

Dharmachandra Tonchongya

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Career Summary:

Communications and visual storytelling professional with over five years of experience in strategic communications, knowledge management, Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC), digital media, and multimedia content production within international development organizations. Experienced in designing and implementing communication strategies, developing knowledge products, managing digital platforms, and producing compelling stories that translate complex development and climate issues into engaging content for diverse audiences. Skilled in photography, videography, graphic design, scriptwriting, and multimedia storytelling, with proven experience supporting donor-funded projects, international conferences, and community-based initiatives. Fluent in multiple indigenous languages, Bangla, and English, bringing strong cultural sensitivity and an inclusive approach to communication. Passionate about leveraging storytelling, knowledge sharing, and digital engagement to amplify impact, promote climate resilience, and support sustainable development.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

International Center for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)

Senior Communications Officer

March 2025 to Present

Key Responsibilities –

- Lead media and communications for major global events, including Gobeshona Global Conference 5 and international learning convenings under The Loss and Damage Collaboration.
- Develop and implement communication strategies aligned with project objectives, partner expectations, and donor requirements.
- Develop SBCC materials and communication products, including animations, theatre content, brochures, and campaign materials, to support behavior change, awareness raising, and knowledge sharing.
- Manage ICCCAD's digital platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube), enhancing institutional visibility and stakeholder engagement.
- Lead visual design, branding, and storytelling across events, campaigns, publications, and digital channels.
- Collaborate with project teams and partners to support outreach, knowledge sharing, and strategic communications across multiple initiatives.

Helen Keller International, Bangladesh

Assistant Communications Officer

August 2024 – February 2025

Story Telling Officer

November 2023 – August 2024 and April 2021 – March 2022

Key Responsibilities

- Designed SBCC and communication materials for USAID's SAPLING and BANI projects, translating complex behavioral concepts into clear, accessible content aligned with branding and messaging standards.
- Led the development and dissemination of communication assets to enhance project visibility, audience engagement, and outreach.

- Managed digital platforms, including the BANI Facebook page (14K followers) and SAPLING/BANI YouTube channels, delivering consistent and audience-focused content.
- Produced success stories, impact narratives, one-pagers, and promotional materials using Adobe Creative Suite and Canva while maintaining brand consistency across platforms.
- Developed scripts, storyboards, and post-production edits for 20+ educational and thematic videos on agriculture, nutrition, youth empowerment, home gardening, and cultural awareness.
- Developed multilingual communication resources and learning materials in Marma, Tanchangya, Mro, Bangla, and English to improve accessibility and community engagement among indigenous populations.
- Documented more than 40 field activities and events through photography and videography, capturing project implementation, community engagement, and impact.
- Integrated field insights, visuals, and community voices into compelling stories that effectively communicated project outcomes and indigenous leadership in Bandarban.

Zenmind UK

Social Media Manager and Content Creator

April 2022 – September 2022

Key Responsibilities –

- Managed ZENMIND’s social media platforms, growing and engaging communities of 500+ Facebook and 400+ Instagram followers through consistent content and community management.
- Created and published daily content, including 20+ social media creatives and 10+ short-form video reels promoting mindfulness, meditation, and well-being.
- Designed audience-focused visual content and campaigns to enhance engagement and strengthen ZENMIND’s digital presence.

Freelance Photographer and Cinematographer (2015 – 2021)

- Worked as a photographer and cinematographer at Hill Valley Weddings, capturing high-quality wedding visuals and storytelling moments.
- Served as an official photographer for the film Bir Kannya Pritilata, contributing to on-set still photography and production documentation.
- Worked as a photographer and video documentarian for The Nutrichamp Cooking Contest 2019, organized under Feed the Future, the U.S. Government’s Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative.
- Collaborated as a freelance photographer with multiple wedding teams across the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), delivering event coverage and visual storytelling.

Skills

- Photography, Videography & Video Editing, Singing and Acting
- Content Strategy, Storytelling & Digital Communications
- Visual Communication, Design & Multimedia Production
- Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Canva, and Microsoft Office Suite
- Public Speaking, Presentation & Facilitation

Languages

English (Fluent) | Bengali (Fluent) | Chittagonian (Fluent) | Tanchangya (Native) | Chakma (Fluent) Marma (Fluent)

EDUCATION:

Master of Arts in Acting

University of Chittagong

2018-2019 | CGPA: 3.50/4.00

Bachelor of Arts in Dramatics

University of Chittagong

2015 – 2018 | CGPA: 3.30/4.00

Higher Secondary Certificate

Notre Dame College, Dhaka

2011 – 2013 | CGPA: 4.30/5.00

Awards & Recognition

- Champion – Finding Buddhism in Bangladesh Vol. 1 (2017)
- Champion – PRAN Mr. Mango Photo Contest Season 1 (2021)
- 2nd Runner-Up – Contrast Foto Fest (2019)
- Participant – Photo Fest Asia (2019), Ruchi Beautigram Contest, AUW 12TH Photo Carnival.
- Selected Feature Photographer in Shomvabonar frame by UNFPA Bangladesh

Portfolio Link – <https://sites.google.com/view/dharma-raj/home>

YouTube Link - <https://www.youtube.com/@usaidsbani8287/videos>

REFERENCE –

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