



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**CENTER FOR
INNOVATION
AND IMPACT**

Staff Spotlight: Ankunda Kariisa

Associate Innovation Advisor
Center for Innovation and Impact, USAID



Q: What is your role at USAID?

A: I am an Associate Innovation Advisor supporting the Innovation team of CII.

Q: What did you do prior to joining CII?

A: Most recently, I completed a AAAS Science and Technology Policy fellowship with USAID's Digital Finance practice where I played a key role supporting the team's sector integration work, with a specific focus on global health and agriculture. Prior to joining USAID, I was a post-doctoral researcher in Microbiology at the University of Washington in Seattle where I worked on antibiotic resistance. In 2015, I obtained a Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology from University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, studying cholera.

Q: What makes you passionate about your work?

A: I am passionate about global health and in particular how we can apply business-minded and innovative approaches to accelerate health goals and save lives.

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

I enjoy being active and in the warmer months love to go running and/or hiking outdoors. I also enjoy cooking and spending time with family and friends.

Favorite Book

One of my favorites is Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler.