

Artificial Intelligence and its Role in Crisis Management: Opportunities and Challenges of Technological Intervention

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Abstract

Global crises of the twenty-first century, including pandemics, climate change, natural disasters, and technological emergencies, highlight the need for more effective and systematic approaches to crisis management. Traditional management models often fail to adequately address the complexity and rapid dynamics of modern crises, which significantly increases the importance of technological interventions. In this context, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly regarded as one of the most promising tools for enhancing crisis prediction, response, and recovery processes. The aim of this paper is to examine the role of artificial intelligence in crisis management by identifying its key applications, opportunities, and challenges. The study is based on a systematic literature review, quantitative research methods, and comparative analysis, providing both theoretical and practical insights into the use of AI in crisis-related decision-making. The findings indicate that AI significantly improves data processing speed, forecasting accuracy, and decision-making efficiency, particularly in the management of health crises, pandemics, climate-related disasters, and economic disruptions. At the same time, the research highlights critical risks associated with the use of artificial intelligence, including issues related to data quality, lack of algorithmic transparency, ethical and legal concerns, and the potential reduction of human oversight. The paper concludes that artificial intelligence should be viewed primarily as a decision-support tool rather than a fully autonomous decision-maker. Its effective and safe integration into crisis management requires a clear ethical framework, high-quality and reliable data, and continuous human supervision.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Crisis Management, Decision Support Systems, Crisis Prediction, AI Ethics, Human Oversight.

Introduction

The global challenges of the twenty-first century, such as pandemics, climate change, and natural and technological disasters, have given new significance and value to effective crisis management mechanisms. These crises are often characterized by high complexity and a rapid rate of spread, which requires innovative, technologically advanced, and systematic methods for the optimal management of time and resources. Traditional approaches often fail to respond to such challenges in a timely and effective manner, which points to new opportunities for technological intervention.

In this context, Artificial Intelligence (AI) stands out as one of the most innovative and promising technologies, capable of significantly improving crisis management processes. AI systems enable the rapid and accurate processing of vast amounts of data, perform complex analysis and forecasting, and facilitate optimal decision-making. Their use increases not only the effectiveness of response but also the quality of risk prevention and subsequent recovery.

The **aim of this study** is to examine the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in crisis management, identifying the opportunities and challenges of its technological intervention. The study aims to:

1. Analyze the areas in which the application of artificial intelligence is most promising in the crisis management process (healthcare, climate, economy, humanitarian sector, etc.);
2. Identify the benefits gained from its application (rapid data analysis, reduced response time, improved accuracy of decisions, etc.);
3. Determine the main risks and challenges associated with the implementation of artificial intelligence.

Methodologically, the study is based on an extensive literature review, case analysis, and comparative analysis, which provides a strategic and systemic perspective on the role of artificial intelligence in the complex process of crisis management.

1. Opportunities of Artificial Intelligence in Crisis Management

Artificial intelligence (AI) today plays a significant role in every major phase of crisis management. Its capabilities — ranging from in-depth data analysis and forecasting to supporting real-time operational decisions — create the conditions for effective and timely response. This chapter reviews the specific roles of AI at the stages of prevention, response, and post-crisis recovery.

1.1. Prevention and Early Identification

One of the first and most important stages in crisis management is the identification and prevention of threats, where AI provides a significant contribution.

- **Data analysis and forecasting:** Artificial intelligence helps in the perception and processing of massive data (“Big Data”), creating a stronger basis for the early recognition of crisis events. For example, the analysis of climate change, the study of social media trends, or the processing of epidemiological data obtained from healthcare systems — all of this can be accomplished with the help of AI algorithms. Algorithms learn the interaction of various factors and detect signs of crisis even when they are not yet noticeable to humans (Goodfellow et al., 2016; UNDRR, 2022).
- **Algorithmic modeling for risk assessment:** AI algorithms can prepare multiple scenarios, analyze risks, and develop robust risk-assessment models. This method significantly improves the quality of decision-making, as it enables sensitivity analysis of specific threats under different conditions and the setting of priorities (IBM, 2023; Goodfellow et al., 2016).

- **Early Warning Systems:** AI technologies are widely used to deliver timely and appropriate notifications regarding climate disasters, pandemics, and other crisis events. Such systems monitor various sensors and data sources and automatically flag critical values, ensuring operational response and risk reduction (UNDRR, 2022).

1.2. Response to Crisis

When a crisis begins, timely decision-making and optimal resource management become critical. AI has significantly changed the standard procedures of this stage.

- **Support for real-time decision-making:** AI can support the decision-making process of those managing a crisis through improved analysis and forecasts. The system rapidly detects changes in conditions and provides recommendations, which significantly increases the effectiveness of action (IBM, 2023).
- **Resource optimization during emergencies:** Artificial intelligence algorithms learn the real-time allocation of resources and ensure their maximum utilization. For example, the mobilization of medications, rescue equipment, and human resources occurs much faster and more efficiently.
- **Operational management and logistics:** The use of AI in rescue operations, in the form of robotics and drones, increases the safety and accuracy of operations. Drones identify affected areas, deliver necessary materials to hazardous zones, and assist rescuers in reaching difficult-to-access locations. Optimized logistics algorithms ensure fast and efficient deliveries.

1.3. Post-Crisis Recovery and Analysis

After a crisis ends, the role of AI does not diminish — on the contrary, systematic data analysis and learning from previous experience is critical for the better management of future challenges (Boin & Lodge, 2021; Goodfellow et al., 2016).

- **Data collection and evaluation:** AI systems collect and integrate numerous data from various aspects of the crisis, which facilitates a comprehensive assessment of damage. This process involves the processing of both quantitative and qualitative data.
- **Analyzing experience to improve future crisis management:** Artificial intelligence is used to compare data from previous crises and to draw summarized conclusions from them. Such analysis makes it possible to identify weak points and develop effective recommendations.
- **Strategic planning algorithms:** AI algorithms assist in making long-term strategic decisions, including through modeling and scenario development, which ensures more balanced, sustainable, and adaptive plans for managing future crises.

2. Challenges of Artificial Intelligence

Although artificial intelligence significantly increases the capabilities for forecasting and managing crises, its use is associated with a number of serious challenges that require a systemic and ethical approach. Decisions made during crises are often based on data-driven models; however, the quality and reliability of the data itself represents one of the most significant risks. Incomplete or incorrectly interpreted data may lead to erroneous forecasts, which is particularly dangerous in fields such as ecological disasters, pandemics, or energy crises (Goodfellow et al., 2016).

A second important challenge is algorithmic transparency and accountability. In crisis situations, AI often makes decisions whose basis is incomprehensible to humans — the so-called “black box effect.” This complicates the determination of responsibility, particularly when a decision made by artificial intelligence causes social or economic harm (Floridi & Cowls, 2019).

Furthermore, cybersecurity and data protection acquire particular importance during crises. When state institutions or international organizations use AI systems to analyze data on

population movement, infrastructure, or health, the risk of leakage or misuse of personal information increases.

The technological intervention of AI also raises ethical dilemmas: to what extent should society rely on automated systems for decisions that affect human life or safety? Decision-making during crises requires not only technological precision but also empathy, a value framework, and consideration of the human factor — aspects that artificial intelligence still possesses only to a limited extent.

Thus, the challenges of artificial intelligence in crisis management are connected to technological, legal, and ethical factors. Addressing them requires transparent algorithms, high-quality data standards, and the continuous improvement of human oversight mechanisms. Only under these conditions can AI become a safe and reliable partner in the process of managing global crises.

3. Research Methodology

This study is based on a user-oriented and multifaceted approach that combines **quantitative research** and **literature analysis**. This combination makes it possible to more fully examine the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in crisis management, as well as the opportunities and challenges of its technological intervention.

3.1. Research Design

The study is divided into two main components:

- **Quantitative research** — aimed at assessing the effectiveness of AI use in crisis management based on the experience of professionals. As part of the study, a structured questionnaire was distributed using the Google Forms platform. The questionnaire included both closed and open-ended questions.

- **Literature analysis** — based on international and local sources examining various aspects of AI use in crisis management. This approach ensures the integration of the obtained results into a theoretical context, and the identification of strategic benefits, challenges, and potential risks.

3.2. Data Collection

Quantitative data were collected among professionals engaged in various fields of crisis management, including healthcare, climate, economy, education, information technology, and the humanitarian sector. Data collection was carried out through the following sources:

- **A structured questionnaire on Google Forms** — the design of the questionnaire was based on the study's objectives and covered various areas of AI application, its effectiveness, challenges, and opportunities.
- **Sectoral studies and industry reports** — data on the practical experience of AI implementation.
- **Medical, climate, and economic databases** — data from international organizations (e.g., WHO, UN, World Bank) to ensure additional reliability.

