



2024 TICWWA AWARDS REPORT

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 africacybersecurityandai.org/ticwwa

Table of Content

Table of Content	2
2. Introduction	4
About ACAIF.....	4
About Acyberschool.....	4
T1CWWA Project Developmental Objectives.....	4
3. Event Objectives	6
4. Event Overview	8
Event Metrics	10
organisations Represented	10
6. Activities and Sessions	11
7. Achievements and Outcomes	13
Social Media Reach: Metrics for the “Cybersecurity Women”.....	13
Social Media Reach: Metrics for the hashtag “#Acyberschooltop100africa”.....	14
8. Challenges and Lessons Learned	16
9. Looking Forward and Next Steps	18
Mainstream Media Coverage:.....	18
12. Appendices	24

Executive Summary

The **Top 100 Cybersecurity Women to Watch Africa Awards (T1CWWA) 2024**, held on **September 27th, 2024**, marked a significant milestone in the advancement of gender diversity within Africa's cybersecurity landscape. Hosted by the **Africa Cybersecurity and AI Foundation (ACAIF)**, the event honored the achievements of women leaders and pioneers in cybersecurity from across the continent. It brought together key stakeholders from government, academia, private sector, and international development organisations to celebrate these accomplishments and foster new partnerships. With high levels of digital engagement, the event successfully reached millions through live streaming, with hashtags like **#AcyberschoolTop100Africa** trending across social media platforms, reaching **14.3 million people** and achieving **43 million impressions** with the key phrase "**Cybersecurity Women**". The event highlighted the growing recognition of women's contributions to cybersecurity and their critical role in Africa's digital future.

The event's regional inclusivity was a key achievement, as women from underserved regions such as **Kakuma** and **Mogadishu** were honoured for their leadership and contributions. This reflects the expanding reach of the T1CWWA initiative, which continues to empower women from across Africa, regardless of socio-economic or geographical barriers. In addition to celebrating achievements, the event solidified vital partnerships with institutions like the **University of Nairobi**, **Moringa School**, and international development organisations like **Estonia**, and **Expertise France**. These collaborations will play an essential role in scaling the program, providing resources, training, and mentorship to support women in cybersecurity and ensure sustainable growth in this field.

However, a few logistical challenges were encountered, particularly in coordinating travel for participants from remote areas or outside Kenya and optimising partner engagement. These challenges provided valuable lessons for future events, emphasising the need for earlier coordination with partners to maximise contributions and smoother logistical planning for regional attendees. Despite these hurdles, the event was a resounding success, and the lessons learned will inform future efforts to ensure broader participation and more efficient execution.

Looking ahead, T1CWWA is set to **expand its regional outreach** and **launch targeted mentorship programs** to support women at all stages of their cybersecurity careers and more broadly accelerate participation of girls and women in STEM. This includes doubling down on ACAIF programs, including the **Africa Advanced Cybersecurity Fellowship (AACF)** that exposes women graduating from cybersecurity to diverse work environments to shorten the gap for their upward mobility in cybersecurity careers them for leadership positions and **Cybersecurity and AI Innovation Challenge Africa (CAICA)** where female innovators are coached, incubated, and invested through ACAIF's Tech4Jobs (TFJ) Fund and other social impact investors. Additionally, ACAIF and partners' scholarships for certifications through **Acyberschool** significantly accelerates women to advance their skills in cybersecurity and AI. These concerted capacity building efforts coupled with socio-economic support ensures a sustainable pipeline of women leaders in cybersecurity. With plans for **larger-scale events** in the coming years, T1CWWA is committed to fostering diversity, empowering women-led tech businesses, and driving transformative change in Africa's cybersecurity landscape.

2. Introduction

The Top 100 Cybersecurity Women to Watch Africa Awards (T1CWWA) is a flagship program under the Africa Cybersecurity and AI Foundation (ACAIF), a pioneering organisation focused on empowering the next generation of cybersecurity and AI experts in Africa. The initiative was created to recognize and celebrate the contributions of women in the cybersecurity field, addressing the glaring gender imbalance and inspiring more women and girls to pursue careers in this vital sector.

About ACAIF

Founded with a mission to secure Africa's digital future, ACAIF plays a pivotal role in addressing the continent's cybersecurity and artificial intelligence challenges. Through capacity building, mentorship, and advocacy, ACAIF seeks to bridge the skills gap, particularly among underrepresented groups such as women and youth. The foundation's efforts are aligned with the broader goals of sustainable development, digital inclusivity, and economic empowerment. ACAIF is committed to building a resilient digital ecosystem in Africa by providing tailored training programs, organising impactful events, and fostering partnerships with government, academia, and private sector stakeholders.

About Acyberschool

Acyberschool, the educational arm of ACAIF, is dedicated to providing differentiated practical skills based cybersecurity training and education across Africa. By equipping learners with relevant skills in cybersecurity and targeted artificial intelligence skilling, Acyberschool plays an instrumental role in building a skilled workforce capable of safeguarding Africa's digital infrastructure. Through a combination of practical training using designing thinking approach, mentorship through industry and peer coaching, Acyberschool is on a mission to bridge the gap between education and real-world application, ensuring that students not only understand key concepts but are also prepared to address the cybersecurity challenges faced by governments, businesses, and individuals. The school has been integral to the success of initiatives like T1CWWA, providing the educational support and resources needed to scale the impact of these programs through a sustainable quality pipeline.

T1CWWA Project Developmental Objectives

The T1CWWA initiative is more than just an awards program. It is a continent-wide movement aimed at fostering leadership, innovation, and economic resilience among women in cybersecurity. The project's developmental objectives are centred on creating long-term, sustainable impact in Africa's digital economy:

1. **Leadership Development:** T1CWWA equips awardees with leadership training and mentorship opportunities to help them assume influential roles within the cybersecurity industry. This ensures that more women contribute to decision-making processes, driving change in their organisations and communities.
2. **Global Career Exposure:** The initiative facilitates access to global platforms and networks, providing awardees with opportunities to expand their influence, advance their careers, and shape cybersecurity policy and innovation both locally and internationally.
3. **Mentorship Culture:** A key component of T1CWWA is developing structured mentorship programs where awardees mentor young girls and women, particularly from underrepresented regions, encouraging them to pursue careers in cybersecurity and STEM fields.
4. **Increasing Access to STEM Education:** T1CWWA partners with educational institutions to provide resources, workshops, and scholarships that enable young girls to engage with cybersecurity and

other STEM fields from an early age. This contributes to building a reliable future pipeline of skilled women leaders.

5. **Economic Empowerment and Digital Literacy:** The initiative extends beyond recognition, launching cybersecurity awareness programs that target marginalised communities. By providing skills training and digital literacy programs reaching far and wide from Nairobi to Kakuma, T1CWWA helps create employment and entrepreneurship opportunities, driving economic growth in local communities.

