



PEACE GEEKS

Annual Report
2020

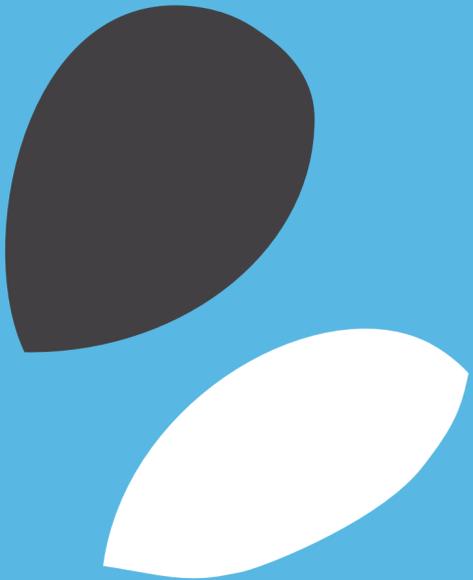


Welcome To PeaceGeeks



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Board Chair Message



It has been another dynamic and successful year for our organization. Our founder Renee Black decided to step down early this year and supported the recruitment of her successor. We are very pleased to have appointed Jennifer (Jen) Freeman as our new CEO in the spring of 2020.

Since joining, Jen has created a new 3-year strategic plan, which builds on our organization's foundation and guides us on a new trajectory. We have a refreshed vision and mission and remain committed to supporting those who have been displaced. We successfully concluded the Meshkat project in Jordan, and began a new series of projects in that region. And finally, we realigned the organization to reflect our new mission and strategy. All of these actions have put us in a strong position to drive more positive change and impact that facilitates greater connection, peace and safety in 2021.

Our Governance plan requires the Chair step down after two terms. I am happy to announce that Ashiq Ahamed will assume the responsibility as Chair starting at this year's AGM.

I wish to thank all our supporters who have given so much time, energy and financial support to enable us to make a positive impact on communities in the pursuit of peace.

Simon and Ashiq
President and incoming President



From our inception as a volunteer group of developers and designers, PeaceGeeks has navigated from a successful start-up to a ground-breaking leader in technology for peace.

2020 saw humanity's sense of "peace" shaken by the urgent implications of a global pandemic. COVID-19 impacted all of us. It also compelled us to find ways amidst a global crisis and social isolation to leverage technology to amplify connection, justice, and peace in the world.

At PeaceGeeks, we were able to offer our expertise in technology and human-centred design to support newcomers, policymakers, settlement and humanitarian organizations suddenly pivoting to online services.

In Canada, we launched the timely Settlement 2.0 report, which proposed a vision and action plan for exploring how technology and innovation can best facilitate settlement outcomes for supporting newcomers. This work resulted in Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada taking note, funding us to expand our research to more regions across the country. We were also tapped to sit on a six-member National Settlement and Technology Task Group to research and analyze the sector's successes and challenges in integrating digital services during the pandemic.

Our team in Jordan successfully completed their groundbreaking CDN \$1.13 million, 3-year Meshkat Community project. Over 30 artists from across the country produced digital and offline content to transform narratives on social division and hatred. These pieces, such as The Box series, airing on Youtube and Facebook, reached over 2 million viewers across Jordan and the region.

Less than a year after its launch, our Arrival Advisor mobile app has been accessed by over 7,000 newcomers seeking services across British Columbia. Its organic growth is credit to the ongoing investment of community and settlement partners across the province.

We developed a new strategic plan that sets ambitious goals for the next three years, focusing on building digital tools that leverage human-centered design and our strong partnerships with newcomers, funders, and the settlement community in Canada and Jordan.

Our ability to provide connection and a sense of peace for displaced communities around the world has been made more urgent and complex by COVID-19's impact in Canada, Jordan, and globally. Looking forward to 2021, we recognize that we, and the communities we serve, are best positioned for success when we envision bold new solutions to these challenges together.

Jen Freeman, CEO

A young boy in a pink hoodie is looking towards a man in a dark jacket. They are in a crowd of people, possibly at a community event or a gathering. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and what appears to be a doorway or entrance.