3.3. Reliability and Limitations of the Study

The methodological approach ensures the systematic nature and objectivity of the research; however, the study is limited by the following issues:

- The data depend on the accuracy and reliability of the participants;
- The assessment of the effectiveness of AI use may vary across different sectors;
- Ethical and legal factors may hinder the drawing of general conclusions.

Overall, the combined approach used makes it possible to create a comprehensive and thorough analysis of AI's role in crisis management, contributing to both a theoretical and a practical perspective.

4. Research Analysis and Results

The study involved professionals from various fields who are interested in **the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in crisis management processes** and who have practical experience in management, technology, and crisis response.

Table 1 presents the professional background of the respondents. The results indicate that the majority of participants were employed in the technology sector, while the remaining respondents represented a variety of professional fields, including education, business, public administration, healthcare, and other sectors. This diversity of professional backgrounds contributes to a broader understanding of perceptions regarding the use of artificial intelligence in crisis management. Consequently, the findings reflect perspectives from respondents with different professional experiences rather than from a single occupational group.

Professional field	Number	%
Technology	28	44.4
Education	10	15.9
Business	8	12.7
Public Administration	6	9.5
Healthcare	5	7.9
Other	6	9.5

Table 1 – Professional background of respondents.

The majority of respondents (63%) have **10+ years of professional experience** in these matters.

2. Years of Experience

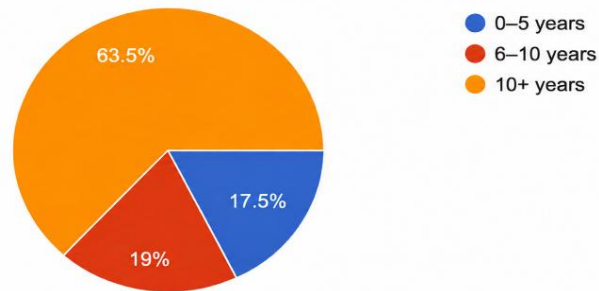


Figure 1 – Professional experience of respondents.

Respondents were asked to assess the **role of AI in crisis management**. The results showed that the majority (61%) consider artificial intelligence to be a “**very important**” tool, indicating a high level of recognition among specialists regarding the significance of technological intervention.

3. How important do you think is the role of artificial intelligence in crisis management?

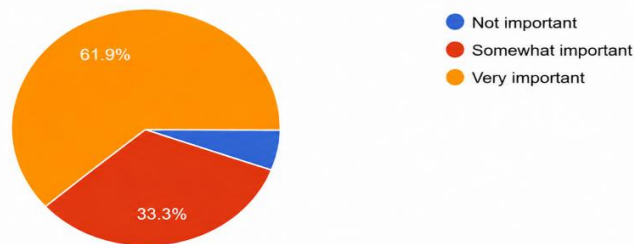


Figure 2 – Assessment of AI's role in crisis management.

Respondents were also asked to indicate their own opinion on **what benefits AI brings to crisis management**. The majority (77%) noted “**rapid data analysis and forecasting**,” which highlights the significant impact of data-processing and timely decision-making capabilities in crisis situations.

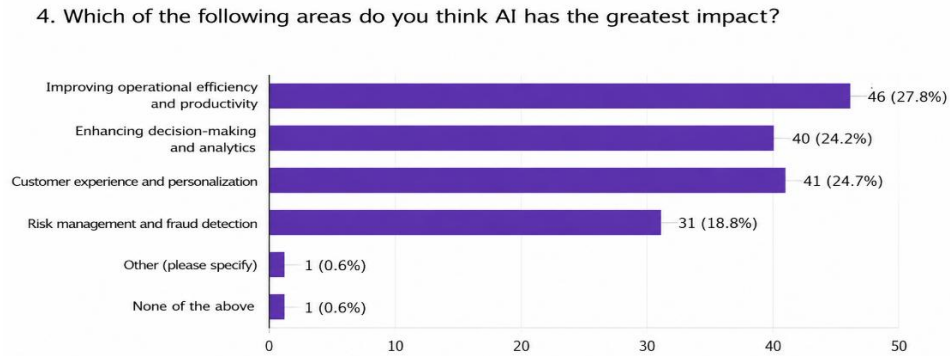


Figure 3 – Benefits of AI use in crisis management.

