



## **Documentation: AI for Aid seminar 19/11 2025**

**How can AI improve development cooperation? The world is changing rapidly and the need for humanitarian aid – in particular – is greater than ever. Aid also needs to change and evolve. With the help of AI tools, we can streamline and further develop Sweden’s aid.**

**The aim of the event was to bring together the tech sector, civil society, and development organisations to explore practical examples, new collaborations, and future possibilities.**

The AI for AID seminar brought together representatives from three Swedish aid organisations – LM International, ICLD and We Effect – together with researchers from RISE and AI Sweden to discuss how generative AI can be used in development cooperation and the risks and opportunities that this entails. The seminar was held in collaboration with Norrskén House and brought together around 90 participants from organisations, authorities, and companies.

*[Watch Audrey Tang's recorded keynote speech here.](#)*

### **Participants:**

- **Pelle Tamleth**, Head of Marketing & Partnership Nordics –Norrskén House Stockholm.
- **Felicia Wede**, responsible for programme results and training materials at ICLD.
- **Henrik Hansson**, Head of Technology Development at LM International.
- **Cate Broussard**, Global PMEL Advisor and works with analysis and learning at We Effect.
- **Audrey Tang** (online), Cyber ambassador and civic hacker for Taiwan, [2025 Right Livelihood Laureate](#).
- **Kristina Knaving**, Researcher at Rise. Kristina Knaving [researches AI ethics](#) and use with a focus on security, integrity and democracy.

- **Calle Norling Markai**, Project manager at AI Sweden. Responsible for a project in which Swedish civil society organisations have joined forces to launch [joint guidelines for the responsible use of AI](#).
- **Josephine Sundqvist**, Secretary general of LM International.

**Moderator:**

- **David Isaksson**, Editor in Chief of Global Bar Magazine.

**Henrik Hansson** from LM International described how organisations sit on enormous amounts of qualitative data: reports, evaluations and narrative descriptions of social change, corruption, democracy, and results. Previously, it has been difficult to systematically utilise this type of text mass, but large language models have opened up new possibilities. Together with ICLD and We Effect, LM started a project funded by Vinnova and developed technically by Capgemini to build AI tools that can use historical data to design better, more effective projects. It was decided not to mix the organisations' data, but to create three identical tools in separate 'silos', partly out of consideration for different governance models, standards and risk assessments.

Both Henrik Hansson and **Felicia Wede** from ICLD emphasised that the focus is not only on efficiency but also on improving analysis, programme design and performance management. Like LM, ICLD has large amounts of narrative and performance reports that need to be analysed in a more structured way. Felicia described how the model has been trained using the organisation's own governance documents, performance frameworks and databases, which makes it more accurate than a general service such as ChatGPT when it comes to questions related to ICLD's work. At the same time, she emphasised that AI functions more as an assistant than a replacement for humans, not least because the models still hallucinate and 'want to help' by making up answers.

**Kate Boussard** from We Effect highlighted hallucinations as one of the most critical risks. She described how the idea that an employee could send an AI-generated report with fabricated results to a donor is a direct threat to the organisation's credibility. We Effect therefore pushed hard for a clear reference system, where every statement in the AI's response is linked to concrete sources in the organisation's own documents. Only when this was in place could the tool begin to be used internally. At the same time, We Effect sees great potential in using AI both for faster and better analysis of existing data and to be able to communicate results more clearly to the public, taxpayers, and investors.

All three organisations returned to the issue of data security and integrity. They work in conflict zones, with human rights defenders and sensitive issues. Henrik described how they only enter data with a certain risk tolerance into the tools and work with classification. All storage takes place within the EU, with role-based access and consideration of the GDPR. Felicia said that ICLD systematically removes personal data before documents are entered into the model. Kate explained that, for the same reason, We Effect has chosen a silo solution where only people with internal login and authentication can use the model, and where particularly sensitive data is not entered at all.

The panel also discussed future use. Both Felicia and Kate see that AI is already improving analysis and planning by enabling rapid comparison of projects, identification of trends and formulation of new concepts. Henrik said that the crucial question is whether project managers and programme managers around the world themselves find the tools useful in their work: only then will the initiative be relevant in the long term. All three agreed that AI will not replace human analysis, but rather enhance it, provided that users are critical and check their sources.

In the next part of the seminar, **Kristina Knaving** from RISE and **Carl Markai Norling** from AI Sweden addressed the broader ethical and societal aspects. Kristina described how today's algorithms, especially in social media, tend to reinforce polarising content because they drive engagement. She pointed out the risk that both narrow models and large basic models reproduce bias in the data they have been trained on. She emphasised the need to view AI as a decision-making aid where responsibility still lies with humans.

Carl from AI Sweden explained that a distinction should be made between general generative tools and specialised AI solutions for specific problems. He gave examples, including from civil society, where AI has been used to handle large volumes of applications more efficiently, reduce formal errors and provide immediate feedback to applicants. He also described how AI agents can be used anonymously for people who want to leave criminal environments – a solution that has been tested by Fryshuset together with former gang members.

Both Kristina and Carl highlighted the need for clear policies in organisations. Without these, a so-called 'shadow IT' arises, where staff use AI tools without guidance, sometimes with sensitive data entered. New requirements for AI knowledge also mean that employers must train staff in ethics, security, and the limitations of the models. They emphasised the importance of living guidelines that specify which tools may be used, what type of data must never be entered, and that AI responses must always be verified.

A recurring issue was global inequality and language. The panel noted that large models have mainly been trained on Western data, but that initiatives in Africa and Asia are now working to collect and digitise local languages to build their own models. The participants felt that aid organisations need to both protect sensitive information and, where possible, contribute to open data so that the AI of the future is not distorted.

The seminar concluded with the insight that AI is already changing the aid industry, but that human analysis remains crucial. Technology can enhance democratic participation, transparency, and efficiency – but only if it is used responsibly and critically. Now, its time for aid organisations to collaborate more and better with the private sector – and speed up the work, concluded **Josephine Sundqvist**, Secretary general of LM International.

### **What's happening next:**

Fixaton at Norrskan House. Read more here <https://www.norrskan.org/fixathon>

## **More background**

<https://www.ai.se/sv/projekt/ai-for-impact>

<https://www.ai.se/sv/nyheter/civilsamhallet-presenterar-verktygslada-att-arbeta-med-ansvarsfull-ai>

[https://globalbar.se/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Dokumentation\\_AI-seminarium\\_25.pdf](https://globalbar.se/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Dokumentation_AI-seminarium_25.pdf)

[All articles about AI in Global Bar Magazine can be found here](#)

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