

Dorcas *Moldova*

Country profile

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Community creates playground and park

“I have a belief that motivates me to act: my village is my home. So, if I want to live a good life, I need a good home, and this means I will do my best for my village and for myself.”

Dumitru
ABCD project leader in Pistruieni village



The ABCD initiative in Pistruieni led to the creation of a playground and park, thanks to the involvement of local residents, members of the diaspora, local authorities, and Dorcas.

Who is Dorcas?

Dorcas is a Christian organisation working in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa. We have worked in Moldova since 2003. 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 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 Moldova at a glance

Who we are

Dorcas Moldova works in 70 communities across the country, with a long-term presence in areas most affected by poverty, social exclusion and climate challenges. Our programmes are rooted in the realities of Moldova, where drought, limited economic opportunities and demographic shifts place pressure on households. We empower local organisations and volunteers to lead sustainable change, strengthen social and economic protection, and build climate-resilient livelihoods. Our partnerships with civil society, local authorities and community groups enable us to deliver impact that is locally owned and sustainable.

Our expertise

We work across three themes: Protection, Community Development, and Livelihoods and Food Security. Our approach is community-led and evidence-based. We apply methodologies such as community safety nets, asset-based community development, climate-smart agriculture, and integrated protection-livelihoods models.

A strong monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEAL) system supports quality, learning and programme adaptation. We realise our work through experienced national teams and our efforts are strengthened through partnerships with local organisations and volunteers.

Our geographic focus and reach

Where we work: Northern, southern and central Moldova, with expansion into new communities based on need.



Current reach (2025)





Our strategic ambition

By 2030, Dorcas Moldova aims to reach about 50 per cent more project participants, diversify funding from three to five sources, and position itself as a national expert in social and economic protection, local economic development, and climate adaptation and resilience. We will strengthen evidence-based programming, expand partnerships, and scale community-led models that deliver measurable results.

Dorcas vision for Moldova

By 2030, we envision a Moldova where:

Communities across southern and central Moldova build climate-resilient livelihoods and sustainable local economies.

Children, youth, older persons, and families in vulnerable situations have access to strong social and economic protection systems.

Local organisations and volunteers lead community-driven development and long-term resilience.

How Dorcas contributes to this vision

Dorcas Moldova strengthens community resilience through locally led, evidence-based and long-term approaches. We work across three themes: Protection, Community Development, and Livelihoods and Food Security. Our programmes apply proven methodologies, including community safety nets, climate-smart agriculture, integrated protection-livelihoods models, and asset-based community development. These approaches address root causes at individual, household and community levels. We collaborate with civil society, local authorities, businesses and national platforms to create systemic change. By 2030, we will expand our reach, strengthen local leadership, and position Dorcas Moldova as a strategic development facilitator and national expert in climate adaptation and social and economic protection.

The challenges we address with our partners

Economic challenges and poverty

Persistent inflation and limited rural opportunities deepen poverty and reduce household resilience. Addressing these challenges is essential for sustainable livelihoods.

Climate change and environmental degradation

Droughts, water scarcity and extreme weather events threaten agriculture and rural livelihoods. Climate adaptation is central to our work.

Social exclusion and weak protection systems

Older people, persons with disabilities, children and rural households face limited access to services and social protection. Stronger community structures and inclusive systems are needed.

Droughts have reduced wheat production by 60 per cent in recent years, pushing rural households deeper into vulnerable situations.

How Dorcas makes a difference in Moldova

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



Protection

What we do We protect people vulnerable to poverty, exclusion, crisis and violence through integrated measures, targeted prevention and advocacy.

Impact example When conflict destroyed Nadejda's home in Kherson, she fled to Moldova with nothing. Through the Dorcas refugee programme, support group and empowerment training, she regained dignity and purpose, and now she helps others to heal.

Contribution to vision Strengthens dignity, safety and inclusion for people in vulnerable situations.

Key metric Since 2022, Dorcas Moldova has assisted 6,775 Ukrainian refugees in securing safety, restoring dignity, and rebuilding their lives.

Each year, 270 children receive educational support, social development activities and financial literacy training.



Community Development

What we do We strengthen community capacity, resilience and social cohesion through collaborative, asset-based approaches.

Impact example After a Dorcas training, a parent in Pistruieni mobilised neighbours and local authorities to build a playground. The collective effort strengthened social bonds and improved children's well-being.

Contribution to vision Builds resilient, connected communities that lead their own development.

Key metric In 2025, 1,329 adults felt confident, valued, and able to make decisions and participate actively in their community.



Impact story Elena Procopie

Rediscovering hope through community

Elena Procopie spent many years living alone on a modest pension, with limited family support and long days marked by silence and isolation. Her life began to change when she joined a Dorcas-supported community project. What started as practical assistance quickly became something much deeper. Alongside essential support – such as help with winter heating and basic needs – Elena found connection, belonging, and renewed purpose.

Through regular visits, community gatherings, and simple acts of care, Elena rediscovered the joy of being part of a community again. She formed

“For me, this project means more than help. It means I am not forgotten because someone, somewhere, thinks of me and reaches out a hand. All the gifts, visits and kind words have brought light into my soul. Now I experience joy and hope again.”

