

Dorcas *Lebanon*



Country profile

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Quality assurance and accountability

Dorcas Lebanon, through Tabitha for Relief and Development, applies recognised humanitarian and protection standards through close coordination with UN agencies, government institutions, and local and international partners. Tabitha is committed to the principles of the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) and applies AAP, PSEA, confidentiality, and a signed Code

of Conduct across its programmes. Community feedback is integrated through assessments, surveys, focus group discussions, and confidential complaints mechanisms, while food assistance activities follow quality assurance and food safety measures aligned with ISO-defined prerequisite requirements and HACCP procedures.



Older people club

"Thanks to you, my days
have structure again feel
more connected, and
cared for."

Older person
club participant

Who is Dorcas?

Dorcas is a Christian organisation working in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa. We have worked in Lebanon since 2013. 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 Lebanon at a glance

Who we are

Dorcas Lebanon, operating through its local entity Tabitha for Relief and Development, has supported communities through multiple crises – economic collapse, conflict, displacement and social instability. We work through three community centres, a safe shelter and mobile teams in Akkar and the north. Since 2016, we have provided school meals as part of a school feeding programme at more than 50 public schools. We provide food, protection, mental health support, humanitarian assistance, livelihoods support, and community development. Our long-term presence and trusted partnerships with government entities, UN agencies, local NGOs, faith-based organisations and municipalities enable us to reach Lebanese communities, refugees, migrants and displaced populations. We focus on community-led approaches that strengthen resilience, promote dignity and support recovery.

Our expertise

We work across four themes: Crisis Response, Protection, Livelihoods and Food Security, and Community Development. Our methodologies include community-led programming, psychosocial support, case management, vocational training, skills development, and integrated humanitarian assistance. Our work is supported by strong partnerships and growing technical expertise in food security, protection, mental health, livelihoods and climate adaptation. A MEAL system guides learning, accountability and evidence-based decision-making.

Our geographic focus and reach

Where we work: Beirut, Mount Lebanon, the South, the North and Akkar, and additional areas through partners.

Regional priorities

Beirut and Mount Lebanon:

We aim to strengthen protection, mental health, and community-based services in Beirut and Mount Lebanon (BML) by continuing to operate our safe shelter and safe spaces. We also invest in continuing our school feeding programme with the ambition to remain a stable presence and reach more school across the region. Further, we will integrate innovative and climate-responsive approaches to enhance community resilience.

The South: We aim to respond to crisis-driven displacement in the South by delivering flexible, life-saving assistance and sustain our school feeding programme to reach more schools, ensuring children's nutrition and continued access to education.

The North and Akkar: We aim to strengthen protection and legal support services in the North and Akkar while advancing livelihood opportunities — including agriculture and livestock — through innovative, climate-smart practices that enhance household resilience and support sustainable, community-driven recovery.



Current reach





Our strategic ambition

We aim to expand activities to new locations, strengthen our expertise in protection, mental health and livelihoods, and transition towards sustainable development programming while maintaining crisis response capacity. We will diversify funding across at least six donor categories and significantly increase brand recognition through enhanced digital presence and strategic partnerships.

Dorcas vision for Lebanon

By 2030, we envision a Lebanon where:

Communities affected by crisis rebuild their lives with dignity, safety and resilience.

Women, children, refugees, migrants and persons with disabilities access protection, mental health support and social services.

Local organisations lead community-driven recovery and development.

How Dorcas contributes to this vision

Dorcas Lebanon strengthens community resilience through humanitarian assistance, protection, mental health support, livelihoods and community development. Our community centres provide safe spaces for psychosocial support, case management, skills training and social activities. We have a proven track record with government entities, UN agencies, local NGOs and faith-based organisations to deliver integrated services that address immediate needs while supporting long-term recovery. By 2030, we will expand to new areas, strengthen technical expertise, and increase local leadership through Tabitha. Evidence-based programming, cross-country collaboration and strategic advocacy will guide our contribution to a more inclusive and resilient Lebanon.

The challenges we address with our partners

Economic crisis and poverty

Hyperinflation, unemployment and financial collapse have pushed nearly half the population into poverty.