Through these objectives, T1CWWA not only celebrates the achievements of women in cybersecurity but also fosters deep, transformative change across Africa by inspiring the next generation of leaders.

The awards event on September 27th was a powerful statement of the program's growth and its ability to unite stakeholders from government, academia, development partners, and the private sector to further its cause. The event emphasised the importance of diversity in cybersecurity and provided a unique opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of women who are leading Africa into a more secure digital age.



3. Event Objectives

1. Recognizing and Celebrating the Achievements of the Top 100 Cybersecurity Women to Watch in Africa

One of the primary objectives of the T1CWWA event, held on Friday, September 27th, was to recognize and celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of women in the field of cybersecurity across Africa. The event honoured the Top 100 Cybersecurity Women to Watch, showcasing their leadership and contributions to a sector where women are historically underrepresented. By celebrating these achievements, the awards provided a platform for these women to be acknowledged as pioneers and role models who are driving change in Africa's cybersecurity landscape. This recognition is a critical step in encouraging more women to pursue careers in cybersecurity and technology, thereby helping to bridge the gender gap in the industry.

2. Fostering a Platform for Dialogue and Networking Among Cybersecurity Leaders, Government, Academia, and Development Partners

Another significant objective of the event was to create a space for dialogue and networking between cybersecurity professionals, government officials, academic leaders, and development partners. The T1CWWA awards facilitated valuable exchanges of ideas and best practices, with attendees from various sectors discussing current challenges and opportunities in cybersecurity. This platform for collaboration is expected to lead to more innovative solutions to Africa's cybersecurity challenges and foster stronger partnerships that will drive progress in the field. The event successfully brought together a wide range of stakeholders, enhancing collective efforts towards building a more secure digital future for the continent.

3. Highlighting the Impact of Women in Cybersecurity on National, Regional, and International Levels

The event also sought to highlight the impact that women in cybersecurity are making on national, regional, and international levels. By showcasing the work of awardees from different parts of Africa, including remote and underserved areas like Kakuma Refugee Camp and Mogadishu, the event demonstrated the broad influence of women in cybersecurity. These women are not only contributing to the security of digital infrastructures but are also inspiring others to take on leadership roles in the field. This recognition is crucial in raising awareness about the importance of diversity and inclusion in cybersecurity, and in showing that women from all backgrounds can and do make significant contributions to this critical industry.

4. Inspiring Young Girls and Women from marginalised Communities to Pursue Careers in Cybersecurity

A key objective of the T1CWWA awards event was to inspire young girls and women, particularly those from marginalised or underserved communities, to explore careers in cybersecurity. Through the stories of the awardees, many of whom have overcome personal and professional obstacles, the event showcased how women from all walks of life can achieve success in this field. By highlighting these journeys, the event aimed to empower young women from rural and disadvantaged areas to pursue opportunities in technology and cybersecurity, thereby contributing to both their personal growth and the broader digital economy.

5. Building on Existing Partnerships and Establishing New Collaborations for Future Growth and Impact

The event also aimed to strengthen existing partnerships and create new opportunities for collaboration between various stakeholders, including government entities, educational institutions, and private sector partners. These partnerships are essential for scaling the impact of the T1CWWA initiative, ensuring that the recognition provided by the awards translates into sustained support for women in cybersecurity. Through these collaborations, the event set the stage for future initiatives that will continue to provide

mentorship, training, and resources to women in the field, ultimately contributing to a stronger and more inclusive cybersecurity ecosystem across Africa.

By achieving these objectives, the T1CWWA awards event successfully laid the groundwork for long-term growth and transformation in Africa's cybersecurity landscape, where women are recognized and supported as key players in shaping the continent's digital future.



4. Event Overview

The **T1CWWA awards event** achieved a remarkable digital footprint, extending its reach far beyond those physically present in the room. Through **live streaming**, the event was able to engage millions across Africa, including participants from countries such as **Nigeria, South Africa, Rwanda, and Somalia**. The live proceedings were amplified by **micro-influencers** on the **trendAI.app** platform, who played a crucial role in spreading the event's message. The social media impact was profound: the event's hashtag, **#AcyberschoolTop100Africa**, trended at positions **2 and 7** for five hours, from 1 PM to 6 PM, showcasing the widespread engagement. The event reached an astounding **43 million people** through the key phrase "**Cybersecurity Women**," and the hashtag **#AcyberschoolTop100Africa** garnered **14.3 million impressions**. This digital momentum highlighted the powerful resonance of the event across the continent, ensuring that the message of women's leadership in cybersecurity was heard far and wide.

In terms of **government representation**, the event was honored by the presence of **Mr. Emmanuel Kata**, Cybersecurity Secretary at the **Ministry of Information, Communication, and Digital Economy**. Mr. Kata highlighted the government's commitment to building a secure digital economy in Kenya, with a focus on the role of women in driving cybersecurity initiatives. Complementing his address was **Col. Munywoki**, Director of Cybersecurity for the **eCitizen platform at the Ministry of Interior**, who provided valuable insights into the government's ongoing efforts to secure Kenya's digital infrastructure. Col. Munywoki emphasised the need for a diverse cybersecurity workforce and stressed that women's participation is critical for the success of national security initiatives. Both government representatives underscored the importance of public-private partnerships in advancing the country's cybersecurity agenda.

From the **education sector**, **Prof. Kahonge Andrew**, Chair of the Department of Computing and Informatics at the **University of Nairobi**, and **Nikki Germany**, CEO of **Moringa School**, were key contributors to the event. Prof. Kahonge emphasised the role of academic institutions in closing the gender gap in cybersecurity through curriculum development and research, while Nikki Germany delivered a compelling keynote address on the significance of education in empowering women to thrive in cybersecurity. Her speech resonated deeply, as she highlighted how educational institutions must serve as catalysts for change by offering opportunities for women and girls to gain critical technical skills.

The event also benefited from the participation of esteemed **former government officials** such as **Dr. Katherine W. Getao**, former **Chief Executive Officer of the ICT Authority**. Dr. Getao's significant presence further enriched the event, as her legacy in Kenya's digital transformation and advocacy for women in technology continues to inspire future generations of women leaders. Her engagement at the event reinforced the importance of experienced leaders lending their voices to the ongoing dialogue around gender diversity and cybersecurity.

International and **development partners** were also well-represented, with a notable delegation from **Estonia** contributing to the discussions on international collaboration and cybersecurity innovation. Estonia's presence reinforced the event's global relevance, as the country's pioneering efforts in digital governance and cybersecurity served as a valuable model for African nations. Their participation emphasised the importance of learning from global best practices while building local capacity for cybersecurity resilience.

