

# Overview of Global Efforts to Eliminate Lead Paint: Why Action Now Matters

*Briefing on the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint for Permanent Missions*

*Geneva, Switzerland*

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**Global Alliance to  
Eliminate Lead Paint**



# Outline

## **Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint**

- ▶ Lead Paint Background
- ▶ Health and Economic Impacts of Lead
- ▶ Overview of Lead Paint Alliance
- ▶ Status of Lead Paint Laws
- ▶ Recent Momentum
- ▶ Region-Specific Activity
- ▶ Resources



# Lead is Poisonous

- ▶ Lead's lifelong consequences are borne by the affected children, their families, and society at large
- ▶ There is **NO** safe level of exposure to lead!
- ▶ Globally, lead in paint is a major source of childhood lead exposure

# Why is Lead Paint a Problem?

- ▶ Lead compounds are added to paints to improve drying time and color brightness.
- ▶ Paint breaks down over time, fragmenting into flakes and dust that contaminate the domestic environment, air, and soil
  - ▶ Lead is persistent, and when released does not break down
  - ▶ Potential human exposure for many years into the future, which is especially harmful to children
- ▶ Lead exposure also happens during manufacturing, application, and removal of lead paint

*The term 'paint' is used broadly to include varnishes, lacquers, glazes, stains, enamels, primers, and coatings.*

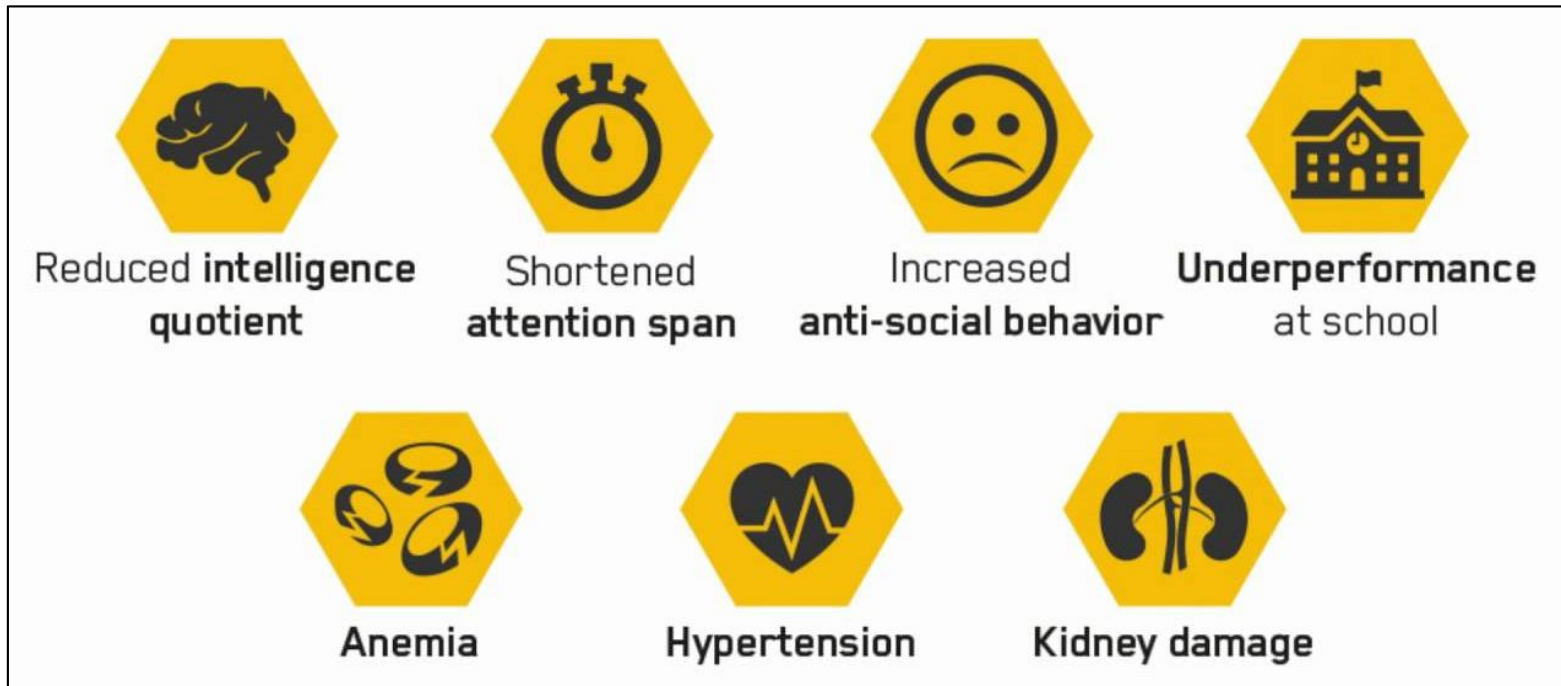
# Children are at High Risk!

