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CyberSafe Foundation

2023 Impact Report

CyberSafefoundation.org

Message from
Executive Director

Confidence Staveley
FOUNDER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's hard to believe it is almost five years since we launched our first market campaign and began our work as a Foundation – especially because of the metamorphosis we have experienced since then.

In 2023, we leveraged upstream and downstream partnerships to reach underserved communities across Africa. In these pages you will be introduced to the work we have done and the lives that have been changed, We're so proud of the stories—even as we recognize that there's so much more work to be done.

I have a dream that one day the gender gap in tech will be a thing of the past and women and other minority groups will have equal representation and leadership roles throughout the industry. I have a dream that underrepresented communities including women of colour and individuals with disabilities will no longer face barriers in accessing education and employment opportunities in the tech industry. I have a dream that companies will prioritize diverse hiring practices fostering and inclusive workforce that represents the rich tapestry of our global society.

Through our work we are gradually turning this dream into reality, encouraging minorities to push beyond dreaming into working to achieve their dreams in the tech industry. Despite the enormous challenges in the world around us, we still believe this dream and are taking action to create positive and sustainable change. This annual report highlights our growth, impact and activities in 2023.

We could never have achieved this without the wise oversight of our exceptional board, donor organisations, benevolent individual donors, dedicated staff members of Cybersafe Foundation, partners, mentors, volunteers, and supporters. Indeed, it has taken a community to raise this child, Cybersafe foundation and we are grateful.

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2023
Highlights

■ Cybersafe Foundation at World Bank CyberTalk Seminar

21st February 2022

South African CyberGirls Alumnae, Kachipa Masipa and our Executive Director, Confidence Staveley represent Cybersafe Foundation at the World Bank to participate in a CyberTalk Seminar on "Bridging the Skills Gap".

■ Cybersafe X Propel

January 2023

Cybersafe Foundation partners with Propel to provide access to work opportunities to talents our pipeline

■ Cybersafe X SHELT

January 2023

Cybersafe Foundation forms a strategic alliance with SHELT to maximize recruitment and training CyberGirls Alumni in an effort to keep their workforce truly diverse. Starting with 5 CyberGirls in its newly established Security Operations Centre in Nigeria.

■ DigiGirls becomes recipient of the Small World Fundraiser

February 2023

DigiGirls is named the charity partner for Team Canada for this year's Small World Fundraising event.

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2023
Highlights

■ **CyberGirls Fellowship scales to 22 African Countries**

March 2023

CyberGirls 3.0 commences with 500+ fellows from 22 African Countries in an orientation event in Kenya.

■ **Infosec, ArcX, Hack the Box, ISC2 and Security Blue Team become training partners for CyberGirls Fellowship 3.0**

March 2023

■ **Digital Skills Training program for Officers of the Joint Border Task Force (JBTF) - March 2023**

March 2023

Officers of the Joint Border Task Force (JBTF) MMIA command in Ikeja participate in a Digital Skills Training program sponsored by Home Office international Operations team of the Foreign Commonwealth Development Office.

■ **CyberGirls Fellowship is featured in the East Arican – A major East African news outlet**

April 2023

■ **Policy Wizard becomes a training partner for CyberGirls Fellowship**

May 2023

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2023
Highlights

■ Cybersafe X Money Africa

> May 2023

Money Africa partners with Cybersafe to provide 3 weeks personal finance training for free to Alumni and beneficiaries.

■ Cybersafe X CTFRoom for Linux party CTF

> June 2023

CTFRoom becomes the official platform for the CyberGirls 3.0 Linux party Capture the Flag (CTF) competition.

■ CyberGirls Linux Party

> June 2023

CyberGirls convene in 3 cities in Africa for Linux Party, Nairobi- Kenya, Lagos-Nigeria and Johannesburg –South Africa. The fellows' network and bond while participating in technical games, CyberGirls Got Talent and a Capture the flag challenge, in this demin themed event.

■ Cybersafe Foundation turns 4

> July 2023

■ Biden Harris Administration announces National Cyber Workforce and Education Strategy with Cybersafe Foundation as a stakeholder developing the cybersecurity Ecosystem Playbook.

> July 2023

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2023
Highlights

■ **Cybersafe becomes an EC-council accredited training center**

August 2023

■ **Cybersafe X Unilever**

August 2023

Unilever welcomes the first cohort of CyberGirls to the CyberGirls Cybersecurity Internship Program, a 1-year internship.

■ **ISACA and Practical DevSecOps become training partners for CyberGirls Fellowship 3.0**

■ **CyberGirls get ICS Global workshop Experience**

July 2023

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the US Department of state invite 3 CyberGirls on the Critical Infrastructure Security track, to participate in the Global Industrial Control Systems (ICS) workshop in Miami, Florida.

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2023
Highlights

■ **DigiGirls training program commences third cohort**

August 2023

Unilever welcomes the first cohort of CyberGirls to the CyberGirls Cybersecurity Internship Program, a 1-year internship.

■ **Cybersafe launch NoGoFallMaga Confam Am Again campaign**

17th August 2023

Cybersafe launch NoGoFallMaga Confam Am Again campaign in collaboration with Central Bank of Nigeria, the Bankers Committee, the Committee of Chief Information Security Officers of Nigerian Financial Institutions (CCISONFI) and the Hook.

■ **CyberGirls 3.0 in Threat intelligence path celebrate practitioner level threat intelligence analyst certification from Arcx**

August 2023

Unilever welcomes the first cohort of CyberGirls to the CyberGirls Cybersecurity Internship Program, a 1-year internship.

■ **CyberGirls Alumnae Temitope Bankole speaks in AWS study series**

September 2023

■ **Founder and Executive Director, Confidence Staveley, gets honoured Cybersecurity woman of the world award for her work through the Cybersafe Foundation**

September 2023

■ **DigiGirls 3.0 State Hangouts**

August 2023

DigiGirls connect with each other at their respective state hangouts across Nigeria.

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2023
Highlights

■ CSAM at Cybersafe Foundation

October 2023

Cybersafe commemorates 2023 Cybersecurity awareness month with awareness webinars, free cybersecurity essentials course and campaigns across Africa.

■ CyberGirls is featured in the world Bank practitioner note as model cyber capacity building program delivering results.

November 2023

■ CyberGirls Hiring Summit

November 2023

Top African companies connect with exceptional entry-level cybersecurity talents from the CyberGirls Fellowship program at the 2023 CyberGirls Hiring Summit.

■ CyberGirls 4.0 receives applications from 39 African Countries

November 2023

■ Checkpoint Secure Academy become training partners for CyberGirls

October 2023

■ CyberGirls Fellowship graduates third cohort

November 2023

We hosted a virtual graduation ceremony to celebrate the successful training completion of the second cohort of the CyberGirls Fellowship with fellows from 22 African countries.

■ Cybersafe hosts a session at the Global Conference on Cyber Capacity Building in Ghana.

Cybersafe attends GFCE Annual Meeting of Parters and Members in Ghana and hosts a session at the Global Conference on Cyber Capacity Building. An event organised for Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE), World Bank, World economic Forum, CyberPeace Institute and Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation.

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2023
Highlights

■ **CyberGirls Ghana Alumni Hangout with Confidence Staveley**

> December 2023

■ **HP Nigeria donates Laptops to CyberSafe Foundation**

> December 2023

■ **DigiGirls Graduation**

> December 2023

DigiGirls hosted a virtual graduation ceremony to celebrate the successful training completion of the third cohort with a total of 59,900 women and girls trained.

