

Post-assignment Report

Name: LUNG Lai Ching, Zora

Duty station: Almaty, Kazakhstan (UNICEF)

During my assignment as a UN University Volunteer in Partnerships and Resource Mobilization with UNICEF in Kazakhstan, I undertook several key responsibilities aimed at enhancing partnerships and resource mobilization efforts. I supported the organization of UNICEF's inaugural gala dinner, which successfully raised 92,600,000 KZT for the Digital Inclusivity Program. My role involved coordinating logistics, managing invitations, and ensuring a seamless event experience. Additionally, I developed compelling concept notes for various fundraising programs, which I presented to potential partners, requiring thorough research and careful tailoring of our proposals to align with their interests. I also conducted a comprehensive mapping of over 50 businesses across Kazakhstan, analyzing their corporate social responsibility (CSR) objectives to create tailored partnership proposals and foster collaboration. Furthermore, I evaluated the existing UNICEF Kazakhstan webpage, identifying areas for improvement and redesigning its layout and content to enhance its appeal to potential investors.

Through this experience, I gained invaluable skills in project management and refined my communication and marketing abilities. Working in Kazakhstan provided rich cultural insights, helping me navigate local business practices while aligning fundraising initiatives with community values. I learned the importance of adaptability in the nonprofit context, which equipped me to approach problems from different angles and foster collaborative relationships. However, I also encountered challenges, such as navigating cultural differences, which required patience and observation to learn local customs. Language barriers occasionally led to misunderstandings, highlighting the importance of effective communication strategies. Additionally, balancing multiple responsibilities during the lead-up to the gala dinner felt overwhelming at times, reinforcing the necessity of effective time management.

Reflecting on my overall experience as a UN Volunteer, I feel a deep sense of personal growth and appreciation for the work undertaken by the UN and its agencies. My time with UNICEF enhanced my understanding of the intricacies of UN operations and the significant impact that partnerships have on achieving developmental goals. Ultimately, this assignment not only enriched my professional skills but also deepened my understanding of global issues and the vital role of volunteerism in sustainable development.