Regional institutions also played a pivotal role, with **AFRALTI** (African Advanced Level Telecommunications Institute) highlighting its commitment to capacity building in cybersecurity across Africa. AFRALTI's participation underscored the necessity of regional cooperation in fostering a robust

cybersecurity ecosystem, with a particular focus on empowering women and youth through training and mentorship programs.

The presence of **T1CWWA awardees** from **Kakuma Refugee Camp** and **Mogadishu** was one of the most moving aspects of the event. These women, who have overcome significant personal and professional challenges, exemplified the far-reaching impact of the T1CWWA initiative. Their participation demonstrated the initiative's success in empowering women from some of the most marginalised regions of Africa, reinforcing the message that cybersecurity is a field in which all women, regardless of their background, can excel.

In summary, the T1CWWA awards event was a staggering success, not only in terms of its physical and digital reach but also in its ability to bring together a diverse array of influential stakeholders. From government officials to academic leaders, from former policymakers to international partners, the event was

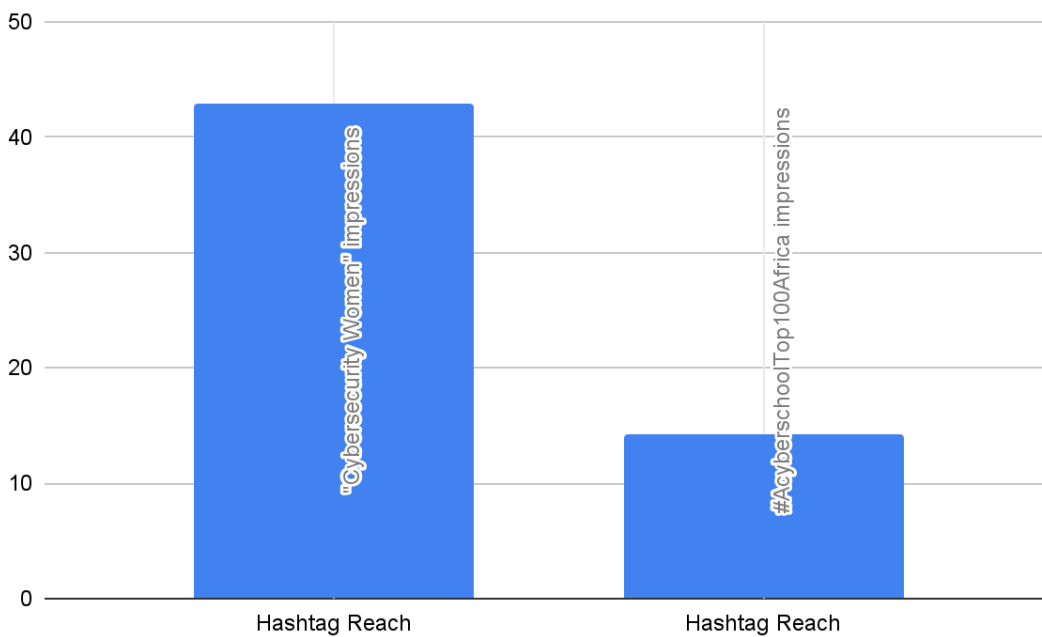


a testament to the growing recognition of the critical role women play in shaping Africa's cybersecurity future. This event not only celebrated achievements but also laid the foundation for future collaborations,

ensuring that the momentum continues to build for greater gender inclusion in cybersecurity across the continent.

Event Metrics

Category	Metric
Hashtag Reach	43 million impressions for "Cybersecurity Women"
Hashtag Reach (#AcyberschoolTop100Africa)	14.3 million impressions
Hashtag Trend	#AcyberschoolTop100Africa trended at #2 and #7 for 5 hours
Geographical Reach	Viewership from Nigeria, South Africa, Rwanda, Somalia, and Kenya



organisations Represented

Category	Institution/organisation	Role/Contribution
Academia	University of Nairobi	Prof. Kahonge Andrew, Chair of School of Computing, emphasised academic partnerships in cybersecurity.
	Moringa School	Nikki Germany, CEO, highlighted the role of education in bridging the gender gap in cybersecurity.

Government	Ministry of Information, Communication, and Digital Economy	Mr. Emmanuel Kata, Cybersecurity Secretary, represented the Kenyan government's cybersecurity agenda.
	Ministry of Interior (eCitizen Platform)	Col. Munywoki, Director of Cybersecurity, spoke on securing Kenya's digital infrastructure.
International Partners	Government of Estonia	Contributed insights into international cybersecurity collaboration and innovation.
Regional Partners	AFRALTI (African Advanced Level Telecommunications Institute)	Played a key role in supporting regional capacity-building initiatives in cybersecurity.
Development Partners	Various partners from international cybersecurity and development organisations	Supported knowledge exchange and capacity building efforts across Africa.



6. Activities and Sessions

The **T1CWWA Awards** on **Friday, September 27th, 2024**, unfolded in a vibrant, impactful sequence of activities that left attendees inspired and energised by the day's events. The **day began promptly at 8:00 AM** at the **Kenya School of Government in Nairobi**, with a **Welcome Address** by **Dr. Katherine W. Getao**, the former Chief Executive Officer of the ICT Authority. Dr. Getao set a powerful tone for the event, offering profound insights into the critical role of cybersecurity in driving Africa's digital transformation. Her remarks underscored the importance of women's leadership in this space, noting that their inclusion is key to securing Africa's digital future.

Following the welcome, attendees were treated to a series of technical sessions that demonstrated the practical aspects of cybersecurity, starting with an **Introduction to Blockchain** by experts **Moses** and **Gideon**, which explored the potential of blockchain technology in enhancing digital security across industries. This session was followed by an in-depth exploration of **Cloud Security**, led by the **Moringa School Team**, giving participants hands-on insights into addressing cloud-based cybersecurity challenges. These sessions sparked curiosity and discussions among attendees, many of whom were eager to apply these concepts in their respective fields.

As the morning progressed, the event dived into increasingly specialised topics, such as the **Detection and Prevention of Phishing Attacks**, facilitated by **Esther**, and a dynamic session on **AI and Misinformation Detection** led by **Jackline**. Both sessions were practical, equipping attendees with cutting-edge tools to navigate and mitigate these prevalent cyber threats. Adding further excitement, **Miriam** conducted a **Social Engineering Challenge**, which allowed participants to test their understanding of human manipulation tactics used by hackers. The technical block culminated in a thrilling **Capture the Flag (CTF) Challenge** hosted by **Sam** and **Adonijah**, where participants navigated real-world cybersecurity scenarios in a hands-on competition. These sessions provided both practical knowledge and fun, energising attendees as they prepared for the next phase of the day.

