

Dorcas

Ethiopia

Country profile

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Editorial staff: Fikru Tarekegn (PhD),
Dave Thomas (thegoldenthread.nl)

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Dorcas Ethiopia

P.O. Box 8989

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Office location: Woreda 02, House No. 393, Bole
SubCity, Addis Ababa

Telephone: +251 911 202 199

E-mail: office@ethiopia.dorcas.org

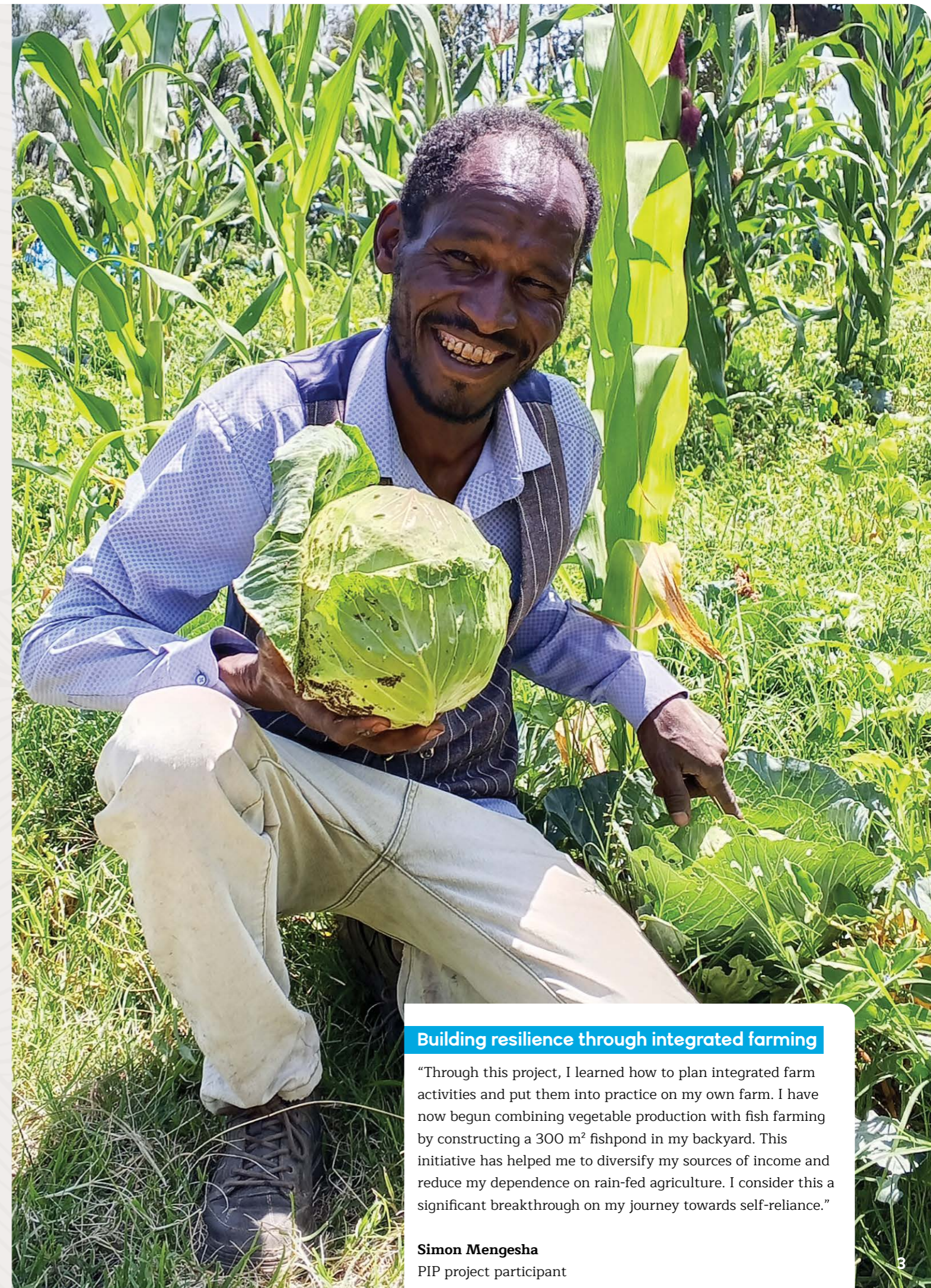
Website: dorcas.org/ethiopia

in [linkedin.com/company/dorcas-ethiopia](https://www.linkedin.com/company/dorcas-ethiopia)

Quality assurance and accountability

Dorcas Ethiopia adheres to the Dorcas global commitment to quality, accountability, and responsible resource management. Our work is guided by internationally recognised standards and principles for

humanitarian and development cooperation, including Dorcas internal quality systems, safeguarding policies, and accountability frameworks.