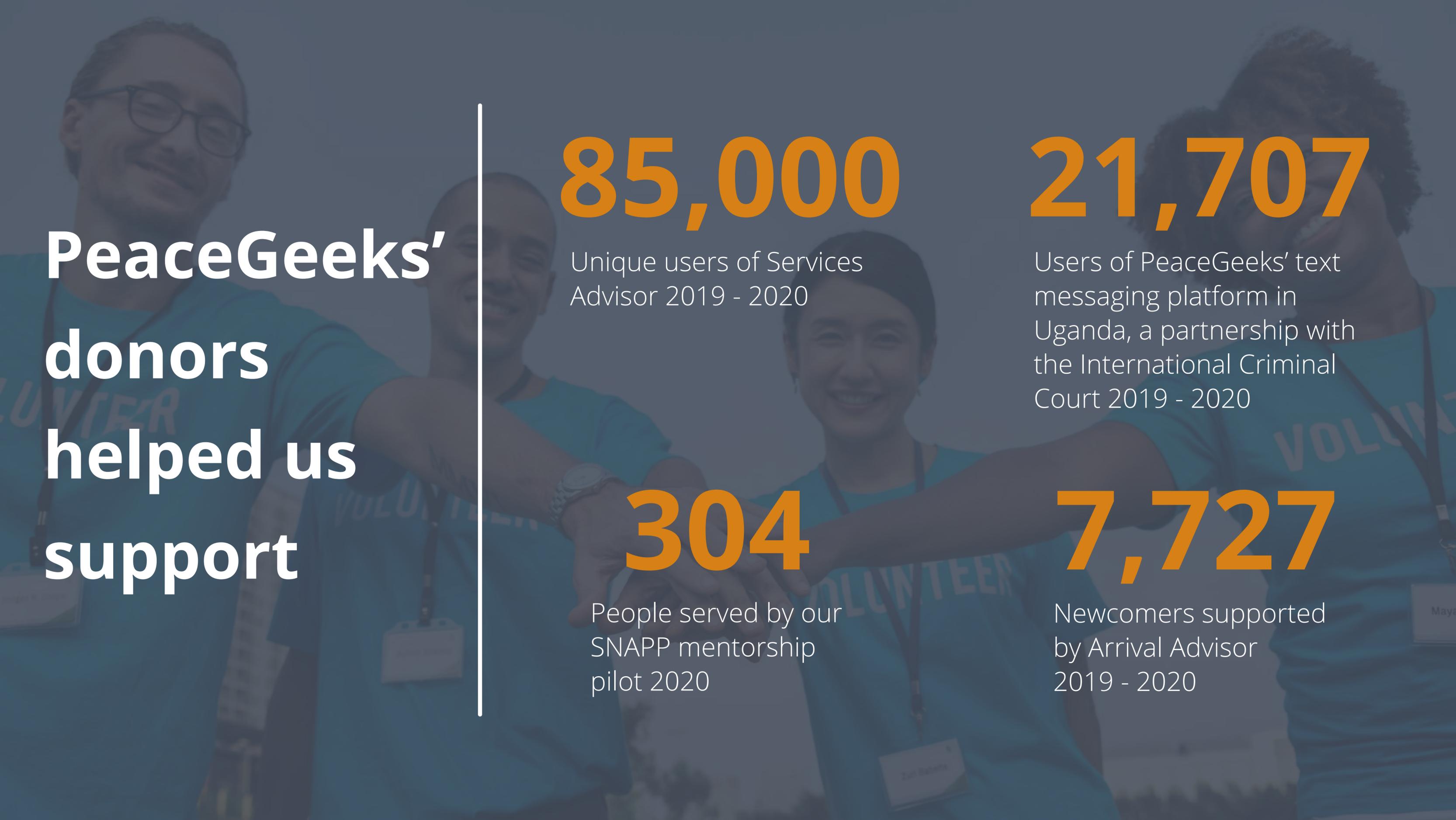
Vision

PeaceGeeks envisions a world where those who are **displaced are not lost**

PeaceGeeks **creates digital tools** to support greater connection, peace and safety for those who have been displaced

Mission





**PeaceGeeks'
donors
helped us
support**

85,000

Unique users of Services
Advisor 2019 - 2020

21,707

Users of PeaceGeeks' text
messaging platform in
Uganda, a partnership with
the International Criminal
Court 2019 - 2020

304

People served by our
SNAPP mentorship
pilot 2020

7,727

Newcomers supported
by Arrival Advisor
2019 - 2020

In **2020** we

Reimagined PeaceGeeks' **Vision** and **Mission** as well as developed and introduced our new strategic plan

Successfully launched a new digital mentoring pilot platform: **SNAPP** (Skilled Newcomers and Professionals Partnership)

Successfully completed PeaceGeeks Jordan's 3-year **Meshkat project**

Received over \$775,000 in new grants to test and expand PeaceGeeks' **Transformative Narratives** methodology in Jordan



Impact Highlights 2020

Arrival Advisor

Snapp

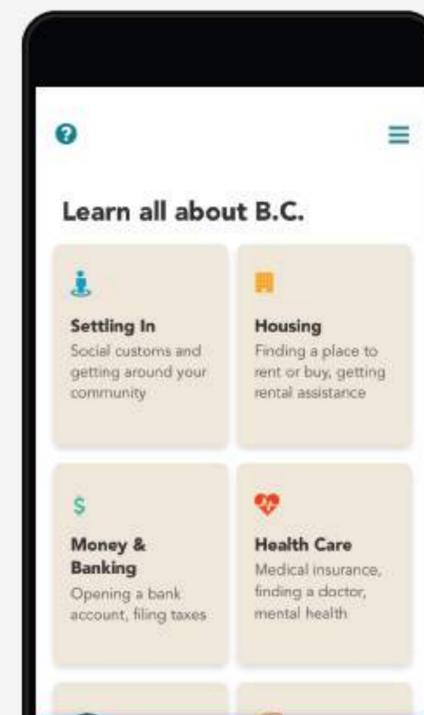
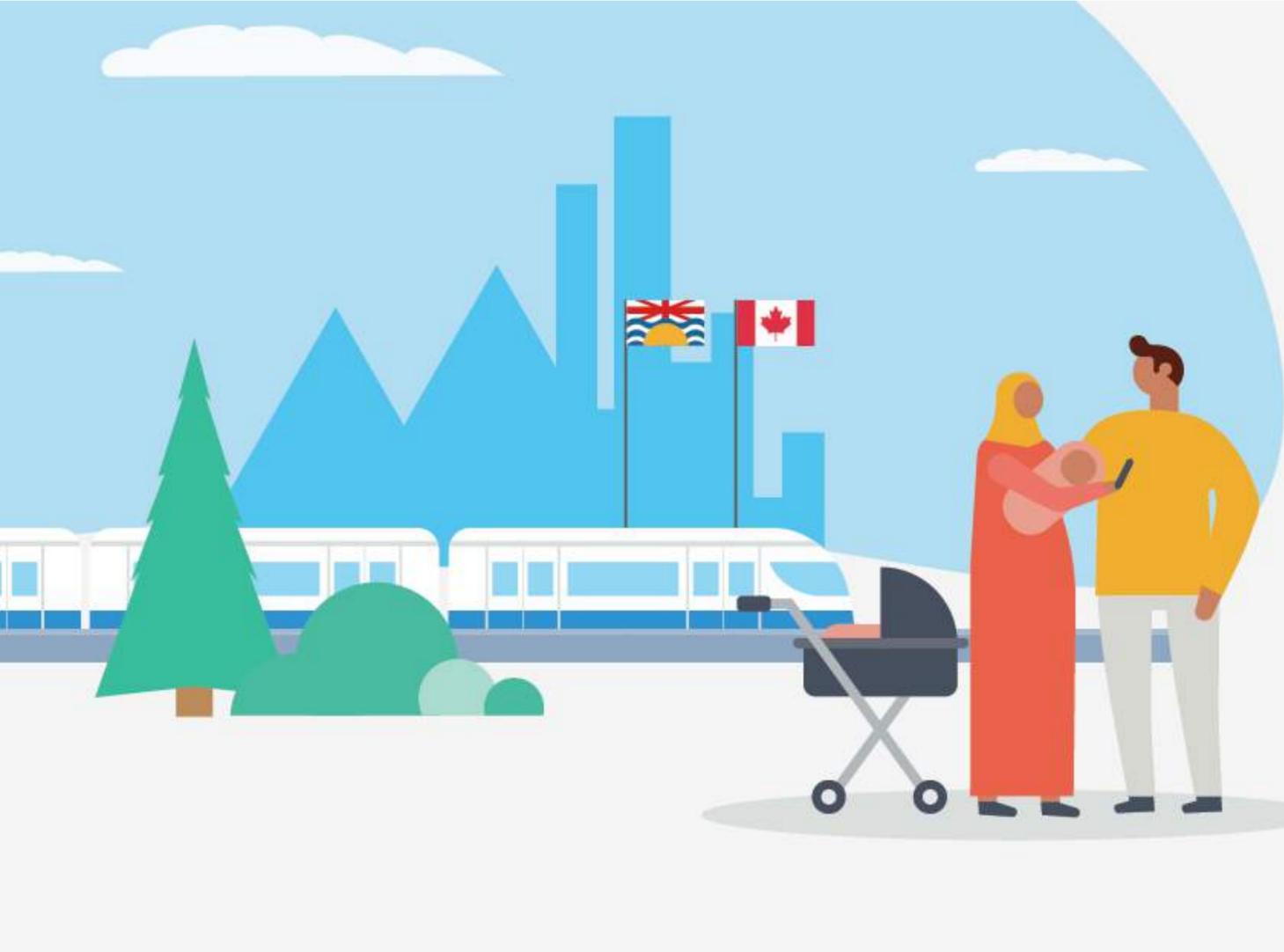
Meshkat Community

