

Practice-based Pathway: Internship with University Research Co. (URC)

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Background

University Research Co., LLC (URC) is a development technical assistance provider based in Chevy Chase, Maryland, specializing in health service delivery and quality improvement. URC's approach to development prioritizes localization, leadership, solutions, and sustainable change to achieve project goals and sustain them after the projects end.



URC has worked in projects in over 90 countries.

URC website: <https://www.urc-chs.com/>

OBJECTIVES

The goals of my internship were:

- ☉ To learn about how URC is organized and the effective project management strategies that an organization like URC uses to support its projects.
- ☉ To gain practical experience by supporting field teams operating in developing nations like Myanmar.

To achieve my goals, I worked closely with Lani Marquez, the Knowledge Management Director, who offered invaluable guidance and support.

SCOPE OF WORK

My scope of work encompassed four themes:



Knowledge Management (KM) Practices



President's Malaria Initiative - Eliminate Malaria (PMI-EM) Project



Project Management and Leadership Training Program (PMLTP)



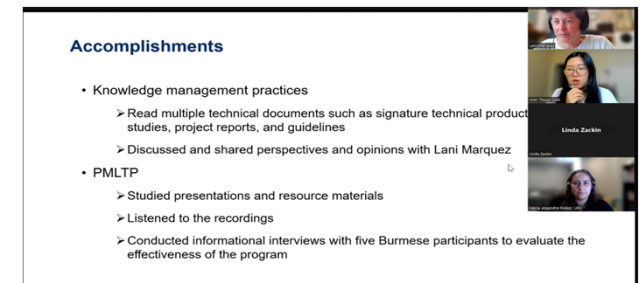
Interviews with various staff members at the headquarters office

Accomplishments

- ☑ Developed data visualization for five-year data of 29 townships (2017-2022) in PMI-EM project.
- ☑ Reviewed, revised, and formatted success stories for quarterly donor reports in PMI-EM project.
- ☑ Conducted informational interviews with five Burmese participants to evaluate the effectiveness of the PMLTP.
- ☑ Learned different knowledge management practices and multiple technical documents such as signature technical products, case studies, project reports, and guidelines.
- ☑ Interviewed many staff members at the HQ office to understand their roles in effectively functioning an NGO with international programs.

KEY AREAS OF LEARNING

- ☉ Different KM practices and its benefits
- ☉ Effective project management, leadership, and business development practices
- ☉ Most Significant Change (MSC) methodology
- ☉ Coordination practices, implementation challenges, and innovative strategies of the PMI-EM project
- ☉ URC's internal management policies and approaches
- ☉ Roles of HQ staff in supporting development assistance projects



Presentation for reflections on my internship experience at URC (Virtually)

CONCLUSION

This internship enhanced my knowledge and skills related to project management tools and KM practices, which are critical to developing efficient and impactful health initiatives to address global health challenges. Overall, these valuable insights and experiences will contribute to my growth as a professional in the field of global health.