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Designing a Post-Disaster Humanitarian Supply Chain

Using Machine Learning and Multi-Criteria Decision-Making Techniques

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01. Introduction

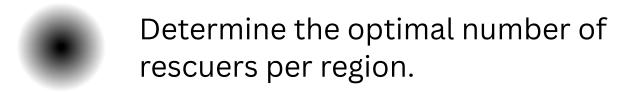
Humanitarian supply chain is a set of coordinated actions meant to guarantee the effective transportation, storage and distribution of necessities in the event of natural or man made disaster

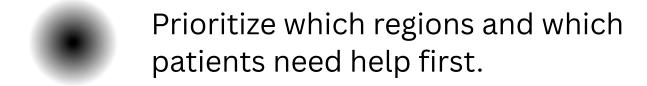
Urgency, uncertainty and coordination problems distinguish the humanitarian supply chain from other supply chainsh text

Problem
Description

Disasters such as earthquakes, floods, fires, and landslides affect multiple regions and cause mass injuries. The most urgent goal is to minimize casualties, but rescue forces (RFs) are limited in number and capacity. In such high-pressure situations, delays or misallocation of resources can result in preventable loss of life

To overcome these limitations, it's crucial to:



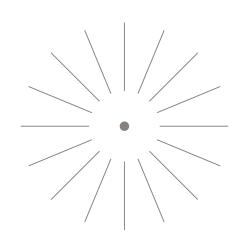




Research Questions

- How can ML/AI improve humanitarian supply chains?
- How should transport, sourcing, and environment be considered?
- How can disaster and disruption impacts be reduced?
- How can MCDM support humanitarian supply chains?

