



We are **Dorcas**

Local power creates lasting change

Publishing information

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We are Dorcas

Dorcas is a Christian organisation focused on humanitarian and development cooperation, with expertise in seven key themes: Crisis Response, Protection, Community Development, Climate Adaptation, Water, Livelihoods and Food Security, and Economic Development.

In thirteen countries in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa, we support those most vulnerable to poverty, exclusion and crisis: older people, children, women, people with disabilities, and excluded groups such as Roma and migrants. Through expertise, advocacy, and strategic partnerships, we empower individuals and communities to build sustainable livelihoods, achieve economic independence, and live in safety and dignity.

Our vision

We believe that every person is equal before God and has been given unique potential by Him. Yet we live in a broken world where people suffer due to poverty, exclusion, climate change and other crises. Still, we see the extraordinary resilience of people. We envision a world in which people unlock their potential and restore their dignity so people and communities can flourish!

Our mission

We are called to stand up for people in need. We take action in the face of poverty, exclusion and crisis. We come alongside marginalised people and communities and together create opportunities for them to flourish. This is how we follow Jesus' example.

Our values

We are determined, ...

We act with conviction and do not give up. Where there is need, we take action and get things done. We go the extra mile to make a lasting impact.

...we act together, ...

We are a movement that pursues sustainable change. We work alongside people in need and join hands with everyone who shares our mission. Only together can we make a real difference.

...out of love.

We are driven by compassion. We follow Jesus' example – out of love for our neighbour. We stand beside you – whoever you are.

History

Founded in 1980, Dorcas marked its 45th anniversary in 2025. What began with an activist supporting people in Eastern Europe persecuted for their faith has grown into a movement of passionate colleagues, partners, supporters, and volunteers working in the Netherlands and across thirteen countries.



Our approach to change and impact

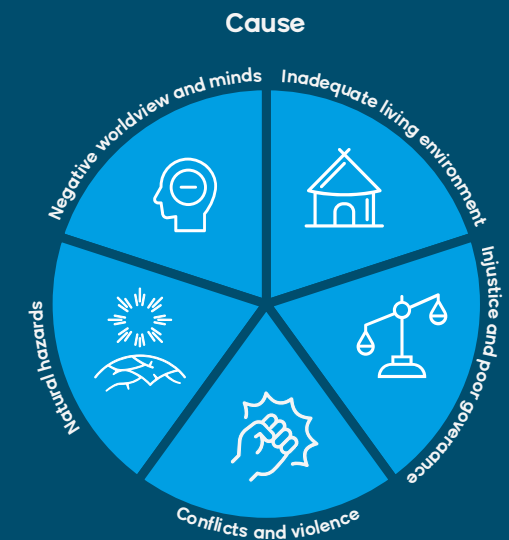
Our work is all about change and working towards a change ambition: flourishing people and communities. Our theory of change provides a roadmap outlining how we expect change to be realised and contribute to the desired impact.

Our organisational theory of change seeks to address the root causes of poverty, exclusion, and

crisis experienced by people and communities in the contexts where we work. It recognises that transformation is needed at the individual, community, and societal levels. We aim to achieve this by working towards a six-fold impact experienced by flourishing people and communities. To realise this sustainable transformation, we focus our efforts across seven thematic areas.

The following principles, rooted in our faith, guide all our programmes – whether in humanitarian assistance, development or peacebuilding efforts:

- We focus on people who are most **marginalised** and believe in their potential.
- We facilitate the **flourishing and well-being** of individuals and communities.
- We implement community-based and **locally led** projects.
- We cooperate with local **community-based** organisations and strengthen their capacities.
- We realise sustained change through **long-term** commitments.
- We connect people and organisations around shared values for **partnerships** with impact.
- We seek to be **impartial** in who we hire, support, or partner with.
- We uphold a high level of **integrity** in all aspects of our work.



