



ANNUAL REPORT

2025 - 2026

Adolescent learners from Yei County gather to mark the launch of WUSC's new education initiative in South Sudan. © WUSC



Cover: At the wheel of a tractor, Jane, represents a new generation of young women transforming agriculture in Ghana. After completing WUSC's youth skills and agribusiness program, she launched her own local food business, turning new skills into sustainable opportunities. © WUSC | Photo Credit: Innova DDB Ghana





A Message from the Chair of the Board of Directors

Dear friends,

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude and pride for all that the WUSC community has accomplished together. In an increasingly complex global environment, WUSC continued to expand opportunities for young people while strengthening innovative pathways to safety, education, employment and belonging for refugees. Thanks to the dedication of our partners, staff, volunteers, and supporters, our impact continues to grow in Canada and around the world.

This year marked another significant step forward in the growth of WUSC's refugee resettlement and complementary pathways work. Through partnerships with 85 post-secondary institutions, WUSC welcomed 153 promising young students to Canada—one of our strongest years to date. We also secured a transformative five-year investment from The Shapiro Foundation, positioning us to double annual resettlement to Canada and expand access to life-changing education opportunities.

We are also doing innovative work advancing resettlement pathways for refugees linked to labour mobility. This connects refugees with meaningful employment opportunities, while addressing critical workforce shortages in Canada. This year, with employer partners in the hospitality and tourism sector, we welcomed 20 refugees to Canada. We also launched WUSC's Train to Hire initiative in partnership with the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists, welcoming the first cohort of 11 internationally trained refugee pharmacists to Canada.

Together, these efforts bring the total number of young people supported through WUSC's labour mobility pathways to 124 since 2020. Building on this momentum, we aim to expand this model across Atlantic Canada and into new sectors, through our new Global Skills to Work initiative, with the goal of supporting 200 refugees over the next two years.

We continue to champion complementary pathways for refugees globally. In the Philippines, we are working with partners to expand education pathways for Rohingya refugees. In Mexico, WUSC has supported the resettlement of 40 refugee students. We have also done meaningful work with refugee-led organizations in Kenya and Jordan to expand access to post-secondary education and complementary pathways.

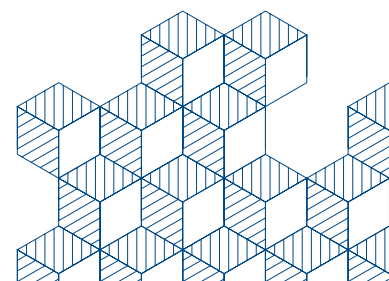
These achievements represent far more than numbers—they represent lives changed, communities strengthened, and futures transformed. Throughout this report, you will meet remarkable young people whose stories demonstrate what becomes possible when education, opportunity and inclusion come together. You will also see how the dedication of our staff, partners, volunteers, and supporters continues to make that progress possible everyday. The Board extends its sincere gratitude to Chief Executive Officer Steve Mason and the entire WUSC team for their commitment, expertise, and dedication, which have been instrumental in advancing WUSC's mission and driving its impact.

Looking ahead, WUSC is well positioned to deepen its impact, expand innovative pathways for refugees, and create even more opportunities for young people.

Thank you for your continued commitment to WUSC's mission. Together, we can be proud of the meaningful progress we have made and inspired by the opportunities that lie ahead.

Joy Johnson

Joy Johnson
Chair, Board of Directors



A Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Dear friends, partners, and supporters,

This year WUSC continued to grow its impact and expand opportunities for young people to learn, work, lead, and thrive. In a world facing complex social, economic, and environmental challenges, our commitment to inclusion, participation, and belonging has never been more important.

One of the year's defining milestones was the launch of WUSC's inaugural Youth Advisory Council. More than 2,000 young people from around the world applied, underscoring the demand for meaningful participation in shaping the decisions that affect their lives and futures. The Council reflects our commitment to ensuring that young people are not only beneficiaries of change, but active leaders in driving it.

This was also WUSC's largest programming year to date. Thanks to the support of individual donors, and our valued partners—including Global Affairs Canada, the Mastercard Foundation, the Shapiro Foundation, and many others—we expanded our reach and deepened our impact across the globe.

Together, we launched five new initiatives across Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Ghana, South Sudan, and sub-Saharan Africa, and significantly expanded our work in Canada. These programs are creating economic opportunities, expanding access to education, strengthening climate resilience, supporting entrepreneurship, and advancing women's economic inclusion. We are excited to build on this momentum with further new initiatives in Kenya and Jordan that will strengthen skills, connect employers with talent, and advance mutually beneficial economic partnerships between Canada and these countries.

This year marked an important step forward in our partnership with the Mastercard Foundation as we renewed our commitment to supporting solutions for the challenges faced by refugees led by refugees themselves. We know that lasting change is most effective when it is shaped by those with lived experience.

By investing in refugee leadership and ensuring displaced people are key players in decision-making processes, we are helping build more inclusive, responsive, and sustainable solutions.

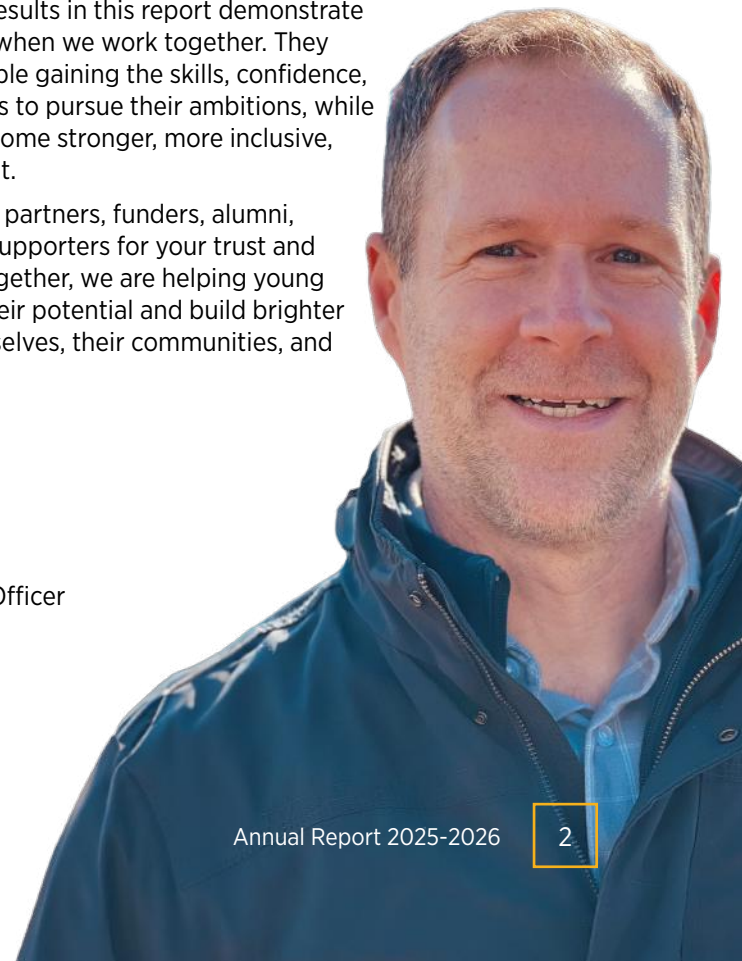
Across all our work, meaningful change is made possible through partnerships grounded in the leadership and experience of the people we work alongside. Whether with young people, governments, schools, employers, or civil society organizations, we are continually inspired by our shared commitment to creating opportunities where more young people can learn, work, lead, and belong.

The stories and results in this report demonstrate what is possible when we work together. They show young people gaining the skills, confidence, and opportunities to pursue their ambitions, while communities become stronger, more inclusive, and more resilient.

Thank you to our partners, funders, alumni, volunteers, and supporters for your trust and collaboration. Together, we are helping young people unlock their potential and build brighter futures for themselves, their communities, and the world.



Steve Mason
Chief Executive Officer





Our Vision

A world where every young person thrives and belongs.

Our Mission

To catalyze positive education and economic outcomes for young people.

Our Focus

We support all young people, with a focus on women and displaced people.

In collaboration with **287 partners** partners around the globe, we directly reached more than **419,000 people**.

Economic Opportunities

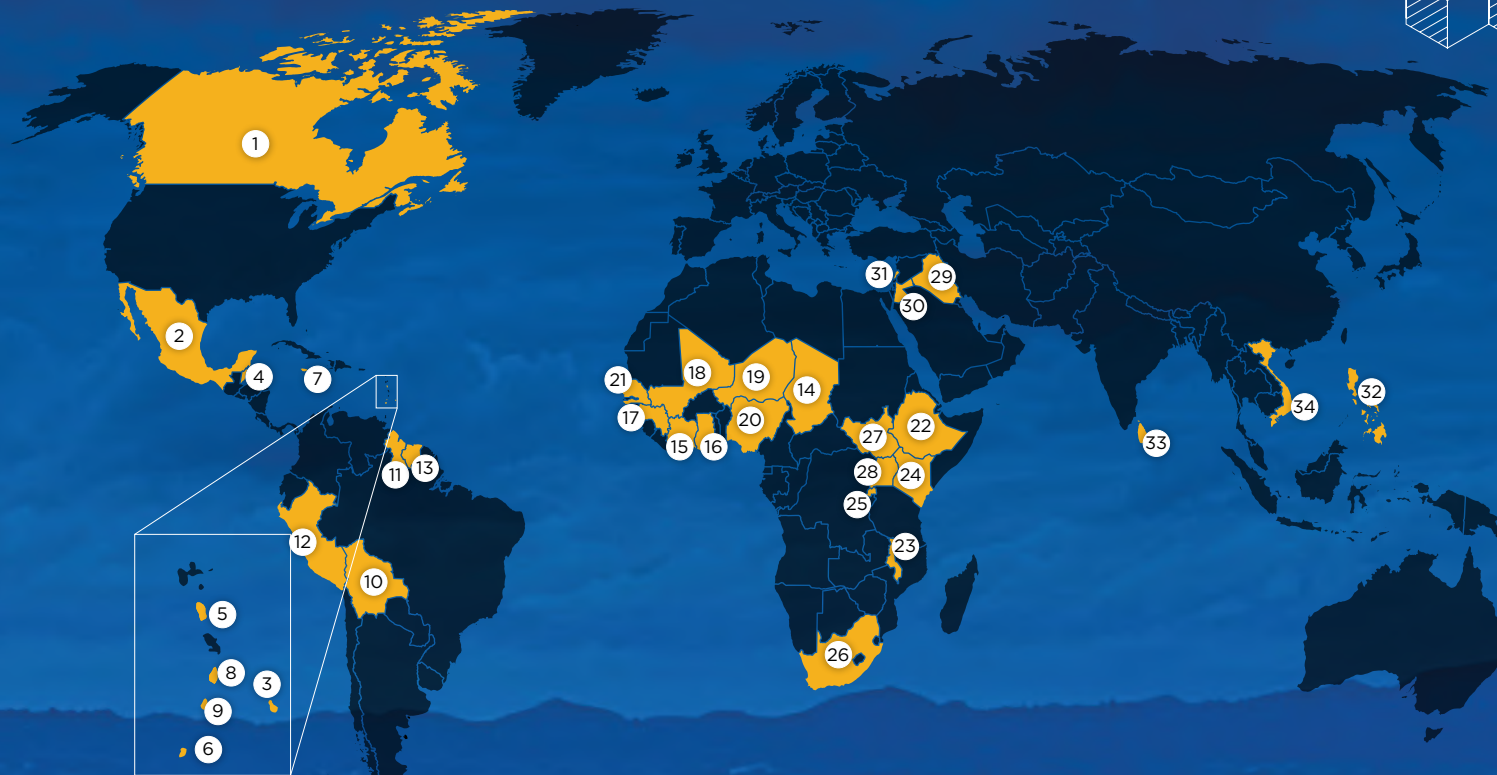
Equipped over **220,500 people** with the skills to access jobs, launch businesses, lead in their communities, and thrive in all aspects of life.

