

Dorcas

Moldova



Driving transformation

Annual report 2024



Eastern Europe



Ukraine

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Moldova

Albania

Syria

Lebanon

Iraq

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Yemen

South Sudan

Ethiopia

Kenya

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Publishing information

Dorcas Moldova annual report 2024

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Design: Paper and Pages

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Introduction

Message from the Country Director

2024 has been a year of resilience, connection, and hope.

At Dorcas Moldova, we believe that true transformation begins when we choose to see God-given value in each person and walk alongside them in trust and dignity. This year, we witnessed how communities - when empowered - become spaces of healing, growth, and compassion.

Whether it was a child learning how valuable s/he is for the first time, a family starting their own business, or a person of older age feeling seen and valued. We saw the impact of meaningful steps, smaller and bigger, taken together.

Behind every figure in this report, there are people. Stories. Courage. Resilience. And the quiet, powerful presence of those who chose to care. Those, who spread their light, like in Matthew 5:16 "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven".

Thank you to everyone who made this possible: partners, supporters, team members, volunteers. Together, we are not just delivering assistance. We are building futures rooted in love, dignity, and lasting change.



Leila Sorbala
Country Director
Dorcas Moldova

Impact in numbers



LTO 1
389

Households with higher income.



LTO 3
3,194

Communities with higher climate resilience.



LTO 5
1,393

People supported by community.



LTO 6
440

People who feel more secure.

Total project participants:
9,901 directly reached, 17,270 indirectly reached.

Social services provided: Dorcas Moldova supported the operation of 14 social laundries, 10 of which were launched during 2024.