- ▶ Unborn babies and young children are especially at risk
  - ▶ Pregnant women can pass lead to their unborn baby
  - ▶ Babies and young children put their hands and other objects into their mouths
- ▶ Growing bodies absorb more lead



# Health Effects

- ▶ Exposure to lead in children has permanent negative impacts on children's developing brains
- ▶ It can have life-long, negative consequences



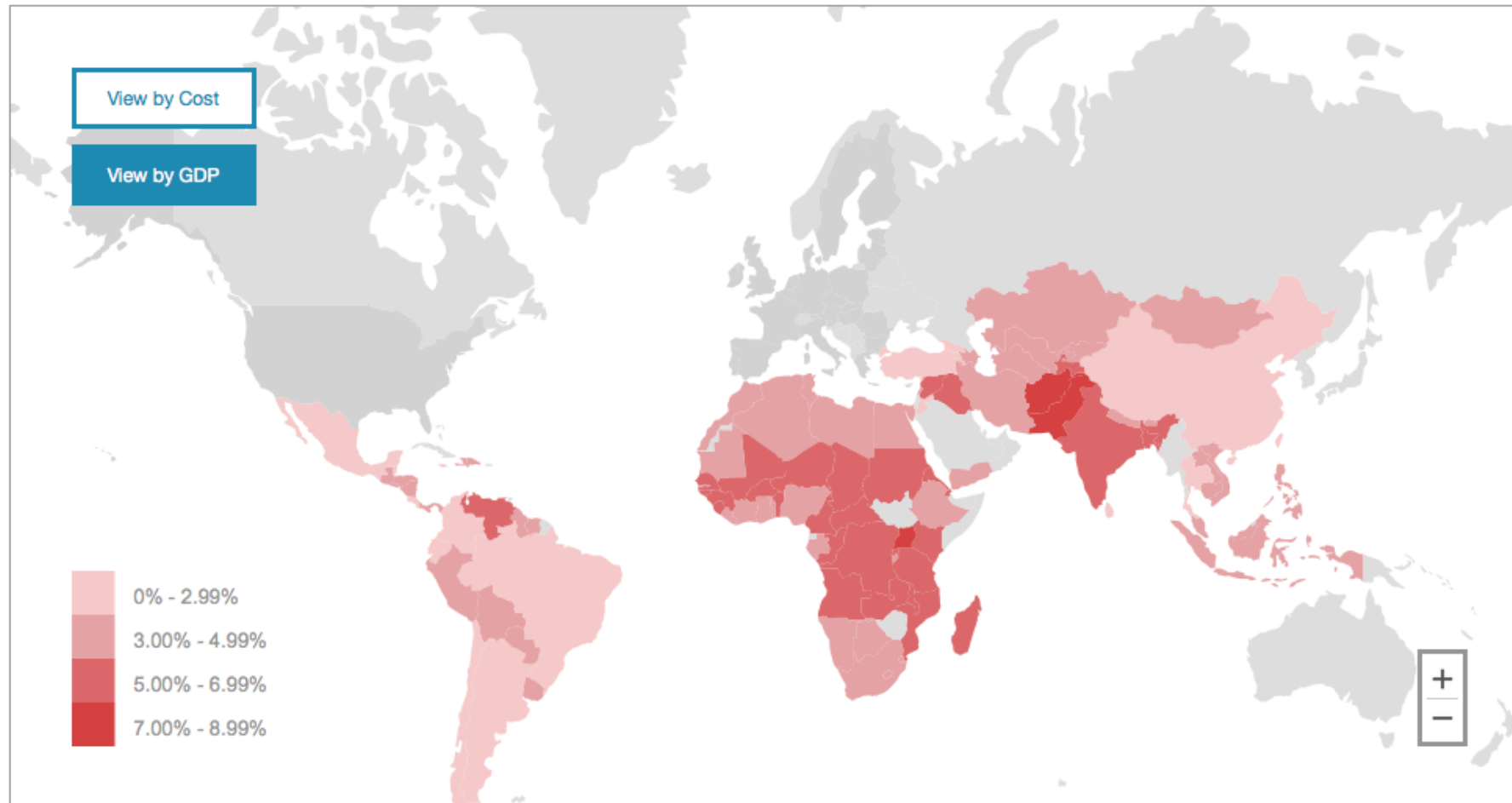


# Individual Children → Global Costs

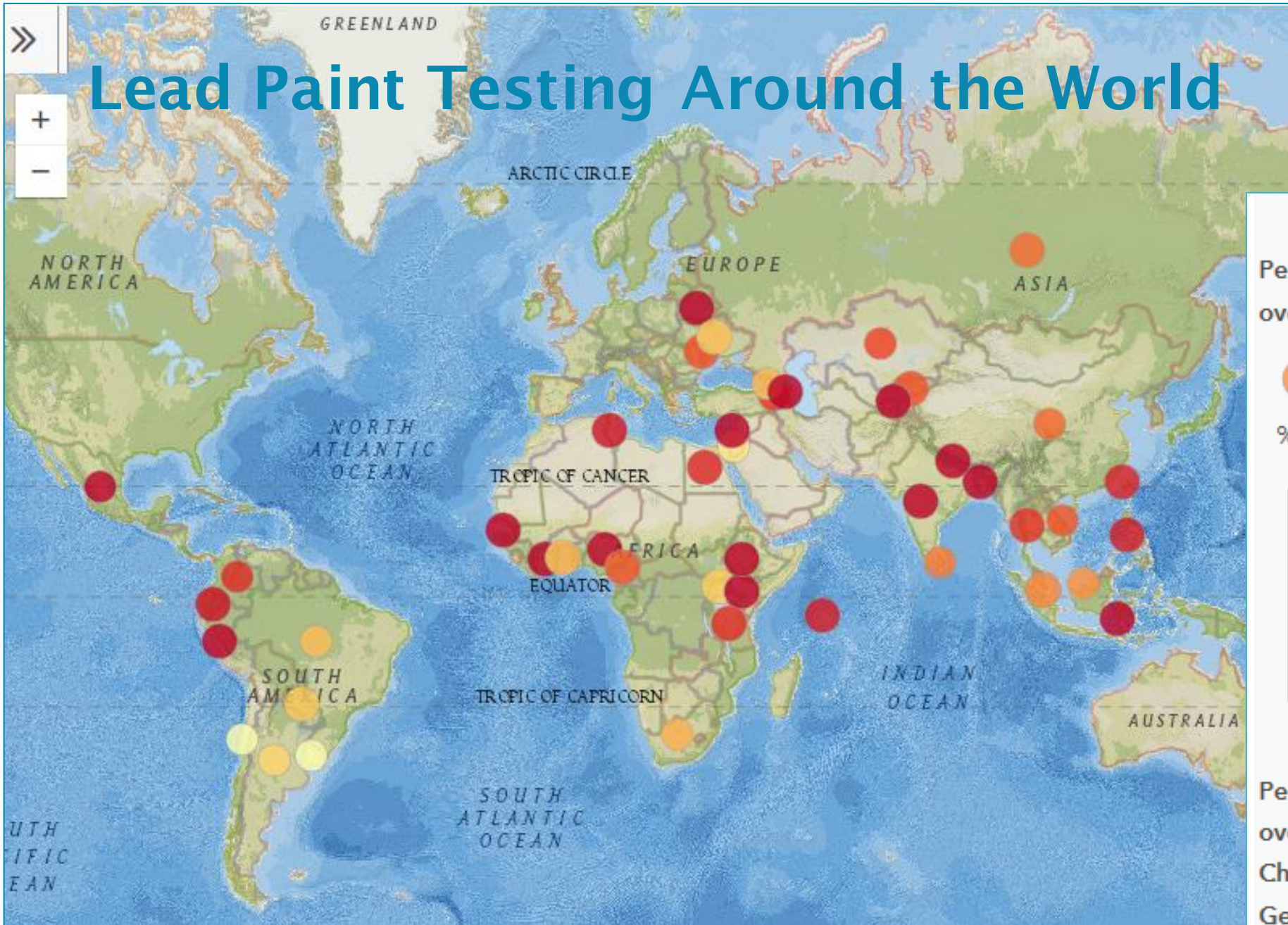
- ▶ Childhood lead exposure to lead (from all sources) has staggering economic costs
  - ▶ Reduction in intelligence quotient (IQ), can be correlated with decreases in lifetime earning potential
- ▶ \$977 billion annual cost to low and middle-income countries from children's lost IQ
