

# **Shaping Policy through Evidence: the Past, Present and Future**

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Public policies play a key role in the efforts to protect and improve population health. Over the past centuries, public health policies on water safety, sanitation and immunization have been instrumental in bringing about many significant achievements in improving the health of the people. With the increasing trends in non-communicable diseases and injuries, the need for public health policies targeting the health system as well as multiple sectors like education, legal system, environment, agriculture and trade are a need of the hour. It is essential that such public health policies be based on sound scientific evidence on what interventions work, in what programmatic settings leading to greater workforce productivity and more efficient use of public and private resources.