

*Batch 8 | June 2024 - Jan 2025*

# MY UNV JOURNEY IN NEPAL



**NGAN MAN CHIN**

*Working as a Communication and  
Partnership Assistant in UNDP, Nepal*



*My internship at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nepal can be divided into two general areas of work: Communication and Partnership.*



### **Support UNDP Nepal's Communication Team**

- I. Increase the visibility of UNDP Nepal's projects and programmes
- II. Revise UNDP Nepal's internal communication team guidelines and documents
- III. Interview beneficiary and publish knowledge products for external reference
- IV. Ensure regular update of UNDP Nepal digital communication channels, including searching for information, drafting of posts, regular update of website and social media accounts
- V. Drafting, designing and finalizing of knowledge products and project summary for the donor promotion of UNDP Nepal projects

### **Support UNDP Nepal's Internal Communication and External Cooperation**

- I. Improve UNDP Nepal's internal communication channels
- II. Attend joint meetings between UNDP Nepal and other UN agencies / government departments / private organizations to understand the project status and expectations of different sectors
- III. Collect and analyze the content, progress and data of UNDP Nepal projects to improve internal communication awareness and external connections
- IV. Attend UNDP Nepal related seminars and activities

# Learning Experience

*Strengthening Urban Preparedness, Earthquake Preparedness and Response in Western Regions of Nepal (SUPER) Project*

*The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence*



## **Assisted in publishing knowledge products of the SUPER project.**

This project aims to strengthen the preparedness measures for earthquakes in the western provinces of Nepal and enhance coordination among various departments in order to achieve the goal of reducing earthquake casualties and losses. Since the communication officer of the SUPER project team had just resigned, my leader asked me to assist in the communications work. Since I was not familiar with the project content, I first redesigned some internal documents of the project team and slowly learned the project in the process. I have raised opinions in meetings regarding social media strategy for the SUPER project team to strengthen ties with Japanese donors. These meetings allowed me to micro-analyze UNDP Nepal's advocacy from a project lens. This project was funded by the Japanese government, so there was a Japanese UNV in the team as an assistant. Since we were both UNVs, she and I became the focal points for the UNDP Nepal Communication Team and the SUPER Project Team respectively.

**The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence** runs from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day) each year to promote the elimination of gender-based violence around the world. Various UN agencies have designed activities for this campaign respectively. For example, UNDP Nepal hired a photographer and invited employees to wear orange uniforms and hold relevant cards for filming in response to the campaign.

My job was to design some social media posts for this campaign. I searched for information about the campaign and data related to gender based violence to create eye-catching infographics. I also attended several joint meetings with other UN agencies to learn about their specific initiatives and advocacy strategies in response to the campaign. On November 25, I participated in a seminar organized by UNFPA Nepal and UNICEF Nepal to discuss the phenomenon of child marriage in Nepal. I learned about the gender imbalance in remote provinces of Nepal and the child marriage problems caused by religious traditions. This gave me a better understanding of Nepal's social issue.



# Challenges

Since I work in the UNDP Nepal country office rather than the regional office, most of the people in my working environment are Nepalese. They often use Nepali in daily team communication and even in meetings, which makes it hard for me to participate in the discussion. It is a pity that I was only given a concise summary sometimes. The language barrier has affected my communication with colleagues and the establishment of interpersonal relationships to some extent. In fact, I had anticipated this problem before the internship, so I started trying to learn Nepali three months before arriving in Nepal. Although in the end I only learned simple greetings and self-introductions, which was not very helpful for work. However, my motive to learn Nepali touched many locals, especially the trainees who were closer to my age. They were all happy to help me and we became good friends.

# Reflections

To reflect on my performance, I had always stayed in my comfort zone, interacting with colleagues I was familiar with, and I didn't have the courage to reach out to senior employees with more experience in the office. I admit that due to my lack of work experience, I am always timid in front of authority, and I am also worried that I will be criticized if I raise opinions or questions. But I think most people are friendly to interns. If I had been more proactive, I might have understood the the UN system more quickly from them and learned more from their experience.

It is not enough to understand a country and have a comprehensive grasp of the UN system in just 6 months. I have a lot of confusion and setbacks in the process, but I really do my best to learn, explore and fight for opportunities. In the process, what I have gained is not only the improvement of professional skills, but also soft skills such as the ability to quickly adapt to the new environment.

