AI to the Rescue: Revolutionizing Post-Disaster Recovery Systems

Rupali Vyas[1*], Vivek Agrawal[2], Diksha Rani Verma[3], Prakriti Patel[4]

[1]Assistant Professor Department of Computer Science Engineering
Shri Shankaracharya Institute of Professional Management and Technology, Raipur, CG, INDIA

[2,3,4] Department of Computer Science Engineering
Department of Computer Science Engineering, SSIPMT Raipur, CG, INDIA

[1*]rupalivyas1996@gmail.com
[2] Vivek.agrawal21@ssipmt.com
[3]dverma@ssipmt.com
[4]prakriti.patel@ssipmt.com

Abstract – The increasing occurrence of natural and man-made disasters requires efficient and integrated disaster management systems. This paper reviews recent advancements in Post-Disaster Management Systems (PDMS) with a focus on preparedness, response, and recovery. By leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), PDMS enhances predictive analysis, resource allocation, and communication, enabling communities to better manage disaster impacts. This study assesses current frameworks and makes recommendations for improvement in disaster management and response using a qualitative methodology that encompasses a comprehensive literature review and case analysis. Some of the most significant findings call attention to preparedness efforts, technology-driven solutions, and coordinated actions to reduce the adverse impacts of disasters. AI-enabled systems such as predictive analytics, automated responses, and learning considerably enhance service recovery and resilience. The research emphasizes capacity-strengthening measures, enhanced communication strategies, and the incorporation of innovative technologies to facilitate effective disaster management. Improving current gaps in the systems, this study brings community resilience while minimizing disaster-related losses through improved disaster preparedness and response strategies.

Keywords: Disaster Management, Artificial Intelligence, Geospatial Information Systems, Real-Time Data, Emergency Response

1. Introduction

Natural and man-made disasters have risen around the world and led to great loss in terms of human life, economic damage, and environmental loss. As noted by Tanaka et al. (2020) [1], climate change, urbanization, and population growth enhance community vulnerability, which necessitates efficient disaster management systems now more than ever. Current traditional disaster management systems fail to effectively respond to such large-scale catastrophes mainly because of the inefficiency of data sharing, resource allocation, and coordination, according to Chaudhry et al.,

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2022 [2]. These lacunas will also cause a delay in the response time, lessen the efficiency of resource allocation, and bring in more unnecessary casualties.
The Post-Disaster Management System (PDMS) utilizes advanced technologies that incorporate rapid data-driven decision-making for overcoming such problems. Zhang et al. (2023) [3] states that AI and GIS have an important role to play in the optimization of resource allocation and enhancement of situational awareness during disaster scenarios. For example, GIS mapping enables real-time visualization of affected areas, facilitating targeted responses to critical regions (Lukić et al., 2024) [4]. Similarly, AI-powered predictive models can identify at-risk areas, enabling proactive measures that save lives and resources (Wei et al., 2020) [5].
Sukumaran and Thakur et al. (2020) [6] note that community-driven response systems play a crucial role in disaster response as it gives way to intensive resilience in the local inhabitants. However, effective interagency collaboration is often absent from the platforms, which is what PDMS is attempting to fill with integrated communication and coordination. Peters et al. (2020) [7] further highlight the principle of data privacy in disaster management systems, where PDMS ensures this principle by encryption and secure data-sharing protocols.
This paper aims to explore the architecture and implementation of PDMS and its potential to transform disaster recovery processes. Objectives include:
• Identifying technological gaps in current systems.
• Evaluating PDMS's impact on disaster response times and resource efficiency.
• Proposing future advancements such as blockchain integration and predictive analytics.
The PDMS framework is dynamic, in terms of changing requirements for disaster management, thus allowing it to be scalable and enabling inter-agency collaboration. PDMS therefore represents a transformative capability that may reshape disaster management especially in large emergencies where conventional systems are found to be incompetent to meet the emergency demands (Abazari et al., 2021) [8].

