

ABOUT US

FAIRE (Fund for Action and Innovation by Refugee Entrepreneurs) is an endowment fund created in 2018.

Our mission is to support and empower refugees to become successful entrepreneurs in France, and to promote a new vision and approach of refugees' role, inclusion and contribution to French society through entrepreneurship.

FAIRE achieves our mission:

- By funding existing organizations working with refugee entrepreneurs and selected refugee entrepreneurs directly,
- By contributing to the public debate about the role of refugees in society and how best to include them.

We seek to embody and demonstrate Impact, Inclusion, Innovation and Integrity in each and every one of our actions.

At FAIRE we firmly believe that the energy and capacity for innovation of refugee and migrant entrepreneurs is a golden opportunity for our country.

OUR FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT



FAIRE was created by Nick Nopporn Suppipat, a Thai entrepreneur living in Paris.

In 2009 Nick founded Wind Energy Holding (WEH). Under his leadership as CEO, WEH became Southeast Asia's largest renewable energy company and was valued at \$1.9 billion in 2014. As a result of this success, Nick became known as one of Thailand's leading self-made entrepreneurs.

Following Thailand's 2014 coup d'état by a military junta, Nick was forced to flee the country. He was granted political refugee status by French authorities and has since been living in Paris.

Since moving to France, he has invested in and actively backed several business ventures. These include Blade, a French start-up developing the world's first high performance cloud-based computer, Shadow. Blade raised 51€ million in June 2017 and welcomed Nick on to its strategic committee as its largest shareholder.

Nick identifies as both a political refugee and successful entrepreneur. He believes that countless other refugees also have the ability to create successful businesses and thus contribute to the economic development of France.

His intention in launching FAIRE is to create a vehicle through which he can give back to France, by providing support to refugees and migrants who, like him, have been compelled to start over again.

OUR FUNDING

Since our launch, we have made grants to 6 French charities, 4 of which on a multi-year basis, all supporting refugee and migrant entrepreneurs. Thanks to these programs, our Fund has supported more than 185 migrants and refugees.

Today, FAIRE operates two financial support programs: a donation program for charitable organisations that support refugee entrepreneurship via incubation and training programs, and a 0% interest loan program for refugee-led business projects with a high economic impact.

In 2020, FAIRE made 4 grants to charities including:

- Two incubators; one created by SINGA in Lyon (Finkela), and the second run by makesense and Elan Interculturel in Paris (COMBO),
- A European project that aims to turn the 'migrant crisis' into an opportunity for growth by favouring migrant-led innovation. (PLACE.network),
- Techfugees, a partner that uses tech to empower displaced people.

Since our launch, FAIRE has granted loans to 3 refugee entrepreneurs and their businesses: Ghaees Alshorbajy, who created KaouKab, expert in metal waste recycling, Ousmane Bah, founder of SOLODOU, a project that fights illiteracy. We also support Rooh Savar, the founder of Jahan.info which uses artificial intelligence for business decision-making.

Studies and research:

One of the main missions of FAIRE is to change the narrative around those faced with forced migration in France. Unfortunately, we regularly observe that there is too little data on the impact of refugees on the labour market or on their contribution to the economy.

In 2019, we partnered with the CFE - Centre for Entrepreneurs - UK's leading entrepreneurship foundation. Together, we launched a refugee entrepreneurship survey that looked at both organisations supporting refugee entrepreneurship (incubators for instance) and refugee entrepreneurs themselves.

The survey report along with our recommendations based on its findings are available on our website, in French and English.

Emergency fund in response to COVID 19

In 2020, a large part of the world has been struck by a new virus: COVID 19. As new measures were put in place in France such as lockdowns and the total closure of non-essential businesses, many entrepreneurs were forced to face an immediate slow down or shut down of their activity. For refugee entrepreneurs, who already face additional challenges every day, the impact of this crisis was twice as damaging.

With an aim to support the extraordinary drive of these entrepreneurs, FAIRE, SINGA France and the Edmond de Rothschild Foundations decided to join forces to create an emergency fund in response to COVID-19. The three organisations worked together in 2020 in order to support 14 entrepreneurs and/or the 7 related structures operating within several markets: metal recycling, catering, social housing, integration through cultural means, artificial intelligence etc.

The support was provided via donations or subsidies and was dedicated to refugee entrepreneurs or to organisations supporting those faced with a forced migration situation. They had to demonstrate either a decrease in their activity, a need for increased cashflow, a loss of resources or that they were ineligible for state support programs.

LOGOS

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<p>Logo FAIRE Vertical Block Blue</p>	
<p>Logo FAIRE Vertical Block White</p>	

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