Global Forced Displacement

Resettled **184 refugees** to Canada.

Education

Improved access to education for more than **71,000 learners**.



North America

1. Canada
2. Mexico

Caribbean

3. Barbados*
4. Belize*
5. Dominica
6. Grenada*
7. Jamaica
8. Saint Lucia
9. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*

South America

10. Bolivia*
11. Guyana
12. Peru*
13. Suriname

West and Central Africa

14. Chad
15. Côte d'Ivoire
16. Ghana
17. Guinea
18. Mali
19. Niger*
20. Nigeria
21. Senegal

East and Southern Africa

22. Ethiopia
23. Malawi
24. Kenya
25. Rwanda
26. South Africa
27. South Sudan
28. Uganda

Middle East

29. Iraq
30. Jordan
31. Lebanon

Asia

32. Philippines
33. Sri Lanka
34. Vietnam

380 Staff | 104 Volunteers | 34 Countries | ~\$71 million Operating Budget

**Country in which WUSC is operational exclusively through operating Field Support Services for Global Affairs Canada.*



We partner with organizations that are at the heart of the change process

Over the years, we have worked with diverse partners to create sustainable and far-reaching impact for young people.



Private Sector

We work with private sector partners to create fairer, more inclusive opportunities for young people and to support economic growth. In Canada, our private sector partners also hire refugees and contribute to their successful resettlement.



Civil Society & Non-Governmental Organizations

WUSC works with civil society organizations and NGOs at local, national, and international levels to deliver programs that support youth.



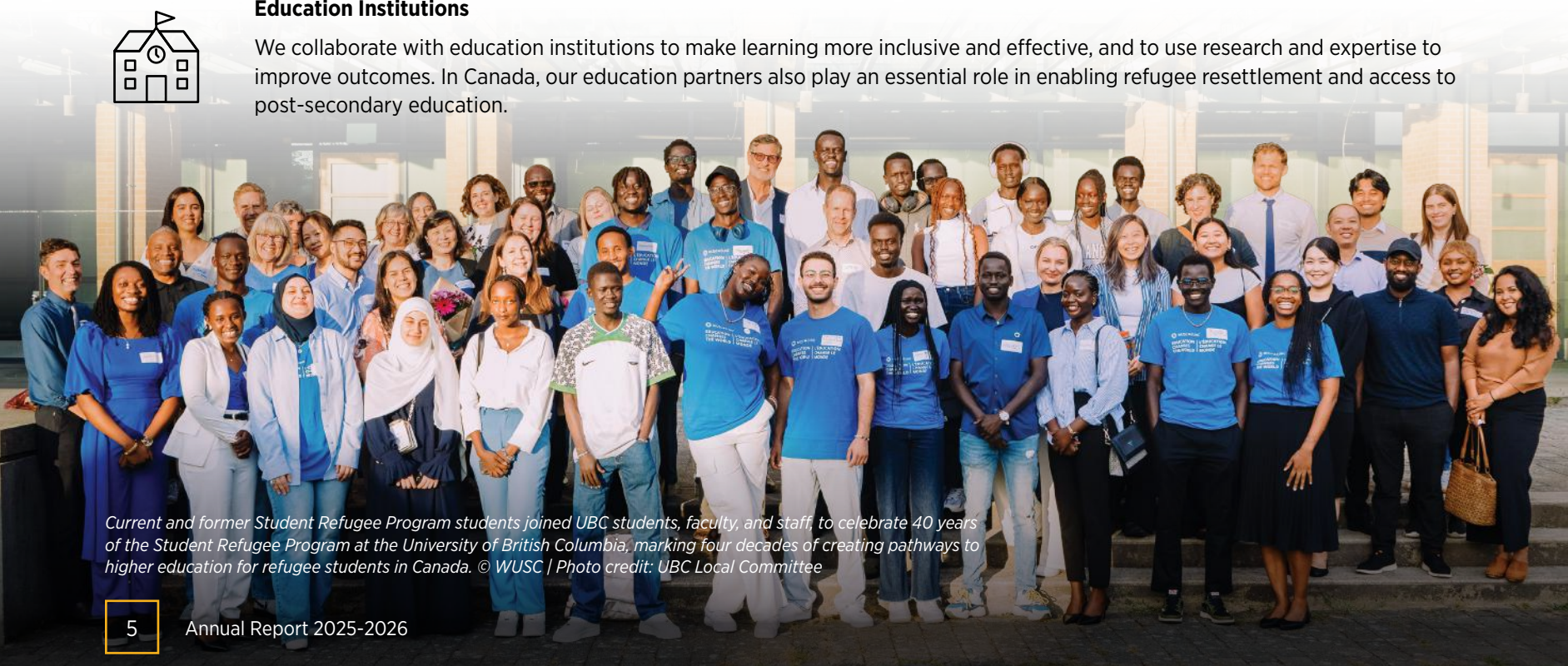
Government Institutions

We work with governments at all levels to create programs that meet local needs and support long-term development, and to influence the development of policies that are supportive of youth and displaced people.



Education Institutions

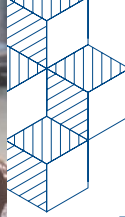
We collaborate with education institutions to make learning more inclusive and effective, and to use research and expertise to improve outcomes. In Canada, our education partners also play an essential role in enabling refugee resettlement and access to post-secondary education.



Current and former Student Refugee Program students joined UBC students, faculty, and staff, to celebrate 40 years of the Student Refugee Program at the University of British Columbia, marking four decades of creating pathways to higher education for refugee students in Canada. © WUSC | Photo credit: UBC Local Committee



Fabiola, an entrepreneur in Kakuma Refugee Camp, produces fortified flours to improve food security with support from WUSC's Innovation Fund. The fund provides training and capital to refugee and host community entrepreneurs in Kenya. © Farm Africa



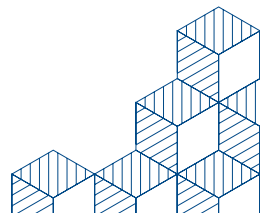
Economic Opportunities

Economic opportunity creates lasting change. When young people can earn a sustainable income by launching a business or accessing meaningful work, they contribute to local economies, and help build more resilient communities.