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2. Cybersafe
Mission

■ **Till everyone in Africa enjoys inclusive and safe digital access**

Cybersafe Foundation is Africa's leading Non-Governmental Organization in the Digital Development domain, on a mission to facilitate pockets of change that ensure inclusive and safe digital access in Africa. We work to improve inclusive and safe digital uptake in Africa, especially for the most vulnerable in our society through our initiatives.
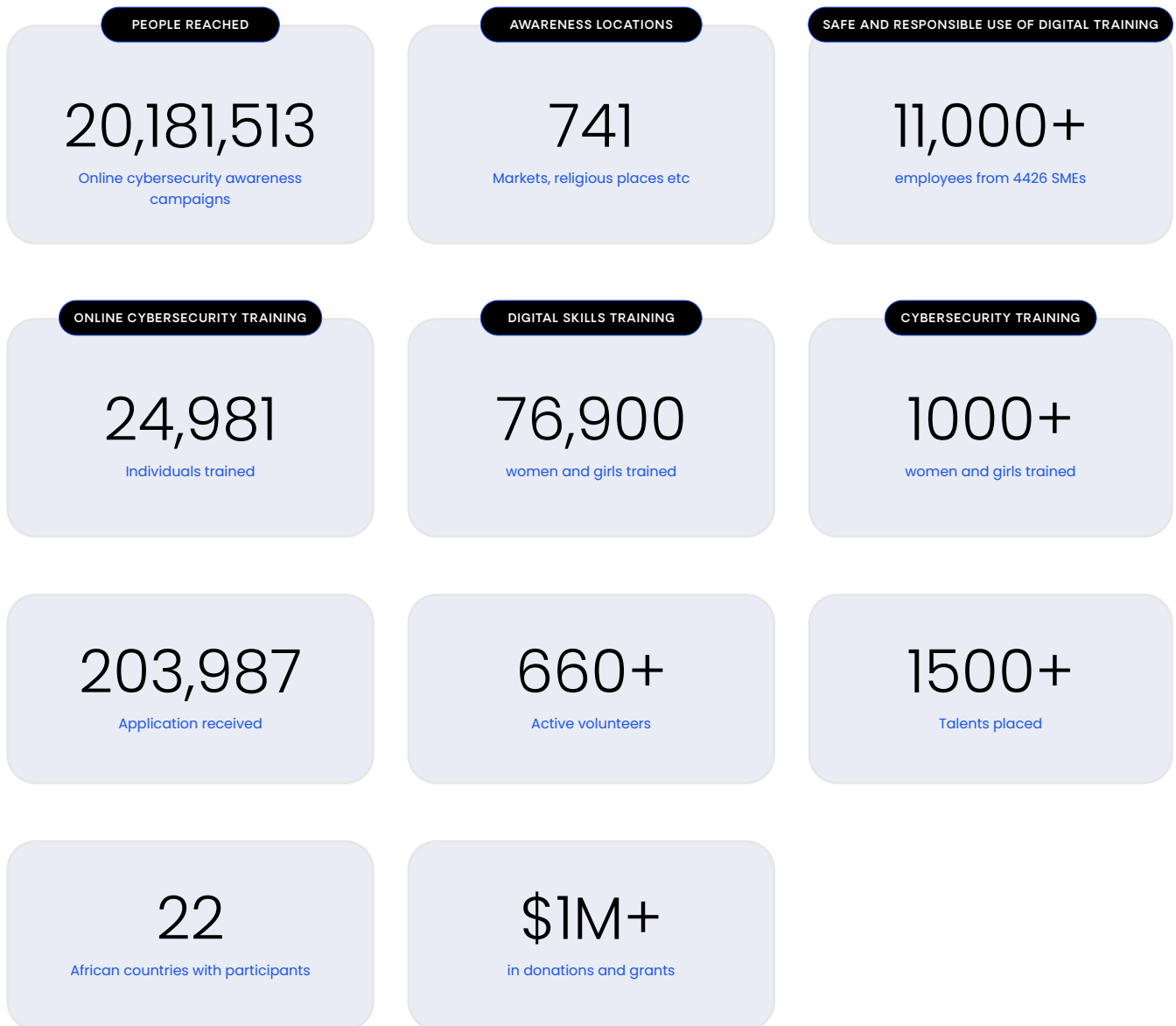
Launched in July 2019 with our flagship initiative #NoGoFallMaga, we have in recent past launched cybersecurity awareness campaigns reaching over 20,000,000 people, organized cybersecurity awareness training for over 4000 SMEs, educating over 11000 employees of these organizations, trained over 17,000 women and girls in 22 African countries, launched Africa's first storified cybersecurity awareness handbook and possibly Africa's first afrobeat cybersecurity awareness song.

■ **From the streets to your screens ensuring no one is left behind.**

We envisioned an Africa where everyone is equipped with the necessary skills to identify, protect against, detect, defend, and respond to cyber threats. Our initiative began in markets and other public places where we disseminated simplified, fun, and engaging messages with the intent to foster a shift in behaviour. These efforts were bolstered by our transition to online platforms leveraging social media and virtual training sessions to reach a broader audience.

Recognizing that transformation takes time, we remain steadfast in our commitment, embracing persistence, creativity, and innovation throughout our three-year journey. Our evolution has been marked by continuous strategy refinement and the development of novel solutions, all aimed at ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for all.

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Our Impact
in a Glance

PEOPLE REACHED

20,181,513

Online cybersecurity awareness campaigns

AWARENESS LOCATIONS

741

Markets, religious places etc

SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF DIGITAL TRAINING

11,000+

employees from 4426 SMEs

ONLINE CYBERSECURITY TRAINING

24,981

Individuals trained

DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING

76,900

women and girls trained

CYBERSECURITY TRAINING

1000+

women and girls trained

203,987

Application received

660+

Active volunteers

1500+

Talents placed

22

African countries with participants

$1M+

in donations and grants

- Africa's first storified cybersecurity awareness handbook

- Africa's first afrobeat cybersecurity awareness song

- The first truly Pan-African Cybersecurity African toolkit for seniors

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Partnership
Engagement

Some of the people who believe in us

3. Our **Programs**

■ CyberGirls Fellowship

CyberGirls fellowship flagged off in March 2021 with 120 girls in 6 physical locations in Nigeria and now has 500+ women and girls from 22 African countries represented in its third cohort. A program designed to improve the socio-economic well- being of young women in Africa, by equipping them with globally sought-after cybersecurity skills. We achieve this by providing free 7 months intensive cybersecurity training and mentorship for young women in Africa while connecting them to economic opportunities (internship/job placement).

Closing the skills and gender gap in cybersecurity

Funded by individual donations and corporate sponsorships, we are building Africa's largest pipeline of future female cybersecurity leaders who come from historically economically disadvantaged groups. Our goal is to close the skill and gender gap in cybersecurity by taking these women from novice to professional.

We provided free training in Cloud Security, Critical Infrastructure Security DevSecOps, Digital Forensics and Threat intelligence, Governance Risk and Compliance, Incidence response (SOC Analyst level 1) and Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing. Partnering with globally recognized cybersecurity training and certification organizations, we have provided our fellows with premium training content equipping them secure their first cybersecurity job.

In addition, we created support programs and activities like CyberFridays, OneCyberThingaDay Challenge, Open Day presentations, webinars, laptop, and data support programs to aid the learning journey of our beneficiaries. These positively impacted program completion rates and yielded great results.

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Talent is equally distributed, but opportunity is not

– Leila Janah

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Beneficiary Spotlight

Meet
Goodness Orji

From a Civil engineer to a cybersecurity engineer.

Meet Goodness Orji, a Civil Engineer turned Junior Cybersecurity Engineer. Her inspiring transformation began when she attended a conference in 2021 where the founder of CyberSafe Foundation, Confidence Staveley opened her eyes to the world of cybersecurity.

In her words "As odd as it sounds, that was my first-time hearing about Cybersecurity. She gave an overview of cybersecurity as a skill for the new global economy, and I fell in love with her and what she talked about. Being a very curious person that loves learning as much as I can about any topic that catches my interest, I looked out for cybersecurity introductory videos on YouTube to get more insight.

Fast forward to the end of 2021, I had just finished my final exams, awaiting results and clearance when the ASUU strike happened. That was when I saw the call for CyberGirls cohort 2 application. I applied, went through the various stages and I was so happy to be selected."

Her journey was not without huddles as she experienced a computer malfunction during the program, hindering her ability to participate fully in practical training sessions. Undeterred, she sought assistance from her success advisor and was grateful to receive a brand-new laptop, which was sent all the way to her in Aba, Abia State, Nigeria. This support enabled her to overcome the setback and continue her progress.

