

**Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint**  
**ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 2015-2016 ACTION PLAN PERIOD**

## **Introduction**

**The primary goal of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance) is to prevent children’s exposure to paints containing lead and to minimize occupational exposures to lead paint.** Its broad objective is to achieve the phase-out of the manufacture and sale of paints containing lead and to eventually eliminate the risks that such paints pose. The Alliance is committed to efforts that support primary prevention, seeking to reduce or eliminate the conditions that give rise to environmental lead exposure before such exposures can occur.

This Activities and Accomplishments Report provides information about the activities and accomplishments of the Lead Paint Alliance during the period of its 2015-2016 Action Plan. The two-year Action Plan facilitates implementation of the long-term Business Plan of the Lead Paint Alliance by providing near-term priorities for key action areas. The 2015-2016 Action Plan was intended to encourage and support priority activities in 2015 and 2016 by Alliance partners and other stakeholders to help move toward the goal and objective of the Alliance.

## **Activities and Accomplishments**

***Action Area 1:*** Encourage governments in countries where legal limits are not currently in place to establish and enforce national legal limits on lead in paint, with special attention to the elimination of lead decorative paints and lead paints for other applications most likely to contribute to childhood lead exposure.

### African Region

- A project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF-5) and entitled “Lead Paint Elimination Project in Africa” assisted four countries (Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia and Tanzania) in working toward national legal limits to eliminate the manufacture, import, sale and use of paints containing lead additives. The project facilitated collaboration between governments and NGOs, and developed strategies to replicate similar actions elsewhere in the African region and beyond. The project began in 2014 and ends in June 2017 and is implemented by UN Environment and executed by IPEN, a global network of NGOs. For more information, go to: <http://ipen.org/projects/africa-project-2014-2016>.
- In December 2015, UN Environment convened an East African regional workshop in Ethiopia in coordination with the GEF-5 project, where government officials from the 15 participating African countries agreed to work towards the establishment of national laws to limit lead in paint.
- In September 2016, UN Environment organized a follow-up East African workshop in Tanzania to assist the East African Community in working toward a harmonized regional standard for lead in paint. The workshop was co-sponsored by US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and included participation by governments, World Health Organization (WHO), East Africa Community, IPEN, other NGOs and industry.

- In December 2016, a Central and West African workshop was held in Cameroon, including countries from the Economic Community of West African States. The 15 participating African countries agreed to work towards establishing national laws to limit lead in paint. This workshop was coordinated as part of the GEF-5 project, and co-sponsored by UN Environment, IPEN, the US EPA and the Government of the Republic of Cameroon.

#### Asia Pacific Region

- A project funded by the European Commission assisted seven Asian countries (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand) in working toward national legal limits to eliminate the manufacture, import, sale and use of decorative paints containing lead additives. This project ran from 2012 to 2015, and was implemented by IPEN. For more information, go to: <http://ipen.org/projects/asia-project-2012-2015>.
- In April 2016, UN Environment held an inception workshop in China for a UN Environment project on “Promoting elimination of the use of lead paints in China and Africa.”

#### Central and Eastern European Region

- In May 2016, UN Environment convened a regional workshop in Moldova to assist countries in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia in developing national legal limits on lead in paint. The workshop included participation by governments, WHO, the Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe, the GEF, IPEN and other NGOs.
- During October-December 2016, IPEN-affiliated NGO EcoContact in Moldova executed a project funded by UN Environment Europe to set up multi-stakeholder consultations and awareness raising activities on lead paint in the Republic of Moldova. The final outcome of the project was a draft Strategy and Action Plan that was sent to the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health, Agency on Consumer protection, Custom Service and Agency for Public Procurement. Representatives of these governmental bodies approved the draft Strategy and the Action plan and agreed to move further to integrate this strategic actions into the on going activities.

#### Latin American and Caribbean Region

- In October 2016, UN Environment and the Pan American Health Organization sent letters to their counterparts in the Caribbean Community to alert them to the importance of establishing lead paint laws and to invite them to join the Lead Paint Alliance.

