

# Dorcas *Tanzania*

Country profile

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### Quality assurance and accountability

Dorcas Tanzania adheres to international standards: ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management, Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), and Accountability Partos FPA Principles for Fundraising and Accountability.

Independent certification confirms our commitment to quality, accountability and responsible resource management.

### Everyone in the village benefits

With training, William started a mixed farm, turning it into a source of both food security and income. There is now money for school fees and the essentials needed in and around the home. And because William trains other farmers, the whole village grows with him – from chickens and goats to flourishing vegetable gardens.



# Who is Dorcas?

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

### Who we are

Dorcas Tanzania has worked since 1995 to support communities in vulnerable situations. We have grown in capacity, partnerships and programme diversity. Our work spans six districts in the Northern, Eastern and Central zones. We focus on inclusive entrepreneurship, climate-resilient agriculture, clean energy solutions, skills development, social protection, gender equality, child protection and community safety nets. Our approach is community-led and participatory. We work closely with local institutions, civil society and international donors. We strengthen resilience and expand access to essential services and sustainable livelihoods. Our long-term presence and trusted relationships enable us to deliver impact in underserved areas.

### Our expertise

We work across four themes: Climate Adaptation, Livelihoods and Food Security, Economic Development, and Protection. We apply proven methodologies including participatory integrated planning, farmer-managed natural regeneration, clean cooking energy solutions, sanitation and

hygiene, and community safety nets. Our work is led by experienced local teams. A strong MEAL system supports quality, learning and evidence-based decision-making. This enables us to deliver sustainable impact and strengthen community resilience.

### Our geographic focus and reach

Where we work: Northern Zone (Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Manyara) Eastern Zone (Tanga) Central Zone (Dodoma).



### Regional priorities

We partner with communities in vulnerable situations to build resilience, dignity, and lasting livelihoods so they can move beyond survival and shape their own futures.

## Current reach

27,454 direct participants

25 communities served

7 partners strengthened



### Our strategic ambition

We aim to grow programme reach by more than 25 per cent, diversify funding across eight sources and expand operations from six to nine geographical areas. We will strengthen partnerships with government, the private sector, research institutions and civil society. A comprehensive MEAL framework will drive quality improvement. We will strengthen our positioning as a recognised authority in community-led development.

# Dorcas vision for Tanzania

*By 2030, we envision a Tanzania where:*

Communities across Northern, Eastern and Central Tanzania build climate-adaptive resilience and secure sustainable livelihoods.

Local partners lead programme delivery and drive long-term development.

Groups in vulnerable situations live with safety, dignity and economic independence.

### How Dorcas contributes to this vision

Dorcas Tanzania strengthens community resilience through locally led and long-term approaches. We work across four themes: Protection, Livelihoods and Food Security, Economic Development, and Climate Adaptation. Our programmes apply proven methodologies, such as participatory integrated planning, farmer-managed natural regeneration, clean cooking energy solutions, and community safety nets. These approaches address root causes at individual, community and societal levels. We work with government, research institutions, civil society and the private sector to create systemic change. By 2030, we will expand from six to nine geographical areas and increase local leadership in programme delivery. We support groups in vulnerable situations as they build economic independence, adapt to climate change, and live with dignity and security. Through strong partnerships and evidence-based programming, we support communities to flourish.

### The challenges we address with our partners

#### Economic vulnerability and poverty

High poverty levels, limited livelihood opportunities and rising living costs reduce household resilience. Addressing this challenge is essential for economic independence.

#### Climate change and environmental degradation

Unpredictable rainfall, droughts and soil degradation threaten agricultural productivity and food security. Strengthening climate resilience is central to our work.

#### Social inequality and weak protection systems

Groups in vulnerable situations often lack access to services and protection. Stronger community structures and referral systems are needed to ensure dignity and inclusion.

**26.4 per cent of the population in mainland Tanzania lives below the national basic needs poverty line. Climate change could push an additional 2.6 million Tanzanians into poverty by 2050.**

# How Dorcas makes a difference in Tanzania

Dorcas Tanzania works through four programmatic themes that advance our 2030 vision. All programmes integrate gender equality, disability inclusion, climate sensitivity and conflict-sensitive approaches. Community ownership ensures sustainability.