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Beneficiary Spotlight

During her CyberGirls journey, Goodness focused on leveraging the opportunity to bring out the best in herself. She learned to use the computer and was equipped with foundational knowledge in cybersecurity. The fellowship prepared her for the job market and she successfully got her first entry-level job in cybersecurity as a Cybersecurity Engineer at a leading security operations center in Africa.
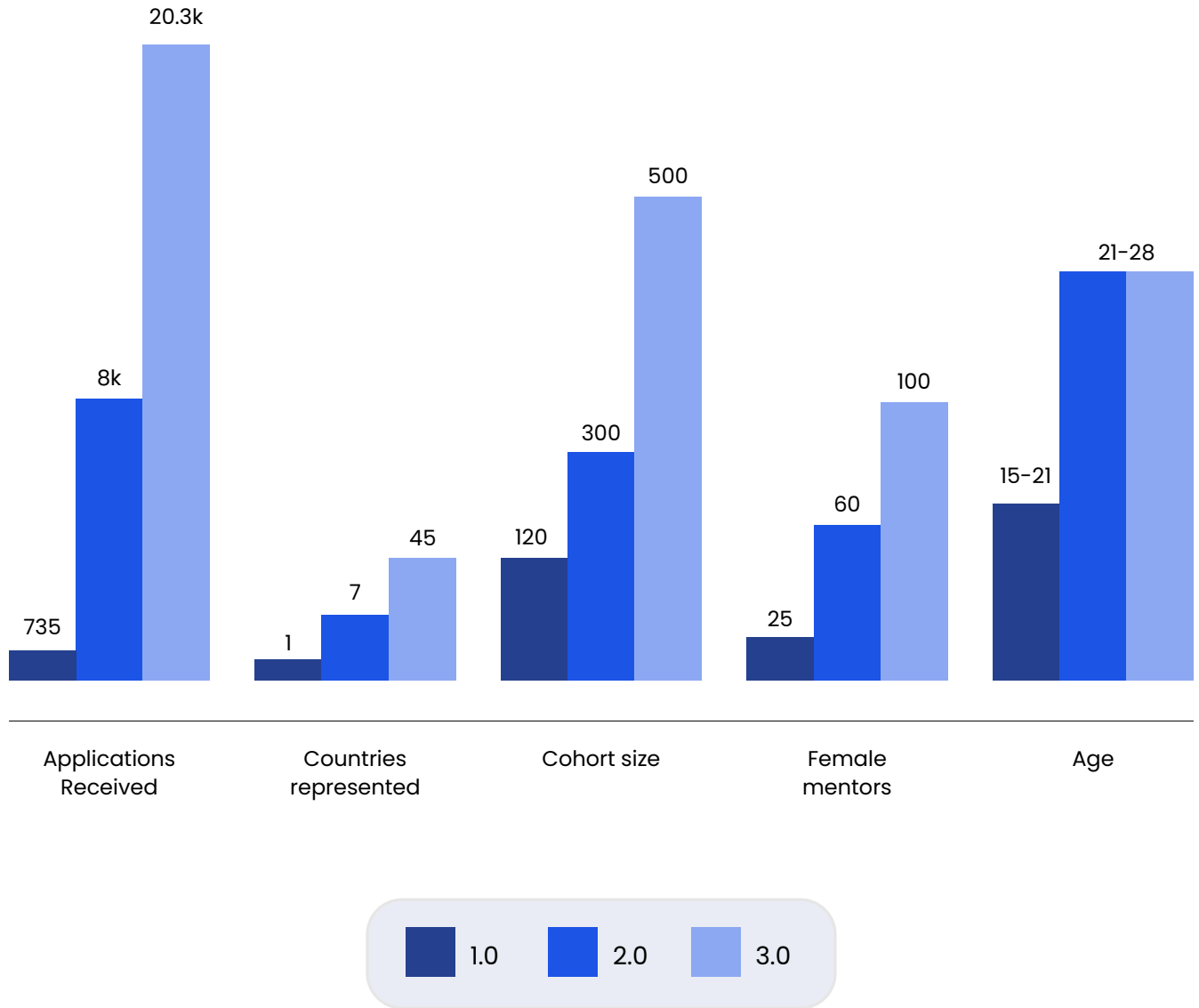
■ How we helped Goodness break the barrier

- Built the bridge out of poverty – by providing access to vital learning infrastructure (data subscriptions, electricity, etc.), digital tools (laptop, vouchers for learning platforms, etc.) for free.

- Disruptive Educational Model - Provided quality, free cybersecurity training.

- Reduced Inequalities – using the power of representation and connecting fellows to decent work opportunities.

Meet
Goodness Orji

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Cybergirls 3.0
in numbers

20,358 → **45**

From

Countries

357

graduating students

Top 10 Countries by application:

500+

Top performing women

100

Active female mentors

22

African countries represented

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CyberGirls Fellowship
through the years

	Applications Received	Countries represented	Cohort size	Female mentors	Age
1.0	735	1	120	25	15–21
2.0	8k	7	300	60	21–28
3.0	20.3k	45	500	100	21–28

Legend: 1.0 2.0 3.0

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Beneficiary Spotlight

Meet
Fatma Salim

Given a mental makeover and empowered to break barriers

As a muslim girl with Arabian roots, it was always drilled in my head that cyber security and any engineering courses were made for the men, and women would have to be exceptional at it to be given a chance. My name is Fatma Omar Salim from Kenya, and I want you to know that if you take responsibility, you can be whoever you want to be.

I became interested in CyberSecurity after narrowly avoiding a rare form of cyberbullying at my school. Keep in mind that I was the only girl in my school year who took computer studies. This experience with cyberbullying and the computing skills that helped me get out of the situation piqued my interest. I learned about the CyberGirls opportunity and applied. I liked CyberGirls because it was geared toward women.

Acceptance into the second cohort of the CyberGirls Fellowship felt like the pinnacle of my existence. The bootcamp provided me with knowledge that was tailored to my understanding and changed my life. My home, my safe haven, became the CyberGirls community.

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Beneficiary Spotlight

Meet
Fatma Salim

I was offered a cybersecurity job at iLab Africa at Strathmore University, after graduating from CyberGirls. In that role, I taught Kali Linux, network security, and Governance, Risk, and Compliance. Aside from teaching these modules to my students, I occasionally got to practice penetration testing on web applications. The majority of the skills I applied in this job, came from CyberGirls.

I am a better professional and individual as a result of CyberGirls, and I am grateful to for this life-changing opportunity that has empowered me for a brighter future than I could have imagined."

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Beneficiary Spotlight

Securing Cybersecurty Job in Bristol just two months into training

Fresh out of the compulsory National Service year in Nigeria, I found myself in a challenging situation, applying for countless jobs with no success. That changed dramatically when I was selected for the third cohort of the CyberGirls program.

As I kept sharing about my CyberGirls journey and experiences on LinkedIn and WhatsApp, one of my network connections reached out, recommending me to a cybersecurity company, and that's how I landed my role at a company based in Bristol. The company recognized the networking knowledge I had amassed from CyberGirls and decided to further train me while I earn and work with the team.

I was just 2 months into the 7months of CyberGirls training, but working as a Junior Cloud Security Consultant for our major clients in Africa and continuing the CyberGirls Fellowship. I can confidently say that the prerequisite (foundational) courses in CyberGirls were instrumental in getting me here; they prepared me thoroughly for the interview process.

I am grateful to the CyberGirls Fellowship for lighting the path to a brighter future, and for helping me unlock my cybersecurity potential. The investment in me has already started to yield fruit, and I'm excited for what the future holds.

Meet *Damilola Abiona*

20

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Beneficiary Spotlight

From a stressed out Lawyer to a well paid Data Protection Officer

As a young lawyer and mother, 2021 was the hardest year for me. I worked as a legal assistant in a law firm, but that job never gave me the satisfaction I needed. So, I decided to do something different with my career. I saw the call for CyberGirls 2.0 Cohort on LinkedIn, sent in my application, went through three stages of the selection process, and was accepted into the fellowship.

I'll say that my CyberGirls Fellowship experience was one-of-a-kind because the program's curriculum was extraordinary and wholesome. Rarely do we find fellowship programs that teach both "soft" skills and "hard" skills.

