



**spark** • ignites ambition

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

Majida Sharafeddine, Syrian student at  
Lebanese University, Lebanon

## 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 Fakhoora 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.



“With my certificate, I will be able to support future Syrian generations by being as knowledgeable as my teachers.”



Lebanon

### **Eman El Assali**

Like many other young Syrians, Eman fled her home to neighbouring Lebanon as a result of the conflict. Her education was interrupted but having qualified for a higher education scholarship from SPARK and Al Fakhoora, she was able to continue her studies in Early Childhood Education. She was able to psycho-socially support Syrian children affected by the war during her education and now hopes to pursue a career within this field.

# 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.

## The Magic Lens team at their office in Gaza, Palestine



**“I had the idea and the passion, but I had no idea what a ‘business’ was or how to create one. The incubators helped me learn that.”**

### **Mohammed Bolbol**

Mohammed is the proud founder of Magic Lens, a media production company in the Gaza Strip, Palestine. Mohammed and his business partners were supported by the SPARK Business Start-up Incubator in Gaza. They received an office, access to internet, training and a small start-up fund. The team subsequently wrote their business plan and began offering video and photography services, also in 3D, to clients in Gaza. Today, having overcome 2 wars, Magic Lens employs 4 full time staff, 8 freelancers and has expanded its market to the Gulf region.



**13,569**

Jobs Created



**45,487**

Youth Trained



**3148**

Scholarships Provided



**4518**

MSME's Supported

# spark

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