



spark • ignites ambition

SPARK develops higher education and entrepreneurship so that young, ambitious people are empowered to lead their conflict-affected societies into prosperity.

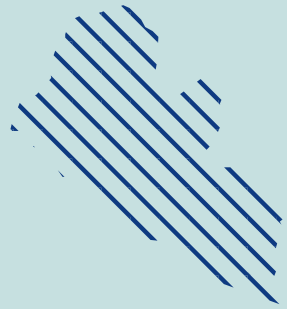
Alau James Vincent, OBI Millers,  
South Sudan

## Higher Education

**In the countries surrounding Syria, SPARK and its local partners are developing an educated, young refugee workforce and future leaders to rebuild Syria once the conflict is over.**

SPARK is providing thousands of Syrian refugees and vulnerable youth in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and Iraq (KR-I) with scholarships for universities and vocational schools. Students can choose from studies such as Civil Engineering, Economics and Psychology, in order to productively engage in rebuilding their societies. The scholarships include entrepreneurship and leadership courses, and student services, consisting of psychosocial, language and homework support.

By partnering with Education Above All (via Al Fakhora Programme), EU/MADAD and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SPARK has become the leading provider of higher education scholarships for Syrian refugees in the MENA region.



Liberia

**“We are the ones who are going to create the fundamentals for long-term stability and growth in our country.”**

### **Mahmud Johnson**

SPARK and the Branson Scholarship Programme supported Mahmud in starting his business, J-Palm Liberia (a company creating products from palm oil). Mahmud won a SPARK Business Plan competition and received access to finance, which he invested in harvesting and processing equipment. Now, Mahmud’s company utilises a ‘no-waste’ manufacturing process, so as well as selling food-grade palm oil, a popular range of beauty products was developed from the palm kernel shells. His company has created many agricultural, packaging and transportation jobs for rural Liberians.

# Entrepreneurship Development

**In SPARK's view, sustainable economic growth is essential for the alleviation of poverty, creating stability and eventually achieving lasting peace.**

Fragile and conflict-affected countries face monumental challenges in rebuilding their economies and societies. In order to overcome these challenges SPARK offers a variety of private sector development and entrepreneurship programmes in countries such as Rwanda, Liberia, Tunisia, Libya, Somalia, Turkey, Palestine and Jordan. These enable marginalised people such as youth, women and refugees to be more resilient, create jobs, and improve their socioeconomic position.

In Europe, SPARK has been supporting refugees to start their own business in collaboration with The Human Safety Net.

In order to achieve business development, SPARK and its local partners offer a range of tools to enable both new entrepreneurs and existing Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to flourish. Over the past decade, SPARK has set up 12 Business Support Centres (BSC) and accelerators throughout Europe, Africa and the Middle East. SPARK provides growth oriented SMEs and startups business development skills training, coaching, support in value chain development and access to finance. Lastly, SPARK works closely with various governments and local business organisations to realise an inclusive and enabling business climate.



**“My total investment has multiplied by 10!”**

### **Cherifa Soltani**

Cherifa left school early to learn to weave so she could support her family financially. After 11 years of building on her skills and designs, she was introduced to the LEAD programme, where technical coaches assisted her in seeking financial support from a microfinance institute. This enabled her to expand her business: she opened two new workshops and increased her production to meet the market’s demand. Today, Cherifa employs 22 women in three workshops.



Tunisia



**13,569**

Jobs Created



**45,487**

Youth Trained



**3148**

Scholarships Provided



**4518**

MSME's Supported

## spark

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