At first, the transitioning was embarrassing for me as a lawyer because I didn't feel like I had enough IT skills to join the fellowship, even though this wasn't a requirement. At some point, I had doubts about myself. On days I felt like I didn't belong, the CyberGirls Mantra, which was burned into my mind and heart, kept me going. It is the perfect affirmation to get me through times when I don't believe in myself.

The most exciting and scary bit was the "Open Day". I never thought of myself conducting a "Malware Analysis". But I did it. I mastered the process of using Redline FireEye to analyse malware from an infected machine. The knowledge and skills I acquired from the Cybergirls Fellowship have helped me achieve some of my major career milestones as a woman working at the intersection of law and technology.

Meet *Cynthia Chepkemoi*

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Beneficiary Spotlight

Meet *Cynthia Chepkemoi*

Post the CyberGirls Fellowship, I was able to secure a well-paying job within a short period of time because of the unique skillset I have. This feels like a miracle to me that I am now the data protection officer at a financial institution, it's my 2023 dream come true - testimony.

I want more girls and women to take IT and cyber security courses because they are not just for one gender. We can all do any job just as well, and the Internet needs more girls and women.

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Beneficiary Spotlight

Meet *Theresa Jani*

CyberGirls Fellowship transcripts landed her acceptance into a UK Masters program in Cybersecurity, by passing the Bachelor's degree requirement

In 2020, I earned my high school diploma with high hopes of pursuing further education. However, circumstances prevented me from attending university right away. Determined to forge my path in the tech industry, I seized the opportunity to apply for the CyberGirls Fellowship. Through this transformative program, I received rigorous training as a Security Operations Center (SOC) analyst, equipping me with invaluable skills in cybersecurity.

After completing the fellowship, I decided to push the boundaries of my education further by applying for a Master of Science in cybersecurity at a prestigious university in the UK. Despite not having a traditional bachelor's degree, I confidently submitted transcripts from my CyberGirls courses as evidence of my expertise. To my excitement, the university recognized the value of my experience and accepted me, waiving the typical bachelor's degree requirement. This validation not only affirmed the quality of education I received through CyberGirls but also reinforced my confidence in my abilities.

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Beneficiary Spotlight

During my time in the fellowship, I had the opportunity to undertake the Security Blue's BTL1 exam, a rigorous 24-hour incident response assessment. This practical exam tested my aptitude in using various tools, investigating diverse systems, and identifying malicious activities following the ATT&CK Framework tactics. Passing this exam further solidified my expertise in cybersecurity.

I am immensely grateful to have been part of a program with such a disruptive educational model. The CyberGirls Fellowship not only provided me with essential skills but also opened doors to opportunities beyond my imagination. As I eagerly anticipate the commencement of my Master's program, I am filled with excitement and confidence, ready to embark on the next chapter of my journey in cybersecurity.

Meet *Theresa Jani*

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Beneficiary Spotlight

Meet *Nelly Nyaduza*

Carving a niche in Cybersecurity through Entrepreneurship

Meet Nelly, the fearless feline who never hesitates to start over and reinvent herself.

Growing up, my curiosity about how things worked and what made them run led me to want to know more about the internet and its operation. Despite my father taking me to networking and fiber optics classes, the high costs proved to be a barrier to entry.

A university admission mix-up led me to study catering instead of her desired field of Electrical Electronics Engineering and a few years later I lost my catering business to post-electoral violence in my country years ago.".

Despite all the setbacks, Nelly's passion for cybersecurity and her fighting spirit never wavered. She discovered CyberGirls Fellowship, applied, and was accepted into the program. While juggling family responsibilities, she sacrificed a great deal to concentrate on her studies and eventually graduated.

After completing the fellowship, I founded Data Alma, which offers consulting services in cybersecurity-pen testing, digital security training to companies and institutions, and data privacy and protection to women and minorities fighting for human rights. I operate on a mentorship model where I train people to take on projects with me and they train others to do the same. It's basically a learn, earn and teach model. We are currently working with clients in Africa and Europe.

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Talent
Placement

Our primary objective at CyberGirls Fellowship is to empower our beneficiaries with the tools and connections they need to enhance their earning potential. To accomplish this, we prioritize connecting our fellows and alumni with lucrative cybersecurity positions through strategic partnerships with leading organizations and reputable recruiters. Our hiring summit facilitates seamless matchmaking between organizations and our skilled beneficiaries, streamlining the process with speed interviews that ensure efficient talent placement.

Our commitment doesn't stop there. We take pride in equipping our talent pool with both technical expertise and essential soft skills, empowering them to proactively seek out and capitalize on job opportunities that align with their career aspirations. By fostering independence and initiative in our participants, we enable them to navigate the job market confidently and secure positions that elevate their professional trajectory. At CyberGirls Fellowship, we are committed to not only imparting valuable skills but also fostering long-term career success for our talented beneficiaries.

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DigiGirls
Training Program

The DigiGirls program is designed to improve the socio-economic well-being of girls and women (15-40 years old) living in underserved communities in Nigeria, by empowering them with employable digital skills through intensive training and mentorship, equipping them to secure internship/job placement or entrepreneurship opportunities.

Launched in December 2021 in collaboration with the UK Government and fully funded by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the intervention particularly targets adult females needing reskilling and job hunting, out of school female youths, girls and women in underserved communities, girls, with an interest in gaining digital skills for entrepreneurship, including pandemic/post-pandemic retooling for the emerging work environment.

Our **Solution**

Basic Digital Skills and Cybersecurity Awareness	Soft Skills	Intermediate Digital Skills	Mentorship
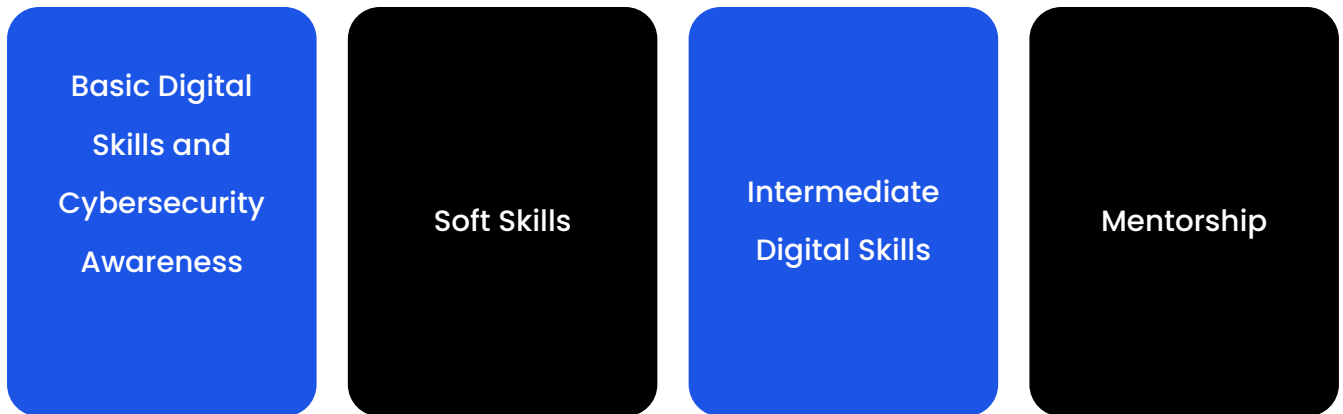
The DigiGirls training program offers free 3-month training on intermediate digital skills focused on 5 learning paths, Digital Marketing, Data Analysis, E-Commerce, Graphics Design, and UI/UX.

