Hello! My name is Hope Tambala, a University of Michigan (UMich) graduate, Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV), and designer/developer in UX and DataViz. Equipped with international experience as a volunteer and technical skills as a programmer, my life-long career goal is to research, design, and engineer sustainable solutions with technology for the underserved. Currently, I'm at the University of Michigan School of Information studying UX Research and Design (M.S.I. 2020).

As a Peace Corps Volunteer, I focused on program management and project evaluation on multiple capacity-building projects in the Dominican Republic from 2015-2017. This work included collaboration with the local clinic to teach women in rural communities about healthy nutrition, training school youth about sexual health, and writing/managing a funded grant with regards to community latrine construction. Being passionate and hands-on while understanding flexibility and humility has proved to be crucial in creating effective capacity-building projects. The experience of living and working in the Dominican Republic taught me how to mitigate conflicts in unfamiliar contexts and primarily in another language. Understanding and learning these cultural intricacies provided a skill set unique to addressing the challenges of living abroad and working with host nationals in rural settings and has been key in identifying user needs and understanding the principles of user research.

I also have educational, research, and professional experience in data analytic and mobile development. As an undergraduate student, I worked in a bioinformatics research lab. After working in basic science for two years as an undergrad, I worked on building a quantitative data analysis tool to observe physics education and student-teacher behavior in Python. As a current graduate student, I work as a Data Visualization Consultant for the Hatcher Graduate Library at UMich where we develop projects with many visualization libraries in JavaScript such as D3, Python such as Plotly, and other visualization tools such as Tableau.

I'm currently a co-founder of Puente, an international development nonprofit organization where I create mobile, web, and database applications. A sample of my professional mobile design/development work can be found here https://puente-dr.com/data-collection/. We're focused on creating a digital platform to organize international health development efforts and work with host country nationals to develop their own community solutions.

Through these experiences, I've engaged in all aspects of front-end development from researching which interactions improve the user engagement to designing and developing user-centric experiences in data visualization and mobile development. These experiences coupled with a technical skillset have proved to be assets in all my works going forward!

Thanks for your time, and I look forward to speaking with you!

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