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**

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

**Networking Exchange**

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

**Program Goals**

- Create a pan-continental network with broad academic, public, private and industry partnerships.
- Establish recognized regional and continental DS Centres of Excellence.
- Demonstrate the feasibility of advanced DS to improve health in Africa.
- Enable new interdisciplinary collaborations and new scientific knowledge.
- Develop new data collection and analytic systems, applications, and tools with attention to usage 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.

**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.

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