# DS-I Africa Consortium: Harnessing the power of partnerships for data science in Africa

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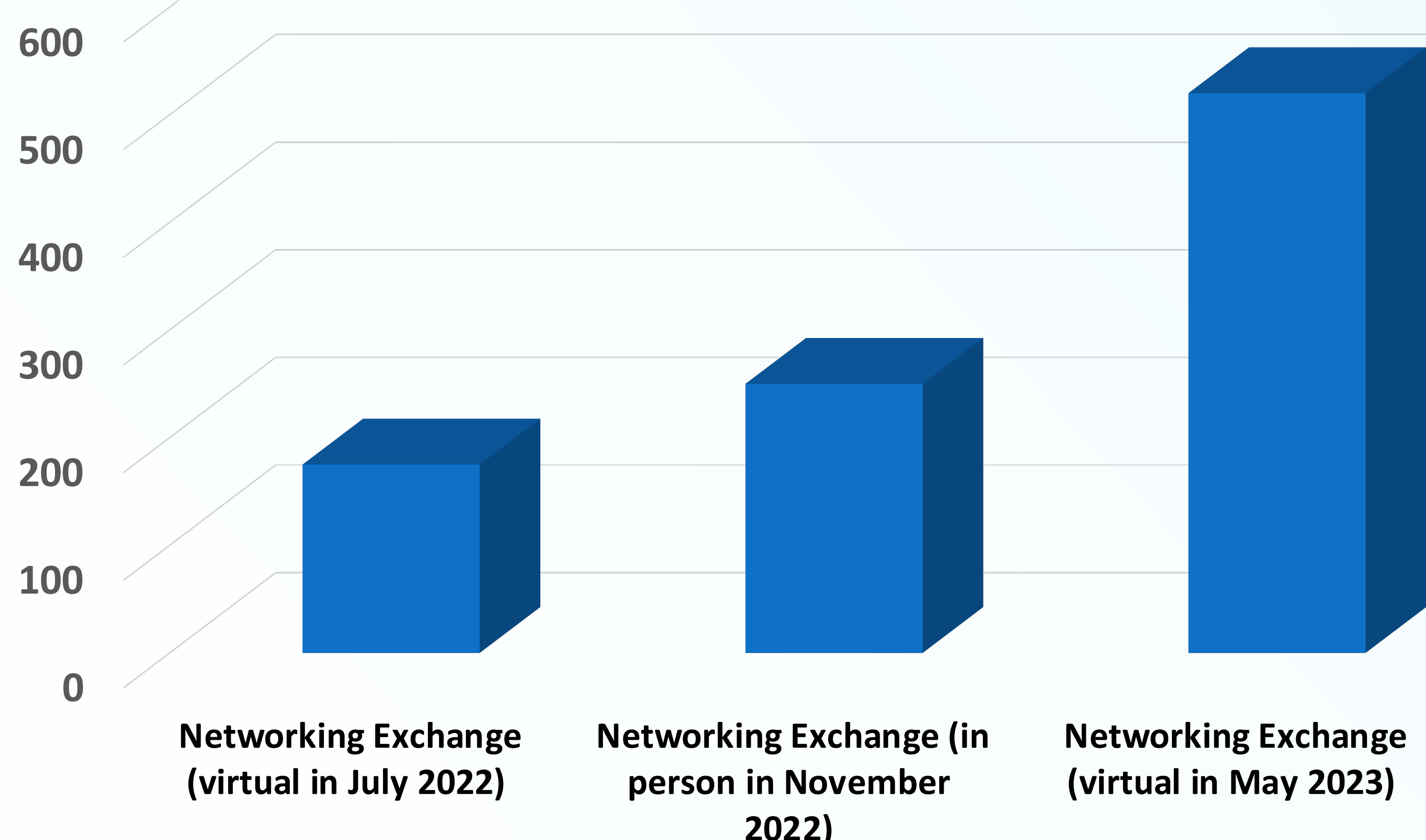
## Overview

