



# Staff Spotlight: Tori Fessenden

Program Assistant  
Center for Innovation and Impact, USAID



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

A: I am a Program Assistant for CII with a focus on supporting the Innovation team.

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

A: Before USAID, I was a student at George Washington University studying International Affairs and Economics with a concentration in International Development. I previously interned for a USAID implementing partner, Management Systems International, as well as for the international engineering firm WSP. My other internship experiences include working in Capitol Hill and for the International Rescue Committee.

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

A: I am passionate about my work because I feel that new ideas are vital to achieving any of the goals that the greater development community has set out to accomplish. Being able to work with a dynamic team who is not afraid to think outside the box inspires me to aim bigger. Working with CII gives me hope that we can create lasting impacts in people's lives who otherwise would never be reached, a key value in any development mission.

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

Outside of work I like to read, explore DC, and play field hockey with friends from college. On any given Saturday I can be found working on an indoor garden or browsing an online bookstore. Outside of these hobbies, I am also very excited about my recent return to the International Rescue Committee as a Family Mentor volunteer.

**Favorite Book**

My favorite book currently is East of Eden but I am open to new recommendations!