



War Child Canada and Mastercard Foundation Partner to Empower Displaced Youth in South Sudan

March 2025

Toronto, Canada – War Child Canada and the Mastercard Foundation have launched the *Pathways to Empowerment for Youth in South Sudan (P2E)* initiative. Through a collaborative consortium, the six-year project will reach over 98,000 youth with secondary education, support 17,000 students in tertiary and vocational training, and facilitate more than 35,000 employment transitions for displaced and refugee youth in South Sudan as part of the Mastercard Foundation’s Refugee and Displaced Persons Strategy.

South Sudan hosts one of the largest refugee and internally displaced populations in Africa, with over 4.5 million people affected by conflict and instability. Limited access to quality education remains a critical challenge, with fewer than 10% of refugee youth able to complete secondary school. The P2E initiative responds to this urgent need by expanding education and employment opportunities to ensure a brighter future for displaced youth.

The \$57.9 million (USD) program will also enhance institutional capacity, train educators, and advocate for refugee inclusion in national policies.

“We are honoured that Mastercard Foundation has chosen us to lead on such a significant initiative for South Sudan, further expanding our long-standing and successful partnership with the Foundation. The P2E project will create sustainable opportunities for displaced youth, ensuring they have access to quality education and dignified employment,” said Dara McLeod, War Child’s Executive Director.

The project begins in March 2025 and will be implemented across fourteen refugee and displacement camps in 9 counties and 7 states in South Sudan. Key partners include Windle Trust International, Humanitarian and Development Consortium, Titi Foundation, UNHCR, and multiple South Sudanese refugee-led organizations.



About War Child Canada:

War Child Canada 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.