

Young African Internet Safety Fellowship (YAISF)

Program Report

Introduction

The Young African Internet Safety (YAIS) Fellowship is a one-year program designed to equip young people in Nigeria (ages 13–18) with the skills, knowledge, and resources to address pressing internet safety challenges. As Africa’s youth increasingly engage in digital spaces, they face significant risks such as cyberbullying, online exploitation, misinformation, and digital addiction. The YAIS Fellowship empowers the next generation to become leaders in online safety, ensuring a safer digital future for all.

This report highlights key activities, milestones, and impact from the fellowship year, showcasing how YAISF has contributed to fostering a safer digital environment for young people.



Program Overview

Through curated training, workshops, mentorship, and hands-on projects, fellows will develop the expertise needed to drive change within their communities and advocate for responsible digital engagement.

The YAIS Fellowship was structured around six key programs, each aimed at building fellows' expertise in online safety, cybersecurity, advocacy, and community engagement.

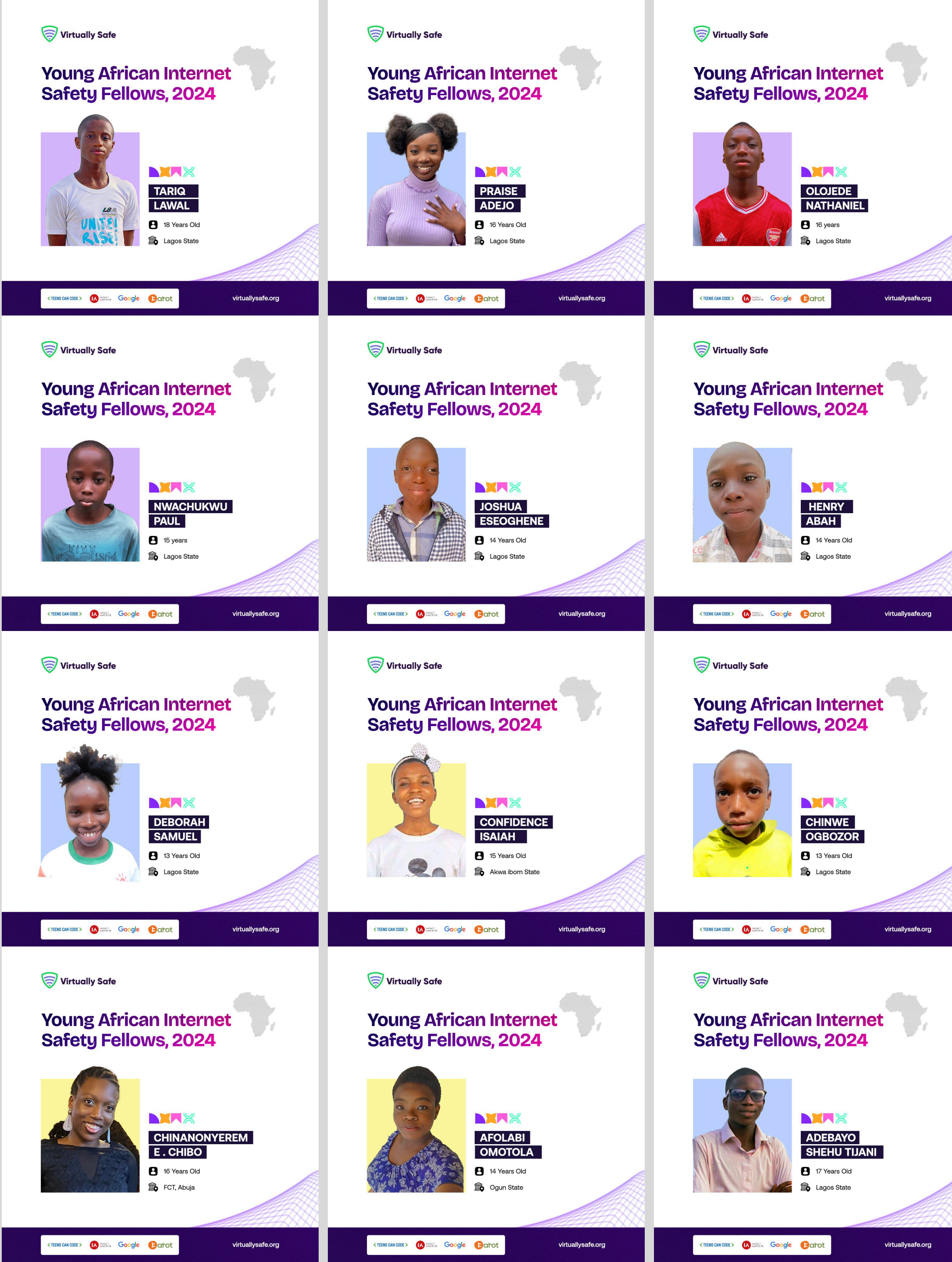


Presenting Fellows at the Cyber Space Conference

YAISF fellows were given the unique opportunity to participate in the Cyber Space Conference, where they were officially announced as fellows. They engaged with industry experts, policymakers, and cybersecurity professionals, broadening their knowledge and strengthening their voices in shaping digital safety policies.

