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World Health
Organization

Global Alliance to
Eliminate Lead Paint

Eliminating lead paint matters! | October 2023



Introduction

The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint is pleased to present its October newsletter, highlighting the 11th International Lead Poisoning Preventing Week (ILPPW or “Week of Action”), which will take place this year from 22–28 October 2023. An updated campaign website for the [2023 Week of Action](#) is available.

We encourage you to be creative in your efforts to advance the work to eliminate lead paint. To help you organize activities for ILPPW, this newsletter provides information about tools and materials available for the 2023 Week of Action, as well as examples of successes from the 2022 Week of Action. The Alliance is also proud to provide an updated overview of the status of [countries with legally-binding controls on lead paint](#).

This newsletter also contains Recent and Upcoming events as well as Lead Paint in the News. Wishing you all the success in your campaign activities this fall!



What Can You Do? Organize events for the 2023 International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action!



International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW or “Week of Action”) is an annual event that takes place during the last week of October. This year’s theme is “End Childhood Lead Poisoning,” highlighting the need for immediate action to protect children’s health.

The aim of the week of action is to raise awareness about the health effects of lead exposure, to highlight the efforts of countries and partners to prevent lead exposure, and to urge further action to eliminate lead paint through regulatory action at a country level. If you are planning an event, don’t forget to [register here](#). Additional guidance on organizing an advocacy or awareness raising campaign on lead paint can be found [here](#). Looking for an event in your area? You can visit the [List of Registered Events](#) to see what others are doing.

Organize your own event with customizable materials. As with previous years, the Lead Paint Alliance has developed [customizable and multilingual materials](#) that can be used to support members planning activities and events. Materials include infographics, campaign graphics, flyers, posters, and more. The ILPPW website includes the following graphics (note that additional languages for some of the materials may be added):

- Campaign poster (available in Arabic and English)
- Customizable poster (available in Spanish, French, and English), with the space to add your logo or event
- Ban Lead Paint graphic (6 UN languages)
- Flyer (available in Arabic and English)
- Infographics (rectangle, available in English)
- Social media card (square and rectangle, available in Arabic, Spanish, French, and English)

Promote ILPPW communications and outreach. Share key messages via social

media and other media channels about the impacts of lead exposure and the steps that can be taken to ban lead paint. You can see key messages in the [social media toolkit](#) and utilize the [ILPPW social media post builder](#) .

You can also join the conversation using the hashtags [#ILPPW2023](#) [#BanLeadPaint](#) [#LeadPoisoning](#)

New Tools



Published in March 2023, the [Lead Paint Law Compliance and Enforcement Guidance](#) provides information on the development and implementation of compliance and enforcement strategies. The report also contains examples from countries that have enacted lead paint laws and discusses actions that paint manufacturers and importers can take to demonstrate compliance.



The 2023 [Update of the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint](#) is now available. The report states that as of March 2023 a total of 93 countries had laws limiting lead in paint and an additional 19 countries are in the final stages of drafting laws. It also includes information on new tools, partners and activities conducted from December 2021 to March 2023.



Recent Events

Lead in Paint Community of Practice (LiP COP) Discussion on Preparing for the 2023 International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

The first Lead in Paint Community of Practice (LiP CoP) discussion for 2023 was organized by Lead Exposure Elimination Project (LEEP) and held on 13 July 2023 on the topic of Preparing for the 2023 International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW). Attendees discussed various 2022 events, provided information on additional ways the Alliance could help a 2023 campaign, steps that could be used to follow-up on an ILPPW campaign, and more!

Pure Earth Event Presented World Bank and Pure Earth Results on Lead

On 14 September 2023, the results of a World Bank analysis on the global economic impact of lead exposure and a Pure Earth study on lead in consumer products were presented at an [event](#) hosted by Pure Earth and the Center for Global Development in New York City. The World Bank study [published in the Lancet Planetary Health](#) estimated that children younger than 5 years lost 765 million (95% CI 443–1098) IQ points and that 5.5 million adults died from cardiovascular disease in 2019 due to lead exposure. 95% of the total global IQ loss and 90% of the total cardiovascular disease deaths due to lead exposure occurred in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). The global cost of lead exposure was estimated to be US\$6 trillion in 2019 (6.9% of the global gross domestic product). The Pure Earth [Rapid Market Screening](#) study found high percentages of samples exceeding relevant reference levels for lead in metallic foodware (52%), ceramic foodware (45%), paint intended for large surfaces (41%), paints for arts and crafts (11%), toys (13%), and cosmetics (12%). The presentations and recording are available [here](#).

