

Dorcas *Kenya*

Country profile



Dorcas

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Quality assurance and accountability

Dorcas Kenya adheres to:

- Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS)
- Do no harm
- Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)



From training to enterprise

“Dorcas trained us in financial literacy and the village savings and loan approach. We formed Noturesh Women group and learned how to produce modern curio designs. We now run a curio shop.”

Mary Luka
Chairperson, Noturesh Women Group

Who is Dorcas?

Dorcas is a Christian organisation working in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa. We have worked in Kenya since 1993. 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 Kenya at a glance

Who we are

Dorcas Kenya has worked alongside communities since 1993. Our work focuses on arid and semi-arid counties where poverty, climate shocks and limited services affect millions. Over three decades, we have evolved into a partner-driven organisation that prioritises local leadership, long-term presence and evidence-based programming. We collaborate with government, civil society, research institutions and the private sector to strengthen resilience, expand access to clean water, improve livelihoods and protect groups in vulnerable situations. Our commitment to localisation ensures that communities and local partners lead their own development.

Our expertise

We work across three themes: Climate Adaptation and Resilience, Water, and Livelihoods and Economic Development. Our programmes apply community-based and locally led approaches, including climate-resilient agriculture, water governance, WASH solutions, market systems development, and protection mainstreaming. A strong MEAL system supports evidence-based decision-making, adaptive programming and accountability. Our work is delivered primarily through empowered local partners, supported by national technical experts in climate change, WASH, livelihoods, MEAL and communication.

Our geographic focus and reach

Marsabit, Kajiado, Makueni, Kitui and Siaya.

Regional priorities

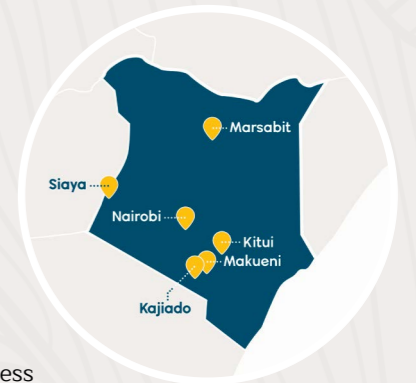
Marsabit: To build community resilience and combat frequent climate shocks by creating opportunities for economic growth and restoring degraded ecosystems.

Kajiado: To increase access to clean water and conserve the environment through climate-responsive water systems and sustainable ecosystem management.

Makueni: To catalyse climate-resilient livelihoods.

Kitui: To increase opportunities for economic development through climate-resilient value chains.

Siaya: To improve access to clean water and enhance social protection of marginalised people.



Current reach





Our strategic ambition

Dorcas Kenya aims to grow in reach and resources, strengthen quality through evidence-based programming and expertise development, and position itself as a recognised leader in climate adaptation and water solutions. By 2030, we will become a locally governed organisation driving sustainable change.

Dorcas vision for Kenya

By 2030, we envision a Kenya where:

Communities across Marsabit, Kitui, Makueni, Kajiado and Siaya thrive through climate-adapted livelihoods and secure access to clean water.

Local partners lead programme delivery, driving long-term, community-owned development.

Households in vulnerable situations access opportunities, children grow safely, and landscapes regenerate.

How Dorcas contributes to this vision

Dorcas Kenya strengthens community resilience through climate adaptation, water solutions and economic development. Our approach is locally led, long-term and evidence-based. We work primarily through empowered local partners, investing in their capacity to sustain progress. Our programmes apply proven methodologies including climate-resilient agriculture, water governance, WASH interventions, market systems development and protection mainstreaming. We collaborate with government, civil society, research institutions and the private sector to pioneer innovations, restore ecosystems and expand economic opportunities. By 2030, we will serve over 80,000 people annually across six counties, influence policy through evidence, and ensure communities lead their own development.

The challenges we address with our partners

Economic challenges and poverty

High poverty rates, limited livelihood opportunities and youth unemployment undermine resilience. Addressing these barriers is essential for economic independence.

Climate change and environmental degradation

Erratic rainfall, droughts and floods threaten water security, food production and livelihoods. Strengthening climate resilience is central to our work.

Social inequality and weak protection systems

People in vulnerable situations face limited access to services and protection. Stronger community structures and inclusive systems are needed.

Around 40 per cent of Kenyans live in poverty, and climate change intensifies this vulnerability.