Working alongside governments, employers, training institutions, enterprise support organizations, and financial institutions, WUSC connects young people with market-relevant training, entrepreneurship support, and pathways to decent work. Together, we strengthen labour markets and create opportunities for young people, particularly women and those affected by forced displacement, while addressing the unique barriers they face.

Our entrepreneurship programs equip young people with the skills, resources, financing, mentorship, and networks needed to launch and grow businesses that create jobs, and stimulate economies. In regions and industries increasingly affected by climate change, we also promote climate adaptation and sustainable agriculture to help protect livelihoods while supporting long-term economic resilience.

Our approach is grounded in mutual economic partnerships that create shared value for communities, partner countries, and Canada. By connecting Canadian businesses, educational institutions, technical experts, and diaspora communities with local partners in other countries, we strengthen industries, foster innovation, expand responsible trade and investment, and help entrepreneurs access new markets. Together, these partnerships are creating more inclusive economies, strengthening global connections, and helping young people build brighter futures.



In partnership with **46 training and entrepreneurship support providers** across **15 countries**, WUSC supported close to **220,500 people** to build the skills, networks, and confidence they need to thrive in today's economy.

Young women develop digital skills through the Tawtheef program, led by Makers of Baghdad with support from WUSC's Matching Grants Program. By connecting young people with the skills they need to succeed, the initiative is expanding pathways to employment and entrepreneurship in Iraq. © Makers of Baghdad



Antonia's Story

Growing stronger food systems in the Caribbean

Like many young aspiring farmers, Antonia had the determination to succeed but lacked the land, equipment, and support needed to turn her ambition into a livelihood.

After joining WUSC's sustainable agriculture project, she received the tools, hands-on training, and ongoing mentorship to build her skills and grow her business.

What began with a single leased plot has grown into a thriving agricultural enterprise. Today, Antonia owns land, has invested in farming equipment, and is building a more secure future through agriculture.

Across the Caribbean, WUSC is helping women and young people build sustainable livelihoods through climate-resilient agriculture. **2,397 women and youth** received entrepreneurship training, while **1,435 participated in mentorship programs** to strengthen their business and farming skills.

For Antonia, the impact goes beyond financial independence. Agriculture has given her the confidence to build a future on her own terms.

Antonia examines seedlings she received through her participation in a WUSC-led training in Jamaica. Through practical training, mentorship, and access to agricultural inputs, WUSC is helping farmers like Antonia to grow their farms, strengthen food systems and build more secure livelihoods across the Caribbean. © WUSC

Nishanthy's Story

Supporting women entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka

Nishanthy believes clothing should do more than fit well—it should help women feel confident, comfortable, and proud.

As the founder of Ms. Maniquine, she set out to build a successful clothing and textile business of her own. Like many women entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka, however, she faced barriers to growing her business and reaching new markets.

Through WUSC's entrepreneurship program, Nishanthy joined a six-week business accelerator that strengthened her entrepreneurial skills and connected her with a mentor from Canada who continues to support her growth.

With new skills, guidance, and confidence, she expanded her reach by showcasing her products at local exhibitions before taking a major step onto the international stage. An invitation to exhibit internationally opened new business networks, new sourcing opportunities, and connections that will help her business reach customers beyond Sri Lanka.

Across the program, average monthly sales increased by 26%, while 66% of supported enterprises reported business growth over the past year.

Today, Nishanthy is preparing to expand internationally.



Before the training, I was just surviving. Now, I feel like a true businesswoman—confident, capable, and proud.

Nishanthy

Inspired by her own journey, Nishanthy now mentors young women in her community, encouraging them to pursue their ideas and connect with other entrepreneurs. Her story shows how investing in women entrepreneurs strengthens local economies by helping businesses grow, opening new markets, and creating opportunities for others to succeed.

Nishanthy wears one of her dresses from her business, Ms. Maniquine. With new skills, mentorship, and confidence gained through WUSC's entrepreneurship program, she is growing her business, reaching new markets, and preparing for international expansion. © Ms. Maniquine



KHỞI ĐỘNG DỰ ÁN

THÚC ĐẨY ĐỔI MỚI, TĂNG TRƯỞNG VÀ NĂNG LỰC LÃNH ĐẠO CHO DOANH NGHIỆP VIỆT NAM (AGILE)

LAUNCHING CEREMONY

ADVANCING GROWTH, INNOVATION, AND LEADERSHIP FOR ENTERPRISES IN VIETNAM (AGILE)

Hà Nội, 06/02/2026



The Ambassador of Canada to Vietnam speaks at the launch of WUSC's climate entrepreneurship initiative. By connecting Canadian businesses and investors with climate entrepreneurs in Vietnam, the initiative is fostering climate innovation and building mutually beneficial economic partnerships. © WUSC



More than **58,800 people** affected by forced displacement accessed opportunities to continue their education, build livelihoods, and pursue a more secure future through WUSC partnerships in **eight countries**.

Healthcare professionals from Jordan, including refugees, arrive in Nova Scotia through WUSC's labour mobility pathway, beginning new careers while helping strengthen Canada's healthcare workforce. © WUSC | Photo Credit: Abdullah Olewi

Global Forced Displacement

Forced displacement continues to reshape the lives of millions of people around the world. Displacement often interrupts education, limits access to decent work, and makes it difficult to build a secure future. As long-term solutions become increasingly difficult to access, expanding safe and inclusive pathways to education, employment, and belonging has never been more important.

WUSC works alongside refugee-led organizations, governments, postsecondary institutions, employers, and local partners, to help young people rebuild their lives. We do this in two complementary ways: by creating pathways to education and employment in third countries, including Canada, and by expanding opportunities where displaced young people live today.

