

# Dorcas

*Moldova*

Faithfully moving forward



## Eastern Europe



Romania

Ukraine

Moldova

Albania

Syria

Lebanon

Iraq

## Middle East

Egypt

Yemen

South Sudan

Ethiopia

Kenya

Tanzania

## Eastern Africa

Mozambique

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## We are Dorcas Moldova

Dorcas Moldova started operations in 2003. We are a Christian organisation that focuses on community-based care for older people, child protection and support for families in difficult situations. We have also developed programme components for Inclusive Entrepreneurship and Humanitarian Assistance and Recovery, and we train and support our local partners in community mobilisation and inclusive local development.

Dorcas is a faith-based organisation that provides humanitarian assistance and facilitates development cooperation. We invest 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

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.



## Our work and impact

Dorcas Moldova's programmes are characterised by people-centred work and the combination of social and economic empowerment. On the local level, in districts across North and Central Moldova, we co-implement programmes that aim to improve the protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups. We work towards this goal by strengthening community-based support networks for our target groups and creating new opportunities for self-development, economic empowerment and participation. Commitment to community cohesion and the development of community assets are other profiling factors in all our programmes. Strong local ownership of our implementing partner organisations and individual local participants is a key precondition for their success. With this approach, we want to contribute to the vision of viable and flourishing communities in Moldova.

We work across Moldova to deliver context-specific education and livelihood opportunities that empower people to turn the tide. We build on the assets that already exist in rural communities, mobilising individuals and local organisations to realise and develop their strengths - together.

#### Population:

Moldova has a population of 2.5 million people.

#### Poverty:

The absolute poverty rate for 2021 was 24.5 per cent.

**Total  
number of  
persons reached  
in 2022:  
27,537**

In 2022, Dorcas Moldova ran their programmes focussing on inclusive social development of vulnerable people within empowered communities.

A humanitarian assistance approach was added whilst Dorcas Moldova implemented a programme to assist Ukrainian refugees with their basic needs. This annual report highlights a few of the programmes of Dorcas Moldova.

## Response to the crisis in Ukraine

Since 24 February 2022, the conflict in Ukraine has resulted in civilian casualties, the destruction of infrastructure in Ukraine and forced mass displacements to neighbouring countries, including Moldova. More than 790,000 Ukrainians crossed the border to Moldova. This influx of refugees places a considerable strain on the Moldovan government and population.

In March 2022, Dorcas Moldova started to implement three Humanitarian Assistance and Recovery programmes. These provided an emergency rapid response to refugees staying in Moldova through a multisectoral approach to providing Shelter, Food Security and Livelihood and Protection services, including Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for adults and children. During the first phase of the project, the main goal was to ensure refugees had a safe place to stay and their basic needs were covered. Dorcas was able to work with ten partner organisations, providing the basic needs like food, shelter and non-food items. In the second phase, the MHPSS component was added for both adults and children.

Dorcas Moldova coordinated and monitored the response and its experienced local partners implemented the activities, supported by experts in humanitarian assistance and mental health and psychosocial support.

Dorcas was able to finalise the Connect programme, a psychosocial support group curricula that can be facilitated by lay people. Connect consists of a curriculum for children and for adults. About 41 employees from twelve partner organisations were trained in how to work with people affected by the conflict (emotionally affected people). Since then, sixteen support groups for children and/or adults have been set up in ten locations, even some refugees themselves took on the role as facilitator. During the summer months it was possible to host six summer camps and in line with that nineteen child friendly spaces were either set up or refurbished.

In the third phase of the project, the aim was to work towards development while still providing food and non-food item support. We sought to build the capacity of refugees so they could sustain their own livelihood and be less

dependent on assistance. This included livelihood trainings and support to start income-generating activities.

## Impact (running period from May to October 2022)



## Building a future for children

Our Future4Children programme is aimed at children and their parents or guardians. Key elements of Future4Children are life skills development, strengthening and capacitating families in parenting and income generation and building child protection platforms.

Children must have access to adequate education and opportunities to develop their self-esteem, discover their unique talents, be aware of their rights and acquire the right social and financial skills to proactively impact their future. At the same time, parents and guardians are made aware of children's needs and given the tools to respond to these needs in a healthy, effective way. In parenting courses and in life skills training for children, we raise awareness for the protection of children in families. Furthermore, wherever possible, we strengthen intergenerational relationships by connecting participants of Future4Children with participants in our Community Safety Nets programme.