The majority of respondents assessed that **the most promising areas for AI application** are: healthcare, pandemics, and economic crises, which shows that specialists recognize the high added-value potential of the technology in managing health, social, and financial stability.

5. Which of the following AI tools or technologies do you think are most effective in crisis management?

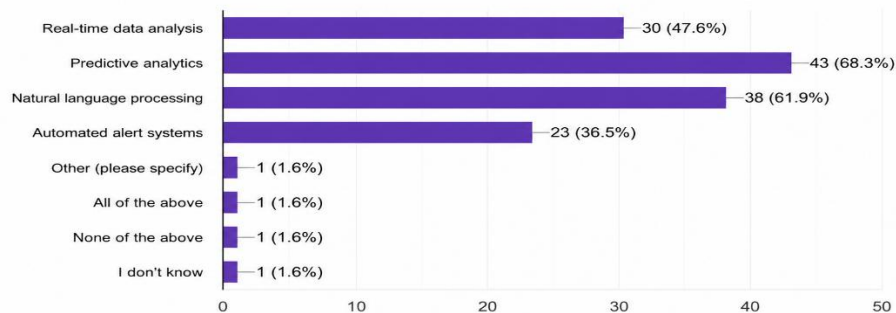


Figure 4 – Most promising areas for AI application.

The study also assessed **the potential damage resulting from errors** in the use of AI. The majority noted that the damage could be **“high,”** which underscores the necessity of accountability in implementing oversight mechanisms.

6. If an AI system makes a mistake in a crisis situation, how severe could the impact be?

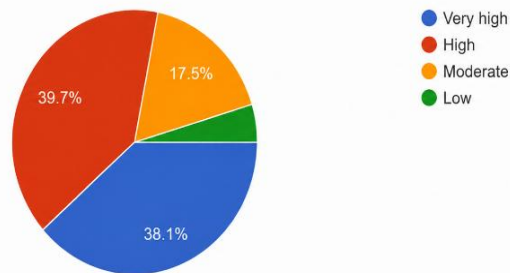


Figure 5 – Assessment of potential damage resulting from error.

Respondents also noted **the realistic picture of AI implementation in Georgia over the next 5–10 years**. The majority indicated that this is “**very**” and “**partially realistic**,” suggesting that specialists consider the technology feasible to adopt locally, although its implementation requires strategic planning and infrastructural support.

7. As you may know, similar technological systems have already been implemented in several countries around the world. How realistic do you think it is to implement a similar technology in Georgia within the next 5–10 years?

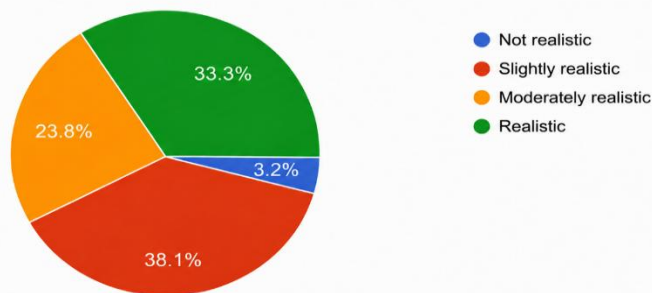


Figure 6– Realism of AI implementation in Georgia (5–10 years outlook).

When assessing ethical challenges, the majority cited “**data confidentiality**,” confirming that the use of AI in crisis management requires consideration not only of technological but also of ethical frameworks.

8. In your opinion, which ethical challenge is the most important in this context?

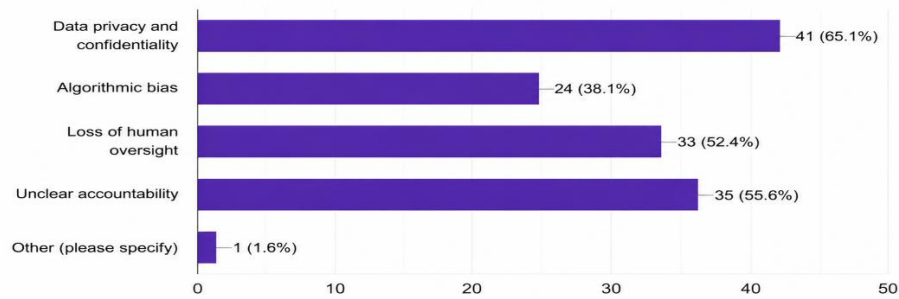


Figure 7 – Assessment of ethical challenges.