Expanding pathways to education and employment

Complementary pathways connect displaced young people with safe, legal opportunities to rebuild their lives through education and employment. Working with governments, employers, and post-secondary institutions, WUSC is helping expand these pathways in Canada and globally—creating lasting opportunities for young people while strengthening communities and addressing workforce needs.

Amena's story

Opening doors through education

When war broke out in Syria, Amena was forced to flee to Lebanon, where she spent several years navigating uncertainty and limited opportunities. Through WUSC's Student Refugee Program (SRP), she found a pathway to safety, education, and a new beginning in Canada.

At McGill University, Amena pursued a degree in social work, inspired by the community workers who supported her after displacement. She quickly became a leader on campus, helping other refugee students navigate the transition to university life as a Student Navigator and Lead Coordinator.

Recently, Amena became a Canadian citizen and reunited with her family after five years apart. She is now pursuing a Master's in Social Work at Carleton University, continuing her commitment to supporting others.



It felt like the opportunity I had been waiting for—a chance to change my life and take a step toward the future I had always envisioned.

Amena

Building on nearly 50 years of experience delivering the SRP, WUSC is also helping expand complementary pathways globally. In the Philippines, our technical support enabled partners to strengthen their higher education pathway, enabling **10 young refugees** to begin postsecondary studies in 2025.

Amena graduates from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, where she studied Social Work through WUSC's Student Refugee Program. © Voltaic studio

This year, **153 young refugees** arrived in Canada through the Student Refugee Program, supported by more than **85 campus Local Committees** at post-secondary institutions across the country.

Education is one pathway to a new beginning. Employment is another.

WUSC's labour mobility pathway creates shared benefits by helping Canadian employers address workforce shortages while enabling displaced young people to rebuild their careers with dignity, stability, and long-term opportunity.

Paul's Story

Rising with the tide of maritime opportunity

Paul's passion for hospitality began early, inspired by watching his father work as a tour guide and his mother as a hotel chef in the Democratic Republic of Congo. After fleeing conflict, he spent several years as a refugee in Kenya, where he gained experience in teaching and hospitality while navigating an uncertain future. He built a foundation of skills but had limited access to stable, formal employment. Through WUSC's labour mobility initiative, Paul came to Canada ready to build on his experience. After completing a short hospitality bridging program at Camosun College, he began working as a Kitchen Partner with a popular west coast restaurant in Tofino, British Columbia, just three months after arriving.

Paul quickly adapted to his environment, earning the trust of colleagues and building confidence through hands-on experience. Over time, his work opened new doors. He joined BC Ferries, then moved from onboard food services to deck operations. Today, he is training to become a certified ferry officer.

Alongside his career growth, Paul has achieved financial stability, supported his family abroad, and become a proud father. He has also helped bring his brother to Canada.



It's not just a win for us. It's a win for Canada. We arrive ready to work, ready to give, ready to build a life. All we need is the chance.

Paul

This year, WUSC partnered with **11 employers** across British Columbia and Nova Scotia, supporting the arrival and employment of **31 young refugees** through labour mobility pathways.

Paul works aboard a BC Ferries vessel in British Columbia. His journey through WUSC's labour mobility pathway has opened the door to a growing career in Canada's maritime sector. © WUSC

Building futures where displaced young people live

While complementary pathways create opportunities abroad, most displaced young people will rebuild their futures in neighbouring countries in the Global South. WUSC works with local partners to help them thrive where they are by expanding access to the education, skills, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities they need to rebuild their lives. Rather than offering a single solution, WUSC takes a holistic approach—supporting refugee-led organizations to create jobs and strengthen local economies, helping young people gain recognition for the skills they already have, and connecting them with training and career opportunities that open pathways to decent work.

Across countries such as Kenya and Ghana, this approach is delivering results. In Kenya, refugee-led organizations supported through WUSC helped 258 refugee-owned businesses create more than 1,500 jobs, while 28 young people earned nationally recognized certifications through the country's Recognition of Prior Learning program. In Ghana, more than 400 young refugees gained practical skills through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and livelihood programs, opening pathways to employment and self-employment.

Kaka's Story

Turning skill into recognition

When Kaka fled Sudan for Kenya in 2012, she brought valuable skills in electrical work—but without formal credentials, her expertise went unrecognized in her new context.

Through recognition of prior learning support in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kaka was able to demonstrate her skills and earn a nationally recognized Electrical Installation Level 4 certificate.

Receiving her diploma transformed not only how others saw her abilities, but how she saw herself. Today, Kaka is building her career in Kenya's electrical and solar installation industry as a certified professional.

“

I was so happy to be awarded the certificate. At first, I was scared to stand in front of so many people, but I am incredibly proud of this journey.

Kaka

Kaka's story demonstrates how recognizing existing skills can unlock employment, strengthen local labour markets, and help displaced young people build futures where they can thrive and belong.

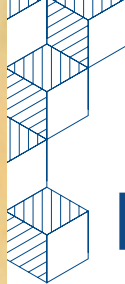
Kaka, a young woman from Kakuma Refugee Camp, attends the launch of Kenya's National Recognition of Prior Learning Policy in Nairobi. The policy recognizes skills gained through work and life experience, opening new pathways to employment. © WUSC | Photo credit: Edwin Ndeke





Working alongside **230 schools** and **31 TVET institutions** across **six countries**, WUSC supported over **71,000 learners and 779 teachers**—strengthening access to quality education and pathways to brighter futures.

Aminata participates in a classroom lesson. Growing up in the small village of Soungola in Mali, where there is no secondary school, she is now able to continue her education in neighbouring Boidié thanks to an innovative community-led solution that provides girls with safe accommodation and care closer to secondary schools. © WUSC

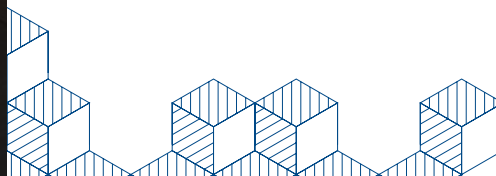


Education

Education is more than learning—it is the foundation for safety, opportunity, and lifelong possibility. Education provides stability in times of crisis while opening doors to brighter futures. It is often the first step toward economic opportunity, resilience, and belonging, equipping young people with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to shape their futures. Yet millions continue to face barriers to learning, particularly girls and young women impacted by forced displacement, who often encounter financial hardship, restrictive social norms, safety concerns, and fewer opportunities.

