



Staff Spotlight: Will Durbin

Lead Innovation Advisor
Center for Innovation and Impact, USAID



Q: What is your role at USAID?

A: Lead Innovation Advisor, CII

Q: What did you do prior to joining CII?

A: I worked on air pollution policy and access to medicines before going to grad school in public policy/international development. Afterwards, I spent a while at the World Bank; helped a friend with a startup in California, and did a stint promoting blood donation in India (and elsewhere) through Facebook.

Q: What makes you passionate about your work?

A: So many people in the world are needlessly dying from preventable causes! We have so many proven solutions that we know work, and a pipeline of innovations to move the needle even further, but they are not being implemented due to lack of funding or political will -- this is deeply infuriating but also galvanizing.

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

A: I love the outdoors. Over the winter holidays, I did a couple of 25-mile canoe trips on the Charles River in Massachusetts with an old friend who is now a [unicycler/juggler](#). It was cold but searingly beautiful and fun -- until I accidentally knocked him in the river. (Really. He's a kind soul, so luckily we're still friends.)

Favorite Book

A: Created from Animals, by James Rachels.