Respondents also indicated that **final responsibility for crisis-related decisions based on AI should belong to the human or organization using the system**, which underscores the importance of human judgment in automated processes.

9. Who should have the final responsibility for decisions made in crisis situations when they are based on AI?

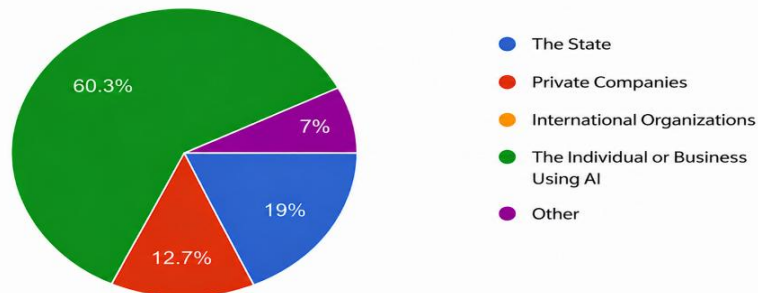


Figure 8 – Distribution of responsibility in AI-based decisions.

Finally, on the question of how much they trusted the forecasts produced by AI in crisis situations, the majority responded “**I partially trust it,**” indicating that specialists recognize the potential of the technology while still considering the principle of human oversight necessary.

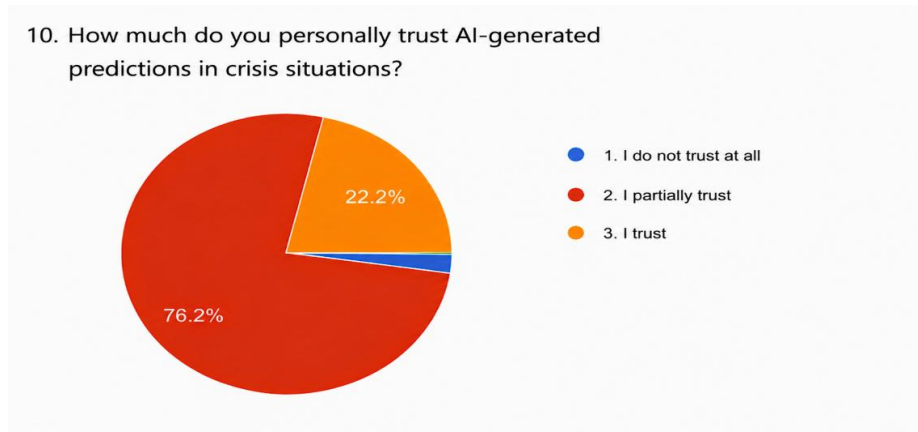


Figure 9 – Level of trust in AI's forecasts.

As part of the study, respondents were asked to answer two open-ended questions:

1. **What main risks and challenges do you see in the use of AI in crisis management?**
2. **Your opinion on the role of AI in crisis management.**

As a result of systematizing respondents' answers, several key aspects emerged, showing both the **potential** and the **possible difficulties** of using AI in crisis management.

4.1. Main Risks and Challenges

- **Reduction of human control and diffusion of responsibility:** Professionals note that excessive reliance on AI may lead to a reduction in human control and an unclear distribution of responsibility. This issue is critical, since AI is not responsible for the consequences of decisions; ultimate responsibility must remain with the human or organization using the technology.
- **Data accuracy and confidentiality:** Respondents emphasize that the accuracy of AI is strongly dependent on the quality of data. Incomplete or inaccurate data, breaches of data confidentiality, and the spread of disinformation may lead to undesirable outcomes.
- **Technological dependence:** Incorrect or excessive use of AI carries risk, particularly when the system is not adapted to specific crisis situations. Algorithmic decisions, if uncontrolled, may lead to incorrect or undesirable outcomes.

- **Ethical and legal challenges:** The study showed that the use of AI in crisis management requires clear **ethical protocols**, standards, and human oversight in order to reduce the risk of incorrect decision-making.
- **Accuracy and forecasting risks:** During crises, forecasts generated by AI may diverge from reality, particularly if the data is incomplete, altered, or delayed. Therefore, human interpretation and verification of decisions is important.