Fifth Meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5)

The Fifth Session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) was held on 25–29 September 2023 in Bonn, Germany. During the session, The Global Framework on Chemicals and a Global Fund for Chemicals were adopted together with a Bonn Declaration. This framework supersedes SAICM, and the scope covers the life cycle of chemicals, including in products and waste¹. The framework promotes initiatives to enhance the sound management of chemicals and waste, takes account of other chemicals and waste instruments that have been developed to date, and is flexible enough to consider new instruments. In resolution V/4, ICCM5 decided that all existing emerging policy issues, including Lead in Paint, and other issues of concern recognized before ICCM5 should transition on an interim basis to “issues of concern” as part of the new Framework until the next session of the Conference. At this time the Conference will determine the next steps. In the interim, all relevant stakeholders are strongly encouraged to continue their work, as needed, on existing emerging policy issues

(including Lead in Paint) and other issues of concern recognized before ICCM5. A link to the summary report can be found [here](#).

¹ For purposes of this framework, references to “chemicals and waste” or “life cycle of chemicals”, and related references, should be understood to reflect this scope.



Upcoming Events

The International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is happening soon!

If you are planning an event for the Week of Action using the [campaign materials](#), don't forget to [register](#).

You can also find what others are doing on the [List of Registered Events](#).



G7 Ministers Call for a Second Experts Meeting

In the 2023 Communiqué, G7 ministers once again signaled a strong commitment to reduce lead pollution and exposure and called for a second experts meeting. The meeting will be held 21 November 2023 in Washington, D.C. and will build on the [outcomes of the 2022 workshop](#). The aim of the workshop is to identify concrete activities that G7 countries can take under the various actions identified in the 2022 G7 lead workshop to reduce lead pollution and exposure in low- and middle-income countries. The results of the workshop will be shared in the future.



Community of Practice Discussion: “Industry Engagement and Reformulation”

The next online session of the Lead in Paint Community of Practice (LiP CoP) will be held on 16 November 2023 from 12:00 to 13:30 (UTC). The session will focus on industry engagement and reformulation, and will bring together representatives from various sectors to discuss the importance of industry engagement in eliminating lead paint. The presentations given during this session will

demonstrate ways to engage industry, discuss the feasibility of successful collaboration, and provide insights from a variety of cultural perspectives. To participate, please [register here](#).



Success Stories from 2022 International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

As with previous years, ILPPW 2022 was a successful global campaign! With 117 events held in 57 countries, ILPPW 2022 had higher levels of participation and more events than previous campaigns. Social media played an important and increased role in the ILPPW 2022 campaign, partly because of the continued restrictions on face-to-face events, and partly because of increased engagement from key social media influencers.

In October 2022, a webinar for ILPPW on [Advancing work on lead: lessons learned from the work on lead in gasoline, lead in paint and used lead-acid batteries](#) was co-hosted by UNEP, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Conventions Secretariat. A recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

In October 2022, more than 50 IPEN NGOs from over 40 countries took part in ILPPW 2022 by carrying out [awareness-raising activities](#). IPEN released a [statement](#) committing to the goal of total lead paint elimination in all countries.

Below are some of the events held for ILPPW 2022 in the various regions. A complete list of registered events from 2022 can be found [here](#).

AFFRICAN REGION

In The Gambia, the Young Volunteers for the Environment (YVE) used radio and social media channels to organize a public awareness campaign around the theme “Ban Lead Paint”. The campaign raised awareness on the dangers of lead in paint, promoted collaboration among stakeholders, and advocated for political commitment towards lead paint elimination in The Gambia.

In South Africa, The University of Cape Town (UCT) Division of Environmental Health participated in the ILPPW by sharing information related to lead in paint and lead poisoning via social media.

REGION OF THE AMERICAS

In Jamaica, The Caribbean Poison Information Network (CARPIN) from the University of Technology, Jamaica held a “Say NO to Lead POISONING” event. They organized three events (a public forum, an institutional awareness activity, and a social media campaign) and disseminated informational materials.

In Colombia, the Asociación COLNODO held an event titled “Let's Remove Lead in Paints from Small Industries”. COLNODO held a conference for small paint producers where they discussed lead-free paint manufacturing techniques and provided the small paint producers with a manual in Spanish on paint reformulation using lead-free pigments. The event aimed to promote the implementation of Law 2041 guaranteeing the right of people to develop physically and intellectually in a lead-free environment.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE REGION

In Ukraine, The Chemical Safety Agency (CSA) promoted market supervision for compliance with the approved Technical Regulation on lead in paints. They did this through awareness raising and coordination with the government and other stakeholders.