TSN safe spaces initiative

**Supporting technology and innovation
in Canada's Settlement Sector**

Services Advisor - Malaysia





ARRIVAL ADVISOR

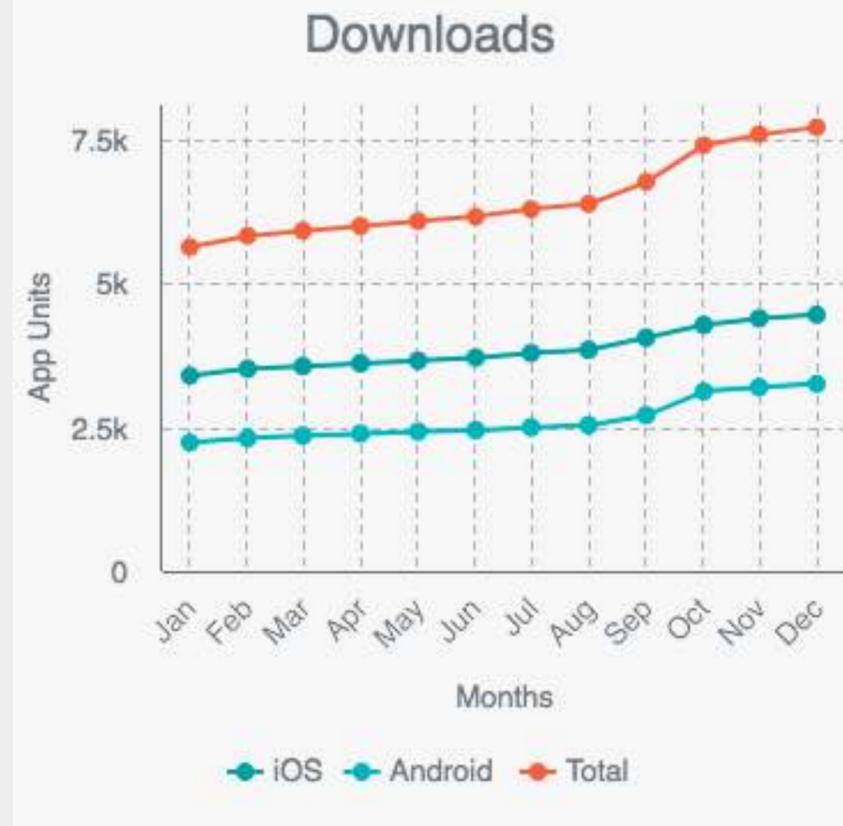
by PeaceGeeks



Settling in BC is now easier.

Download free today!

Arrival Advisor is a free mobile app that helps refugees and immigrants in British Columbia find information and services to plan their settlement journey. Available in English, Punjabi, Arabic, French, Mandarin, Korean and Tagalog.



In 2020:

41.7% increase in app downloads (since 2019)

7,727 users registered

6,331 user sessions

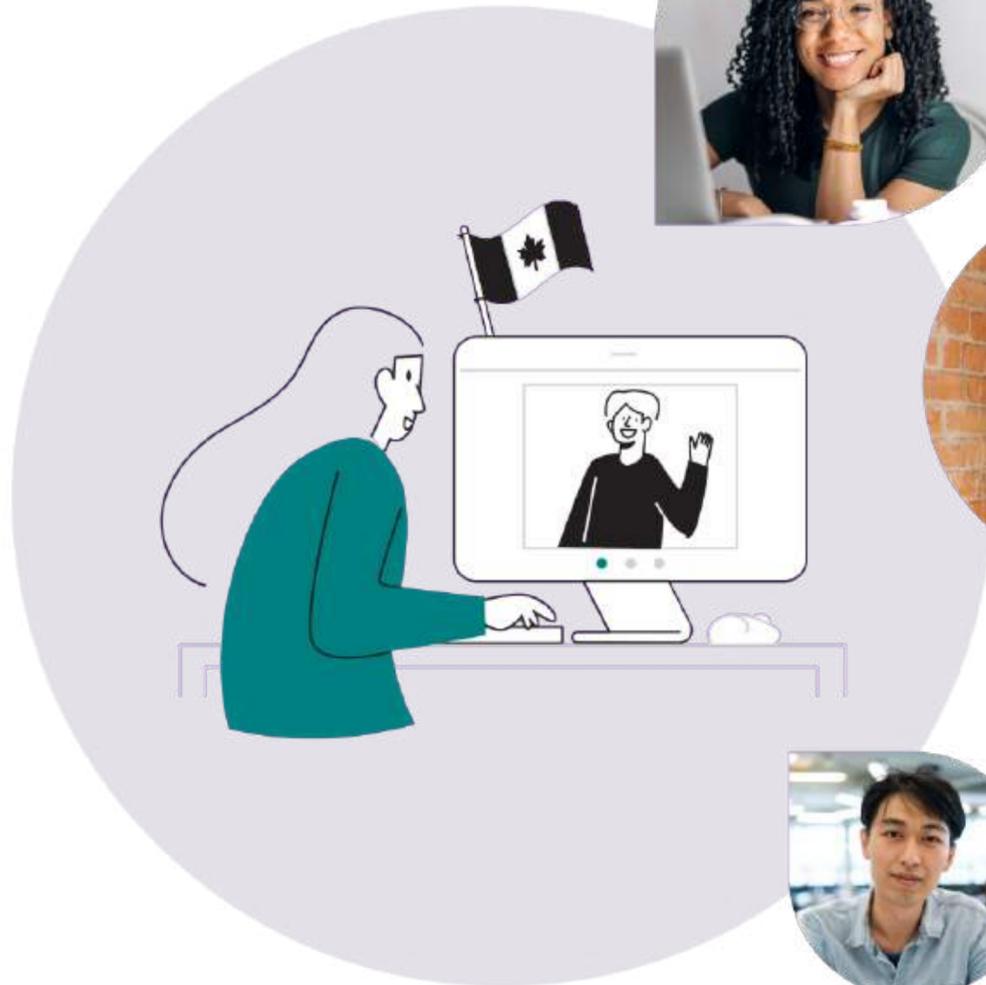
“You’re doing a great job so far. I’m speaking from a newcomer’s perspective. For people who don’t speak English well, it’s intimidating or stressful to ask for help. Instead of going out and lining up for services, I can now access everything online. It’s good to have the app and check at home first before taking the risk to go out.