#### Global Actions

- Promoting Action by Governments
  - In September 2015, the Lead Paint Alliance launched a web-based Regulatory Toolkit designed to assist governments in establishing national laws to limit lead in paint. The toolkit was a collaborative project among

Alliance partners, and features modules and case studies developed by UN Environment, WHO, US EPA, US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), IPEN, and the International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC). The toolkit was piloted in December 2015 during the East African workshop in Ethiopia, and provides key information that is presented at regional and national workshops on developing laws to limit lead in paint. The toolkit is available on the Lead Paint Alliance website at:

[www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/noleadinpaint/toolkit](http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/noleadinpaint/toolkit).

- In May 2016, UN Environment published its “Global Report on the Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint,” which analyzes and describes in detail the status of laws to regulate lead in paint in countries around the world as of early 2016.<sup>1</sup>
- To track the global status of laws on an ongoing basis, WHO developed an on-line map and accompanying database of regulations and controls on lead paint, launched in 2016.<sup>2</sup>
- **New Lead Paint Laws Established in 2015 or 2016**
  - Five countries established new laws on lead in paint: India (2016), Kenya (2016), Nepal (2015), Tanzania (2016), Thailand (2016)
  - Six countries are known to have draft laws needing finalization: Cambodia, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Honduras, Côte d’Ivoire , Bangladesh
  - The Philippines had a new law passed in 2014 that came into force in 2016 (for residential & decorative paints).

**Action Area 2:** Encourage industry activities to voluntarily stop the manufacture and sale of lead paint, focusing on residential and decorative paints containing lead additives in countries where legal limits are not currently in place.

- The International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC) worked with paint manufacturing associations in Latin America to co-sponsor two workshops in Colombia in October 2016. These workshops encouraged the elimination of lead additives from paint through best industry practices.
- In April 2016, PPG Industries, a large multinational paint manufacturer based in the U.S., announced that the company will phase out the use of lead additives in its industrial paints by 2020. PPG eliminated lead additives from its household paints several years ago.

**Action Area 3:** Increase awareness of the health and environmental risks posed by lead in paint, to help prompt actions by governments and manufacturers to stop the production and sale of lead paints.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://unep.org/environmentalgovernance/Portals/8/documents/Limits-Lead-Paint-2016%20Report-Final.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.who.int/gho/phe/chemical\\_safety/lead\\_paint\\_regulations/en/](http://www.who.int/gho/phe/chemical_safety/lead_paint_regulations/en/)

- In April 2015, the Lead Paint Alliance was featured during the 2015 Global Citizens Earth Day event in Washington, DC. In front of thousands of people gathered outdoors for the event, UN Environment’s Goodwill Ambassador (and Hollywood star) Don Cheadle highlighted the Alliance’s goal of having laws in place worldwide by 2020 to eliminate lead in paint. Mr. Cheadle was joined by speakers from UN Environment’s Regional Office of North America, US EPA, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC). Speakers stressed the health hazards of lead exposure, and the imperative for national governments to protect the health of their citizens by eliminating lead in paint.
- In September 2015, UN Environment and US EPA co-hosted a high-level side event on lead paint at the SAICM International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) meeting in Geneva. Speakers included senior officials from UN Environment, WHO, USEPA, UNIDO, IPEN, the SAICM Africa Regional Focal Point from Tanzania, Uruguay, AkzoNobel and IPPIC. The side event effectively showcased the broad multi-stakeholder support for the goals of the Alliance, and it was well attended and well-received.
- In October 2015, events were organized in 87 cities in 39 countries during the third International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. Activities included art competitions, statements of support and public demonstrations, to policy debates, workshops and scientific conferences.<sup>3</sup> WHO, UN Environment, US EPA and IPEN jointly developed advocacy and communication materials for the campaign, which were made available on the WHO website.
- WHO carried out an analysis of countries’ participation in the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week during 2013–2015, compared against the Lead Paint Alliance business plan indicator on countries with national awareness campaigns about the risks of lead paint. This analysis showed that the 2020 target of 40 countries having awareness campaigns had already been met, but noted the need to keep up the momentum of country engagement with International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week until 2020<sup>4</sup>.
- During the UN Environment Assembly in May 2016, government delegates had three organized opportunities to learn about the health risks posed by children’s exposure to lead in paint, and the importance of establishing laws to eliminate lead in paint in countries worldwide. UN Environment organized a side event with a panel