Building resilience through integrated farming

“Through this project, I learned how to plan integrated farm activities and put them into practice on my own farm. I have now begun combining vegetable production with fish farming by constructing a 300 m² fishpond in my backyard. This initiative has helped me to diversify my sources of income and reduce my dependence on rain-fed agriculture. I consider this a significant breakthrough on my journey towards self-reliance.”

Simon Mengesha
PIP project participant

Who is Dorcas?

Dorcas is a Christian organisation working in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa. We have worked in Ethiopia since 1998. Dorcas supports people facing poverty, exclusion and crisis. We stand beside people in vulnerable situations. We support them in unlocking their potential and restoring their dignity. We work with partners to build sustainable livelihoods, strengthen community structures, and improve access to services. Our mission is rooted in compassion and action. We follow Jesus' example by standing with those who are left behind.



Discover more in the We are Dorcas brochure.



Dorcas Ethiopia at a glance

Who we are

Dorcas Ethiopia works across the South Corridor (Sidama, South Ethiopia, Somali, Amhara and Oromia regions) and the Addis Ababa city administration. We support communities affected by conflict, drought, displacement and poverty. Our work spans humanitarian assistance, recovery, livelihoods, climate adaptation and community development. Over the years, we have strengthened our presence through long-term partnerships, community-led approaches and evidence-based programming. We collaborate with government, civil society, local partners and international donors to build resilience, restore livelihoods and support groups in vulnerable situations. Our commitment to localisation ensures that communities and partners lead their own development.

Our expertise

We work across four themes: Crisis Response, Livelihoods and Food Security, Climate Adaptation, and Community Development. Our programmes apply community-based and locally led approaches, including climate-smart agriculture, anticipatory action, recovery support, social empowerment, protection, and market-oriented livelihoods. A strong MEAL system supports evidence-based decision-making, adaptive programming and accountability. Our work is delivered through local partners supported by national technical experts.

Our geographic focus and reach

Where we work: Sidama, South Ethiopia, Somali, Amhara, Oromia and Addis Ababa.

Regional priorities

Sidama and South Ethiopia regions:

Dorcas Ethiopia supports smallholder farmers to strengthen sustainable and climate-resilient farming systems, promoting innovation, productivity, and food security through locally led, climate-smart agricultural practices.

Somali and Oromia regions:

In drought- and conflict-affected border areas, Dorcas Ethiopia applies humanitarian-development-peace (triple nexus) programming to support climate adaptation, resilient livelihoods, and social cohesion. In the Moyale region, cross-border work links lifesaving assistance, livelihood recovery, and peacebuilding to reduce climate-related risks and support peaceful coexistence among pastoralist, displaced, and host communities.

Addis Ababa City Administration:

In Addis Ababa, Dorcas Ethiopia addresses urban poverty and exclusion by expanding TVET and employability pathways for youth, while strengthening community-based social protection that promotes dignity, well-being, and social inclusion for older people and other groups in vulnerable situations.



Current reach





Our strategic ambition

Dorcas Ethiopia aims to achieve sustainable growth in reach and resources, strengthen programme quality through evidence-based and locally led approaches, and enhance its role as a recognised professional organisation within Ethiopia’s humanitarian and development sector. In contributing to Dorcas’s global ambition to grow with quality and purpose, Dorcas Ethiopia invests in strong partnerships, learning and accountability systems, and high professional standards. These measures reinforce its position as a trusted organisation working for lasting change for people facing poverty, exclusion, and crisis in Ethiopia.

Dorcas vision for Ethiopia

By 2030, we envision an Ethiopia where:

Communities across seven geographic locations build lasting resilience through integrated humanitarian and development support.

Local partners lead programme delivery, strengthened through systematic capacity development.

Marginalised groups experience dignity, inclusion and opportunity as they shape their own futures.

How Dorcas contributes to this vision

Dorcas Ethiopia strengthens community resilience through evidence-based, community-led and long-term approaches. We work across four themes: Crisis Response, Livelihoods and Food Security, Climate Adaptation, and Community Development. Our programmes address immediate needs while building long-term resilience by applying climate-smart agriculture, anticipatory action, recovery support, social empowerment, and protection. We collaborate with government, civil society, research institutions and local partners to deliver integrated solutions. By 2030, we will reach 30,000 direct participants annually, expand technical expertise, strengthen local partner capacity and enhance programme quality through robust MEAL systems. Our commitment to localisation ensures that communities and partners lead their own development.

