



Global Health
Advocacy Incubator

Conflict of Interest and Nutrition Policy

September 17, 2019 : Spotting Industry Interference and managing COI



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Areas of Focus

What is in generally in a school nutrition policy

- Limits on what can be consumed in the schools
- Restricted levels of marketing of unhealthy products in the school environment
- Guidelines for parents and school administration on their roles and responsibilities
- Outline on how nutrition education and physical activity are to be incorporated into curriculums

Policy Development Process

Creation of nutrition policies provides opportunities for Industry Interference

- Consultation
- Meetings with affected stakeholders
- School Administrators, Parents and Teachers, Canteen concessionaires and Vendors
- Programme funding, implementation structures multi ministry involvement

How Industry has Undermined Nutrition Policies

- ✓ Use of Associations and lobby groups that are well connected politically to influence Cabinet Members
- ✓ Supplying schools and vendors with conflicting information on approved products
- ✓ Sponsorship of events and school material
- ✓ School promotions linked to back to school
- ✓ Promoting Sugar reductions and beverage reformulations while maintaining non compliant versions

“There has not been a big enough change in sugar-sweetened beverages and refined carbohydrates and fast foods, and there has not been an increase in the healthy foods, we have slightly cut our calories [but] we still consume over half our calories from the wrong foods” Barry Popkin W. R. Kenan Jr.

Distinguished Professor of nutrition at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health

Important Actions

Mitigating COI in Nutrition Policy

- ✓ Training prior to implementation
- ✓ Support from key school stakeholders vendors, PTA, administrators
- ✓ Placing limitations on how much influence industry can have in policy development process
- ✓ Monitoring and enforcement of policy guidelines

Thank You

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