

Redeemer's University

Ede, Osun State, Nigeria

Center for Gender, Humanitarian and Development Studies (CGHDS)

Maiden Edition 2025 International Conference

Conference Theme:

Recent Advances in Gender,
Humanitarianism and
Development: Knowledge at the
Crossroads

Gender and Artificial Intelligence as a Strategic Intervention Tool for Humanitarian Action in Africa

*Presented by Dr. A. M. Olaoye on behalf of Professor Francisca Onaolapo
Oladipupo, Vice-Chancellor, Thomas Adewumi University, Oke, Nigeria*

Exploring how inclusive AI and gender-responsive technology can
transform humanitarian response across the continent.



The Intersection of Gender and Technology

Technology without inclusion deepens inequality.

Artificial intelligence is reshaping humanitarian action in Africa, yet women remain significantly underrepresented in its development and deployment. When technology is designed without gender perspective, it risks perpetuating existing inequalities and missing critical opportunities to amplify women's voices and agency.

The Challenge

- Less than one in four AI professionals in Africa are women
- Female perspectives absent from algorithm design
- Gender-blind data perpetuates bias

The Opportunity

- Women's unique insights strengthen humanitarian response
- Gender-responsive AI improves crisis prediction and care
- Inclusive technology creates lasting social change

→ AI predicting famine and disease outbreaks

Machine learning models trained on diverse, gender-disaggregated data improve early warning systems and enable faster humanitarian response.

→ Mapping vulnerability and risk in real-time

Geospatial data powered by AI identifies populations most at risk, ensuring resources reach those who need them most.

→ Strengthening decision-making for humanitarian actors

Data-driven insights empower organisations to allocate aid more effectively and respond to crises with greater precision and compassion.

Building Gender-Inclusive AI: From Data to Digital Sovereignty

Advancing humanitarian innovation requires a comprehensive approach to ethical AI grounded in FAIR Data Principles—ensuring data is Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable—whilst prioritising women's participation at every stage.

Ethical Data Governance VODAN-Africa leads the charge, embedding fairness and accountability into data systems from collection through analysis.	Digital Literacy & Skills Equipping African women with AI and data science competencies ensures they shape—not simply consume—technological solutions.
Policy and Equity Gender-responsive policy frameworks guarantee that humanitarian AI serves all populations equitably and transparently.	Collaboration and Co-creation Humanitarian practitioners, technologists, policymakers, and communities work together to ensure AI reflects local needs and values.

Africa must move from digital dependency to digital sovereignty.

The path forward demands that African nations and communities transition from passive consumers of foreign technology to creators and custodians of their own AI systems. Gender-inclusive innovation—where women lead in research, policy, and implementation—is not merely an equity imperative; it is a humanitarian necessity. When we amplify diverse voices in AI development, we build more resilient, ethical, and effective systems that serve humanity with compassion and cultural wisdom.

The future of AI in Africa depends not on how smart our machines become, but on how compassionate we remain.