Dorcas

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Capacity statement

Dorcas is a faith-based organisation dedicated to providing humanitarian assistance and fostering development cooperation. We are committed to creating sustainable changes in the lives of marginalised people, giving them opportunities to build resilience and thrive despite poverty, exclusion or crisis. Dorcas began operations in Yemen in 2021, starting in Aden.

Background

Dorcas Yemen has successfully implemented a variety of projects and programmes in collaboration with our local partners, primarily in the key priority response areas designated by the authorities and the United Nations. These sectors include disaster relief and rehabilitation, health, protection, renewable energy, climate change adaptation, and resilience.



One of Dorcas's key strengths is our capacity for networking and mobilising acceptance among local communities and resources. This includes engaging local partners and volunteers to reach those who are most difficult to access.

Aiming to support women, children, people with disabilities and socially marginalised groups, Dorcas Yemen implements programmes in various sectors, including health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food security and livelihoods, and protection. These programmatic priorities are based on humanitarian needs identified through local assessments.

Dorcas Yemen works through, and simultaneously provides technical support to, its local partners on the ground. Projects are developed in a participatory manner, involving communities from the outset in the design, implementation, and monitoring of activities within the priority areas established by the relevant thematic clusters.

Donors and partners

Dorcas Yemen has successfully established and nurtured strong relationships with key donors to enhance its grants portfolio. In 2023, Dorcas attracted funding estimated at over \$1.8 million. Some of our major donors and implementing partners in 2023/2024 include:









Technical sectors

Food, cash, and livelihood assistance

Dorcas Yemen has extensive experience in supporting communities to enhance their food security and livelihoods, thereby increasing household incomes. This is achieved by empowering and equipping people with knowledge, skills, and technologies. For example, Dorcas provided technical skills through inclusive entrepreneurship training to marginalised women, including IDPs and host communities, in Aden and Aldhalee governorates. The women were trained in sewing and embroidery and were supplied with the necessary tools, such as sewing machines, clothing materials, and sewing kits, to start income-generating activities (IGAs).

In Taiz and Aden, Dorcas partnered with ITDC to provide minimum food baskets, cash, or voucher-based assistance to support highly marginalised households in meeting their most urgent needs. Additionally, solar training and the distribution of solar panels were conducted for households. In Lahj, Aldhalee, and Qataba, Dorcas responded to flood-affected IDPs by distributing unconditional cash transfers.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

The Dorcas Yemen WASH programme aims to address critical gaps in water infrastructure, basic sanitation facilities, and hygiene, targeting populations in internally displaced person (IDP) camps, refugee settlements, and host communities. We work closely with local authorities, project participants, stakeholders, and host communities to construct sanitation facilities in schools, train community health volunteers (CHVs) on hygiene, raise community awareness, and distribute hygiene kits. For example, in Taiz, Dorcas partnered with ITDC to rehabilitate six community water systems and rainwater harvesting systems. This collaboration also involved distributing hygiene kits, training CHVs, and conducting community awareness sessions on hygiene.

Anticipatory action and adaptation

In Aldhalee, Dorcas constructed a water dam and barrier to minimise the destructive impact of constant flooding during the rainy season. Additionally, a solar-powered water system was installed. In collaboration with NMO and LLA, Dorcas developed a prototype solar oven system, an innovation aimed at reducing the time women spend searching for wood in the vicinity of their fields, providing them with a renewable source of energy for cooking. **Health and nutrition** Dorcas supported ten health facilities providing primary healthcare services, including Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI), the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI), maternal health, and laboratory services. This also involved the rehabilitation of pharmaceutical warehouses, provision of medical equipment and pharmaceuticals, and capacity building for healthcare workers. Dorcas partnered with Medair and YFCA.

Impact: Rasha's nine-month-old baby, Randa, suffered acute malnutrition with complications due to the harsh conditions in their IDP camp. They both received support at the Lakamat Al Doki Health Centre. Rasha said: 'This health centre is a lifeline for me and my child. I still walk a long way to get here, but my child is better now.'

Mental health and psychosocial support

Dorcas works closely with key actors to create a protective environment that cares and supports people affected by the current conflict in Yemen. Dorcas works with partners like the Ministry of Health and other local NGOs such as LOYAC, SSFD and CYPF to provide MHPSS services in Aden, Aldhalee and Taiz governorates. Capacity strengthening of IDPs, host communities in MHPSS, awareness creations, supporting women IDPs in establishing IGAs.

Monitoring and evaluation

Learning through monitoring, evaluation and accountability is central to Dorcas's approach throughout the project cycle and management. This process is embedded in the project cycle, with results frameworks for all Dorcas projects developed and monitored by the MEAL team throughout the implementation period.

Partnerships and government relations

Our implementation approach is multi-sectoral and community-based, involving close collaboration and co-creation with various government ministries, sector clusters, and national and international nongovernmental organisations. Dorcas Yemen is a member of the FSAC, WASH, Health and Nutrition, and Protection clusters in Yemen.

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