

# EMPOWER WARO

## NEWSLETTER

JANUARY-APRIL 2024





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## We are pleased to share the first EMPOWER WARO newsletter !

The EMPOWER WARO program, launched in 2023 by CRS, is making a difference in West Africa by strengthening local organizations' ability to respond to emergencies. Through capacity building, institutional strengthening, accompaniment, and direct funding, EMPOWER WARO supports local leaders and equips communities with the specific skills, knowledge, and experience needed to meet the needs of people in crisis. This innovative approach fosters community-driven development and ensures that those closest to emergencies are prepared to respond efficiently and with dignity.

**Astrid AGOSSOU AGUENOU**  
Business Development Technical Advisor  
EMPOWER WARO



## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Expanding Horizons

Our network welcomed **seven new partners**: Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. This expansion brings our total to **10 trusted partners**, comprising both faith-based and government organizations, across **eight countries**. Moreover, we facilitated secondments to assist two of our Ghanaian partners in implementing a refugee response initiative.

### Empowering Partners

The EMPOWER WARO team has provided comprehensive technical support and guidance to our partners. Through collaborative efforts in finance, supply chain management, human resources, and ITC4D integration, we've collectively forged **11 new policies** and approaches. Moreover, we've facilitated secondments to support the implementation of a refugee response for two of our Ghanaian partners.

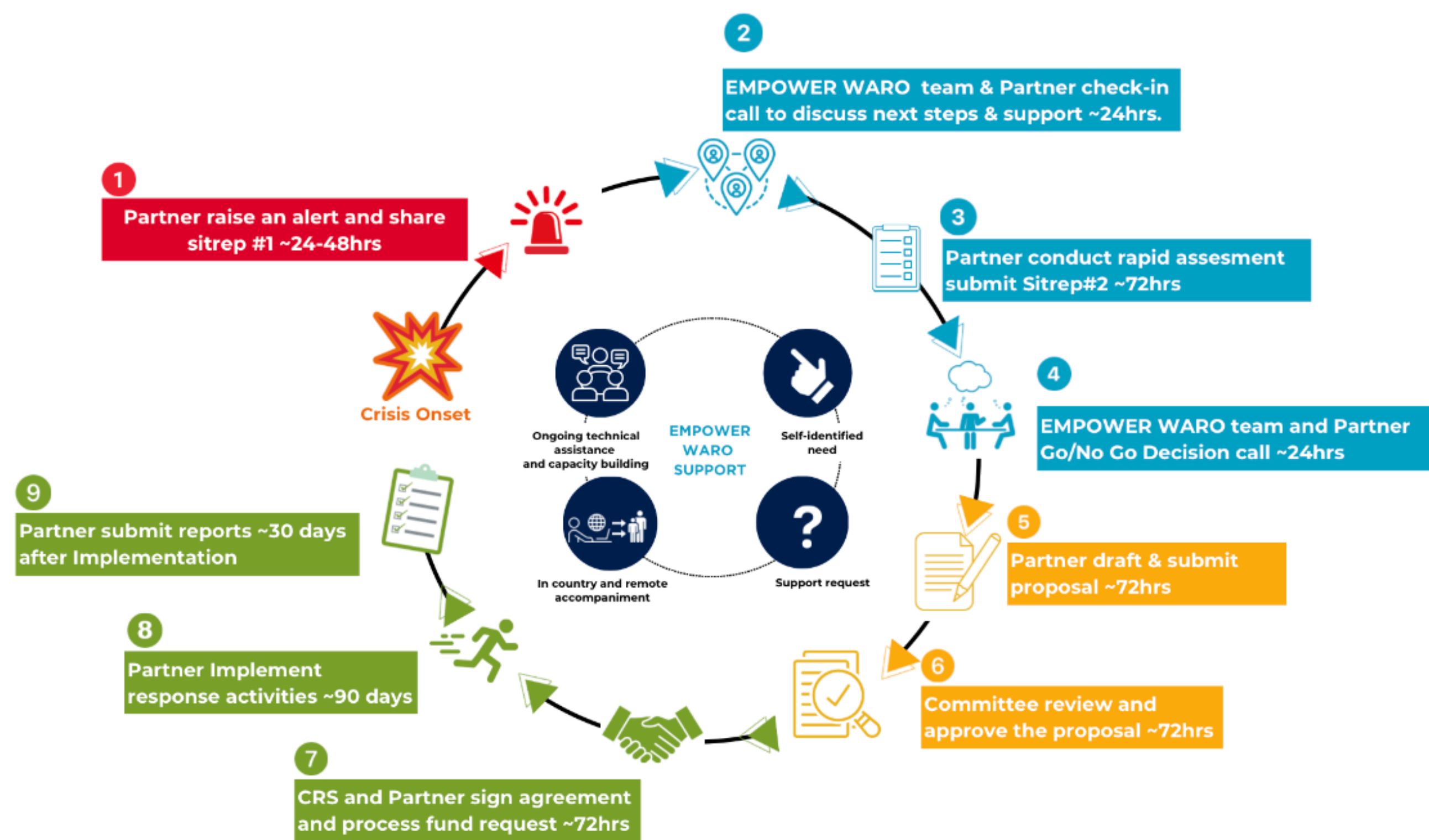
### Capacity Building in Action

Our commitment to capacity building led us to conduct over **30 tailored training sessions**, equipping **93 staff members** from our partner organizations with essential skills in Cash Management, MEAL, ICT4D, Safe & Dignified Programming, Program Quality and Management (PQM), coordination, and emergency planning. Each session was meticulously crafted to address the specific needs and aspirations identified by our partners.