~ Melanie

Snapp



PeaceGeeks successfully piloted **Snapp** (Skilled Newcomers and Professionals Partnership), a digital connection program that matches newcomers with relevant local professionals for one-on-one chats to share employment advice. The digital program aims to reduce barriers to entry for newcomers, facilitate sector collaboration on mentorship, and increase the scale and reach of mentorship opportunities.



In 2020, the platform:

Partnered with over **15** settlement organizations

Registered **304** total mentor/mentee participants

Matched **281** total mentor/mentees

Mentored **137** newcomers with at least one mentor



“

It was one of the most structured approaches to networking — my mentor match was excellent, reflecting all the aspects of my initial ask — a senior person from whom I learned a lot. I truly appreciate the voluntary time commitment to welcome newcomers. As the Canadian saying goes, we are better together. Again, thank you all!

~ Zuhal, newcomer to Canada

”



Meshkat Community





Meshkat Community is an initiative in Jordan which strengthens community cohesion and constructive dialogue in the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region by building the skills, networks and knowledge of citizens. Through workshops, incubation programs, collaborative networks, and online engagement facilitated by community members including local artists, activists, digital content producers, religious scholars, innovators, women and youth, the goal is to increase creative and peaceful citizen engagement that challenges hate, violence, extremism, and polarization to reduce community vulnerability.



In 2020:

The locally produced film
“Virtual Honor,” was selected
by UN Women as one of the
top 7 films highlighting
women’s issues in the country

“The Box,” a Meshkat-produced
series reached a total of 1.99
million viewers on Facebook
and Youtube



“

Such discussions elevate the level of consciousness through motivating attendees to re-evaluate their social interaction and the elements that affect their self-image. As a generation who uses technology tools on daily basis, I wonder about the concept of self-worth and identity as social media has deeply affected both.



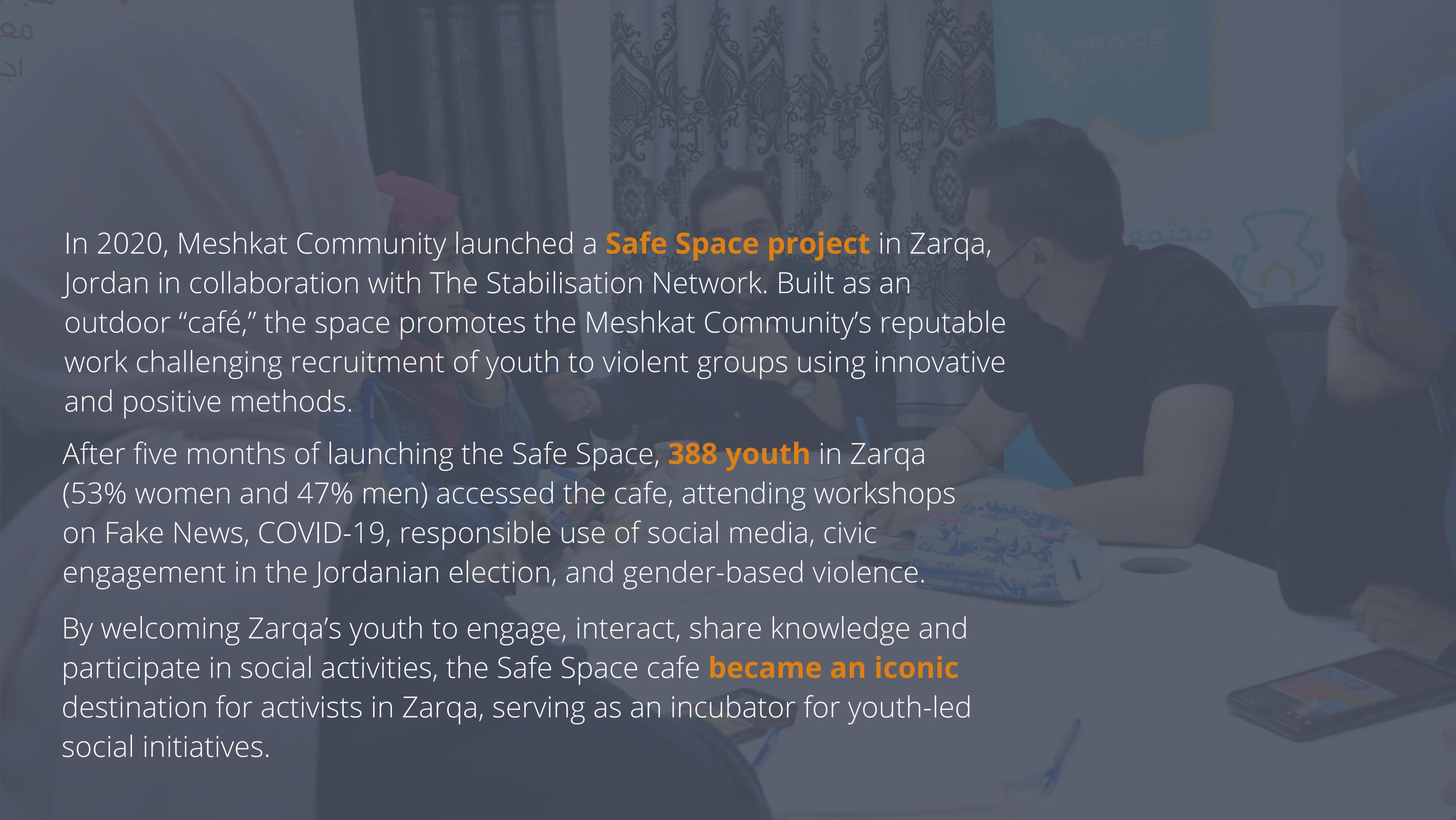
~ Farah Qonaish
participant in The Social
Dilemma discussion.