WUSC works alongside governments, educators, employers, communities, and others to strengthen inclusive education systems that help young people access, remain in, and succeed through education. From improving teaching quality and creating safer, more inclusive classroom environments to helping young people transition from learning to work, we ensure education opens the door to lasting opportunity.

Across our programs, we remove the barriers that prevent young people from reaching their potential while strengthening the systems that support them. In Mali, teachers use inclusive teaching approaches and digital tools to reduce dropout risks while families receive targeted support to help girls remain in school. In South Sudan, we are strengthening safe learning environments, girls' leadership, life skills, and teacher capacity. In Ghana, our work in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is helping more young women enter traditionally male-dominated trades while contributing to broader improvements across the national TVET system. By strengthening schools, teachers, and education systems alongside direct support for learners, WUSC is creating lasting opportunities that extend well beyond individual projects.





Mariam's Story

When girls stay in school, futures change

When Mariam lost her father, continuing her education became uncertain. After moving in with a host family facing significant financial challenges, she was at risk of leaving school.

Through WUSC's education support program in Mali, Mariam's caregivers received financial support to help cover essential school costs and keep Mariam in the classroom. Working alongside regional leaders, school committees, and mothers' associations, the program also helped her host family purchase livestock, creating a sustainable source of income that will continue supporting Mariam's education long after the assistance ends.

The impact went beyond financial support. As Mariam regained stability, she also regained confidence. Once shy and unable to speak up in class, she became more engaged in school, strengthened her academic performance, and began looking to the future with renewed hope.



Thanks to the support, I have been able to stay in school, afford my school supplies, and meet my daily needs. What truly changes my future is that it is also helping my host family develop livestock activities so they can continue supporting my education even after it ends. This support has given me hope and the chance to keep learning and build a better future for myself.

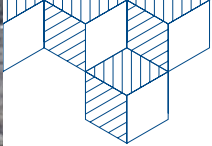
Mariam

Across Mali, 1,516 adolescent girls received education-focused cash transfers this year, helping families overcome financial barriers and supporting girls' continued education.

Mariam's story reflects WUSC's belief that when young people—especially girls and young women—have access to quality education and opportunity, they gain the foundation to thrive, belong, and shape stronger communities for generations to come.

Mariam stands in front of livestock her family purchased with support from WUSC's education support program in Mali. The investment is helping her family build a sustainable source of income so Mariam can stay in school and continue her education. © WUSC





International Volunteer Cooperation

International volunteer cooperation has been an important part of WUSC's work for more than 50 years. Since recruiting Canada's first United Nations Volunteers in 1974, we have connected skilled volunteers with organizations across the world to strengthen capacity, share knowledge, and support locally led solutions that respond to community priorities.

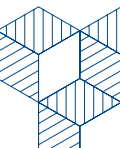
Today, volunteer cooperation is about more than sharing expertise—it is about building lasting partnerships. Working alongside community organizations, governments, and social enterprises, volunteers contribute technical knowledge while learning from local expertise and experience. Together, they strengthen organizations, foster innovation, and create sustainable solutions that expand economic opportunity, advance gender equality, and build greater climate resilience. Volunteers also return to Canada with new perspectives, global networks, and experience that strengthen Canadian institutions, workplaces, and communities. They play an important role in engaging other Canadians in the critical global issues that impact us all.

Impact in action

This year, volunteers partnered with 61 organizations across eleven countries to strengthen organizational capacity, develop innovative tools and approaches, and expand opportunities for young people. These partnerships helped organizations scale solutions that improved education, livelihoods, climate resilience, and gender equality—creating an impact that will continue long after each placement ends.

This year, WUSC partnered with **61 organizations** across **eleven countries**, mobilizing **104 Canadian volunteers** to strengthen community-led solutions and create lasting change.

A volunteer visits the Citadel in Amman during her placement with Jordan Youth Innovation Forum. Through WUSC's Volunteer Cooperation Program, volunteers share their skills and expertise to strengthen the capacity of partner organizations around the world.
© WUSC | Photo credit: Sandra Low





Drayton's Story

Cultivating innovation in agriculture

In Malawi, young farmers face the combined pressures of climate change, crop disease, and limited access to agricultural advice. For many, even small setbacks can threaten their livelihoods.

Through WUSC, Drayton, a volunteer from Canada, partnered with ACADES, a Malawian social enterprise helping young people build sustainable livelihoods through agriculture. Together, they developed AI Farmer, a digital platform that uses artificial intelligence to provide young farmers with real-time guidance on crop diseases, planting practices, and weather risks.

The results were transformative. During a one-year pilot, farmers using the app nearly doubled their average annual income, with women and young farmers seeing some of the greatest gains.

For farmer Sosten, the app helped save an entire harvest. After noticing his bean crop was failing, he used AI Farmer to identify a fungal infection and take corrective action.



The app recommended fungicides, and now the bean crop is thriving.

Sosten, a farmer in Malawi

Drayton's partnership with ACADES demonstrates how bringing together Canadian and local expertise strengthens organizations, accelerates locally led solutions, and creates lasting opportunities for young people and their communities.

Drayton, a volunteer from Canada, delivers a training session to support the launch of AI Farmer, an innovative solution supporting agricultural development, during his placement with ACADES in Malawi.

© WUSC | Photo credit: Macdonald Ziba



Canadian Engagement

Connecting Canadians to the world—and the world to Canada

Whether through student leadership, international volunteering, welcoming refugees into Canadian communities, or donating to the causes they care about, Canadians are helping create a more inclusive and interconnected future. For more than 75 years, WUSC has helped Canadians develop the skills, confidence, and global perspective to create positive change—building stronger communities at home while contributing to a more inclusive world where everyone can thrive and belong.