Change at three levels



Flourishing people and communities



Our thematic areas of expertise

Dorcas applies seven programmatic themes to sharpen our expertise, strengthen our track record, and define a clear organisational position. All themes are viewed through a lens of inclusion and vulnerability, with community-based programming established as the core approach across all our work.



Crisis Response

We respond to acute and protracted crises through anticipatory action, lifesaving assistance and comprehensive recovery support.



Protection

We protect people vulnerable to poverty, exclusion, crisis and violence through integrated measures, targeted prevention and advocacy for systemic change.



Community Development

We partner with communities in vulnerable situations through collaborative, asset-based and conflict-sensitive approaches that enhance their capacity, resilience and quality of life.



Climate Adaptation

We enable farmers and citizens to adapt, protect themselves, build resilience and flourish in the face of climate change impacts.



Water

We provide communities with access to clean water and promote its sustainable use so everyone can flourish as environmental conditions change.



Livelihoods and Food Security

We support people in finding sustainable livelihoods, increasing resilience and contributing to community well-being, with particular attention to food security.



Economic Development

We empower people to improve their job skills, start small businesses, and connect to inclusive markets to secure income and reduce poverty.

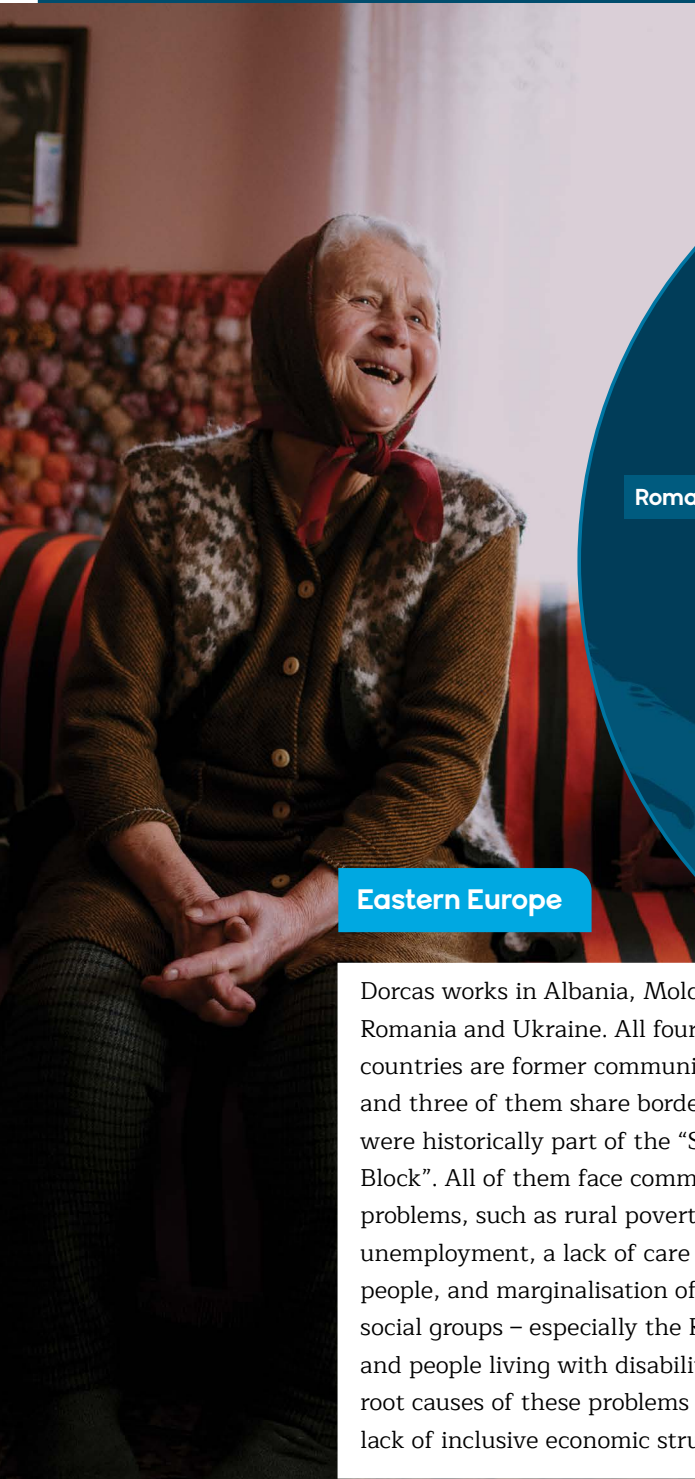


In all our programmes, we operate on the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus (Triple Nexus).

Where we work