Impact: Fellows gained real-world exposure to cybersecurity discussions and contributed to key conversations about online safety for young people.

Presenting Fellows at the Cyber Space Conference



Online Safety Training

Throughout the fellowship, interactive workshops were conducted to educate fellows on cyber threats, digital literacy, misinformation, privacy, and online safety best practices. These trainings equipped them with the fundamentals of digital security to protect themselves and their peers online.

Topics Covered:

- Cyberbullying Prevention
- Online Privacy & Digital Footprints
- Recognizing & Reporting Online Exploitation
- Safe Social Media Practices

Impact: Fellows reported increased confidence in addressing digital safety issues and actively shared their knowledge with their communities.



Fellows' Community Project Implementation

Each fellow received a stipend to develop and implement an online safety project in their community. Fellows launched creative and impactful initiatives, including:

- Online Safety Book Readings: Educating students through storytelling (e.g., using our story book: The Adventure of Chimamanda and Yusuf).
- Online Safety Workshops: Hosting interactive school sessions on cyberbullying, digital privacy, and scam awareness.
- SafeWeb Challenge: An online campaign promoting positive digital behaviors among young people.
- Online Safety Book Readings: Educating students through storytelling (e.g., using our story book - The Adventure of Chimamanda and Yusuf).
- Online Safety Workshops: Hosting interactive school sessions on cyberbullying, digital privacy, and scam awareness.
- SafeWeb Challenge: An online campaign promoting positive digital behaviors among young people.

Impact: Over 2,000+ students were reached through community-led projects, fostering a ripple effect of online safety awareness.

Virtual Technical Training on Cybersecurity

To deepen technical expertise, fellows attended a Virtual Cybersecurity Training covering:

- Introduction to Cyber Threats & Protection Strategies
- AI in Cybersecurity: Opportunities & Risks
- Ethical Hacking & Digital Forensics Basics

Impact: Fellows gained technical skills and a deeper understanding of AI-driven security solutions, preparing them for future careers in cybersecurity.



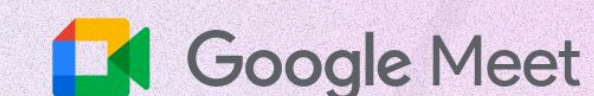
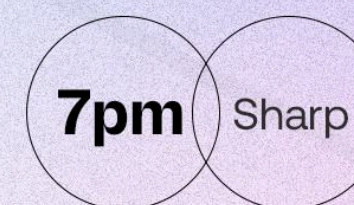
YOUNG AFRICAN INTERNET SAFETY FELLOWSHIP (YAIS)