Social vulnerability and protection risks

Women, children, persons with disabilities, refugees and migrant workers face exploitation, violence and limited access to services.

Climate and environmental stress

Droughts, wildfires and environmental degradation worsen living conditions and strain essential services.

Lebanon hosts 1.5 million displaced Syrians and 400,000 Palestinian refugees, many living in extreme vulnerability.

How Dorcas makes a difference in Lebanon

Dorcas Lebanon 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.



Crisis Response

What we do We respond to acute and protracted crises through lifesaving assistance and recovery support.

Impact example When violence displaced Layla and her children from South Lebanon, Dorcas provided ready-to-eat meals and hot food, offering essential nutrition and dignity during their displacement.

Contribution to vision Supports safety, stability and immediate recovery.

Key metric In 2025, 31,047 people were reached.



Protection

What we do We protect people vulnerable to poverty, exclusion, crisis and violence.

Impact example Parvin, a migrant worker, found refuge at the Dorcas safe shelter after severe exploitation. She received legal support, therapy, and assistance to return home safely.

Contribution to vision Strengthens dignity, safety and inclusion.

Key metric In 2025, 12,272 people were reached.



Impact story Protection

Breaking years of silence

For 21 years, Fawzia* (migrant) lived in silence. At the age of 49, she had spent most of her adult life in Mount Lebanon, married to a Lebanese man who controlled every aspect of her life. Behind closed doors, she endured emotional abuse and constant threats. Her husband refused to complete the paperwork that would grant her Lebanese nationality, leaving her without legal security. Whenever she thought about leaving, fear held her back.

Fawzia shares, “I felt trapped. I didn’t know who to trust or where to go.”

“When I signed the papers, I cried,” she recalls. “Not because I was sad, but because I was free. I can make my own decisions now. I can breathe.”

Through the gender-based violence programme, Fawzia received emotional support and guidance. The case worker helped her understand her rights, accompanied her through legal procedures, and ensured she was referred to receive access to safe housing. She was also supported by arranging regular visits to her children, giving her hope that she could rebuild her life.

The journey was not easy. It meant facing her fears, navigating complex legal steps, and starting over. But Fawzia persisted. Today, she has secured a divorce and moved into her own home. For the first time, she feels in control of her life.

*Name changed to protect identity.





Livelihoods and Food Security

What we do We support people to build sustainable livelihoods and improve food security.

Impact example Rima, a mother with a motor disability, joined the Dorcas tote bag workshop. She learned sewing, received a machine, and now earns income from home.

Contribution to vision Expands economic opportunities and resilience.

Key metric In 2025, 29,096 people were reached through hot and cold meals, snacks and food parcels as part of our crisis response work. Other livelihoods activities did not take place.



Community Development

What we do We strengthen community resilience through collaborative, asset-based and conflict-sensitive approaches.

Impact example Teachers at the Lebanese School for the Deaf and Blind received self-help training to manage anxiety and stress, enabling them to support students and themselves.

Contribution to vision Builds stronger, more resilient communities.

Key metric In 2025, 1,123 people were reached.



Our track record and capacity

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

Dorcas Lebanon supported communities through economic collapse, conflict and displacement. Through community-led approaches, we strengthened protection, mental health, livelihoods and social support systems across multiple regions.