Throughout the day, **Nabiha Rashad** and **Nancy Mureithi**, both esteemed **T1CWWA awardees**, seamlessly hosted the event as **Masters of Ceremony**. Their vibrant energy and deep understanding of the topics being discussed kept the audience engaged and ensured smooth transitions between sessions.

As the afternoon began, attention shifted to the event's **Keynote Speech**, delivered by **Mr. Emmanuel Kata**, the Cybersecurity Secretary at the **Ministry of Information, Communication, and Digital Economy**. Mr. Kata's address was a highlight of the day, as he emphasised Kenya's commitment to cybersecurity and the critical role that women must play in securing the nation's digital infrastructure. His powerful message was a call to action for both public and private sectors to work together in creating inclusive opportunities for women in tech, resonating deeply with the audience.

The most anticipated part of the day, the **Awards Ceremony**, brought a sense of excitement and pride as the **Top 100 Cybersecurity Women to Watch in Africa** were honoured for their outstanding contributions. The awards were presented by an esteemed panel, including **Col. Munywoki**, Director of Cybersecurity for the **eCitizen platform at the Ministry of Interior**; **Mr. Emmanuel Kata**, Cybersecurity Secretary at the **Ministry of Information, Communication, and Digital Economy**; **Dr. Katherine W. Getao**, former **Chief Executive Officer of the ICT Authority**; and **Nikki Germany**, CEO of **Moringa School**. Each presenter took a moment to commend the incredible achievements of the awardees, acknowledging their leadership, innovation, and influence in shaping the future of cybersecurity. The atmosphere was electric, as the entire room celebrated the trailblazing women who are making a significant impact across the continent.

After the awards, attendees had the opportunity to network during the **Meet & Greet Session**, mingling with awardees, cybersecurity leaders, and fellow participants. Conversations flowed effortlessly, and new connections were made, strengthening the collaborative spirit that defined the day.

The day concluded on a high note with a thought-provoking **Fireside Chat**, moderated by **Evalyn Oloo**, Chair of ACAIF. The session featured key voices in cybersecurity, including **Nikki Germany**, CEO of **Moringa School**, who had joined for the afternoon discussions. The panel addressed critical issues such as why women often stagnate in their tech careers, particularly in cybersecurity, and the role of governance in building trust and influencing trade. Nikki brought an important perspective, emphasising how leadership and organisational governance can be leveraged to enhance diversity in cybersecurity. The discussion offered valuable takeaways on how organisations can promote gender diversity through policy changes, making it a fitting end to an inspiring day.

For those who missed the event, the day's combination of practical workshops, powerful speeches, and meaningful recognition left attendees feeling inspired and empowered. It was a true celebration of women's achievements in cybersecurity and a strong call for continued efforts to build a more inclusive and secure digital future for Africa. Missing the event was missing out on a transformative experience that not only recognized outstanding women but also pushed the boundaries of what is possible for women in tech across Africa.



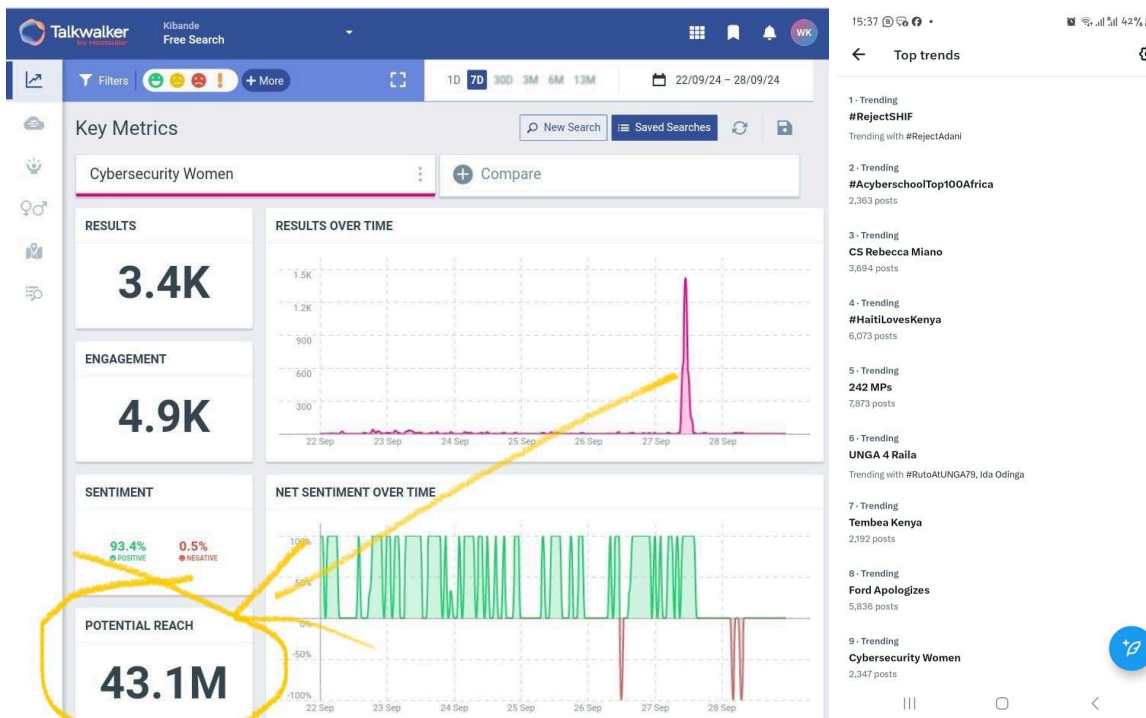
7. Achievements and Outcomes

The **T1CWWA Awards 2024** was an overwhelming success, significantly surpassing expectations and laying the groundwork for future growth. The event not only honoured the exceptional contributions of women in cybersecurity but also created lasting partnerships, sparked meaningful conversations, and amplified the influence of the T1CWWA initiative across Africa. Below are the key achievements and outcomes that made this event a transformative milestone:

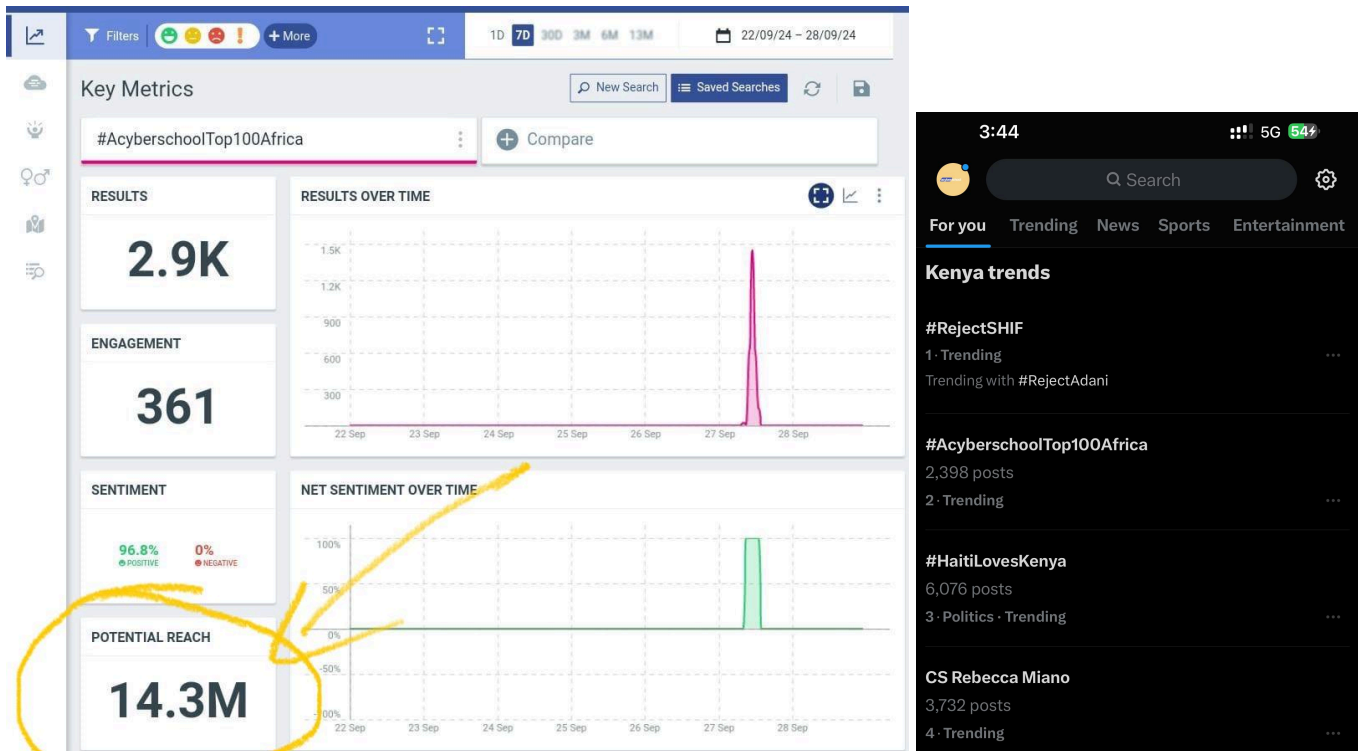
1. Exceptional Digital Reach and Social Media Engagement

One of the most remarkable achievements of the event was its **digital and social media reach**, which extended far beyond the physical attendees. Through **live streaming**, the event engaged millions across the continent, including viewers from **Nigeria, South Africa, Rwanda, and Somalia**. The event's social media presence was equally impressive, with the hashtag **#AcyberschoolTop100Africa** trending at positions **2 and 7** for **five hours** between 1 PM and 6 PM. This engagement resulted in an incredible reach of **14.3 million people** through the hashtag, while the key phrase **“Cybersecurity Women”** garnered an astounding **43 million impressions**. This digital momentum ensured that the message of the T1CWWA initiative reverberated across Africa, raising awareness about the importance of women’s leadership in cybersecurity and inspiring countless others to join the movement.

Social Media Reach: Metrics for the “Cybersecurity Women”



Social Media Reach: Metrics for the hashtag “#Acyberschooltop100africa”



2. Wide Regional Representation

The event highlighted the **expanding regional reach** of the T1CWWA initiative, showcasing women from all corners of the continent, including remote and marginalised areas like **Kakuma Refugee Camp** in Kenya and **Mogadishu** in Somalia. The presence of these women, who have overcome significant obstacles to become leaders in their communities, underscores the broad and inclusive nature of the T1CWWA program. Their participation not only demonstrated the program’s ability to inspire and uplift women in underserved regions but also affirmed the initiative’s growing influence across Africa. These stories of resilience and achievement resonated deeply, reinforcing the program’s mission to empower women, regardless of their geographical or socio-economic backgrounds.

3. Strengthened and New Partnerships

A key highlight of the event was the **strengthening of existing partnerships** and the establishment of **new collaborations** with influential stakeholders from academia, government, and the private sector. Notable academic institutions such as the **University of Nairobi**, **Moringa School**, and **AFRALTI** reiterated their commitment to supporting the T1CWWA initiative, while **international development partners** expressed strong interest in contributing to future projects. These partnerships are critical in expanding the initiative’s reach and capacity, enabling T1CWWA to offer more training, mentorship, and opportunities for women in cybersecurity across the continent. The event set the stage for continued collaboration, ensuring that the momentum generated will lead to significant, long-term outcomes.

4. Amplified Awareness Through Media and Online Platforms

The event successfully raised widespread awareness about the **need for gender diversity in cybersecurity**, a field where women remain vastly underrepresented. Extensive media coverage and robust social media engagement ensured that the event’s message reached millions across Africa and beyond. The **trendAI.app** platform played a pivotal role, leveraging **micro-influencers** to amplify the event’s message, resulting in unprecedented online engagement. The strong digital footprint and the buzz

created on social media not only highlighted the achievements of the T1CWWA awardees but also sparked conversations about the importance of inclusive leadership in the tech sector. The media impact from this event is expected to continue driving interest and participation in future T1CWWA programs.

5. Inspirational Testimonies and Momentum for Future Programs

One of the most powerful aspects of the event was the **inspirational testimonies** shared by Dr. Cate Gitai on empowering women and the chair of T1CWWA Evalyn Oloo on the “why” of acyberschool and ACAIF. the T1CWWA awardees. Their stories captured the hearts of attendees and viewers alike. These testimonies not only highlighted the **life-changing impact** of the T1CWWA initiative but also inspired renewed commitment from partners and stakeholders to scale the program to reach even more women. There is now a focused effort to **expand mentorship opportunities**, introduce **new training programs**, and expand projects to ensure that the initiative reaches even deeper into underserved communities across the continent. The momentum generated by these stories of success will undoubtedly fuel the growth of the program in the coming years.

6. Fireside Chat on Governance and Cybersecurity Diversity

The day culminated with a thought-provoking **Fireside Chat**, moderated by **Evalyn Oloo**, Chair of ACAIF, featuring a discussion on critical topics such as why women stagnate in tech careers like cybersecurity, the role of governance in building trust, and how leadership can drive diversity in cybersecurity. The panellists, consisting of Nikki of Moringa, Secretary Kato of MICDE, Col. Munywoki of Interior, Dr. Getao and Evalyn, contributed valuable insights into how governance plays a crucial role in fostering organisational trust and enabling diversity. This session not only provided practical solutions for improving gender diversity in cybersecurity but also left attendees with a strong call to action to improve governance structures in their organisations. The Fireside Chat was a fitting close to an event focused on both celebrating achievements and discussing the future of cybersecurity in Africa.