Main Objectives of the Study

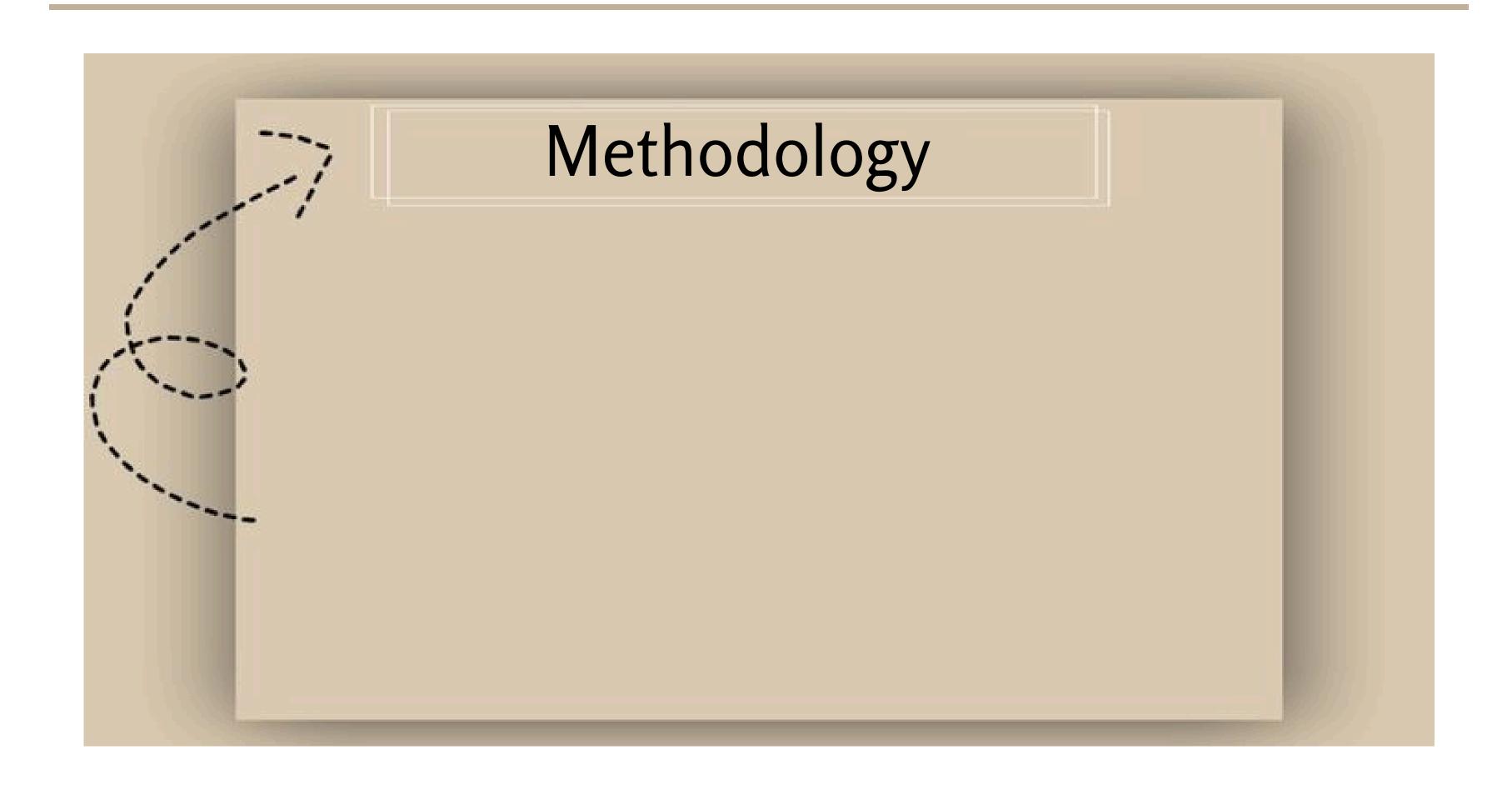


To prioritize affected regions

To classify injured individuals by severity

To optimize resource allocation

To support predisaster preparedness



MCDM (Multi-Criteria Decision Making)

- Helps evaluate options with multiple, conflicting criteria.
- Useful in disaster management for quick trade-offs under uncertainty.
- In this study:
 - BWM → assign importance to criteria (population, hazard, access).
 - WASPAS → rank districts by priority.
 - Results guide resource allocation and highlight urgent areas.

BWM (Best-Worst Method)

MCDM technique to assign weights to criteria (hazard, population, accessibility) using expert judgment.

How it works (Steps):

- 1. List decision criteria
- ➤ Example: Population, hazard exposure, accessibility
- 2. Select the Best and Worst criteria
- ➤ Most and least important as judged by experts
- 3. Rate the Best over all others (1–9 scale)
- ➤ Forms the Best-to-Others vector

$$A_B = (a_{B1}, a_{B2}, ..., a_{Bn})$$

- 4. Rate all others over the Worst (1–9 scale)
- ➤ Forms the Others-to-Worst vector

$$A_W = (a_{1W}, a_{2W}, ..., a_{nB})$$

- 5. Solve optimization model
- ➤ Minimizes max inconsistency to calculate optimal weights

$$\left| \frac{W_B}{W_j} - a_{Bj} \right| \le \varepsilon \quad \forall j$$

$$\left| \frac{W_j}{W_W} - a_{jW} \right| \le \varepsilon \quad \forall j$$

$$\sum_{W_i > 0} W_j = 1$$

$$\forall j$$

WASPAS

(Weighted Aggregated Sum Product Assessment)

MCDM method that ranks alternatives by weighted performance, combining WSM and WPM.

How it works (Steps):

- 1. Use BWM weights
- ➤ The weights of criteria (from BWM) are input to WASPAS.
- 2. Normalize decision matrix
- > Scores of each region on each criterion are normalized (e.g., min-max normalization).

$$\overline{x}_{ij} = \frac{x_{ij}}{\max_i x_{ij}}$$
 For profitable criteria

$$\overline{x}_{ij} = \frac{\min_i x_{ij}}{x_{ij}}$$
 for non-profitable criteria

- 3. Apply both WSM and WPM formulas
- ➤ Compute:

$$Q^{(1)}$$
: Weighted sum score $Q_i^{(1)} = \sum_{j=1}^n \overline{x}_{ij} w_{ij}$

$$Q^{(2)}$$
: Weighted product score $Q_i^{(2)} = \prod_{j=1}^n \left(\overline{\chi}_{ij}
ight)^{w_j}$