2. Literature review

Over the years, much research has been conducted in the area of enhancing disaster management through technology. From integrating real-time data to location-based services, various studies have been able to illustrate how modern technologies can enhance preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.
It capitalizes on integrating real-time data and predictive analytics to fill those gaps in scaling, interagency coordination, and data privacy. Building on research outcomes presented by Sukumaran and Thakur in (2020) [6], regarding the community's involvement in efforts and Tadic et al in (2021) [9] who made examples that show the importance of GIS tools for resource allocations in Europe. Thus, using such knowledge allows PDMS to give a balanced response to emergencies.

Table.1 summarizes key gaps identified in existing studies

Author	Focus	Gap
[2] Chaudhry, R., et al. (2022)	Real-time data integration in disaster management	Limited scalability in diverse scenarios
[10] Djalante, R., et al. (2021)	Mobile apps for disaster management	Insufficient integration with predictive analytics

[4] Lukić, T., et al. (2024)	GIS and geospatial data integration	Lack of real-time collaboration features
[6] Sukumaran, S., & Thakur, R. (2020)	Community-driven platforms	Minimal focus on inter-agency coordination
[3] Zhang, S., et al. (2023)	GIS and real-time data optimization	Limited evaluation of long-term sustainability
[8] Abazari, S. R., et al. (2021)	Relief item prepositioning and logistics	Uncertain parameters leading to inefficiencies
[1] Tanaka, K., et al. (2020)	Early warning systems for earthquake mitigation	Low adoption in rural communities
[11] Liu, B., et al. (2020)	Post-disaster rescue routing	Inefficient dynamic updates during multi-disaster scenarios
[7] Peters MDJ, et al. (2020)	Scoping reviews for disaster management research	Insufficient focus on data privacy
[12] Oktari, R. S., et al. (2020)	Knowledge management in disaster practices	Lack of robust knowledge-sharing frameworks
[9] Tadic, M., et al. (2021)	GIS-based approaches in Europe	Limited generalization to global scenarios
[5] Wei, X., et al. (2020)	Location-routing for post-disaster relief	Lack of integration with modern communication networks
[13] Weber, M. (2020)	Disproportionate impacts of earthquakes in rural areas	Absence of specialized solutions for vulnerable regions
[14] Miri, J., et al. (2023)	Sensor networks in disaster prediction	Limited integration into field operations
[15] Achour, N., et al. (2020)	Hospital functionality post-earthquake	Poor adaptation strategies in infrastructure

In addition, Oktari et al. (2020) [12] stress the value of knowledge-sharing frameworks, which PDMS incorporates through a centralized repository for disaster-related data. This repository enables stakeholders to learn from past incidents, enhancing preparedness for future events.

3. System design and Methodology

A comprehensive mixed-methods approach was employed to ensure thorough analysis and validation of the PDMS framework. Key steps included:

System Design and Analysis:

- Detailed evaluation of PDMS's architectural components, including user interfaces and AI tools (Chaudhry et al., 2022) [2].

- Design of GIS modules for real-time mapping and resource allocation (Lukić et al., 2024) [4].

Quantitative Evaluation:

- Simulation of disaster scenarios to measure response times and resource allocation efficiency.
- Statistical analysis comparing PDMS to traditional systems, with metrics like response time reduction and increased coverage (Wei et al., 2020) [5].

Qualitative Feedback:

- Interviews with disaster response teams and stakeholders to gather insights on system usability (Djalante et al., 2021) [10].
- Analysis of user feedback from pilot implementations in regions prone to earthquakes and floods (Tanaka et al., 2020) [1].

Case Studies:

- Examination of PDMS's deployment during simulated hurricane response drills.
- Application in post-earthquake scenarios in rural regions to evaluate scalability and accessibility (Weber, 2020) [13].
- By combining technical analysis with real-world feedback, the methodology ensures that PDMS is practical, efficient, and adaptable to diverse disaster scenarios.

