

# Dorcas

## Iraq

Country profile



Dorcas

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### Quality assurance and accountability

Dorcac Iraq follows recognised international and organisational standards. As a CHS-certified organisation, we uphold the highest standards of quality. Our projects are guided by the Sphere Minimum Standards, particularly in WASH and Livelihoods. Accountability to affected

populations is reinforced through feedback and complaint mechanisms. Our staff strictly follow protection and safeguarding measures. Finally, we adhere to the Dorcas Code of Conduct and the Dorcas Integrity Framework.

### Climate-smart agriculture

“The Waterboxx helped my fig trees survive and grow. Today, I am back in my village, farming my land after years of displacement.”

**Saleh Murad Khidr**  
Project participant



# Who is Dorcas?

Dorcas is a Christian organisation working in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa. We have worked in Iraq since 1995. Dorcas supports people facing poverty, exclusion and crisis. We stand beside people in vulnerable situations. We support them to unlock their potential and restore their dignity. We work with partners to strengthen resilience, expand access to services and promote social inclusion. 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 Iraq at a glance

### Who we are

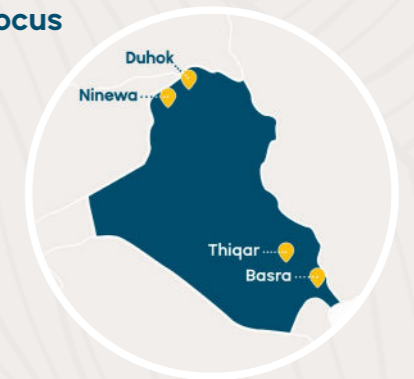
Dorcas Iraq works across four governorates, supporting communities affected by conflict, displacement and climate change. We have transitioned from humanitarian assistance to long-term climate resilience programming. Our work focuses on climate-smart agriculture, integrated water resource management, protection, and community preparedness. We collaborate with authorities, civil society, local partners and the private sector to strengthen resilience and restore livelihoods. Our hybrid model combines direct implementation with local partnerships, enabling us to reach drought-affected, conflict-affected and environmentally stressed communities. Our long-term presence and trusted relationships position us as a growing climate resilience actor in Iraq.

### Our expertise

We work across three themes: Climate Adaptation, Water, and Livelihoods and Food Security. Our programmes apply climate-smart agriculture, nature-based solutions, water-saving technologies, protection and preparedness, and community-led approaches. We strengthen local capacity through training, mentorship and technical support. A strong MEAL system supports real-time monitoring, impact measurement and evidence-based decision-making. By 2030, we aim to serve as the climate resilience centre for Dorcas in the Middle East.

### Our geographic focus and reach

Where we work: Ninewa, Duhok, and Basra.



### Regional priorities

#### Ninewa (Sinjar):

Position Sinjar as a model for integrated climate adaptation through solar-powered water systems, Waterboxx-supported agroecology, drought-resilient orchards, and community-led water governance.

#### Duhok:

Rehabilitate forest ecosystems and diversify rural livelihoods through forest biomass composting, reforestation, climate-smart farming, and green vocational training.

#### Basra:

Restore agricultural productivity in one of Iraq's most water-stressed regions by scaling climate-smart agriculture, Waterboxx technology, reforestation, and renewable energy solutions to combat salinity and extreme water scarcity.

## Current reach





### Our strategic ambition

Dorcas Iraq aims to expand its reach and partnerships, strengthen programme quality and measurable impact, and position itself as a recognised climate resilience leader in Iraq and the Middle East.

# Dorcas vision for Iraq

*By 2030, we envision an Iraq where:*

Communities across Duhok, Ninewa, Basra and Thi qar build resilience and secure climate-adapted livelihoods.

Local partners and authorities lead climate adaptation and protection initiatives.

People in vulnerable situations flourish with dignity, stability and opportunity despite environmental challenges.

### How Dorcas contributes to this vision

Dorcas Iraq strengthens community resilience through climate-smart agriculture, integrated water resource management, protection, and preparedness. Our hybrid model combines direct implementation with local partnerships, ensuring sustainable impact. We work with authorities, civil society and the private sector to restore ecosystems, improve water efficiency and support climate-affected households. Our programmes apply nature-based solutions, water-saving technologies, conflict resolution and social cohesion initiatives. By 2030, we will reach 15,000 people annually, expand to three governorates, and serve as the climate resilience centre for Dorcas in the Middle East. Through evidence-based programming and strong partnerships, we support communities to adapt and thrive.

### The challenges we address with our partners

#### Economic challenges and poverty

Over one-sixth of Iraq's population lives in poverty, with unemployment affecting nearly one-fifth. Conflict and instability have damaged infrastructure and livelihoods.

