

Mali Kambandu

Lusaka, Zambia

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Mali Kambandu is a professional experienced in development and corporate communications and media. She is a creative and diligent communicator, with expertise in protocol and diplomacy, editing and proofreading and exceptional strengths in technical, feature and creative fiction writing. Ms. Kambandu has extensive experience throughout Malawi, Zambia, and several regional countries, and can work remotely with any team.

SKILL HIGHLIGHTS

- °Skilled writer (news, feature, technical)
- °Skilled public speaker
- °Skilled social media manager
- °Superior facilitation & training competencies
- °Skilled researcher
- °Skilled media trainer
- °Skilled events manager and director of programme
- °Project management capabilities
- °Proficiency with range of software
- °Accomplished documentary-style photographer

PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES

Corporate communications strategies

I've taken a lead in developing communication strategies and plans, grasping organisation's goals and objectives, designing messaging, analysing audiences and designing evaluation of communication's effectiveness.

Knowledge management strategies

I've developed knowledge products that capture and package project learnings and research findings. I've also set learning goals and conducted results management techniques to assess project learnings.

Media Management

At global and local levels, I've developed and packaged media content of programmes and activities to secure media placement and visibility. I've conducted media training and social media training for team members and executive directors to improve their media engagement and thought leadership.

Programme (project) campaigns, launches and events

I've successfully planned and executed virtual and in-person events, project campaigns and launches at global and local levels. Typically, I've taken control of the communications: press releases, blogging, image galleries, social media, feature stories, and broadcast media coverage for UNCDF, JSI (eLMIS), PATH (BID Initiative), UNICEF (Journey in History and Building Young Futures), and others.

Publications management

As a skilled writer, I can effectively develop and write content, edit material and guide design in print and online formats. My particular skill in this area is capturing narratives and ensuring a strong story cements the objectives of the activities or interventions. I have done such work for UN agencies such as UN Capital Development Fund, ILO and UNICEF; Japan Tobacco International, PATH, and JSI among other organisations.

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Communications Consultant – African Guarantee Fund June 2023 to present

- Become the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) Knowledge Lead: oversight of event reports, develop WEE messaging and talking points for C-Suite delegates at events and media appearances;

- Support publication development with technical writing and editing of case studies, thought leadership pieces, policy briefs, etc.

Communications and Knowledge Management Analyst for the United Nations Capital Development Fund April 2019 - October 2023

- In Zambia and Malawi, managed the Inclusive Digital Economy programme's communications through strategy development and implementation of communications interventions, activities and campaigns, and managed a community of practice;
- Delivered engaging and topical events and high-level engagements with government stakeholders and private sector players, managing protocol and visibility of all parties.

Communications Lead and Project Management Team

for PATH Zambia

Nov 2015 to Dec 2017

- Developed and designed project communications strategies and outputs to communicate the progress of the digital health solution.
- Designed trainings and skills transfer interventions for health facility staff through in-person sessions, videos and digital platforms.

European Union Delegation Executive Committee 2023

Conducted in-person media training for European Union Delegation Executive Committee (Ambassador, Deputy Ambassador and Head of Development Cooperation) to improve and enhance their media engagement and public speaking skills.

Media Network on Child's Rights and Development 2019

Developed a handbook for civil society organisations (CSOs) to guide their engagement with media houses and platforms in their countries.

Consultant Magazine Editor – Japan Tobacco International 2013 to 2023

Manage production and develop content of INSIDE magazine, a high quality, international magazine for an industry-leader.

Consultant – Building Young Futures series 2014

Wrote a series of five human interest stories and blog posts on the youth entrepreneurship programme supported by UNICEF and Barclays to address youth unemployment globally.

----- WRITING CREDITS -----

Fiction and Short Stories

2024 – Runner-Up, The Island Prize “When The Shadows Call”

<https://www.hhousebooks.com/island-prize-winners-2021-to-present/>

2022: Published – Brittle Paper “When There are No Words” June 2022

<https://brittlepaper.com/2022/05/when-there-are-no-words-mali-kambandu-fiction/>

“On That Side of the Fence” June 2022

<https://brittlepaper.com/2022/06/on-that-side-of-the-fence-mali-kambandu-fiction/>

2022: Awarded – Brittle Paper June Writer of the Month

2018: Winner -- Kalembo Short Story Prize “A hand to hold” <https://kalembo-shortstory-prize.com/2018/04/10/kalembo-prize-goes-to-mali-kambandu/>

Shortlist -- Writivism Short Story Prize “The Photograph” <https://munyori.org/2018/07/the-photograph-by-mali-kambandu-zambia/>

EDUCATION

Graduate: **Master of Arts (MA) Degree** in Media and Communications: Pegaso University;

Undergraduate: **Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) Degree** in Health Sciences and Communications: Juniata College (Huntingdon, PA, USA);

Certificate: Creative Writing: Wesleyan University; 2025

Certificate: International Diplomacy and Protocol: African Institute of Protocol; 2023

Certificate: Digital Identity: Digital Frontiers Institute; 2021

AFFILIATIONS

TEDxLusaka Organising Committee and Senior Management Team (2016 – present)

Leading communications team to document and promote events, speakers and activites.

Toastmasters International – Madison Club:

Member. I have achieved Competent Communicator status.

WEBSITE

Please read my fiction pieces on my webpage: malikambanduwriter.com