8. Challenges and Lessons Learned

While the T1CWWA 2024 Awards was an overwhelming success, a few challenges were encountered during the planning and execution phases. These challenges provided valuable lessons that will inform the organisation and planning of future events, helping to ensure even greater success.

1. Regional Travel Logistics

Coordinating the travel arrangements for participants from remote regions such as **Kakuma Refugee Camp** in Kenya and **Mogadishu** in Somalia proved to be a significant logistical challenge. Many of the awardees and participants from these areas faced difficulties related to flight availability, travel permits, and logistical constraints due to their locations. Ensuring the safe and timely arrival of these participants required extensive effort and careful coordination, often stretching available resources. The lesson learned here is that for future events, earlier engagement with regional travel partners and local authorities will be crucial to streamline these processes, ensuring participants from remote areas can attend without undue stress or delays.

2. Engagement of Partners

While the event enjoyed significant partner involvement, there was an opportunity to engage key stakeholders earlier in the planning process to ensure even more impactful participation. Some partners from ACAIF's and Acyberschool's networks across Africa, Europe, and the USA were not fully leveraged for

the event, missing the chance to provide financial support, materials, or expertise. Earlier outreach and closer coordination with these partners could have amplified the event's impact, allowing for deeper involvement in sponsorships, content creation, and logistical support. Moving forward, establishing a more structured timeline for partner engagement and maintaining ongoing communication will help foster stronger collaboration and contributions from both regional and international stakeholders.

3. Media and Publicity Timing

Although the event achieved remarkable online and social media engagement, an important lesson was learned regarding the **timing of media and publicity efforts**. There was a slight lag in some media outreach initiatives, meaning that some key announcements and promotions were not released as early as they could have been. This affected the lead time for building anticipation and attracting a larger virtual audience in the weeks leading up to the event. For future events, a more robust and proactive media strategy, involving earlier press releases, pre-event interviews, and social media campaigns, will be crucial in amplifying awareness and maximising attendance, both physically and virtually.

4. Coordination of Event Activities

With a full day of back-to-back sessions, the **coordination of activities** required intricate timing and management. While the day unfolded smoothly for the most part, a few sessions ran over their allocated time, causing minor delays in the schedule. This slightly compressed certain sections, particularly the **Awards ceremony** and the **Fireside Chat**, limiting the opportunities for more extensive interactions. The lesson learned here is to build in more buffer time between sessions in future events to ensure that all segments run on time and allow for flexibility when necessary.

5. Inclusivity in Program Design

Although the event was highly inclusive, featuring awardees from remote and marginalised communities, a key takeaway was the need for greater **digital accessibility** for participants unable to attend in person due to logistical or financial constraints. While live streaming was a great success, some regions with lower internet connectivity faced challenges in accessing the virtual event. Additionally, we are in the process of developing our content to be accessible for persons with disabilities. Future events will benefit from exploring alternative ways of increasing digital inclusivity for persons with disabilities, and for persons not able to attend in person, such as providing offline event materials, creating pre-recorded sessions, or offering digital hubs in regional areas with reliable internet access to bridge the gap for participants from underserved regions.

While the T1CWWA 2024 Awards was an immense success, these challenges and the lessons learned will be essential in refining the organisation of future events. By addressing these areas, the next iteration of the awards can achieve an even greater level of participation, inclusivity, and global impact.


9. Looking Forward and Next Steps

The success of the **T1CWWA 2024 Awards** firmly positions the program as a driving force for **gender diversity in cybersecurity** across Africa. With a strong network of partners and the incredible reach generated by this year's event, T1CWWA is poised for even greater impact in the coming years. One day post the event, the sentiments from T1CWWAs and attendees from the event significantly signalled the event's impact;

Mainstream Media Coverage:

<https://youtu.be/ms8UPdeLdJU?si=DBRt19YppDKpMzso>


User Generated Content (UGC): Attendees


 **MaryImmaculate Kiio** · Following
Governance and Risk Compliance | Chemical and process Engineering | (ISC)² Certified in Cybersecurity | Data protection | ...
14h · 🌐

Last week I had the opportunity to attend the awards and networking events celebrating the Top 100 Women in Cybersecurity in Africa, organized by [acyberschool](#). [Evalyn Oloo](#) you're doing such a great job in training Cybersecurity professionals and in recognizing the remarkable achievements of women in the field each year.

I left feeling inspired by the knowledge shared and the women who made it to the Top 100 list including [Judy Ngure](#), [Jacklyne Mbuthia](#), [Confidence Staveley](#), [Joylynn Kirui](#), [Cynthia Rotich](#) and all the incredible women that I met.

[#Celebratingwomen](#)
[#Womenintech](#)
[#Networking](#)





 **Hamda Abdiweli Harun** · 2nd [+ Follow](#)
Cyber Security Analyst | SOC | Google Cyber Security Professional | IT & Business Grad
15h · 🌐





Thrilled to have attended the Top 100 Cybersecurity Women to Watch in Africa Awards on last Friday. I had the opportunity to witness an incredible celebration of women making waves in cybersecurity across Africa. It was a pleasure meeting [Evalyn Oloo](#), founder of the [Africa Cybersecurity and AI Foundation \(ACAIF\)](#) and [acyberschool](#) and the organizer behind this inspiring event.

A huge congratulations to all the honorees, especially [Evalyn Oloo](#) [Nabihah Rishad \(MSc., GRCP, IDPP, GRCA, CCIS\)](#) [Judy Ngure](#) [Mulki Abukar](#) [Dr. Paula Musuva](#) 🌟 Your dedication and achievements are truly inspiring.

[#cybersecurity](#) [#Top100WomenInCybersecurity](#) [#T1CWWA](#)



 Judy Ngure and 8 others

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User Generated Content (UGC): T1CWWAs

Macharia Rose · 1st
 Cyber Security Analyst and Consultant
 11h · 🌐

Honored and thrilled to be recognized as one of the Top 100 Cybersecurity Women to Watch in Africa by [acyberschool](#). Grateful to be part of a growing community that is shaping the future of tech on the continent. Here's to many more milestones! To the rest who made it to the list congratulations. [#WomenInTech](#)



The certificate reads: **TOP 100 CYBERSECURITY WOMAN TO WATCH 2024**. CERTIFICATE OF AWARD. This certificate is proudly awarded to *Rose Macharia*. For making it to the T1CWWA 2024 list, due to her achievement as an outstanding cybersecurity professional, significantly impacting her community Africa celebrates you. Acyberschool acknowledges you. Signed by Dr. Evelyn Oloo (Chair, Africa Cybersecurity & AI Foundation) and Dr. Patricia Ather (CCO, Acyberschool).

