks and act quickly in the event of unforeseen circumstances and recurring disasters.



Eastern Europe

Dorcas works in Albania, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. All four countries are former communist states and three of them (Moldova, Romania and Ukraine) share borders and were historically part of the “Soviet Block”. However, all four countries face common problems such as rural poverty, high unemployment, a lack of care for older people, and marginalisation of certain social groups – especially the Roma and people living with disabilities. The root causes of these problems are the lack of inclusive economic structures, weak governance and justice systems, and challenges in social protection and human capital.

The leading programme concepts for Dorcas’ work in Eastern Europe are Social Empowerment and Protection and Inclusive Entrepreneurship. Dorcas Eastern Europe responds to the aforementioned root causes by helping to build the systems needed through our Way of Working. We do this from the bottom up and mainly in local systems, with programmes aimed at social empowerment, protection and economic inclusion that are realised by building resilient communities and advocating for a just system.

Eastern Europe



The Middle East

Dorcas is present in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen. These countries share several contextual and cultural similarities. The Arabic language plays an essential role in communicating ideas, knowledge, tools and experiences, shared resources, lessons learned, curricula and illustrative material in local languages. Multiple and protracted conflicts and crises in the region have led to high numbers of refugees and internally displaced people in need of assistance and widespread economic challenges.

We have a strong and effective local presence in the field. Over the years, the country offices have gained significant regional expertise in humanitarian assistance and protection, child development, community-based approaches, and mental health and psychosocial support. We advocate for women’s rights so that women can gain access to protection platforms, social opportunities and basic needs.



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. These factors, reinforced by the impact of crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, have reversed the progress made in reducing poverty.

