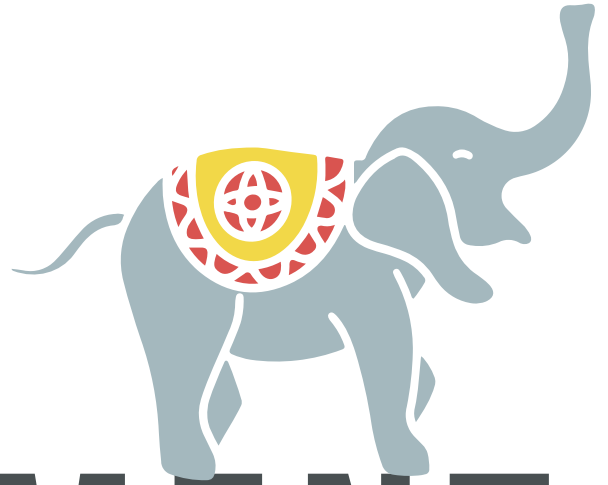


ASSIGNMENT DURATION: JULY 2024 - JANUARY 2025

# POST ASSIGNMENT REPORT



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME BANGKOK REGIONAL HUB



Prepared by: Mak Cressida  
Job Title: UNV in Social Enterprise Support Associate

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

## 02

## INTRODUCTION



My six-month assignment as a United Nations Volunteer (UNV) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangkok Regional Hub has been a profoundly enriching and transformative experience. As a student, I initially approached this opportunity with curiosity and a sense of awe, given the UN's global stature and impact. My role was embedded within the Youth Co:Lab initiative, a flagship program that empowers young people across the Asia-Pacific region to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through social innovation, entrepreneurship, and leadership development. This report provides an in-depth overview of my duties, learning experiences, challenges, reflections, and personal growth during this assignment.



## SPRINGBOARD ELEVATE

At the heart of my assignment was to support the implementation of the Springboard ELEVATE program, a key component of Youth Co:Lab's inclusive entrepreneurship portfolio. This program is designed to foster social innovation among youth, particularly focusing on marginalized groups to ensure the "Leave No One Behind" principle is upheld.

03

## DUTIES PERFORMED



- Supporting social entrepreneurs within the inclusive entrepreneurship portfolio.
- Managing accounts for all participating social entrepreneurs, ensuring accuracy and timely updates.
- Conducting regular touch-base calls with entrepreneurs to monitor progress, provide guidance, and address challenges.
- Maintaining and updating the program database with new opportunities and resources.
- Curating and disseminating newsletters to engage and inform the broader Springboard community.
- Organizing and hosting Movers Workshops on key topics such as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), gender equality, and leadership development for female entrepreneurs.
- Coordinating school visits aimed at raising awareness about Youth Co:Lab's mission and the role of youth in driving social change.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

#	Opportunity	Application Deadline	Location	Status	Opportunity Tag
1	YDF Global Impact Challenge for SDG Venture	July 12, 2024	Online	Application Closed	Open to All
2	SDG Foundation Grant	August 31, 2024	Online	Application Closed	China, Hong Kong, India, L...
3	YDF Global Entrepreneurship Challenge	August 12, 2024	Online	Application Closed	Open to All
4	YDF Teenpreneur Global Challenge 2024	September 23, 2024	Online	Application Closed	Open to All
5	SDG Digital Game Challenge Award	August 15, 2024	Online	Application Closed	Open to All
6	YDF Innovation 2024 Social Accelerator	September 5, 2024	Online	Application Closed	Open to All
7	Climate Catalysts Fellowship Programme	Ongoing	Online	Application Closed	Open to All
8	Responsible Technology Youth Pioneer Fund	August 8, 2024	Online	Application Closed	Open to All
9	LEAP Cambodia	August 8, 2024	Online	Application Closed	Open to All
10	Impact Accelerator	August 31, 2024	Online	Application Closed	Open to All
11	Pastor Earth Grant 2024	August 31, 2024	Online	Application Closed	Open to All
12	Scaling Online Gender-Based Violence Training	September 23, 2024	Online	Application Closed	Open to All
13	YDF Young Innovators Award	October 10, 2024	Online	Application Closed	Open to All
14	Global Youth Climate Training Program	August 10, 2024	Online	Application Closed	Open to All
15	Youth Interfaith Leaders Fellowship On Climate	August 31, 2024	Online	Application Closed	Open to All
16	YDF Award 2024	October 10, 2024	Online	Application Closed	Open to All
17	Global Youth Future 2024 for Gender Eq.	September 5, 2024	Online	Application Closed	Open to All
18	Child Rights Innovation Fund "What's the Possi..."	September 24, 2024	Online	Application Closed	Open to All
19	YDF Community Global Youth Fellow 2024-2025	September 5, 2024	Online	Application Closed	Open to All



