

# Mimi Coffey

*M.P.H. Candidate, Global Health Track*

[mimi.a.coffey@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:mimi.a.coffey@vanderbilt.edu)

**Practicum Site:** USAID - Office of the Chief Economist

**Practicum Site Supervisor:** Samuel Bishop

## ***Empowering Global Health Through Economic Analysis and Evidence at USAID***



**Introduction:** The primary purpose of this practicum at the Office of the Chief Economist (OCE) within the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was to apply economic theory and principles of cost-effectiveness to global health programs while expanding skills in macroeconomic analysis and its application to health policy and systems. The practicum aimed to boost interdisciplinary collaboration within the OCE at USAID, gain experience with federal health agencies, and expand knowledge of federal operations, policy, and program evaluation.

**Methods:** A Public Financial Management (PFM) and Health Data Tool was created to assess USAID-funded PFM activities in the health sector by consolidating and analyzing data from various country operational plans and public foreign assistance datasets. Another primary project involved conducting a comprehensive literature review to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of nutrition-focused programming for a USAID Resilience Food Security Activity (RFSA). The practicum also involved optimizing internal operation documents, formatting cost-effectiveness presentations for conferences, and engaging in intra-agency networking and key administrative tasks to support OCE's mission.

**Results:** Primary outcomes included the development of the pilot PFM/Health Data Tool, which provided critical insights into budget allocations and financial management practices in the health sector for Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) along with the use of a literature review to create a database yielding valuable evidence on nutrition interventions' financial and social impacts, thereby supporting informed decision-making within USAID. Secondary outcomes included finalization of revisions of operational documents and presentation materials to enhance the OCE's strategic communication, as well as engagement in 26 one-on-one conversations with professionals across USAID to foster collaborative relationships and deepen understanding of federal mechanisms in policy, evaluation, global health, and development.

**Conclusions:** Ultimately, the practicum significantly contributed to the OCE's mission of grounding agency programs in economic evidence, while also advancing individual skills in financial analysis, data management, and strategic communication within the context of global health and international development.