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Beneficiary Spotlight
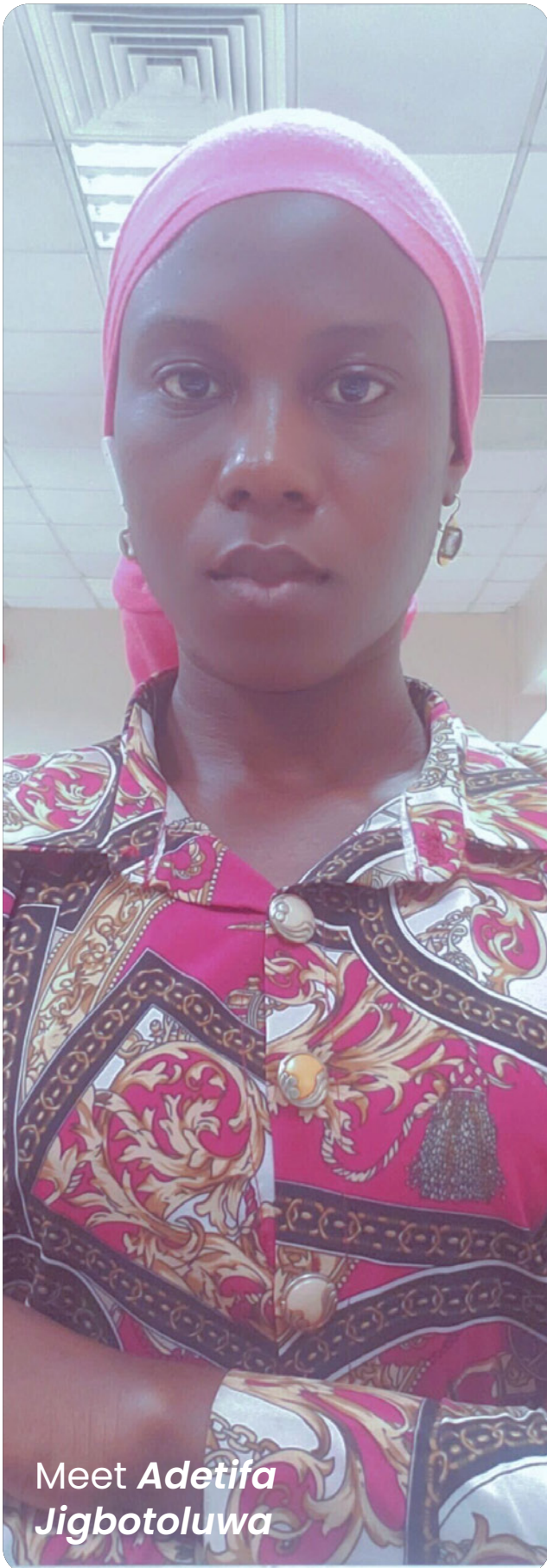
Meet *Adetifa Jigbotoluwa*

Previously a tech rookie now Data Analyst

My name is Adetifa Boyede Jigbotoluwa. What inspired me to pursue a career in technology was a friend I met during my youth service; she is a growth and success driver who is also well-informed. I was born, raised, and educated in a town where technology, up-to-date information, and the like were inaccessible. Fortunately, I am a goal-getter who, although I was unaware of the existence of these things, yearned for quality exposure. You know what they say about "missing what you never had?" I did; I longed for it and met someone who introduced me and paved the path. I was like fertile soil, waiting for seeds to be thrown on it. I applied to the DigiGirls program and chose data analysis as my career path.

The biggest challenge I faced was being a non-working-class graduate and having to finance my data subscription to access online classes and materials. On the other hand, I knew I needed this program for my self-development, so I quietly prayed to the Good Lord for intervention. Thankfully, we were given data support from Team Canada Small World, and my family was also a great support system.

I was able to secure a job in October while still undergoing training, and it has helped me a lot. Adding my data analysis skills, which I acquired from the training, in my CV gave me an edge in getting a job in one of the leading banks in Nigeria.

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Our Impact
this Cohort

"

Investing in women is smart economics and investing in girls, catching them upstream is even smarter economics

- Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (DG at WTO)

In the previous cohorts, only 6.3% of the applicants could be directly accommodated in the program. This implies that about 93% of applicants did not get a chance at benefiting from the program, hence the need to re-model the delivery of the project for sustainability and greater impact.

The third cohort of the DigiGirls project named Sustainable DigiGirls aimed to empower 56,000 girls and women (15-40 years old) living in underserved communities in Nigeria, with employable digital skills. We exceed our goal training 59,900 women and girls. To achieve this, we adopted a here pronged approach.

We provided direct upskilling to 8000 women and girls, 200 of whom trained at our physical training venues in Lagos and Kaduna while also partnering with and supporting 60 hubs across Nigeria (called DigiHubs) to do the same, working towards the goal of closing the digital gender divide in Nigeria by upskilling 31,900 beneficiaries.

In addition to the DigiHubs, we empowered 200 DigiChampions (exceptional volunteer alumnae of the DigiGirls training) to pay it forward to 100 women each in their community, achieving an additional 20,000 beneficiaries.

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DigiGirls 3.0 **Achievements**

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

104,000+

TOTAL GIRLS & WOMEN TRAINED

8,000

25% more than promised

TOTAL WOMEN & GIRLS GRADUATED

6,800

85% completion rate

FEMALE MENTORS

5

PHYSICAL TRAINING CENTERS

2

Lagos & Kaduna

200

Physical Learners

DIGIHUBS

60

7,800

Virtual Learners

520+

reports of successful role switches, promotions, securing of job/internship opportunities.

GIRLS AND WOMEN TRAINED BY DIGIHUBS

31,900

6.33% more than promised

DIGICHAMPIONS

200

each training 100 girls and women in their community

59,900

total number of girls and women trained.

51,323

women and girls successfully completed training

200 X 100

Model is introduced with 200 DigiChampions collectively training 20,000 girls and women.

100+

reports of commencement of freelancing/entrepreneurship ventures.

- Partnership with 45 organizations for employment opportunities.

- DigiHubs are introduced with 60 partner hubs across 6 geopolitical zones in Nigeria.

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Beneficiary Spotlight

Meet *Esther Nwakezie*

Secured a digital marketing role while in the program

My transition to tech started when I started writing. I wanted to design my book cover and had to see a graphic designer. Instead, he decided to teach me to design it myself. I ended up loving tech in the process.

Despite encountering health challenges that briefly stalled my ambitions, I remained steadfast in my pursuit of knowledge and growth. When I finally joined the third cohort of the DigiGirls training program, I knew digital marketing was my calling. Despite facing obstacles like inconsistent power supply, I refused to be deterred, seeking alternative means to stay connected and engaged.

Armed with insights from the "A Day in the Life" event organized for DigiGirls, I tailored my CV to align with the demands of a digital marketing role. I immediately embarked on a relentless job hunt, targeting top brands that resonated with my aspirations. Fortunately, my efforts bore fruit when I received interview invitations from some companies, including Tiger Foods Limited.

The skills I gained through the DigiGirls training served me well, enabling me to confidently navigate each step of the interview process. I got called some days later that I got the job, which brought joy to my life. Since then, I have thrived in my role, leveraging my newfound skills to excel and explore my other capabilities.

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Beneficiary Spotlight

Meet *Veronica Lawrence*

Empowered to be a Digital Nomad

I am Veronica Ojo'ago Lawrence, as a pastor's wife, my family is always on the move, as the nature of my husband's job requires constant change in location within the country and overseas. This means I cannot be employed in a physical office as my work duration is unknown, and I can leave anytime.

I stumbled on the DigiGirls flier on a friend's WhatsApp status. I applied to the program via the link. It was an interesting journey, as the entire process kept me engrossed in judiciously investing time in learning something beneficial aside from surfing the internet for fun, and I can categorically say the program is a well-structured masterpiece in a class of its own.

I chose the data analysis learning path, and from the installation level, I began to experience difficulties but there was no giving up. From borrowing my husband's laptop to battling the installation of Postgres for 4 days, for someone who knew nothing about computers, it was a tug of war. I made it past installation and thanks to the community of passionate young women in the DigiGirls Cohort 3.0 platform, helping to ensure everyone is carried along.

Thanks to all their help and support, I was able to move from novice to beginner. Yes, I am still a beginner, but I am glad I took this first step because it has reframed my thinking, and now I want to acquire more knowledge and working with organizations as I hone my skills.