4.2. Assessment of AI's Role in Crisis Management

- **Function as a supporting tool:** Respondents recognize that AI is an effective supporting tool that enables the rapid processing of large volumes of data, the analysis of past experience, and the identification of signs of crisis. The use of AI significantly reduces data-processing time and increases the speed of response.
- **Limited autonomy:** The majority noted that AI should not be used to make decisions entirely on its own; the final decision must always remain with a human. AI must be checked and, where necessary, adjusted according to local specifics and practical conditions.
- **Potential and caution:** Respondents recognize that AI can initiate significant progress; however, its effectiveness is largely dependent on data accuracy, adherence to an ethical framework, and human oversight. Excessive reliance or insufficient knowledge in managing the system may lead to incorrect, harmful, or unpredictable outcomes.

5. Key Findings and Recommendations

The results of the study make clear that **the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into crisis management processes represents a significant opportunity**. The majority of respondents recognize that AI can significantly **improve the speed of data processing, forecasting, and the**

effectiveness of response, which is particularly important in managing pandemics, climate-related disasters, and economic crises.

5.1. Key Findings

1. **Effectiveness of AI in crisis management:** Artificial intelligence significantly improves data processing, risk identification, and forecasting, which increases the speed and effectiveness of response. This is consistent with respondents' own assessment, the majority of whom rated AI's role in crisis management as "very important."
2. **Application across different types of crises:** AI is particularly promising in healthcare, pandemic management, climate disasters, and economic crises. Respondents specifically identified these as the sectors where AI adoption offers the greatest added value, ahead of other potential application areas.
3. **Systemic benefits:** AI can increase the accuracy of operational management, the optimization of resources, and the effectiveness of subsequent recovery. The most frequently cited benefit among respondents was rapid data analysis and forecasting, underscoring the practical, operational value professionals associate with AI adoption.
4. **Risks and challenges:** The use of AI is associated with data quality, ethical issues, the determination of responsibility, and the reduction of human control. These concerns were directly reflected in respondents' assessment of ethical challenges, where data confidentiality emerged as the most pressing issue, alongside a widely shared view that potential damage from AI errors could be high.
5. **Balance between humans and technology:** AI can be a powerful aid, but the final responsibility for decisions must remain with the human, in order to avoid technological-ethical problems. This is reinforced by the finding that most respondents only "partially trust" AI-generated forecasts and consistently placed final accountability with the human or organization operating the system, rather than with the AI itself.

5.2. Recommendations

1. **Data accuracy and standardization:** Every AI system must rely on reliable, regularly updated, and high-quality data. Institutions should establish standardized data-collection and validation protocols before deploying AI tools in crisis contexts, since forecasting accuracy depends directly on the integrity of the underlying data sources.
2. **Ethical and legal framework:** Clear rules are necessary to define the benefits and harms of AI use, as well as the distribution of responsibility. Regulatory bodies and organizations should jointly develop guidelines specifying who bears accountability when AI-supported decisions cause harm, rather than leaving this question unresolved once a crisis is already underway.
3. **Human oversight:** Decisions developed by AI must be reviewed and confirmed by experts. This requires embedding a mandatory human-in-the-loop step into crisis-response workflows, so that AI-generated recommendations function as advisory input rather than as final decisions.
4. **Gradual approach to integration:** The implementation of AI must be systematic, gradual, and prioritized, alongside human control. Organizations should pilot AI tools in lower-risk, non-critical processes first, expanding their role only after reliability has been demonstrated in practice.
5. **Monitoring and the use of lessons learned:** AI systems must be monitored, evaluated, and continuously adjusted based on past experience, in order to improve the accuracy and safety of outcomes. Establishing structured post-crisis review cycles would allow organizations to update AI models systematically, rather than relying on static, one-time deployments.

Conclusion

Artificial intelligence represents an effective tool in the crisis management process, one that increases the speed of data processing, the accuracy of forecasting, and the effectiveness of operational decisions. However, its successful use requires a clear ethical framework, reliable data, and continuous human oversight. The use of AI not only enhances the effectiveness of response but also facilitates advance preparation and subsequent recovery processes. Strategic, systematic, and gradual integration alongside human control is essential in order to maximize technological benefits while minimizing risks.

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