The challenges we address with our partners

Economic challenges and poverty

High inflation, unemployment and economic instability undermine household resilience. Addressing these barriers is essential for sustainable livelihoods.

Climate change and environmental degradation

Drought, erratic rainfall and climate-induced disasters threaten food security and livelihoods. Strengthening climate adaptation is central to our work.

Conflict and displacement

Ethnic violence and insecurity cause widespread displacement and disrupt livelihoods. Community-based recovery and protection systems are needed.

Climate-induced disasters have become regular occurrences rather than occasional events.

How Dorcas makes a difference in Ethiopia

Dorcas Ethiopia works through four programmatic themes that advance our 2030 vision. All programmes integrate inclusion, protection, climate sensitivity and community ownership.



Crisis Response

What we do We respond to acute and protracted crises through anticipatory action, life-saving assistance and recovery support.

Impact example Ethnic clashes forced Dase Olike to flee her home. With multi-purpose cash assistance, she bought food, started a small business and secured housing. She now raises chickens and sells coffee, transforming her family's situation.

Contribution to vision Supports safety, dignity and recovery for displaced households.

Key metric Between 2020 and 2025, more than 139,000 crisis-affected households received life-saving emergency support across highly vulnerable regions.



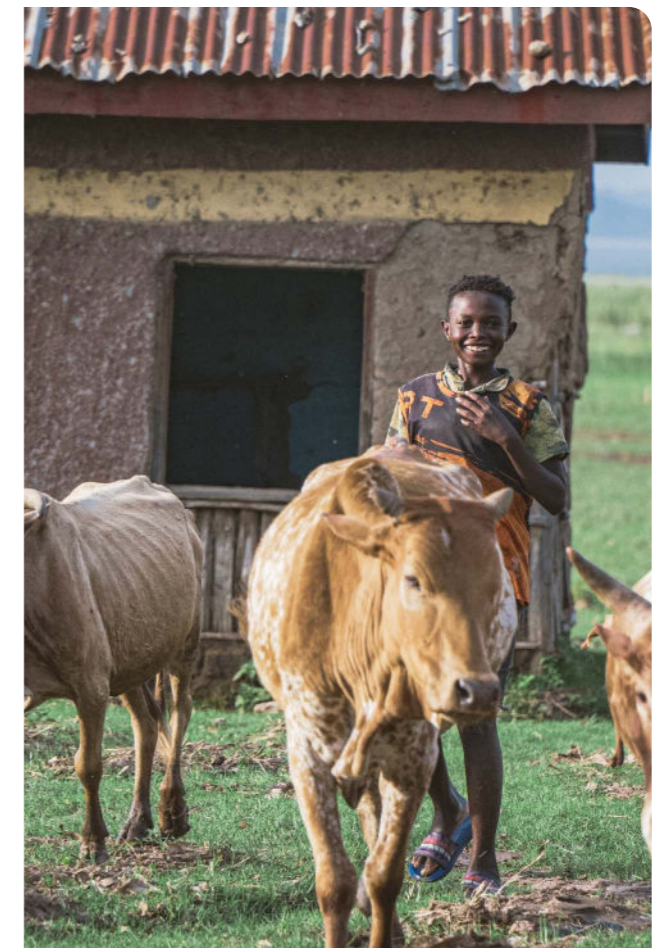
Livelihoods and Food Security

What we do We support people in finding sustainable livelihoods and strengthening food security.

Impact example In Bede Kebele, dairy farmers facing drought diversified into animal feed supply after Dorcas training. Improved business skills enabled them to stabilise income and plan market expansion.

Contribution to vision Strengthens economic resilience and community well-being.

Key metric Between 2020 and 2025, over 2,700 households improved their food security, and more than 9,600 young people increased their income through skills development, employability, and market-oriented economic opportunities.



Impact story camel milk cooperative



'Before I joined the cooperative, my life was very uncertain. During the dry seasons, work would completely disappear. Some days we struggled just to get food. Today, I see myself as a businesswoman. I have a stable income, I save money, and I plan better. People respect me more, and I have a voice not only in my home but also in the community.'

Kadija

Camel milk cooperative participant



Climate Adaptation

What we do We enable farmers and citizens to adapt, protect themselves and build resilience to climate impacts.

Impact example Erratic weather threatened Yonas's crops. With support from Dorcas, he acquired new skills and began growing vegetables, increasing his income and securing his family's future.