#### Climate change and environmental degradation

Water scarcity, rising temperatures and desertification threaten agriculture, food security and community stability.

#### Social vulnerability and displacement

1.1 million Iraqis remain internally displaced, alongside 180,000 refugees. Loss of livelihoods increases protection risks and social tensions.

Over the past four decades, Iraq's water bodies have shrunk to a quarter of their original size.

# How Dorcas makes a difference in Iraq

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



## Climate Adaptation

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

**Impact example** After eight years of displacement, Shihab returned to drought-affected land in Ware Khider. With technical training and 50 Waterboxx devices, he revitalised his orchard. Young trees now thrive with minimal water, giving his family renewed hope.

**Contribution to vision** Builds climate resilience and sustainable natural resource use.

**Key metric** 40,000 Waterboxx units and 40,000 fruit tree seedlings were distributed to 800 households (4,800 individuals), supporting the establishment of climate-resilient orchards across 20 communities.

400 households (2,400 individuals) strengthened their climate resilience through the adoption of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices and the provision of appropriate tools across 10 communities.

## Impact story Waterboxx

### Hope restored amid climate challenges

Shihab Sulaiman Khider, a farmer and father of seven, returned to his home in Ware Khider village, Sinjar, after eight years in displacement camps. "Finding work in the camps was extremely difficult, as I had only farming experience," he recalls.

Back home, he faced a new challenge: severe drought and water shortages caused by climate change. Despite planting over 700 trees, more than 200 failed to survive. His old well could no longer meet his crops' needs, while neighbouring farmers resorted to deep boreholes.

Selected as a Dorcas project participant, Shihab received 50 Waterboxx devices and training from Dorcas' technical team. "Now my land is thriving. Seedlings are growing with minimal irrigation, and after a short period, the Waterboxxes can be reused for new trees. It's incredible how much can be done with so little water," he shares.

In just two-and-a-half months, his trees have grown far faster than they would have without the Waterboxx. "I cannot express enough gratitude for this support. I hope other farmers in my village can benefit as much as I had."





## Water

**What we do** We provide communities with access to clean water and promote its sustainable use.

**Impact example** In Sinjar, rehabilitation of boreholes and water networks improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation. The intervention strengthened community health, stability, and internally displaced persons returns.

**Contribution to vision** Improves health, dignity and resilience in underserved areas.

**Key metrics** 6,500 people gained reliable access to safe drinking water through the rehabilitation of boreholes and water networks and the installation of solar energy systems across 10 communities.

10 boreholes and water networks were rehabilitated and powered by solar energy, restoring sustainable water supply to drought-affected communities.

400 households (2,400 individuals) strengthened their climate resilience through the adoption of climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices and the provision of appropriate tools across 10 communities.



## Livelihoods and Food Security

**What we do** We support people to find sustainable livelihoods and strengthen food security.

**Impact example** Gule, a mother of six who returned after displacement, revived her livelihood through the Dorcas Home Gardening Project. With seeds, tools and training, she transformed barren land into a productive garden, improving food security and restoring stability.

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

**Key metric** 1,300 individuals supported with agricultural inputs, improving household income and access to fresh, nutritious food.

# Our track record and capacity

## Our contribution to Iraq's development (2020–2025)

Dorcas Iraq strengthened livelihoods, improved water access and advanced climate adaptation across multiple governorates. Through community-led and partner-driven approaches, we supported displaced and climate-affected households to rebuild stability and resilience.

## People and communities



## Results per theme

### Climate Adaptation

- 12,000 forest trees planted, restoring 24 hectares of degraded land through reforestation and afforestation.
- Approximately 5,000 Waterboxxes and fruit tree seedlings provided to 100 farmers to enhance climate-resilient agriculture.
- Over 30 communities supported with improved climate resilience interventions (e.g. through provision of climate-smart agriculture, climate-awareness sessions, and Waterboxx)
- 75 farmers strengthened their knowledge and adoption of climate-smart agriculture practices.

### Water

- Over 90,000 people gained access to clean water for drinking, agricultural, and domestic use.

### Livelihoods and Food Security

- More than 9,000 people experienced improved food security.
- Over 140 households reported increased income.
- 80 households benefited from vocational and skills-based training.
- Approximately 400 households gained short-term employment through cash-for-work activities.
- More than 1,500 households received agricultural inputs, including greenhouses, home gardens, open-farm support, livestock, and fodder.