New Canadians celebrate their citizenship during a ceremony hosted by WUSC in Ottawa to mark World Refugee Day. The ceremony welcomed 86 Canadian citizens from more than 40 countries. © WUSC | Photo Credit: Hugo Alvarez

This year, WUSC engaged more than **581,000 people** across Canada to learn more about global issues. We helped inspire **over 15,800 Canadians** to translate their learning into action through volunteering, advocacy, donating, refugee sponsorship, and other forms of community engagement.

WUSC Local Committee members engage fellow students during Clubs Day at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, inspiring the next generation of young leaders to take action on global issues. © WUSC





Sam's story

From Ghana to Concordia: how one global experience changed a Canadian campus

For Sam, a marketing student at Concordia University, the opportunity to attend WUSC's International Seminar in Ghana became a turning point. With parents who had previously volunteered with WUSC, Sam was already familiar with the organization's work. Among his fellow Seminar participants were former refugees who had participated in WUSC's Student Refugee Program and whose leadership and resilience challenged his assumptions and inspired him to act.

Returning to Canada, Sam helped revive Concordia University's dormant WUSC Local Committee, bringing together students, university leaders, and the wider WUSC alumni network in Montreal to rebuild the program.

Together, they re-established the committee, resolved longstanding administrative challenges, and sponsored three refugee students to study at Concordia. Among them were Asmaa and Hiba, two Syrian refugees living in Lebanon, who have since safely reunited with their families and continued their education in Canada.

Today, the Local Committee is focused on long-term sustainability, ensuring future generations of students can continue creating opportunities for refugee students while fostering a more welcoming and inclusive campus community.

“

There is only one club in Canada connecting thousands of students across a hundred campuses around one shared belief: that every young person deserves access to education and a place to belong. My father once wrote a blog called 'A Change is Coming.' I finally get to see it. And it all started in Ghana.

Sam

Sam's story shows how global experiences can inspire Canadians to become lifelong changemakers—strengthening communities at home while contributing to a more inclusive and interconnected world.

Concordia University student and WUSC Local Committee member Sam joins Student Refugee Program students Asmaa, Hiba, and Louis during their first campus tour at Concordia University. © Hiba Dahous



Spotlight

Over 75 Years of Inspiring Canadian Changemakers

Since 1948, more than 2,300 Canadians have participated in WUSC's International Seminar, developing the leadership, global perspective, and cross-cultural understanding needed to address shared global challenges.

Many alumni have gone on to become leaders in public service, education, community development, and social justice, bringing the lessons and relationships they developed through the Seminar back to communities across Canada.



I believe that each of us saw our country and the world through a changed lens, that each of us was changed, and that we all have made contributions throughout our lives with a desire of making the world a better place for everyone.

Joan, International Seminar alumna (1957)

Today, that legacy continues. By connecting Canadians with global experiences—and bringing global perspectives home—WUSC is helping build a new generation of engaged citizens equipped to strengthen communities in Canada and contribute to a more inclusive world.

Nearly 70 years ago, participants in WUSC's International Seminar departed for Ghana, part of a program that has inspired generations of young Canadians to engage with the world. © WUSC



2025/2026 Members

Institutional Members

Acadia University
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Brock University
Camosun College
Carleton University
Dalhousie University
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Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology
McGill University

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Ontario Tech University
Queen's University
Saint Mary's University
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Université Laval
University of Alberta
University of British Columbia
University of Guelph

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University of Northern British Columbia
University of Ottawa
University of Prince Edward Island
University of Regina
University of Saskatchewan
University of Toronto
University of Victoria
University of Waterloo
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Angèle Touchette
Andréanne Joanne Dibo-Amany
Diane Stump
Edwin C. Harris
Evan Due
Michel Chaurette
Mike Weber
Neevita Rathee
Pierre Le François
Rosanne Gasse
Scott Sterns

**Institution that does not also have a
WUSC Local Committee*

More than 90 students, leaders, faculty and staff gather in Ottawa for the 2025 Local Committee National Training, strengthening their skills to support refugee students and engage their campus communities. © WUSC | Photo Credit Acha Patandjila

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** Board members whose terms ended in February 2026*

*** Board members who joined in February 2026*

Youth Advisory Council



Hasan Almatroud
Syria



Mahami Badijigra Mary
Ghana



Joan Museny'a
Kenya



Thao Anh Nguyen
Vietnam



Brenda Okorogba
Canada/Nigeria

*Members of WUSC's inaugural Youth Advisory Council—Hasan, Joan, Anh, Badijigra, and Brenda (left to right)—collaborate during their first in-person meeting in Kenya, bringing their lived experiences and perspectives to help shape WUSC's future.
© WUSC / Photo Credit: Natalia Pereira*



Global Leadership Team



Steve Mason
Chief Executive Officer



Sam Landon
Senior Director of Programs



Stefan Hollmann
Chief Financial Officer



Catherine Gray
Director of Human Resources



Stephanie Leclair
Director of Communications
and Digital Transformation



Rachelle Antil
Director of Strategic
Initiatives



Ariane Ryan
Director of Program Design



Patience Akwem Nambo
Project Director, Nature-
Based Solutions in the
Guinean Forests of West
Africa



Erin Bateman
Head of Asia Programs



Teo Do
Vietnam Country Director



Ertha Doliscar
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Eve Dufresne
Director of International
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Nelsa English-Johnson
Jamaica Country Coordinator



Mumtaz Aroos Faleel
Sri Lanka Country Director



Sarah Lajoie Flyng
Côte d'Ivoire Country
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Caribbean Regional Director



Tania Jordan
Director of Program
Operations and Middle East



**Osamah Mohammed
Kadhim**
Iraq Country Director



Ruth Muendo
Kenya Country Director



Silvya Kananu
Pathways to Scale Project
Director



Hadjia Azara Kindo
Director of Finance



Veronica Lescay Megret
DREEM Project Director



Taban Michael
South Sudan Country
Director



Nancy Momany
Jordan Country Director



Godfrey Mphande
Malawi Country Director



Nadia Pacquette-Anselm
OECs Country Coordinator



Nana Thiam
Mali Country Director



Vanessa Thompson
Guyana Country Director



Appiah Wiafe Adofe
Ghana Country Director

WUSC's Global Leadership Team gathers in Malawi to strengthen collaboration, share learning, and align strategic priorities. © WUSC | Photo Credit: Alizée Zapparoli-Manzoni-Bodson





Champions of Change

Celebrating the partners, donors, volunteers, and supporters who make our work possible

None of WUSC's impact would be possible without the generosity, partnership, and commitment of the people and organizations who invest in young people's potential. Together, our donors, volunteers, institutional partners, campus committees, and supporters are helping create opportunities that transform lives in Canada and around the world.

