



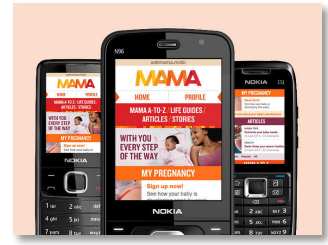
Girls & Women



Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women: A [public charter school](#) preparing young women for both college and life by integrating a curriculum centered on

college prep, leadership roles and enriching opportunities. Founded by Brenda Brown Rever, she was inspired by the East Harlem Young Women’s Leadership Public School started by Ann Tisch and the desire for girls to have more opportunities than she saw growing up in Baltimore. Today almost 500 girls attend 6th-11th grade (soon to include 12th) and take a pledge everyday, “*Changing Baltimore one young woman at a time.*” I was the founding Vice Chairman and continue to serve.

MAMA: Mobile Alliance for Maternal Action: Around 800 million mothers die during childbirth or pregnancy complications each year. [MAMA's](#) provide



regular text messages with information for pregnant women, their husbands and mother-in-laws as well as new mothers for the first year of their child’s life. With the inspired and determined leadership of Sandhya Rao and Richard Green we conceived this idea to focus on scale, sustainability and impact from the beginning. The messages have been downloaded for delivery in 54 countries by 161 organizations. It won the 2012 Fast Company Innovation by Design Award. Created as a public-private partnership with USAID, the UN Foundation and Johnson & Johnson today it is led by Kirsten Gagnaire and part of the UN Foundation.

Maura O’Neill

Maura@MauraONeill.com
www.MauraONeill.com

@MauraLONeill
www.facebook.com/MauraONeill





GSMA mWomen: Cherie Blair and her foundation headed by Henriette Kolb (now at the IFC) conducted a ground-breaking study with the mobile phone operators' association, GSMA which discovered a 300 million gender gap in mobile phone ownership by the poor. Recognizing that it would be a travesty if the mobile revolution and all its opportunity for improved health, safety and economic prosperity left women behind. We knew that just giving poor women free phones or airtime was neither sustainable nor helpful over the long run. GSMA, the Foundation and USAID publicly committed to work together cut the gender gap in half. We focused on business models that would result in lasting, robust and affordable products and infrastructure. Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Vermeer played a key role in its conception and it was launched by Secretary Clinton, Cherie Blair and the GSMA in 2010. Chris Burns, at USAID was both creative and tireless in both helping me create this partnership but it creating new ones with the Foundation and mobile operators to ensure that 1/3 of all local mobile money operations in their network were owned by women.

Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves:

Each day, around 3 billion people worldwide cook and heat their homes with open fires or basic cookstoves fueled by coal or solid biomass. However, it is not widely known that smoke from traditional cooking methods is a leading killer worldwide of more than 4 million people, mostly women and children. It is also terribly harmful to the environment. [Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves](#) is a public-private partnership aiming to improve lives, empower women and help



protect the environment for future generations. Working closely with the relentless and creative leadership of Kris Balderston and Jacob Moss, along with Secretary Hillary Clinton I provided critical strategy and financial support for the launch of this Alliance at USAID.



Well on its way to [global impact](#), in the four years since the Alliance launched it has facilitated adoption of over 20 million efficient cookstoves working with 1000 partners & over 45 country partners. Led today by Radha Muthiah it will reach its goal of 100 million stoves by 2020. Chef Jose Andres, Actress Julia Roberts, Ghanaian Music Star Rocky Dawani & Soccer Legend Stephen Appiah all signed on as Global Ambassadors.