Number of active partners: **16.**

Geographic coverage: **112 locations.**

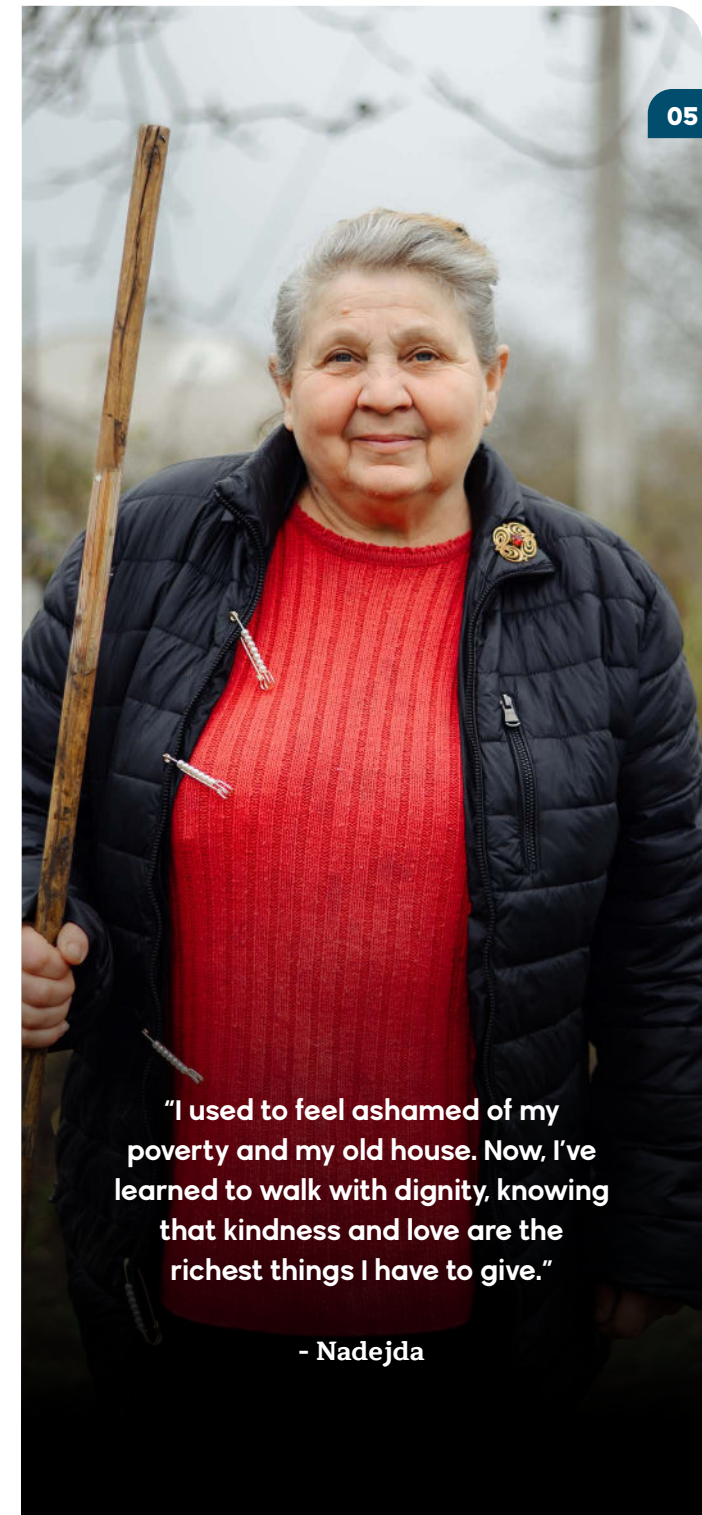
Moldova

3 key highlights

10 social laundries launched.

The highest number of Blue Buckets ever collected: **4,355** filled with food and care for families in need.

New partnerships with schools that donated books, toys, school supplies, and filled Blue Buckets for families in need.



Population:

Moldova has a population of 2.4 million people.

Economic:

Moldova's economy showed only marginal growth in 2024, with a real GDP increase of approximately **0.1 per cent** compared to 2023.

Poverty:

The **absolute poverty rate** in Moldova **increased to over 33 per cent in 2024**, continuing an upward trend from previous years.

"I used to feel ashamed of my poverty and my old house. Now, I've learned to walk with dignity, knowing that kindness and love are the richest things I have to give."

- Nadejda

We are Dorcas Moldova

Dorcas Moldova began its work in 2003 and is part of the international Dorcas network. As a Christian organisation, we provide humanitarian assistance and facilitate development cooperation, with a strong focus on sustainable change for people facing poverty, exclusion, or crisis.

In Moldova, we work through community-based care for people of older age, child protection, support for families in vulnerable situations, and rural entrepreneurship development. We also train and empower local partners in community mobilisation and inclusive local development.

What we believe

We believe in the value and God-given potential of every single person. We are called to demonstrate God's love for those in need. This is how we follow Jesus Christ.

What we see

We see a world where poverty, exclusion and crisis marginalise people. We also see the potential of these people and their communities to flourish despite their difficult circumstances.

What we do

We empower people who are marginalised to develop their talents. And we enable disadvantaged communities to flourish. We equip individuals and communities to promote and ensure participation of all.

We create hope and long-term perspectives in volatile and complex situations. We meet people's basic needs in times of crisis and increase their ability to overcome poverty and

exclusion. We persist despite frequent setbacks and invest in durable relationships to realise sustainable change.

We are part of a global movement of individuals and organisations working for a just and fair world. We recognise and appreciate everybody who supports our work. And we actively partner with others to create synergy and amplify our impact.





Impact story:

Nadejda's journey: rebuilding life with purpose

Nadejda, a retired legal professional from Kherson, Ukraine, had anticipated a peaceful retirement after more than three decades in the judiciary. Her home had just been renovated, and she looked forward to a quiet life surrounded by family.

Then the conflict started.

A missile strike damaged her apartment and destroyed much of her neighbourhood. Even more devastating was the loss of her family: her husband and siblings. "I buried them all," she shared. Alone and displaced, she happened to be in Odesa for a wedding when the bombing began. The event was cancelled, and panic swept the city. Roads to Kherson were impassable and dangerous.

