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.

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).

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

RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2020-2021 Pre/Post Scores</th>
<th>2021-2022 Pre/Post Scores</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge</td>
<td>2.59</td>
<td>3.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confidence</td>
<td>2.69</td>
<td>2.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavior</td>
<td>2.53</td>
<td>2.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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.