Our valued funders



Global Affairs
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Canada



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Immigration, Réfugiés
et Citoyenneté Canada



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



The Shapiro
Foundation



WORLD
EDUCATION
SERVICES

In-kind support

Canadian students creating pathways to belonging

In more than 85 colleges, universities, and CEGEPs across Canada, WUSC Local Committees continue to demonstrate the extraordinary impact of student leadership. In 2025–2026, they mobilized over \$10 million in financial and in-kind support—including tuition waivers, housing, meals, educational materials, fundraising, and student levies—to help refugee students build new lives through the Student Refugee Program. This contribution, which is not reflected in WUSC's financial statements, does not include the thousands of volunteer hours contributed by students, faculty, staff, and community members, whose dedication continues to make the program possible.

Members of WUSC's campus engagement team attend Duolingo's DETCon event at their headquarters in Pittsburgh. Through its partnership with WUSC, Duolingo provides free access to Duolingo English Tests for all applicants of the Student Refugee Program, helping expand access to higher education in Canada. © WUSC | Photo Credit: Sarina Bhairwala



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Donor Spotlight

Jessie's Story

A lifetime of giving back

Like many alumni, Jessie's journey with WUSC began as a student volunteer. After joining her campus' Local Committee to support the resettlement of refugees to Canada, she then applied for the International Seminar to learn more about other global issues. Over time, these diverse experiences grew into a lifelong commitment to advancing opportunity for others. She went on to build a career spanning the Canadian public service and international humanitarian organizations, always drawn to issues of conflict, forced displacement, and humanitarian action. Today, she continues to support WUSC as a monthly donor to the Student Refugee Program. "I've spent my career seeing what happens when people are denied opportunity because of where they were born. This program changes that equation. It gives a young person the chance to use their talent and ambition fully, instead of having it cut short by circumstance."



A better world isn't built through one gesture. It's built when one small act of kindness leads to another and another and, in time, these small acts of kindness help to change the world.

Jessie

Jessie's journey shows how one opportunity to get involved can inspire a lifetime of leadership, generosity, and commitment to creating opportunities for others.

The Shapiro Foundation—expanding pathways for refugee youth

For refugee youth, a safe future means more than a place to call home—it means having the opportunity to learn, work, and build a future where they can thrive. Through a landmark \$5.2 million USD investment, The Shapiro Foundation is helping WUSC expand resettlement opportunities that connect refugee youth with education and employment in Canada. This transformative partnership will support the growth of the Student Refugee Program and accelerate innovative labour mobility pathways, helping more young refugees access the opportunities they need to realize their potential. Together, WUSC and The Shapiro Foundation are demonstrating what is possible when partners come together to create lasting pathways to belonging, opportunity, and a brighter future.

Every scholarship, every volunteer, every partnership, and every act of generosity helps create opportunities for young people to build brighter futures. **To all of our donors, volunteers, partners, and supporters—thank you for helping create a more inclusive world where every young person can thrive and belong.**

Financial Statements

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

March 31, 2026, with comparative information for 2025

	2026	2025
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$82,722,092	\$37,924,236
Short-term investments	104,959	-
Program receivables	2,674,074	4,100,406
Advances receivable	1,140,188	684,143
Prepaid expenses	584,464	366,620
	87,225,777	43,075,405
Long-term investments	154,372	149,995
Tangible capital and intangible assets	1,429,417	587,317
	\$88,809,566	\$43,812,717
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$4,387,486	\$4,053,095
Deferred contributions and contract advances	79,290,234	35,203,699
Deferred revenue - Lewis Perinbam award	25,944	29,578
	83,703,664	39,286,372
Net assets:		
Invested in tangible capital and intangible assets	1,429,417	587,317
Internally restricted	3,601,527	3,865,423
Endowment fund	74,958	73,605
	5,105,902	4,526,345
	\$88,809,566	\$43,812,717

Consolidated Statement of Operations

March 31, 2026, with comparative information for 2025

	2026	2025
Revenue:		
Grants and contributions:		
Government of Canada	\$41,797,381	\$43,601,478
Mastercard Foundation	20,570,373	7,955,119
Other Canadian funding	934,293	591,357
Other foreign funding	1,335,665	1,518,711
Other income	843,337	636,814
Donated goods and services	5,774,362	7,817,355
	71,255,411	62,120,834
Expenses:		
Programs	59,329,114	49,094,833
Operations	5,205,006	4,477,600
Fundraising and alumni engagement	340,220	223,090
Governance	28,505	39,766
Donated goods and services	5,774,362	7,817,355
	70,677,207	61,652,644
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$578,204	\$468,190



Young leaders from the Youth Advisory Committee for WUSC's refugee inclusion initiative gather in Kampala, Uganda, using their expertise and lived experience to help shape the initiative. © WUSC





Students cycle to school in Mopti, Mali. Through community-led projects supported by WUSC, bicycles are helping children travel the 5-8 km journey to the nearest secondary school, making continued education possible. © WUSC

WUSC

1404 Scott Street, Ottawa, ON K1Y 2N2, Canada

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You can help create a world where every young person thrives and belongs.

Visit us online at wusc.ca or call us at 1-800-267-8699 to learn how you can make a donation that provides young people with life-changing education, economic opportunities, and empowerment.

Charitable Registration Number

11930 4848 RR0001

WUSC acknowledges that its main office, in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, is located on the traditional, unceded Anishinaabe Algonquin Territories. WUSC has employees who work and benefit from living on Indigenous territories across Canada, and globally.

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