4. Combine both scores with both equally important to get final WASPAS index:

$$Q_i = 0.5Q_i^{(1)} + 0.5Q_i^{(2)}$$

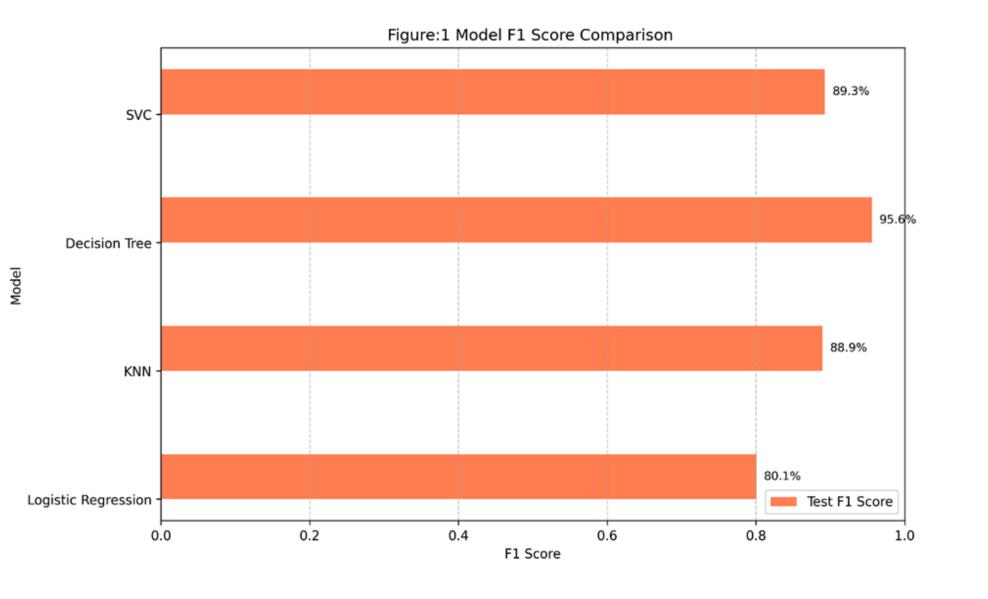
Machine Learning Algorithm

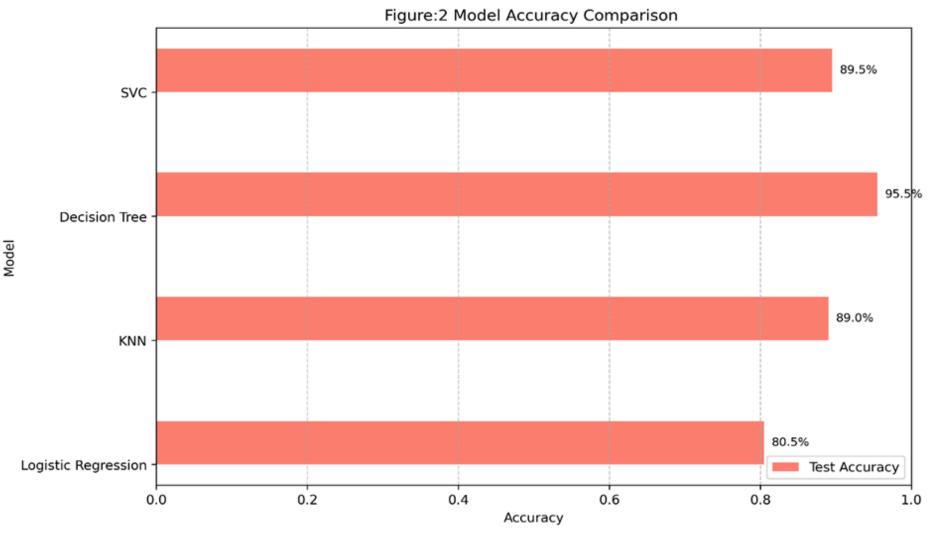
- Enables systems to learn from data and make predictions.
- In this study: predicts injury severity (very high, high, medium, low, very low) from **synthetic patient data** to prioritize rescue.

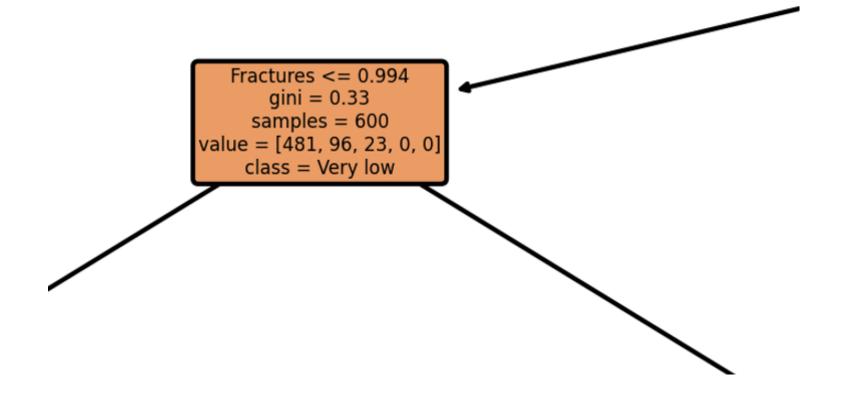
Variable	Variable Type	 Variable 	Variable type
Age	Integer	Pulse rate	Integer
Gender	Boolean	Mobility	Boolean
Pregnancy Status	Boolean	Trapped Duration	Integer
Consciousness Level	Boolean	Blood Pressure	Integer
Severe Bleeding	Boolean		

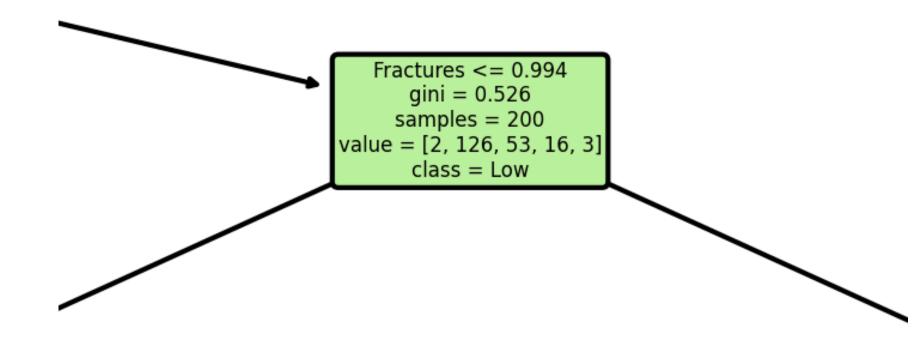
```
def assign_condition(row):
    score = 0
   if row["Age"] < 10 or row["Age"] > 50:
        score += 2
    if row["Gender"] == 0:
        score += 1
    if row["Pregnancy Status"] == 1:
        score += 2
    if row["Consciousness Level"] == 0:
        score += 2
    if row["Severe Bleeding"] == 1:
        score += 2
   if row["Fractures"] == 1:
        score += 2
   if row["Pulse_Rate"] > 120 or row["Pulse_Rate"] < 50:</pre>
        score += 2
    if row["Mobility"] == 0:
        score += 2
   if row["Trapped_Duration_Hours"] > 5:
        score += 1
    if score >= 8:
        return "Very High"
    elif score >= 6:
        return "High"
    elif score >= 4:
        return "Medium"
    elif score >= 2:
        return "Low"
    else:
        return "Very Low"
severity_map = {
    "Very Low": 0,
    "Low": 1,
    "Medium": 2,
    "High": 3,
    "Very High": 4
```

