



CII Spotlight: Nikki Tyler

Market Access Advisor
Center for Accelerating Innovation and Impact



Q: What is your role at USAID?

A: I joined the CII team in March 2015 as a Market Access Advisor. In this role, I work on the development and implementation of market-based strategies to accelerate adoption of priority health solutions and products. Currently, I am working on introduction planning around chlorhexidine, bCPAP, and pneumonia diagnostics. CII is also in the process of creating a country-level scaling guide – part of our series [Idea to Impact](#) – to provide additional guidance to users in thinking about how to prioritize countries for product scale-up and how to create a comprehensive scale-up strategy and implementation plan. Stay tuned!

Q: How did you end up at USAID?

A: My mom is a former Peace Corps volunteer who, among her other wonderful qualities (hi, mom!), wanted my sister and me to experience other cultures/places. We lived in Kuwait, the Virgin Islands, and the Turks and Caicos when I was a child (the first time I lived in the continental United States was when I went to college). My mom's life experiences influenced my desire to have an international lens to carry into my career.

In terms of USAID, after graduating with a Masters in Business Administration from the Kellogg School of Management, I was fortunate enough to meet a colleague working here at CII – Dave Milestone – through the Kellogg network. I was instantly excited by the type of work CII does and the opportunity to learn from folks with considerable expertise in global health. I felt – and still feel – incredibly lucky to have found a job that blends my passion of trying to solve tough development challenges while applying the skills that I learned in my past private sector days, which included economic consulting, an internship at Dalberg Global Development Advisors, and work around innovative financing in domestic healthcare.

Q: What makes you passionate about your job?

A: So many things – all of which I feel a great deal of gratitude! Firstly, USAID's mission of ending extreme poverty – as well as colleagues' daily dedication in doing so – is extremely inspiring. Everyone in this field, be it at USAID, ministries of health, or partners, believes and works toward leaving the world a better place. Interacting with such passionate colleagues only amplifies my own passion. Secondly, I am lucky to work with a team that stresses supporting one another, challenging one another, and creating an incredible culture. I truly enjoy coming to work.

Q: What topic(s) in global health interest(s) you the most and why?

A: I've grown increasingly interested in understanding how collaboration across all partners in global health can be most effective. Before working in global health, I underestimated the importance of collaboration; in the last year and a half, it has become more and more clear to me that no one can go it alone.