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Report launch online event

AI in the humanitarian sector research

Mapping current practice &
future potential

Welcome to this session





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Speakers

Welcome

- Welcome and introductions
- Research insights
- Panel reflections
- Audience Q&A



**Lucy
Hall**

HLA



**Ka Man
Parkinson**

HLA



**Madigan
Johnson**

Data Friendly
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**C. Douglas
Smith**

Data Friendly
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**Ali
Mokdad**

Independent



**Dr Cornelia C.
Walther**

University of
Pennsylvania

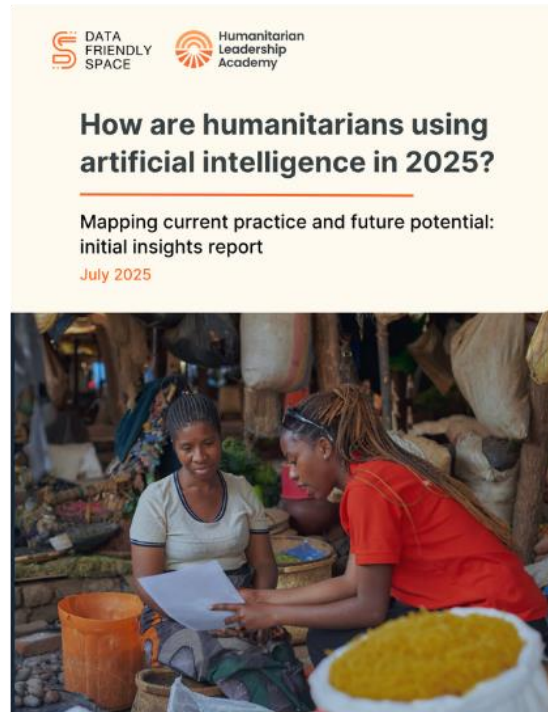


Housekeeping

- **Recording:** This session is being recorded - YouTube link will be sent in post-event email
- **Zoom captions:** Session is in English – you can turn on captions including autogenerated translation
- **Audience participation:**
 - Use **chat** for any reflections and reactions
 - Questions:** Submit your questions via the **Zoom Q&A** function
- **Kind reminder:** Please keep questions and comments respectful and on-topic
- **HPass:** Live attendees will be able to claim an HPass badge



Research reports & resources



Initial insights report



Full insights report



**Quick poll:
do you use
AI tools for
work?**





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Global mapping, community-centered

- **World's first global humanitarian AI mapping exercise:** baseline data established, 80% respondents opted in for follow up. Foundation for longitudinal tracking studies.
- Research aimed to surface diverse global humanitarian practitioners' experiences and voices
- 75% Global South, 46% from Africa. Notable rate of responses in French.
- 6 interviews to explore experiences and perceptions: from Ukraine, Yemen, Kenya x 2, Italy, Lebanon.



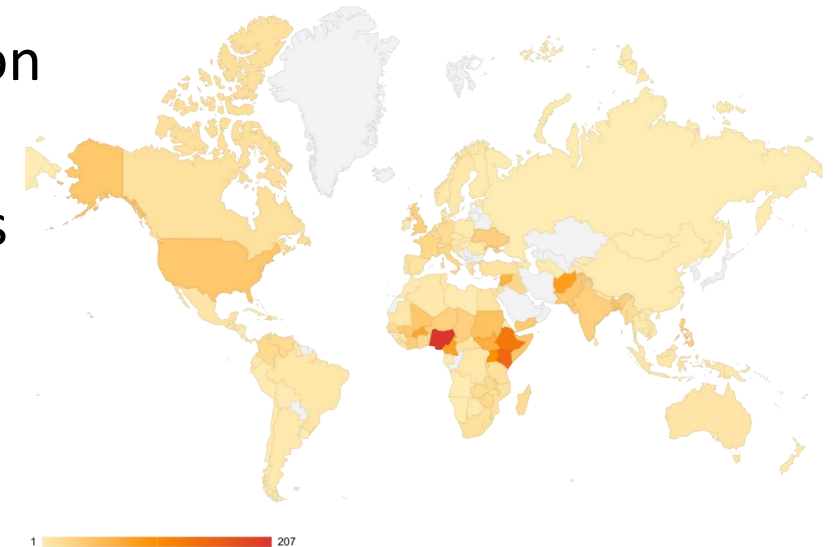
***"Sans maîtrise la
puissance n'est
rien"*** - Pirelli 2001

***"Without mastery,
power is nothing"***
- Research participant



Humanitarian AI paradox: global uptake yet a complex picture

- **93%** have used AI tools for work, **70%** daily/weekly
- **But:** Low AI expertise / low organizational integration / lack of organizational AI policy
- Widespread adoption / mixed attitudes / high levels of ethical concerns
- Lack of funding is a key adoption constraint, yet low resource settings show high levels of interest and promising use cases



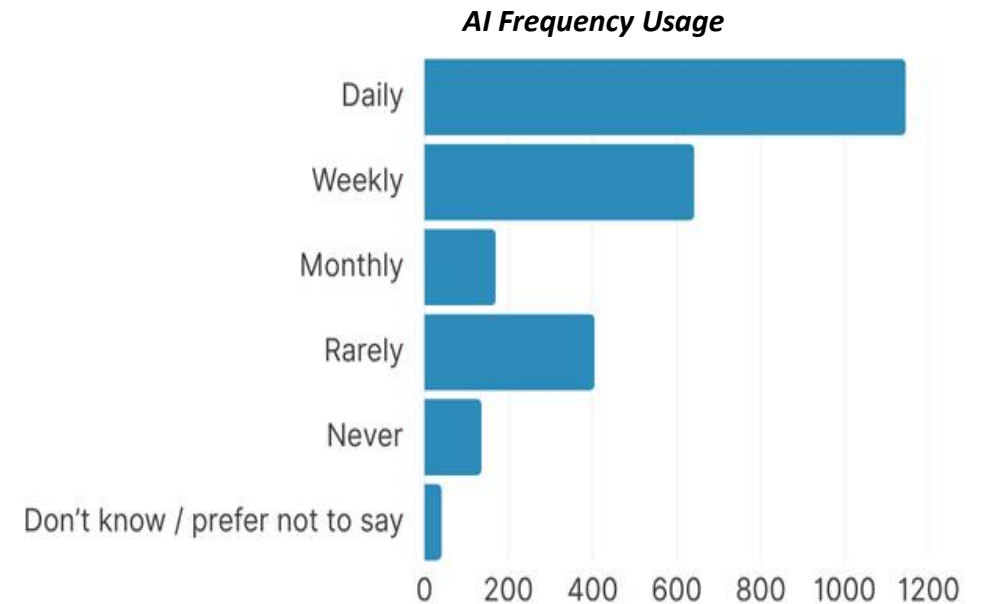
5 key themes

- 1 Individual AI adoption outpaces organizational readiness**
- 2 Accessible AI tools, limited specialist expertise**
- 3 Fragmented AI training approaches**
- 4 AI governance vacuum**
- 5 Commercial AI tool dominance**

Research insights:

Individual AI adoption outpaces organizational readiness

- **93%** of humanitarians use or have tried AI tools
- Only **8%** of organizations report wide AI integration
- **25%** of organizations are in experimentation/pilot phases
- **26%** of organizations plan to adopt but haven't started



Research insights:

Accessible AI tools, limited specialist expertise

- Only **3.6%** of humanitarians consider themselves AI experts
- **47%** of respondents agree AI improves efficiency
- **38%** of respondents believe it enhances decision-making
- **30%** of respondents remain uncertain about the benefits



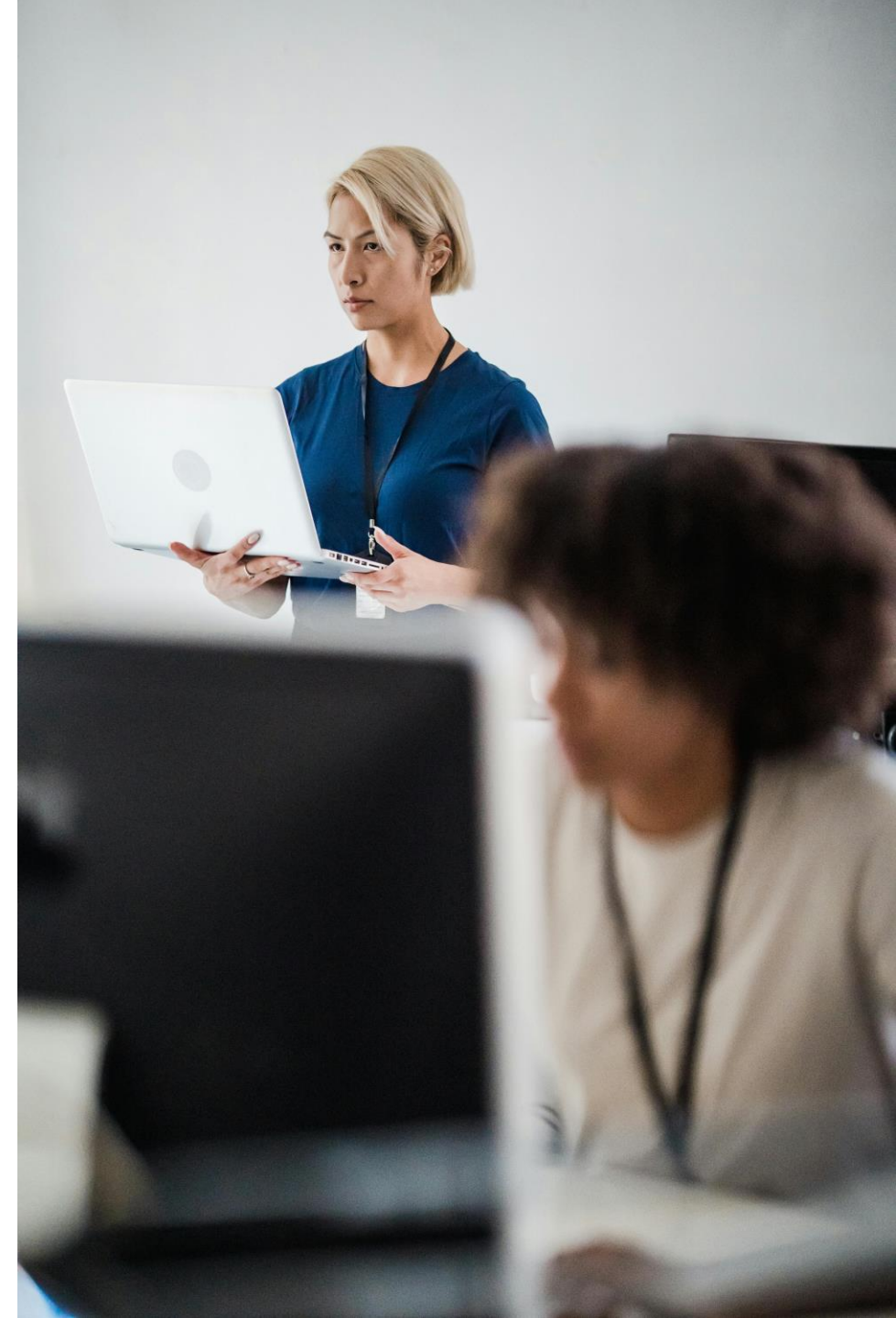
At first I'm not familiar with AI use but later on, after being introduced to us, I started getting familiarized with AI. It's user friendly.

- Survey respondent

Research insights:

Fragmented AI training approaches

- **73%** of respondents identify training as their most crucial support need for the next 12-24 months
- **64%** of respondents reporting little to no organizational AI training
- **33%** of INGO's and **38%** of local NGOs reported no training at all.



Research insights:

AI governance vacuum

- "Shadow AI" is extremely prevalent in the humanitarian sector
- **7%** of respondents who use AI work for organizations that explicitly state no intention to adopt AI agree AI improves efficiency
- And **17%** belong to organizations that have not yet adopted AI, but plan to

I used my own funds to build the AI agent to make our AI usage safer. This means that it is not available to everyone all of the time, and can only be used for sensitive data.

- Interview participant from an INGO in Lebanon

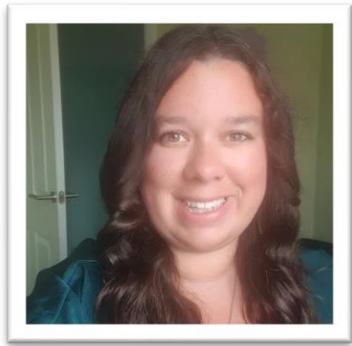
Research insights:

Commercial AI tool dominance

- **69%** of humanitarians use commercial AI agents, dominating the tool ecosystem
- **35%** use AI translation or language tools
- **18%** of respondents use AI-powered data analytics tools



Panel discussion



Lucy Hall
Data & Evidence
Specialist
HLA
[Facilitator]



C. Douglas Smith
Acting CEO
Data Friendly Space



Ali Al Mokdad
Strategic senior
humanitarian leader
Independent



Dr Cornelia C. Walther
Humanitarian leader
& senior fellow
University of Pennsylvania

Panel discussion

Innovation readiness

What's enabling innovation, and how can this be built upon to strengthen the readiness to move forward?



**Ali
Al Mokdad**

Independent

Organizational readiness

Why do you think that there is limited organizational strategy, policy and infrastructure in place to enable the widespread use of AI?

What are the risks and opportunities of this approach that we currently see?



**C. Douglas
Smith**

Data Friendly
Space

Panel discussion

Ethical readiness

How can we balance the experimentation and the energy that AI creates with the concerns people have around AI?



**Dr Cornelia C.
Walther**

University of
Pennsylvania

Panel discussion

Future AI readiness

What is the one thing you would prioritise to ensure AI strengthens, not distorts, humanitarian practice?

Audience Q&A

Submit your question through the
Zoom Q&A function

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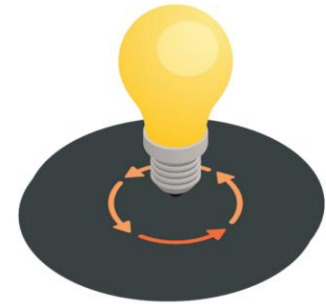
Additional resources

- **Translated report:** To be released in French and Spanish
- **Kaya courses on AI:** Visit kayaconnect.org
- **Webinar and podcasts:** More humanitarian AI and tech focused sessions **Next podcast episode with AI insights:** *'Inviting in the chaos: strategic insights for humanitarian leaders from Ali Al Mokdad'*
- **Articles** from the research team



Thank you & next steps

- **How was this session?** Please share feedback via Zoom survey
- **Keep an eye on your inbox:** a copy of the recording and slide deck will be emailed to you together with links to relevant resources
- **Another (quick) survey!** Share your ideas
- **HPass digital badge:** you will receive a separate email with details of how to claim your badge



AI in the humanitarian sector:
research report launch event

Webinar attendee