



SOUND MANAGEMENT OF ULAB – CONTEXT FOR SOLUTIONS

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Pure Earth

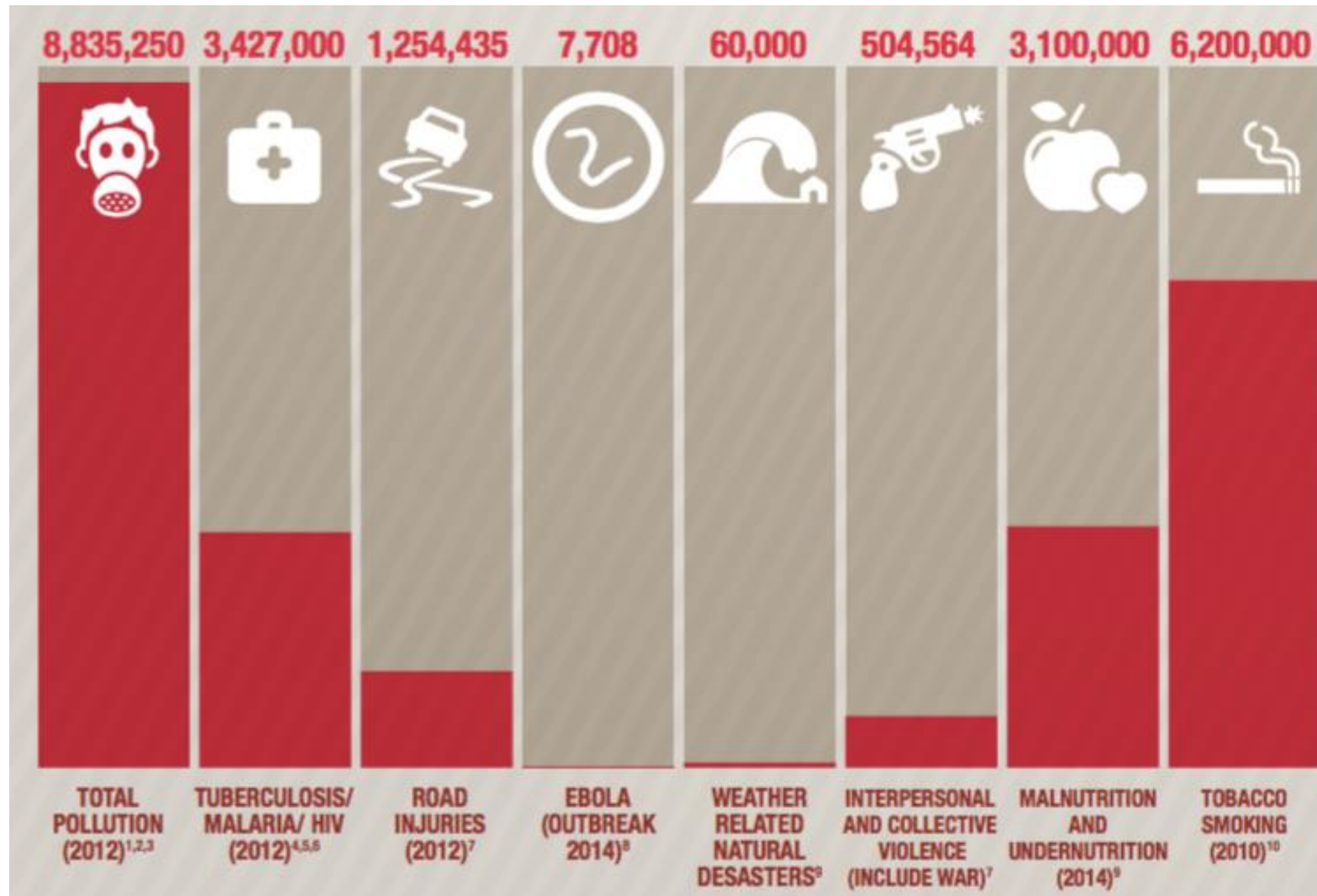
- Not-for-profit organisation, founded in 1999 (as Blacksmith Institute)
- Objective is saving lives and improving health
 - Practical solutions to pollution
 - Addressing threats of persistent toxic pollutants, such as heavy metals
- Based on practical action and measureable results
- 6 offices worldwide with HQ in NYC
- Working in 48 countries

The Problem



Pollution is the single largest cause of death in the developing world.