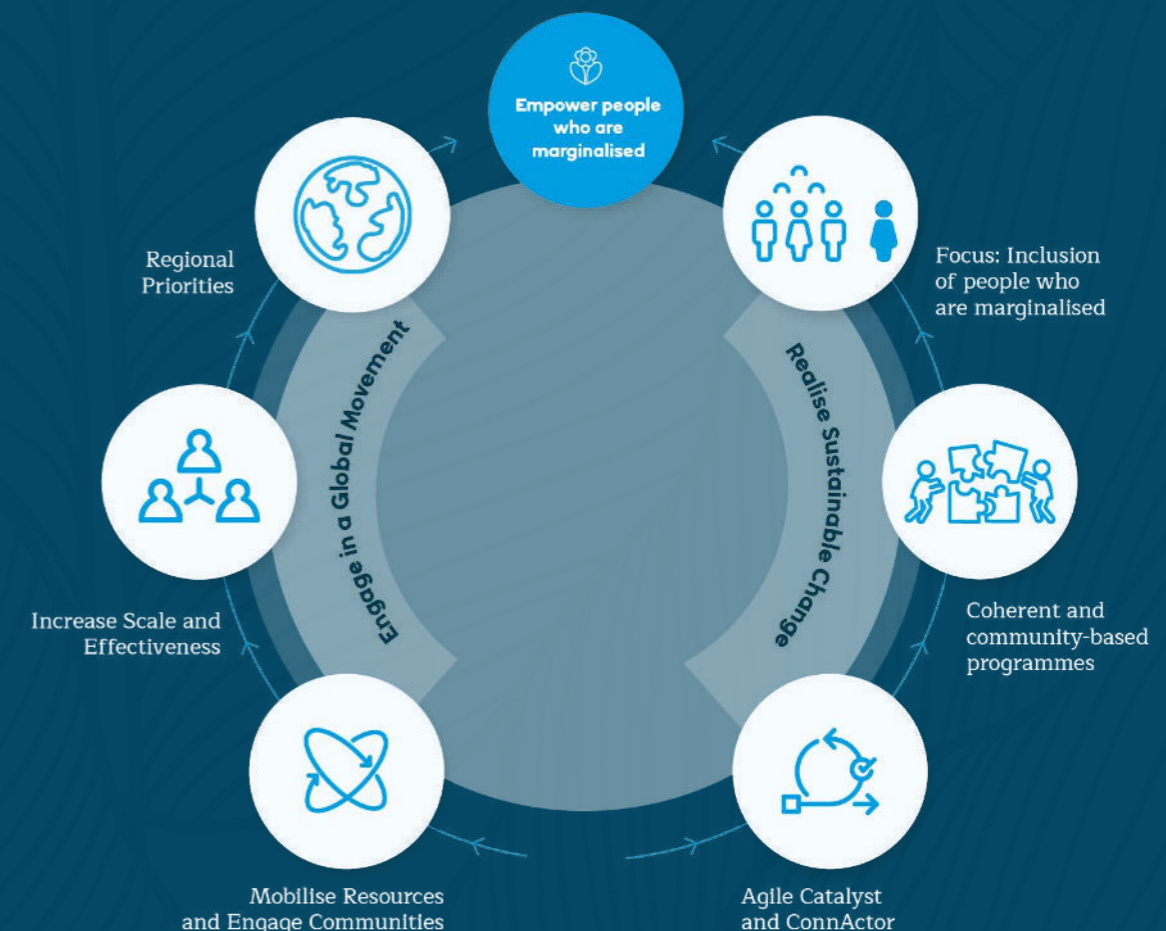


In all our programmes, we operate on the Triple Nexus of humanitarian assistance – development – peace and reconciliation. We mainly apply the programme concepts Humanitarian Assistance and Recovery and Inclusive Entrepreneurship. We aim to reduce the risk of disasters, save and restore lives, build resilient communities, increase economic inclusion and enhance the social empowerment and protection of people affected by poverty, crisis and exclusion.



Our strategic ambitions

For over forty years, Dorcas has reached out to people in need. We have learned how to contribute to the desired impact so that people and communities flourish. For the strategic period 2022-2025, our goals are to focus on people who are marginalised, develop coherent and community-based programmes, achieve more scale by engaging and collaborating with thousands of individuals, partners, networks, and other agencies, and increase our agility. These main policy choices are worked out in the following concrete ambitions:



- Increase the focus on including people who are marginalised and socially excluded.
- Improve the cohesion and integration of our community-based programmes, monitor these more accurately and learn from those outcomes.
- Expand our influence on authorities and policymakers.
- Increase the scale and effectiveness of our work through constructive partnerships that tackle today's complex challenges.
- Mobilise resources and engage communities by increasing the number of foundations, groups and individuals who support our work.
- Strengthen the position of our country offices, as well as the role of Dorcas as an organisation, so that they can serve as an agile catalyst for change and a "ConnActor" of various stakeholders.
- Bolster and align our regional strategies, cross-country learning and cooperation.

*Since May 2022, Dorcas and ZOA have formed a joint working organisation under the name ZOA Dorcas South Sudan. By pooling their expertise, the two organisations can realise more sustained change for the people most affected by crisis, conflict and poverty.

Monitoring progress

Dorcas sets medium and long-term goals for the impact it seeks to achieve in its projects. These goals enable us to monitor progress, evaluate effectiveness, provide accountability and learn from our experiences. Accountability is a crucial aspect of the Dorcas approach. And that involves more than informing our executive and supervisory boards or keeping our partners updated. Ultimately, our greatest responsibility is to give account to the individuals, groups, and communities who participate in our programmes so that they can take responsibility for their future.

Lobby and advocacy

Dorcas seeks to positively influence governments and institutions so that they honour the rights and well-being of citizens. We develop and share evidence-based advocacy messages aimed at changing policies and practices that impede the change required at all levels for people and communities can flourish. We support communities that advocate for their rights and hold governments and other actors – including corporations and larger organisations – to account.

Our contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 1, 2, 10



Our programmes contribute to the immediate and long-term alleviation of poverty, improved food and water security, and resilient livelihoods with a focus on vulnerable and crisis-affected groups.

SDG 6, 13



Our programmes pay special attention to climate-smart agriculture and the improvement of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems.

SDG 5



Across our countries of operation, we seek to reverse the exclusion and stigmatisation of marginalised groups in society.

SDG 8, 12



In different contexts, we develop opportunities for inclusive and resilient entrepreneurship and access to market systems. We strengthen selected value chains in cooperation with all actors and stakeholders involved. Together with investors, we work on social impact entrepreneurship development.

SDG 7



In countries affected by climate change and environmental degradation, we strengthen the development of entrepreneurial initiatives for sustainable climate-smart energy, particularly for household purposes.

Our partners

Dorcas works together with national and international partners, such as other non-profit organisations, community-based organisations, the business community, governments, knowledge institutes and donors. Through our shared vision or common interests, we exchange knowledge and other resources. Dorcas works together with its partners on programmes, and with them, we speak out against injustice. This is how we amplify our impact.

Dorcas works in partnerships because we realise we can achieve more impact by working together. Our successful collaborations with NGOs, faith- and community-based organisations, the private sector, government, research institutes, and investors are built on committed relationships, trust and shared values. Through the partnerships we develop, we seek to recognise, respect, and strengthen the leadership of local authorities and develop the capacities of local communities.

These are some of our key international partners and networks:

Dorcas appreciates and thanks all of its partners and networks, including those not specifically mentioned here.

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