

**2020**

# TechWadi Annual Report





# Message from the TechWadi Board

Dear TechWadi Community,

2020 is a year we will never forget. Tech accelerated and showed its sheer impact as well as the opportunity that it can bring to empower and better our communities. At the same time, it became obvious that if you are not helping write the chapters of the tech story – in some way big or small- it will write itself for you. And so, in the case of TechWadi, our mission of connecting Silicon Valley and MENA is something that is very much top of mind as we look ahead to the next decade. We need to continue to make sure that the MENA region and those from and interested in it are helping to write the story of tech and entrepreneurship, that the value and perspective that we bring is embedded into the global tech narrative that will only accelerate in the years to come, and that the promise of tech and entrepreneurship is realized in part through amazing people across the TechWadi community like you.

TechWadi seeks to do this by focusing on access to mentorships, talent, networks, capital, and we are really proud of the pivot that the TechWadi community made to facilitate these levers in this past year. We opened 2020 with a phenomenal conference in San Francisco with hundreds of attendees only for the world to shutdown weeks later. Through ingenuity and your support we quickly pivoted to a monthly TechWadi fireside Zoom series with topics including what is happening with COVID, finding a job, an inspirational talk with the Head of Facebook MENA, as well as a state of the MENA VC environment update. We also leaned in to coach and mentor multiple startups in the region to support scaling and growth – its phenomenal to see the rapid clip at which the startup ecosystem has boomed recently and we are extremely excited to see where things go next. Finally, we also continued to collaborate with multiple institutions in both MENA and Silicon Valley, including Hub71, the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan, Riseup, INJAZ, Endure Capital, The American University of Cairo, and Silicon Valley Bank. We are honored to work with such great institutions to further the region and strengthen the ties between SV and MENA.

TechWadi is your community and we can't do the work without your support. Please reach out if you would like to support either [financially](#) or through volunteering as we look to help write the story of tech and entrepreneurship this decade.

With thanks  
Hossam Tewfik & Mehdi Alhassani, on behalf of the entire TechWadi Board.

# Board of Directors



**Hossam Tewfik**  
Head of Live Shopping Product  
**FACEBOOK**



**Mehdi Alhassani**  
Internal Operations  
**Palantir**



**Anas Osman**  
Vice President, Strategy & Operations  
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Author | Product Marketing Debunked



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## Mission

TechWadi is the leading non-profit (501c3) organization building meaningful connections and partnerships for entrepreneurs and investors across Silicon Valley and the MENA region through:

**1 Access to Mentorships**

**3 Access to Talent**

**2 Access to Networks**

**4 Access to Capital**

## Our Model

### ENTREPRENEURS

- Mentored MENA entrepreneurs
- Accelerated MENA companies
- Hosted networking and educational events
- Facilitated investment opportunities

### MENA TECH DIASPORA

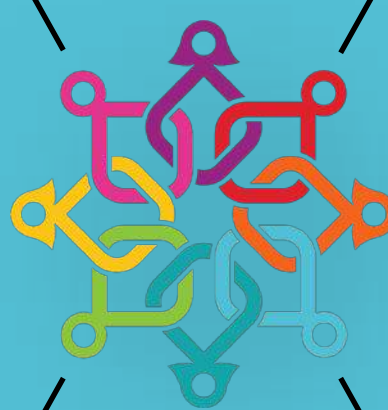
- Hosted networking and educational events
- Mentored MENA entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley
- Provided mentee opportunities

### ACCELERATORS

- Mentored resident companies
- Accelerated resident companies
- Provided silicon valley speakers

### PARTNERS

- Provided access to the MENA tech market
- Connected global partners to MENA diaspora
- Co-developed programs to support the MENA tech ecosystem



## Executive Team



**Tawfiq Abu-Khajil**

Partnerships | **altru** (icims)  
Head of Digital |  TechWadi



**Nadine Al-Qadi**

Community Manager  
 TechWadi



**Ahmad Muhaisen**

Chief of Staff  
 TechWadi



**Tasneem Sabri**

Senior Program Manager  
 TechWadi



**Yara Chalhoub**

Partnerships Manager  
 TechWadi



# 2020

## Accomplishments



### 10th Annual Forum

400+ in-person attendees

### Launch of Fellowship Program

5 fellows

### Injaz Egypt Acceleration Program

12 startups

### TechWadi Webinar Series

9 Webinars (2 in collaboration with SVB)

### AmCham Jordan

15 startups & 6 post-program webinars

### Hub 71 x TechWadi Partnership+

Social Media Campaign, incentive program & demo day

## Testimonials

*"My fellowship with TechWadi was an amazing experience for me on both personal and professional levels, having an expert mentor with a global mindset is something that helps me achieve more and gives different insights about my business. Meeting people from huge companies such as Google, Facebook, Zendesk was also a great touch from TechWadi to support our product with technical benefits and a great insight on large operations and technologies involved in fueling success."*



