
Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint/Lead Paint Alliance (LPA)

Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday 6 November 2019, 13:30 – 15:30 Geneva Time

Skype Meeting

Item 4.a of the provisional agenda

Global best practices on emerging chemical policy issue of concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) - Component 1 Promoting regulatory and voluntary action by government and industry to phase out lead in paint. Update on Output 1.2 Policy support and awareness raising generate support for lead phase out

1. The Lead in Paint component promotes regulatory and voluntary action by government and industry to phase out lead in paint. The project outcome is for at least 40 countries to legislate and implement legislation on lead paint; and for at least 35 small and medium paint manufacturing enterprises, in seven countries, to phase out lead from their production processes.
2. The project aims to contribute to the goal of the Lead Paint Alliance, which is to prevent children's exposure to lead from paint containing lead and to minimize the occupational exposures to lead paint, through catalysing the efforts of diverse stakeholders. More specifically, the project will contribute to enable governments in countries where legal limits are not currently in place to establish and enforce national legal limits on lead paint to achieve the phase-out of the manufacture, import and sale of paint containing lead, as stated in the Alliance Action Plan for 2019-2020.
3. The SAICM GEF project inception workshop took place on 15-16 January 2019 in Geneva. The secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is the executing agency.
4. UN Environment Chemicals and Health Branch is the global coordinator of the lead paint component and the project executing partners, known as project advisors, who will assist the countries to adopt lead paint laws include The World Health Organization (WHO), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) and the World Coatings Council (formerly the International Paint and Printing Ink Council, or IPPIC).
5. Letters inviting 77 selected countries based on demonstrated progress or interest in lead paint to join the project and nominate a focal point were sent to both ministries of health and ministries of environment by WHO and UNEP respectively. Sixty-five countries indicated interest in joining the project (see Appendix I) and focal points from Health and Environment Ministries were then invited to participate in the regional workshops.

6. Four regional lead paint workshops took place between the months of March-August 2019, marking initiation of project activities in the regions. The workshops were aimed to:

- Provide participants with an understanding of why the elimination of lead paint is important;
- Provide an overview of the goal of the Lead Paint Alliance and how the SAICM Lead Paint project supports this goal;
- Provide participants with an understanding of key actions to eliminate lead paint and advice available through the SAICM Lead Paint Project;
- Enable country participants to exchange ideas about how to eliminate lead paint in the Asia and the Pacific and West Asia Region; and
- Identify next steps toward lead paint elimination in specific countries.

7. Dates and venue of the regional workshops were

- Central and Eastern Europe: 19-20 March 2019, Almaty, Kazakhstan;
- Latin American & the Caribbean: 12-13 June 2019, Panama City, Panama;
- Africa: 28-29 May 2019, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire; and
- Asia Pacific: 21-22 August 2019, Bangkok, Thailand.

8. Workshop participants were mostly nominated government national focal points with some representatives from environment and health, together with industry and civil society representatives, as well as project advisors. Overall, representatives from 57 governments, 34 NGOs and 6 paint producers or associations attended the workshops.

The numbers of participating institutions are broken down by regions and sectors:

Regional Workshop	Number of Government	Number of NGOs	Number of Industry representatives
Central and Eastern Europe	12	10	1
Latin American & the Caribbean	15	5	1
Africa	19	12	2
Asia Pacific	11	7	2
Total	57	34	6

9. The topics listed below were presented in all regional workshops and grouped into 3 sessions:

- Opening of the workshop and magnitude of the problem
 - i. Overview of global efforts to eliminate lead paint
 - ii. Information about the SAICM GEF project lead in paint component
 - iii. The health, economic and environmental impacts of lead
 - iv. Summary of lead paint testing in the region
 - v. Overview of lead paint laws in the region
 - vi. Presentation of the Model Law and the Guidance to Regulate Lead Paint
- How to eliminate lead paint – regulatory actions

- i. Regional approaches to regulating lead paint
- ii. National communication activities to promote lead paint laws
- iii. The role of civil society to advocate for lead paint laws
- iv. The Alternatives to lead paint: approaches for SMEs
- v. Case studies about collaboration and cooperation with the industry
- vi. Available advices and mechanisms for the provision of advices
- Successful element of a lead paint elimination strategy
 - i. Steps to develop a lead paint law
 - ii. Discussion on the next steps and key outcome of the workshop

All presentations are available on the SAICM website at the following address:

<http://www.saicm.org/Implementation/GEFProject/LeadInPaintComponent/Output12/tabid/7975/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

10. The availability of project technical advice through the project advisors (UNEP, WHO, ABA, IPEN, USEPA, and World Coatings Council) was emphasized. UNEP and WHO can support the ministries responsible for regulating lead paint. ABA ROLI, UNEP (including the Law Division), WHO and US EPA can assist with legal review and drafting of lead paint laws. WHO and IPEN can support awareness-raising activities as feasible given their own capacity. Partners can assist in the technical information and stakeholder engagement.
11. At the workshops, global and regional coordination on project delivery were presented and discussed. The outcomes of the regional workshops were meaningful with the following common opportunities, barriers and next steps identified across the four regions.

Opportunities highlighted include:

- Connection with certification bodies and standard institutions;
- Leverage of existing inter-ministerial process;
- Momentum to eliminate lead paint has increased;
- Availability of advice under the project;
- Support from industries and NGOs;
- Existence of political will; and
- Good inter-sectoral communication in some countries.

Barriers identified include:

- Lack of collaboration between key ministries, industries and civil society;
- Competing priority and need to leverage resources;
- Need for baseline data and tools to enforce the limit;
- Issues related to the disposal of stocks;
- Change in the governments; and
- Resistance from paint manufacturers to shift to lead free paint, largely due to costs involved, and to disclose their data.

The common next steps identified are the following:

- Analysis of country situation on lead in paint;
- Involvement of stakeholder consultation in the process of drafting a lead paint law;
- Advocacy and public awareness campaign; Triggering of national level consultative process;
- Support to manufacturer to identify alternative to lead additives; and
- Drafting and adoption of lead paint laws, including through amending existing regulations.

12. Following the regional workshops, the governments were invited to submit a country approach document. This document outlines country status on lead paint, needs, and assistance requested for the country to adopt a lead paint law; a timeline for implementation was also proposed in most country approaches. As of today, 41 country approaches have been submitted to the project executing partners. In addition, several requests for assistance in reviewing draft lead paint laws were received.

Region	Central and Eastern Europe	Africa	Latin America and the Caribbean	Asia Pacific
Number of country approaches received	9	22	6	4
Requests for review of draft lead paint law	1	3		

13. The needs expressed in the country approach document include all aspects of requests for legal assistance, from review of a country's current regulations to legal drafting support, including questions on legal aspects. Awareness-raising needs were expressed and focus on identification of targeted audiences, provision of adequate awareness-raising tools and support to organize activities. In addition, some countries requested technical assistance such as testing of lead paint in the market, questions on labelling and compliance and industry support.

14. Based on the country approaches and requests for legal review received and in collaboration with the regional offices of UNEP and WHO, the project global team prioritized countries based on available resources and selection criteria, including submittal of country approach, progress to date on lead paint, engagement in project to date.

15. As of September 26, UNEP (including both the Chemicals and Health Branch and the Regional Offices) was designated the lead in 10 countries, WHO (including both the Headquarters and the Regional Offices), IPEN and the USEPA are each taking the lead in 6 countries each and ABA ROLI is leading in 5 countries.

16. Currently, synergies with other projects, both within and outside UNEP, are being identified to ensure coherence and avoid duplication of effort. Meanwhile, the project global team is providing direct assistance addressing industry's concerns in Belarus, reviewing the Eurasian Economic Union draft technical regulation and reviewing the draft lead paint regulation in Rwanda.

17. At a global level, the next steps include the development of webinars on lead paint sampling and testing, paint reformulation, the Model Law and how to conduct a paint study. All Project advisors will be engaged in their capacities and the involved NCPs will be asked to support the development of specific content. In addition, small grants for pilot testing the development and implementation of a lead paint law in selected countries are also available, the global team will finalize the criteria for selection in the next month. The steps taken throughout the project are highlighted in the appendix II.

Appendix I: Countries that confirmed their interest in the lead in paint component of the project

1. Antigua and Barbuda
2. Armenia
3. Azerbaijan
4. Belarus
5. Belize
6. Benin
7. Plurinational State of Bolivia
8. Bosnia and Herzegovina
9. Brazil
10. Burkina Faso
11. Burundi
12. Cambodia
13. Cape Verde
14. China
15. Colombia
16. Côte d'Ivoire
17. Ecuador
18. El Salvador
19. Ethiopia
20. Eswatini
21. Fiji
22. Gabon
23. The Gambia
24. Georgia
25. Ghana
26. Guatemala
27. Guinea
28. Guinea-Bissau
29. Haiti
30. Honduras
31. Israel
32. Jamaica
33. Jordan
34. Kazakhstan
35. Kyrgyzstan
36. Lao People's Democratic Republic
37. Lebanon
38. Liberia
39. Madagascar
40. Malaysia
41. Mali
42. Mauritius
43. Mexico
44. Moldova
45. Mongolia
46. Mozambique
47. Niger
48. Nigeria
49. Pakistan
50. Republic of Palau
51. Panama
52. Peru
53. Rwanda
54. Senegal
55. Sierra Leone
56. St. Lucia
57. Tajikistan
58. Suriname
59. Togo
60. Tunisia
61. Uganda
62. Ukraine
63. Uzbekistan
64. Vietnam
65. Zambia

Appendix II: Project Summary and Steps Taken