Faith Esther Adhiambo Odhiambo · 2nd + Follow
 Cybersecurity | Top 100 Cybersecurity Women to watch 2024 | ICT Policy & Strategy Writing
 10h · 🌐

I'm honored and humbled to have been recognized as one of the Top 100 Cybersecurity Women in Africa to Watch in 2024! 🌟 This achievement is a testament to the power of resilience, collaboration, and continuous learning in a field that is constantly evolving.

Thank you [acyberschool](#) for the platform. I am also grateful for the support of my mentors, colleagues, and the incredible cybersecurity community across the continent. Here's to breaking barriers, fostering innovation, and building a more secure digital future for Africa! 🇰🇪🇸🇰


[#cybersecurity](#) [#WomenInTech](#) [#Top100](#) [#AfricaTech](#) [#Innovation](#) [#WomenInCyber](#) [#DigitalSecurity](#) acyberschool





Priscilla Alakara · 1st
 Computer Science Student | Cyber Security enthusiast | Data Scientist
 2d · 🌐

I'm honoured to have made it to the 2024 T1CWWA awards list. Words can't fully express how much this award means to me. I've been fortunate enough to have incredible ...see more



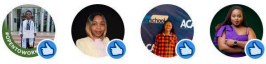
The certificate reads: **TOP 100 CYBERSECURITY WOMAN TO WATCH 2024**. CERTIFICATE OF AWARD. This certificate is proudly awarded to *Priscilla Alakara*. For making it to the T1CWWA 2024 list, due to her achievement as an outstanding cybersecurity professional, significantly impacting her community Africa celebrates you. Acyberschool acknowledges you. Signed by Dr. Evelyn Oloo (Chair, Africa Cybersecurity & AI Foundation) and Dr. Patricia Ather (CCO, Acyberschool).

Milkah Mburu and 3 others · 1 comment

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151 impressions View

Reactions



Nabihah Rishad (MSc., GRCP, IDPP, GRCA, CCIS)
 Product & Research Lead at Serianu, GRC Specialist, Cyber Insurance Professional, Cyber Shujaa Trainer, SCIP Founder, Top...
 2d · 🌐

I am deeply honored to be recognized as one of the Top 100 Cybersecurity Women to Watch in Africa. Being part of this incredible community of talented women inspires me to continue pushing the boundaries, breaking barriers, and empowering other women in the cybersecurity space. Thank you to [acyberschool Evalyn Oloo](#) for this recognition! [#womenincyber](#) [#top100womentowatch](#) [#womenleaders](#) [#womenintech](#)




The certificate reads: **TOP 100 CYBERSECURITY WOMAN TO WATCH 2024**. CERTIFICATE OF AWARD. This certificate is proudly awarded to *Nabihah Rishad*. For making it to the T1CWWA 2024 list, due to her achievement as an outstanding cybersecurity professional, significantly impacting her community Africa celebrates you. Acyberschool acknowledges you. Signed by Dr. Evelyn Oloo (Chair, Africa Cybersecurity & AI Foundation) and Dr. Patricia Ather (CCO, Acyberschool).

You and 197 others · 50 comments · 4 reposts

Like Comment Repost Send

Evelyn Kasina · 1st
 Digital Learning Leader | Trust and Safety Specialist | Family IT Consultant | Part-Time Lecturer - Riara University | Podcaster | K...
[Visit my website](#)
 17h · 🌐

I am incredibly honoured to be among 100 Top Cyber Security Women to watch in 2024 and awarded by [acyberschool](#).

My niche, [#ChildOnlineProtection](#) under Online Safety and Digital Wellbeing is so close to my heart and the core mandate of [Eveminet Communication Solutions Limited](#).

I congratulate my fellow COP Lilian Kariuki as well as [Faith Kwamboka](#)

[#SaferTogether](#) [#WomenInTech](#)



👍❤️🔒 29 10 comments · 2 reposts

Milkah Mburu · 1st
 Information Security Officer | CC | CyberSecurity Enthusiast| Training and Development|Certified SAFe Scrum Master
 1d · Edited · 🌐

I'm incredibly honored and humbled to receive the Top 100 Cybersecurity Women to Watch in Africa (T1CWWA) 2024 award from [acyberschool](#) and [Africa Cybersecurity and AI Foundation \(ACAIF\)](#). This recognition reinforces my passion for cybersecurity and I look forward to continuing to contribute in meaningful ways. Thank you to everyone who has supported and believed in me. Let's keep pushing the boundaries of Cybersecurity
[#Grateful](#) [#Award](#) [#Innovation](#) [#womenincybersecurity](#)



🌐🌐 Milkah Mburu and 35 others 15 comments

The momentum built through this event offers a powerful platform for ongoing advocacy, mentorship, and capacity-building initiatives. Partners looking to play a role in shaping Africa’s digital future are encouraged to collaborate with T1CWWA, joining a movement that continues to empower women and lead the charge in building a secure and inclusive digital economy.

Building on the overwhelming success of the **T1CWWA 2024 Awards**, the initiative is poised to expand its reach and deepen its impact across the continent. The next phase of T1CWWA's growth will focus on strengthening its core objectives while introducing new programs and initiatives aimed at ensuring sustained development for women in cybersecurity. The following strategic steps will guide this next chapter of the T1CWWA program:

1. Expand Regional Outreach

One of the key priorities for T1CWWA moving forward is to **broaden its regional outreach** by engaging more women in cybersecurity from across Africa, especially in underserved and remote regions. This will involve scaling existing efforts to ensure that the program reaches women in countries where cybersecurity infrastructure and education may be less developed. By collaborating with local partners, educational institutions, and community leaders, T1CWWA aims to create a larger, more inclusive network that empowers women from all corners of Africa to pursue careers in cybersecurity. The initiative will also prioritise identifying and supporting women in marginalised areas to ensure that the program's reach continues to grow.

2. Strengthen Partnerships

Building on the successful collaboration with stakeholders at the 2024 event, **T1CWWA plans to solidify and expand its partnerships** with key players in academia, the private sector, development partners, and government institutions. These partnerships are critical for scaling up the impact of the program by offering financial support, resources, mentorship, and opportunities for professional development. By fostering stronger ties with leading universities, tech companies, and international organisations, T1CWWA will continue to enhance its ability to provide world-class training and resources to women in cybersecurity. Furthermore, partnerships with government agencies will be deepened to advocate for policies that promote gender diversity in tech and cybersecurity sectors.