People and communities



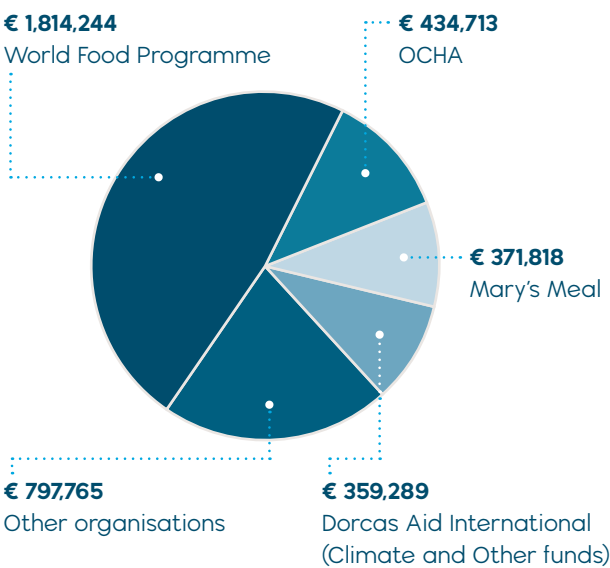
Programme quality

Regular external donor monitoring, audits, and programme reviews have consistently confirmed the relevance and quality of Dorcas' interventions in Lebanon. Community feedback mechanisms and post-activity assessments in addition to monitoring reports show high levels of project participant satisfaction and continued access to essential protection, food security, and services. Lessons learned are systematically integrated into programme design, helping ensure that support remains responsive to evolving needs while strengthening the capacities of local partners and community structures.

Financial capacity

Annual income (2026): € 803,788
Largest project implemented: World Food Programme 2025-2026 € 1,625,911
Programme expenditure: 100 per cent

Programme portfolio in 2026: € 5,581,771
Funding partners include: BMZ, Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, Dorcas Aid International (Climate and Other funds), EO Metterdaad, Expertise France, International Rescue Committee, Mary's Meal, OCHA, Working Group PASC, Help a Child, Rotary, SOS Children's Villages, World Food Programme.



Dorcas has maintained a sustained presence in Lebanon through years of overlapping crises, working alongside communities affected by economic collapse, displacement, and rising protection risks. Our approach in Lebanon is rooted in local partnership and community-based delivery, recognising the critical role of Lebanese host communities while responding to the needs of refugees and migrants. Through Tabitha, Dorcas works closely with local actors to deliver practical, integrated support that strengthens protection, food security, education, and livelihoods. We place a strong emphasis on accountability, learning, and adaptation, ensuring our programmes remain responsive to community feedback, evolving needs, and a rapidly changing national context.

Looking ahead (2026–2030)

Dorcas Lebanon will expand into new areas, strengthen local leadership through Tabitha, diversify funding, and enhance technical expertise in protection, mental health, livelihoods, and climate adaptation.



Join our vision

Why partnerships matter

Dorcas Lebanon works with government entities, UN agencies, local NGOs, faith-based organisations and community leaders. Our partnerships are built on trust, shared values and long-term commitment. Together, we create opportunities for communities to flourish.

What partners say

“The partnership with Dorcas/Tabitha helps us serve students in Burj el Barajneh camp with a daily sandwich and a piece of fruit or vegetable, easing pressure on families.”

Suha Yassir, Project Manager
Palestinian Women Humanitarian Organisation (PWHO)

“Working with Dorcas/Tabitha helps ensure strengthening protection services to migrant workers by connecting people to the right support quickly, with dignity, confidentiality, and respect.”

Jeanne d’Arc Hobeika
Program coordinator and Liaison officer, Migration Services and Development (MSD)



Network memberships

- LHIF
- Local NGO coordination mechanism in Lebanon
- UN-led coordination mechanisms at governorate level
- UN-led coordination mechanisms at national level through the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP), Sector Working Groups / national sector coordination, including: Cash Working Group, Child Protection, Education, Food Security, Livelihoods, Protection, GBV, Shelter, Social Stability.
- Aflatoun International
- AUB NGOi Initiative



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

In Lebanon, our vision is to see people and communities flourish, where families can live in safety, access basic services, and rebuild dignity and hope despite crisis. Every day we meet Lebanese households, refugees, and migrants who are doing their best to cope with displacement, hunger, and protection risks. No single organisation can meet these needs alone. Lasting change requires partnerships that combine local knowledge, trusted community networks, and shared resources, so support reaches those in the most vulnerable situations quickly and strengthens what remains after emergencies. Whether you are an NGO, church, business, institution, or individual, your engagement can multiply impact. I invite you to explore how you can collaborate with Tabitha/Dorcas Lebanon through funding, expertise, joint programming, or advocacy. Let’s connect and build practical solutions. Together, we can realise our vision for Lebanon.

Najla Chahda
Country Director Dorcas Lebanon



Contact us

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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.