



## Staff Spotlight: Rachel Wood

Senior Innovation Advisor  
Center for Innovation and Impact, USAID



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

A: I am a Senior Innovation Advisor on the Innovation Team within CII.

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

A: Previously I worked on multilateral relations in the Office of Global Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where I liaised with the World Health Organization and represented U.S. Government global health positions in multilateral negotiations. I started as a Presidential Management Fellow at HHS in 2014 and served on the maternal and child health team at USAID as well as in Guinea as part of CDC's response to the Ebola outbreak in 2015. I also jointly oversaw the FY2020 global health budgets for USAID and the Department of State while on detail to the Office of Management and Budget. I graduated from the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington in Seattle and received a Master of Public Policy from Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy in Washington, DC.

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

A: The opportunity to positively impact others. Covid-19 has shown how fundamental health is to the wellbeing of each person, country, and the global economy, and I'm inspired by the collective appreciation that we are now seeing for global health efforts.

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

A: I like to hike, bike, read, bake, spend time with friends and family, and chase after my two-year old daughter.

**Favorite Book**

A: It's almost as hard to pick one as it is to remember what I've read. I'm in a long-running book club that read Circe this past year, and it was a serious standout.