3. Launch Targeted Mentorship Programs

Recognizing the importance of mentorship in shaping successful careers, **T1CWWA will strengthen and launch targeted mentorship initiatives** aimed at providing continuous support to T1CWWA awardees and young women aspiring to enter the cybersecurity field. These mentorship programs will connect seasoned professionals with emerging talents, offering guidance, skill-building opportunities, and career advice. The mentorship framework will be structured to cater to women at different stages of their careers from novices to those seeking leadership roles ensuring that participants receive personalised support that meets their unique needs. The program will also include a special focus on mentorship for women in remote regions, leveraging digital tools to bridge the gap.

4. Increase the Reach of ACAIF Programs

T1CWWA will play a key role in expanding the **reach of ACAIF's flagship programs**, such as the **Africa Advanced Cybersecurity Fellowship (AACF)**, the **Cybersecurity and AI Innovation Challenge Africa (CAICA)**, and the **CyTapp** initiative, all of which are designed to promote diversity in tech. These programs will serve as a pipeline for future T1CWWA awardees, fostering a sustainable talent pool of women with the skills and leadership potential to drive cybersecurity forward. By increasing the visibility and accessibility of these initiatives, T1CWWA will ensure that more women can benefit from the opportunities provided, contributing to a stronger, more diverse cybersecurity workforce across the continent.

5. Foster Diversity in Skills Development

T1CWWA will also focus on **fostering diversity in skills development** by working with development partners, foundations, trusts, government bodies, and the private sector to further establish the **ACAIF TechforJobs Fund**. This fund will provide larger scholarships and financial support for women and marginalised groups to pursue certifications in **Acyberschool's cybersecurity and AI programs**, enabling both novice learners and seasoned professionals to advance their careers in their future of work to improve their livelihoods in the digital economy. Through this initiative, women will gain access to high-quality, hands-on training that equips them with the skills needed to thrive in the cybersecurity and AI fields. Key programs include:

- Acyberschool AI for Role Specialisation
- Acyberschool AI Mastery for Professionals
- Acyberschool AI Mastery for the Creative Economy
- Acyberschool Cybersecurity for Role Specialisation
- Acyberschool Data Protection Officer Certification
- Acyberschool Employee Cybersecurity Awareness
- Acyberschool Executive Program on Cybersecurity for SME Owners
- Acyberschool ISO 27001 Consultant Certification

- **Acyberschool Secure + Certification**

These programs will empower women to gain the expertise necessary to lead in various sectors, from cybersecurity and AI to data protection and digital innovation.

6. Plan for Larger-Scale Events

Given the success and high demand of this year's event, **T1CWWA will plan for larger-scale events** in the future, accommodating more participants and offering expanded opportunities for networking, collaboration, and capacity building. The next event will focus on bringing together an even wider range of stakeholders, from government officials and industry leaders to development partners and academia, to discuss key challenges and opportunities in cybersecurity. These larger events will also feature more interactive sessions, workshops, and discussion panels, providing a platform for deeper engagement and partnership building across Africa and beyond.

7. Increase Investment in Women-Led Tech Businesses

Through the **Cybersecurity and AI Innovation Challenge Africa (CAICA)**, T1CWWA will foster greater investment in **women-led tech businesses** by encouraging partnerships that provide **Go-to-Market (GTM) support** and **funding for early-stage innovations** with commercial viability. By working closely with investors, incubators, and development organisations, T1CWWA aims to create a robust ecosystem where women entrepreneurs in tech receive the resources and mentorship they need to scale their businesses and bring innovative solutions to market. This initiative will not only empower women in tech but also contribute to Africa's overall economic growth by supporting job creation and innovation.

The future of T1CWWA is bright, with a clear roadmap for expanding its impact and reach. By continuing to champion women in cybersecurity, fostering diversity, and building stronger partnerships, T1CWWA will remain at the forefront of efforts to secure Africa's digital future and empower the next generation of women leaders in cybersecurity.

The **T1CWWA Awards** event held on **September 27th, 2024**, stands as a **landmark achievement** in the ongoing mission to empower women in cybersecurity across Africa. This event marked a significant milestone, not just for the awardees, but for the broader movement to increase **gender diversity in tech** and bolster **cybersecurity resilience** throughout the continent. By bringing together key stakeholders ranging from government officials and academic leaders to development partners and private sector representatives the event highlighted the **outstanding contributions** of the **Top 100 Cybersecurity Women to Watch**, shining a light on the critical role women play in shaping Africa's digital future.

The energy, insights, and collaborative spirit that permeated the event have **set the stage for the next phase** of T1CWWA's growth. The strong alliances forged during the event, particularly with development partners, academia, and industry leaders, will serve as a cornerstone for scaling the initiative's reach and impact. With a clear vision for the future, T1CWWA is poised to continue driving **transformational change** across the cybersecurity landscape in Africa, ensuring that women are not just participants, but **leaders and innovators** at the forefront of this essential sector.

The event's success demonstrated that the momentum for change is not only growing but becoming **unavoidable**. Through continued dedication, strategic partnerships, and a commitment to **inclusive growth**, T1CWWA is on track to realise its mission of creating a **secure digital future** led by **empowered women**, pushing the boundaries of what is possible in cybersecurity for Africa and beyond.

The success of the **T1CWWA Awards 2024** would not have been possible without the **collective efforts** of our partners, sponsors, and attendees, each of whom played a critical role in bringing this vision to life. We

extend our **deepest gratitude** to all the organisations and individuals who contributed their time, resources, and expertise to make this event a resounding success.

A special appreciation goes to the **government representatives** whose participation underscored the importance of public-sector support in advancing cybersecurity and gender diversity. In particular, we thank **Mr. Emmanuel Kata, Col. Munywoki, and Dr. Katherine W. Getao** for their invaluable contributions and thought leadership. We also express our sincere thanks to the **academic leaders**, including **Prof. Kahonge Andrew and Nikki Germany**, who shared their knowledge and insights on the crucial role education plays in empowering women in cybersecurity.

To our **development partners**, your ongoing support and collaboration have been essential to the growth and success of T1CWWA. We are equally grateful to the **T1CWWA awardees**, many of whom travelled long distances from across Africa, including **Kakuma Refugee Camp** and **Mogadishu**, to be a part of this momentous occasion. Your stories of perseverance, innovation, and leadership inspire us all and are at the heart of why T1CWWA exists.

Finally, we would like to thank the **volunteers, organisers, and behind-the-scenes teams** whose hard work and dedication ensured the smooth execution of this event. The success of the T1CWWA Awards is a testament to your commitment and passion. Together, we have laid the foundation for future achievements, and we look forward to continuing this journey with all of you as we work to shape the future of **women in cybersecurity** across Africa.



12. Appendices

- **Event Photos:** <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eO6XzdptvPwDn9GDpghGiBD7I3SaDAfl>