
Key messages

- Schools of public health contribute to population health by training public health professionals, educators and researchers. However, public health practice receives less attention.
- The debate in low- and middle-income countries is not whether schools of public health should engage in public health practice, but how and to what extent? The experience of Aga Khan University emphasizes that academic engagement in public health practice is urgently needed in resource-constrained countries.
- Schools of public health through academia-community-provider partnership offer several lessons, including the need to develop well-articulated priorities, build mutual trust and credibility, mainstream vulnerable groups in decision-making, be responsive during emergencies, and to translate the scholastic commitment of public health schools into community needs.