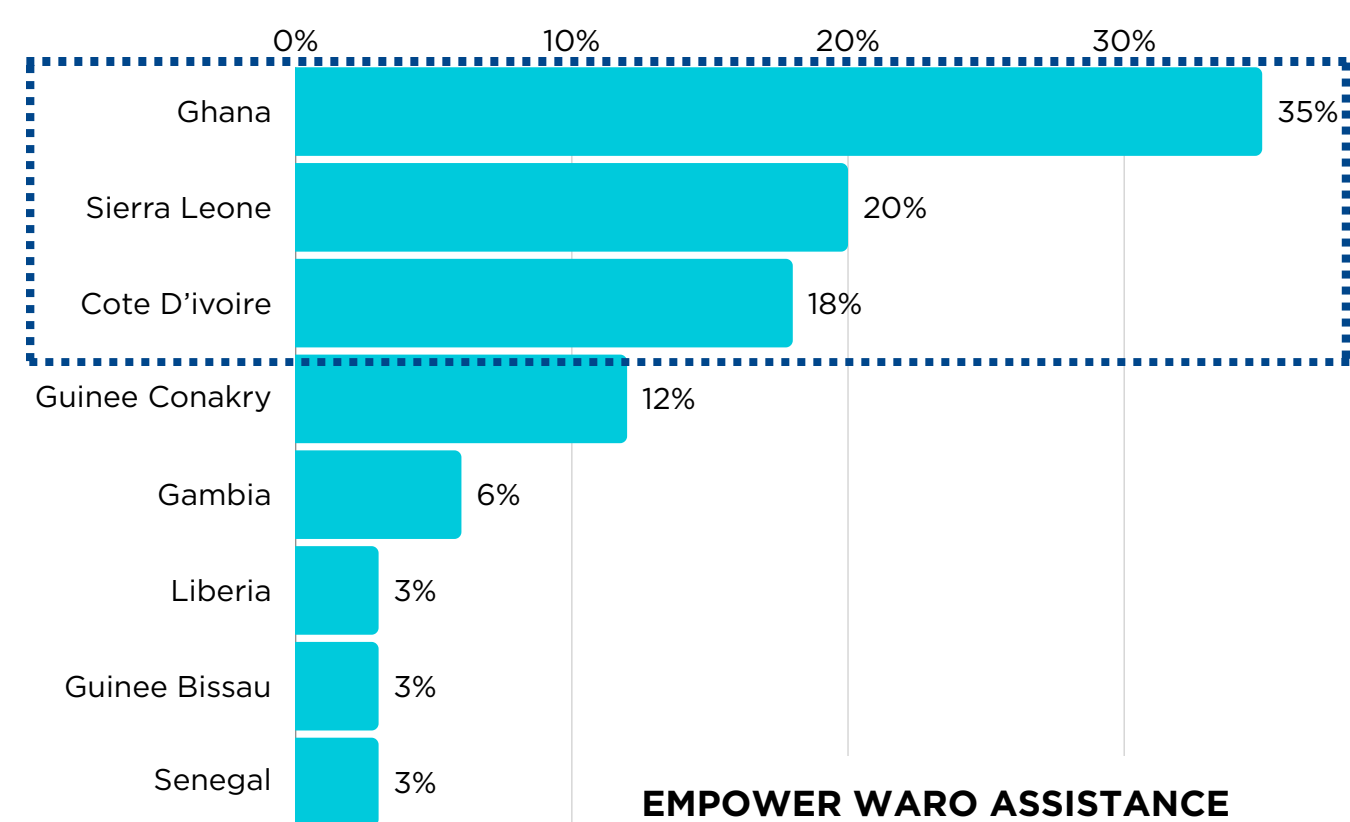
### Responding Swiftly to Emergencies

In times of crisis, our network swiftly mobilized. Three of our partners activated the Short-Term Emergency Response Mechanism (STER), enabling the allocation of **\$124,000 USD in emergency funding** to Caritas Freetown and NABOCADO. As a result, **480 vulnerable families** are currently receiving vital assistance. Furthermore, Caritas Côte D'Ivoire is in the process of implementing a **\$99,000 USD response plan** to aid **250 families affected** by a massive eviction crisis in Abidjan.