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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.who.int/ipcs/lead\\_campaign/Report\\_ILPPW2015\\_25Jan16.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/ipcs/lead_campaign/Report_ILPPW2015_25Jan16.pdf?ua=1)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public\\_health/Lead\\_Paint\\_Alliance\\_business\\_plan\\_indicator\\_ILPPW\\_evaluation.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public_health/Lead_Paint_Alliance_business_plan_indicator_ILPPW_evaluation.pdf?ua=1)

of speakers discussing lead paint; a lead-free painting activity to create a graffiti mural about the problem of lead paint; and a ministerial level presentation. These events made the topic of lead in paint one of the most-discussed topics during this global meeting.

- The economic cost of childhood lead exposure in low- and middle-income countries is estimated at a total cumulative cost burden of \$977 billion international dollars per year. To increase understanding of the economic impacts of childhood lead poisoning, the New York University School of Medicine, with support from the U.S. EPA, developed an on-line, interactive map displaying the impacts based on an earlier report. This map was launched and promoted extensively by the Alliance and its partners during the UN Environment Assembly in May 2016. The internet-based map is available at:  
<http://www.med.nyu.edu/pediatrics/research/environmentalpediatrics/leadexposure>
- In October 2016, more than 100 activities in 47 countries were organized for the fourth International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. Activities included social media and press events, workshops and launches of new initiatives.<sup>5</sup> US EPA, WHO, UN Environment and IPEN jointly developed a campaign pack and materials, which were made available on the WHO website.
- In October 2016, IPEN published its “Global Lead Paint Elimination Report,” which provides an evaluation of progress being made toward the global elimination of lead paint. This report provides a useful summary of available country-specific data from studies that tested the lead content in new paints being sold in countries around the world.
- During 2015-2016, IPEN coordinated studies on lead in paint in 25 countries and made the results publicly available through national paint reports

**Action Area 4:** Increase and diversify the number of Alliance partners.

- The partners of the Alliance were successfully diversified to include additional governments, industry and health organization representatives.
- 32 partners joined the Alliance in 2015 or 2016.

15 new partners in 2015

*Governments:*

- Germany
- Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)
- Niger

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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.who.int/ipcs/ilppw\\_2016\\_Report.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/ipcs/ilppw_2016_Report.pdf?ua=1)

- Philippines
- Republic of Moldova
- Tanzania
- Thailand

*Non-governmental Organizations:*

- Eco Ethics Kenya (EEK)
- Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) - Europe
- National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) – USA
- Orissa State Volunteers and Social Workers Association (OSVSWA) - India
- RightOnCanada
- Society for Advancement of Occupational and Environmental Health (SAOEH) - India

*Industry Associations and Manufacturers:*

- AkzoNobel – The Netherlands
- Pacific Paint (Boysen) Philippines, Inc.

17 new partners in 2016

*Governments:*

- Israel

*Non-governmental Organizations:*

- APROMAC Environment Protection Association - Brazil
- Toxisphera Environmental Health Association - Brazil

*Industry Associations and Manufacturers:*

- American Coatings Association (ACA)
- Architectural Association of Kenya (AAK)
- Australian Paint Manufacturers' Federation Inc. (APMF)
- Brazilian Association of Paint Manufacturers (ABRAFTI)
- British Coating Federation Ltd (BCF)
- Canadian Paint and Coatings Association
- Fendwall Paints and Chemical Products - Nigeria
- French Federation of Paint Industries (FIPEC)
- German Paint and Printing Ink Association (VdL)
- Mexican National Association of Paint Manufacturers (ANAFAPYT, A.C.)
- Jotun A/S Industries - Norway
- Portuguese Paint Association (APT)
- Swiss Coatings Federation (VSLF)

*Academics:*

- Department of Chemistry, College of Biological and Physical Science, University of Nairobi - Kenya