CII Partner Spotlight: Kristina Celentano

Senior Health Information Systems Advisor
Office of HIV/AIDS, Bureau for Global Health

CII partners with teams in USAID's Bureau for Global Health, across the Agency, and in the wider community to apply a strategic lens to the implementation of digital health tools and approaches. Krissy Celentano is a valued partner of the Center who works on digital health related activities with our team and broader Agency.

Q: What is your role at USAID?

A: I am a Senior Health Information Systems Advisor who sits in the Office of HIV/AIDS in USAID's Bureau for Global Health. I split my time between health information systems work under this office, as well as cross-cutting Agency digital health related activities with CII.

Q: How have you worked with the Center?

A: I began working with USAID in August 2015, focusing on health information systems and participating in the Health Informatics Working Group (HIWG) which I now chair. HIWG is an internal USAID working group consisting of over 40 volunteers across the Agency that meets to share learnings and best practices in order to coordinate and strengthen USAID's programming as it relates to digital health. I began officially splitting my time between the Office of HIV/AIDS and CII beginning in January 2018 to work with CII's Senior Digital Health Advisor Adele Waugaman as we strategize how to strengthen USAID's approach to digital health.

Q: What makes you passionate about your work?

A: There are several reasons I am passionate about this work, but in particular, it's the people. I really enjoy working with the teams in USAID's DC office as well as our USAID Missions and implementing partners in the field. And of course, I am motivated by serving the communities in the countries where we work.

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

A: I am really energized by the opportunity for digital health to improve health outcomes in the countries where we work. There is still so much more we can be doing in the area of digital health, but we must also coordinate our investments and approaches across donors to ensure interoperability, sustainability, and effectiveness, among many other success factors. I am also interested in emerging technologies as they relate to digital health, such as the potential of artificial intelligence and blockchain.

Favorite quote:

"If you're offered a seat on a rocket ship, don't ask what seat! Just get on." - Sheryl Sandberg