Dorcas is active in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Eastern Africa. Local colleagues lead our thirteen country offices. We have committed ourselves on a long-term basis to addressing extreme poverty, protracted crises, major inequality, and

social exclusion. Our staff and volunteers know the context, have access to extensive networks, and act quickly in the event of unforeseen circumstances and recurring disasters.



Eastern Europe

Dorcas works in Albania, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. All four countries are former communist states, and three of them share borders and were historically part of the “Soviet Block”. All of them face common problems, such as rural poverty, high unemployment, a lack of care for older people, and marginalisation of certain social groups – especially the Roma and people living with disabilities. The root causes of these problems are the lack of inclusive economic structures,

weak governance and justice systems, and challenges in social protection and human capital.

Our focus in Eastern Europe is on Protection, Livelihoods and Food Security, and Economic Development.



The Middle East

Dorcas operates in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen. These countries share several contextual and cultural similarities. The Arabic language plays an essential role in communicating ideas, knowledge, tools and experiences, shared resources, lessons learned, curricula and illustrative material in local languages. We share expertise and learn from real-life programmes implemented in similar contexts in the region. Multiple and protracted conflicts and crises in the region have led to high numbers of refugees and internally displaced people in need of assistance and widespread economic challenges.

In the Middle East, we will blend humanitarian assistance with long-term development, focusing on Crisis Response, Livelihoods and Food Security, Protection, and Climate Adaptation.

