

EVALUATING TWO YEARS OF A PROJECT ECHO VIRTUAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE TO SUPPORT NATIONAL CANCER CONTROL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



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BACKGROUND

The International Cancer Control Partnership (ICCP) ECHO is a technology-enabled collaborative learning model that brings together Ministry of Health-led teams in a novel technical assistance program that includes monthly, one-hour sessions focused around 12 implementation strategies (*figure 1*) to foster knowledge exchange for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) implementing NCCPs.

OBJECTIVE

To evaluate the first two years, 2020-2022, of the ICCP ECHO’s effectiveness as a tool to facilitate knowledge exchange among LMICs implementing NCCPs.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Building political will
- Engaging stakeholders
- Creating an implementation plan
- Building partnerships for implementation
- Improving service delivery
- Integration with health programs/systems
- Mobilizing healthcare workforce
- Participation in cancer control research
- Planning for costing/financing
- Planning for monitoring and evaluation
- Planning for sustainability
- Raising funds to implement NCCP

METHODS

A pre-post survey measured changes in self-reported knowledge, confidence, and behaviors related to 12 evidence-based strategies for implementation of NCCP priorities identified by ICCP ECHO participants using a 4-point Likert scale. Comparisons were done using a paired T-test. 28 participants (46%) from 7 country teams responded to the pre-post surveys during 2021, and 12 participants (54%) from 4 country teams responded during 2022 (*figure 2*).