## Livelihoods and Food Security

**What we do** We strengthen sustainable and resilient livelihoods.

**Impact example** In Chemba District, farmers used improved seed varieties and soil conservation practices through the PIP approach. Harvests increased from four to fifteen sacks per hectare, improving food security and income stability.

**Contribution to vision** Supports resilient livelihoods and economic independence.

**Key metric:** Over 1,500 farmers reached with climate-smart agriculture and sustainable farming techniques in 2024.

## Impact story PIP

# Farms that feed futures

In Chemba District, Dorcas Tanzania worked with smallholder farmers through a climate-resilience programme called Participatory Integrated Planning (PIP). For many years, local farmers like Mama Jesca and her neighbours struggled with unpredictable rainfall, soil degradation, and the constant threat of failed harvests. Their main source of food and income, maize and groundnuts, was often lost to drought. But everything began to change when Dorcas supported the community to upgrade a dam, renovate a borehole and set up demonstration farms where they learned climate-smart techniques, such as soil regeneration,

drought tolerant crops, and integrated livestock systems.

With improved water access from the borehole, Mama Jesca can now irrigate her crops even during dry spells. The extra harvest means her family eats better all year round and she has surplus produce to sell at the market. Whereas in the past, she was uncertain about planting seeds and hoped for rain, now she can plan smartly and realise reliable outcomes. Many neighbouring farmers have adopted these techniques as well, slowly transforming the food security and incomes of whole families across the village.

"Farming was once a risk; now it is my promise to my children."

*Mama Jesca*

Chemba smallholder farmer





### Protection

**What we do** We protect people in vulnerable situations from abuse, neglect and exclusion.

**Impact example** In Arumeru District, community protection groups identified and addressed cases of neglect and abuse affecting older people. Awareness campaigns improved reporting and prevention.

**Contribution to vision** Strengthens dignity, safety and inclusion.

**Key metric** 492 older people and 340 children supported through social protection and child protection initiatives in 2024.



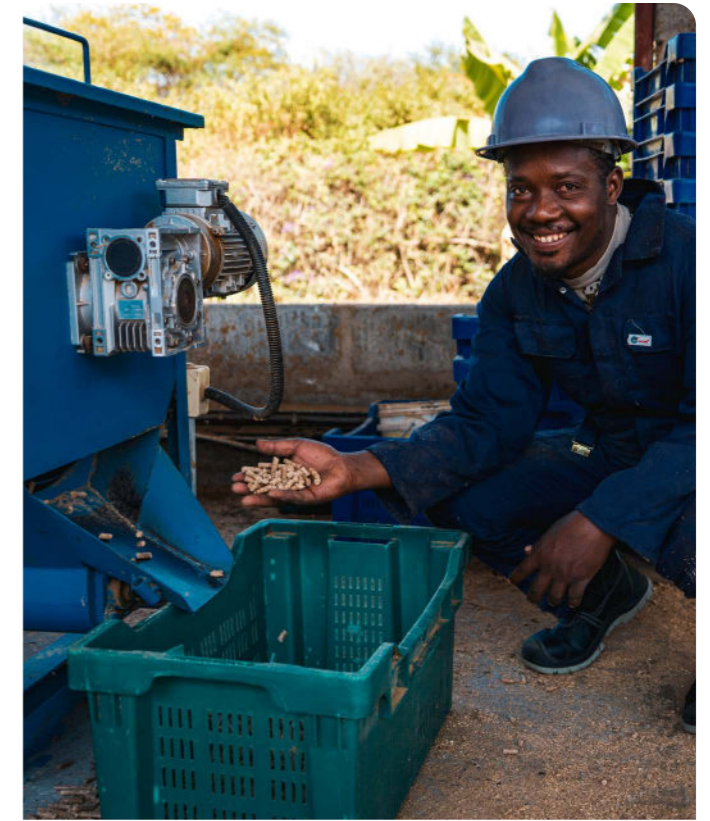
### Economic Development

**What we do** We strengthen entrepreneurship, employability and access to markets.

**Impact example** In Arusha, young people received vocational training and business mentoring. Graduates established small businesses and secured employment.

**Contribution to vision** Expands economic opportunities for youth and women.

**Key metric** Over 500 young people trained in entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and employable skills in 2024.



### Climate Adaptation

**What we do** We strengthen community resilience to climate change.

**Impact example** In Dodoma region, communities restored degraded land and adopted water-efficient farming practices, improving environmental conditions and agricultural productivity.

