

JOINT EVENT

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Child overweight & obesity (COO) in Lebanon has reached alarming levels of 34.8% and 13.2% respectively. With one of the highest percentages in the Eastern Mediterranean region, COO in Lebanon increased by approximately two folds in the past decade, without policies for prevention, despite mounting evidence of their effectiveness. This study examines the use of citizen engagement, advocacy and knowledge translation (KT) tools and platform in the uptake of research evidence on effective school policies in COB prevention.

The following work was conducted and evaluated: Development of a policy brief for effective school policies for COO prevention in Lebanon; Citizen Consultation (CC) meetings using innovative data visualization (IDV); a national Policy Dialogue (PD) and; implementation of an advocacy framework.

The policy brief: Synthesizing high quality international and local evidence along with key informant interviews resulted in identifying three major effective elements for a comprehensive school policy solution. The CC and PD: These elements were discussed in both dialogues for consensus and identifying key implementation considerations using IDVs. Furthermore, the participants in the CC thought that it can affect decision makers (70%) allow joint decision making (70%) and almost all wanted to be involved in further advocacy efforts. The advocacy framework: A framework was developed and piloted over the course of the implementation of the policy elements.

School policies for COO prevention are effective but require using an integrated KT approach to bring a change in