**Shahed Jaber | Founder @Uniorders (Acquired by Aumet)**

*"TechWadi offers a comprehensive program for MENA startups looking to gain current perspectives and build connections around the world. The opportunity for these entrepreneurs to discuss their business ventures and current strategic challenges with Silicon Valley mentors is so valuable to their growth. As a mentor, I am consistently impressed by the passion, maturity, and determination of the founders in the program. They are truly building the future".*



**Eric Malis | Founding Partner @Talis Partners**

*"I was originally introduced to TechWadi while launching InspireU for STC, since then we have worked with TechWadi both in person (Dubai, Silicon Valley) and online during COVID. As an investor and mentor I believe it is important to give back to the entrepreneur community and TechWadi is a great partner. I always look forward to their acceleration programs, as they are a great way to meet and engage with some of the most exciting startups in the Middle East. The bridges that TechWadi builds are strong and together we can build solutions that blend our experience with their determination to succeed. We see TechWadi as a key partner bridging the Middle East with Silicon Valley and our global partners, we look forward to continuing our collaboration, providing quality resources and meeting the ever increasing demand for innovation."*



**Gary Jinks | Mentor**

*"INJAZ has been partnering up with TechWadi for several years to connect participants of the Meet Silicon Valley program from Egypt to Silicon Valley. TechWadi has been a promising facilitator of this program, making possible all the benefits our participants could absorb. All of our participants' success stories after their connection to Silicon Valley by TechWadi demonstrates that working with this organization has been extremely advantageous, especially since they have the same objectives of assisting young entrepreneurs in gaining access to Silicon Valley and all of the knowledge and opportunities that comes with it. TechWadi's team expertise and dedication have been critical to the matchmaking efforts' success and the results we, as INJAZ Egypt, have achieved thus far in our Meet Silicon Valley program".*