- Supported the Asia-Pacific Youth Development Forum (APYDF) 2024 and the Regional Demo Day on Resilient Food Systems, which showcased innovative solutions by young social entrepreneurs.
- Added 150+ new opportunities to a global opportunity database, ensuring young social entrepreneurs have access to the latest resources for venture growth.
- Curated 4 monthly newsletters featuring Youth Co:Lab community updates, venture highlights, and opportunities.
- Successfully hosting my first Movers Workshop in September, which attracted over 170 participants online



## 04

## LEARNINGS

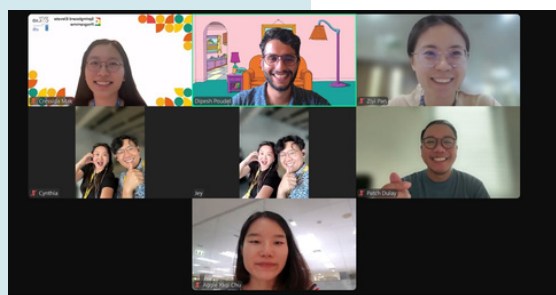
“Real power emerges when we unite diverse perspectives to build a stronger, more inclusive community”

Working closely with social entrepreneurs from a wide range of backgrounds, I witnessed firsthand the transformative power of inclusive entrepreneurship. Hearing their stories and perspectives gave me a deeper appreciation for the unique challenges and innovative solutions that emerge when everyone has a seat at the table. This understanding was further reinforced through the workshops on Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) and disability inclusion, where open dialogue revealed both the barriers faced and the collective strength found in diverse communities. Collaborating within an intercultural team allowed me to see how different experiences and viewpoints can drive creative problem-solving and foster a sense of belonging. Altogether, these experiences have shaped my belief in the UN vision that true social impact is achieved when we intentionally include, empower, and uplift every voice—ensuring that no one is left behind on the path to sustainable development.



## CHALLENGES

Due to the high cost of travel and logistical challenges involved in bringing together participants from different countries, we primarily conducted our programs virtually. While this approach made our events more accessible and inclusive, it also introduced a unique set of challenges. Coordinating across multiple time zones often complicated scheduling and real-time communication, and occasional technical issues—such as unstable internet connections, electricity shortages, or platform glitches—sometimes disrupted the flow of online workshops and meetings. I am especially grateful to the participants, who showed remarkable flexibility and commitment by adapting to time differences and overcoming these obstacles. Navigating these complexities taught me the importance of contingency planning, digital literacy, and maintaining patience and adaptability—skills that are increasingly vital in today's virtual work environment.





## 06

## REFLECTION



“Diversity and inclusion, leaving no one behind, are not just ideals—they are the foundation of sustainable peace and development.”

— ACHIM STEINER, UNDP ADMINISTRATOR

Before joining UNDP, my understanding of the United Nations’ work was largely theoretical. Through this assignment, I gained a genuine appreciation for the UN’s commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and the “Leave No One Behind” (LNOB) agenda at the regional level. I saw how the organization actively addresses the challenges of cross-cultural collaboration and virtual engagement, not only through flexible digital programs but also by prioritizing in-person opportunities—like the regional demo day and welcoming entrepreneurs to our office. These experiences highlighted the importance of intentional inclusion and the irreplaceable value of face-to-face connection in building trust and community. I am grateful for the resilience and openness shown by all participants, and for the UN’s leadership in fostering environments where every voice matters. This journey has left me empowered and inspired to carry these values forward in my career and beyond.



## CONCLUSION

“Every ending is a new beginning.”

– MARIANNE WILLIAMSON

Although this assignment marks the end of my time as a UN Volunteer, it is truly the beginning of a more globalized and purpose-driven career. This experience has equipped me with practical skills, broadened my worldview, and inspired a lifelong dedication to advancing equity and sustainable development. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the UN’s mission and to be part of a community striving for positive change. The lessons learned and relationships built during this period will undoubtedly shape my path forward, fueling my commitment to making a meaningful impact on a global scale.





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Agency for Volunteer Service (AVS) Hong Kong, whose unwavering commitment to promoting and supporting youth volunteerism made this overseas UNV assignment possible. This invaluable opportunity was made available through their youth volunteer programme, funded by the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB), with the support of the Hong Kong Volunteers Association and the Peace and Development Foundation.

I am also profoundly grateful to the United Nations Development Programme, particularly the Youth Team at the Bangkok Regional Hub, for their exceptional guidance and encouragement. Also the UNV office for their seamless onboarding process and steadfast support throughout my assignment.

