

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT:

Pillar Lead / Senior Research Manager - MEAL Pillar

We are seeking an experienced and professional Pillar Lead/ Senior Research Manager – MEAL Pillar to join its team for a full-time position. Samuel Hall's [MEAL](#) Pillar empowers civil society, inter-governmental organisations, governments, small businesses, and other stakeholders with rigorous research, insightful evaluations, and comprehensive solutions, driving positive change in contexts of migration and displacement, international development, and social equity.

The Senior Research Manager/Pillar Lead has a senior management leadership position (part of the SMT) and responsibilities over the thematic [Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning \(MEAL\) pillar](#) and within Samuel Hall at large. This includes defining the strategic direction of the pillar with the Director of Programmes, managing pillar personnel, ensuring oversight and final approval on all projects under the pillar, and contributing to business development and representation of Samuel Hall.

The Senior Research Manager/ Pillar Lead is responsible for research projects from both management and content perspectives, producing high-quality field research plans, methodologies, and tools, as well as being able to draft, with minimal supervision, all required outputs for a given project. They are also in charge of conducting post-project debriefs, lessons learned, and evaluations, to ensure their institutional contribution. Their role is essential to maintaining Samuel Hall research standards - from conceptualization to delivery - on key themes of priority for the organisation. The Pillar Lead will lead projects as Senior Research Manager on a routine basis.

Who We Are

Our research connects the voices of communities to changemakers for more inclusive societies. Samuel Hall is a social enterprise that conducts research, evaluates programs, 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. With offices in Afghanistan, Germany, Kenya, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates, we are based in the regions we study.

We have over ten years of experience in 70+ countries and have become a trusted partner and leading voice in the field of migration and displacement research, working with governments, donors, multilateral organisations, and NGOs, as well as public and private sector entities. It's an exciting time for Samuel Hall – we were recently selected by Stanford University as one of the Global South's high-potential, fast-growth social enterprises. For more information, please visit www.samuelhall.org.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: We work in a fast-paced, demanding, and challenging environment – you will be expected to grow with us and carve out your own spot in the team. We look for proactive, creative individuals who find opportunities to make their mark and identify solutions to problems. We look for strong leaders and reliable team players who can add value from the very start, expand our knowledge, and help us to maximise our social impact.

Tasks & Responsibilities

Objective 1 – Pillar Strategic Direction, Management and Coordination

- With the Director of Programmes, set research vision for the pillar.
- Participate in the Objective Key Results (OKR) process and any internal strategic discussions.
- Update the Strategic Workforce Plan (SWP) and any staffing decisions for the pillar and projects.
- Hold regular coordination meetings with other pillar leads.
- Guide project teams to implement the vision for the research.
- Manage and coach pillar and project team members, through regular meetings.
- Review and approve of Research Planning Team (RPT) content ahead of time.

Objective 2 – Research and Quality control

- Lead Research and Planning Teams (RPT)
- Manage mixed methods fieldworks in multiple countries
- Produce the design of research tools, research methodologies and outputs as requested by the RM
- Manage, train, and task research assistants and area coordinators.
- Execute the quality and timeliness of the collected data
- Design the data collection, in particular qualitative, and fieldwork as agreed with the RM
- Contribute to analysis, report writing, and dissemination as agreed with the RM.

Objective 3 – Representation and Partnerships

- Lead the vetting and oversight of proposals and bid submissions.
- Contribute to dissemination strategies and activities as agreed with the Director of Programmes / Partnerships Unit
- Disseminate knowledge, prepare and lead presentations for stakeholders (internal and external)

Opportunities for Growth

Working at Samuel Hall means that you are contributing to ground-breaking, innovative, and rigorous work that bridges research, implementation, and policy. Most of our training happens on the job, but as part of our investment in learning and development, everyone is encouraged to apply for up to five days of paid professional development leave and financial resources to enable them to acquire new skills and knowledge.

Vacancy Requirements

Required

- A Masters degree in International Relations, International Development, Political Science, or a related field
- A minimum of 8 years of relevant experience in research
- Proven experience in project management, monitoring and evaluation and leading teams.
- Proven experience in writing research papers, consultancy reports, evaluation assignments, and policy briefs
- Proven expertise in quantitative and qualitative data analysis and tools (for example, R, SPSS, NVIVO)
- Knowledge of key institutional frameworks and stakeholders
- Strong presentation skills and ability to build professional relationships.
- Excellent verbal and written skills in English
- Keen attention to detail
- Ability to be patient and to work well within a global team.
- Ability to cope well under pressure, occasionally work irregular hours, and meet tight deadlines.

Desirable

- A PhD degree in a relevant field
- Published articles/ papers (peer-reviewed)
- French, Arabic, Dari, Pashto and/or additional languages
- Past experience specific to the East and Horn of Africa, Central/South Asia, and/or the Middle East and North Africa

Location	Nairobi or Remote
Position	Pillar Lead/ Senior Research Manager – MEAL
Contract duration	24 months, renewable with a trial period
Vacancy closure	Open until filled
Email for submission	careers@samuelhall.org
How to apply	<p>All applicants should follow this link to apply:</p> <p>https://assessment.testgorilla.com/testtaker/publicinvitation/cdbccbcc-57f4-47f3-bbbc-fa8ee2cdd0f9</p>

Samuel Hall is an equal opportunities employer. Applicants who do not follow the required format will not be considered. Only selected applicants will be notified, and interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis.