

East Africa Sub-regional Workshop on the Establishment of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint: Evaluation



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Did the Workshop achieved its overall goal?

The overall goal: to advance understanding, commitment and action towards the elimination of lead in paint by 2020.

- The Lead Paint Alliance Toolkit has contributed to enhance understanding.
- Countries are already working on regional standards. A number of countries showed commitments for introducing regulations. Further action is called for.
- Paint manufacturers are also working towards phasing out of lead in paint. Further action is called for.

Did the Workshop achieved its objectives?

Objective 1: Share understanding on the health and environmental risks of lead in paint, and foster commitment of governments and stakeholders to address these risks.

- Common understanding fostered among workshop participants on the need for action (children at danger, paint with high lead contents available in many countries...): awareness raising back in their countries are needed.
- The Lead Paint Alliance Toolkit recognized as a good tool to enhance understanding. Should be improved, e.g. addition of model legislation, management of legacy paint, opportunities for financial supports...

Did the Workshop achieved its objectives?

Objective 2: Exchange information on the government policies and stakeholder actions, and available tools and experiences towards the elimination of lead.

- The Workshop reviewed the policies and initiatives in 15 African countries. This information should be widely shared.
- Currently no legal limits exist in these countries, but some countries (e.g. Ethiopia, Ghana, Tanzania) are working toward setting legal limits using environmental or chemical management legislation.
- East African Community and ECOWAS working on a sub-regional standard.
- The case studies in the Toolkit is helpful. E.g. the law in the Philippines addressing both domestic and industrial paints with leading time.
- Many countries are already engaged in awareness raising activities in International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action. Other occasions should also be used.

Did the Workshop achieved its objectives?

Objective 3: Develop strategies for establishing legal limits on lead in paint at national, sub-regional and/or regional levels.

- Agreed that total lead content in all paints should be limited to 90ppm.
- Sub-regional standards to be pursued. Also consider regional approach covering whole Africa, and a global approach.
- A number of countries are working toward legislation. Regional standards can be referred to in the legislation.
- Bear in mind the enforcement aspects.
- Agreed that lead chromate pigments should be listed in Annex III of Rotterdam Convention.
- Governments and stakeholders committed to the phase-out of lead in paint are encouraged to join the Lead Paint Alliance.
- Awareness raising: importance of champions. Media coverage. Extend blood testing. Share good practice.

Did the Workshop achieved its objectives?

Objective 4: Agree on the future action, e.g. follow-up at national policy development, initiating regional process, improvements in toolkit, reporting toward UNEA 2.

- Participants will follow up on the possibility of introducing regulations. Lead Paint Alliance will follow up the progress in countries.
- Countries will also participate in the International Week of Action.
- Promote the development of the regional standards, and explore the possibility of involving African Union and ISO.
- GEF UNIDO project in Latin America will produce a number of guidance documents. Will be useful in this region.

Evaluation

- Please submit the evaluation form by Friday. This will be reflected in the Workshop report.