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# POST- ASSIGNMENT REPORT



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(RUE)



IOM NEPAL -  
MIGRATION &  
DEVELOPMENT



THE GLOBAL GOALS

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# Overview

## Transformative Journey – From Virtual Preparation to Field Impact

**August - December 2024: Community-Based Protection of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – Jakarta, Indonesia**

**Initiatives:** Protection Advocacy for Refugees & Cross-Cultural Learning

During my assignment as a UN Volunteer with UNHCR Indonesia, I underwent comprehensive training to familiarize myself with protection principles and operational standards. This foundational preparation enabled me to contribute meaningfully to UNHCR's protection mandate with remote support. Through these efforts, I strengthened my technical skills in humanitarian response while deepening my understanding of UNHCR's protection mandate.

UNHCR's commitment to refugee self-reliance and community-led protection inspired me to support refugee affairs, even when various constraints limited my role to remote collaboration. The assignment's emphasis on economic inclusion and youth empowerment mirrored my conviction that durable solutions require investing in displaced populations' agency. I was drawn to the challenge of adapting protection strategies to urban contexts, where refugees often face invisible barriers. Despite not being physically present in Jakarta, I will remain dedicated to creating tools like digital awareness materials that could empower refugees and NGO partners—turning limitations into an exercise in innovative, technology-enabled humanitarian response.

## **December 2024 - March 2025: Migration & Development of International Organization for Migration (IOM) – Kathmandu, Nepal**

**Initiatives:** Connecting with Migration Communities & Professional Growth

Transitioning to in-person work with IOM Nepal allowed me to engage directly with migrant communities and contribute to impactful projects. My role centered on event coordination, communications, and research, all aimed at amplifying IOM's mission in migration and development. Driven by IOM's mission to promote humane and orderly migration, I sought to contribute my skills in communications and stakeholder engagement to support Nepal's migration governance framework. My communications work involved designing the 2024 annual newsletter to highlight IOM's key achievements, capturing event photography for promotional materials, and developing compelling human-interest stories that brought migrant experiences to life. I was particularly motivated by the opportunity to bridge migration discussions with grassroots realities—whether through designing accessible newsletters to amplify migrant voices or assisting research that informs livelihood preservation strategies.

The chance to work alongside government, academia, and local communities aligned with my passion for collaborative solutions to complex challenges like climate-induced displacement and labor migration. Ultimately, both assignments appealed to my core values: using communication skills to make technical topics relatable, advocating for marginalized groups, and finding purpose in both fieldwork and remote adaptation. The UNV framework's emphasis on volunteerism as a catalyst for change reinforced my view that sustainable impact requires humility, cultural curiosity, and a willingness to serve where most needed—whether in person or online.



# Reflection

## Pathways to Purpose – Navigating Challenges and Enlightenments in UNV Service

My UNV journey commenced with a remote internship for UNHCR Indonesia from August to December 2024, followed by an in-person internship with IOM Nepal from December 2024 to March 2025. The initial online experience was due to visa delays, which added uncertainty to my plans. Accordingly, I embraced the idea that everything happens for a reason, allowing me to approach challenges with a more positive attitude, which comes with more positive feedback. At the end of December, I was guided to the on-site UNV position with IOM Nepal. The transition brought me back to Kathmandu, reconnecting me with the culturally profound city where I had first engaged in sustainability project co-creation with Tarun Secondary School students through PolyU's EAGLE Global Youth Leadership Programme during May 2024.



During this time in Nepal, I worked alongside new colleagues who shared my passion for migration issues and reconnected with the talented students from Tarun School. It was heartwarming to see how much they had grown in just a year. The once small children were now more confident and articulate, with clearer visions for their futures. Hearing their stories and aspirations was incredibly inspiring. They talked about their dreams, their challenges, and the progress they had made. This reunion was a powerful reminder of the impact we can have on each other's lives. These emotional connections enriched my experience and reaffirmed my commitment to supporting youth and communities in future journeys. Thanks to IOM, witnessing the impact of effective migration policies and support systems on individuals' lives has reinforced my commitment to this field. I now feel more motivated than ever to contribute to social welfare initiatives that prioritize the rights and well-being of all individuals.





# Impacts

## Synergizing Aspirations – How Academic Development Informed UNV Advocacy

Looking back on these experiences can also profoundly impact how I embrace future opportunities. During my time with the UNV, I further solidified my belief in the importance of living life to the fullest, both academically and in extracurricular activities. This period reinforced my commitment to pursuing excellence in all that I do, ensuring that my experiences are both enriching and fulfilling.



One of the highlights of my academic journey was presenting linguistic research of migration issues at the PolyU Undergraduate Conference on Applied Linguistics and Language Studies (PolyU-CALLS), which allowed me to bridge fieldwork experiences with theoretical frameworks and connect my UNV observations with academic discourse on migration narratives.

In addition to my academic pursuits, I remained actively involved in the performing arts. As a member of the PolyU Hall Dance Team, I directed and performed multiple guest shows at the HKU MDanso Annual Performance, CUHK Danceholic Society Annual Performance, PolyU International Culture Festival, etc. This experience was not only a creative outlet but also a chance to collaborate with talented individuals who share my passion for choreography. It taught me to constantly review the significance of spiritual connection in teamwork.

With each of these experiences, I have gained a deeper understanding of my capabilities and how to leverage them effectively. The combination of my academic achievements and artistic endeavors has led to a more self-assured approach in my professional field. Reflecting on my journey, I now feel much more at ease in expressing multi-faced talents and navigating my career path comprehensively, knowing that I have built a solid foundation through both my professional and volunteerism commitments.