”



TSN Safe Spaces Initiative

www.nasr.org
95277070
/nasr.org

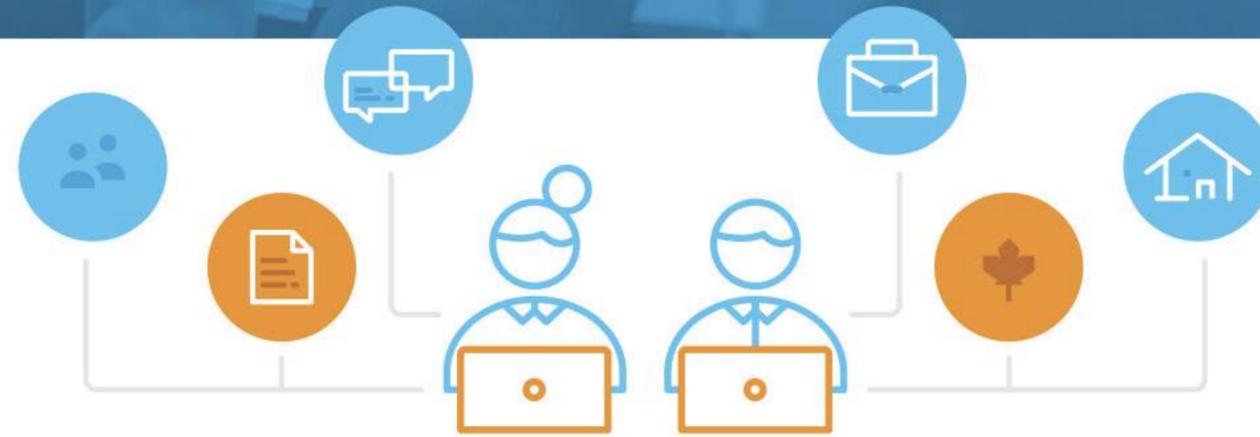
A group of people, including men and women, are seated around a table in a workshop or meeting. They appear to be engaged in a discussion or activity. In the background, there is a sign that says "PEACE WARRIORS" and some Arabic text. The overall atmosphere is collaborative and focused.

In 2020, Meshkat Community launched a **Safe Space project** in Zarqa, Jordan in collaboration with The Stabilisation Network. Built as an outdoor “café,” the space promotes the Meshkat Community’s reputable work challenging recruitment of youth to violent groups using innovative and positive methods.

After five months of launching the Safe Space, **388 youth** in Zarqa (53% women and 47% men) accessed the café, attending workshops on Fake News, COVID-19, responsible use of social media, civic engagement in the Jordanian election, and gender-based violence.

By welcoming Zarqa’s youth to engage, interact, share knowledge and participate in social activities, the Safe Space café **became an iconic** destination for activists in Zarqa, serving as an incubator for youth-led social initiatives.

SETTLEMENT 2.0 PROJECT
Innovation is in our DNA



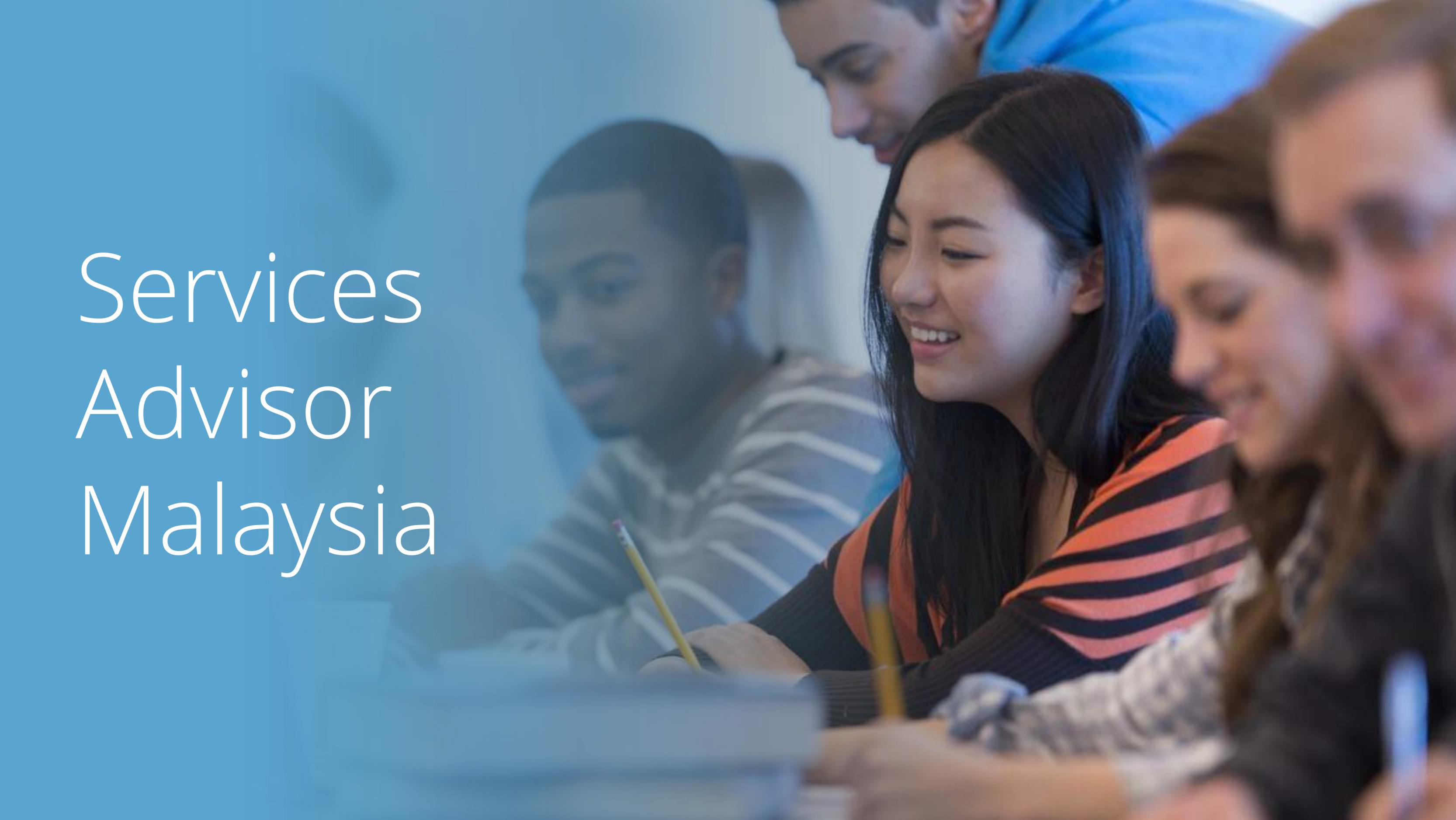
Supporting **Technology**
and **Innovation** in Canada's
Settlement Sector