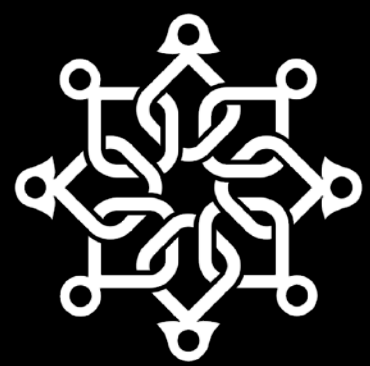
## Acceleration Programs

**5** startups  
**Fellowship Program**

**12** startups  
**AmCham Jordan**

**12** startups  
**INJAZ Egypt**

## 2020 Events



# HUB71

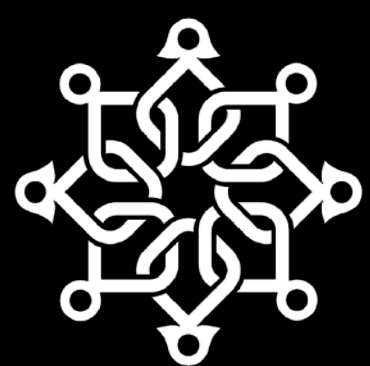
### TechWadi **Hub71** Demo Day

10 UAE-based startups, 10 SV-based investors



### 10th Annual Forum

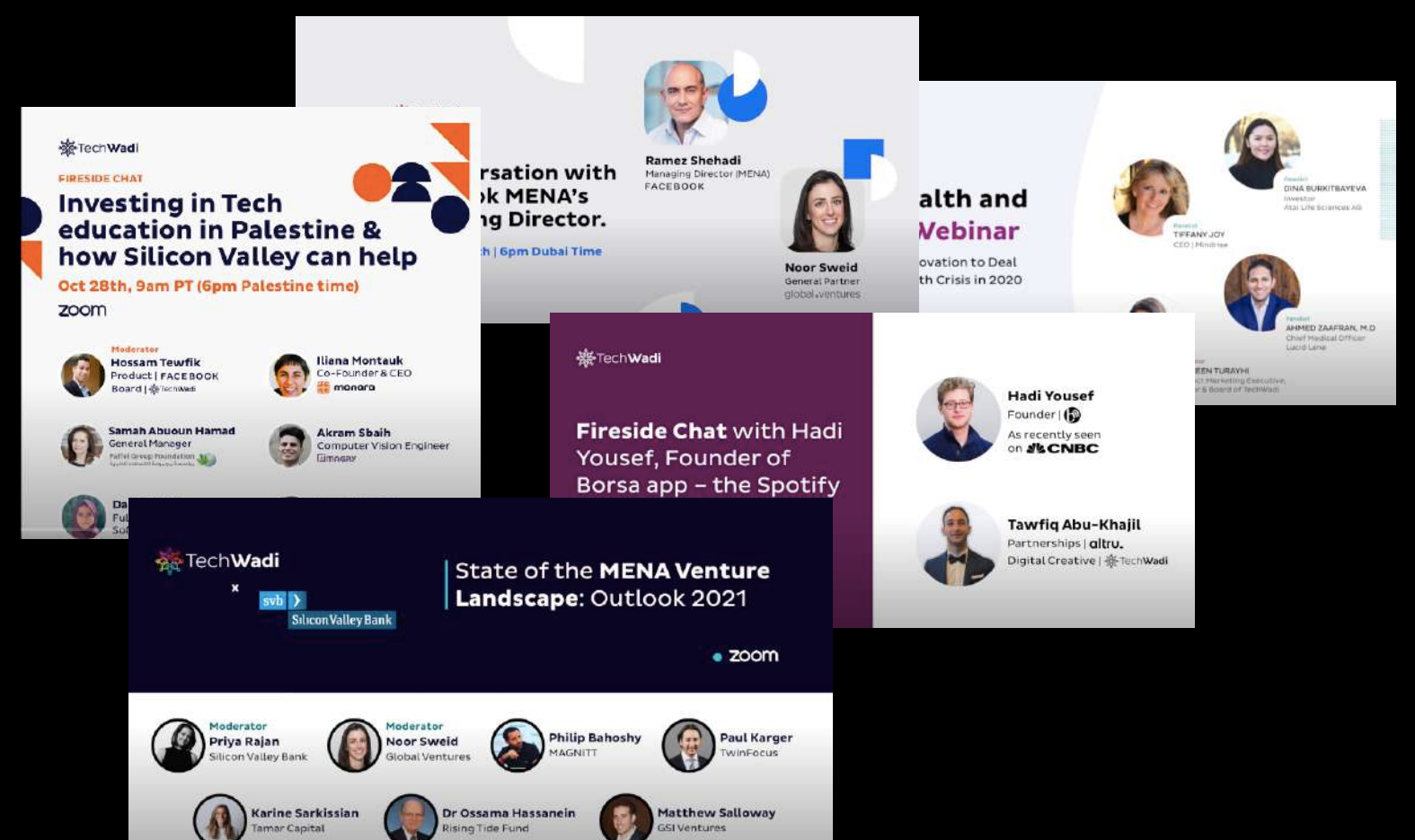
50+ speakers, 400+ Attendees



### TechWadi **SVB** Panels

State of MENA Venture Landscape: An Outlook on 2021

MENA Region: VC Trends 2020 and Beyond



### Virtual Panels

Mental Health and Wellness: technologies and innovation to deal with the mental health crisis

Current State of COVID Response and What companies should be doing

Navigating the Job Hunt During COVID

How Resilience Can lead to Career Success

Investing in Tech Education in Palestine and How Silicon Valley Can Help

A Conversation with Facebook MENA's Managing Director: Ramez Shehadi

A Founders Story: Hadi Yousef (Borsa App)



# Who we work with

## Sponsors







## Ecosystem Partners







# Board of Advisors



**Deena Shakir**  
Partner | **LUX**  
ex- **Google**



**Mohammad Gawdat**  
Chief Business Officer  
**Google**



**Habib Lahlouh**  
CEO & Chairman  
**Lahlouh**



**Youssri Helmy**  
Entrepreneur & Investor  
**intel.**



**Ossama Hassanein**  
Chairman | Rising Tide



## Support the TechWadi Community

TechWadi is first and foremost a community by and for you, the TechWadi members. The work we do to support entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley and to build the tech ecosystem in the Middle East and North Africa is only possible with your engagement and support.

[Donate Today](#)

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[Become a Mentor](#)

Prepared by



**Nadine Al-Qadi**  
Community Manager  
 TechWadi

Designed by



**Tawfiq Abu-Khajil**  
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Head of Digital |  TechWadi

