



Humanitarian
Leadership
Academy

Humanitarian Networks
and Partnership Weeks



**Bridging digital divides:
centring local leadership
in humanitarian AI
development**



Welcome to our HNPW session

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H2H Network
Humanitarian
Action Support



**Humanitarian
Leadership
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Session outline

- **Welcome and introductions**
- **Session in context of the HLA work:**
 - **Humanitarian AI research:** Ka Man Parkinson
 - **AI readiness & localisation:** Lucy Hall
- **Local leadership perspectives:** Musaab Abdalhadi & Gülsüm Özkaya
- **Panel discussion:** Ali Al Mokdad, Musaab Abdalhadi & Gülsüm Özkaya
- **Audience questions: Submit any questions using the Q&A function**

This session is being recorded. Zoom captions are enabled including translated captions [turn on by going to Zoom toolbar and selecting CC]

Speakers



Musaab Abdalhadi
Group Cash Transfers specialist
Save the Children in Sudan



Ali Al Mokdad
Senior strategic leader
Independent



Lucy Hall
Research and MEAL Lead
HLA



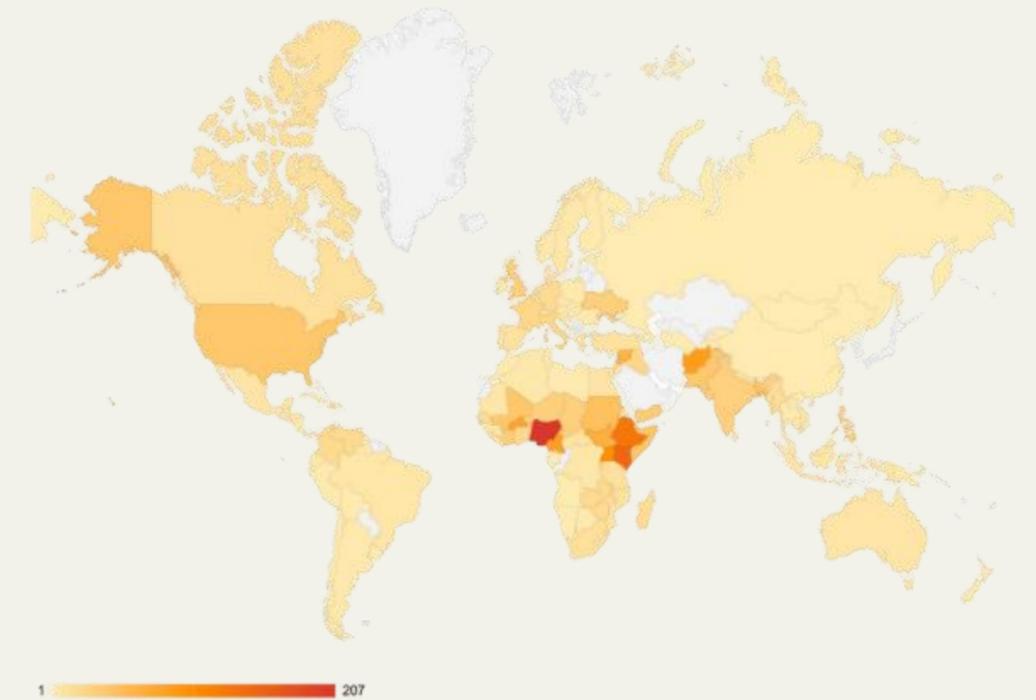
Gülsüm Özkaya
Board Member
Children of the Earth
Association (YEÇED)



Ka Man Parkinson
Communications &
Marketing Lead
HLA

Beyond HQ: Humanitarian AI and local leadership

- May-June 2025: World's first study into how humanitarians are using AI. 75% responses Global South (46% SSA)
- Gen AI: individually-driven, experimental and creative applications of AI
- Use cases from Ukraine, Afghanistan, Lebanon
- January 2026 pulse survey: Local orgs – similar adoption patterns overall. Slightly higher daily AI use than INGOs / lower policy presence



Perspective from Uganda: localisation

"We need an artificial intelligence that speaks the language of the donor and the language of the village where I come from, not the artificial intelligence that is built in Europe and brought to Africa."

- Dr Ivan Toga

Paris Agreement Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB)
Network Representative Eastern and Southern Africa



Perspective from Cameroon: drive to adapt

"In Africa where internet penetration is low and digital adoption limited, change is difficult for many. This is especially true in rural areas where electricity remains a luxury.

In a constantly changing world, we have a duty to adapt quickly to use these tools to improve the lives of suffering populations."

- Senior leader in data & information management

[Translated from the original in French]

Perspective from Philippines: supporting humanitarians

“AI is no longer seen as a “tech thing.” It is now a capacity tool for frontline workers, trainers, advocates, and community organizers. Used responsibly, it gives humanitarian workers something very rare: time back — time to listen more, engage more deeply, and be more present with communities.

And that, ironically, is where the real humanitarian value of AI lies.”

- **Middle manager in education**

Perspective from Nigeria: access gaps

“Across African communities, AI is shaping how young people learn, organise, and participate in civic life. Youth and grassroots actors leverage AI to amplify voices and co-create local solutions.

Yet many rural communities, women, and marginalised groups remain excluded due to limited connectivity, digital literacy, and economic constraints.”

- **Senior leader in education**

AI readiness & localisation



Lucy Hall
Research & MEAL Lead
HLA

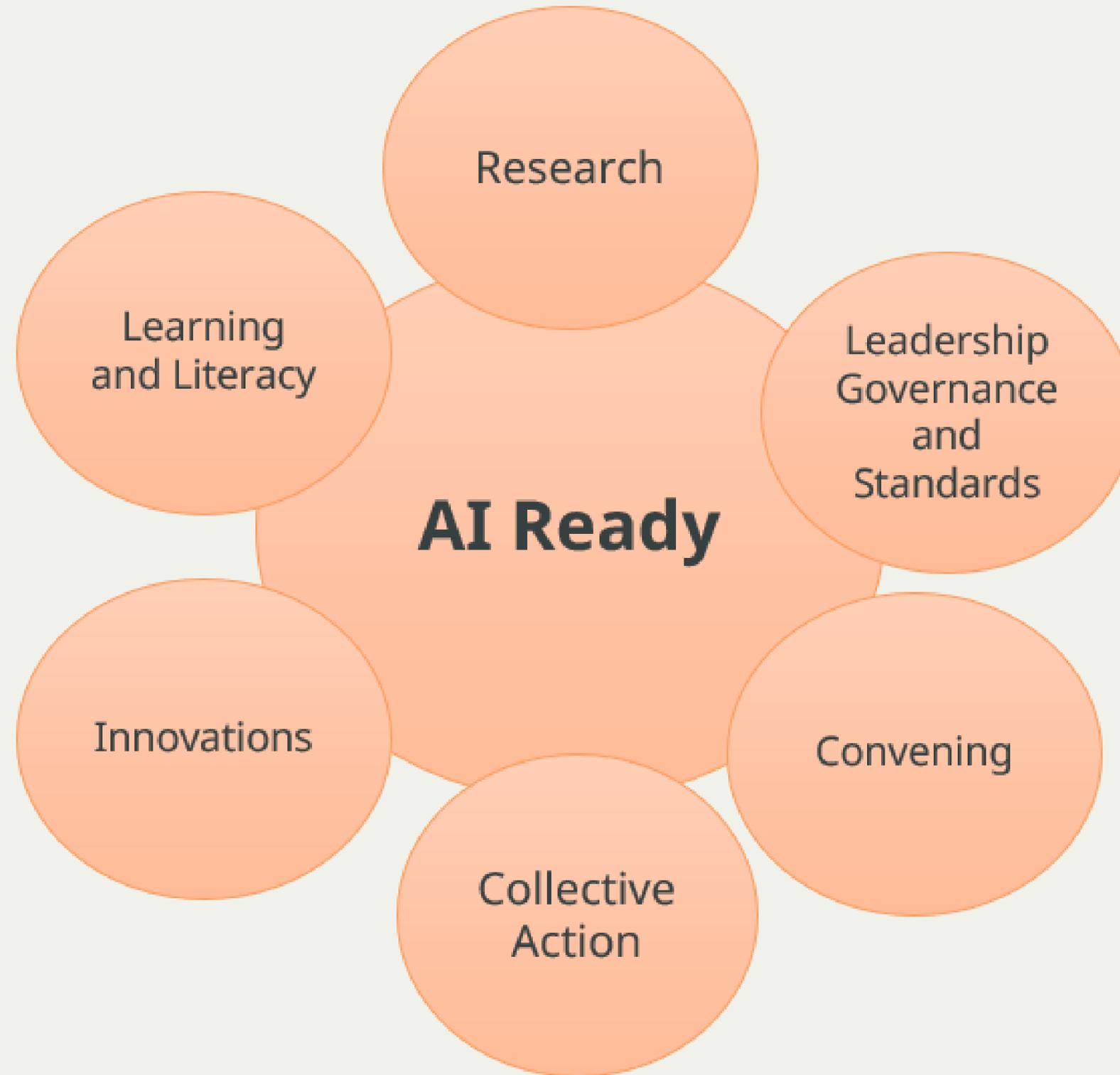




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Local leadership perspectives



Musaab Abdalhadi
Group Cash Transfers specialist
Save the Children in Sudan



Gülsüm Özkaya
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Panel discussion



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Audience questions



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Our upcoming HNPW sessions

The state of learning and development in the nonprofit sector

5 March | 🕒 13:00 UTC | 📍 Zoom Webinar

Unsettling the status quo: The case for locally led humanitarian research

10 March | 🕒 10:00 – 11:30 UTC | 📍 Salle Vevey CICG Geneva & online

A call to action for youth leadership and the future of humanitarian action

12 March | 🕒 13:00 – 14:30 UTC | 📍 Salle 13 CICG Geneva & online