The Harnessing Data Science for Health Discovery and Innovation in Africa (DS-I Africa) initiative:
- Led by African scientists.
- Includes a Coordinating Center at the University of Cape Town.
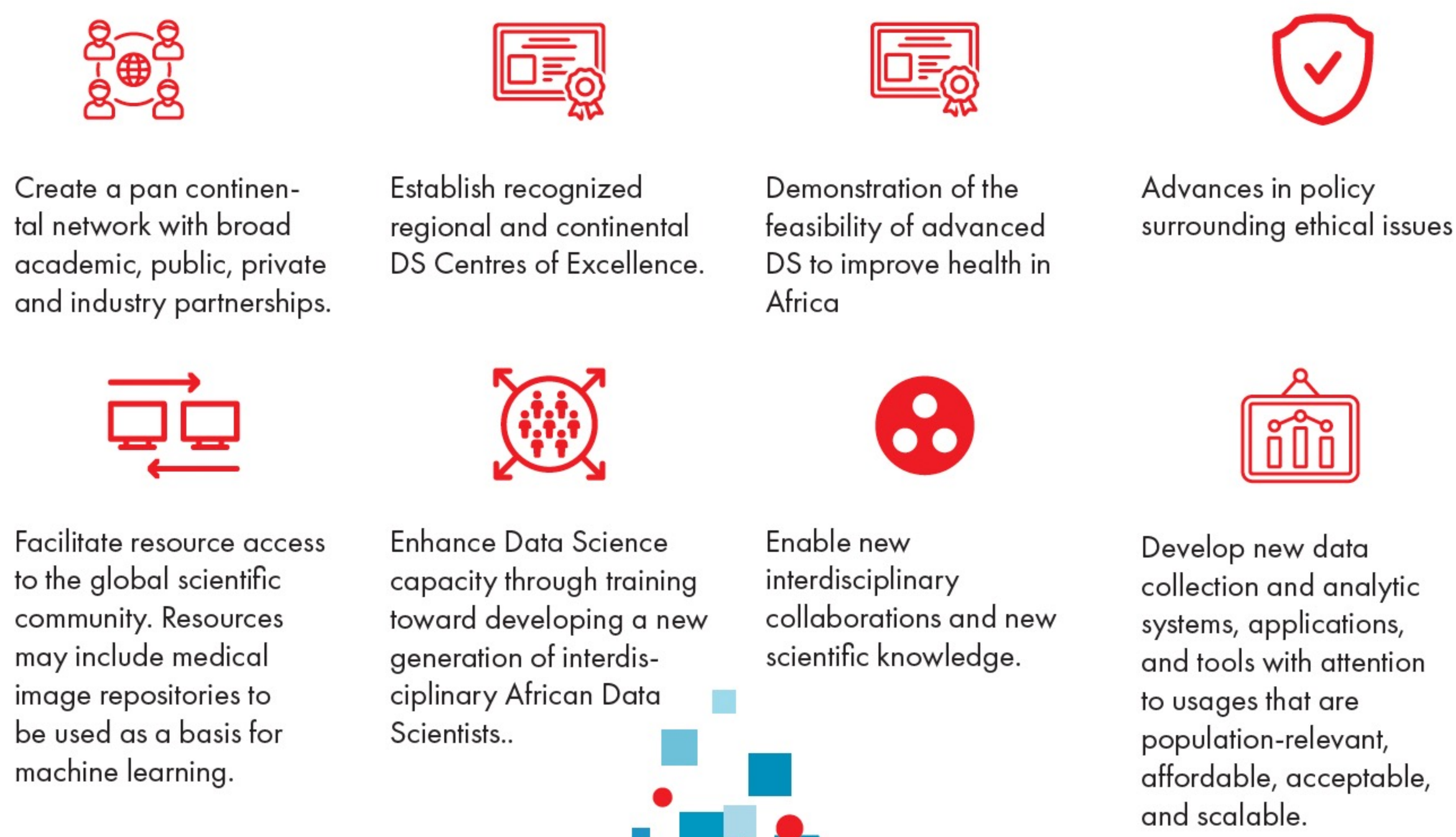- Funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH).

### DS-I Africa By the Numbers

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| **2** | Annual consortium meetings | **19** | Total number of projects |
| **4** | ELSI Research projects | **7** | Research training projects |
| **7** | Research hubs | **350+** | Consortium members |
| **19** | African countries collaborating | **4** | Cross-cutting working groups |
| **80** | Steering Committee members | **12** | NIH funding institutes, centers, and offices |
| **1** | Open Data Science Platform and Coordinating Center | **$ 75 million** | Funding for 5 years |

## Program Goals

- Create a pan continental network with broad academic, public, private and industry partnerships.
- Establish recognized regional and continental DS Centres of Excellence.
- Demonstration of the feasibility of advanced DS to improve health in Africa
- Advances in policy surrounding ethical issues
- Facilitate resource access to the global scientific community. Resources may include medical image repositories to be used as a basis for machine learning.
- Enhance Data Science capacity through training toward developing a new generation of interdisciplinary African Data Scientists..
- Enable new interdisciplinary collaborations and new scientific knowledge.
- Develop new data collection and analytic systems, applications, and tools with attention to usages that are population-relevant, affordable, acceptable, and scalable.

## Outreach Strategies

- **Partnerships and Outreach Working Group –** encourages collaboration within and outside consortium.

- **Active Communication –** to bring people together across disciplines and sectors.

- **Networking Exchange –** informal virtual and in-person events to facilitate networking.

## Networking Exchange

Networking Exchange (virtual in July 2022)
Networking Exchange (in person in November 2022)
Networking Exchange (virtual in May 2023)

In a few words, how would you describe the field of data science for health in Africa?

## Lessons Learned

1. **Diverse partnerships foster creativity and strengthen projects.**
2. **Creating opportunities for networking is preferable to matchmaking.**
3. **Rapid changes in the data science field require constant scoping for opportunities.**

**Web:** dsi-africa.org
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