Cyber-Security

in an AI driven world

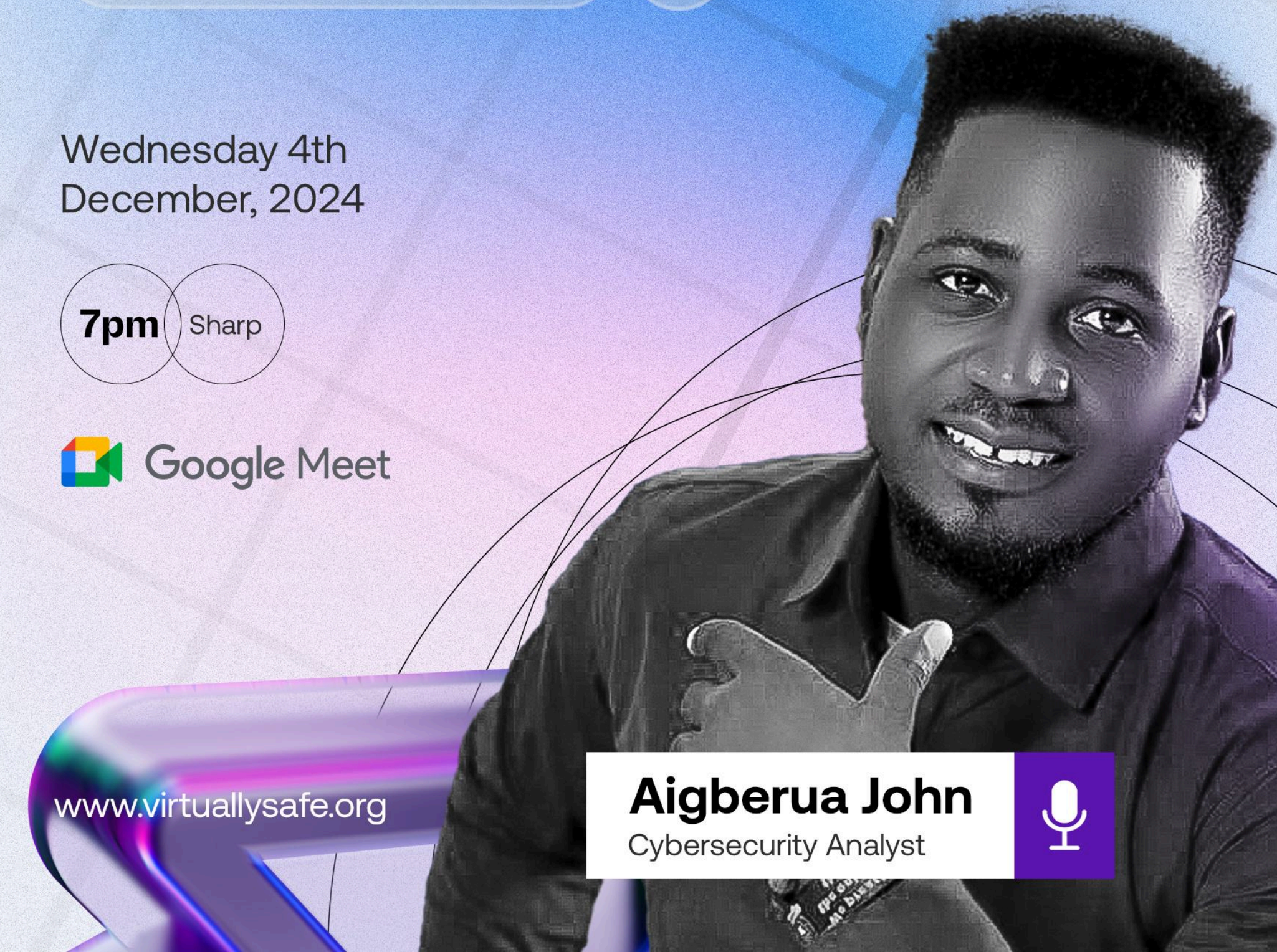


Wednesday 4th
December, 2024



www.virtuallysafe.org

Aigberua John
Cybersecurity Analyst



Advocacy Training

YAISF emphasized digital rights advocacy, ensuring fellows understood how to champion safer online environments through:

- Digital Citizenship & Responsibility Workshops
- Combating Online Hate Speech & Misinformation
- How to Report & Respond to Digital Harassment

Impact: Fellows developed advocacy skills, allowing them to engage policymakers, school leaders, and online platforms in strengthening online safety measures.

The graphic features a light blue and purple gradient background. At the top left is the YAISF logo (a green shield with a white map of Africa) and the text 'YOUNG AFRICAN INTERNET SAFETY FELLOWSHIP'. To its right are logos for 'IMPACT AMPLIFIER' (a red circle with a white 'IA'), 'Google.org', and 'Virtually Safe' (a green shield with a white Wi-Fi symbol). The main title 'Safer Internet Advocacy for Fellows' is in large, bold, purple font. Below it, a black pill-shaped button contains the word 'Topic'. Underneath, the text 'Digital Citizenship and responsibilities' is displayed. A blue rounded rectangle contains the event details: 'TIME 05:00pm' and 'DATE 6th March 2025.'. Below this, it says 'via' followed by the Google Meet logo. On the right side, there is a portrait of Joy Eziashi, a smiling woman with long braids, wearing a blue and white patterned top. A white pill-shaped box over her image identifies her as 'SPEAKER Joy Eziashi, Platform Manager - Africa Online Safety Platform'. The 'Virtually Safe' logo appears again in the bottom right corner.

YOUNG AFRICAN INTERNET SAFETY FELLOWSHIP

IMPACT AMPLIFIER Google.org Virtually Safe

Safer Internet Advocacy for Fellows

Topic

Digital Citizenship and responsibilities

TIME
05:00pm

DATE
6th March 2025.

via Google Meet

SPEAKER
Joy Eziashi
Platform Manager - Africa Online Safety Platform

Virtually Safe

Virtual Closing Party

To celebrate a successful fellowship year, a Virtual Closing Party was held, bringing together fellows, and program coordinators together. This event provided an opportunity to:

- Reflect on key learnings and achievements
- Recognize fellows for their outstanding contributions
- Foster connections for future collaborations

Impact: Fellows expressed renewed commitment to online safety advocacy, with many planning to continue their work beyond the fellowship.



Fellowship Impact Summary

2,000+ youth reached through community projects
16+ hours of training in online safety & cybersecurity
8 fellows trained, empowered, and equipped to drive change
Recognition & participation in major online safety programs
Community projects implemented in local communities

The YAIS Fellowship has not only built young digital safety leaders but has also created a lasting impact on communities, shaping a future where African youth are empowered to navigate the digital world safely.



Acknowledgment & Future Plans

This success would not have been possible without the support of our partners, trainers, mentors, and fellows.

Special thanks to Impact Amplifier, Google.org, and other key stakeholders who contributed to the fellowship's success.

Looking ahead, Virtually Safe aims to expand the YAIS Fellowship to reach more young leaders, deepen technical cybersecurity training, and scale community-driven projects across Africa.

Together, we are building a safer internet for the next generation!

