



Researcher/Project Manager at Samuel Hall

Children and Youth Pillar

Samuel Hall is seeking an experienced and professional Researcher/Project Manager with extensive experience in children/youth related policy to join its Children and Youth Pillar for a full-time position based in our Kabul office.

Researchers can apply their research skills by leading research projects across Samuel Hall's areas of operation in Asia, Africa and Europe. Researchers work on desk reviews, key informant interviews, and conduct extensive fieldwork with implementers and beneficiaries to collect data and analyse results. Furthermore, they contribute to the strategic development of the Children and Youth Pillar by applying for grants and proposals, attending international conferences, and participating in the dissemination of our research. There is a strong potential for in-country and international travel.



Who we are: Objectives and ethos

Samuel Hall is an independent think tank specialised in field research and social impact. We provide practicable insights to challenging issues in the developing world by providing academic-standard research through primary data collection in areas where researchers do not commonly go. Samuel Hall works with governments, donors, multilateral organisations and INGOs, as well public and private sector entities. We have worked with more than sixty-five organisations worldwide since 2009 through our offices in Afghanistan, Kenya and Somalia covering Asia and Africa.

The Children and Youth Pillar: Consider the future: over half the world's population is currently under 30, the clear majority of these in developing countries. Yet, rather than consider these as a force for development, political, and societal change – the current rhetoric around this “youth bulge” portrays them as a burden and a potential risk, while children are “victims” to be protected. Samuel Hall takes a new approach to these children and youth, to give them a voice in programmes and policies. The Children and Youth Pillar considers its target group from three perspectives, foundational rights, key transitions, and aspirations, not only to support them practically in accessing education, health, and other services, and ensuring their rights are respected, but to build their agency and enhance their voice. We produce knowledge and data on access to education, child protection, employment and more. We use this evidence to deliver trainings to actors shaping the lives of children and youth, and to design programmes and policies which adhere to international frameworks. Our approach is inductive and contextually relevant. We seek researchers with expertise in:

- Thematic focus areas:
 - Key frameworks (international, regional, national)
 - Health (mental and physical)
 - Labour (Child labour, youth skills and access to employment)
 - Education (Access to, quality and innovative education programmes for children and youth from conflict and post-conflict settings, in origin and transit countries)
 - Security (Violent extremism, radicalisation)
 - Migration and displacement (Unaccompanied minors and separated children, youth on the move)
 - Gender and age disaggregated data and themes in research

We are a rapidly growing research organisation: you will be expected to grow with us and carve out your own spot in the team. We look for pro-active, creative individuals who can identify opportunities to make their mark, and identify solutions to problems. We believe in hiring people who can show their ability to be both strong leaders and reliable followers, who have skills that our team currently lacks and who join us to add value from the very start. We hire people who can expand our knowledge, and help us reach our social impact objective in their field of expertise. We work in a fast-paced, demanding and challenging environment: you will need thick skin, passion and dedication!

Vacancy Requirements

Applicants will need to possess and demonstrate the following skills:

- Advanced university degree with a minimum of four years of higher education, ideally in the social sciences, statistics, law, or child protection
- At least 5 years of experience working on child protection, ideally in Central Asia, from either a monitoring and evaluation of child programmes perspective or with experience implementing such programmes
- Complete written and oral fluency in English; second language (Dari, Pashto, French) is an asset
- Exceptional English writing skills
- Proven experience of analysing quantitative and qualitative data
- Proven experience of working with national and international children and youth stakeholders
- Keen attention to detail; pro-active
- Ability to adapt and work well within a team
- Ability to cope well under pressure, work occasionally irregular hours and meet tight deadlines

Strong applicants will meet the following qualifications:

- Advanced university degree – min. of 5 years of higher education (social sciences, statistics, law, child protection)
- At least 7 years of experience working on child protection, ideally in Central Asia, from either a monitoring and evaluation of child programmes perspective or with experience implementing such programmes
- Experience representing an organisation in external forums (conferences, cluster meetings, etc.)
- Experience in strategic planning for an organisation

Tasks to be Performed under the Contract

RESEARCH

- Assume all responsibilities of the project cycle from A to Z, with the assistance of Project Officers and Research Assistants, under the guidance of Children and Youth Pillar Lead.
- Manage a team in-country and remote team members (Research assistants, project officers, researchers)
- Develop research frameworks
 - Design analytical frameworks
 - Design research methodologies and tools
 - Identify gaps and propose solutions regarding tool design, data collection and analysis
- Manage Fieldwork
 - Conduct secondary research, literature reviews and key informant interviews
 - Conduct fieldwork in Africa and Central Asia, depending on security and prior decision
 - Oversee fieldwork planning
 - Supervise qualitative data collection efforts when needed and manage several enumerators
 - Coordinate quality control mechanisms
- Analysis
 - Analyse data, transcribe notes, write reports and present at client meetings
 - Provide strong analysis (using NVivo, SPSS, STATA, Excel) and recommendations in line with policy and academic standards
- Contribute to the understanding of the team, brief colleagues on children and youth-related concepts
- Be proactive and propose innovative ideas for the improvement of research cycle and research procedures
- Cover various topics and themes related to children and youth within core themes and sub-themes
- Ensure linkages with academic and policy standards on children and youth research
- Enhance research uptake through dissemination and outreach

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

- Draft project proposals and proposals for grants
- Put forward editorial ideas for dissemination work (including drafting blog entries, articles, papers on the basis of on-going and published pieces, and identifying the right forum and timing for such publications, in line with on-going events, national/regional/global policy dialogues on migration)
- Represent Samuel Hall in national and international conferences on children and youth.
- Support the Children and Youth Lead to develop the Pillar (partnerships, advisory group, documentation)

Summary of Job Description

Employer	Samuel Hall
Location	Kabul, Afghanistan
Position	Researcher
Contract Duration	One year with a flexible trial period (renewable)
Gender	Any
Nationality	Any
Salary	To be determined
Vacancy Announcement	16 December 2016
Vacancy Closure	15 January 2017
Preferred Background	Child protection, law, development, international relations, political science, social sciences, etc.
Minimum Qualifications	Masters' Degree, PhD desirable
E-mail for Submission	careers@samuelhall.org
Submission Guidelines	All applicants should send their cover letter and CV in separate PDF files, each labelled: 'CL/CV – Full name of Applicant' with the e-mail subject line clearly expressed, using the following format: 'Name – Child Protection Policy Researcher'. Three samples of relevant work should also be included. Samuel Hall is an equal opportunities employer. Applications who do not follow the required format will not be considered. Only selected applicants will be notified.