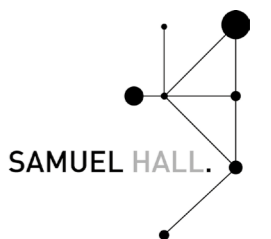




RESEARCH AND OUTREACH STRATEGY

2023-2024



SAMUEL HALL: RESEARCH AND OUTREACH STRATEGY 2023–2024

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CREDITS





The Samuel Hall team wishes to acknowledge the contributions of its staff in our country offices and around the world. We would like to thank our partners and collaborators for supporting us, and our researchers for their commitment and expertise. Finally, we thank the individuals and communities we work with, who make our projects possible.

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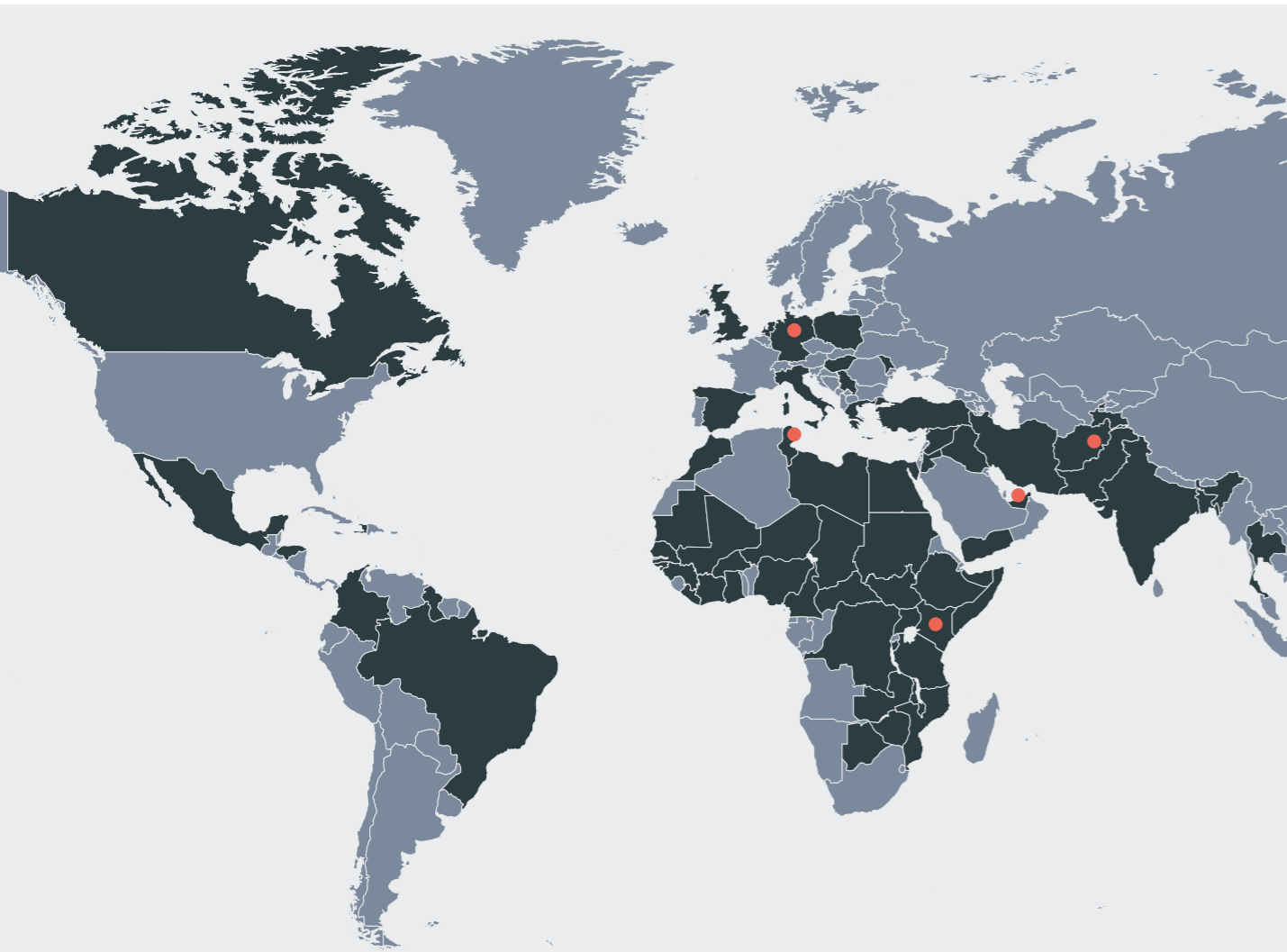
Front cover photograph: Samuel Hall researchers conducting fieldwork in Garissa, Kenya. Photographed by Lisa Pfister.

All photographs in this report have been taken with the consent of those who appear in them.

Samuel Hall would like to thank you for your interest in our work. If you would like to partner or collaborate with us on any of our research, please contact us for more information.

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Afghanistan | Kenya | Tunisia | UAE | Germany



Our research connects the voices of communities to changemakers for more inclusive societies.

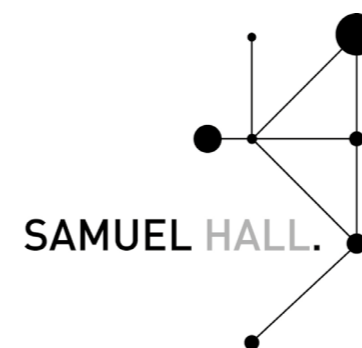
Samuel Hall office locations around the world

WHO IS SAMUEL HALL?

Samuel Hall is a social enterprise that conducts research, evaluates programmes, and designs policies in contexts of migration and displacement. Our approach is ethical, academically rigorous, and based on first-hand experience in complex and fragile settings.

We founded our research organisation to address protracted and challenging crises in Asia, Africa, and beyond. We are a growing network of local and international migration and displacement researchers, working together with civil society organisations, academic institutions, international and non-governmental organisations, foundations and the private sector, all invested in understanding contexts of migration and displacement. We have worked in 72 countries, contributing to regional dialogues, local knowledge production and multi-country, comparative research studies on key issues of our times.

Our strategy rests on standards of collaborative research and partnerships for impact. We invite you to understand our work, and join us on the road ahead.



The lines and dots of our logo represent the individuals, communities, researchers, practitioners, and local and regional policy makers that we connect through our research. We work with all actors who have a role to play in enabling more inclusive societies for migrants.

OUR PURPOSE AND OUR VALUES

Our research on migration and displacement is written for a global audience to understand the ways in which people rely on their fundamental human right to move. Our research supports the rights and aspirations of migrants and the communities they live in, arrive in or return to.

We convey the perspectives of our participants, and empower them to help shape our research. Rather than be extractive, we seek to more deeply engage and give back.

We are based in the contexts we study. We stand for localising research. Over the last decade, Samuel Hall has worked to make this a reality. We work hand in hand with local researchers and communities to understand and support each context.

We have had a full-time staff across key regions of the world:

- In Afghanistan since 2010.
- In Kenya and Somalia since 2014.
- In Ethiopia since 2016.
- In Berlin since 2017.
- In Tunisia since 2018.

We also have a network of local researchers we continuously work with:

- In the East and Horn of Africa, in Somalia, Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan and South Sudan.
- In the Great Lakes region, with a focus on Burundi, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia.
- West Africa, with a focus on Senegal.
- North Africa, with a focus on Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Egypt.
- Middle East, with a focus on Iraq.
- South & South East Asia, with targeted missions in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal.



All of our publications are free to access on our website: <https://www.samuelhall.org/publications>

OUR COMMITMENT IS TO RESEARCH PROCESSES THAT:

- Embed our work locally.
- Bridge the gap between academic standards of research, policy and practice.
- Build a network of researchers across the world committed to research on migration.
- Invest our resources in training, capacity building, and self-funded research aligned with the priorities of the people whose lives we aim to improve.
- Aim for social impact and inclusion as the driving forces behind our research.
- Narrate powerful stories that educate, advocate and inspire, and amplify voices.

OUR COMMITMENT IS TO CORE VALUES OF:

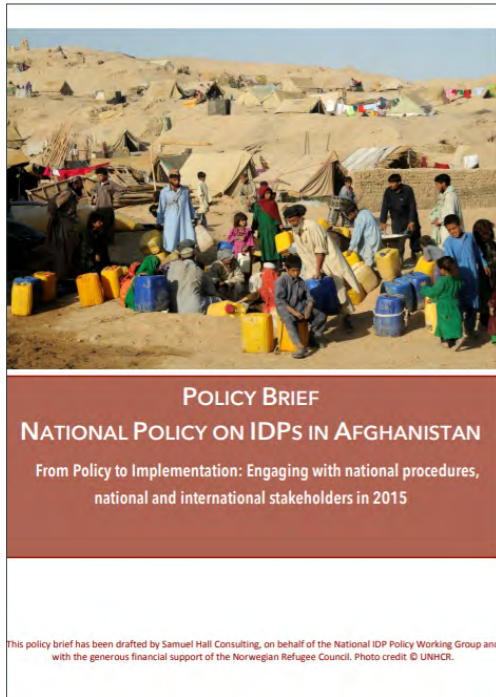
- Ethics and integrity.
- Analytical rigour, as we aim to add value, revealing something new with every research piece we publish.
- Honesty and transparency in our intellectual pursuits and scientific standards.
- Creativity and innovation.
- Respect for human rights and the dignity of all.
- Social impact and inclusion as the driving forces behind our research.

SAMUEL HALL'S IMPACT STORY

Samuel Hall actively strives to connect the communities we work with to changemakers. While working in South Sudan, Samuel Hall facilitated a scholarship for a returnee, Tina*, through the Windle Trust. We had interviewed Tina as part of our research study on Return and Reintegration in South Sudan, where she showed her passion to become a teacher. The \$4,950 scholarship pays towards her tuition at college in Juba for three years. As a result, Tina is pursuing a diploma in education - the sponsorship has given her a chance to fulfil her potential.

"I felt very excited about the scholarship because it was my heart's desire to go back to school. The family was also very happy and celebrated this victory as their own. I aspire to be a great educationist with excellent teaching skills; to transform the education system in South Sudan. It will help me get a better-paid job, and support my family. I will be able to send my siblings back to school and get an appointment with an organisation, buy land and build a home for my family."

*Name changed to protect identity



Whenever possible we aim to translate our research reports to share our findings with the communities we work with, and to reach wider and more global audiences.



In November, 2021 Samuel Hall conducted a workshop in Addis Ababa, to present the results of our capacity assessment of Overseas Private Employment Agencies (PrEAs), a study commissioned by ILO, Ethiopia.

OUR AUDIENCE

Our publications are open-access, and since 2010 we have created a repository of research for some of the world's most complex and least-understood contexts.

Our multicultural audience requires us to publish in English and local languages. We strive to use our resources to produce multi-language support and outputs in the hopes of inspiring others to do the same.

In 2022, we strengthened our dissemination and communications team. We seek the support of communications experts who can convey our knowledge from the field to a larger public, to tell the stories that need to be heard. We have built new ways to share our stories and our evidence from the field, through restitution workshops and discussions, photo series and videos, and a wide range of written products.

OUR IMPACT

As a social enterprise, we reinvest our profits into building the capacity of researchers, and into supporting initiatives that can be scaled in the communities where we work. This has led us to commission and fund our own research on mental health in Afghanistan, provide training for aspiring researchers from the Global South, and fund scholarships for displaced individuals to access education in Juba, South Sudan.

Our flagship reports

We measure impact in different ways: we monitor our readership and our engagement in specific reports and products, and policy processes, as well as citations and feedback from changemakers.



Samuel Hall team members with local researchers during a debrief session after conducting fieldwork in Garissa, Kenya for the KNO-MAD Migrant Youth Integration project. These sessions provide a space to receive feedback and to give thanks to our researchers.