In May 2020, as Canada's settlement sector was forced to suddenly become remote due to the pandemic, PeaceGeeks launched the **Settlement 2.0 report**.

The report was the result of two years of research, and included a proposed vision and action plan for exploring how **technology** and **innovation** can best facilitate settlement outcomes for newcomers.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (**IRCC**) recognized the value of the report and requested PeaceGeeks expand the research to further explore the sector's geographic and linguistic diversity, and impacts from the pandemic.

PeaceGeeks was also tapped to sit on a six-member National Settlement and Technology Task Group to understand the sector's successes and challenges with integrating digital services during the pandemic. IRCC and the National Settlement and Integration Committee used the findings from this group to inform federal funding that supports technology-focused service delivery improvement projects **across the country**.



Services Advisor Malaysia

PeaceGeeks was selected by **UNHCR** Malaysia to expand our Services Advisor web platform to support Persons of Concern (POC) in Malaysia.

In Malaysia, refugees and asylum-seekers, and in particular **women** and **girls, face high risks of sexual and gender based violence** (SGBV), with undocumented POC particularly vulnerable to trafficking networks. With limited information and awareness of available support services, exacerbated by discrimination from the host community, PeaceGeeks was asked to create a platform to provide a comprehensive map of all existing services accessible to populations at risk of SGBV and exploitation. **The platform became a common portal for POC** to find services in Malaysia, as well as a platform for UNHCR and community service providers to conveniently submit or edit information on services available for POC.

