



CII Spotlight: Omer Imtiazuddin

Senior Innovative Financing Advisor
Center for Innovation and Impact



Q: What is your role at USAID?

A: I recently joined CII as a Senior Innovative Financing Advisor. Through this role, I assess how the Agency can apply innovative financing mechanisms to accelerate the development and scale-up of critical health interventions, as well as incentivize private sector investment in global health programs.

Q: What did you do prior to joining CII?

A: I was piloting a new innovative financing tool called the Social Success Note at Yunus Social Business in partnership with Rockefeller and UBS Optimus. Prior to this I worked at Grand Challenges Canada leading their Scaling Up and Financial Innovations platforms and serving as Chair of their Investment Committee. I have also been the Global Health Portfolio Manager at Acumen, a social venture capital fund, and I worked in investment banking at Morgan Stanley and venture capital at Barnard & Co., a \$2 billion venture capital fund, in New York.

Q: What makes you passionate about global health? What topics interest you the most and why?

A: It is atypical to find a job that allows you to make such a big impact in people's lives the way global health does. The ability to work with brilliant and dedicated entrepreneurs and see their impact has been incredible.

I am somewhat agnostic to one global health topic interesting me over another. To me it's really about making a difference and doing the most with the opportunities in front of you.

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

A: I enjoy traveling and cooking, as well as reading (I was a Literature major). I also enjoy eating – I once made my poor wife spend 3 hours in line in Tokyo to eat at a sushi restaurant! I also like to pretend to go to the gym!

Favorite Quote: Don't look a gift horse in the mouth!