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DigiGirls **Overall Statistics**

176,000	76,900	15,000	61,900
Applications received	Total trained	Total Directly trained	Total trained through partners

Bar chart legend: 1.0 (white), 2.0 (blue), 3.0 (light blue)

Category	1.0	2.0	3.0
Applications Received	12k	60k	104k
Number of peopel directly trained	2.4k	4.6k	8k
Physical learners	200	200	200
Virtual Learners	2.2k	4.4k	7.8k
Total Reach	2.4k	14.6K	59.9K
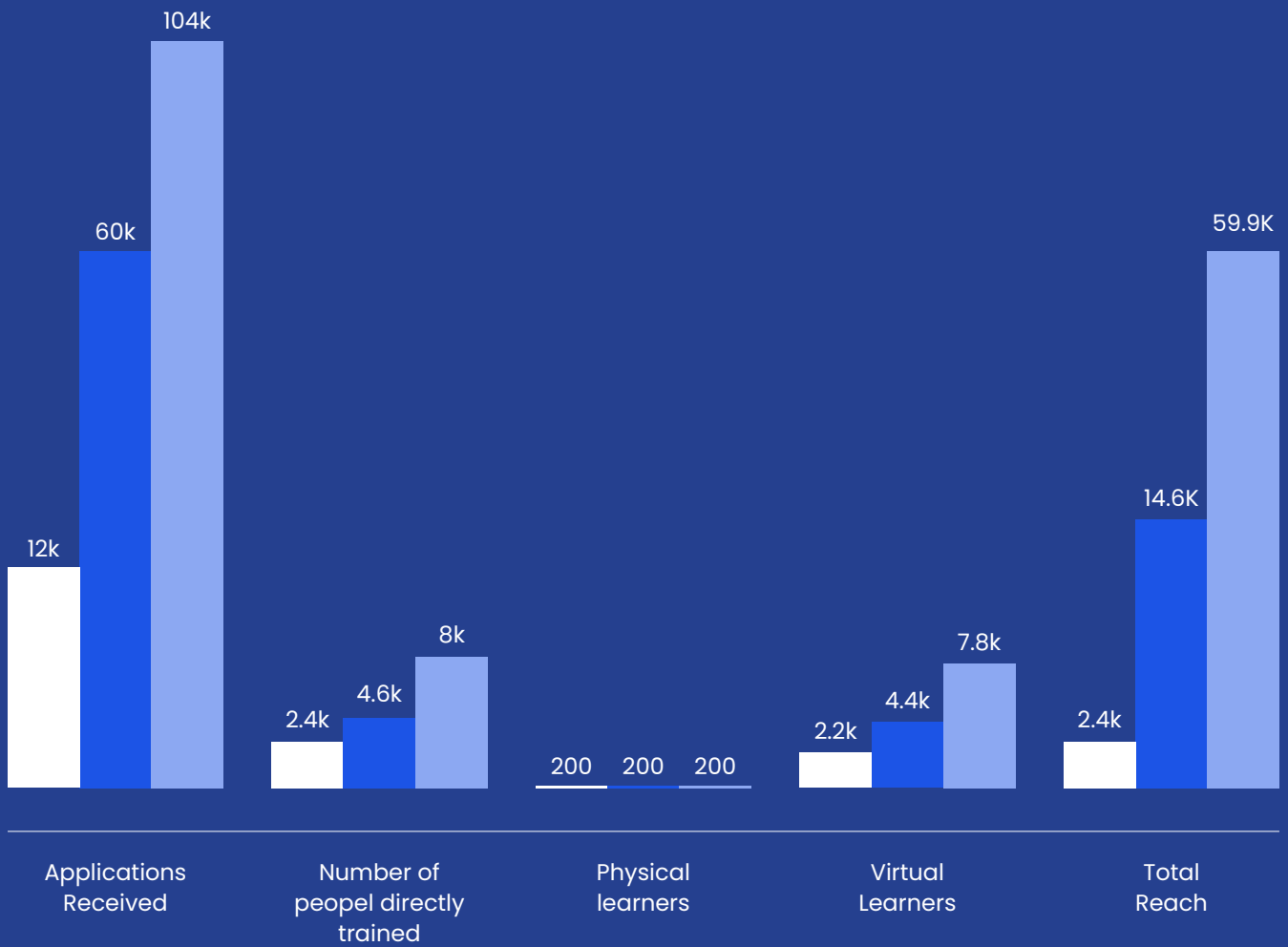
DigiChampion Spotlight

Meet *Iheoma Sunday*

Upskilled to Upskill others: Glad to do it

Hello there, my name is Iheoma Sunday. I am a DigiGirls Alumni and a DigiChampion from DigiGirls 3.0. I heard about the DigiGirls program from my husband who sent me the flier from Twitter and decided to apply.

The DigiGirls program was the most organized digital skills program I've ever seen. I had done a couple of virtual bootcamps prior to the training and was also enrolled in a physical training but the DigiGirls program certainly stood out as the most organized and best to me.

I have always had the desire to teach, and I've had a lot of people reach me indicating interest in data analysis but I've never felt confident in my abilities to actually host a training. DigiChampions gave me the opportunity to achieve one of my greatest desires of teaching others. Initially I was both scared and eager to start but now I'm really glad I did!

DigiChampions helped me grow and start seeking knowledge to learn and become better in my field as a data analyst. I have also gained people management skills managing the learners in the program.

For the first batch of trainings with only 30 slots, I had over 172 applications. 35 top applications were selected to be a part of the first batch of training, and it has been quite an experience.

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DigiHubs Beneficiary Spotlight

Meet *Favour Akpan*

My name is Favor Akpan, I'm a 17 year old high school graduate. I heard about the DigiHubs program from a church member and applied the next day as I wasn't doing anything at home.

I was preparing to write JAMB so I could apply to the university to begin my tertiary education when I began my DigiHubs journey. The DigiHubs training was an amazing experience and truly a lifetime opportunity for me to get a digital skill. This was because I had no prior digital knowledge as I did not own a laptop or smartphone.

This posed as a major challenge to me as I was only able to gain access to a laptop to learn whenever I was at the hub and could not practice at home all that I was taught but I was determined to push through to the end. I as so dedicated that even my parents began scolding me at some point as I would leave the house very early to the hub and arrive late and they would even threaten me to stop attending classes.

After much cries and pleadings, they would finally allow me go to the hub and this continue until I was finally able to complete the training. Also, when I was in school I was very shy. Most times, when asked a question in class, I may know the answer but would hold myself from sharing as I wasn't bold enough to speak up. The soft skills training helped me develop self-confidence and now I can better express myself. My plan after the program is to further improve my knowledge

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DigiHubs Owner Spotlight

Abbas Baba

My name is Abbas A Babba from Development Hub, Borno state Nigeria. We reached out to ladies between the ages of 16-35 who were victims of violence or displacement like women affected by Boko Haram or those from the IDP camps in different communities now present in Maiduguri and others from less privileged homes.

These women faced a lot of challenges as most of them could not attend schools as schools were shut down due to the insurgency for over 10years and this means that they have been left behind. But through the DigiHubs program which is a hands on digital skills empowerment program, they have been educated in basic digital literacy, cybersecurity awareness and other specialized learning paths which is what they need to bridge this gap in education and in order for them to be relevant in our world today.

Most of them had difficulties operating a mouse or even use a keyboard but through the help of the DigiGirls program, they are now able to use a computer, sell their products online for those in the digital marketing path, and build websites. This has helped them increase their income and secure jobs.

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Event
Spotlight

◼ Cybersecurity Awareness Month at Cybersafe Foundation

Cybersafe Foundation launched an extensive outreach campaign aimed at educating and empowering the public. Through a combination of initiatives, including a free cybersecurity awareness course, interactive webinars, and specialized training, we successfully reached a 200,000+ individuals.

Our efforts extended to diverse demographics, including senior citizens and children, with specialized sessions designed to address their unique needs and concerns. In addition to digital platforms, we took our message to the streets with physical awareness walks and campaigns in bustling public spaces like markets, places of worship, and schools. Harnessing the dedication of volunteers from the NoGoFallMaga community and the expertise of the CyberGirls Fellowship, we maximized our impact and engaged directly with communities at the grassroots level.

Through these concerted efforts, Cybersafe Foundation reinforced the importance of cybersecurity awareness and equipped individuals with the knowledge and tools needed to stay safe online.

