

My life after graduation from Mahidol University

I am Mr. Zaw Zen Let. I was able to pursue MPH (Master of Public Health) successfully at Mahidol University for one year with a full scholarship granted by KAAD and Bettina-Kattermann-Foundation. On 23rd June 2016, I graduated from Mahidol University. Soon after that, I came back to my country, Myanmar in order to serve my communities and people residing in Myanmar by utilizing the knowledge and skills that I gained from my study.

As I am a public health professional and have keen interest in the collective areas of monitoring, evaluation and research related to health sector for my career, I searched for the jobs that match with my interest and career. After that, I worked as “Health Knowledge Management and M&E Specialist” based in Yangon for World Vision International-Myanmar for about 11 months. Then, I worked as “M&E Officer” based in Pantanaw for Jhpiego for one year and six months. Then, I started working as “Monitoring and Evaluation Manager” for MdM in Myitkyina, Kachin State on 24th June 2019.

I have been working as “Monitoring and Evaluation Manager” for MdM in Myitkyina, Kachin State for over one year. I have to work on “Harm Reduction Project”, which is to increase the access to Harm Reduction services by addressing health, social, legal and normative barriers through a community-led approach and partnership and focuses on the high-risk groups of people who use drugs and their female partners in Kachin State. In Kachin, the project is implemented in 3 main sites (Myitkyina, Moegaung, Hopin). The project is implemented with a comprehensive approach, including a wide range of activities for prevention (drop-in centres, outreach activities including harm reduction, methadone substitution therapy) and care (STI diagnosis and treatment, HIV diagnosis and treatment, including ARV).

I have to design, implement and maintain the M&E System of MdM projects in Kachin. I have to define the policy and procedures related to the M&E System (including reporting, monitoring, evaluation, data quality control, back-up, and respect of confidentiality of information related to MdM beneficiaries). I have to support development and update of adapted M&E Plans in line with projects strategies. I have to provide regular technical and analytic feedbacks to program staff on outcomes of the routine reports monitoring program activities at Kachin level. I have to support my team in all evaluation, capitalization and possibly operational research projects implemented at Kachin level, including design of adapted methodology as well as development of data collection, management and analysis processes. I also have to supervise staff of the M&E Department including technical support and guidance in performing their routine tasks, on-job trainings, definition of personal work plans with clear timelines and objectives.

In conclusion, I can say that my MPH degree has equipped me with the knowledge and skills that I can practically apply in my work. Thus, I would like to give special thanks to all the responsible staff of KAAD and Bettina-Kattermann-Foundation for granting me a full scholarship in order for me to be able to do MPH at Mahidol University, one of the best universities in Asia.

Below is my photo (It was taken at my office where I am now working as “Monitoring and Evaluation Manager” for MdM in Myitkyina, Kachin State.)

