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For Immediate Release

Mastercard Foundation and War Child Canada expand partnership to deliver education and livelihood opportunities for youth in Uganda

110,000 refugees and host-community youth will benefit from secondary education and skills development to secure work opportunities.

Toronto, September 13, 2022 – Mastercard Foundation and War Child Canada announced a new, multi-year partnership to expand access to education and livelihoods for refugee children, youth, and women in Uganda over the next five years.

The US \$25 million partnership builds on an earlier program implemented between 2017 and 2021, which increased student attendance, enhanced teacher capacity, and improved family and community support for learning. This expansion is designed to construct inclusive, youth-friendly learning spaces and provide quality education, work-readiness, entrepreneurial, and community-building opportunities for refugees and host community youth— particularly girls and women.

“Providing access to education is a necessary condition for ending violence and aid dependency and was one of the reasons why War Child Canada was founded 23 years ago. A lack of access to education not only sets children back temporarily but can lead to long-term academic deficits that are difficult to recover from – something that can have a profoundly negative impact for children living in areas of war and conflict. Thanks to our partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, our team in Uganda will be better able to create and expand opportunities for refugees, which will enable them to envision a different future for themselves and their communities,” said Dr. Samantha Nutt, War Child Canada Founder and President.

Uganda hosts over 1.5 million refugees, making it one of the world’s largest refugee hosting countries in the world. Education is essential to protecting the rights of refugee children and to help them recover from the trauma of war. It creates economic opportunities, promotes social stability, and helps to keep children safe. This innovative partnership will have a significant impact in Uganda in enhancing education and gender-equitable opportunities for refugee and host-community youth. It will allow War Child to broaden the scope of its existing partnership work

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with local civil society actors and refugee-led organizations to implement localized programming tailored to the specific needs of the communities with whom it works.

“At the Mastercard Foundation, our work is guided by our Young Africa Works strategy, and we have set a target of ensuring 4.3 million young Ugandans access dignified and fulfilling work by 2030. We’ve also committed to being very intentional about inclusion – particularly of young women, who will make up 70 percent of the young people we reach, young people with disabilities and, importantly for Uganda, young refugees. We believe that young people within the refugee community are a tremendous source of creativity, innovation, and productivity. This partnership is about delivering on the right of refugees to both learn and earn, while enabling them to participate in solving the challenges facing Uganda, Africa, and the world,” said Adrian Bukenya, Country Head, Mastercard Foundation Uganda.

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About War Child Canada:

[War Child Canada](http://www.warchild.ca) has been empowering children, women, and families to overcome the brutal impact of war and violence for over two decades. Using a humanitarian model that is locally driven and sustainable, War Child delivers programs that give children access to education, protect their legal and human rights, and give their families the tools they need to escape poverty. This is accomplished with a long-term focus, 99% local staff, and by investing 93% of every dollar into our overseas programming.

For more information about War Child Canada please visit: www.warchild.ca

About the Mastercard Foundation

The Mastercard Foundation works with visionary organizations to enable young people in Africa and in Indigenous communities in Canada to access dignified and fulfilling work. It is one of the largest, private foundations in the world with a mission to advance learning and promote financial inclusion to create an inclusive and equitable world. The Foundation was created by Mastercard in 2006 as an independent organization, a registered Canadian charity located in Toronto with additional hubs in Accra, Ghana; Nairobi Kenya; and Kigali, Rwanda. Since its inception, it operates independently of Mastercard and its policies, operations, and program decisions are determined by its own Board of Directors and senior leadership team.

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For more information on the Foundation, please visit: www.mastercardfdn.org

About Young Africa Works

Young Africa Works is the Mastercard Foundation's strategy to enable 30 million young Africans, 70 percent of whom will be young women, to access dignified and fulfilling work. Africa will be home to the world's largest workforce, with 375 million young people entering the job market by 2030. With the right skills, these young people will contribute to Africa's global competitiveness and improve their lives and those of their communities. The Mastercard Foundation will implement Young Africa Works in 10 African countries in collaboration with governments, the private sector, entrepreneurs, educators, and young people. The first phase of countries identified by the Mastercard Foundation are Rwanda, Kenya, Ghana, Senegal, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Nigeria.

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