Contribution to vision Builds climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

Key metric Between 2020 and 2025, over 277,000 people benefited from climate-smart practices and resilience-building interventions that strengthen long-term community stability.



Community Development

What we do We partner with communities through collaborative, asset-based and conflict-sensitive approaches.

Impact example In Moyale, hydroponic fodder production ensured year-round forage for livestock, increasing milk production and strengthening pastoral livelihoods.

Contribution to vision Enhances community capacity, resilience and quality of life.

Key metric Between 2020 and 2025, over 1,300 children and older people in vulnerable situations received support through community-based protection and safety net mechanisms.

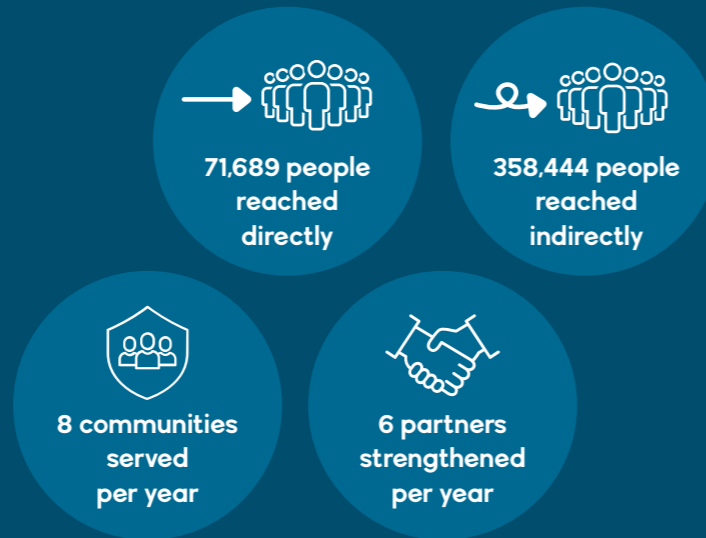


Our track record and capacity

Our contribution to Ethiopia's development (2020–2025)

Dorcas Ethiopia strengthened livelihoods, supported crisis-affected households and improved climate resilience across multiple regions. Through community-led and partner-driven approaches, we supported groups in vulnerable situations to access services, build resilience and secure sustainable livelihoods.

People and communities

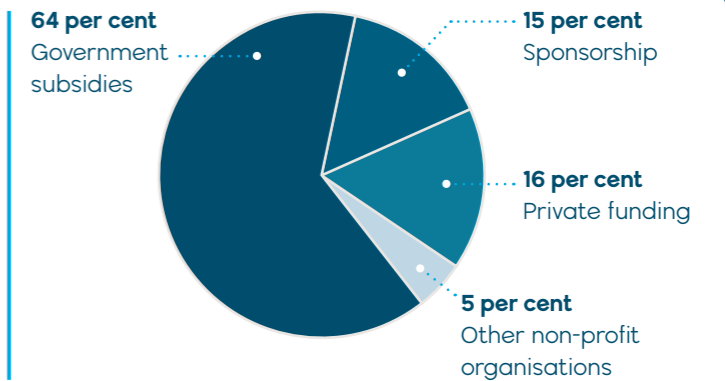


Programme quality

Dorcas is CHS certified following an independent HQAI audit, with Ethiopia selected as one of three country offices assessed. External evaluations report improved well-being, reduced isolation, and advocacy outcomes linking older people to government social safety net support. An independent consultancy evaluation found that most project participants reported moderate to high positive change as a result of Dorcas Ethiopia's interventions.

Financial capacity

Annual average income (2023-2025): € 1,776,700
Largest project implemented in the last 3 years: € 855,000
Programme expenditure: 80 per cent of total annual expenditure
Multi-year budget for 2026-2030: 60 per cent secured



Humanitarian Assistance and Recovery

Dorcas Ethiopia delivers timely and principled humanitarian assistance to communities affected by conflict, displacement, and climate shocks, with a strong focus on dignity and protection. During this period, 139,157 crisis-affected households received life-saving emergency support across highly vulnerable regions.

Livelihood and Economic Development

We strengthen sustainable and inclusive livelihoods for smallholder farmers, drought-affected households, and unemployed urban youth. A total of 2,710 households improved their food security, while 9,648 young people increased their income through skills development, employability, and market-oriented economic opportunities.

Climate Adaptation and Resilience

Dorcas Ethiopia integrates climate adaptation across its programmes to reduce vulnerability related to drought and rainfall variability. In total, 277,298 people benefited from climate-smart practices and resilience-building interventions that strengthen long-term community stability.