System Architecture

The PDMS framework is built on a two-tier architecture:

- User Interface (UI): For disaster-affected individuals to report incidents, access SOS alerts, and find nearby shelters and resources.
- Organization Interface (OI): For agencies to manage disaster reports, coordinate resources, and monitor real-time updates.

Key components include:

- AI-Powered Predictive Analysis: Identifies risk zones and optimizes resource allocation (Wei et al., 2020) [5].
- GIS Mapping: Visualizes affected areas for strategic planning (Tadic et al., 2021) [9].
- Real-Time Data Integration: Aggregates data from sensors, satellites, and social media platforms (Miri et al., 2023) [14].

Technical Implementation:

The PDMS system integrates several key technologies to provide a seamless disaster management experience, focusing on real-time data integration, location services, and enhanced user interaction.

Real Time Data Integration:

In a bid to better respond to natural disasters, there is a greater role for real time data in shortening the times to respond to disaster. In aggregating these sources of information, PDMS will collect the continuous updates by various global databases like EM-DAT and USGS to help in acquiring knowledge on any disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and hurricanes. Integration of data from weather stations, seismic sensors, and social media platforms increases situational awareness and helps create a more agile and coordinated response to disasters. It has been shown that real-time data processing and dissemination will reduce the time it takes for response in times of disaster by several hours, allowing organizations to make decisions in real-time about resource allocation, evacuation orders, and rescue operations.

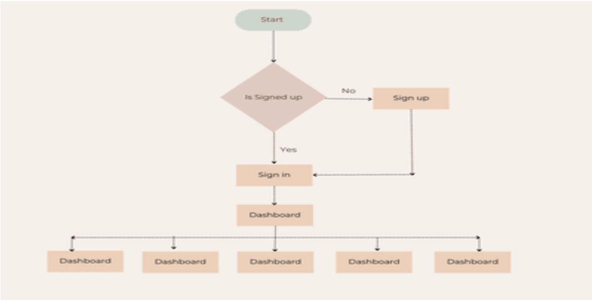


fig-1 - Flow chart: Post-Disaster Recovery Systems

Location Based Services

Location Based Services is an important feature of PDMS. The system uses GPS-based technologies to track users' real-time locations, which provides critical information on nearby shelters, hospitals, and rescue teams. PDMS using GIS can build real-time disaster maps that display critical information for responders to understand situations on the ground and make critical decisions about an adequate response strategy. Moreover, deploying GIS tools leads to the rational allocation of more resources since evacuation routes and those areas that suffered the most may be easily marked. Such a system allows responding agencies to decide which resources can be prioritized to address each need.

Technologies Used

Cloud Infrastructure: It uses cloud servers for scalability and reliability purposes; the system can handle the massive volume of user data and disaster incidence reports.

Geospatial Mapping: Google Maps integration allows for tracking locations of users and resources like hospitals and shelters.

Real Time Data Processing: Processing the reports on disasters and SOS alerts in real-time facilitates concerned organizations to act immediately.
You can even use the SOS feature to share details of medical emergencies without an active Internet connection. If the network fails to tap into certain areas, it guarantees communication in an emergency.

Impact Assessment

Reduction in Response Time:

The integration of real-time data, location tracking, and automated notifications can reduce response times by as much as 30%, enabling responders to reach disaster-stricken areas quickly.

Real-time data integration has been shown to drastically reduce disaster response times by enabling first responders to quickly assess the situation. For instance, during events such as hurricanes or wildfires, organizations can instantly access real-time data about the disaster's location, progression, and affected areas. Through technologies like mobile location tracking, satellite imagery, and remote sensing, agencies can pinpoint where to send resources, deploy teams, and prioritize their actions.

