**UN VOLUNTEER  DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT**

**Preamble:**

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that promotes volunteerism to support peace and development worldwide. Volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of development and it benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer. UNV contributes to peace and development by advocating for volunteerism globally, encouraging partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing volunteers.

In most cultures volunteerism is deeply embedded in long-established, ancient traditions of sharing and support within the communities. In this context, UN Volunteers take part in various forms of volunteerism and play a role in development and peace together with co-workers, host agencies and local communities.

In all assignments, UN Volunteers promote volunteerism through their action and conduct. Engaging in volunteer activity can effectively and positively enrich their understanding of local and social realities, as well as create a bridge between themselves and the people in their host community. This will make the time they spend as UN Volunteers even more rewarding and productive.

**1.  Volunteer Category:** ​International Youth​

**2.  Type of Assignment Place:** International UN Volunteer

**3.   Assignment Title:** Youth Engagement Assistant in Green Economy and Just Transition

**4.  Link with UNV Strategic Framework :** ​Youth​

**5.  Duty Station, Country:** Bangkok, Thailand

**6.  Duration (in months):** 6 months

**Possibility of Extension:** No

**7.  Expected Starting Date:** January 2024

**8  Host Agency/Host Institute:** UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub(BRH)

**9.  Sustainable Development Goals:** ​13. Climate Action​

**10. Organizational Context/Project:**

Many young people are struggling to access education and employment. While globally, more than 160 million youth are working, many are living in poverty. At the same time, there is hope and promise in the green transition: up to 60 million new jobs in the green economy could be created by 2030, according to the ILO. Green jobs, then, presents an opportunity to foster youth employment while simultaneously preserving the environment and increasing climate resilience.

The preamble of the Paris Agreement underscores the close links between climate action, sustainable development, and a just transition of the workforce, with decent work and quality jobs for all. UN Secretary-General António Guterres launched the Climate Action for Jobs Initiative to help foster concrete measures. The initiative brings together governments, workers’ and employers’ organizations, international institutions, academia and civil society to deliver change. In the Our Common Agenda report, the UN Secretary-General emphasized the critical role of education and skills development to support people’s capacity to navigate societal transitions throughout their lives. The green transition is shaping the experience of today’s youth in education and work. Moreover, young people who are equipped with green skills will be better prepared to act as catalysts who can lead the transition to a greener future.

Through the Climate Promise, UNDP has been supporting governments across the world to define measures under their revised Nationally Determined Contributions that contribute to green jobs creation. UNDP’s Just Transition report highlights ‘skills development’ and ‘the role of youth’ among the key pillars for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all.

Listening to young peoples’ voices, empowering and training youth and working on youth-inclusive data collection, analysis, and research are critical first steps to tap into young people’s potential, creativity, and entrepreneurship towards a green transition. Some key recommendations from UNDP’s recent publication, “Aiming Higher: Elevating Meaningful Youth Engagement for Climate Action”, include:

* Meaningfully engaging with youth, enabling young people to influence norms, behaviour, institutional structures, formal and informal political processes and accountability mechanisms;
* Supporting and encouraging youth initiatives that introduce alternatives for large-scale system transformations; and
* Initiating and strengthening research in support of policy recommendations on the role of youth in just transition and sectoral decarbonization pathways, including energy, transport, higher education, and green jobs.

The operationalization of the Just Transition and Green Economy pillars opened opportunities for more conversations and intersectional activities to be organized by the Youth Team such as trainings and curriculum development on green jobs and green entrepreneurship for youth, and the development of training programs for youth climate organizations.

To support its programmatic work and enhance its support at the ecosystem level, UNDP will conduct consultations among youth communities and partners to develop a relevant work plan of activities supporting the green economy transition, for selected countries like China in the Asia-Pacific region. Insights from the consultations will be leveraged to develop training materials and capacity-building programs for youth on green skills/jobs as well as for youth organizations to embed climate and green jobs components. Green skills/jobs projects will also be conducted in collaboration with UNDP partners and integrated into all the pillars of YEP-AP.