How Dorcas makes a difference in Kenya

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



Water

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

Impact example In Marlal village, a five-kilometre pipeline extension now brings clean water to 73 households, reducing disease burden and freeing up women's time.

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

Key metric 120,124 people have access to clean water.



Climate Adaptation

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

Impact example In Makueni, Nzuli Muema transformed his beekeeping enterprise after Dorcas training. He now manages 60 hives producing 410 kg of honey, enabling him to pay school fees and expand his business.

Contribution to vision Builds climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

Key metric 1,003 households have improved resilient livelihoods.



Impact story Farmer Field Schools

Beekeeping as a pathway to climate resilience

Although climate change continues to devastate different communities, our local partners are at the forefront of reversing this process. We create opportunities for sustainable development and working collaboratively with other actors. For instance, Muangeni Rural Development Programme in Kitui County has trained over 600 beekeepers and organised them into a cooperative (Kamaki Farmers cooperative). The farmers are grouped into

29 Farmer Field Schools within 10 clusters. These beekeepers are now able to aggregate an average of 40 metric tonnes of honey annually, process it and sell it at premium prices. This has improved their incomes and created other jobs in logistics and the production of beehives and bee suits, involving both youth and women. The farmers have also integrated water harvesting and planting of bee-friendly trees to reverse the effects of climate change.

"Nature-based enterprises like beekeeping contribute to both environmental conservation and diversification of incomes."

Edwin Ong'anya
Country Director,
Dorcas Kenya



Economic Development

What we do We empower people to improve job skills, start small businesses and connect to inclusive markets.

Impact example In Siaya, livelihoods and nutrition were improved through poultry enterprises targeting marginalized households. Several voluntary saving and loaning associations (VSLAs) were initiated to provide access to credit and saving opportunities, especially for women.

Contribution to vision Expands economic opportunities and strengthens household resilience.

Key metric 2,277 households have improved their incomes.

Our track record and capacity

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

Dorcas Kenya strengthened livelihoods, expanded access to clean water and improved climate resilience across multiple counties. Through community-led and partner-driven approaches, we supported households in vulnerable situations to access services, build resilience and secure sustainable livelihoods.

People and communities



Results per theme



Programme quality

Over 80 per cent of project participants are satisfied with Dorcas interventions (meet their expectations), their participation in projects, and the general behaviour of Dorcas staff. All Dorcas programmes ensure inclusion of marginalised people.

Dorcas water projects adhere to WHO quality standards, enabling the consumption of 15 litres of portable water per person per day. All water programmes ensure the inclusion of women in water governance.

Climate change programmes contribute to reducing the carbon footprint (through the use of green energy and the restoration of ecosystems). The economic development programme contributes to the creation of decent green jobs and applies the market systems approach.

Financial capacity

Dorcas Kenya aims to diversify its funding by tapping new sources and forming partnerships. This will us to incorporate 6 to 9 development partners by 2030. We will achieve this by leveraging blended funding through private-sector engagement, supporting social enterprises, exploring cross-border funding opportunities, and investing in consortium building.

Dorcas Kenya has a history of working with a diverse group of donors and co-funding projects with different partners to ensure financial stability and impact.

Donors we have received funding from include:

- Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO).
- Vox Impulse.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) Netherlands.
- EU/Government of Kenya through Kenya Agriculture & Livestock Research Organization.
- GIZ on behalf of the German Ministry of Cooperation (BMZ) and its partner IGAD.
- Dutch Relief Alliance.
- Sumitomo Corporation Ltd.
- Dioraphte.
- County Government of Siaya.
- County Government of Kitui.
- County Government of Kajiado.
- County Government of Makueni.
- World Bank (FLLoCA- Financing Locally- Led Climate Action).
- BREIZH SOLIDARITE MAASAI (BSM).

Evaluations reveal that over 80% of Dorcas Kenya projects demonstrate impact among project participants. Women and youth are specifically targeted for empowerment through training, entrepreneurship, access to water and inclusion in value chains.

Looking ahead (2026–2030)

Dorcas Kenya will expand its reach, strengthen local leadership, diversify funding and deepen expertise in climate adaptation and water solutions. Local partners will lead 70% of programmes, supported by strong MEAL and technical systems.

Join our vision

Why partnerships matter

Dorcas Kenya 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.

