Breakout Session 6: Track B

NYU-Moi Data Science for Social Determinants Training Program

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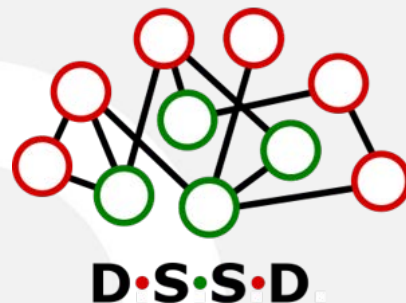
DSSD Team, Affiliations and Project Role

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Program Overview & Highlights

The DSSD Training Program is a collaboration between New York University, The NYU Grossman School of Medicine, Moi University, and Brown University that is funded by the *National Institutes of Health DS-I Africa network.*

Our main training grant will:

- Develop MSc and PhD data science tracks at Moi University (Kenya)

- Upskill and equip PhD students, Postdocs and Faculty from Moi to teach classes and do research

- Also upskill through short courses on machine learning and social determinants

- Infuse a focus on data science *and* social determinants throughout

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Need for Data on Social Determinants

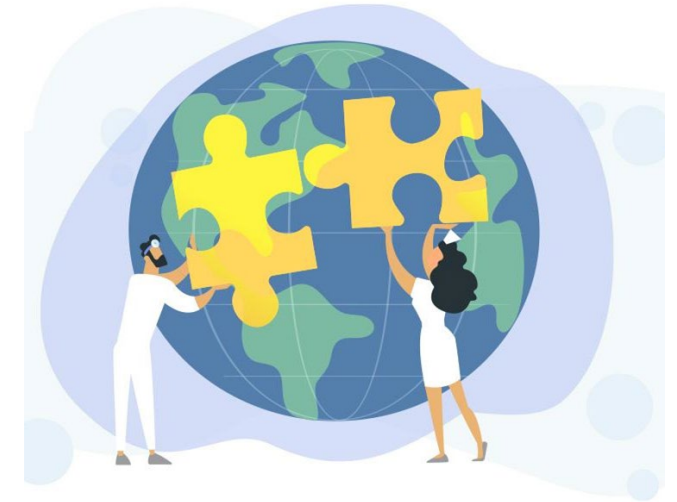## Why does this data matter?

Social Determinants of Health

- Social determinants of health (SDoH) include forces, systems, and conditions that shape the environments in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age
- These factors are cross-cutting through many disease and health outcomes.
- Since SDoH have such great influence on people's livelihoods, it's important to be able to properly inform analytical models studying these factors in order to be able to implement any interventions where necessary.

Need for Local Context on Data

Appropriate Local Knowledge & Contexts

- In order to more effectively obtain, integrate and analyze datasets, the involvement of local experts and data scientists is crucial.
- We aim to enable individuals with knowledge of local issues in order to create more coherent models with SDoH data.
- There is a need around the world for data science expertise to be combined with experiences and cultures of the local residents and workers being studied.
- For example, considering questions about how factors like "stigma" are defined differently in the USA vs Nigeria.

Social Determinant Community of Practice

- As part of the new project supplement, we have formed a [Community of practice on social determinant data](#).

- This group will focus on elevating data science capacity in the African context while also creating data resources that will inform models that mitigate oversimplification, homogenization, and the neglect of the surrounding social structure.

- **Data science will be used to create social determinant data as well as link together for analyses**

Ongoing Activities

Working Groups & Grant Applications

- Currently our community of practice has led to the formation of two subgroups:
  - Scoping Review Group: working towards creating a scoping review of current literature across Sub-Saharan Africa focusing on how SDoH data are being studied in the region
  - Data Indexing Group: working towards creating a repository of existing data.
- Recently, the leaders of our two subgroups submitted a grant application for the Data Empowerment Fund funded by the Patrick J. McGovern Foundation, Omidyar Network, and Open Collective Foundation. The purpose of this fund is to support initiatives, such as our Community of Practice, which enable agency and community control of local data and data sources.

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Questions? Comments? Collaborations?

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