The wider community ensures that the rights of children are protected, openly addresses harmful practices and acts appropriately in the case of (suspected) violations. On a societal level, organisations work together to promote the protection of children's rights through awareness and advocacy.

The programmes aimed to empower children, youth and their caretakers through the practice of life skills, economic and educational support, rights and responsibility awareness. Besides the focus at individual level, the project planned to establish linkages with different community actors with a view of developing community safety nets for vulnerable children and youth.

### Impact:



17

Improved Economic Resilience



258

Empowered Community Members

## Empowering farmers

The Promofarm programme was a continuation of earlier pilots conducted by Dorcas in partnership with the Federation of Agricultural Producers from Moldova (FARM), focusing on the farmer field school (FFS) and asset-based community development (ABCD) approaches in a single location. The programmes' primary goal was to support small agricultural businesses run by farmers lacking expertise. It expanded the FFS and introduced farmer business school (FBS) to ten different locations, each accommodating around twenty participants. These activities were guided by ABCD principles and provided training to selected communities. The project emphasised collaboration among small farmers and used ABCD, empowerment, and life skills development approaches to empower youth, men, and women while promoting social inclusion and gender equality.

### Impact (running period from jan-2022 - mar-2022)



Improved Economic  
Resilience

100

Target households  
that have an  
increased income



Improved Food Security  
and Climate Resilience

450

Households with  
improved food  
security



Empowered  
Community Members

500

Adults with at least  
a 62.5% score on the  
adult empowerment  
scale

## Creating safety nets for older people

The Community Safety Net (CSN) programme started as five smaller local projects named "Adopt a Granny", which aimed to support older people in difficult situations (older people who struggle with loneliness, low income, poverty, illness etc.). In 2020, the projects were redesigned into a larger programme that aims to support older people on three levels:

- Individual level: direct material and informational support, social and interest-based activities.
- Community level: local involvement, large events, asset-based community development.
- Society level: local and national campaigns, active involvement in alliances and platforms for older people's rights.

The CSN programme helps to restore and create circles of support, and it enables older people to be active members of their community.

As a part of the CSN programme, we continuously develop programme components for community mobilisation, advocacy and capacity building of community-based organisations. A crucial aspect of CSN is making communities aware of the exclusion of marginalised people and how local structures can be strengthened to support these people.

Our Local Resource Mobilisation training enables local organisations, communities and churches to explore and increase their opportunities and to develop an asset-based instead of needs-based way of thinking. Through this course, we seek to facilitate the growth of local ownership and reduce dependence on external financing.

CSN is our largest programme and currently reaches 1,365 vulnerable older persons from 68 communities with direct support. The programme is realised in fifteen districts across central and northern Moldova to strengthen local support networks and advocate the inclusion of older people.

Our goal is to involve different stakeholders in the safety net, so that it offers the needed support for those living in difficult circumstances and is a good tool for everybody willing to do something for the people in their community. Our main local implementing partners are faith-based organisations, churches and community-based organisations, local authority representatives, non-formal active groups and many others.

## Impact (running period jul-2022 - dec-2022)



LTO 3

1,365

Empowered Community  
Members

Adults with at least a 62.5% score  
on the adult empowerment scale

### Stronger communities that care for one another

Together with Dorcas Country Offices in Albania, Romania and Ukraine, Dorcas Moldova organised its annual Blue Bucket Campaign. They organise food collections in blue buckets and offer these buckets to marginalised people, such as older persons and families living in difficult circumstances in communities across Eastern Europe.

With this campaign, the Dorcas Country Offices and local partners raise awareness on what individuals and community actors can do for marginalised people in their community or country. The Blue Bucket Campaign initiatives motivate the community to care for and protect its marginalised members, for example with community activities, neighbours that care, volunteering and practical support. The aim is to contribute to stronger communities that reach out to marginalised people.

Churches, NGOs, schools, the private sector, and others are asked to participate in this campaign and collect food. Many volunteers, also young members of the community, offer support in packing and distributing the blue buckets with food. These blue buckets are distributed in communities where Dorcas and partner organisations participate in the Community Safety Nets with specific care for marginalised people.

Many people in Moldova live under difficult circumstances, especially those without financial stability, who suffer from an illness or simply lack ways to provide for their basic needs. They require additional support, and with this initiative, we can support 1,500 families with filled blue buckets.

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