The consultations will generate evidence-based information that helps to strengthen the enabling environment for youth and youth organizations in the climate space. The work plan and planned activities will enable UNDP to empower mass youth groups, with a focus on marginalized communities, to lead solutions towards a green transition or to enhance their green skills and align their career choices with the climate agenda. UNDP’s work on youth engagement in green jobs will be implementated via YECAP, Youth Co:Lab and YDEEP, 3 pillars of YEP-AP.

**Youth Empowerment in Climate Actions Platform (YECAP)**

In the recent past, we are witnessing increased interest, engagement, and activism by young people towards the climate agenda. Through climate strikes etc. young people call for governments and other relevant stakeholders to take collective actions on climate change. With this context in mind, it is important to engage the voices of young people and identify actionable initiatives to lay the foundation for ambitious climate actions. Meanwhile, governments are also increasing their climate ambitions leading up to the COP28 and youth inclusion in this agenda has increased from 40% in 2015 to 75% in 2020. To foster this interaction and empower action, UNDP Asia-Pacific in collaboration with UNICEF East Asia and Pacific, UNICEF South Asia, UNFCCC Regional Collaboration – Bangkok, British Council, YOUNGO, Movers Programme and 2030 Youth Force are co-convening a regional platform.

**Youth Co:Lab**

Youth Co:Lab positions young people front and center in order to solve the region’s most pressing challenges. Co-created in 2017 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Citi Foundation, Youth Co: Lab aims to establish a common agenda for countries in the Asia-Pacific region to empower and invest in youth so that they can accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through leadership, social innovation, and entrepreneurship.

**Youth Digitalization for Employability and Entrepreneurship Program (YDEEP)**

YDEEP aims to create digital pathways and reduce digital inequality for youth, particularly those from underserved communities across Asia-Pacific. YDEEP seeks to support young people’s employability and enable them to thrive as leaders and globally engaged citizens and contribute to sustainable development in their communities and beyond.

The Bangkok Regional Hub (BRH) leverages its global network and South-South Cooperation (SSC) to facilitate mutual knowledge and experience sharing between partner countries on best practices and lessons learned. The UNDP China Youth Strategy 2023-2025 aims to support the BRH to demonstrate new innovative approaches to develop a cohesive portfolio and contribute to BRH’s Youth Empowerment Portfolio Asia-Pacific (YEP-AP) and demonstrate meaningful youth engagement and empowerment aligned with the United Nations Secretary General’s Policy Brief 3 (April 2023) on “Meaningful Youth Engagement in Policy and Decision-making Processes.

**11.  Description of tasks:**

Within the delegated authority and under the supervision of ​​Programme Specialist - Civil Society and Youth​​ and Youth Development Analyst of UNDP China, the UN Volunteer​ - Youth Engagement in a Green Economy and Just Transition Assistant ​​will assist in implementing YECAP Green Jobs Programme work plan, aligned with Youth Co:Lab and YDEEP work plans, via the following activities:

**1) Support the partnerships strategy for BRH YECAP Green Jobs Programme:**

* Support the partnership development and resources mobilization for BRH YECAP Green Jobs Programme.
* Support the development of concept notes, partnership decks, proposals.
* Consolidate the database of YECAP Green Jobs partners and potential partners across Asia-Pacific.

**2) Support the development and implementation of curriculums and training materials on green jobs/skills/employability in Asia-Pacific reigon:**

* Assess the needs, expertise of YECAP, Youth Co:Lab and YDEEP stakeholders related to green skills/jobs and employability.
* Co-develop curriculums and training materials based on consultations and alignment with YECAP, Youth Co:Lab and YDEEP stakeholders.
* The curriculums developed will be used as training materials for key regional youth events/platforms like Youth Co:Lab and YDEEP Learning Management Systems, joint webinars with YEP-AP stakeholders, Springboard Plus, Movers Programme, etc.