  - ▶ Africa - \$135 billion
  - ▶ Latin America - \$142 billion
  - ▶ Asia - \$700 billion



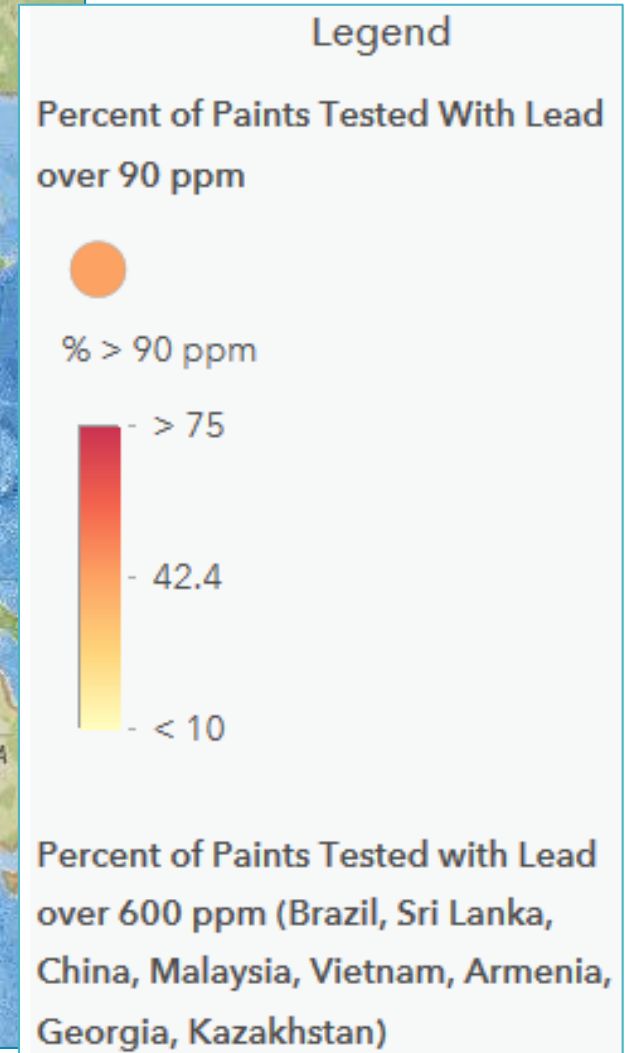
# Economic Costs of Childhood Lead Exposure in Low-and Middle-Income Countries







High levels of lead found in paint



# Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance)

- ▶ Voluntary global public/private partnership
  - ▶ Secretariat: UN Environment and WHO
  - ▶ Chair of Advisory Council: US EPA
  - ▶ Partners: Governments, NGOs, and Industry
- ▶ Modeled on successful Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles
- ▶ **Goal: Establish lead paint laws in every country**

A red brushstroke graphic with a textured, paint-like appearance, containing the text 'Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint' in white.