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION

In Jordan, the 10th ILPPW was celebrated by the Climate Change, Health and Environment unit of the Healthier Populations Department at the Regional Office through a wide range of activities. More than 50 participants from ministries of health and environment, and poison control centres attended the celebrations in a hybrid format. Chemicals and health experts from WHO HQ and UNEP contributed to the event as well. In addition, national campaigns were conducted in Bahrain, Jordan and Sudan.

In Morocco, the Moroccan Association for Environmental Health and Toxicovigilance (AMSETOX) held activities to further raise awareness about the hazards from lead-based paints and to draw attention to the recently issued decree making 90 ppm lead content limit in paint a mandatory standard.

In addition, national campaigns were conducted in Bahrain, Jordan and Sudan.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION

In China, The Toxics Free Corps, in collaboration with the China National Coating Industry Association (CNCIA), Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology (SEE) Foundation, and Changsha Shuguang Environmental Protection, organized a webinar to discuss ongoing efforts to eliminate lead paint in the country. Toxics Free Corps will also publicize the results of their latest study on lead content in solvent-based paints for household use.

In India, Arulagam conducted an awareness-raising dialogue with semi-skilled laborers involved in wall-painting work. These workers are some of the most vulnerable people to lead poisoning due to occupational risks from using lead-contaminated paint.

WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

In Australia, the Lead Education and Abatement Design (LEAD) Group Inc. published and distributed information on the beginning of the end of lead paint and leaded AvGas in Australia and globally. The group also announced winners of Volcano Art Prize for the lead-safety art/photo/film competition during their Annual Lead Safe World Advocacy Planning meeting.



In the News: Lead Paint and Other Sources of Lead Exposure

These articles do not necessarily reflect the views or work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint.

Regional action to address lead paint

AFRICA

Shock lead levels in oil paints uncovered (Zimbabwe)

<https://www.herald.co.zw/shock-lead-levels-in-oil-paints-uncovered/>

The Herald, 22 June 2023

ASIA

Household threat from lead exposure (Malaysia)

<https://www.thesundaily.my/local/household-threat-from-lead-exposure-CN11580570#>

The Sun Daily, 5 October 2023

Philippine Ban on Lead Paints Feted in Bonn, Germany (Philippines)

<https://journal.com.ph/ph-ban-on-lead-paints-feted-in-bonn-germany/>

Journal Online, 28 September 2023

The EcoWaste Coalition urges Philippine government to uphold the ban and block lead paint imports (Philippines)

<https://www.polymerspaintyournal.com/the-ecowaste-coalition-urges-philippine-government-to-uphold-the-ban-and-block-lead-paint-imports/>

Polymers Paint Colour Journal, 25 August 2023

Toxic lead found in paint brushes used for food preparation in the Philippines (Philippines)

<https://www.polymerspaintyournal.com/toxic-lead-found-in-paint-brushes-used-for-food-preparation-in-the-philippines/>

Polymers Paint Colour Journal, 14 July 2023

NORTH AMERICA

Stronger rules against lead paint could be coming soon to NYC (USA) [Note: this rule is focused on lead in paint on existing surfaces]

<https://gothamist.com/news/stronger-rules-against-lead-paint-could-be-coming-soon-to-nyc>

Gothamist, 15 July 2023

EPA Proposes Tighter Limits on Lead Dust in Homes and Child Care Facilities (USA)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/07/12/climate/epa-lead-dust-homes.html>

The New York Times, 12 July 2023

Lead from abandoned phone cables are polluting dozens of neighborhoods, investigation finds (USA)

<https://www.businessinsider.com/att-verizon-abandoned-phone-cables-cause-soil->

[contamination-wsj-investigation-2023-7](#)

Insider, 9 July 2023

SOUTH AMERICA

After Decades of Use, Paint Makers Cut Ties with Lead (Peru)

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/after-decades-use-paint-makers-cut-ties-lead>

UNEP, 27 September 2023

Information and Action to Address Health Effects of Lead Exposure

Why Ending Childhood Lead Poisoning is a Top-Tier Global Development Challenge

<https://www.cgdev.org/blog/why-ending-childhood-lead-poisoning-top-tier-global-development-challenge>

Center for Global Development, 17 October 2023

America is Wrapped in Miles of Toxic Lead Cables

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/lead-cables-telecoms-att-toxic-5b34408b>

The Wall Street Journal, 9 July 2023

[Video] Family shares story of lead poisoning and work to educate others

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3o4mEw6VAQ>

TMJ4 News, 27 June 2023

The Global Burden of Cardiovascular Diseases and Risk: A Compass for Future Health

<https://www.jacc.org/doi/10.1016/j.jacc.2022.11.005>

JACC Journals, Vol. 80 No 25, December 2022

Subscriptions to the newsletter

Since June 2023, there were 31 new subscriptions to our newsletter, bringing the total number of subscriptions to 958 as of October 2023.

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