Pollution Deaths vs. Other Major Causes



Source: WHO and GAHP databases

*1 ALRI: Acute lower respiratory disease

*2 COPD: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

*3 IHD: Ischemic heart disease

Lead – Health Impact



Damage to the brain
and nervous system



Slowed growth
and development



Learning and
behavior problems



Hearing and
speech problems

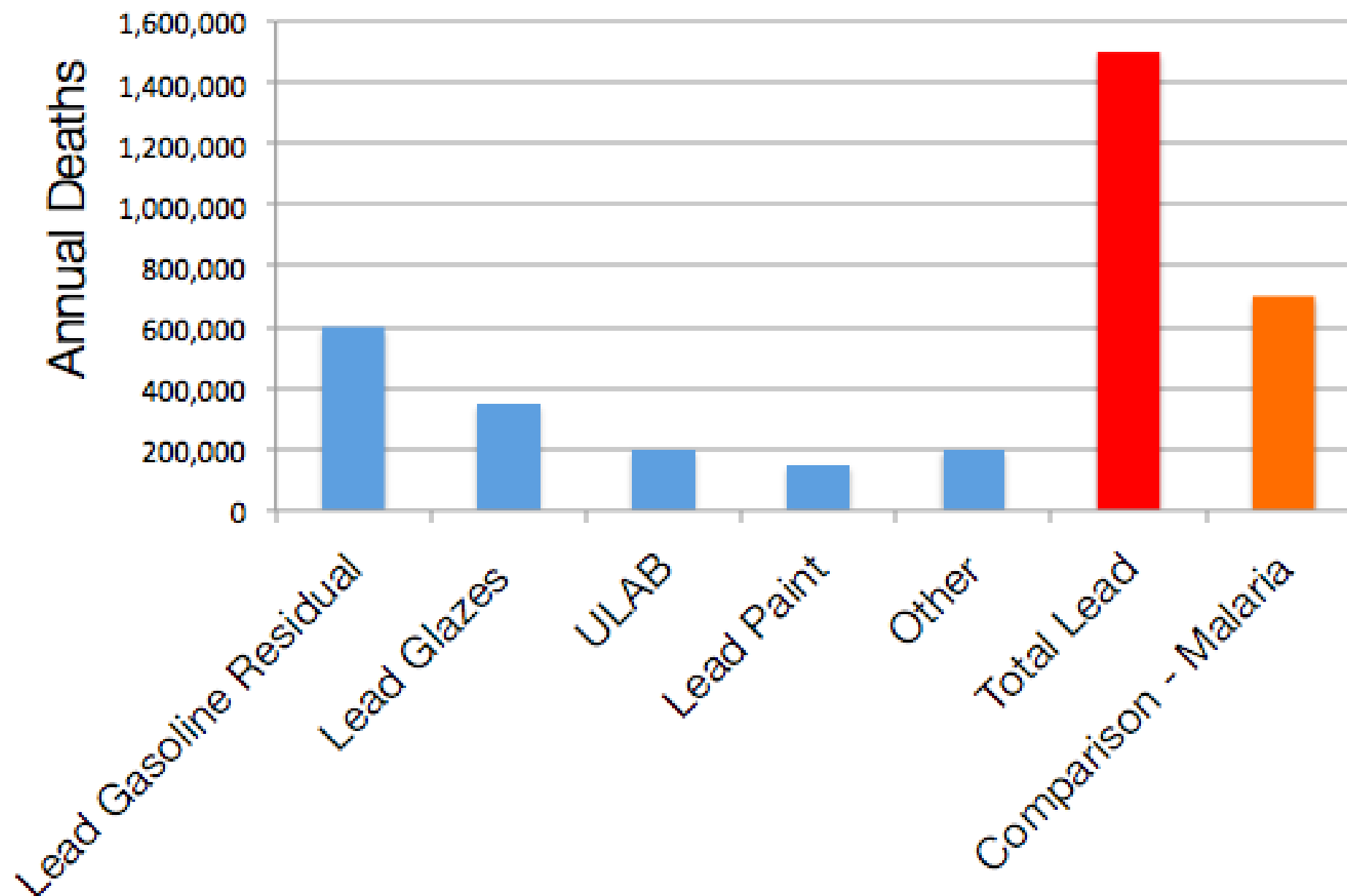
This can cause:

- Lower IQ
- Decreased ability to pay attention
- Underperformance at school



Lead – estimates of deaths

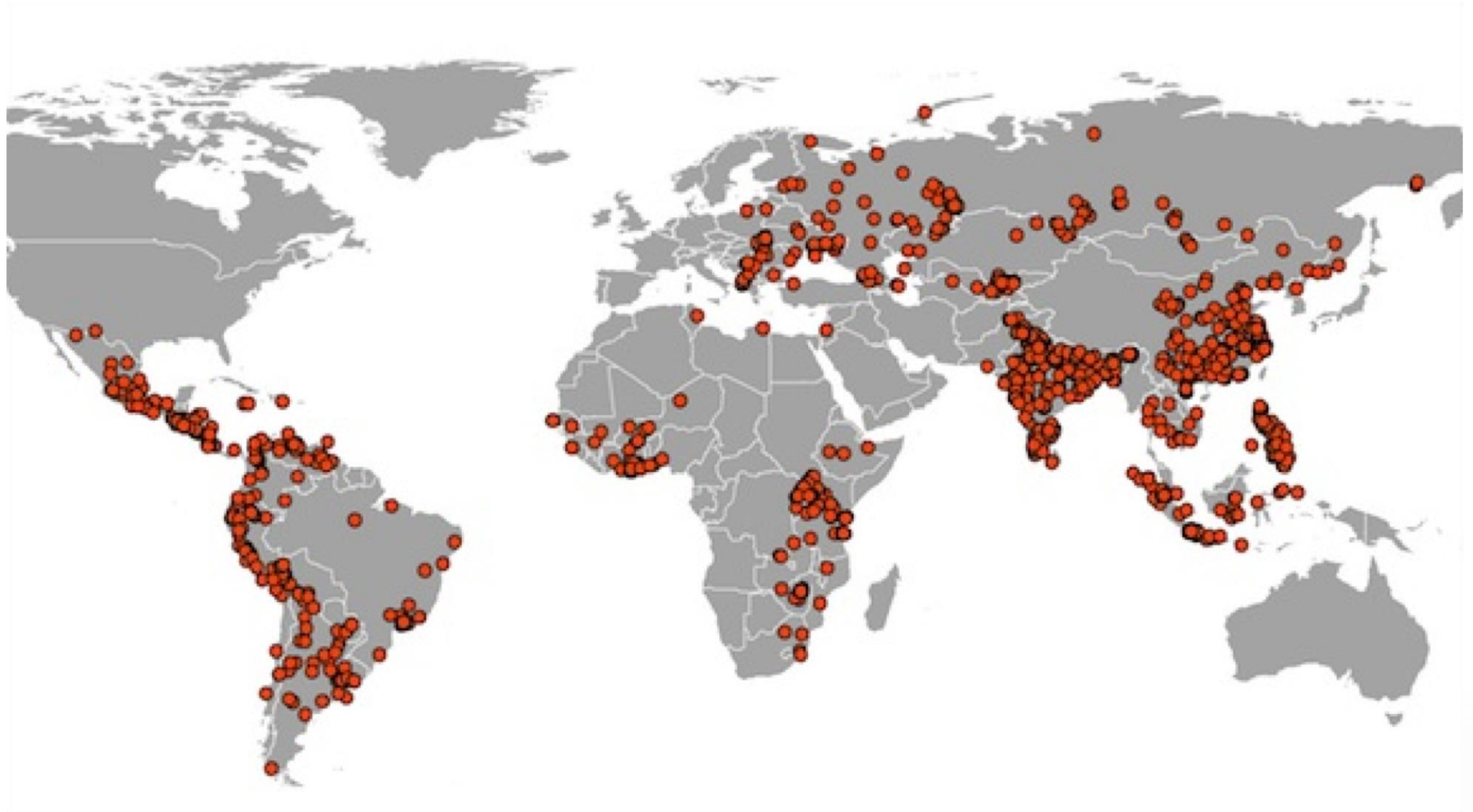
Annual Lead Deaths Rough Estimates



Pure Earth work on ULABs

- Focus initially on clean-up of battery breaking and smelting sites, and local communities
- Became involved in broader aspects because contamination cannot be tackled in isolation
- Undertaking international program to identify and assess contaminated sites (TSIP). Nearly 4,000 sites inspected and about half of these involve lead in one form or another.
- Recent estimate is that there are 20,000 informal ULAB sites worldwide

TOXIC SITE IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM



Examples and lessons

- **DR: smelter moved, site turned into sports field, dwellings cleaned**
- **Indonesia: dumping ground turned into football pitch; approved landfill constructed**
- **Senegal: community areas and roads re-covered; houses cleaned**
- **Vietnam: new coop developed; activities moved; dwellings cleaned; roads paved**
- **Nigeria: compounds cleaned; processing yard established**
- **Zimbabwe: tailings removed and controlled; drains cleared; houses and yards cleaned**
- **Indonesia: informal activities moved to new facility; site redeveloped**