Global Alliance to  
Eliminate Lead Paint

# Lead Paint Alliance Advisory Council

## Governments



Colombia



Kenya



Republic of Moldova



Thailand



United States of America (Chair)

## NGOs



Health and  
Environment  
Alliance



IPPIC™  
International  
Paint & Printing  
Ink Council™

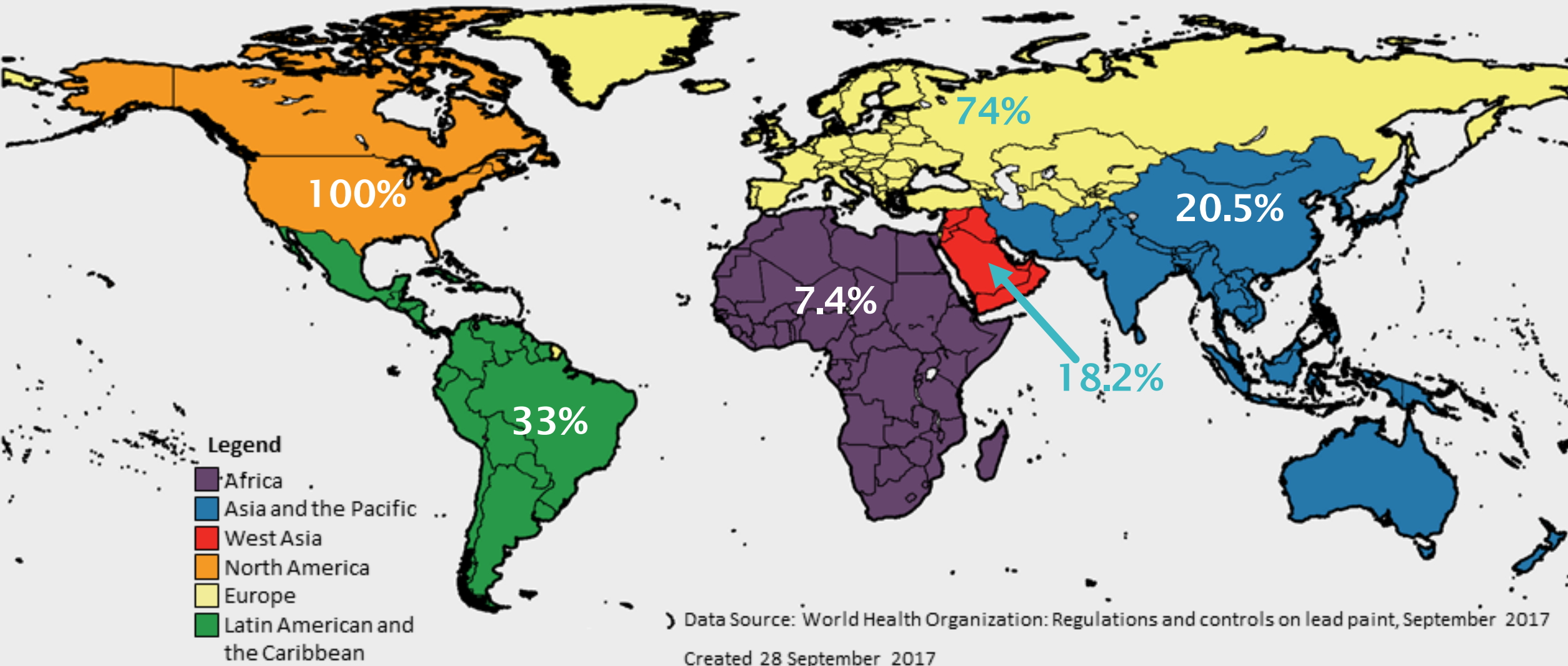
**AkzoNobel**

# Action Needed on Lead Paint

- Countries in the developed world banned lead in paint in 1970s and '80s
- However, in most of the developing world, lead paint is still legal
- Lead compounds are added to paints to improve drying time and color brightness
- Alternative paints without added lead are affordable and widely available
- Voluntary labeling of paints is not effective
- Industry and governments agree: Solution is enacting lead paint laws in countries worldwide



# Percent of Countries with Lead Paint Laws in Each UN Environment Region





# Growing Momentum



SWITCH-Asia Lead Paint Elimination Project  
2012-2015



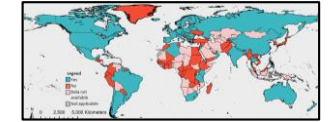
Roadmap for Health in Chemicals Management  
May 2017