We also measure impact through what individuals say, from Afghanistan to Somalia and Ethiopia. In 2021 we published [Samuel Hall - 10 years of Impact](#), which reflects their assessment. Impact, in the words of our staff members and partners, means:



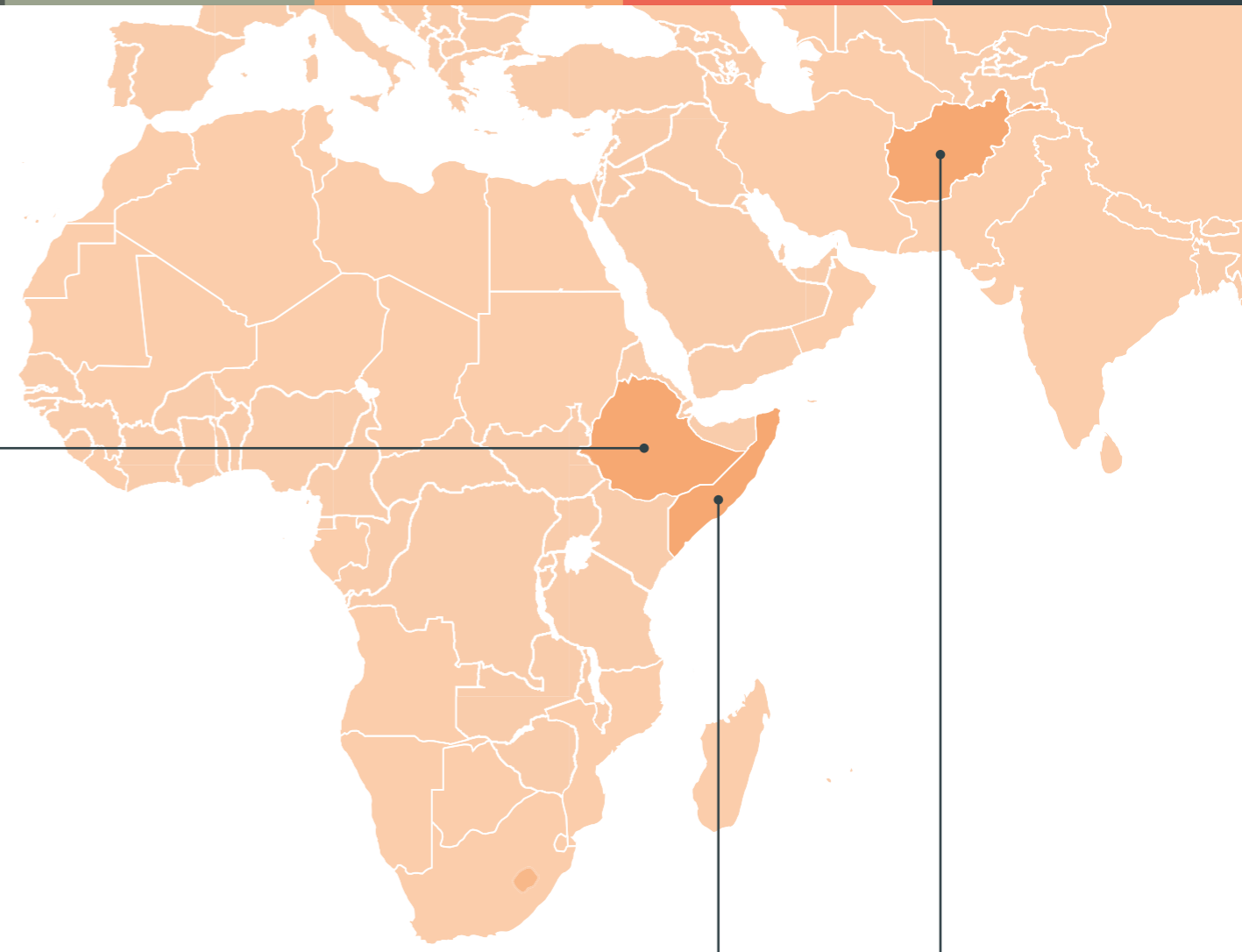
“As an Ethiopian, I know my own country and I know these communities. When child returnees talk to me about their journey home, I know the places they have travelled through. I can speak their language and I feel their struggles in my heart. Of course this informs your work. We also have **the advantage of being able to collect data in ‘inaccessible’ areas at an ‘inaccessible’ time.** We are collecting real data even throughout COVID-19 and despite the conflict. This is only possible because we have networks of local people that are professional, well trained and connected.”

From Tewelde in Ethiopia



“People in the community often ask me what the impact of our research will be. I explain: ‘We are raising your voice so that changemakers can hear you. We know there is a gap, so we are acting as a bridge. We want them to support you. We will raise your concerns and your ideas and we will make sure that they are listened to.’ **When actors make changes based on our recommendations, we know that the problems identified are being addressed I love being able to report this back to people who took the time to speak to us”**

From Saida in Somalia



“The first thing to mention is the employment we bring for local people. We have over 25 permanent employees in Afghanistan and have trained more than 500 enumerators that work with us part-time. Paid work is very valuable in Afghanistan, **especially for women.** I remember one of our projects in two of the poorest provinces of the country. I was at the office photocopying some documents when two women we had hired and trained received their first paycheck. They came out of the office with money in their hands and they were just so happy. It was the first time that they had received money for doing a job. That moment had a big impact on me personally, too. **We are providing jobs in a war-torn country that has seen over 40 years of conflict.** Life is hard and unemployment is a big issue, so I am very proud to be working hard to solve this problem with Samuel Hall.”

