



# POST-ASSIGNMENT REPORT

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES

---

DURATION: 8/2024-2/2025



# INTRODUCITON

During my six-month UN Volunteer (UNV) assignment with UNOPS, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the organization. As part of the Project Management Office (PMO), our primary responsibilities involved supporting project managers and project executives in the successful implementation of various projects. This included ensuring that all projects adhered to timelines and budgets in accordance with UNOPS policies.

The scope of the projects I worked on varied across procurement, infrastructure, and human resources. Each category of project required the application of specific rules and quality assurance measures.

Throughout my assignment, I was involved in projects across different categories and regions. My main responsibilities included ensuring that all project documentation, reports, and plans were regularly updated and submitted to stakeholders in a timely manner, in line with contractual obligations. On a quarterly basis, our team was responsible for preparing materials for the Project Board Meetings (PB Meetings), where we reported on project progress and addressed any challenges encountered. In addition, we organized Checkpoint Meetings with the project manager to follow up on action points discussed during the PB Meetings and to receive updates on their implementation.

Furthermore, our team was actively involved in developing various templates and monitoring tools to enhance workflow efficiency and support effective project management.



## Mental Challenges

On my first day of work, I felt extremely nervous and overwhelmed, as I had little idea of what was expected of me. There was a significant workload from the very beginning, and limited time to get up to speed. Starting the assignment remotely made it even more challenging—I found it difficult to connect with colleagues and fully grasp the details of my responsibilities.

After a month, I was finally able to relocate to Bangkok and begin working on-site. Moving there alone was a daunting experience. I was aware that I would be far from my family and friends, and that I would need to manage everything on my own. Initially, this transition was mentally challenging. The workload was heavy, and I often felt uncertain about who to turn to for guidance or support. There was a period when I experienced significant stress.

Fortunately, as time went on, I had the opportunity to reflect on what I truly wanted to gain from this experience and how I could make the most of my time in Thailand for personal and professional growth. This shift in perspective helped me feel more fulfilled with my six-month journey.

I am especially grateful to my UNV buddies in Bangkok and my colleagues, who offered me continuous support and encouragement. Their kindness made a meaningful difference and helped me adapt and grow during this experience.

## Work Challenges

During my assignment, I encountered various challenges, particularly in meeting project timelines and staying within budget—both of which are critical success criteria. However, unexpected circumstances often arose, leading to potential delays in project delivery. These included extreme weather conditions, delayed payments, and complexities in communication and negotiation with multiple stakeholders.

When such issues occurred, our team's role was to investigate the root causes, engage with project management to explore solutions, and support the implementation of revised project plans. In project management, there is rarely a "finalized plan"—most plans are subject to change due to unforeseen factors. As such, our responsibility included developing templates and monitoring tools aimed at minimizing the risk of delays and improving project resilience. One effective tool we utilized was a monitoring system that allowed project managers to log risks, ongoing issues, and lessons learned. This tool served not only to track current project status but also to prevent similar issues from recurring in future phases or projects.



# CHALLENGES

# Friends and Colleagues

First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all my friends and colleagues who have supported me throughout my six-month assignment. Over this period, I had the opportunity to travel extensively across Thailand, meet people from various agencies, join different community gatherings, and exchange thoughts and experiences with individuals from diverse backgrounds. I truly appreciate the chance to connect with people from around the world and gain a deeper understanding of their cultures and perspectives.

This assignment has also been a journey of personal growth. I have become more independent and developed a clearer vision for my future career path. I participated in many activities that I had never tried while in Hong Kong. Stepping out of my comfort zone has shown me that many things are possible when you're willing to take the first step and give them a try.





## LIFE IN BANGKOK

During my time in Bangkok, I had the opportunity to visit many places and participate in a variety of activities, which allowed me to fully immerse myself in the local culture and daily life.

One of the highlights was visiting historical sites and engaging in conversations with local residents to better understand their lifestyles. Bangkok is full of vibrant and beautiful places, such as night markets, temples, and art exhibitions. The night markets, in particular, offer a wide selection of delicious local food and unique handmade crafts. I was especially impressed by the weekly handicraft markets, where people not only shop but also enjoy chatting with others. This warm and interactive atmosphere was one of the most fascinating aspects of the experience.

Street food is another major part of life in Bangkok—you can find it almost everywhere. I was amazed by the variety available, especially the common two-dish or three-dish meal boxes, which reflect the essence of home-style Thai cooking. These simple yet flavorful meals really captured my interest.

Most memorably, my social life in Bangkok was greatly enriched through regular gatherings with friends and colleagues. We often met for sports, lunches, and even karaoke nights. These joyful moments brought a lot of happiness and energy to my daily life, making my time in Bangkok both fulfilling and vibrant.



# CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I am truly grateful for the opportunity to serve as a UN Volunteer. This experience has been incredibly meaningful and enriching, both professionally and personally. Through this assignment, I have gained valuable insights and realized there is still so much more for me to learn.

From a professional perspective, the diverse nature of the projects gave me broad exposure to global issues and various implementation approaches. Working on international projects helped me better understand how to execute initiatives more efficiently and effectively, while also deepening my understanding of global working cultures.

On a personal level, meeting people from different cultural backgrounds allowed me to experience and appreciate a wide range of traditions, perspectives, and lifestyles. These interactions broadened my worldview and made me more open-minded and adaptable in both work and life.

Overall, this journey has strengthened my sense of purpose, enhanced my cross-cultural communication skills, and inspired me to continue pursuing a career that makes a meaningful impact.