What's Ahead

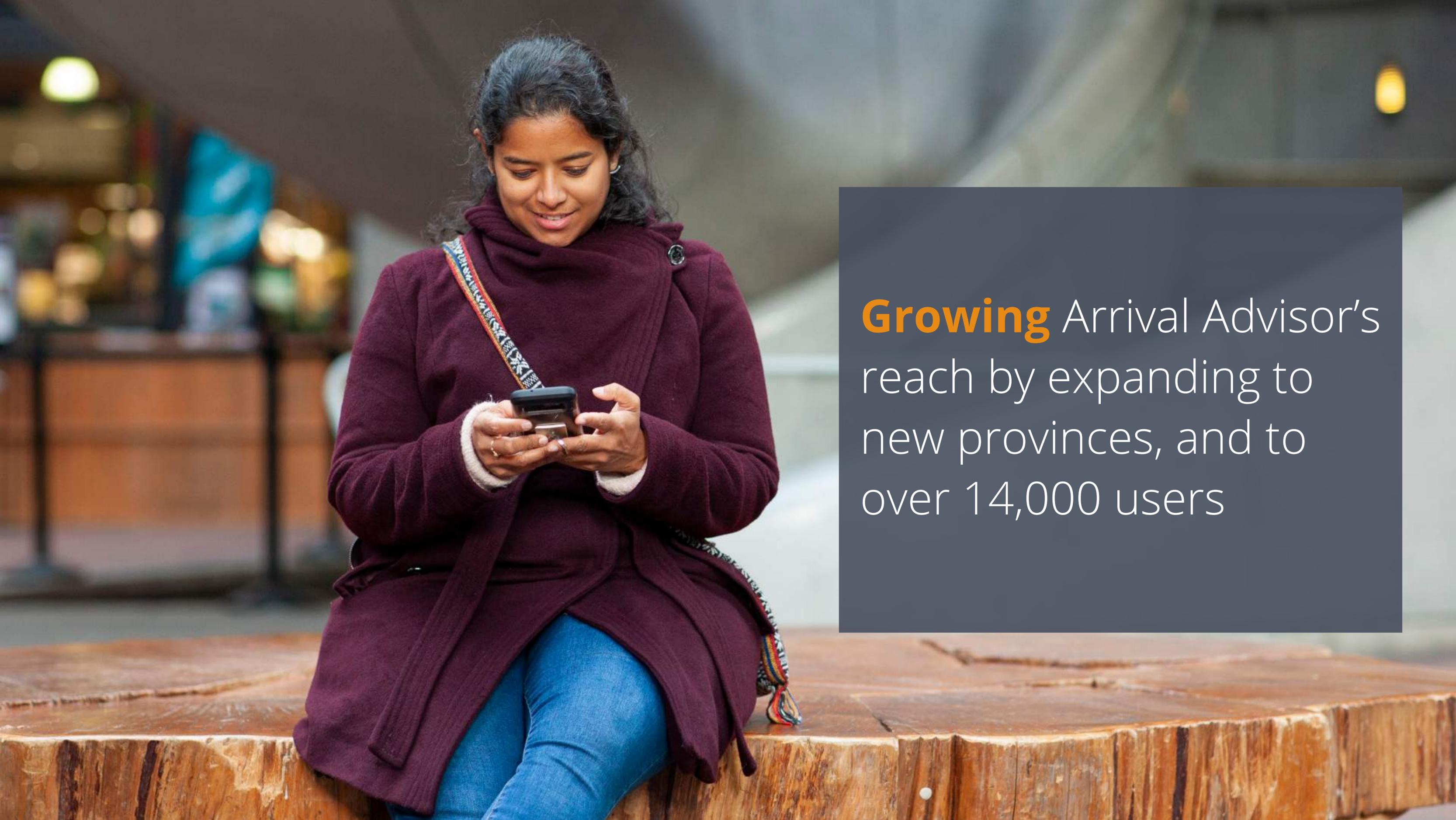


A top-down view of a meeting table with people's hands, notebooks, a laptop, and a tablet. The background is a light-colored wooden table. Several people's hands are visible, some holding pens and writing in notebooks. A laptop is open on the right side, and a tablet is being held in the center. The text is overlaid on a dark blue semi-transparent rectangle.

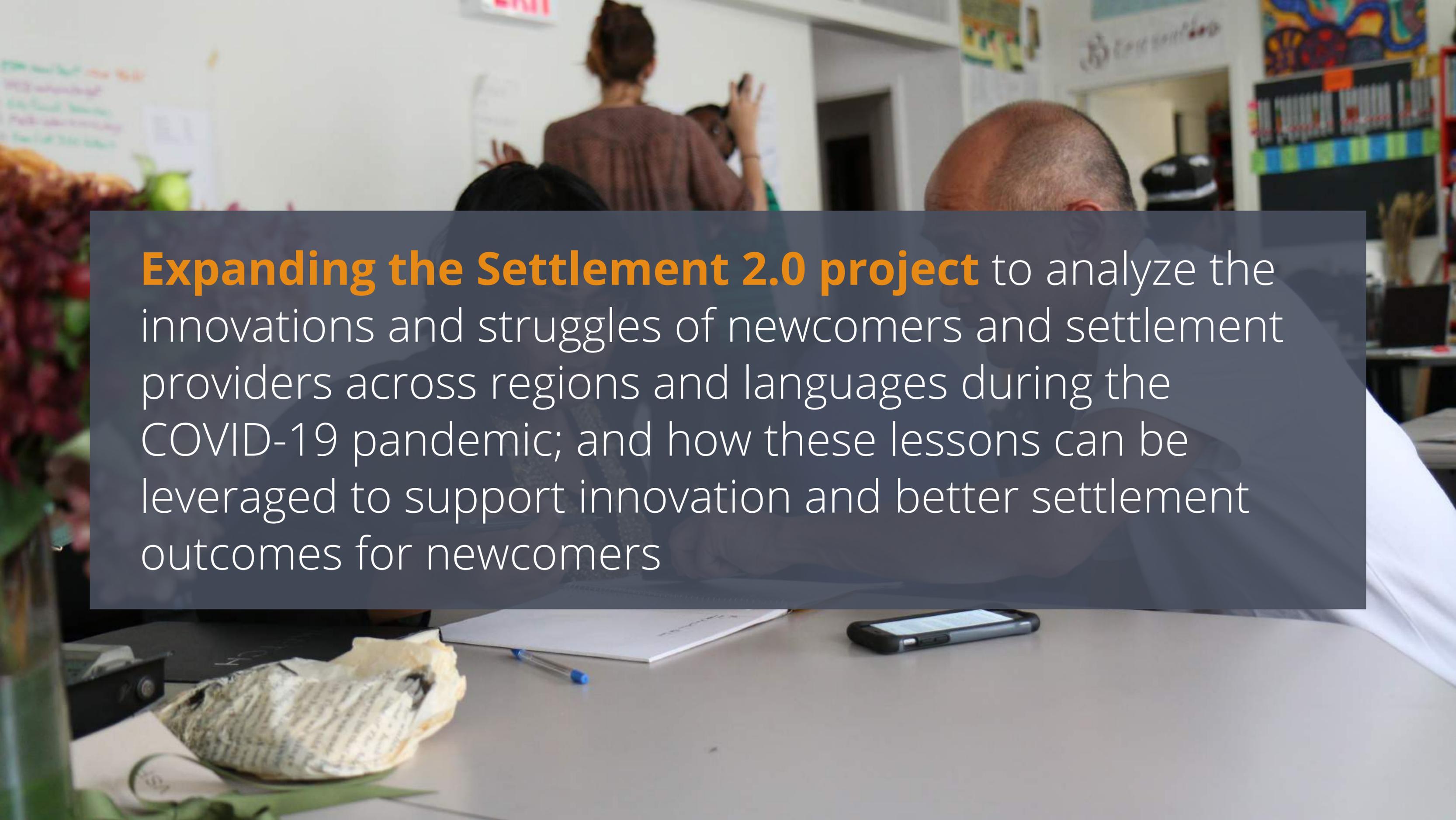
PeaceGeeks' **new Strategic Plan** maps an agenda to support greater connection, **peace and safety** for those who have been displaced. Over the next three years, we will focus on four ambitious goals: **build digital tools** to connect those who have been displaced with the services available to them; **strengthen the capacity** of partner organizations providing humanitarian support and settlement services; **provide research** and learning to enable the conditions necessary for digital innovation; and **support the Meshkat Community** in Jordan to operate with greater autonomy.



For each of our four strategic goals we have identified 6-month, 1-year and 3-year benchmarks that we expect to see as our impact grows. **In 2021, we will focus on:**



Growing Arrival Advisor's reach by expanding to new provinces, and to over 14,000 users

The background shows a blurred office or meeting environment. In the foreground, a table holds a smartphone, a blue pen, a notebook, and a piece of crumpled paper. In the background, several people are visible, some looking at a whiteboard or screen. The overall scene suggests a collaborative work environment.

Expanding the Settlement 2.0 project to analyze the innovations and struggles of newcomers and settlement providers across regions and languages during the COVID-19 pandemic; and how these lessons can be leveraged to support innovation and better settlement outcomes for newcomers



Implementing phase two of Snapp, and testing its market viability with newcomers, employers and the settlement sector

An aerial photograph of a marina filled with numerous sailboats docked at a wooden pier. In the background, a city skyline with several high-rise buildings is visible under a clear blue sky with a few clouds. Mountains are also visible in the distance. A semi-transparent dark grey box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing text.