- Compared algorithms (Decision Tree, KNN, SVM, etc.) using accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score.
- Decision Tree Classifier selected for best performance.









Bi-Objective Optimization

- Optimizes two competing goals simultaneously:
 - Save lives → minimize distance/time.
 - Save resources → minimize cost.
- Produces Pareto-optimal trade-offs instead of favoring one objective.
- Modeled as a MILP with linear equations and mixed decision variables.
- This study **integrates patient severity** (ML), **area risk** (MCDM), and real-world constraints (capacity, cost, time).

Objective Funtions

Objective 1: Minimize Total Distance Traveled by RFs

$$ext{Min } Z_1 = \sum_I \sum_J \sum_O \sum_M \sum_S \sum_L X_{i,j,o,m,s,l} \cdot D_{ij}$$

Meaning:

Reduces **total travel distance** to accelerate rescue operations and minimize delay in reaching patients.

Objective 2: Minimize Total Operational Cost

$$ext{Min } Z_2 = \sum_M A_i \cdot Q_{i,m} + \sum_I \sum_O \sum_L C_0 \cdot N_{i,o,l} + \sum_I Y_i \cdot CA_i$$

Meaning:

Captures total cost of **Activating relief centers** + **Vehicle purchases** (by type and time)+**Rescuer deployment**

Constraints:

Constraint (Math)	Meaning		
$\sum X_{i,j,o,m,s,l} \geq F_m$	Enough rescuers assigned per area		
$L \leq \sum Y_i \leq U$	Limit number of active RCs		
$\sum A_i Q_{i,m} + \sum C_0 N_{i,o,l} + \sum Y_i C A_i \le B$	Stay within total budget		
$\sum X_{i,j,o,m,s} \le N_{i,o,l} \cdot CP_o$	Vehicle capacity constraint		
$\sum X_{i,j,o,m,s,l} = 1$	Each injured individual must be rescued		
$\sum X_{i,j,o,m,s,l} = 1$	Each injured has one injury condition		
$\sum X_{i,j,o,m,s,l} = N_s$	Rescuer allocation per condition		
$Q_{i,m} \geq a_m$	Rescuer count ≥ ML forecast		
$Q_{i,m}\geq 0$	Non-negative rescuer allocation		
$N_{i,o,l}\geq 0$	Non-negative vehicle count		
$X_{i,j,o,m,s,l} \in \{0,1\}$	Binary assignment decision		
$Y_i \in \{0, 1\}$	Binary RC activation decision		

Solution Methodology - LP-Metric Method

- **LP-Metric:** converts multi-objective problems into a single objective by minimizing distance to the ideal solution.
- Balances two conflicting goals:
 - Minimize travel distance
 - Minimize operational cost
- Produces a compromise solution that is well-balanced, not extreme in either objective.

$$LP = \left\{ \sum_{j=1}^{k} W_j \times \left[\frac{f_j \left(\boldsymbol{X}^{*_j} \right) - f_j (\boldsymbol{X})}{f_j \left(\boldsymbol{X}^{*_j} \right) - f_j \left(\boldsymbol{X}^{-_j} \right)} \right]^P \right\}^{\frac{1}{P}}$$

Where:

- $f_j(X)$: Value of objective j at solution X
- f_i^* : Ideal (best possible) value of objective j
- f_i^- : Anti-ideal (worst-case) value of objective j
- w_j : Weight for objective j (often equally weighted)
- p: Norm (typically 1 or 2)

Model Assumptions

All patients are assigned to a relief centre (RC)