# EMPOWER WARO RAPID RESPONSE



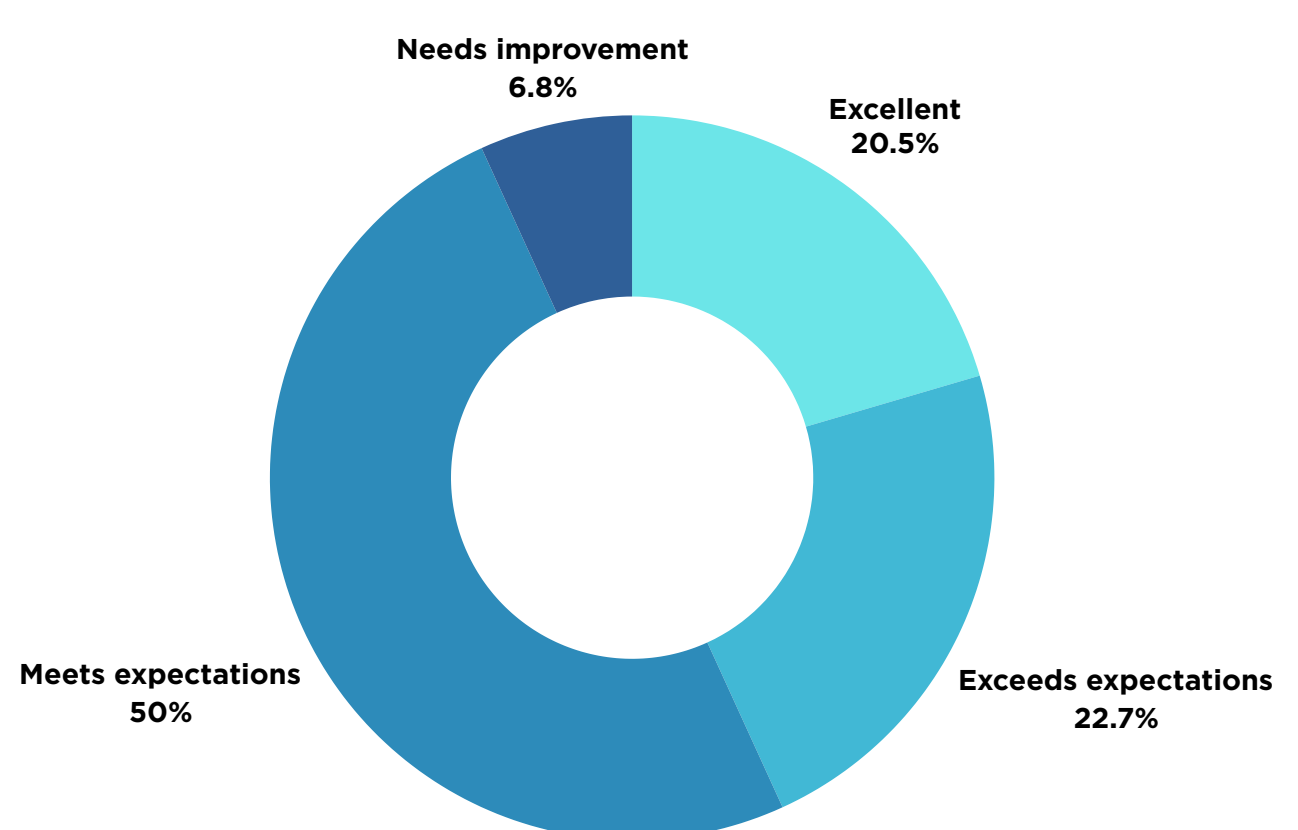
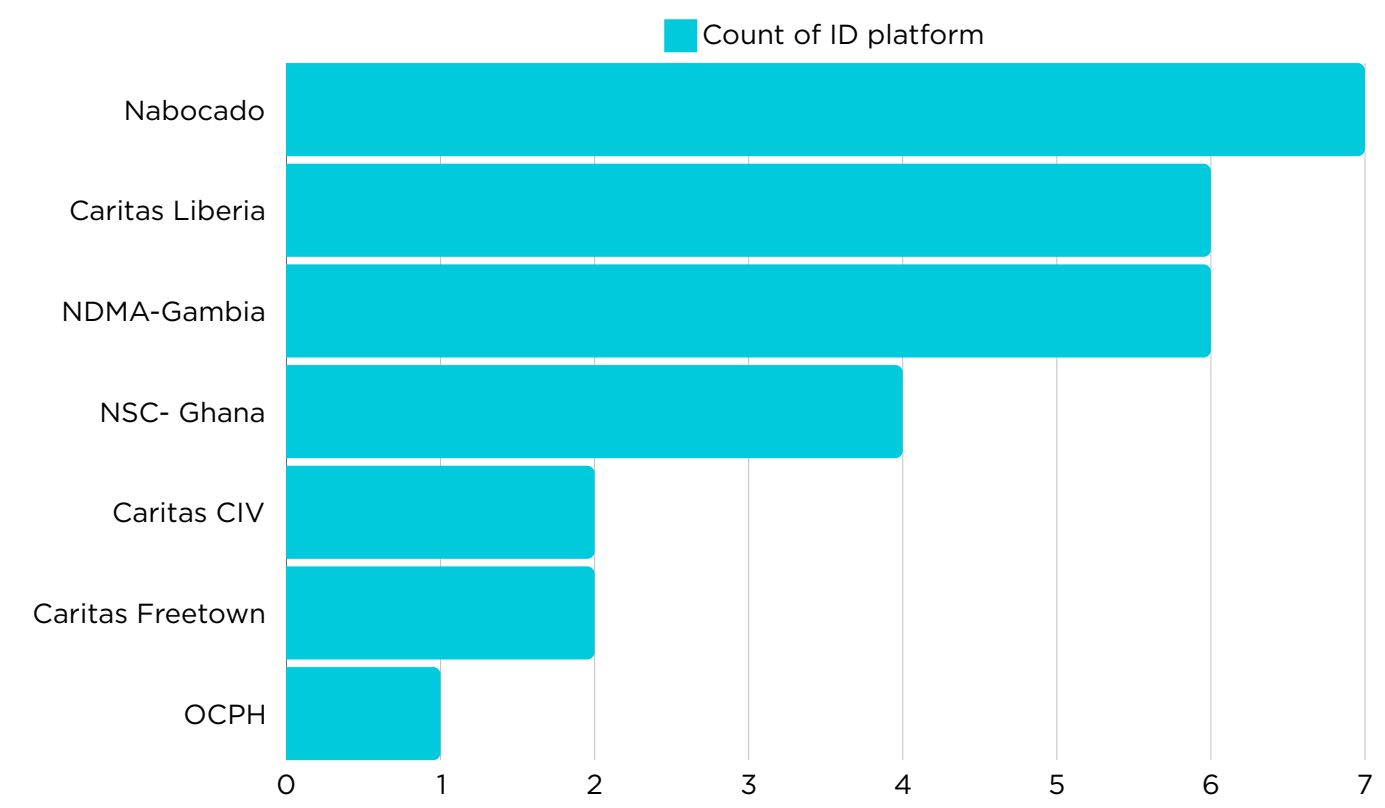
## APPLYING SKILLS



