



CII Spotlight: Joseph Wilson

Senior Market Access Advisor
Center for Accelerating Innovation and Impact



Q: What is your role at USAID?

A: As a Senior Advisor in the Center for Accelerating Innovation and Impact's Market Access team, I support the Agency's work on innovative finance for global health. I focus on the creation of new or non-traditional financing instruments that leverage private capital and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our investments. I also work with colleagues across the Agency on strategic planning and related capacity-building efforts in Washington and with priority USAID Missions.

Q: How did you end up at USAID?

A: Unexpectedly. After spending the early years of my career working domestically in finance and pharmaceuticals I later pivoted towards international development and global health and tried to bring some of what I learned in the private sector along with me. My experiences in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors have all been incredibly rewarding—each presents its own unique set of challenges and opportunities.

Q: What makes you passionate about your job?

A: At times when I struggled with career decisions, my parents used to ask me what path I'd choose if I had all the money in the world. It's an absurd hypothetical —my bank statement is a disgrace to bank statements— yet one that served as a helpful litmus test to know whether my work and passions were aligned. One of the most enjoyable aspects of working at USAID, and the Center in particular, is being surrounded by people who are passionate about working on big global problems, such as reducing preventable child deaths or developing new technologies to combat infectious disease. It's the type of work that makes it easy to get out of bed in the morning.

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

A: We are living in a time where domestic resources are growing, the global south is becoming more attractive for capital markets, and in general more people are getting involved in addressing social issues. As a result, the ways in which we finance global health are changing. New players entering the fray and innovative financing instruments are being created to enable public and private resources to transact across an increasingly diverse financial landscape. On balance it's an exciting time to work on development finance.