



# Staff Spotlight: Mila Nepomnyashchiy

Market Access Advisor



**Q: What is your role at USAID?**

A: I'm a Market Access Advisor currently focused on marketing shaping strategies for GH/CII. In my role I'm investigating ways in which USAID can do more to accelerate the introduction and use of life-saving commodities. Right now, a lot of my time is focused on looking at products that might benefit from market shaping interventions and finding ways to improve product introduction, such as safe blood access and the dual HIV/syphilis test.

**Q: What did you do prior to joining CII?**

A: Before coming to CII I have spent most of my career working on market access for a range of different commodities. I started working on commodities for high income countries (HICs) as a consultant and then spent seven years at the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) focused on low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). At the beginning of the COVID pandemic, I joined the Community Health Acceleration Partnership to support community health workers (CHWs) in sub-Saharan Africa. I expected to take a pause from market access but COVID forced my hand and I led an initiative that supplied essential PPE to CHWs.

**Q: What drew you to CII?**

A: Rumors of a wonderful team! I wanted to stay on the donor side and take advantage of the exciting new Agency leadership and be part of the great CII team.

**Q: What makes you passionate about your work?**

A: The people. I love working with people who have clarity of vision and a pathway to impact. When there is a clear way to make something impact, that's when I get excited.

**Q: What do you like to do outside of work?**

A: Outside of work I like to spend time with my daughters. I enjoy cooking and all manner of fitness, and occasionally I play the piano. After two years of COVID, I especially love meeting people in person (when it's safe).

**Q: Favorite Book or Podcast**

A: I just finished reading *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee and loved it. *Fever, Feuds and Diamonds* by Paul Farmer is also an interested read. Another recent favorite is *Education of an Idealist* by Samantha Power.