**"I was left here for a reason," she says.
"To give hope to others."**

After weeks of uncertainty, Nadejda was offered a place in a vehicle heading to Rîbnița, Moldova, her birthplace. With nowhere else to turn, she went. There, overwhelmed and

alone, she was approached by a local woman who invited her to a church in Rezina.

That invitation marked a turning point. The church became her support system. Through it, she connected with Dorcas, joined refugee support groups, attended empowerment workshops, and began to heal. "I felt calm again. Not alone."

Now, Nadejda is committed to helping others, often taking the initiative to support those in need. She dreams of learning Romanian to connect more deeply with her new community.

"I was left here for a reason," she says. "To give hope to others."

Today, Nadejda lives out the meaning of her name — Hope — with purpose and resilience.

Our projects

Future for Children

Dorcas Moldova remains committed to supporting children and their families in the **Telenești** and **Sîngerei** districts through our **Future for Children projects**. These projects aim to break the cycle of poverty by addressing children's educational, emotional, and social development needs, while also empowering their caregivers.

Children growing up in poverty face barriers that affect their education, well-being, and future opportunities. By supporting both children and their families, we help build stronger, more resilient communities.



Key results:

- ▶ **270 children supported:** 100 in Telenești and 170 in Sîngerei, through educational support, social development activities, and financial literacy training.
- ▶ **253 children** and adolescents empowered through tailored life skills and psychosocial support sessions.
- ▶ **10 families** supported with targeted interventions to improve economic resilience.
- ▶ Over **160 adults**, including parents and caregivers, completed empowerment trainings focused on parenting, income generation, and community involvement.



Flourishing Families

In 2024, the Flourishing Families project empowered vulnerable households to build independent lives through personalised development plans based on the **Flourish Model**.

Key results:

- ▶ **80 families** joined start-up trainings, and 57 launched income-generating activities (e.g. greenhouses, bakeries, cleaning services).
- ▶ **140 families** improved family relationships through parenting sessions.
- ▶ Local partners and initiative groups received **ABCD training** to support community-driven initiatives.

- ▶ Ongoing collaboration with local authorities ensured alignment with community needs. These combined efforts strengthened civic participation and laid the foundation for sustainable, locally led development.

Support for refugees and host communities

In 2024, Dorcas Moldova implemented two humanitarian assistance projects, providing vital support to individuals and families in vulnerable situations, including Ukrainian refugees. These efforts focused on basic needs, winter support, psychosocial care, and long-term empowerment.

- ▶ **202 people** were supported in meeting their basic food needs.
- ▶ **47 individuals** received non-food items for winterisation, such as firewood, vouchers for winter coats and shoes.
- ▶ **18 families** were assisted in launching an income generating activity.
- ▶ **44 project participants** received mini-grants to purchase equipment and assets to start or develop their income generating activities.
- ▶ Over **200 children and**

adolescents participated in life skills training sessions.

- ▶ **73 adults** were empowered through parenting and business development trainings.
- ▶ **107 people** reported feeling safer and more supported through participation in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support group meetings.

A key focus was the **integrated support model in Bălți**, which brought together humanitarian assistance, Community Safety Nets, and the **Future for Children** approach, offering holistic support to both refugee and host communities, with special attention to children's well-being and development.



Community Safety Nets

In 2024, Dorcas Moldova strengthened its commitment to older people by expanding the **Community Safety Net**: a model rooted in the “Adopt a Granny” initiative into a dynamic, multi-level support system.

Through this programme we supported **1,365 older individuals** across **66 communities**, enabling them to live with dignity, access essential services, and actively participate in community life.

The CSN approach builds **local support structures** by mobilising community assets and partnerships.

It works on three levels:



Individual – personalised care and empowerment.



Community – mobilising local groups and volunteers.



Societal – advocating for rights and inclusive policies.