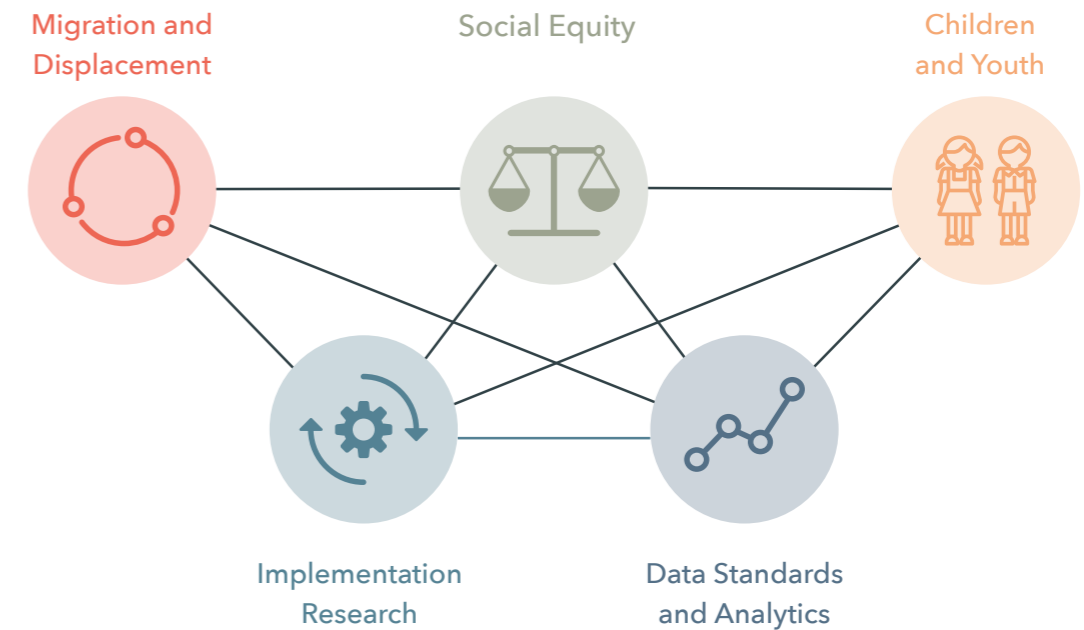
From Ibrahim in Afghanistan

Our research focuses on humanitarian and human rights-focused protection responses. Photographed by Sean Power in Somalia.




OUR RESEARCH STRATEGY

Our research strategy is built around five pillars. Pillars 1, 2, and 3 are thematic pillars of research and Pillars 4 and 5 are cross-cutting pillars focused on improving our research standards.



OUR PILLARS

 **Pillar 1**
Migration and displacement

Pillar 1 is the backbone of Samuel Hall’s migration work: we produce evidence of the lives and aspirations of migrants and displaced persons. We have two teams working globally.

1. Our migration research and policy team - launched in 2022 - links with policy processes by using our knowledge to organise and develop:
 - National, regional and international dialogue through direct engagement with policymakers. We led a year long series of training events, hosted by the World Bank, with six countries of the Great Lakes region to inform discussions on responses to forced displacement.

- Toolkits and training for policymakers to better understand and address the needs of migrants and their communities. We provide training for government officials from Iraq to Georgia, to Serbia.
- Evaluation methods and accountability for donor-funded programmes, identification missions, and policy design on migration.
- Advocacy and programme strategies on durable solutions for non-governmental organisations.
- Country-of-origin reports for lawyers engaged in asylum procedures.

2. We maintain a core research team focusing on thematic studies of migration, with a basis in:

- Forced migration and internal displacement.
- Return and reintegration, local integration and out-of-camp solutions.
- Cross-border mobility, labour migration, and the triple nexus approach to migration.
- Humanitarian and human rights-focused protection responses.

3. We set standards for migration partnerships. Our collaborative work with governments, international organisations, local refugee-led research organisations, and community leaders has made us realise that migration partnerships open the door for other actors - beyond governments - to join the conversation. But partnerships need to be based on principles, and standards, and be closely monitored:

- We have created operating [standards for sustainable reintegration for IOM](#).
- We continued our work in 2021 [with the African Union, to set the tone on returns, readmissions, and reintegration from the continent's and its member states' perspectives](#).
- In 2022, the European Return and Reintegration Network commissioned us to set an [operational framework - built on 10 guiding principles - to link development and reintegration actors](#).



Nassim Majidi was invited to speak at a roundtable at the French Sénat on the current situation for women in Afghanistan, and actions that can be taken by France and the international community in response.



"It's not a question of numbers. The Geneva Convention doesn't set a quota on the number of people eligible to be refugees. All Afghans who want to leave & seek protection abroad should be entitled to it." - Nassim Majidi, France24, 27.08.21

"Today there are roughly 40-50 thousand people leaving across Afghanistan's borders each week.. These are Afghans in danger, who are threatened with death, and who absolutely need to find protection." - Nassim Majidi, ARTE, 30.08.21



L: From BBC World News and BBC Radio 4's Today Programme, to Der Spiegel, to Le Monde, Marie Claire and France 24, our founders and researchers have been speaking about what is happening in Afghanistan, and advocating for what needs to happen next.



At the Research and Evidence Facility (REF) Conference held in Nairobi; Nassim Majidi shares insights from our research on displacement, return and reintegration patterns in South Sudan - by sharing the journey of one of our respondents through a visual of his lifetime.



Pillar 2 Social Equity

The second pillar is our **Social Equity Pillar** which aims to understand and act on the growing social and economic inequalities of today's world. We do this by conducting participatory research with marginalised communities to identify models of equity and equality for tomorrow. Based on almost fifteen years of field research, Samuel Hall's teams have identified three interrelated thematic dimensions for identifying new models of social equity:

- 1. Climate change.** We focus on how displaced communities experience the consequences of climate change and on the adaptation and transformation strategies that they implement in their struggle for land, livelihoods, livestock and home. How can we analyse the consequences of climate change in terms of mobility and socio-economic vulnerabilities? What adaptation options are communities inventing today in the face of environments that have become uninhabitable?
 - In 2020, we conducted an assessment with UNEP and the Somali government [to identify climate adaptive solutions to displacement](#).
 - In 2022, we are working with IOM in Afghanistan to assess the intersection of climate induced displacement and socioeconomic vulnerabilities.
- 2. Urban.** In sub-Saharan Africa, urbanisation rates now exceed 5% per year,

causing problems with access to services and informal housing for a highly dynamic population. How can we understand the motives behind this long-term evolution, which is now accelerating? How can we analyse the different types of mobility, their dynamics, their protection and the contributions they can make in social, economic or cultural terms?

- Since 2021, we have been part of the Equal Partnerships consortium funded by the Robert Bosch Stiftung foundation on urban migration governance. Here we have entered into research partnerships with secondary cities in Kenya, Tunisia, and Niger.
 - In recent years, we have applied sociological methods of analysis (for example, Granovetter, Agier, Landau) on social cohesion in urban areas in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Afghanistan, alongside the World Bank, ILO and IOM.
- 3. Gender.** In order to think about gender today, we believe it is essential to question social constructions by criticising approaches that categorise women and members of the LGBTQI+ community as 'vulnerable' in the face of male-dominated societies. How can we deconstruct the patriarchal logic that still prevails - consciously or not - within international organisations? How can we overcome monolithic understandings of gender to enable members of the same community to achieve true social equity?
 - In 2022, we put emphasis on the perspectives of LGBTQI+ refugees in our

research on migrant youth integration with KNOMAD in eight countries, from Kenya to Jordan, Thailand to Colombia.