Patient data is synthetic, and severity is predicted using a trained ML model

Each patient is limited to their 3 nearest RCs

Severe patients must be rescued earlier

TAJIKISTAN AFCHANISTAN SEISMIC ZONE LADAKH KASHMIR HIMACHAL PUNJAB CHINA (TIBET) PAKISTAN HARYANA DELHI New Delhi SIKKIM UTTAR BHUTAN PRADESH NAGALAND RAJASTHAN BIHAR BANGLADESH **JHARKHAND** ORAM MADHYA GUJARAT PRADESH MYANMAR (BURMA) **ODISHA** BAYOF MAHARASHTRA DADRA & NAGAR BENGAL **HAVELI AND** DAMAN & DIU TELANGANA ARABIAN Yanam (Puducherry) **ANDHRA** PRADESH KARNATAKA LEGEND -- International Boundary State Boundary Country Capital PUDUCHERRY Zone - II (Least Active) (Puducherry) Karaikal (Puducherry) Zone - III (Moderate) TAMIL NADU Zone - IV (High) Zone - V (Highest) SRI LANKA INDIAN OCEAN Copyright © 2022 www.mapsofindia.com

Case Study

A synthetic case study was developed for Mizoram, India, simulating a hypothetical earthquake to test disaster response strategies using machine learning, MCDM, and bi-objective optimization. Mizoram was chosen because it lies in Seismic Zone V, the highest earthquake risk category in India, making it highly vulnerable to severe seismic events.

District Data & Prioritization (MCDM Approach)

District Data Preparation

- 11 districts of Mizoram considered.
- Key attributes: Population, Area Size, Earthquake Hazard Factor, Accessibility.
- Data sourced from 2011 Census and updated using growth estimates.
- Criteria normalized and prepared for ranking.

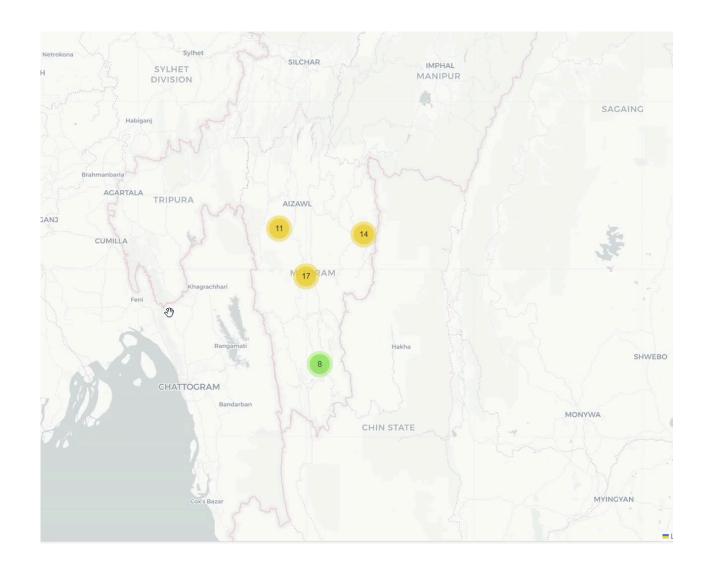
Prioritization

- Best-Worst Method (BWM): Calculated weights of criteria
- WASPAS Method: Aggregated normalized values to rank districts.
- Final scores used as priority weights (α_m) in optimization model.

	District	Area_ID	Population	Area Size	Hazard Factor	Accessibility	WASPAS_Score	Rank
0	Aizawl	1	400309	3577.00	7	10	0.781367	1
2	Champhai	3	125745	3185.83	9	7	0.702890	2
1	Lunglei	2	161428	4536.00	9	6	0.679851	3
4	Mamit	5	86364	3025.00	8	7	0.636324	4
5	Serchhip	6	64937	1421.00	7	8	0.631177	5
7	Saiha	8	56574	1399.00	10	3	0.607730	6
3	Kolasib	4	83955	1382.00	6	8	0.597058	7
6	Lawngtlai	7	117894	2557.00	8	4	0.573286	8
8	Hnahthial	9	28500	1133.00	8	5	0.572594	9
10	Saitual	11	30000	1500.00	7	7	0.569012	10
9	Khawzawl	10	28500	1152.00	6	6	0.510333	11

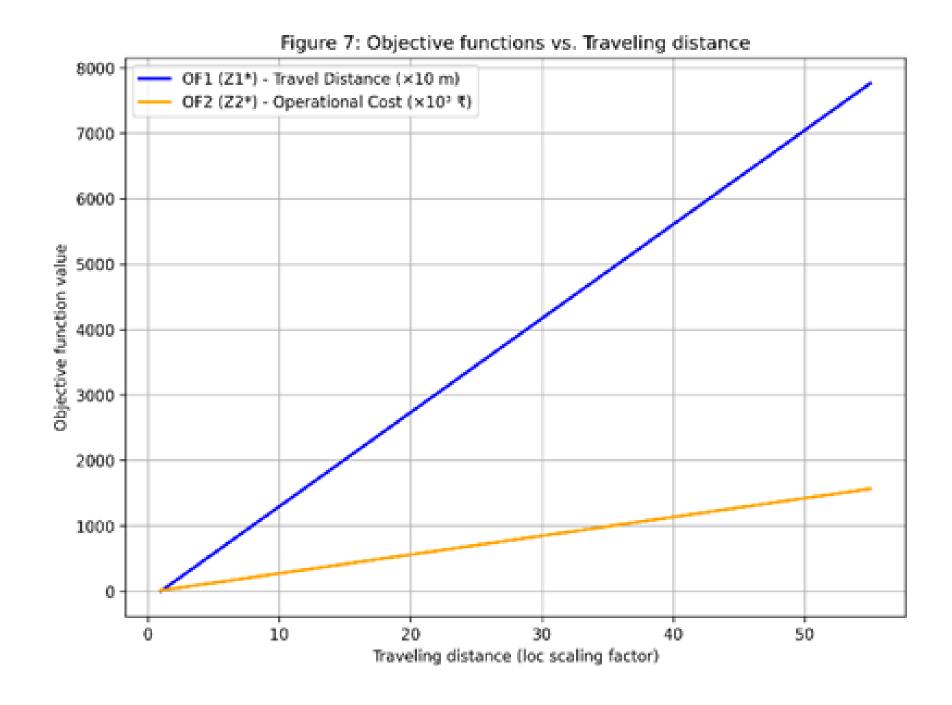
Machine Learning for Severity Prediction

