

## Publication Release

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### Unpacking the Realities of Displacement Affected Communities in Afghanistan Since August 2021

**Samuel Hall** was commissioned by **IOM Afghanistan** with support from **EU Partnerships** to produce research briefs on the impact of **climate change, mental health, infrastructure, and urban migration** on **displacement-affected communities in Afghanistan**.

While Afghanistan has been home to much research on return and reintegration across the last two decades, gaps remain on key topics, specifically since the fall of **Kabul in August 2021**. IOM Afghanistan started implementing the **Reintegration and Development Assistance in Afghanistan (RADA)** project before 2021 and continues to conduct RADA activities in the country - with financial support from the EU.

Our latest research briefs aim to provide IOM and other migration stakeholders with **knowledge and learning on important aspects of forced migration**. The briefs highlight the key unaddressed challenges facing Afghans, which **donors and practitioners, and a global audience**, need to take immediate action on.

Centering the lived experiences of Afghans; through these briefs Samuel Hall aims to **improve donors' and partners' knowledge and understanding of migration, displacement, and (re)integration in Afghanistan** in order to facilitate **evidence-based decision-making** among significant **international and national stakeholders**.

We would like to **thank all stakeholders and key informant interviewees** who have contributed to the successful completion of this research project.

Through these briefs, we present **20 recommendations** demonstrating how to act within a **"basic needs" mandate** and **operationalize the donor concept** by investing in **community-based mechanisms and committing to promote awareness**.

We aim to highlight how **reintegration programming** can better **accommodate sustainable solutions** to climate change and infrastructure incorporating people's mental health needs.

You may find the **4 research briefs** along with a synthesis report [here](#).

Read more and write to us at [development@samuelhall.org](mailto:development@samuelhall.org) for any questions/concerns or suggestions.

*"There are several people like me from Kunar, Kabul, Laghman, and other provinces. We have been living here for the past 27 years. Give us a decent place to live in, we would gladly move there. If I had a home, [in my place of origin] I would have left tomorrow, but we don't have our own homes. What can we do, what can we do?" – IDP women representative, Jalalabad Participatory Forum*

### Some of our key insights and recommendations from the four briefs are as follows:

Community health is on the decline:  
People no longer have the environmental, economic and social resources to support and care for themselves.



Address the specific needs of women, men, girls, and boys, responding to the distinct mental health challenges experienced by different population demographics. Urgent need to destigmatise mental health conditions through local-level community campaigns

Climate change acts as a threat multiplier in Afghanistan. Afghan women are more negatively impacted by climate change than men as they are also subject to domestic violence. It is also causing tensions b/w host and displaced communities



Fund targeted research on the links between displacement and climate change in Afghanistan to build stronger evidence about environmental displacement. While also increasing capacity building and training of officials on sustainable natural resource management

Research on basic services & infrastructure found that fragile gains are being reversed. Basic services are needed, with access not dependent on migration status.



Facilitate data collection on access to basic services in rural vs urban areas, in order to improve delivery of services throughout Afghanistan. And invest in road infrastructure to facilitate access to basic services, especially for those living in urban areas.

Many urban migrants are now returning to their rural communities of origin due to the plummeting economy & significantly reduced job opportunities in cities.



Their voices need to be included in policies & programmes through participation & inclusion. Also carry out community consultations to determine the best means of delivering support,

*"There have been times that I have brought rat poison in the house [for committing suicide]. I don't want people to remember me with nasty names due to this living condition...I have seen many people in bad condition. For example, they wanted to kill their entire family members by giving them rat poison." – Male Pashtun IDP, Herat,*

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organisation, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

Samuel Hall is a social enterprise that conducts research in countries affected by issues of migration and displacement. Our mandate is to produce research that delivers a contribution to knowledge with an impact on policies, programmes and people. Our research connects the voices of communities to changemakers for more inclusive societies. Samuel Hall has offices in Afghanistan, Kenya, Germany and Tunisia and a presence in Somalia, Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates. For more information, please visit: [www.samuelhall.org](http://www.samuelhall.org)