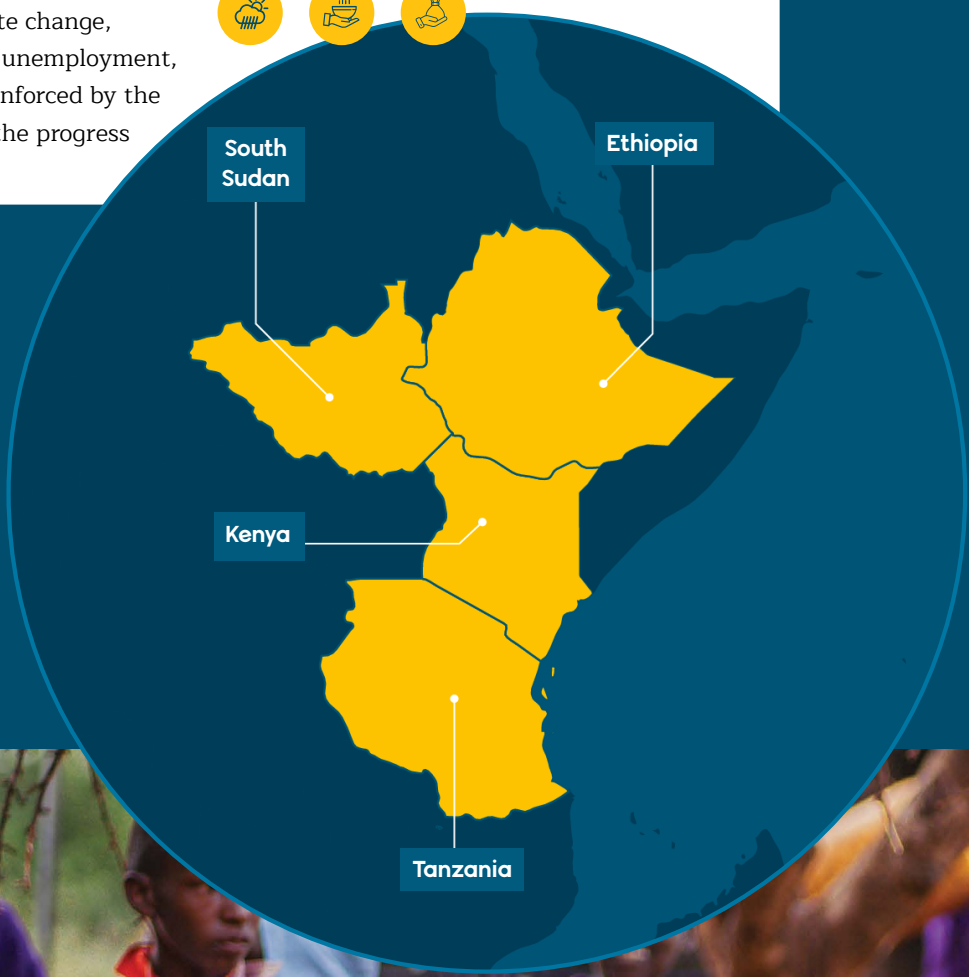


Eastern Africa

Dorcas is active in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan* and Tanzania. These countries in Eastern Africa share borders but also cross-border root causes of poverty: conflicts, fragile ecosystems, the impact of climate change, disasters, food insecurity, youth unemployment, and migration. These factors, reinforced by the impact of crises, have reversed the progress made in reducing poverty.

**In South Sudan Dorcas works closely together with ZOA.*

Country offices in Eastern Africa will focus on **Climate Adaptation, Livelihoods and Food Security and Economic Development.**



Our strategic ambitions

Dorcas aims to be a leading Dutch Christian international NGO by 2030, relevant and making a lasting impact in a rapidly changing world. We will introduce a new focus on climate adaptation and resilience, seek more alignment in our work with other

like-minded organisations, and merge our efforts where possible. We will prioritise local leadership, community ownership, and fair development to empower more people and communities in vulnerable situations, while actively engaging with and influencing society.

Our three strategic ambitions for 2030 are:

Grow

We will reach **1.5 times** as many people as our income increases, driven by an expanding number of dedicated volunteers and more than a **doubling** in the number of new sponsors, one-time donors and regular givers.

Quality

Clear track records will provide insights into how our support across seven programmatic themes positively impacts people and communities. These insights will drive **further improvements and innovation.**

Position

We will increasingly be recognised as a **leading** international organisation and strategic partner in humanitarian and development cooperation. We will have a **stronger position** in the Netherlands and the **largest** Dutch charity thrift store chain. Our country offices will also be better positioned and branded.



For further information, please visit:



Our contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

Our seven programmatic themes contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its central, transformative promise to Leave no one behind (LNOB).



Our partners and networks

Dorcas proactively works together with local, national and international partners. These include non-profit organisations, community-based organisations, social enterprises, businesses, impact investors, knowledge and research institutes, institutional funding agencies and governments.

Dorcas works in partnerships because we can achieve more impact by working together. Our successful collaborations with our partners are built on committed relationships, trust and shared values.

We strive to be as local as possible and as international as necessary in our partnerships. We increasingly seek to recognise and strengthen local power and capacity.

Active memberships of national and international networks enable Dorcas to increase the sustainable impact it achieves. Through our network memberships and engagement, we meet other partners, learn from each other, exchange knowledge, and jointly lobby and advocate for change.

Our international partners include:



Our network memberships include:



* Dutch Christian Emergency Relief Cluster is formed by Dorcas, EO Metterdaad, MAF, Help a Child, Tearfund, Woord en Daad and ZOA.

Dorcas appreciates and thanks all of its partners and networks, including those not specifically mentioned here.

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exclusion and crises. We come alongside
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