- Since 2020, we have conducted several gender-transformative research projects with UNICEF in West Africa and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation's mobility global portfolio.



The Social Equity Pillar designs solutions which address fragile contexts affected by natural disasters, political instability, and socio-economic change. Photographed by René Habermacher, Dadaab, Kenya.



“Our approach to children and youth is to listen to their voices and support their growth. Agency is at the centre of our research. We engage with and respect their choices, their priorities, and their ideas for the future.”

Marion Guillaume, Pillar Lead



Pillar 3 Children and Youth

Pillar 3 – our Children and Youth Pillar – seeks to link the voices and experiences of the next generation to decision-makers worldwide. Using participatory approaches we develop child- and youth-focused research tools and methods, to expose their experiences. The primary focus of Pillar 3 is to support actors working on child and youth protection, and education support, within contexts of migration and displacement. We develop:

1. Safe and appropriate ways of doing research with children.

- Given the sensitive topics on which we work, ensuring our research does no harm is paramount.
- We have developed a thorough safeguarding approach which allows us to flag potential risks from research, and ensure we have appropriate referral networks in the local context. We translate this to our work. To protect chil-

dren who have returned from abroad, for example, we developed a toolkit alongside IOM which allows stakeholders to monitor the sustainability of child returnees’ reintegration, and identify protection risks in doing so, with clear guidance on how to use these tools and prepare for data collection.

2. Adapted approaches to unpack complex concepts.

Children and youth are often overlooked as actors in their own stories. We work to design approaches to let them share their perspectives and build their agency in doing so.

- In Zambia, for example, we built on work by the University of Edinburgh to conduct three-day qualitative exercises with children for UNICEF to understand school attendance and dropout rates. Through this we were able to gather different types of qualitative data and conduct in-depth analyses of the sources and influencers of school dropouts, to inform UNICEF and governmental responses.

- In Afghanistan, we presented adapted research ‘findings’ to children who had told us about their experiences returning from Europe, to get their input and feedback on ‘solutions’ proposed.

3. Long-term partnerships. We seek to build long-term collaborations with many of our partners, to build on theoretical and methodological approaches.

- We are a monitoring and learning partner for many programmes, such as the Vodafone Foundation’s [Instant Network Schools](#). For these, we provide multi-year support in understanding and improving programming. Our work on education, for example, is designed to assess learning in contexts where traditional tools may not be feasible. We also hold several long-term agreements with UNICEF, who recognises the quality of our work and expertise.

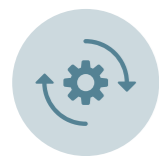


Our P3 team values the agency of children and engages with them through creative and interactive methodologies.

TECHFUGEES

Samuel Hall has collaborated with Techfugees, a charitable organisation supporting displaced persons in tech, on a number of projects. Most recently, Samuel Hall co-hosted 'Digital Sprint' with Techfugees, Xavier Project and UNHCR. The two-day event held across three locations in Kenya (Nairobi, Kakuma and Dadaab), saw 80+ members of refugee and host groups harnessing ideas in the world of entrepreneurship, remote work and E-commerce.

Pillars 4 and 5 are cross-cutting, acting as a resource that other pillars can consult to improve methodology, tool design, sampling, quality control, and analysis in core areas of our work.



Pillar 4 Implementation Research

Our **Implementation Research Pillar** takes on the practical aspects of programme implementation following inductive design thinking. We are developing our methods to become the primary evidence-based research organisation on migration. We seek out interventions which work locally, and provide evidence for investors and donors so that they are able to scale and grow their programming for the greatest possible impact. This is particularly successful when considering the effects of climate change on migrant communities, and the need for a global approach to solutions. Through Pillar 4 we:

1. Focus on community-driven solutions and partnerships with a range of actors (including from the private and technology sectors) to roll out innovations that support migrant and low-income communities, and that are sustainable and viable in the long term.
2. We are particularly known for our expertise in the following sub-topics:
 - Monitoring and evaluation - we consider the scalability and sustainability of humanitarian programming, learning from best practices and challenges faced by practitioners.
 - Research towards action and implementation, particularly barriers and constraints, testing, and integrated solutions.
 - Exploring the role of innovation and technology to test solutions and build community-driven engagement through local partnerships.



Both images: Participants presenting their innovative 'tech' ideas during the Techfugees session.



Pillar 5
Data Standards and Analytics

Our **Data Standards & Analytics Pillar** is committed to:

1. Strengthening data systems and standards.
2. Enhancing safe and responsible data access.
3. Leading large-scale, comparative quantitative surveys.
4. Employing innovative data collection and analysis methods and methodologies.

We use **innovative methods and approaches** that are replicable and scalable across contexts. To achieve this, we make use of a number of different sources:

- **Survey data from locations inaccessible in person.** The Samuel Hall Afghanistan team designed a telephone based canvassing programme, allowing us to reach nearly every demographic group with proportional sampling. This programme has been

extended from Afghanistan to countries in which census data is lacking and mobile penetration is high.