Social Empowerment and Protection

We reinforce community structures and social safety nets to promote inclusion, protection, and local ownership. During the period 2020–2025, 1,320 children and older people in vulnerable situations received regular, long-term support through community-based protection systems. received support through community-based protection and safety-net mechanisms.



Dorcas Ethiopia is CHS-certified through an independent audit. Between 2020 and 2025, we reached over 430,000 people. Independent evaluations demonstrated our programmes improved well-being and social inclusion.

Looking ahead (2026–2030)

Dorcas Ethiopia will expand its reach, strengthen local leadership, diversify funding and deepen expertise in climate adaptation and livelihoods. Local partners will lead more programme delivery, supported by strong MEAL and technical systems.



Join our vision

Why partnerships matter

Dorcas Ethiopia works with local, national and international partners, including government institutions, civil society organisations, research institutes, private-sector actors and faith-based networks. Our partnerships are built on trust, shared values and long-term commitment. Together, we create opportunities for communities to flourish. Dorcas Ethiopia is part of international and national networks that strengthen coordination, quality standards, advocacy, and locally led responses across humanitarian assistance, recovery, and sustainable development.

What partners say

“Through the Moyale Cross-Border Project, women who were previously excluded from economic opportunities are now running small businesses, engaging in cross-border trade, and participating in milk cooperatives. Dorcas Ethiopia’s support has strengthened household incomes, improved family well-being, and increased women’s role in community decision-making. The establishment of cross-border Technical Working Groups is also expected to improve coordination and the delivery of health and education services in the Moyale area.”

Mr Galma Diba

Head, Moyale Woreda Administration Office, Oromia Regional State, Ethiopia

“Through our collaboration, including with IGAD, we have been impressed by Dorcas Ethiopia’s ability to bridge the gap between international expertise and local needs. Your deep understanding of the communities you serve, combined with a strong commitment to building lasting partnerships, has been instrumental in driving positive change in a highly cost-effective manner.”

Dr Bedru Muzein

Project Component Manager – CrossBorder Cooperation, Strengthening IGAD’s Migration Policy Implementation Project (SIMPI), GIZ



Network memberships

- Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA)
- EU-CORD
- INGO Forum (Ethiopia)
- START Network
- UN-led coordination structures

Partners

- Addis Hiwot Integrated Sustainable Development Organisation (AHISDO)
- Bole Kifle Ketema Ideroch Council (now Samaritan)
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ethiopian Guenet Church Development and Welfare Organisations
- Ethiopian Mulu Wongel Amagnoch Church Development Organisation
- Fayyaa Integrated Development Organization (FIDO)
- IOM
- Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)
- Pastoralist Concern (PC)
- Swiss Church Aid (HEKS/EPER)
- Woord & Daad
- ZOA



Partnership principles

- Shared values and mutual respect
- Complementary strengths
- Transparent communication
- Long-term commitment
- Local leadership
- Joint learning and adaptation

An invitation from our director

At Dorcas Ethiopia, we work in close partnership with communities to promote sustainable livelihoods and strengthen resilience. Across urban and rural Ethiopia, our programmes support children, young people, women, men, and older people to overcome poverty, unemployment, climate shocks, displacement, and social exclusion. Through integrated humanitarian response, sustainable livelihoods, youth employment, social empowerment and protection, and climate-smart solutions, we help families to stabilise their lives today while building hope and opportunity for tomorrow.

Our work is visible in the lives of real people and communities. Households are strengthening their resilience to drought and economic shocks. Young people are gaining skills and access to income opportunities. Communities are shaping their own development pathways. These outcomes reflect the power of locally led, dignified, and inclusive approaches. Lasting change is achieved when communities are empowered, systems are strengthened, and partnerships are built on trust.

We invite you to walk alongside us – as a partner, supporter, or ally – as we continue this work together. By combining local knowledge with shared commitment and global solidarity, we believe it is possible to contribute to an Ethiopia where people live with dignity, resilience, and opportunity.

Fikru Tarekegn (PhD)

Country Director, Dorcas Ethiopia



Contact us

Dorcas Ethiopia

PO. Box 8989

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Office location: Woreda 02, House No. 393,

Bole SubCity, Addis Ababa

Telephone: +251 911 202 199

E-mail: office@ethiopia.dorcas.org

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in [linkedin.com/company/dorcas-ethiopia](https://www.linkedin.com/company/dorcas-ethiopia)



We take action in the face of poverty,
exclusion and crises. We come alongside
marginalised people and communities and
jointly create opportunities for them to flourish.
This is how we follow Jesus' example.