

Andrew Carey
UN-Cambodia Internship

I recently completed an internship with the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The UNRC coordinates development efforts, streamlines strategy, and monitors progress of 27 UN agencies throughout the country. This summer I was tasked with updating the youth-component of the most recent five-year development plan for Cambodia.

I spent the first two weeks in Phnom Penh familiarizing myself with the current situation of Cambodia's youth by reviewing previous five-year plans and up-to-date situational analyses. I quickly realized how important the youth component is to Cambodia's five-year development framework, as 36% of the population is between 10-24 years of age.

The next several weeks of my internship were spent meeting with youth officers from 12 of the 27 UN agencies operating in Cambodia. Each of the agencies I met with has youth-oriented development programs and plays a major role in determining the youth-development strategy for Cambodia. I met with youth officers from each of these organizations to review their agency's efforts towards youth-development in Cambodia since the five-year plan was drafted in 2010.

I spent the final few weeks of my internship updating the UN documents on youth-development efforts in the country and drafting a report based on my notes from meeting with youth officers from each agency. My superiors commented on the success of my assignment due to my ability to problem solve, work with others and meet deadlines.

The Tonya internship funding enabled me to live and work abroad, experience new cultures, travel in a part of the world I have never seen before, expand my network and gain exposure to a career in international affairs. I was confident in fulfilling my duties for the UN this summer and found great value in my experience. My summer in Cambodia has made me more confident that I would like to pursue a career outside the US after graduation.