- Synthetic dataset: patients with randomized age, gender, vitals, injury, entrapment time.
- ML model: Decision Tree Classifier trained to predict 5 severity levels (0-4).



ge	Gender	Pregnancy_Status	Consciousness_Level	Severe_Bleeding	Fractures	Pulse_Rate	Mobility	Trapped_Duration_Hours	Blood_Pressure	Area ID	Condition_Label AreaNa	am
47	0	1	1	0	0	61	1	5	133	7	1 Lawngt	lai
30	0	1	0	1	0	88	0	9	133	4	4 Kolasib	,
17	0	0	1	0	0	55	1	7	80	4	1 Kolasib	,
45	0	1	1	1	0	81	1	5	176	3	2 Champl	hai
25	0	0	1	0	0	57	1	7	91	1	1 Aizawl	
33	0	1	1	0	0	58	1	5	139	3	1 Champ	hai
34	1	0	1	0	0	58	1	9	138	6	0 Serchhi	p
38	1	0	1	0	0	59	1	5	132	4	0 Kolasib	,
48	1	0	1	0	0	61	1	9	180	2	0 Lunglei	
18	0	0	1	0	1	55	0	11	108	4	3 Kolasib	
26	1	0	1	1	0	77	1	6	147	5	1 Mamit	
49	0	0	0	1	0	91	0	12	152	7	3 Lawngt	lai
17	0	0	1	0	0	55	1	9	120	1	1 Aizawl	
39	0	0	1	0	0	59	1	2	141	3	0 Champ	hai
48	1	0	1	0	0	61	1	4	173	7	0 Lawngt	lai
47	1	0	1	0	0	61	1	11	125	7	0 Lawngt	lai
41	0	0	1	1	0	80	1	9	135	7	2 Lawngt	lai
27	0	0	1	1	0	77	1	1	132	7	1 Lawngt	lai
38	1	0	1	0	0	59	1	10	141	2	0 Lunglei	
27	0	0	1	0	0	57	1	6	104	6	1 Serchhi	p
36	0	0	1	0	0	59	1	1	139	7	0 Lawngt	lai
3	1	0	1	0	0	52	1	1	80	5	1 Mamit	
14	0	0	1	0	0	54	1	5	114	2	0 Lunglei	
37	1	0	1	0	0	59	1	8	135	1	0 Aizawl	
52	0	1	1	0	0	62	1	5	172	3	2 Champl	hai
37	0	0	0	1	1	89	0	8	155	1	4 Aizawl	
54	1	0	0	1	0	92	1	11	171	7	2 Lawngt	lai
40	1	0	1	1	0	80	1	10	155	4	1 Kolasib	

Bi-Objective Optimization Model



To evaluate the emergency response planning, a biobjective mixed-integer programming model was built using **Pyomo** and solved using **Gurobi optimizer**.

Objectives:

- 1. Minimize rescue distance (Z₁)
- 2. Minimize operational cost (Z₂)
- 3. Balance trade-off via LP-Metric (Z₃)

Key Constraints & Parameters

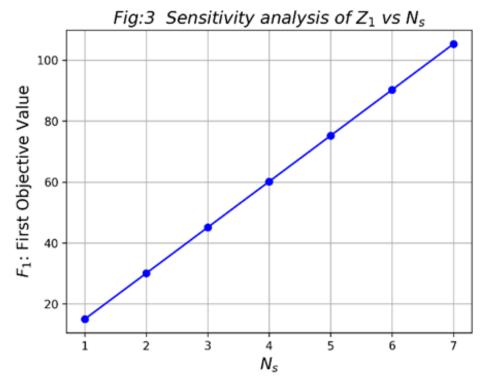
- Relief Centers: Exactly 4 active (Aizawl, Lunglei, Champhai, Lawngtlai).
- Budget: ₹5 lakh total for activation, training, vehicles, and transport.
- Vehicles: ≤20; cost ₹15–20/km; capacity 4 patients.
- Rescuers: Assigned by severity (1–4 per patient); 10–20 per center.
- Patient Assignment: Each patient to 1 of 3 nearest centers, within ~20 km.