American Bar Association Resolution to Support Lead Paint Laws Worldwide  
August 2017



Model Law & Guidance  
November 2017



GEF Global Lead Paint Project  
2018-2021

Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

SAICM establishes the Lead Paint Alliance  
2009



GEF Lead Paint Elimination Project in Africa  
2014-2017



2017-2018 Lead Paint Alliance Action Plan  
June 2017



Global Status Update  
September 2017



UNEA-3 Resolution on Lead Paint  
December 2017

2009-2016

2017

2018

# Caribbean Workshop on the Establishment of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint

- ▶ Example of a regional workshop
- ▶ Presented the *Model Law and Guidance for the Regulation of Lead Paint*
- ▶ Worked closely with legal community
- ▶ Shared experiences of countries with and without laws
- ▶ Discussed adjustments to model law to meet legislative structure of individual countries

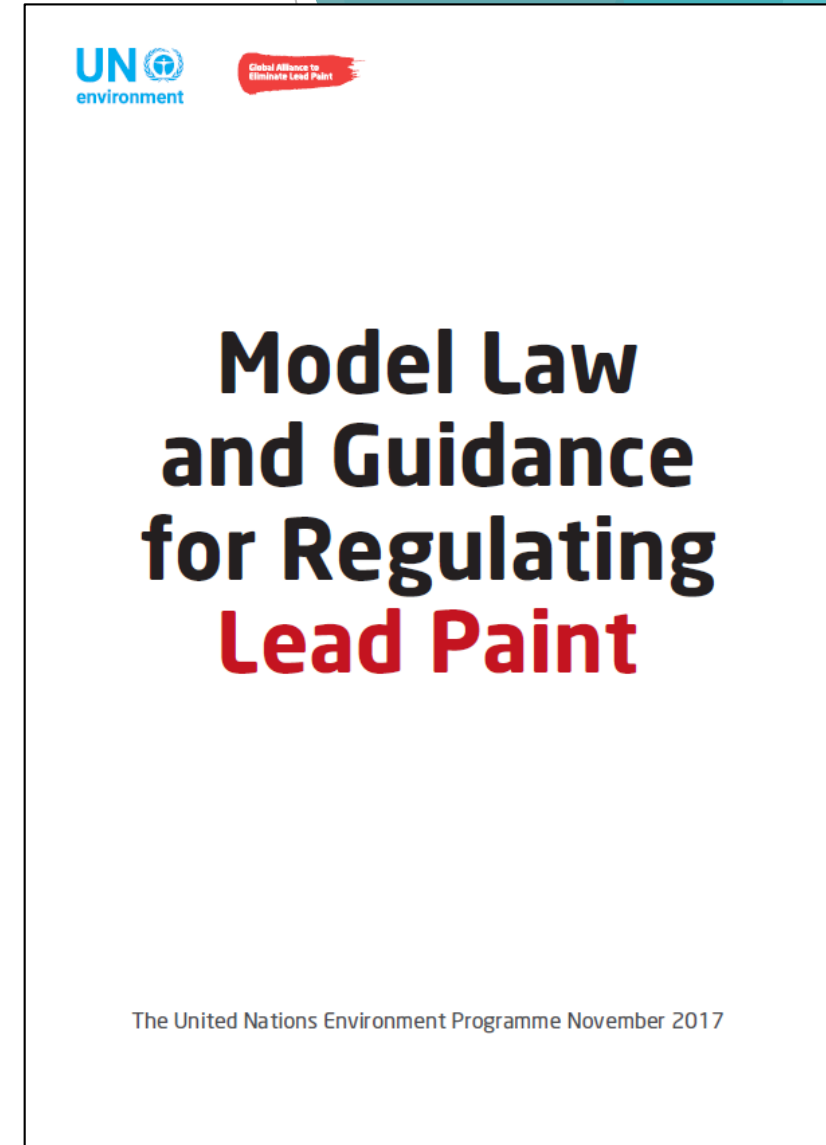


# UNEA-3 Resolution

- ▶ The Third United Nations Environment Assembly passed a resolution in December 2017 to address lead paint that encourages governments to:
  - ▶ develop, adopt and implement legislation/regulations,
  - ▶ support the development of private sector strategies to eliminate lead paint, and
  - ▶ undertake actions to remove the risks from lead paint, especially to vulnerable groups
  - ▶ join the Alliance
- ▶ The resolution also requests the Executive Director of UN Environment to assist countries to eliminate lead paint, providing tools and capacity building for developing national legislation and regulations

# Model Law

- ▶ Requested by governments
- ▶ Development supported by Industry and NGOs
- ▶ Provides best available and practical approach
  - ▶ Encourages a consistent lead limit of 90 ppm and regulatory approach
  - ▶ Reduces global demand for lead paint through lead limits on both imported and locally-produced paints
  - ▶ Reduces trade barriers through consistent standards
  - ▶ Adaptable to each country's regulatory framework
  - ▶ Provisions include:
    - Definitions
    - Clear limit on total lead
    - Setting effective dates
    - Compliance and enforcement provisions
    - Consequences for non-compliance