◼ Impact in numbers

24,411
took Free Cybersecurity Awareness Course

181,513
reached in webinars and outreaches

724
Locations visited

500+
Total number of physical awareness volunteers

205,924
total number of people reached

22
countries

4. Other **Projects**

■ Joint Border Task Force (JBTF) Training Project

In response to the digital literacy gap among public servants, particularly officers of the Joint Border Task Force (JBTF), CyberSafe Foundation initiated a specialized training program sponsored by the UK FCDO. Targeting officers of the JBTF MMIA Command in Ikeja, the program aimed to make a tangible impact on digital literacy of public servants.

The goal was to empower JBTF officers with practical digital skills to enhance work efficiency, contribute to government digitization efforts, and adapt to the demands of the 21st-century workplace. By the end of the program, participants were equipped to handle e-government infrastructure, safeguard data, and protect against cyber threats, thereby maximizing government investments and driving progress towards a digitally inclusive society.

Aligned with strategic objectives outlined in Nigeria's Digital Inclusion Technical Report and Strategy by the FCDO and the National Digital Economy policy set forth by NITDA, the program prioritized digital literacy and skills development. It consisted of four key components: an introduction to ICT access and usage, practical training on digital productivity tools, education on data protection, and cybersecurity awareness. This tailored curriculum aimed to equip JBTF officers with essential digital skills necessary for modernizing service delivery and adapting to the digital economy.

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Project **Highlights**

PUBLIC SERVANTS

22

ONLINE TRAINING

7 Days
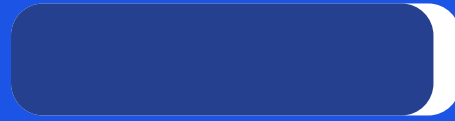
95.5% of participants can safely browse the internet. An increase of 40.91% from the baseline survey.
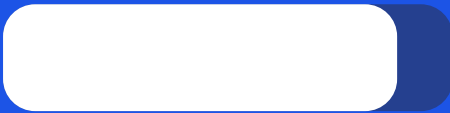
90.91% of participants can confidently safeguard sensitive personally identifiable information of individuals. An increase of 54.55% from the baseline survey.

81.82% of participants have knowledge of how to mitigate privacy risks. An increase of 36.36% from the baseline survey.

100% of participants reported an improvement in everyday work using digital tools. An increase of 59.09% from the baseline survey.

86.36% of participants engage in data protection best practices and habits. An increase of 31.82% from the baseline survey.

95.45% are confident identifying a phishing attack and other social engineering attacks. An increase of 54.55% from the baseline survey.
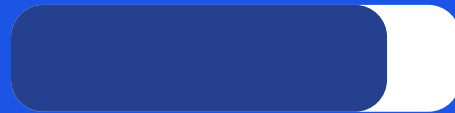
90.91% reported using a password manager and practicing of password hygiene across all platforms and devices. An increase of 50% from the baseline survey.

4. Other **Projects**

■ NoGoFallMaga Confam Am Again Campaign

The "NoGoFallMaga Confam Am Again Campaign" is a significant initiative by the Committee of Chief Information Security Officers of Nigerian Financial Industry (CCISONFI), in collaboration with Cybersafe Foundation and the Hook. This campaign is a direct response to the rapid digital evolution in Nigeria, particularly within the financial sector, influenced by the Central Bank of Nigeria's financial inclusion initiatives and the global digital innovation spurred by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The primary objective of this campaign is to bolster cybersecurity awareness among the public, aiming to significantly reduce cybercrimes and financial frauds in Nigeria. We have set an ambitious goal to reach over 40 million customers within the first two years, emphasizing the dissemination of awareness content and messages in major Nigerian languages, including Pidgin English.

This move comes at a critical time when the financial industry is increasingly adopting digital and technological platforms. While this digital shift has transformed the cyber technology landscape, offering numerous benefits, it also introduces new risks. One of the paramount concerns is maintaining trust and confidence among customers, ensuring they can communicate and transact securely within the financial ecosystem. A breach in this trust could potentially undermine the advantages of the Central Bank of Nigeria's financial inclusion strategies, the push for a cashless economy, and the broader utilization of technology for social and economic development.

The "NoGoFallMaga Confam Am Again Campaign" thus addresses these challenges head-on, focusing on continuous cybersecurity and data privacy education as vital components in safeguarding the future of Nigeria's digital and financial landscape.

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5. Other
Communities

■ **CyberLearners Community**

This is a dedicated platform for those who narrowly missed selection into the CyberGirls Fellowship, this community serves as a beacon of opportunity and support helping them kickstart their careers.

Despite not securing a spot in the fellowship, these talented individuals are not left behind. The CyberLearners Community offers them access to a comprehensive curriculum, expert-led masterclasses, and a vibrant network of fellow learners. While members self-fund their learning journey, they receive the same calibre of resources and support as their counterparts in the fellowship.

Since its establishment, the CyberLearners Community has empowered 5678 learners, providing them with the guidance and tools needed to flourish in the cybersecurity realm. At Cybersafe Foundation, we remain committed to nurturing talent and fostering inclusivity, ensuring that every aspiring cybersecurity professional has the opportunity to thrive.

Beneficiary Spotlight

It began with a rejection email and ended with my first cyber job.

My name is Vera Ezeanolue, and I am a SOC Analyst and a pioneer member of the CyberLearners community. I graduated with honours from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, with a bachelor's degree in Nutrition and Dietetics.

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Beneficiary Spotlight

My cousin sent me the link to apply for the CyberGirls fellowship in February 2022. At the time, I was just a few weeks away from finishing my program, and the university was in the middle of a very long strike. I had never heard of cybersecurity before, but after doing some research, I became interested and thought about applying. I was very nervous about the blind interviews because it was my first time doing something like that and I didn't know what to expect. I didn't make it past that stage, so I didn't get into the fellowship. I was just brokenhearted.

During the application process, I had taken an online cybersecurity essentials course. It was hard to do it alone, so when I was invited to join the CyberLearners community, I was happy because I just wanted to learn. I got along well with the other women in the group and worked on projects with them. The community manager was always so helpful, and as time went on, I became a leader and helped others in their learning paths.

After I graduated from university, I began my job search and secured a role as a SOC Analyst in a European company that offers Cybersecurity-as-a-service. It's hard to believe that everything happened in just one year.

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5. Other
Communities

■ **Alumni Community**

Our alumni communities, including the CyberGirls Alumni, DigiGirls Alumni, and ECSL Alumni, are thriving virtual hubs dedicated to the continuous growth and development of our graduates.

In 2023, we witnessed remarkable growth within our alumni network, with 7157 new members joining our ranks. Throughout the year 764 jobs and additional opportunities were shared, opportunities such as free boot camps, mentorship programs, hackathons, and webinars focused on personal and professional advancement.

In addition to job-related endeavors, we organized in-house webinars and events aimed at fostering growth and providing networking opportunities for our alumni. We also offered valuable in-house services, including free resume reviews and interview preparation assistance, to equip our alumni with the tools and resources needed to succeed in their careers.

Through these initiatives, we remain committed to empowering our alumni community and supporting their continued success in the ever-evolving landscape of technology and beyond.

7,157
New Alumni

547
Resume Reviews

14
Webinars & Events

764
Jobs & Opportunitues

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Alumni Spotlight

In just a year my dreams came true

My name is Chukwuemeka Edeh, I am an ECSL Alumnae and cybersecurity professional. I partook in the Enugu Cybersecurity Learning Program in the cloud security path. While that was going on I had my umbrella mobile café business and worked as Mechanical design and analyst. As a Mechatronics Engineering student with a passion for applying AI in healthcare, my goal was to develop expertise in the health-tech sector. I wanted to contribute to data security and IoT security in the healthcare sector.

After completing my training, I couldn't start working immediately because I was still completing my degree program. Once I was done, I started off as a Cybersecurity Engineer intern for a few months and afterwards secured an IT support job online with my knowledge of cloud computing and security at 7th Century Music Canada.

It's been a year since I completed the program and I have realized my dream role as the Database Manager and Analyst at ALIMA, a public healthcare NGO. My dream has come through as I now play a vital role in safeguarding patient data using my cybersecurity skills. Not only has my career flourished, but my income has also seen a 50% increase.

