SYNC

SILICON VALLEY + SYRIA

UPDATES

May 2025

Welcome to SYNC!

Hi there, and welcome to SYNC's first-ever community update!

We're so glad you're here. This newsletter is our way of keeping you up to date on what SYNC has been up to — and trust us, there's been a lot going on.

If you're new to this community, SYNC is a Syrian volunteer-powered, nonprofit collective that brings together Syrian technologists in Silicon Valley with those in Syria and everywhere. Our big-picture goal is to help spark a thriving tech industry in Syria and create real tech job opportunities along the way. Think of us as a bridge — connecting people, ideas, and resources across borders.

After starting to organize about four months ago, we're thrilled to share that, just last month, we officially became a Silicon Valley–based nonprofit NGO! We're still entirely run by Syrian volunteers and are excited to scale and meet the opportunities that exist ahead of us all.

The Goal

The goal of this newsletter is to keep our community informed regarding the latest updates on our initiative. While we'll share big announcements and events across other channels, including social media and Discord (more below), we aim to use this letter as a sort of one-stop-shop, sharing our most important announcements and updates with all of you in our community!

Thanks for being part of this journey. Whether you've been here since day one or just hopped on board, we're excited to grow this community with you.

What We've Been Up to Since the SYNC'25 Conferences

It's wild to think that SYNC'25 Syria & Silicon Valley — our big launch events back in February — were just a few months ago. That month brought together over 1,000 leaders, technologists, students, entrepreneurs, and policymakers from around the world, sparking so much energy, creativity, and connection — it's been fueling everything we've done since. Here's a look at some of the highlights covering March and April:

We launched a Discord community

We wanted a place where SYNC could live and breathe online — so we created a Discord server in mid March, and it's already grown to over 850 Syrians from around the world! It's buzzing with conversations, ideas, job leads, memes... you name it. If you're not on there yet, what are you waiting for? Join here: https://discord.gg/Fn9TyRcxcA

Ich bin ein Berliner

In April, we took SYNC'X on the road — and Berlin was our first stop. Led by Firas Khalifeh, we gathered 60 awesome Syrians for an evening of connection and collaboration. It was our first experiment in creating local SYNC chapters, and it was a huge success. Safe to say, we're already dreaming up the next one.

We published the SYNC'25 Report

After two big events — SYNC-Syria and SYNC-Silicon Valley — we wanted to make sure that everything we learned didn't just fade away. So we pulled together a report that captures the best ideas, key themes, and big takeaways from both gatherings. It's a great snapshot of where we are, what we've accomplished, and where we're headed.

Save the Date: SYNC Syria is coming back!

That's right — we're bringing SYNC back to Syria this summer! Mark your calendars for August 8 through August 16. We're still ironing out the details (venues, cities, format, etc.), but we'll be sharing more very soon. Keep an eye on your inbox — and get ready!

Before You Go...

A few quick things before we wrap up this first issue:

Join the SYNC Discord

If you haven't already, come hang out with us on Discord! It's where the SYNC community lives day-to-day — from job postings and project ideas to casual chats and spontaneous collabs. You'll find a warm welcome and a whole lot of energy.
https://discord.gg/Fn9TyRcxcA

Save the Date: SYNC Syria — August 8 through August 16

Big things are brewing! We're heading back to Syria this August and we can't wait to bring the community together again. We'll be sharing more details soon, but for now, block off that week in your calendar and start getting excited.

Help Us Name This Newsletter!

We don't have a name for this newsletter yet — and we'd love your help! Got a clever idea, a meaningful phrase, or a catchy title in mind? Shoot us a message at info@sync.ngo or drop your suggestion in the Discord. Bonus points for names that capture the spirit of community, tech, and Syria!

That's all for now — thanks for reading, sharing, and being part of this journey. SYNC is what it is because of Syrians like you. Let's keep building, connecting, and imagining what's possible.