

# **Artificial Intelligence in Humanitarian Aid and Development: A New Paradigm for International Cooperation**

*By Damián Tuset Varela*

*Researcher at the University of Jaén. Tutor at the UOC. Head of Section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation*

DOI: 10.55662/JAIR.2021.1201

---

## **Abstract**

This article examines the emerging role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the field of humanitarian aid and development, highlighting how these technologies are reshaping the paradigm of international cooperation. Through an analysis of case studies and current applications, we identify both the opportunities and challenges that AI presents to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and reach of aid and development programs. We conclude with policy recommendations to guide the responsible integration of AI in these critical areas.

## **1. Introduction**

The incorporation of Artificial Intelligence into humanitarian aid and development represents a potential revolution in how crises, poverty and sustainable development are addressed globally. AI's ability to process large volumes of data in real time, learn from patterns and predict outcomes can be invaluable in planning and executing relief and development initiatives.

## **2. Current Applications of AI in Humanitarian Aid and Development**

### **2.1. Disaster Management**

AI has been used to improve response to natural disasters by analyzing satellite and social media data, enabling rapid assessment of damage and more efficient distribution of resources. Examples include identifying areas affected by earthquakes or floods and optimizing routes for aid delivery.

## **2.2. Sustainable development**

In the area of sustainable development, AI contributes to precision agriculture, water management and climate change monitoring, facilitating data-driven decisions that promote more sustainable and efficient practices.

## **23. Public health**

AI has proven to be a crucial tool in the fight against pandemics, through real-time disease tracking, modeling outbreak scenarios, and optimizing vaccine distribution.

## **3. Challenges and Ethical Considerations**

Despite its potential, the integration of AI into humanitarian aid and development faces significant challenges, including concerns about data privacy, algorithmic bias, and reliance on technologies that may be inaccessible to the most vulnerable populations. Furthermore, there is a risk that AI could be used for non-humanitarian purposes if strong ethical and governance frameworks are not established.

## **4. Towards a Responsible Integration of AI in International Cooperation**

To maximize the benefits and minimize the risks of AI in humanitarian aid and development, developing policies that promote transparency, inclusion and equity is crucial. This includes creating ethical standards, training humanitarian workers in AI technologies, and fostering collaborations between the public, private and civil society sectors.

## **5. Conclusion**

AI offers unprecedented opportunities to transform humanitarian aid and development towards a more informed, efficient, and effective approach. However, its successful implementation depends on addressing ethical and operational challenges through collaborative engagement and well-designed policies. As we move forward in this new paradigm of international cooperation, it is essential that we prioritize human well-being and sustainability at the heart of technological innovation.

## References

1. Ahmet, E. F. E. (2022). A review on Risk Reduction Potentials of Artificial Intelligence in Humanitarian Aid Sector. *Journal of Human and Social Sciences*, 5(2), 184-205.
2. David, W., Garmendia-Doval, B., & King-Okoye, M. (2022, October). Artificial Intelligence supports the paradigm shift from reactive to anticipatory action in humanitarian responses. In *International Conference on Modelling and Simulation for Autonomous Systems* (pp. 145-162). Cham: Springer International Publishing.
3. Addo, P. M., Baumann, D., McMurren, J., Verhulst, S., Young, A., & Zahuranec, A. J. (2021). Emerging uses of technology for development: A new intelligence paradigm. In *Emerging uses of technology for development: a new intelligence paradigm: Addo, Peter Martey | uBaumann, Dominik | uMcMurren, Juliet | uVerhulst, Stefaan | uYoung, Andrew | uZahuranec, Andrew J.* Paris, France: AFD éditions.
4. Verhulst, S., Addo, P. M., Young, A., Zahuranec, A. J., Baumann, D., & McMurren, J. (2021). Emerging uses of technology for development: a new intelligence paradigm. Available at SSRN 3937649.
5. Beduschi, A. (2022). Harnessing the potential of artificial intelligence for humanitarian action: Opportunities and risks. *International Review of the Red Cross*, 104(919), 1149-1169.
6. Zinchenko, V., Boichenko, M., Polishchuk, O., Polishchuk, O., Hromyk, A., & Chervona, L. (2022). Strategy of Sustainable Development Paradigm for Society in Research Activities Sciences, Artificial Intelligence, and Institutional Transformations of the Education System. *Res. Asp. Arts Soc. Stud. Vol., 1*, 32-53.
7. Granjo, C. M. (2021). Humanitarian action and the digital age.

8. Beduschi, A. (2021). International migration management in the age of artificial intelligence. *Migration Studies*, 9(3), 576-596.
9. Fernandez-Luque, L., & Imran, M. (2018). Humanitarian health computing using artificial intelligence and social media: A narrative literature review. *International journal of medical informatics*, 114, 136-142.
10. Fejerskov, A. M., Clausen, M. L., & Seddig, S. (2023). Humanitarian ignorance: towards a new paradigm of non-knowledge in digital humanitarianism. *Disasters*.
11. Li, B. H., Hou, B. C., Yu, W. T., Lu, X. B., & Yang, C. W. (2017). Applications of artificial intelligence in intelligent manufacturing: a review. *Frontiers of Information Technology & Electronic Engineering*, 18(1), 86-96.
12. Dargan, S., Kumar, M., Ayyagari, M. R., & Kumar, G. (2020). A survey of deep learning and its applications: a new paradigm to machine learning. *Archives of Computational Methods in Engineering*, 27, 1071-1092.
13. Mansbach, R. W., & Vasquez, J. A. (1981). *In search of theory: A new paradigm for global politics*. Columbia University Press.
14. Tran, T. X., Hajisami, A., Pandey, P., & Pompili, D. (2017). Collaborative mobile edge computing in 5G networks: new paradigms, scenarios, and challenges. *IEEE Communications Magazine*, 55(4), 54-61.
15. Ronchi, A. M. (2019). *E-citizens: Toward a new model of (inter) active citizenry*. Springer.
16. Kaplan, S. D. (2008). *Fixing fragile states: a new paradigm for development*. Bloomsbury Publishing USA.
17. Connable, B. (2012). *Military intelligence fusion for complex operations: A new paradigm* (p. 0039). Arlington, VA: Rand Corporation.
18. Lu, H., Li, Y., Chen, M., Kim, H., & Serikawa, S. (2018). Brain intelligence: go beyond artificial intelligence. *Mobile Networks and Applications*, 23, 368-375.
19. Pauwels, E. (2020). Artificial Intelligence and data capture technologies in violence and conflict prevention. *Global Centre on Cooperative Security*. Accessed on, 10(07), 2022.
20. Hussain, S. S. (2024). Artificial Intelligence and Diplomacy: Transforming International Relations in the Digital Age. *Remittances Review*, 9(1), 988-1001.