Figure 1

RESULTS

2020-2021 Pre/Post Scores

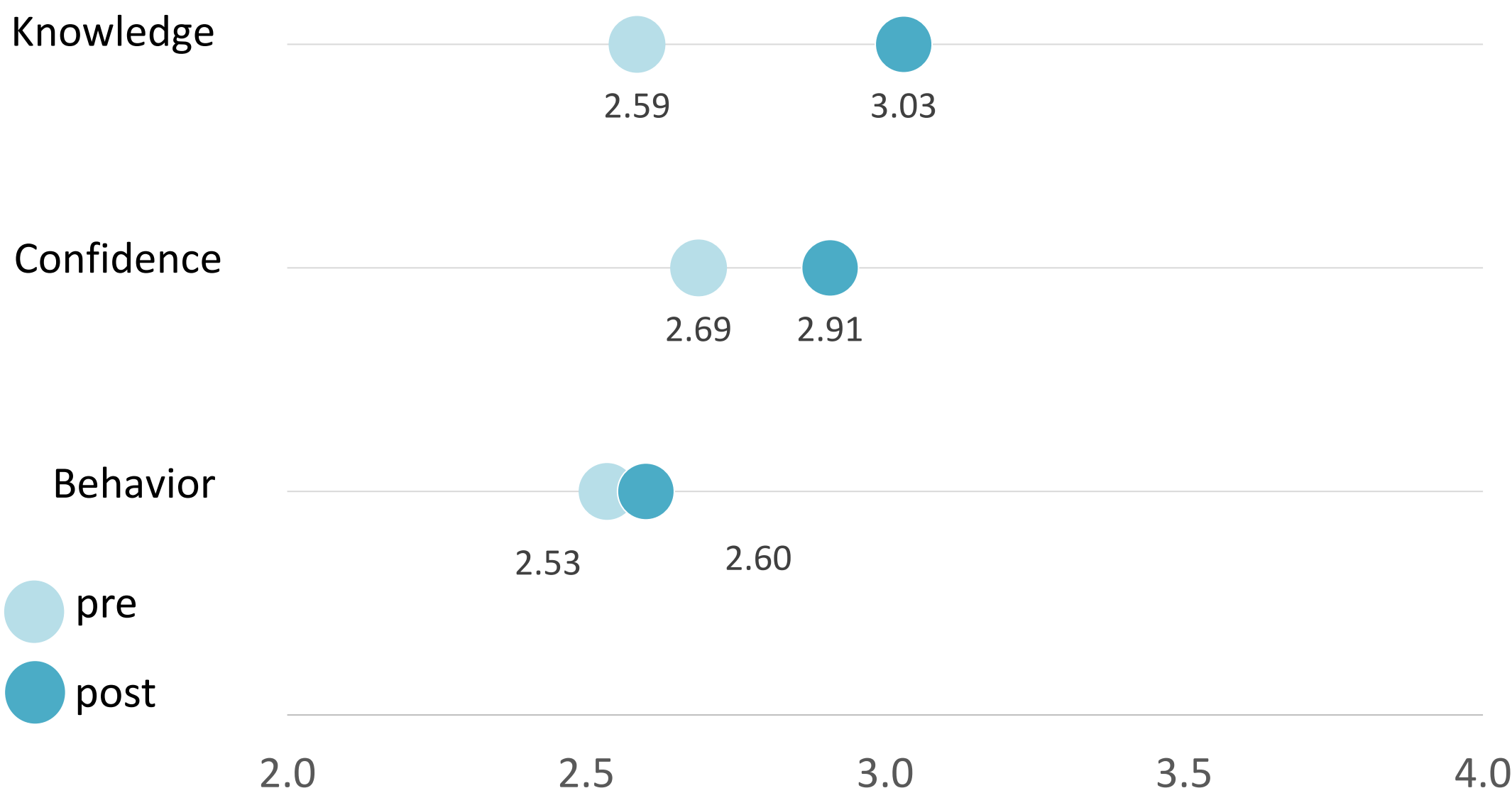


Figure 3

2021-2022 Pre/Post Scores

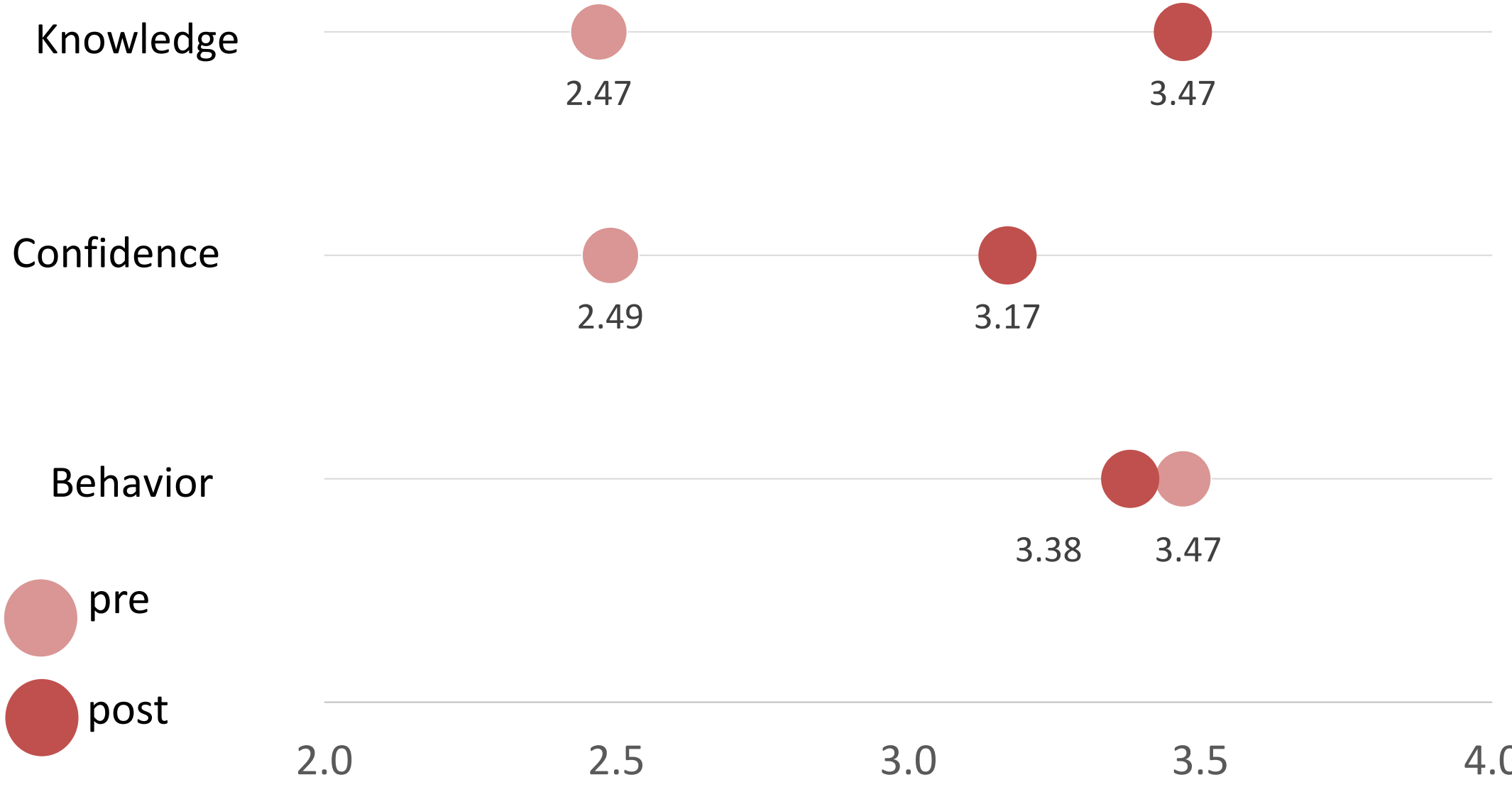


Figure 4

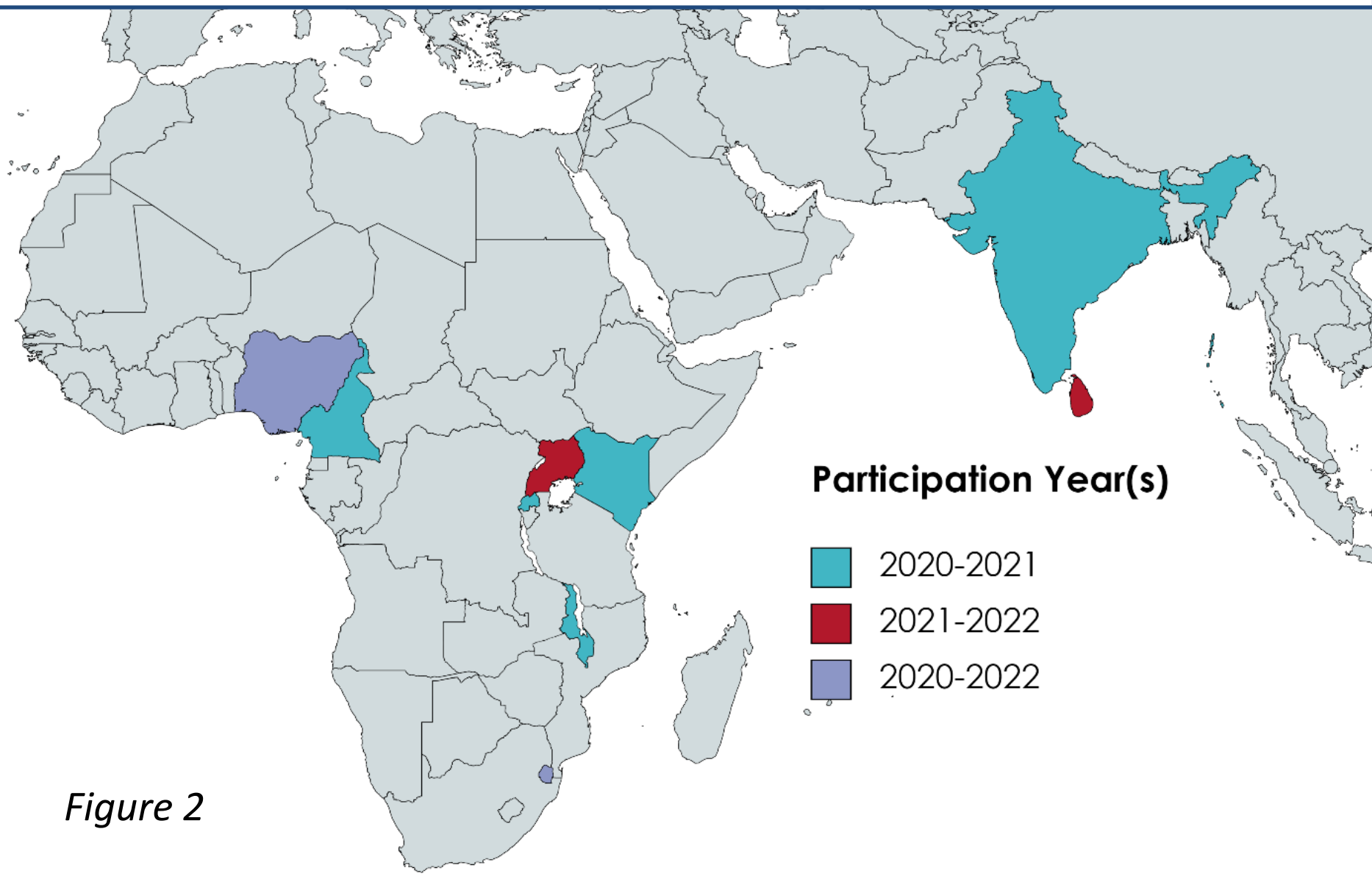


Figure 2

- ❖ Knowledge and confidence increased for both cohorts ($p<0.05$) (*figures 3 and 4*).
- ❖ Greatest knowledge increase was for integration with health programs in both cohorts.
- ❖ Greatest confidence increase was for mobilizing the healthcare workforce (2022).
- ❖ Behavior did not change for either year ($p>0.05$). Complex, contextual factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, may impact behavior.
- ❖ Further analysis could look at how the program informs levels of knowledge/confidence.

CONCLUSIONS

Survey responses indicate that a technology-enabled learning model can be utilized as part of a technical assistance program to advance individual knowledge and confidence gain in NCCP implementation. Future research is needed to define strategies to define contextually relevant NCCP implementation strategies.