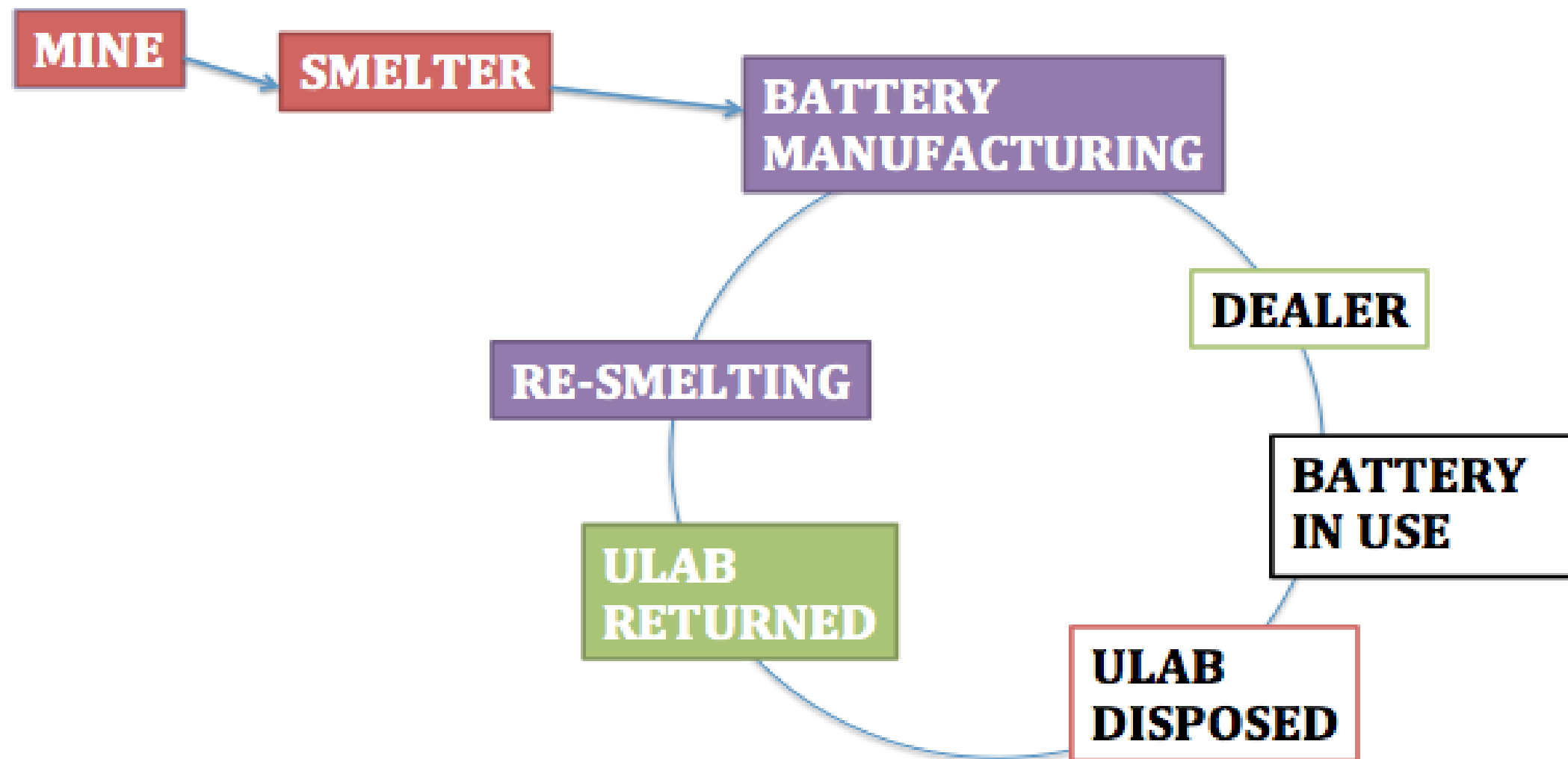
Examples

- **India: threats prevented any intervention at informal smelter in one urban area**
- **Central America: government reluctant to deal with abandoned smelter, despite local support**
- **Philippines: lack of clear ownership/responsibility prevented effective clean-up and re-development**
- **Presently starting possible interventions in Kenya and in Tanzania**