In collaboration with **faith-based organisations, local authorities, and community groups**, we implemented this model in **66 locations**, including Hîncești, Ungheni, Cimișlia, Bălți, Orhei, Telenești, Chișinău, and many more.

This approach ensures that older people are not just recipients of care, but **valued contributors** to their communities.

Hîncești Integrated Programme

In 2024, this programme supported families, youth, and farmers in Hîncești district through economic training, community empowerment, and advocacy.

Key results:

- ▶ **45 families** joined start-up trainings; 42 developed income-generating business plans.
- ▶ **42 young people** created business ideas through FBS sessions.
- ▶ **56 farmers** trained in vegetable growing and dairy cow breeding.
- ▶ **25 children** benefited from life skills education (Aflatoun).
- ▶ Local groups received **ABCD training** and co-financing for one initiative per community.

- ▶ Stakeholder meetings explored local tourism and stronger civic engagement.
- ▶ FARM advocated for farmers' rights at national level.

The project helped build stronger communities through civic engagement, capacity building, and locally driven solutions.

Local resource mobilisation course

Many local organisations and churches in Moldova play a key role in supporting people in difficult situations, yet they often rely heavily on external funding. To strengthen their sustainability and ownership, Dorcas Moldova - together with Dorcas Aid Romania

- implemented the third edition of the **local resource mobilisation course (LRM)**.

This **10-session training programme** was designed to equip local stakeholders with the tools and mindset needed to **mobilise resources from within their own communities**, build strong local partnerships, and lead long-term development initiatives.

Local ownership is essential for sustainable community transformation. By building capacity in local fundraising, communication, and partnership development, LRM empowers



communities to take initiative, act as agents of change, and reduce dependency on outside assistance.

Key achievements:

- ▶ **19 representatives** of faith- and community-based organisations successfully completed the course.
- ▶ Participants were trained in **local fundraising, external positioning, asset-based community development (ABCD), and multi-stakeholder collaboration**.
- ▶ The course inspired greater confidence, initiative, and long-term vision among local actors committed to building stronger, self-reliant communities.

Promoting CSOs as partners in developing resilient social services

This project is funded by the **European Union in the Republic of Moldova** and co-funded and implemented by a consortium of three civil society organisations: **Keystone Moldova, Dorcas Moldova, and Neumanist Moldova**. Through this programme, Dorcas Moldova strengthens the role of civil society organisations (CSOs) in delivering inclusive



social services to people living in vulnerable situations across Moldova. The initiative focuses on mobilising community resources and supporting community-based organisations (CBOs) and local authorities to develop and manage basic services at the local level.

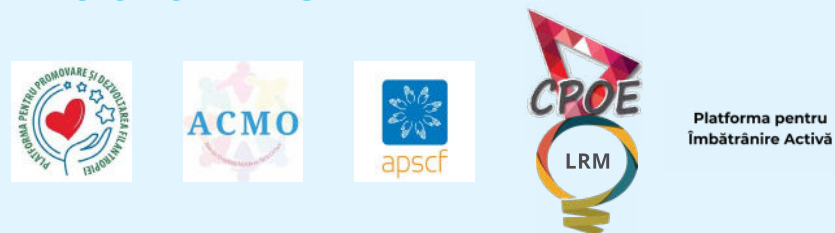
Key results:

- ▶ 14 out of 16 social laundry services developed are now operational, already benefiting over 300 people, with the goal of reaching 1,500 people by January 2026.
- ▶ 16 communities mobilised local assets and built partnerships to expand access to hygiene and dignity through sustainable, community-rooted services.

Partners



Platforms



Campaign Highlights

In 2024, Dorcas Moldova launched several impactful campaigns, each demonstrating the power of collective action.