## Programme quality

An endline evaluation of the Climate Resilience and Adaptation programme in Duhok and Ninewa concluded that the project was well designed, relevant to local needs, and effective in strengthening climate resilience and agricultural capacity. There was clear evidence of improved knowledge, practical skills, and adoption of climate-smart practices. Across all respondents,

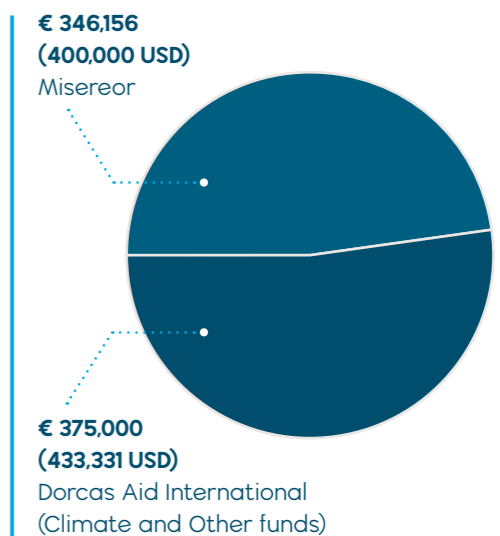
82 per cent rated project activities as very high quality, with a further 18 per cent rating them as moderate quality. No respondents rated activities as very poor. All respondents in Duhok (100 per cent) rated activities as very high quality. In Ninewa, 76 per cent rated activities as very high quality. Participants identified Waterboxx technology, home gardening, and climate-smart agriculture training as highly effective in improving food security, water access, and household resilience.

## Financial capacity

**Annual income (2026):** € 536,143 (625,043 USD)  
**Largest project implemented:** € 295,930 (345,000 USD)  
**Programme expenditure:** 81.6 per cent

**Dorcas Climate Change Project (Sinjar)**  
 € 346,156 (400,000 USD) from Misereor  
**Empowering Communities Through Climate Adaptation (Ninewa, Duhok, Basra)** € 300,000 from Dorcas Aid International (Climate and Other funds)  
**Climate Adaptation Expansion** € 75,000 from Dorcas Aid International (Climate and Other funds)

**Our programme portfolio in 2026 is € 757,000.**



**Local partners consistently demonstrate strong and reliable organisational capacity**, with overall performance scoring above 4 out of 5 across core areas such as mission alignment, accountability, partnerships, financial systems, community trust and MEAL quality. This sustained strength reflects their deep commitment to transparency, participatory approaches and high-quality implementation, making them fully ready to take on greater leadership in programme delivery.

## Looking ahead (2026–2030)

Dorcas Iraq will expand to three more governorates, strengthen local leadership, diversify funding and deepen expertise in climate adaptation. Local partners will lead more programme delivery, supported by strong MEAL and technical systems.

# Join our vision

## Why partnerships matter

Dorcas Iraq works with local, national and international partners, including authorities, civil society organisations, research institutes, private-sector actors and community groups. Our partnerships are built on trust, shared values and long-term commitment. Together, we create opportunities for communities to flourish.

### What partners say

“I cannot believe it has been five years already – time flies when you are doing great work. It has always been a pleasure to support your team due to your outstanding performance during those years.”

Wihad Wiess  
Associated Programme Officer, Iraq  
Humanitarian Fund (IHF), OCHA  
(2019–2023)

“Dorcas Iraq played a key leadership role in the Duhok Protection Working Group. Their commitment, coordination, and practical support helped strengthen protection efforts and improve collaboration among partners. Their contribution made a real difference for people in need across Duhok Governorate.”

Chair  
Duhok Protection Working Group  
(2019–2020)

### Network memberships

- Duhok Protection Working Group
- Cash Working Group (CWG) – Iraq
- Iraq Cash Forum (ICF)
- Returns Working Group (RWG) – Iraq
- Durable Solutions Technical Working Group (DSTWG)
- Joint Coordination Forum (JCF) – Ninewa
- Area-Based Coordination (ABC) – Sinjar
- NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI)
- Informal Iraq INGO Country Directors Group
- KRG Human Rights Action Plan – Consultative Process

### 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

As Country Director of Dorcas Iraq, I am delighted to share Dorcas Iraq’s vision for 2030: an Iraq where communities across Ninewa, Duhok, and Basra have built resilience and secured climate-adapted livelihoods.

In this future, local partners and authorities lead climate adaptation and protection initiatives, and people in vulnerable situations flourish with dignity and opportunity despite challenges. But we know we cannot achieve this vision alone. Strong partnerships with dedicated donors, local NGOs, and government agencies are crucial – built on trust and shared values, they amplify our impact and ensure sustainable local ownership. I warmly invite you to join us as partners in bringing this vision to life. Together, we can realise our vision for Iraq.

**Sargon Orah**  
Country Director, Dorcas Iraq



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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.