# ABA Resolution

- ▶ Adopted August 2017; urges national governments worldwide to enact laws to phase out the manufacture, import, and sale of lead paint
- ▶ Supports efforts of the international community, governments, industry, and non-governmental organizations to promote the phase-out of lead paint by no later than 2020
- ▶ Urges lawyers, law firms, bar associations, and other professional and nonprofit organizations to support adoption and implementation of laws to phase out and eliminate lead paint through pro bono support, educational initiatives, and other appropriate means



# Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Project

Global best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under SAICM

- ▶ SAICM project with a lead component
- ▶ Managed by UN Environment
- ▶ Partners include, WHO, IPEN, American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, US EPA, National Cleaner Production Centers and industry
- ▶ Goals
  - ▶ Law: 40 or more countries pass lead paint new laws or improve existing laws
  - ▶ Paint Industry: Conduct demonstration projects with Small and Medium Enterprises in 5-6 countries

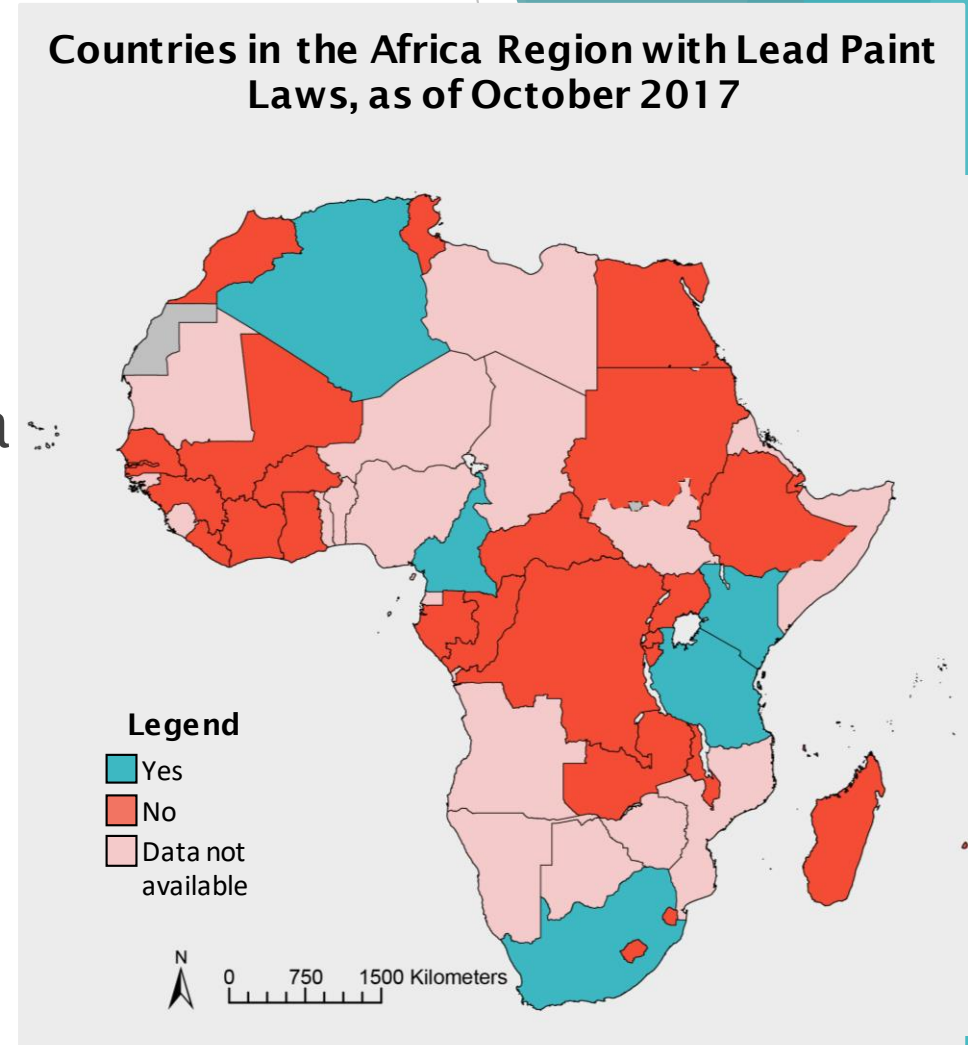
# Highlights of Lead Paint Law Status

68 countries have laws, including:

- ▶ 31 countries ban lead additives in paint through their implementation of EU REACH
- ▶ 24 countries have 100-600 ppm lead limits
- ▶ Recent laws have 90 ppm lead limit: Cameroon, India, Iraq, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines
- ▶ Examples of current activity:
  - ▶ Brazil and Argentina are revising their laws to reduce lead limit from 600 to 90 ppm
  - ▶ Ukraine is drafting a new 90 ppm law

# Status of Laws in the Africa Region

- ▶ In the Africa Region, Algeria, Cameroon, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, and South Africa have lead paint laws.
- ▶ The East African Community established a regional standard that has yet to be adopted by all member states.
  - ▶ Member states working to revise the standard to be 90 ppm total