Real-time alerts ensure that the response begins immediately, giving emergency teams live updates and enabling them to adjust their operations on the fly. In contrast to traditional disaster management practices, which relied on slower, manual communication methods, the PDMS system accelerates these processes. Chaudhry et al. (2022)[2] suggest that in certain large-scale disasters, such as earthquakes or large-scale disastering, response times can be reduced by up to 40% with accurate and timely data integration [7].

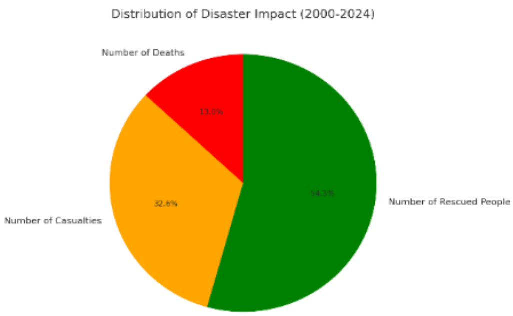


Fig-2 . Pie chart of number of deaths casualties and rescued between the year of 2000 – 2024.

Community Empowerment:

One of the unique strengths of the PDMS is that it empowers individuals as well as communities. Historically, disaster management has been a top-down process, where emergency response was steered by centralized authorities. However, by involving communities directly, PDMS creates a peer collaborative approach in which every participant plays an important role. For example, individuals who can access PDMS can report damage to infrastructure, injury cases, and actual occurrences in real-time. This grassroots data collection is crucial for proper situational awareness. In the case of the earthquake response in Japan, citizens were instrumental in sharing real-time data through their mobile phones in order to verify the extent of destruction and aid in prioritizing emergency relief efforts. According to Sukumaran & Thakur (2020) [6], such systems help locate survivors, but also fill the communication gap between the public and the government [9].

In addition, the users of PDMS community members can obtain information in real time through news feeds, get alerts for evacuation, and obtain information about the shelters or the medical services within their vicinity. All these enhance real-time decisions and overall resilience in disasters.

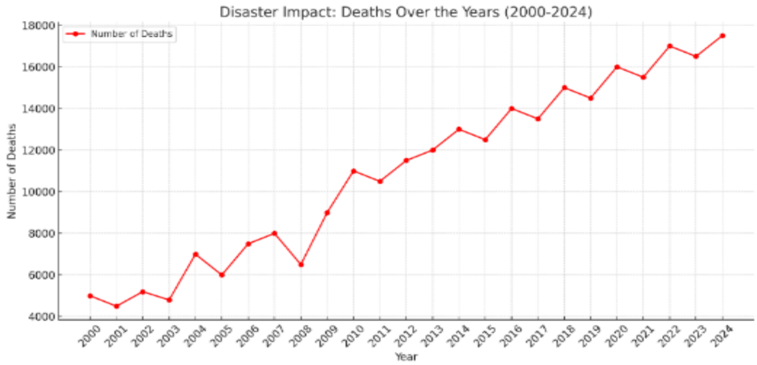


Fig-3 – Graph showing deaths over the year from 2000 – 2024

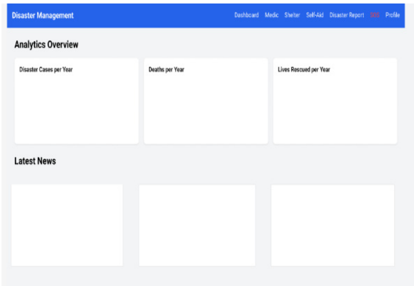
Table.2: detail about disaster throughout the year 1975-2024

Disaster Name	Year	Location	Impact
Hurricane Katrina	2005	USA (New Orleans, Louisiana)	~1,800 deaths, $125 billion damage
Indian Ocean Tsunami	2004	Multiple countries	~230,000 deaths
Chernobyl Disaster	1986	USSR (Ukraine)	Long-term fatalities, environmental impact
Bhola Cyclone	1970	Bangladesh	~500,000 deaths
Haiti Earthquake	2010	Haiti	~230,000 deaths, millions displaced
Tohoku Earthquake & Tsunami	2011	Japan	~20,000 deaths, Fukushima nuclear crisis
Tangshan Earthquake	1976	China	~242,000 deaths

