



# POLLUTION CONTROL ASSOCIATION OF LIBERIA

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27 July 2012

Dear Colleagues

We present our compliments and wish to inform you that the Pollution Control Association of Liberia (POCAL) is interested in the membership of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint.

We write to make our commitment and to give support as a contributor to achieve the goals and objectives of the Global Alliance.

We are interested in working in the five Focal areas as follows:

- 1, Environmental aspects
2. Health Aspects
3. Workers Health
4. Legislation and regulation and
5. Outreach to Industries

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah J Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name.

Deborah J Williams

**Deputy Executive Director**

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We do: Environmental Management, Pollution Control, Air & Water Quality, Nature Conservation, Sanitation, Integrated Waste Management.  
Others: Aids Education, Anti-drug Education Health Education, Gender Issues



UNEP



World Health Organization

# GLOBAL ALLIANCE TO ELIMINATE LEAD PAINT QUESTIONNAIRE FOR POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY IN CAPITALS AND IN BLACK

Mr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ms	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Prof	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>FAMILY NAME</b>		Williams							
<b>FIRST NAME</b>		Deborah J							
<b>TO WHICH SECTOR DO YOU IDENTIFY YOURSELF OR YOUR INSTITUTION (ONE ANSWER ONLY)</b>		A) Government B) Intergovernmental organization C) Non-governmental organization X D) Other (e.g. academia, media, private sector, interested individuals, etc.)							
<b>YOUR JOB TITLE</b>		DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR							
<b>FULL MAILING ADDRESS</b>		12 ST, STREET, SINKOR, MONROVIA							
<b>CITY/STATE/POSTAL CODE</b>		MONROVIA, P.O. BOX 5597							
<b>COUNTRY</b>		LIBERIA							
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<b>WEBSITE</b>									



UNEP



World Health Organization

# GLOBAL ALLIANCE TO ELIMINATE LEAD PAINT QUESTIONNAIRE FOR POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS

TYPE OF CONTRIBUTION	Financial (estimated amount _____)
	In-kind (please describe below _____ X _____)
	Materials (please describe below _____)

Please describe in the space below the activity that you would like recognized as a contribution. Wherever possible, please select which one of the descriptions from the list in the annex most closely aligns with your proposed contribution

### HEALTH

A1 Exchange information on the effects of lead on health

A2 Exchange information on pathways of exposure to lead paint for children and adults

A9 Exchange information to promote general public awareness of the hazards of lead paint

### ENVIRONMENT

B10 Exchange information to promote general public awareness of the hazards of lead paint

### WORKERS HEALTH

C2 Discuss steps to teach renovators, painters and other professionals how to minimize children's exposure to lead from lead paint

### LEGISLATION

D8 Build capacity and providing information and knowledge to help officials in a range of ministries to test for lead paint

### OUTREACH

E4 Share knowledge on the availability of substitutes to replace lead compounds in paints

E6 Encourage wholesalers and retailers to halt sales of lead paints

### NATIONAL CONTRIBUTORS

F1 Translate GAELP-related materials into national or local languages

F2 Disseminate GAELP-related materials nationally or locally

F4 Test the lead content of paints sold or used nationally or locally and disseminate results

My contribution most closely aligns with the work described in the annex section A B,C,D E and F (please select which ones that apply and give number of activity)

### PLEASE SIGN THE FORM BELOW

Name

Deborah J. Williams

Signature

*Deborah J. Williams*

Date

July 20, 2012

PLEASE ATTACH YOUR LETTER OF INTENT TO THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE



# Prevention of lead poisoning

Directorate Occupational Health and Hygiene, Department of Labour

According to the World Health Organization exposure to lead is estimated to account for 0.6% of the disease burden globally. Childhood lead exposure is estimated to contribute to about 600 000 new cases of children with intellectual disabilities yearly. Yet lead poisoning is entirely preventable! In South Africa lead exposure may still occur though lead in industrial paints, fishing sinkers, ammunition and in industrial processes. In light of these facts South Africa decided to participate in the international lead poisoning prevention week of action, 20 – 26 October 2013. Departments and Institutions involved in this campaign are: the Department of Health, the Department of Environmental Affairs, the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, the Department of Labour and the Medical Research Council, the National Institute for Occupational Health and Groundwork.

The aim of the global project this year is to eliminate lead paint. Although good substitutes are available, paints containing lead are still available. During the campaign week the global alliance to eliminate lead paints aims to:

- Raise awareness about lead poisoning
- Highlight countries and partners' efforts to prevent childhood lead poisoning and
- Urge further action to eliminate lead paint.

Parties who have been invited to participate in this poisoning prevention campaign are Governments, intergovernmental organisations, representatives of civil society and the private sector that support the goals for the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (GAELP).

The South African Medical Research Council (MRC) conducted research to establish the risk of exposure to lead of subsistence and recreational fishermen along the coastline. Exposure occurs when lead is melted and a vapour is formed. The lead is melted to make sinkers or weights for fishing. Lead vapour can easily be inhaled and particles may settle on soil, clothing or toys as well as in houses. Over time these lead particles may be ingested. During an awareness campaign the MRC



A sample of blood being taken to establish blood lead levels.

provided feedback on the research conducted in fishing communities to establish the blood lead levels of the communities. This campaign took place in Cape Town on the 10th of September. During the campaign research results were shared with the audience, blood lead levels of the audience were tested and methods discussed on how to raise awareness in communities about preventing lead poisoning.

The Lead Regulations of 2001 under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993 as amended, prohibits the use of compressed air to blow away particles of lead from any surface, and prohibits persons from smoking, eating, drinking or from keeping food or beverages in an area not specifically designated for it in a work environment where lead contamination may occur. In an effort to raise awareness of these prohibitions and to support the elimination of lead from paint the Department of Labour is hosting a lead poisoning prevention awareness day on 24 October 2013.

It is a well-established fact that lead poisoning has serious health effects. Most adults with lead poisoning may not look sick.

Some of the symptoms they may feel are:

- Headaches
- Stomach cramps
- Constipation
- Nausea
- Anemia
- Muscle and joint pain

- Sleeplessness
- Fatigue
- Weight loss
- Irritability

Exposure to lead over a long period of time may cause:

- High blood pressure
- Nerve disorders
- Nerve and brain damage
- Kidney damage
- Reproductive system damage
- Work that may be associated with lead exposure are:
  - Lead production and melting
  - Battery manufacturing or recycling
  - Brass, bronze and lead foundries
  - Scrap metal handling
  - Lead soldering
  - Firing ranges / ammunition manufacturing
  - Ceramics manufacturing
  - Grinding metal alloys containing lead
- In the construction industry several activities may also expose workers to lead, such as demolition, remodeling, painting and welding.

The programme of the 24th October is organised with the intentions to provide information to Government Officials, Labour Union representatives and representative from the paint industry of the health hazards of lead exposure and to discuss methods to prevent and control exposure.