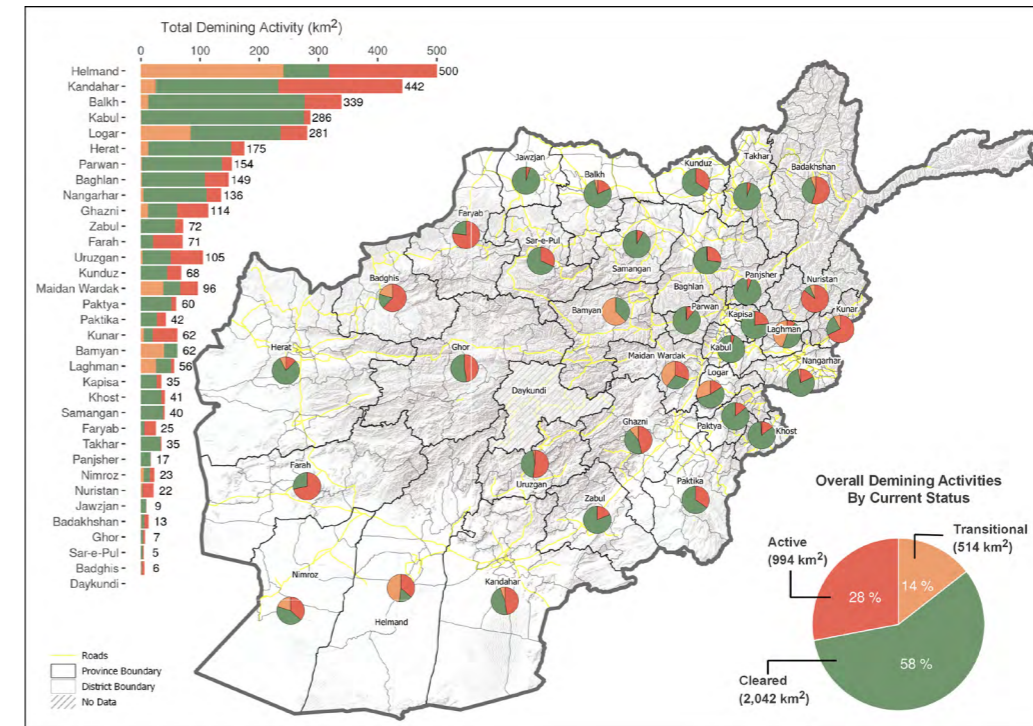
• **Indexing and scoring algorithms developed for the UNHCR and IOM:**

- i. vulnerability index to assess the sensitivity of at-risk groups to environmental shock;
- ii. a youth-employment nexus index to identify and assess employment opportunities;
- iii. a reintegration index using refined nonlinear regressions.

- **Spatial analysis and satellite maps to inform our sampling approaches, triangulate area observations and scouting reports, and assess changes in land cover and the emergence of settlements for the displaced over time.** We combine these insights with an ethnographic approach to tell the stories behind the satellite images to better inform humanitarian and development responses.



Samuel Hall Data Standards and Analytics.



Progress towards a mine-free Afghanistan (DMAC data, Samuel Hall's calculations).

OUR COMMITMENTS TO DATA STANDARDS AND ANALYSIS:

- **We maintain academic standards towards sampling methodologies, in complex and challenging contexts.** Our field-based methodologies are developed to navigate the limitations of fieldwork in difficult regions, and address the biases inherent in such strenuous contexts. Our research teams are trained to implement advanced sampling strategies, including standard stratified sampling and cluster-sampling techniques, as well as more advanced reference-driven sampling methods necessary to reach sparse target groups.
- **We employ advanced data analysis and modelling techniques.** It is important to be confident knowing what the

data can, and cannot tell us. We constantly update our technical skills and tools to perform in-depth analysis, from confidence-based cross-tabulations to bespoke scoring and indexing techniques built to uncover trends and anomalies and tailored to test hypotheses.

- **We care about common standards and open access to data and tools.** We are engaged in discussions with partners throughout the world to create a library of standard question sets, measuring well-established indicators and performing advanced analyses, open to the scrutiny of all.

DATA COLLECTION

Quantitative data collection includes surveys at the individual or household levels, in person or remotely, via telephone or online. Our sampling methods are replicable and in line with best practices.

Qualitative data collection includes the 'traditional' – key informant interviews, semi-structured interviews, and focus group discussions – to the more innovative, such as in-person ethnographic case studies, multi-day group exercises with adolescents, and visual and role-play exercises with younger children.

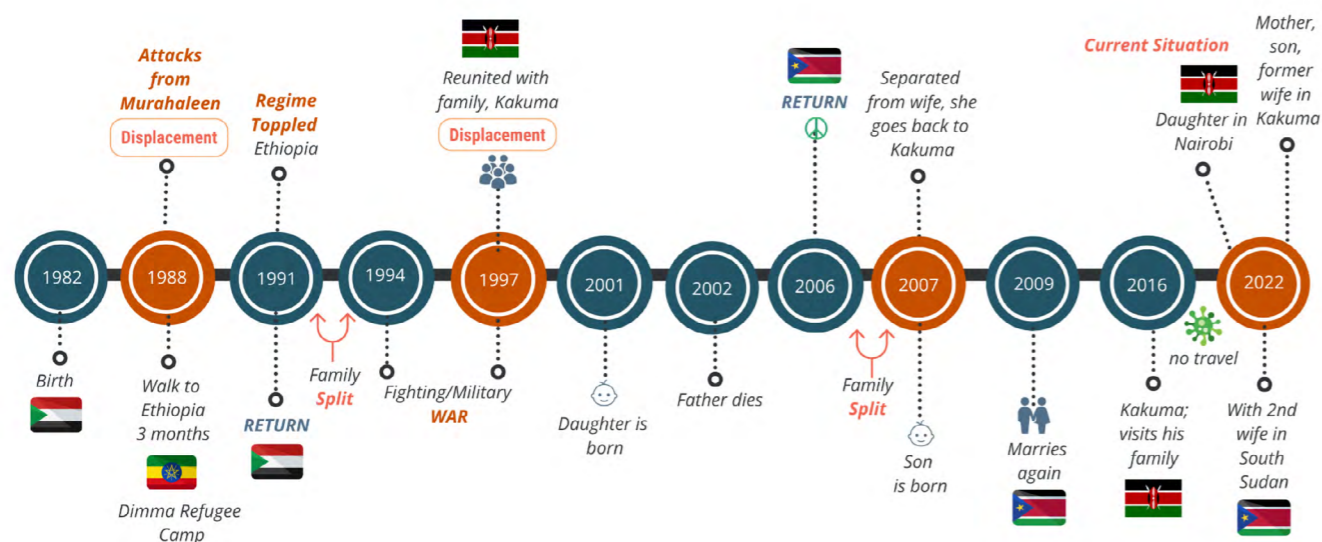
OUR PRODUCTS

We challenge ourselves to do better. How can we give research participants a stronger voice? How can we improve our methods to be more inclusive? How can our teams use new forms of data collection? We recognise the responsibility we have to those who take their time to exchange with us to ensure that this time is impactful.

