Our identity

Dorcas is a Christian organisation that provides humanitarian assistance and facilitates development cooperation. Dorcas invests in sustainable change in the lives of people who are marginalised. In the event of poverty, exclusion or a crisis, we create opportunities for them to flourish. This is how we follow Jesus Christ.

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
Empower people who are marginalised
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.

Realise sustainable change
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.

Engage in a global movement
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.

How we work

Accountable
We do what we say, work transparently and use resources wisely.

Compassionate
We see those in need and stand next to them.

Determined
We have an entrepreneurial spirit and do not give up.

Locally led
We work through local leadership, staff and partners.

Our history
Dorcas was founded by Dutch entrepreneur Dirk-Jan Groot in 1980 in response to the persecution of Christians in Eastern Europe during the communist regimes. Groot put his Christian faith into practice and started an organization to support persecuted Christians and their families and he mobilized many people to take up this cause with him. After the fall of
the Berlin Wall in 1989, the organisation expanded its activities to Africa - and, in the last decade, to the Middle East. In this period, Dorcas also shifted its focus towards humanitarian and development activities. Today Dorcas is active in 14 countries in 3 regions - working to improve the resilience and livelihoods of vulnerable people living in poverty, exclusion and crisis. All supported by our International Office in Almere, the Netherlands. Dorcas is grateful for being able to work together with donors from around the world and with a large donor base of individuals, companies, churches and other organisations.

Dorcas is named after one of the first Christians, Dorcas, a woman who “was always doing good and helping the poor”. (Acts 9:36)

Theory of Change and Programmatic Priorities

Our Theory of Change

Dorcas views poverty as a condition in which people cannot realise their intellectual, material, physical, social and spiritual needs and capacities. This kind of poverty is often related to exclusion mechanisms and barriers within society. We want to contribute to the protection, inclusion and resilience of people living in poverty, experiencing exclusion or caught in a crisis. Our theory of change recognises that transformation is needed at the individual, community and societal levels. We seek to realise a six-fold impact that results in flourishing people and communities.

Dorcas works towards change on three levels:

1. **Individual** - We create opportunities for people to develop their skills and improve their confidence and relationships. If necessary, we also provide for their basic needs, such as water, food, shelter, trauma care or psychosocial support.

2. **Community** - We invest in resilient communities - self-organising communities that work together to improve their living conditions. We strengthen the position of groups such as older people, people with disabilities and minority groups. And we encourage community members to support each other and to stand up for themselves, each other and the community they live in.

3. **Society** - We make our contribution to a just society. We cooperate with local authorities and partners and motivate them to take their responsibilities. We combat taboos, ensuring that everyone has a voice and that everyone is included.
Programmatic Priorities

Dorcas provides humanitarian assistance and facilitates development cooperation. Dorcas invests in resilient communities in which everyone can make their contribution. When a disaster or a crisis occurs, we provide assistance and we support communities to rebuild themselves. At the same time, we invest in structural remedies for poverty and social exclusion. We do this by encouraging entrepreneurship, self-reliance, and protection of people in vulnerable circumstances.

Our programmes centre around our three programme concepts:

2. Social Empowerment and Protection. Thematic approaches: Asset-Based Community Development, Community Safety Nets, Future for Children, MHPSS.

Each programme concept integrates the cross-cutting themes of climate change and inclusion, and gives expression to the role of faith in our work. Lobby and advocacy efforts encourage societies to become more inclusive and speak out for the rights of marginalised individuals and communities.

Reach

Dorcas is active in Eastern Europe, Eastern Africa and the Middle East. Local colleagues lead our 14 country offices in Albania, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Moldova, Mozambique, Romania, South Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Ukraine and Yemen.
Main programme concepts and approaches per country:

**Ukraine:**
- Community Safety Nets for Older People
- Inclusive Entrepreneurship
- Humanitarian Assistance
- Child Protection

**Moldova:**
- Safety Nets for Older People
- Inclusive Entrepreneurship
- Child Protection

**Romania:**
- Safety Nets for Older People
- Roma Inclusion
- Social Enterprise Development

**Albania:**
- Safety Nets for Older People
- Social Enterprise Development
- Child Protection
Main programme concepts and approaches per country:

**Egypt:**
- Women Empowerment
- Protection for Girls
- Inclusion of People Living with a Disability
- Inclusive Entrepreneurship

**Iraq:**
- Humanitarian Assistance and Recovery
  - Protection (Legal Support)
  - Food Security and Livelihoods
- Food Security and Livelihoods

**Syria:**
- Humanitarian Assistance and Recovery
  - Healthcare
  - Food Security and Livelihoods
  - Inclusive Entrepreneurship
  - Community-Based Protection and MHPSS
- Healthcare
- Food Security and Livelihoods
- Inclusive Entrepreneurship
- Community-Based Protection and MHPSS
- Reconciliation

**Lebanon:**
- Humanitarian Assistance and Recovery
  - Food Security and Livelihoods
  - Inclusive Entrepreneurship
  - Community-Based Protection and MHPSS
  - Reconciliation

**Yemen:**
- Humanitarian Assistance and Recovery
  - Food Security and Livelihoods
  - Community-Based Protection
  - Healthcare
  - WASH
Main programme concepts and approaches per country:

Ethiopia:
- Inclusive Entrepreneurship
- Child Protection
- Humanitarian Assistance and Recovery
  - Food Security and Livelihoods
  - Disaster Risk Reduction

South-Sudan:
- Humanitarian Assistance and Recovery
  - WASH
  - Food Security and Livelihoods
- Inclusive Entrepreneurship

Kenya:
- Inclusive Entrepreneurship
  - WASH
  - Food Security and Livelihoods
  - Climate
- Social Empowerment and Protection

Tanzania:
- Menstrual Hygiene Management
- Community Safety Nets for Older People
- Future for Children
- Inclusive Entrepreneurship
  - Food Security and Livelihoods
  - Clean Energy
  - Social Enterprise Development

Mozambique:
- Social Empowerment and Protection
- WASH
- Food Security and Livelihoods
- Women Empowerment
Partners

Dorcas Unique Selling Points for EU-CORD

Added value

Dorcas focuses on inclusion of marginalised people and communities and has developed and tested approaches for this, such as Inclusive Entrepreneurship, Social Enterprise Development, Community Safety Nets for Older People, Family Development and Community-Based Protection and MHPSS.

Dorcas is locally rooted and has a long term commitment to our focus countries to address extreme poverty, protracted crises, major inequality and social exclusion. Our colleagues and volunteers know the context, have access to extensive networks and act quickly in unforeseen circumstances. Dorcas has an extensive network of local partner organisations.

Dorcas implements both Relief and Development programmes and is able to effective link those where relevant, enabling us to work in fragile contexts and apply Triple Nexus principles.

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Main sources of income 2021:
8.6 million government subsidies
6.8 million other non-profit organisations
8.6 million private donations
2.6 million shops
Total 27.7 million

Key consortia (2021):
Christian Emergency Relief Cluster (Christelijk Noodhulp Cluster) - with EO Metterdaad, Help A Child, Tearfund Netherlands, Woord & Daad and ZOA.
Dutch Relief Alliance - with 14 organisations including Help a Child, Tearfund Netherlands and ZOA, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Employable Youth Ethiopia - with Woord & Daad, MoFa funded.
Pride! - South Sudan - with Light for the World and Help a Child, EU funded.
Next Steps - Romania - with International Justice Mission, Salvation Army and Bright Fame.
Publicly Owned Privately Managed access to Water - Kenya - with Siaya County Government and Maji Milele Ltd., RVO funded.

Key institutional donors and partners (2021) are