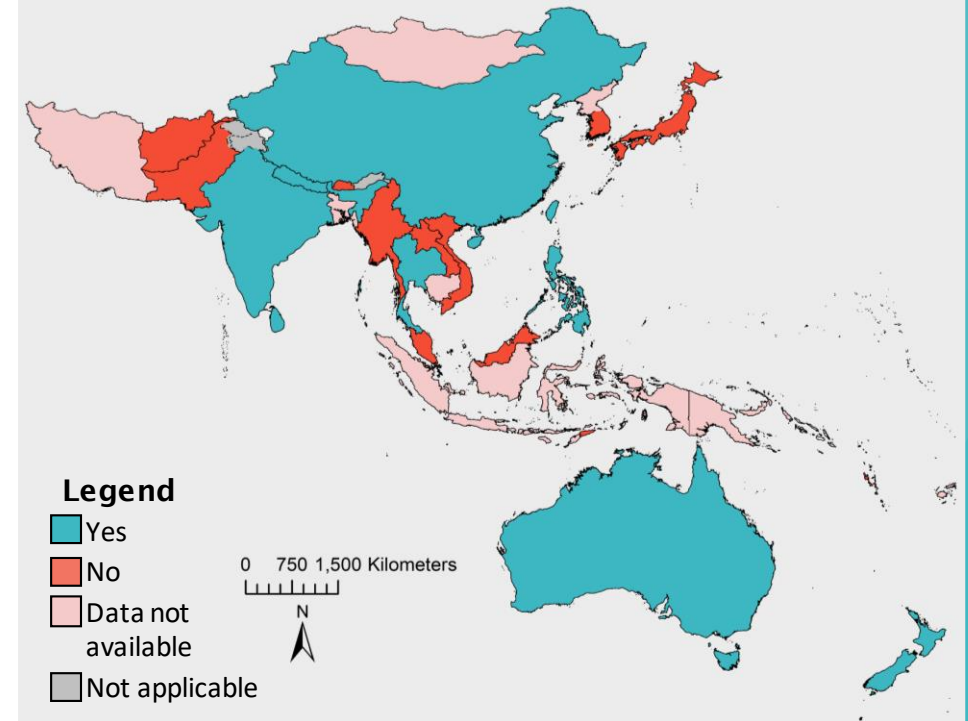


Source: WHO Database

# Status of Laws in the Asia and the Pacific Region

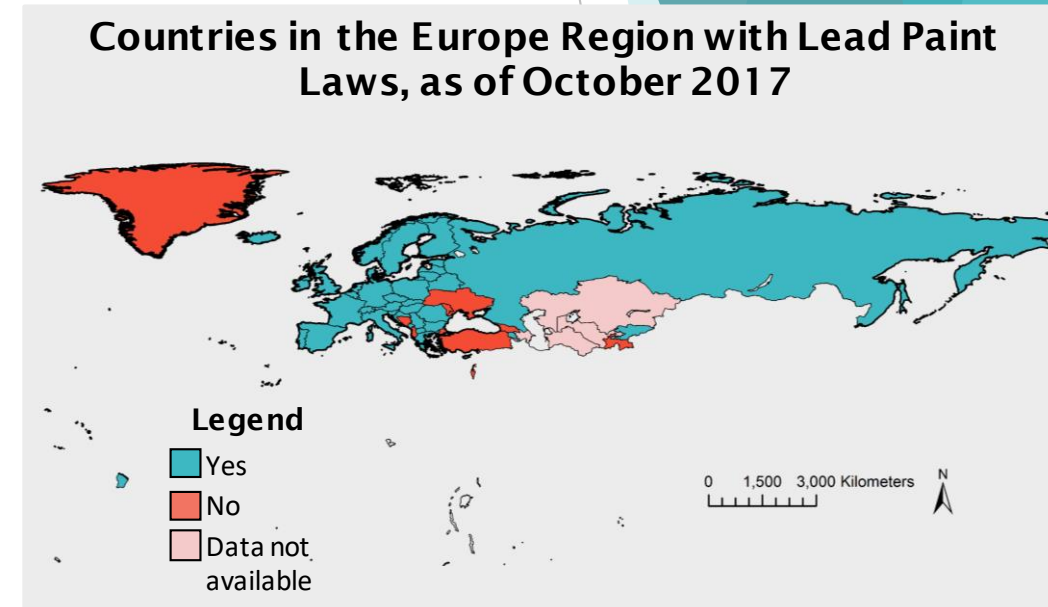
- ▶ In the Asia and the Pacific Region Australia, China, India, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand have lead paint laws.