"I heartily recommend Samuel Hall's experts and the excellent Country of Origin Information Reports they prepare. The expert I worked with was not only outstanding in her field, but she was also easy to communicate with, and extremely helpful, and I am positive that her expert report helped convince the immigration judge to grant my client's asylum case. I will definitely use Samuel Hall's services again and strongly recommend them to others!"

Chris Christensen, Attorney at Law | Christensen Legal, PLLC | Idaho, USA

As part of our larger humanitarian impact and our effort to compile information from our primary research conducted in contexts of migration and displacement, Samuel Hall has been preparing country-of-origin information reports intended to be used as support materials for asylum seekers, to assist their legal counsel with the preparation of international protection cases.



Visualising qualitative research: As part of our project on Return and Reintegration in South Sudan with REF (Research and Evidence Facility - Horn Of Africa) we created lifelines to showcase the individual journeys of our research respondents.

1. Research outputs

- Reports that answer key research and operational questions
- Academic articles
- Position papers
- Monitoring and evaluation reports
- Events, workshops and roundtables with experts to disseminate research findings and invite conversation

2. Outreach

- Stories and blogs
- Advocacy strategies
- Public opinion pieces
- Campaigns

3. Policy and programming outputs

- Policy briefs
- Trainings to build the capacity of organisations and policymakers
- Toolkits to turn research into programmes
- Country-of-origin reports supporting lawyers and legal aid globally

Climate Change Campaign

We have met communities vulnerable to climate change and seen first-hand how it affects migration and displacement, and how these communities build resilience. There is a real need to understand not just the data around climate migration but the stories, experiences, and perceptions of those affected. We focus on:

- Identifying climate adaptive solutions to displacement, as we did in Somalia in 2021.
- Advancing understanding of 'tipping points' in climate-based decisions to migrate.
- Pursuing partnerships for climate-sensitive urban migration governance.
- Acknowledging the age and gendered impacts which climate change can have on employment, migration and protection.
- Looking at how climate change can impact existing conflict.

Our [position paper on climate change](#) highlights our ongoing work on the subject.

Samuel Hall continues to work in Afghanistan and advocate for Afghans - our calls to action are based on the findings from cross-cutting research on self-protection, climate change, urban migration, access to services, and energy.



Afghanistan Campaign

The country is experiencing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis amid economic collapse. We research **self-protection, climate change, urban migration, access to services, energy**, and a range of other issues that impact Afghan men, women, youth, and children. Through this research, and our office in Kabul, we remain where we started, dedicated to improving lives and informing critical policy decisions in the country.



Humanising Research: Stories from the frontline

Samuel Hall's research and mission are defined by the voices of people and communities that are as powerful individually as they are collectively. This is why we strive to move beyond big data, algorithms and research reports to focus on stories from the frontlines - stories that aim to challenge stereotypes and amplify narratives that have deliberately been silenced.

To tell these stories, we launched [Samuel Hall Stories](#), our multimedia blog and solutions-focused storytelling platform that features

- First-person narratives
- Feature stories
- Photo essays with the consent and participation of research respondents
- Blogs ranging from innovative research methodologies; excerpts from our reports, and critical debates and discussions shaping our thinking
- Storytelling events and workshops in collaboration with universities, museums, and civil societies to empower people to tell their stories and work on community-led newsletters, documentaries and digital publications.

In addition, we continue working with our partners to help disseminate our research in the most creative ways possible - we have developed podcasts, organised events, co-authored blogs, and created multi-media content.



'A Feast of Memories in Delhi's Little Kabul.' Telling migration stories through food.



“Collaborative research minimizes exploitation and power imbalances between insider and outsider researchers in the field of forced migration research as refugee researchers are typically included in research projects as assistants and data collectors.”

Uwezo Ramazani, Lead Country Reseracher, Tanzania
LERRN - RSC; Study of Refugee-Led Organizations



Our researchers are present in the contexts we study; we also collaborate and train local enumerators on the field to carry out interviews.

OUR COMMITMENT TO COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

As a research organisation, Samuel Hall occupies a special place in the humanitarian and development research industry. **Our presence in the field and the diversity of our team allow us to be a bridge between the Western institutions and the contexts they intend to study.** This feature is a strong marker of our identity and impacts our research, our internal policies and our processes. In this regard, **our research strategy rests on ethical standards for collaborative research** (visualised right), to create nurturing and respectful spaces.

We hold ourselves accountable to the targets we set for ourselves and will report back on these.

OUR COMMITMENT TO ETHICAL AND COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH



Each research project opens up spaces for academics, practitioners, policymakers, and communities to engage with us

1

Space for Collaboration in Design and Analysis

- country/area expertise
- method expertise
- thematic expertise

2

Space for Peer Review and Quality Control

Apply standards of scientific peer review to our research and outline steps for quality control and oversight

3

Space for Field Level Problem Solving

Anticipate and communicate on risks and mitigation strategies before, during and after fieldwork

4

Space for Exchanges with Partners

Identify issues to advocate for, identify opportunities for translation and opportunities for dissemination

5

Space for Feedback and Thanks

Engage in validation exercises and give thanks to key informants and research participants

ETHICS AND MECHANICS

Space for Co-Design and Participation

Space for Training and Capacity Building

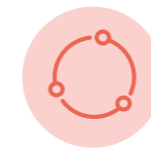
Our priorities for the near future include working with local authorities and migrants to find durable solutions.



OUR FUTURE

Our research strategy prioritises the following trends and themes for the upcoming two years.

OUR PRIORITIES



Migration and displacement trends to follow in 2023–2025

Dynamics of rural-urban mobility: Local authorities and municipal stakeholders are the first responders and a link between migrants and host communities.

Samuel Hall's new Urban sub-pillar, which falls under Pillar 2 – Social Equity, was developed specifically to prioritise projects related to rural-urban mobility. We will look to improve our understanding of what local authorities can do to respond to migration into cities, and to work closely with migrants to find solutions.

