

Duties Performed

During my assignment as a UN Volunteer in Project Management with UNOPS, I was responsible for supporting climate and development-related initiatives. My main duties included assisting in project implementation, coordinating procurement processes, and contributing to reporting activities. I supported the development of procurement plans and tracked delivery timelines, ensuring compliance with internal procedures. I also helped compile and review project documentation and reports, contributing to internal knowledge management and donor reporting.

Additionally, I participated in meetings with implementing partners and internal teams, helping to facilitate communication and ensure that projects remained aligned with their goals. This experience gave me exposure to the operational aspects of development programming and project cycles, from planning to execution.

Learning Experiences

This assignment has been a highly valuable learning experience, particularly in understanding the intricacies of project management and procurement within a UN context. I had the opportunity to take several training courses provided by UNOPS, which deepened my technical knowledge and awarded me official certificates.

Professionally, I gained practical experience in using internal UN systems, supporting workflows, and understanding the importance of documentation and compliance. Culturally, working in a diverse and inclusive team allowed me to develop better cross-cultural communication skills and deepen my appreciation for collaborative, international workspaces.

Challenges Encountered

One significant challenge I faced during my assignment was related to visa issues, which initially delayed my ability to be physically present in the duty station. This created uncertainty at the start of my role, especially as I began working remotely. However, I was extremely grateful for the support from both my team and AVS team. They were patient, understanding, and consistently proactive in helping me find a solution.

Eventually, I was able to relocate to Thailand, which allowed me to experience the benefits of an in-person working environment, including deeper engagement with the team and better integration into daily operations. During the remote period, I also felt well-supported — the team made sure I was included, informed, and had access to everything I needed to contribute meaningfully from afar. This flexibility and encouragement made a big difference in my overall experience.

Reflections

Looking back, this assignment has been an incredibly enriching journey, both personally and professionally. I am grateful for the platform UNOPS provided to apply my academic

background in global development to real-world projects that address climate change and sustainability.

Being part of a team that is both highly professional and deeply supportive taught me the value of teamwork, flexibility, and persistence. I was particularly inspired by colleagues who were always willing to share their experiences and insights. Learning from such experienced professionals is something I consider incredibly valuable.

This assignment has not only reinforced my passion for project management and sustainable development but also inspired me to continue building a career in this field. I walk away with greater confidence, clarity, and a deeper commitment to contributing to meaningful initiatives in the future.