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

**Key metric** Over 1,000 households adopted climate-smart agriculture and sustainable land management practices in 2024.



# Our track record and capacity

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

Dorcas Tanzania strengthened livelihoods, enhanced social protection and improved climate resilience across multiple districts. Through community-led approaches, we supported groups in vulnerable situations to access services, build resilience and secure sustainable livelihoods.

## People and communities



## Programme quality and innovation

Dorcas Tanzania applies evidence-based programming to deliver high-quality and sustainable interventions. Core methodologies include Participatory Integrated Planning (PIP), which supports households to develop long-term plans for their own development, and Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), which helps restore degraded land through sustainable tree and land management.

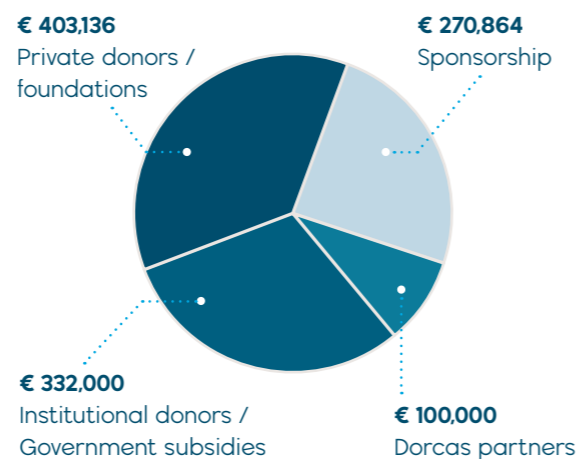
Dorcas Tanzania also promotes environmentally friendly innovations such as biomass pellet production, which provides cleaner cooking fuel that improves energy efficiency, reduces reliance on firewood and charcoal, and contributes to climate change mitigation. All programmes are designed, implemented and evaluated in line with internationally recognised frameworks, including the OECD DAC criteria.

## Financial capacity

**Annual income (2026):** € 1,160,000  
**Largest project implemented:** € 800,000  
**Programme expenditure:** 97 per cent  
**Multi-year funding secured:** 60 per cent

Funding partners include private donors/foundations, UN agencies, embassies, UK AID (FCDO), EOM Netherlands.

Our programme portfolio in 2026 is € 1,160,000.



## Looking ahead (2026–2030)

Dorcas Tanzania will expand to nine geographical areas, strengthen local leadership and diversify funding. Climate change and gender equality will be mainstreamed or pursued as specific goals. Community-led development will remain central to our impact.



**We reached over 125,000 people in the period 2020–2025** through integrated programmes covering livelihoods development, child protection, youth entrepreneurship, climate adaptation and resilience building. This level of participation demonstrates the significant scale and relevance of our work that exceeds pilot-level intervention thresholds and contributes to systemic change.

# Join our vision

## Why partnerships matter

Dorcas Tanzania works with local, national and international partners. These include 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

“Dorcas Tanzania works to strengthen existing community systems rather than replacing them. Through livelihoods support, community safety nets, and child protection activities, we have seen communities become more organised, more resilient to shocks, and better able to protect their most vulnerable members.”

Local Government Partner  
(Meru Community Development Officer)

.....  
“The Participatory Integrated Planning approach has helped households move from dependency to planning for their own futures. Farmers apply improved practices, women save together, and families are better prepared to cope with climate and economic challenges. Dorcas’ long-term presence has built trust and measurable change.”

Kidoka  
Village leader



### Network memberships

- Tanzania Renewable Energy Association (TAREA)
- National Council of NGOs (NACONGO)
- EU-Cord
- Tanzania MHH coalition
- Tanzania Energy Efficiency forum



### 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 Tanzania, we are inspired by the resilience, creativity, and determination of the communities we support. Our programmes reach children, youth, and older people, providing livelihoods, skills development, child protection, and social safety nets that create lasting change. From safer schools and empowered farmers to households adopting climate-smart practices and clean cooking solutions, these results demonstrate the real, tangible impact of our work.

We believe in a future where every family can thrive in a safe, resilient, and self-reliant community that cares for its environment. We invite partners and donors to join us in nurturing this vision, scaling innovation, and strengthening communities across Tanzania. Together, we can realise our vision for Tanzania.

**Lilian Michael Urassa**  
Country Director, Dorcas Tanzania



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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.