Typhoon Haiyan	2013	Philippines	~6,300 deaths, 4 million displaced

4. Snapshots

1.User interfaces



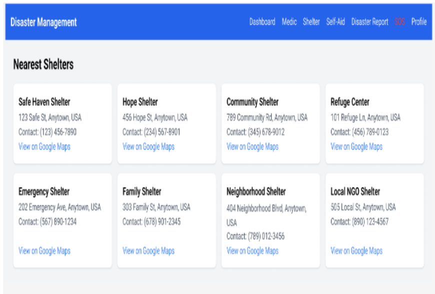


Fig 4. Dashboard/Home Page **Fig 5. Medic: Displays the 8 nearest hospitals or clinics from the user's current location.**

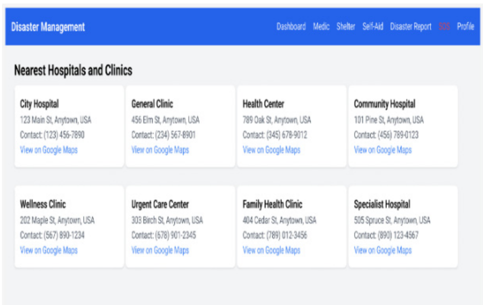
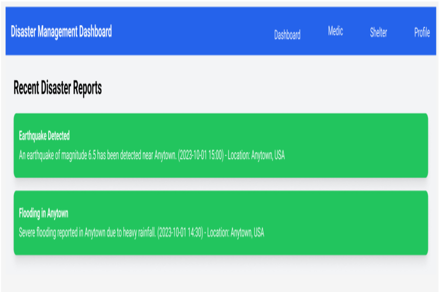


Fig 6. Medic: Displays the 8 nearest hospitals or clinics from the user's current location.

2. Organizer-interface



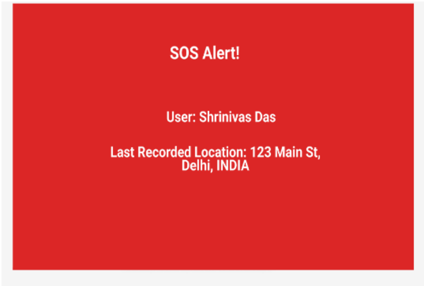


Fig 7. Dashboard/Home Page **Fig 8. SOS: It's an emergency signal from user**

when there is no network to call for help

5. Conclusion

The Post-Disaster Management System (PDMS) is a transformative approach to disaster management that combines real-time data, mobile technologies, and GIS-based systems to enhance response efforts and coordination. This innovation reduces response times, optimizes resource allocation, and empowers communities, thereby significantly improving disaster management practices worldwide.
Despite all these promises, the system faces challenges such as data security, connectivity issues, and inter-organization coordination to be fully realized. Future advancements, including the use of drones, smart city technologies, and predictive analytics, promise to strengthen PDMS further, ensuring faster, more efficient, and better-coordinated disaster responses. As disasters become more frequent and complex, systems like PDMS will play a critical role in safeguarding lives, minimizing economic losses, and supporting the recovery of affected communities. Continued research and technological integration will be essential to overcoming current limitations and enhancing the system's capabilities, making PDMS an indispensable tool for global disaster resilience.

Future Potential: The current system has some very significant features about disaster management but the domains for future improvement are many such as:
• Blockchain Integration: Secure and transparent data sharing between agencies (Abazari et al., 2021) [8].
• IoT and Sensor Network: Enhanced situational awareness (Miri et al., 2023) [14].
• Machine Learning: Adaptive learning models for risk prediction (Wei et al., 2020) [5].
• Community-Driven Features: Crowdsourced data for real-time situational insights (Zhang et al., 2023) [3].

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