Climate-induced migration: There is a general awareness of the urgency of the climate crisis, but a lack of understanding of the situations of people displaced or migrating as a result of climate impacts, and a correlated lack of planning for the impact of climate change on migration.

Adaptive strategies and interventions that link climate justice with migrant integration are at the center of our strategy for climate research: these include the advancement of clean energy, a green economy, and cash-based incentives.

Gender and migration: Migration experiences are shaped by gender, and the different choices and roles that men and women make and take on in their households, communities, and societies. As a result, programming that does not acknowledge, and actively address, the gendered nature of migration will ultimately fail to meet the needs of migrants.

We commit to ensuring that gender is a crosscutting theme and a theme of its own when researching migration.



Global thematic trends

Education and technology: The shift from physical learning and education to digital and electronic forms has been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The promotion of digital systems, and practical subjects (i.e., STEM) is useful to facilitate access-limited individuals' entry into a global market. Yet, it equally risks increasing barriers as education becomes overwhelmingly monetised.

Samuel Hall will seek out localised, practical ways to reclaim knowledge and teaching methodologies, building on appropriate uses of technology to accompany children and youth in their life transitions. However, while digital skills and jobs can contribute to the integration of migrants, the conditions for market access and jobs can also be demoralising and exploitative.

Challenging vulnerability: There is increasing discourse on the impact of categorising groups as vulnerable, and whether this categorisation adds to their exclusion. Through increased international activism, seen in support of vulnerable and marginalised groups (supporting gender equality, LGBTQI+ rights, recognition of mental health issues, challenging racial dynamics and tensions, and youth movements), there is increasing awareness of endemic inequalities.

Fundamental to our research will be to question how we can contribute to taking excluded groups out of a discourse of vulnerability and into one recognising their structural inequalities. It is essential to promote a narrative that people – women, children, refugees, and the disabled – are not inherently vulnerable and go further to interrogate the state and its policies.



"The ability to leverage technology is also dependent on the access to that technology. We need to thus go beyond just job opportunities to create a resilient eco-system for migrants and refugees. We need to run a marathon rather than a sprint."

Hervé Nicolle, Co-founder, Executive-Director, Samuel Hall

Samuel Hall will continue to learn from traditional knowledge systems. Photographed by Sean Power.





Samuel Hall researcher using the Dreams methodology with a respondent to understand their situations and aspirations during a data-collection exercise in Nairobi. Photographed by Malcolm Muga.



Methodological trends

Migration narratives: Political discourse around migration has become highly polarised, with countries' political leadership investing extensively in research on public opinion towards migrant communities. USAID, FCDO, and the EU have all funded multi-year projects looking into migrant and host communities' behaviours and practices.

We will continue to bring migrant narratives to the forefront to challenge simplistic understandings of migration journeys. Our growing training portfolio includes evidence specifically collected to advance knowledge, attitudes and perceptions on migration.

A REFLECTION WITHIN ACADEMIA AND RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS IS UNDERWAY ON THREE QUESTIONS OF METHOD:

Epistemology. Within contemporary culture, the status of 'truth', 'evidence', and 'science' have become blurred. Contemporary debates – on fake news, the politicisation of research, the confusion between academic research and consultations – all demand that we question definitions, objectives, methodologies and standards of research.

Ethics. There is a risk of claiming to speak on behalf of refugees, while remaining ignorant of unfamiliar populations. What critical strategy should be adopted to overcome this pitfall? How can we include co-participation in the research?

Access. Research needs to be made publicly accessible – this means rethinking our formats, our language, and our mediums of dissemination. It also means being open to reviews, feedback and criticism from those who the topic of study affects the most.

JOIN US ON THE ROAD AHEAD

Our strategy is set for 2023–2024, recognising the global challenges that require us to set concrete and measurable goals. Through this period we will continue to check in with our partners and clients, develop new products and methods, and seek feedback.

Follow and engage with us on Twitter and LinkedIn, sign up to our newsletter and watch out for our new Instagram page, through which we share insights from our analysis, research, and stories.

Collaborate with us; we are always looking to partner with:

- Migrant-led organisations for research, storytelling and capacity-building initiatives.
- Local governments to help train and create effective policy responses.
- Local and global research organisations to develop projects, campaigns and advocacy strategies.
- Investors and donors to invest in projects which have the greatest impact.
- Museums and universities to host courses, guest lectures, and organise co-events.
- Journalists and media organisations to co-produce stories based on our understanding of fragile contexts.



As we embark on the journey ahead, we continue to be present in Afghanistan, the country we were founded in. Our Kabul office, set up over a decade ago, continues to advocate for Afghans.

We aim to build momentum for locally-led, locally-owned research.



Our staff

We are over 70 staff from about 22 nationalities, with a range of cultures, ages, genders and perspectives. We showcase female leadership in our ranks – with top management split 50:50, and middle management split 75:25 women to men. We continue to identify talent from the countries where we work. We have open vacancies year-round.



Our consultants and experts

We work with experts globally, including staff who have moved but remain with our organization as Samuel Hall fellows. We have a roster of consultants for added technical skills. We are on the lookout for great minds specialising in legal analysis, financial inclusion, advanced modelling, and education, among others.



Our partners

Many of our research projects are led alongside academic institutions, as well as researchers and think tanks from around the world. Partnering with local organisations, including migrant and refugee-led organisations, has been invaluable in providing contextual expertise, navigating access to research sites, and working with local and national administrations – these partnerships are at the core of our work.



Samuel Hall field research for UNICEF in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh.
Photographed by Ivan Flores.

Samuel Hall is named after a folk song, originating in the 1850s and most famously covered by the French singer Alain Bashung, and the American Johnny Cash. The song is a marker of our independence and free spirit, and a demonstration of how we connect to people in different ways, represented here with music. Samuel Hall as an organisation has grown and developed since its inception in Afghanistan over ten years ago, however today we are still committed to the same principles and ideas, encapsulated by the song.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Write to us with your thoughts, feedback and ideas - we value your voice and insight and would love to know what you think we should be researching and covering. Alternatively, if you would like to write for Samuel Hall Stories, send us a pitch.

Reach out to us at development@samuelhall.org; we look forward to hearing from you.