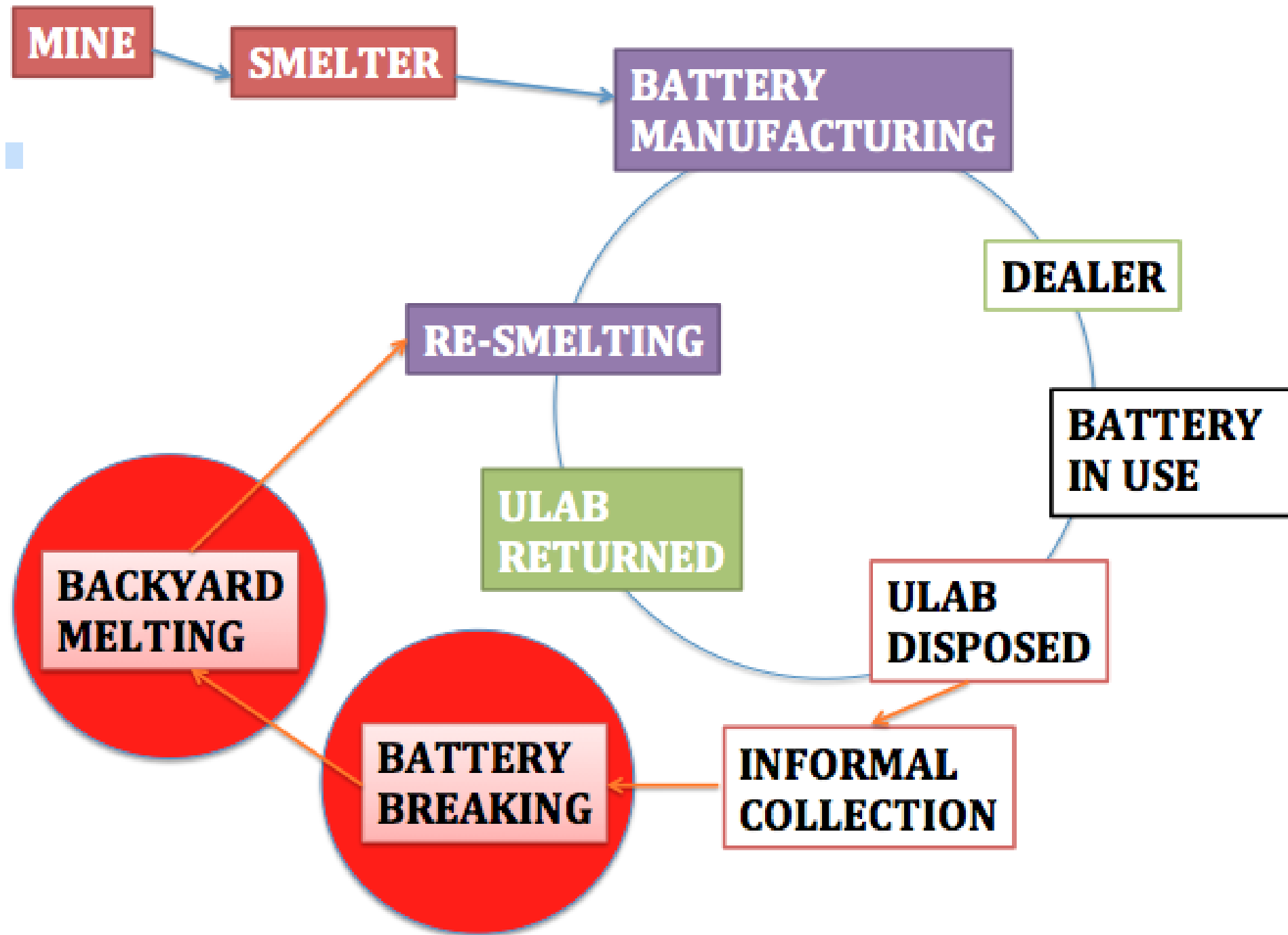
Context of ULAB Recycling

- Recycling of lead-acid batteries is an important industry sector but it must improve
- Recycling will continue because it is more efficient and cleaner than expanded mining
- It is an economic system and all the aspects need to be taken into account. Costs at each stage are key when looking for an productive and sustainable solution
- Consider as “reverse logistics” for returning valuable material to original source

ULAB Recycling



Reality of ULAB Recycling



STRATEGY

- Formalise sector, move to secure industrial facilities, improve performance to meet international norms.
- Establish or upgrade collection and return systems
- Clean-up informal sites and the residual contamination in the community

Government sets the framework

- Government sets the framework for all industrial activity – is Lead Recycling specifically addressed? Is there a policy or plan? Which departments are involved?
- Government has a role in protecting and helping communities. Communication and health awareness; economic opportunities
- Schemes to promote controlled recycling – no simple model. Facilitate setting up sites.
- Address trans-boundary issues – trade and smuggling

“Industry” is the central player

- The “industry” is diverse and not well defined: includes formal, informal, and semi-formal. Competition and cooperation.
- Need for a well run ULAB facility as key component of national system. May be a regional facility.
- Develop a basic collection and ULAB return system.
- Industry controls prices for scrap lead – this is critical element of recycling process

Examples



Workers – informal and formal

- Informal workers earn a living but suffer effects of poor working conditions
- Often difficult to identify and engage these workers because of informality/illegality
- Control and upgrade the activities rather than punishing the workers
- Important to ensure some ongoing cash opportunities for families.

The broader community must be involved

- The community needs to be part of practical solutions. Impacted by fumes/dust but may not understand health impacts.
- Informal activities may be part of the community or may be intruding
- Identify key leaders with the community to help with outreach.

Role of IGOs and NGOs

- International organisations and NGOs can provide technical expertise, relevant experience and a focus on the issues.
- Have a convening power to bring people together – at this workshop, for example.
- Can provide advice on where and how to seek external funding.

Immediate actions needed

- Develop national inventory
- Carry out pilots
- Define implementation steps
- Implement and expand

Cooperation is the way forward

- Country can put together a “Stakeholder Group” of agencies and people who want progress
- Identify a knowledgeable and enthusiastic person to drive forward with the initial steps
- Develop an **Action Plan**: agree specific and timebound actions for each party, with regular follow-up and discussion
- Pure Earth and others are ready to help and support the process

THANK YOU – MERCI BIEN

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