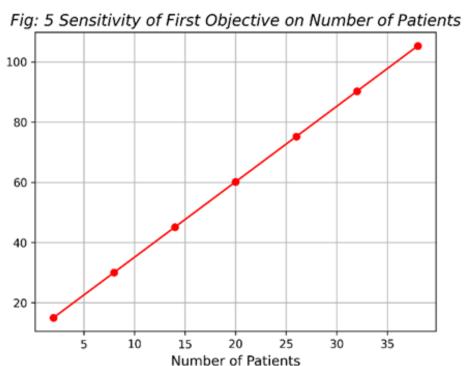
- LP-metric (Z₃): used normalized Z₁ (distance) and Z₂ (cost) to study trade-offs.
- Limitation: Z_1 relied on Euclidean distances \rightarrow stayed near worst case, keeping $Z_3 \approx 0.5$.
- Insight: highlights need for road-network data and proper scaling in real applications.

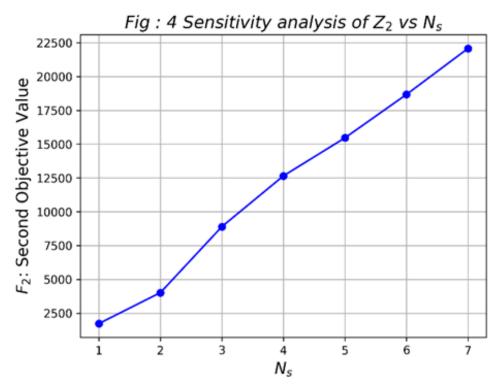
	Z1* (×10 m)	Z1_worst (×10 m)	Z2* (×10^3 ₹)	Z2_worst (×10^3 ₹)	Z1_combined (×10 m)	Z2_combined (×10^3 ₹)	Z3
0	2.2755	3.1985	13.6397	50.2551	3.1985	13.6397	0.500000
1	863.6355	864.9230	185.9846	219.9271	864.9125	185.9825	0.495891
2	1725.9345	1727.2130	358.4426	392.3869	1727.2130	358.4426	0.500000
3	2588.2345	2589.5130	530.9026	564.8469	2589.5130	530.9026	0.500000
4	3450.5350	3451.8125	703.3625	737.3070	3451.8125	703.3625	0.500000
5	4312.8335	4314.1125	875.8225	909.7667	4314.1125	875.9225	0.501473
6	5175.1330	5176.4105	1048.3821	1082.2266	5176.4105	1048.2821	0.498523

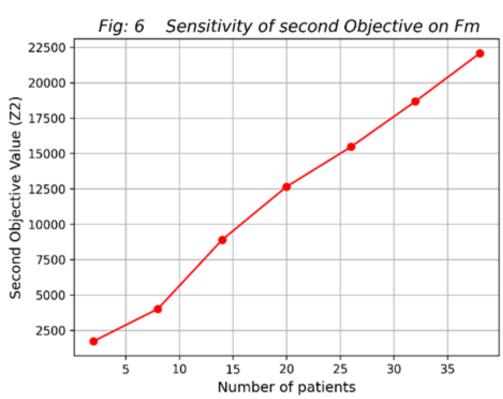
Sensitivity Analysis

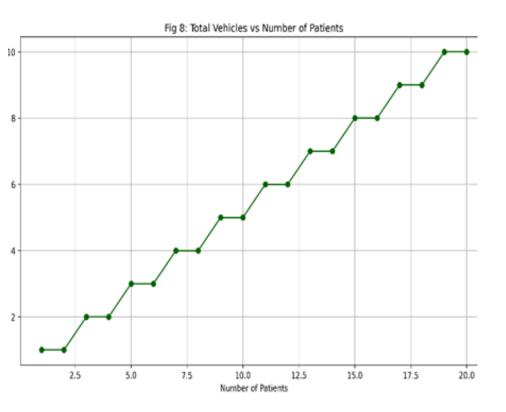
Sensitivity analysis tested the model's robustness by varying patient numbers, severity profiles, and budget, and observing their effects on distance (Z_1) , cost (Z_2) , and resource allocation (vehicles and rescuers).

