

## **Why evidence based approaches are urgently needed in Africa**

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HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases are still major causes of mortality and morbidity in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). However, chronic non communicable diseases (NCDs) like ischemic heart disease and diabetes mellitus are also on the rise [1] (Lozano et al., 2012). This double burden is equally apparent when examining the leading risks to health, which are dominated by traditional risk factors, such as childhood underweight, household air pollution from solid fuel use and poor water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as modern life-style associated risk factors, such as physical inactivity and smoking [2] (Lim et al., 2012). Addressing this substantial burden requires a combination of effective curative, rehabilitative