**3) Mobilize and engage youth and youth organizations for green jobs, green economy and just transition in Asia-Pacific region:**

* Organize, facilitate and/or coordinate at least 12 Movers Workshops on Green Jobs for Youth and provide mentorship to at least 10 YECAP volunteers to conduct similar workshops.
* Build a community of young climate leaders and youth organizations interested in the green economy and just transition.
* Support relevant green skills/jobs and employability initiatives from YECAP youth and youth organizations communities.
* Consolidate the database of YECAP Green Jobs activities across Asia-Pacific.

**4) Support the implementation of YECAP in China:**

* Support the documentation drafting and implementation of YECAP activities in China.
* Mobilize and engage youth and youth organizations from China for YECAP.
* Localize the regional green skills curriculums, toolkits and training materials in China.

**Support any other related tasks as may be required or assigned by the supervisor.**

**Furthermore, UNVs are encouraged to:**

* Strengthen their knowledge and understanding of the concept of volunteerism by reading relevant UNV and external publications and taking an active part in UNV activities (for instance, IVD celebration events);
* Get acquainted with and build on traditional and/or local forms of volunteerism in the host country;
* Reflect on the type and quality of voluntary action that they are undertaking;
* Contribute news and articles on field experiences and submit them to UNV publications/websites, newsletters, press releases, etc.;
* Assist with the UNV Buddy Programme for newly arrived UNV volunteers;
* Promote online volunteering and encourage individuals and organizations to use the UNV Online Volunteering Service whenever technically feasible.

**12.  Results/Expected Output:**

*(Measurable matrix is encouraged in this section)*

* # young people benefited, trained and engaged through YECAP and YDEEP
* # new partners in the youth development ecosystem that has green jobs training
* # curriculums on green jobs, employability localized in Chinese
* # YECAP activities in China

**13.  Qualifications/Requirements:**

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in sustainable development, environmental management, social/political sciences, business administration, international relations, or other related expertise areas required.

**Skills and experience description:**

* Experience on youth empowerment and/or climate change, green skills/jobs, employability issues is an asset.
* Sound understanding of sustainable development, social dimension of environmental management issues, climate mitigation and adaptation, climate risks and impacts issues.
* Experience working with youth organizations, community development and professional experiences in supporting climate action and/or employability for youth in countries within Asia-Pacific region is an asset.
* Demonstrated experience with working with youth engagement as part of stakeholder engagement is an asset.

**Competencies and values:**

​​☒​Accountability

​​☒​Adaptability and Flexibility

​​☒​Building Trust

​​☒​Client Orientation

​​☒​Commitment and Motivation

​​☒​Commitment to Continuous Learning

​​☒​Communication

​​☒​Creativity

​​☒​Empowering Others

​​☒​Ethics and Values

​​☒​Integrity

​​☒​Judgement and Decision-making

​​☒​Knowledge Sharing

​​☒​Leadership

​​☒​Managing Performance

​​☒​Planning and Organizing

​​☒​Professionalism

​​☒​Respect for Diversity

​​☒​Self-Management

​​☒​Technological Awareness

​​☒​Vision

​​☒​Working in Teams

**Learning Expectations**

Learning and development are a central part of the UN Youth Volunteer’s assignment and take place before, during and after his or her assignment in the field. Ideally, offering diverse opportunities for learning and development aim to strengthen the volunteer’s skills and com-petences, improve the quality of the assignment and keep the volunteer’s motivation high.

Learning elements for the UN Youth Volunteer include the development of:

Professional skills: including specific competencies and reflection on assignment-related abil-ities; and on-the-job skills such as time management, problem solving, team building; and career preparedness such as interview skills, CV preparation, job searching.

Inter-personal skills: including communication and listening skills; multi-cultural awareness and cultural competency; and conflict and stress management.

Volunteering-related skills: including leadership; civic responsibility; and engagement and ac-tive participation.

Beyond the learning opportunities provided by UNV, the host agency will support knowledge and capacity development in the technical areas that are relevant to the UN Youth Volun-teer’s assignment. The host agency will provide, at its expense, UN Youth Volunteers with equal opportunity to participate in training courses and workshops offered to its personnel.