On **1 October**, to mark the International Day of Older Persons, we held a public event in central Chișinău celebrating the resilience and value of older people. The “Power of Generations” open-air photo exhibition challenged age-related stereotypes and promoted intergenerational connection. Leaflets with simple physical exercises were distributed to encourage mobility and independence. This campaign was a public affirmation that people of older age are not just recipients of care, but contributors to their communities, holders of wisdom, and sources of inspiration.

The **2 per cent Income Tax Redirection Campaign** was launched in spring, with results received in autumn. This initiative empowered citizens to contribute to our mission without any personal cost. Through outreach and awareness efforts, many chose to redirect a portion of their income tax to Dorcas Moldova, transforming a state mechanism into tangible support for vulnerable communities.

Thanks to the trust and generosity of those who selected Dorcas Moldova, we were able to secure additional funds to further our work.

During **Kindness Week** (11–15 November), a book donation drive inspired by generosity and youth involvement collected hundreds of books for children in vulnerable situations. This was done with the support of **Hyperion Theoretical High School** and **Dante Alighieri Theoretical High School** in Chișinău. Students from Dante Alighieri also donated **toys and clothing**, showing remarkable compassion and initiative. These additional



items were later distributed to families in need through Dorcas-supported community partners.

Finally, held every year during the winter holiday season, the **Blue Bucket Campaign** has become one of Dorcas Moldova's most powerful symbols of compassion and community solidarity. In 2024, it reached a **record-breaking milestone**:

- **4,355 food buckets collected.**
- **Distributed across 58 communities.**
- **New partners joined**, including high schools, NGOs, churches, and diaspora groups.

These donations delivered more than food, they carried messages of hope, care, and connection to families in need during the coldest months of the year. Together, these campaigns showcased the incredible impact of awareness, generosity, and civic engagement.

Lessons Learned

Evaluation of the Community Safety Nets project

In 2024, our Community Safety Nets (CSN) project was independently evaluated by a team of international researchers. The purpose was to assess the effectiveness of the transition from individual support (“Adopt-a-Granny”) to a sustainable, community-based model of care for older people in vulnerable situations in Moldova.

Key highlights:

- ▶ More than **2,000 older people** benefited from CSNs across 7 locations and 15 projects run by the Salvation Army.
- ▶ **57 churches, 13 local authorities, 10 local NGOs**, and approximately **200 volunteers** were actively involved in supporting older people.
- ▶ Activities included: home visits, peer support groups, educational workshops, community-led initiatives, awareness campaigns such as the Blue Bucket Campaign, and intergenerational events.

Key evaluation findings:

- ▶ Participants reported feeling more connected, less isolated, and with improved mental well-being.
- ▶ Regular activities have become local traditions that encourage deeper community engagement.
- ▶ The CSN model is effective, yet long-term sustainability and local ownership remain key challenges.

Good practices identified:

- ▶ Empowering local leaders as change agents.
- ▶ Using Asset based community development trainings to activate communities.
- ▶ Encouraging diverse partnerships with NGOs, churches, local government, and volunteers.
- ▶ Organising impactful events that build community traditions and social cohesion.



To explore the full evaluation report, including insights, lessons learned, and future recommendations, scan the QR-code.



Acknowledgements



We believe that meaningful change happens when people come together. With compassion, commitment, and a shared vision for a better world. The progress we made in 2024 would not have been possible without the unwavering support of those who walk alongside us.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to:

Our resource partners: Dorcas Aid International, Kom over en help, EO Metterdaad and EU Delegation – whose generosity fuels every project, every intervention, and every story of transformation.

Our team – dedicated professionals who work with purpose, resilience, and deep care for the people we serve.

Our volunteers – whose time, energy, and love continue to inspire and strengthen our work in their communities.

Our partners – local organisations, churches, institutions, and businesses who share their resources, expertise, and trust.

Thank you for believing in people, for choosing to act, and for helping communities flourish.

We fight poverty, exclusion
and crisis. We empower
marginalised people and
communities to flourish.
This is how we follow
Jesus Christ.