What partners say

"We have worked with Dorcas Kenya since 2012. As a result of this collaboration, 141,358 individuals have gained access to safe water, 200 children with their parents now possess the knowledge to make informed decisions and improve their incomes, and 3,985 smallholder poultry farmers have acquired vital skills in poultry production, supporting better nutrition and increased earnings."

Anita Odhiambo

Programme Coordinator, NorthGem Community Development Programme, Siaya County, Kenya

"Together with Dorcas Kenya, we have expanded climate-smart agriculture, water access, and cooperative development. We have also improved incomes and resilience while attracting new partnerships and creating lasting, inclusive impact across the communities we serve."

Joseph Mwanthi

Programme Coordinator, Kitise Rural Development, Makeni County, Kenya



Network memberships

- Kenya Climate Change Working Group
- Adaptation Consortium
- Conservation Agriculture Hub
- EU CORD Kenya Forum

"We are proud to partner with an organisation making a real impact where it matters most: at the community level.

— Kennedy Ododa

Consortium Coordinator, Adaptation Consortium (ADA)



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

We know that eighty percent of Kenya's land is in arid or semi-arid areas and vulnerable to climate change. Dorcas Kenya therefore builds resilient communities through climate adaptation, water security, and economic development. We build our programmes around locally led solutions, evidence-based impact and leverage innovations, while ensuring there is inclusion and protection of marginalised people. We proactively forge partnerships because we know this amplifies the impact of our work, can catalyse blended funding, allows expertise to be shared, and creates synergy and scale.

We invite government, civil society, private sector, experts, and local communities to join us in our work. Together, we can realise our vision for Kenya.

Edwin Onyancha

Country Director, Dorcas Kenya



Contact us

Dorcas Kenya

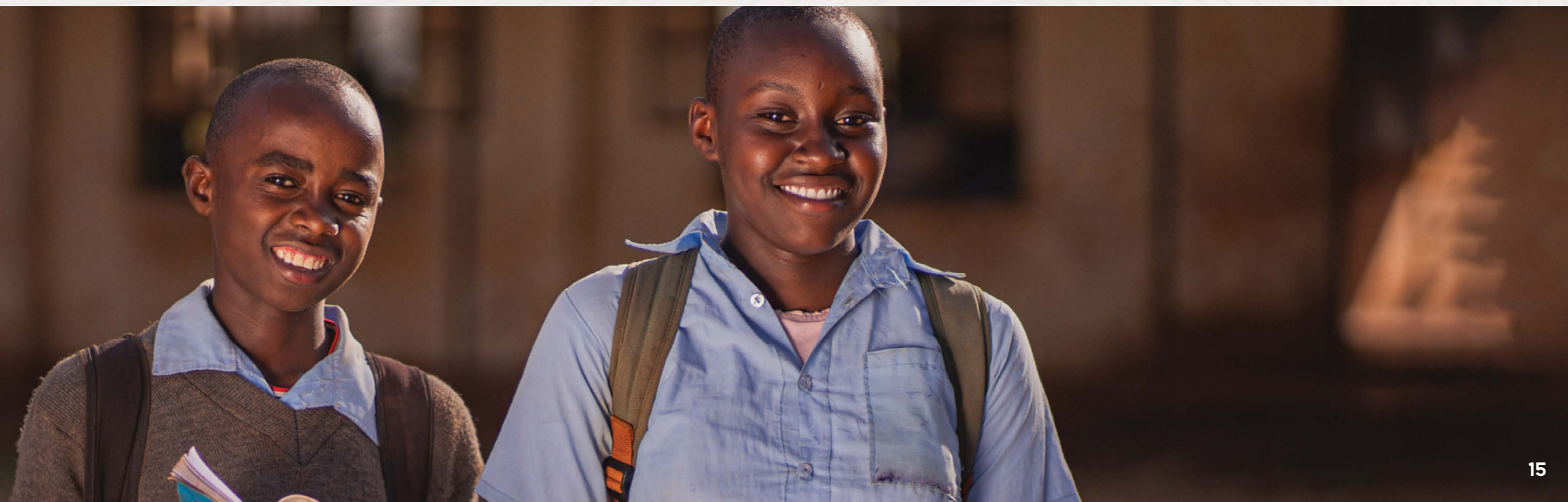
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We take action in the face of poverty,
exclusion and crises. We come alongside
marginalised people and communities and
jointly create opportunities for them to flourish.
This is how we follow Jesus' example.