Countries in the Asia and the Pacific Region with Lead Paint Laws, as of October 2017



# Status of Laws in the Europe Region

- ▶ 40 countries in the Europe Region have lead paint laws; most use a chemical-specific regulatory limit
- ▶ 3 countries (Armenia, Belarus and Switzerland) use total lead limits
- ▶ Efforts are underway through the Eurasian Economic Union to establish a regional lead paint standard



Source: WHO Database



# Status of Laws in Latin America and the Caribbean

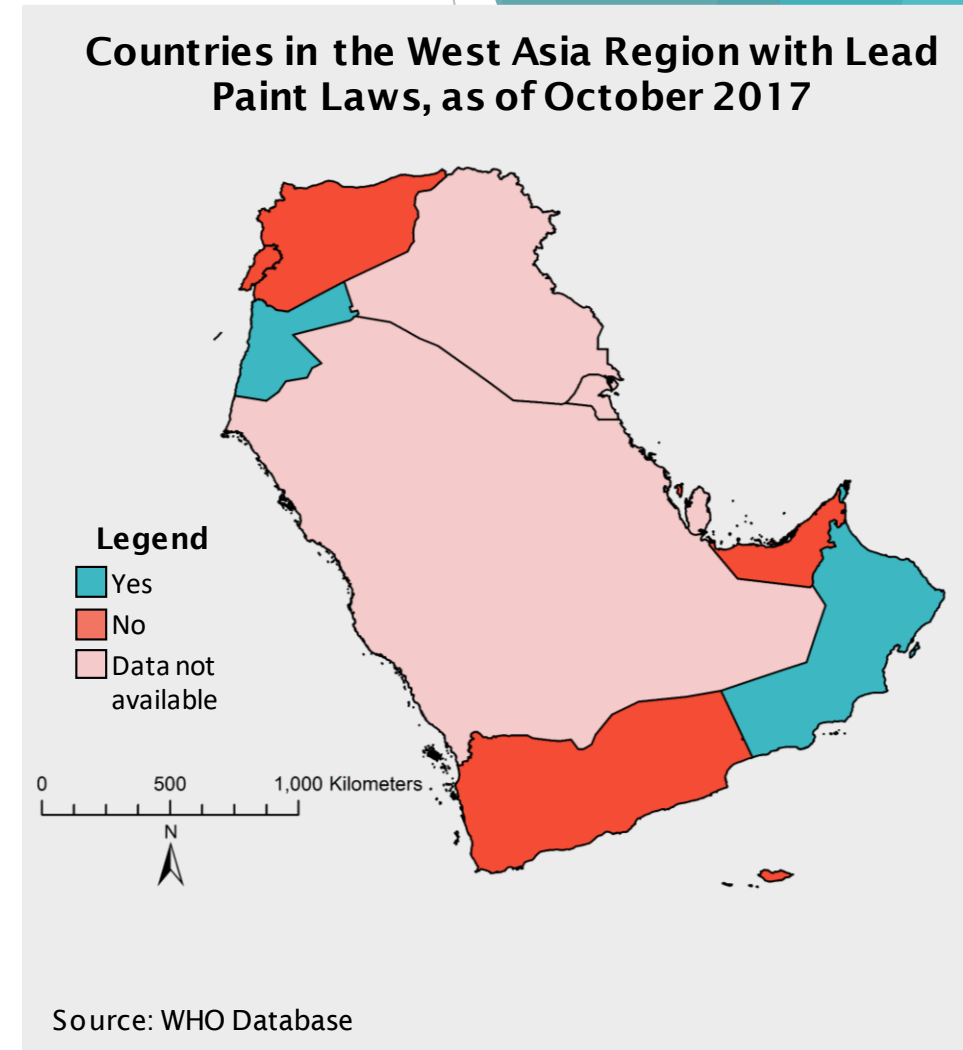
- ▶ In the Caribbean only Trinidad and Tobago and Dominica have lead paint laws.
- ▶ In Latin America Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, and Uruguay have lead paint laws.
- ▶ Brazil, Mexico and Argentina are in the process of revising their existing laws (to match the 90 ppm standard)



Source: WHO Database

# Status of Laws in the West Asia Region

- ▶ In the West Asia Region, Jordan and Oman have lead paint laws.
- ▶ WHO is in the process of verifying Iraq's new law to include it in LPA tracking



# Action For Success

- ▶ Lead paint elimination is gaining momentum
- ▶ This problem can be solved in the foreseeable future
- ▶ Actions that will help
  - ▶ Join the Alliance
  - ▶ Establish new or strengthen existing laws
  - ▶ Serve as “champions” to encourage others to take action

# Resources

- ▶ Lead Paint Alliance (Model Law available here):  
<https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/emerging-issues/global-alliance-eliminate-lead-paint>
- ▶ UNEA3 Resolution: <https://www.informea.org/en/decision/eliminating-exposure-lead-paint-and-promoting-environmentally-sound-management-waste-lead>
- ▶ WHO Map of Lead Paint Laws:  
[http://www.who.int/gho/phe/chemical\\_safety/lead\\_paint\\_regulations/en/](http://www.who.int/gho/phe/chemical_safety/lead_paint_regulations/en/)
- ▶ WHO Database of Lead Paint Law Status:  
<http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.LEADCONTROLLEG?lang=en>
- ▶ World Health Assembly Chemicals Roadmap:  
<http://www.who.int/ipcs/saicm/roadmap/en/>
- ▶ Economic Impact of Childhood Lead Poisoning:  
<http://www.med.nyu.edu/pediatrics/research/environmentalpediatrics/leadexposure>
- ▶ Map of Levels of Lead in Paint:  
<http://ipen.org/projects/eliminating-lead-paint/lead-levels-paint-around-world>
- ▶ American Bar Association Resolution on Lead Paint:  
<https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/images/abanews/2017%20Annual%20Resolutions/109B.pdf>