**3 Partners:**  
GHANA  
SIERRA LEONE  
CÔTE D'IVOIRE

- Concluded multisectoral needs assessments
- Concluded market assessment using ICT4D tools
- Developed three proposals this quarter

## PARTNER COORDINATION AND FEEDBACK



**Number of Partners Supported by EMPOWER WARO participating in Coordination platform**

**EMPOWER WARO Session Evaluation**

**Partner Feedback:**

**“Invaluable knowledge sharing sessions, compassionate spirit, and strong network developed and nurtured together.”**  
**Ishmeal Alfred Charles, Caritas Freetown**

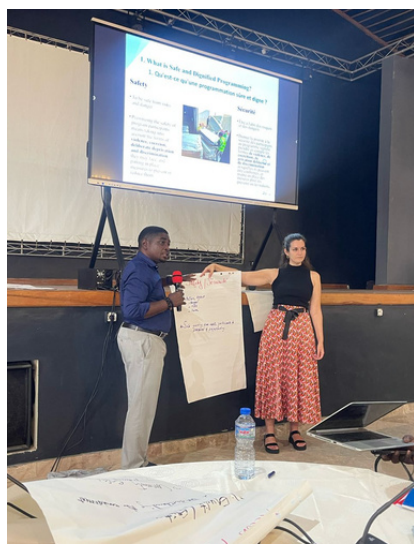


# LAUNCH OF COHORT II

## More partners and more impact!

To launch Cohort II, EMPOWER WARO proven strategies to effectively manage crises, hosted an in-person workshop bringing together key partners, CRS staff, and technical advisors for a dynamic event focused on knowledge sharing, trust building, and collaborative planning. Highlights included:

- **Emergency Leadership Exchange**: In-depth discussions on proven strategies to effectively manage crises.
- **Partner Vision and Goals**: Participants aligned around the shared vision of EMPOWER partners taking the lead.
- **Safe and Dignified Programming**: Introduction of essential concepts to ensure all responses respect and protect those affected by emergencies.



**30 Participants** : Partners and CRS focal point from Senegal, Gambia, Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone as well as Local Leadership managers from Burkina, Mali and Niger .

2024 promises even more growth for EMPOWER WARO. The commitment to Empower local leadership in humanitarian response is stronger than ever!

## UPCOMING PRIORITIES THIS QUARTER: Preparing for Emergencies related to the Rainy Season

This quarter, EMPOWER WARO efforts will focus on helping partners get ready for the rainy season, among other priorities. Preparedness and response includes:

- **Risk Analysis and Emergency Planning**: Providing resources, training, guidance, and tools to partners to create and test effective emergency plans and standard operating procedures (SOPs).
- **Training and Accompaniment**: Resource mobilization, core humanitarian standards, feedback complaints and response mechanism (FCRM), gender audit and policy, security policy, and ICR policy.
- **Capacity Sharing**: Launching the EMPOWER WARO Partners Community of Practice in May 2024 to facilitate peer and mutual growth and learning.

We're committed to working collaboratively with all stakeholders to ensure a coordinated and effective response to any challenges that arise during the rainy season.



Sierra Leone – Caritas Freetown ongoing response



Ghana - NABOCADO ongoing response

Also coming up later this year:  
Cohort III to welcome Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger

**If you would like to access EMPOWER WARO's tools and real-time indicators, please request permission to view the [EMPOWER WARO's Repository](#).**