Meet *Chukwuemeka Edeh*

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Our **Team**

We are governed by an advisory board of directors.

Peter Obadare, PhD
Co-Founder, Digital Encode
BOARD CHAIRMAN

Iretioluwa Akerele
Founder, Cybarik Limited
BOARD SECRETARY

Femi Orekoya
Head of Strategy,First
City Monument Bank

Kemas Ohale
Vice President Global
Information Security, Lippert

Judy Ngure
Cybersecurity Consultant

Bright Gameli, PhD
Chief Technology Officer, Xetova

Tracy Maleeff
Senior Cybersecurity Analyst

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Looking
Ahead

We are just getting started

As we take a moment to review the progress of the past year, we are filled with a sense of gratitude and anticipation for what lies ahead. In 2023, our initiatives have expanded exponentially, moving from engagement in 7 African countries to an impressive 22.

The reaffirmation of our efforts through renewed funding, partnerships, and engagements fuels our determination and ignites a renewed sense of hope for the journey ahead. With our sights set firmly on the goal, we are unwavering in our commitment to ensuring inclusive and secure digital access for all across Africa.

As we continue to push boundaries and break barriers, we are reminded that our work is far from over. With each step forward, we are propelled by the belief that every individual deserves the opportunity to thrive in the digital age. Together, we will press on until this vision becomes a reality for every community we serve.
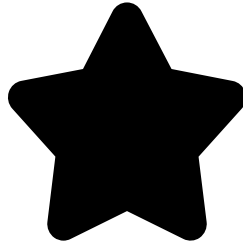
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DigiHubs Award 2023

We will be hosting an award ceremony and project close-out event to celebrate the efforts and contributions of the DigiHubs and in a physical event in Lagos Nigeria
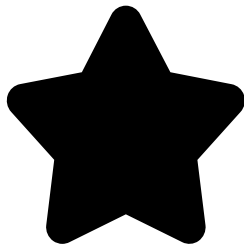
■ DigiHubs Award Categories

Mission Champion Award
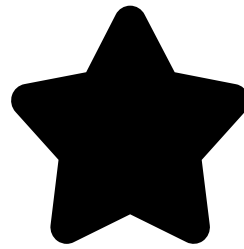(A.K.A Overall Best Hub)

Impaact Amplifier Award

Inclusive Excellence
Championn Award

Mission Champion Award
(A.K.A Overall Best Hub)

Outstanding Community
Impact Award

CyberGirls 4.0

The CyberGirls 4.0 program recently completed its application phase. We accepted submissions from October 20th to November 11th. The response was overwhelming, with over 20,000 applications pouring in from 39 African countries. This surge in interest prompted the organization to increase the cohort size to accommodate the demand. We aim to admit 500 women and girls from across Africa in this cohort. The program's orientation is scheduled for March 23rd, 2024 followed by the commencement of training on March 25th 2024.

We are engaging 100 female cybersecurity experts who will serve as mentors. Their invaluable experience and guidance will play a crucial role in shaping the learning journey of the program participants. This mentorship component adds a global perspective to the initiative, enriching the educational experience and providing a well-rounded understanding of cybersecurity practices for our beneficiaries.

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Get **Involved**

Donate

Make a cash or
in-kind donations

Sponsor

Sponosr an initiative of ours or
an individual
participating in a program

Partner

Partner with us as part of a
corporate social responsibility
(CSR) projects.

Volunteer

Give your time and skills.
Become a mentor, volunteer
trainer, judge, masterclass
speaker etc

Hire

Hire beneficiaries
of our programs

To get involved please send an email to

connect@cybersafefoundation.org

Note: CyberSafe Foundation is a tax exempt 501(c) (3) nonoprofit corporation.

Thank You

We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support we have received over the years. Our journey wouldn't be possible without the generosity and dedication of our donors, supporters, partners, and volunteers from around the globe.

Your contributions have been instrumental in our mission to create a safer digital space for all. It's because of you that we can continue our vital work with pride and purpose. Looking forward, we remain committed to advancing our mission, with exciting new initiatives on the horizon.

Media **Clippings**
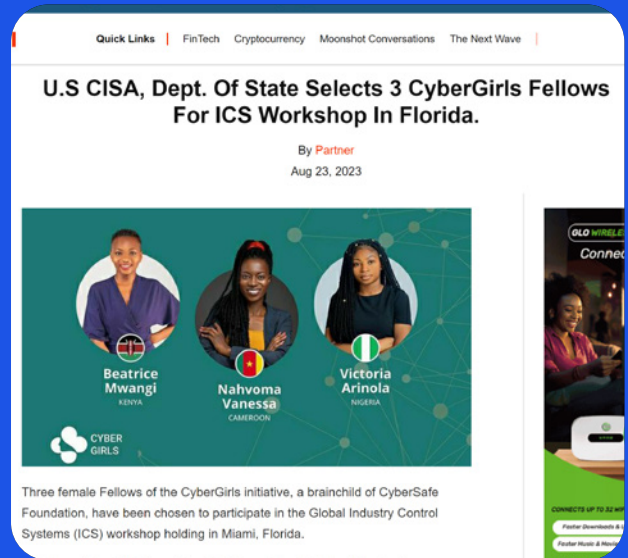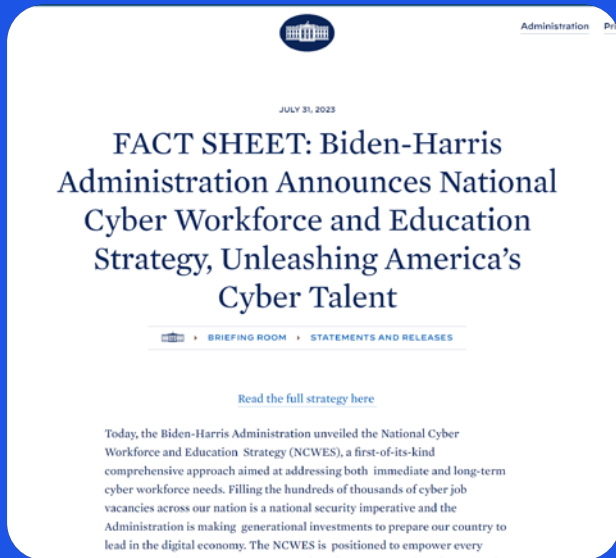
■ White House

Cybersafe Foundation will develop a cybersecurity ecosystem playbook specifically designed for the African continent based on the vision laid out in the National Cybersecurity Cyber Workforce and Education Strategy and the 2023 National Cybersecurity Strategy. The playbook will promote diversity and inclusion and include lessons learned and best practices that support cyber workforce development. Cybersafe intends to use it to create opportunities for women and girls to excel in the cybersecurity field.

-Excerpt from the 2023 White House Cyber Strategy

■ Tech Cabal

Three female Fellows of the CyberGirls initiative, a brainchild of CyberSafe Foundation, have been chosen to participate in the Global Industry Control Systems (ICS) workshop holding in Miami, Florida. The three CyberGirls from CyberSafe Foundation's Critical Infrastructure Security training track were invited to participate by the United States Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the U.S. Department of State, organisers of the workshop, to join their contemporaries from 23 other countries drawn from all the continents. The three girls drawn from Nigeria, Cameroon and Kenya are Victoria Arinola (Nigeria); Nahvoma Vanessa (Cameroon) and Beatrice Mwangi (Kenya).

-Excerpt from Tech Cabal's article "U.S CISA, Dept. Of State Selects 3 CyberGirls Fellows For ICS Workshop In Florida.

Media **Clippings**

■ World Bank

In Nigeria, the CyberSafe Foundation launched the CyberGirls Fellowship, a program that offers women aged 18 to 28 an intensive seven-month training in cybersecurity. The initiative spans 22 African countries and focuses on equipping participants from underprivileged regions with critical cybersecurity skills. The program has started small and is growing fast – it is expected to reach 1,000 students in 2024. The fellowship is financed by donations and partnerships with the private sector."

-Excerpt from World bank's article on "Hacking" the cybersecurity skills gap in developing countries.

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