Partnering with a minimum of four humanitarian
or service providing organizations that want to utilize
technology to better serve people who have been
displaced or who are newcomers to Canada



Applying Meshkat's Transformative Narratives methodology to gender narratives in Jordan

Partners and Donors



Donors



Black Family Foundation

Fund for Innovation and Transformation

Global Affairs Canada

Google

iATS Payments

Immigration Refugee and Citizenship Canada

McCarthy Tétrault

New Ventures BC

Traction On Demand

U.S. State Department

Unbounce

Vancouver Community Network (VCN)



Partners

International Criminal Court

UNHCR Iraq

UNHCR Jordan

UNHCR Malaysia

AMSSA (Affiliation of Multicultural Societies and Service Agencies of BC)

bc211

Province of British Columbia

BC Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness

BC Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology

Burnaby Family Life

Burnaby Neighbourhood House

Central Okanagan Local Immigration Partnership

City of Vancouver

DIVERSEcity Community Resources Society

Immigrant Employment Council of BC (IEC-BC)

Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISSofBC)

Immigration Policy and Integration Branch

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Government of Canada

KCR Community Resources

La Fédération des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique



Little Mountain Neighbourhood House

MOSAIC

Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House

North Shore Multicultural Society

Open Data Society of BC

Options Community Services

Pacific Immigrant Resources Society (PIRS)

South Okanagan-Similkameen Local Immigration Partnership (SOSLIP)

South Vancouver Neighbourhood House

S.U.C.C.E.S.S.

Surrey Immigrant Advisory Roundtable

Surrey Local Immigration Partnership

Unbounce

United Way of the Lower Mainland

Vancouver Association for Survivors of Torture (VAST)

Vancouver Economic Commission

Vancouver Immigration Partnership (VIP)

YWCA Metro Vancouver

YWCA Metro Vancouver



PeaceGeeks would like to especially **thank our partners, individuals** and **organizations** that donate their time and expertise as members of PeaceGeeks' Advisory Committees, and our global team of dedicated volunteers. The gift of your time and expertise strengthens and amplifies our impact.



Team



Canada team, Jordan team, Board members

Staff

Jennifer Freeman
Renee Black
Arti Bhatka
Cherrie Lam
Deniz Cetin
Ewan Newbigging-Lister
Ian Lin
Jean Parlina
Lauren Hyde
Meaad Alharbi
Patrick Estey
Rasmus Storjohann
Tomy Reyes
Zehra Talib

Jordan Team

Dana Salih
Alaa Albadawi
Arwa Mefleh
Farah Qonaish
Hamza Essa
Mahmoud Ratrout
Thair Alkiswani
Yazan Istatiyeh
Zekra Salih

Board

Ashiq Ahamed
Simon Canning
Brian Polydore
Jennifer Sandoval
Kevin Nguyen
Lewis Evans
Melika Zamani
Nina Ng
SJ Kee

Financials



INVOICE

Date
Invoice No.
Customer ID
XXXXXXXXXX
0000001
223

246.53
855.75
94.67
12.74
5.40
00
00

Amount

to: Curabitur suscipit, LTD
456 Pellentesque, Aliquet
2W st. SUO, 9999
887-654-321

No.	Description	Id
1234		2567

Business Company

Date
Invoice No.
Customer ID

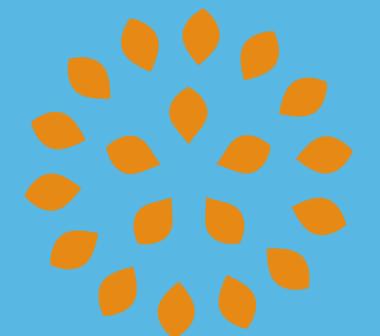
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PeaceGeeks Statement of **Financial Position**

ASSETS	Canada	Jordan	Foundation
Cash + grants	\$ 241,828	\$ 10,090	\$ 192,664
Prepaid + accounts receivable	\$ 17,755	\$ 58,368	-
Capital assets	\$ 4,732	\$ 1,440	-
Due from related parties	\$ 14,801	-	-
Total Assets	\$ 279,116	\$ 69,898	\$ 192,664
LIABILITIES	Canada	Jordan	Foundation
Accounts + taxes payable	\$ 23,604	\$ (30)	-
Vacation accrual	\$ 3,189	-	-
Accrued liabilities	\$ 4,396	\$ 8,177	-
Due to related parties	-	-	\$ 15,578
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 31,190	\$ 8,147	\$ 15,578
Deferred Contributions	\$ 258,495	-	-
Total Liabilities	\$ 289,685	\$ 8,147	\$ 15,578
NET ASSETS	Canada	Jordan	Foundation
Unrestricted net assets	\$ (10,569)	\$ 61,751	\$ 177,086
Total Net Assets	\$ (10,569)	\$ 61,751	\$ 177,086



PeaceGeeks Statement of **Activities**

REVENUE + SUPPORT	Canada	Jordan	Foundation
Unrestricted contributions	\$ 18,642	-	\$ 43,699
Amortization of Deferred Contributions	\$ 663,97	-	-
Professional Services	\$ 26,218	-	-
Grants	\$ 414,364	-	-
Other Income and FX loss/gain	\$ 55,828	-	-
Income from PeaceGeeks Society (Canada)	-	\$ 261,780	-
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 1,179,031	\$ 261,780	\$ 43,699
EXPENSES	Canada	Jordan	Foundation
Program services	\$ 808,499	\$ 151,604	-
Management + general	\$ 195,594	\$ 57,058	\$ 934
Fundraising	\$ 64,177	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,068,270	\$ 208,662	\$ 934





The best solutions are built together. Become part of **PeaceGeeks!**

Donate: Your support helps PeaceGeeks build digital tools that support greater connection, peace and safety for people who have been displaced. **Donate here**

Volunteer: Did you know PeaceGeeks started as a group of volunteer developers and designers? We currently benefit from an amazing group of volunteer recruiters, fundraisers, developers, communications professionals and designers. Email **info@peacegeeks.org** to join us!

Partner: Interested in building digital tools to create greater connection, peace and safety for people who have been displaced and/or are newcomers? Learn more about how we work **here**, and get in touch: **info@peacegeeks.org**