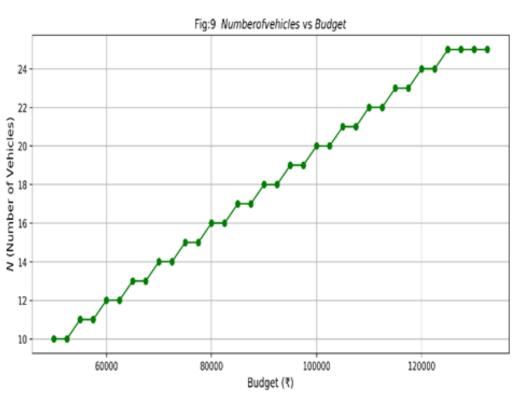


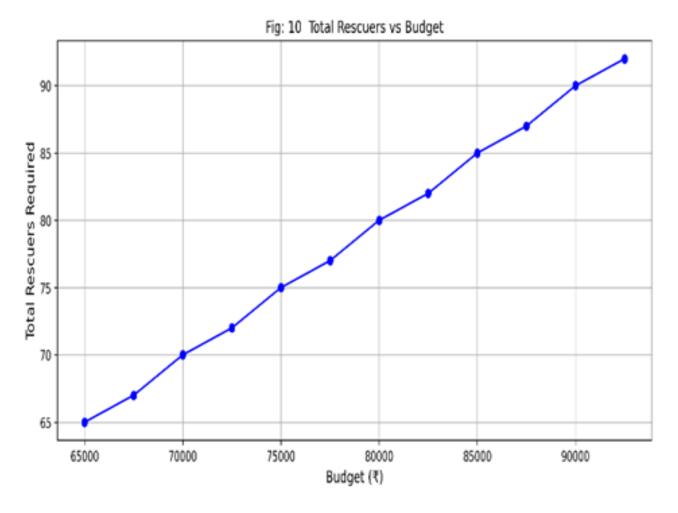


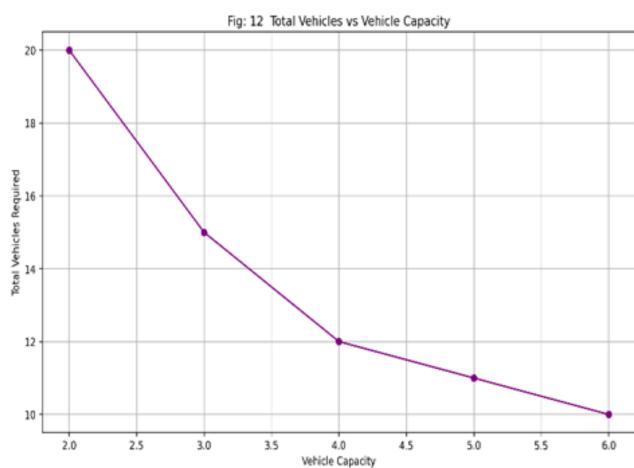


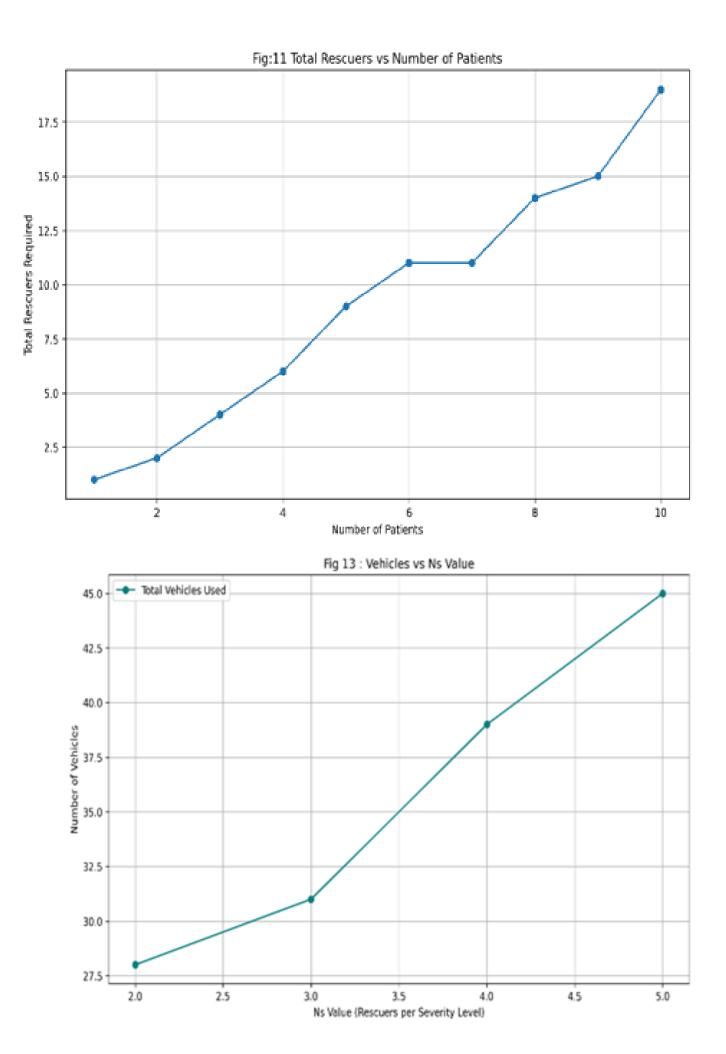












Key Takeaways

- Integrating ML, optimization, and MCDM enables smarter disaster response planning.
- The Mizoram case showed effective balance of distance, cost, and resource allocation under realistic constraints.
- Future improvements need GIS data, dynamic conditions, and validation with real disasters (e.g., Cyclone Remal 2024) for real-world use.

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Thank you