Elena Procopie
Community safety net participant

friendships, shared experiences, and felt seen and valued, something she had long missed.

Today, Elena describes the project as a lifeline. “It means I am not forgotten,” she says. Her words are a powerful reminder of how compassion and consistent support can restore dignity and hope.

Elena’s story also reflects the wider impact Dorcas has in Moldova: reaching older people at risk of isolation, helping them meet daily needs, and enabling them to rebuild meaningful connections and look to the future with confidence.



Livelihoods and Food Security

What we do We support sustainable livelihoods and food security through climate-smart agriculture and rural economic development.

Impact example Nicolae struggled to provide for his family. With Dorcas support, he now grows food in his greenhouses, improving his income and contributing to local food security.

Contribution to vision Strengthens climate-resilient livelihoods and rural economic stability.

Key metric In 2025, 230 households stated their income had increased, and in 190 cases, this was due to income-generating activities.

Our track record and capacity

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

Dorcas Moldova strengthened social and economic protection, expanded community-led development, and supported climate-resilient livelihoods across multiple regions. Through evidence-based approaches, we empowered local organisations and volunteers to lead sustainable change.

People and communities



Results achieved



Programme quality

Dorcas Moldova adheres to the Core Humanitarian Standard. We apply rigorous monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEAL) systems, conduct evaluations and impact studies, and use feedback mechanisms to improve programme design. Every year, we conduct satisfaction surveys and measure the empowerment scale for children, adolescents, and adults who participate in our programmes.

Financial capacity

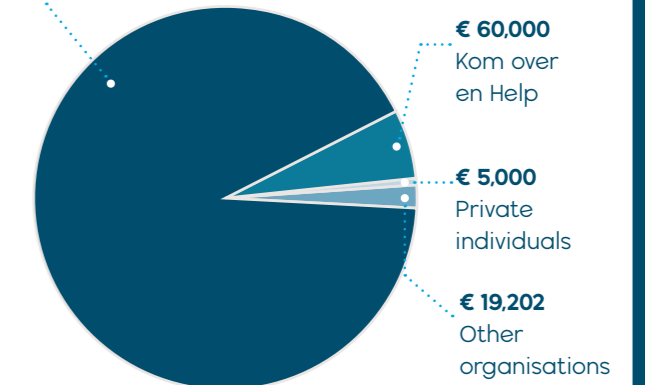
Annual income (2026): € 1,032,865
Largest project implemented: Community Safety Nets Programme Moldova € 435,432
Programme expenditure: € 1,032,865
Multi-year funding secured: 56 per cent

Funding partners include:

Dorcas Aid International (Climate and Other funds) and Kom over en help.

€ 948,663

Dorcas Aid International (Climate and other funds)



Dorcas Moldova is a key player in the social sector and an active member of the Platform for Active and Healthy Aging. They work alongside their partners to amplify the voices of older adults and influence the Moldovan political agenda. Social protection, employment, adult education, sports, and culture policies increasingly integrating older adults.

Dina Ciubotaru

Secretariat Platform for Active and Healthy Aging

Looking ahead (2026–2030)

Dorcas Moldova will expand its reach, diversify funding, strengthen local leadership, and position itself as a national expert in climate adaptation and social and economic protection.



Join our vision

Why partnerships matter

Dorcas Moldova works with local, national and international partners, including civil society organisations, local authorities, national platforms, businesses and volunteer 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 value our partnership with Dorcas Moldova because it enables our collaborative efforts in Singerei to provide social, emotional, and material support to children in vulnerable situations and their families.”

Partner – Lilia
Public Association Elim

“Through partnership with Dorcas Moldova, we managed to move from individual impact to a growing impact on the entire community by making good use of available resources.”

Partner – Alexandru
Christian Foundation Titus

“Dorcas is a valuable partner because we share the same conviction: that real change happens when, together, we succeed in improving the quality of life of people engaged in agriculture and those living in rural areas.”

Partner – Laura
FARM



Network memberships

- Alliance of Active NGOs in the field of Child and Family Social Protection (APSCF)
- Moldovan National Platform for Promotion and Development of Philanthropy
- Platform for Active Ageing
- Christian Alliance Moldova without Orphans (ACMO)
- Christian Platform Eastern Europe (CPOE)



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 Moldova, I envision a country where people can develop and use their talents, and where communities are resilient, inclusive, and equipped to shape their own future. We believe in a Moldova where families in vulnerable situations, children, youth, and older people have access to opportunities, strong social protection, and climate-resilient livelihoods.

We cannot achieve this vision alone. Partnerships are at the heart of our approach – they bring together diverse expertise, local ownership, and a shared commitment to lasting change. Then, we can strengthen communities and create solutions that endure.

I warmly invite you to explore partnership opportunities with Dorcas Moldova. By combining our strengths, we can expand our impact and reach those who need it most.

Together, we can realise our vision for Moldova.

Leila Sorbala
Country Director Dorcas Moldova



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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.