

# TANZANIA BUREAU OF STANDARDS

**South – South Cooperation Workshop on  
Elimination of Lead in Paints, 22 – 24 March 2017**

**Awareness Initiatives for elimination of Lead Paint  
in Tanzania**

---

**Mr. Safari Fungo  
23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2017,  
KunTai Hotel,  
Beijing, China**

**[safari.fungo@tbs.go.tz](mailto:safari.fungo@tbs.go.tz) ; [fungolee@gmail.com](mailto:fungolee@gmail.com)**

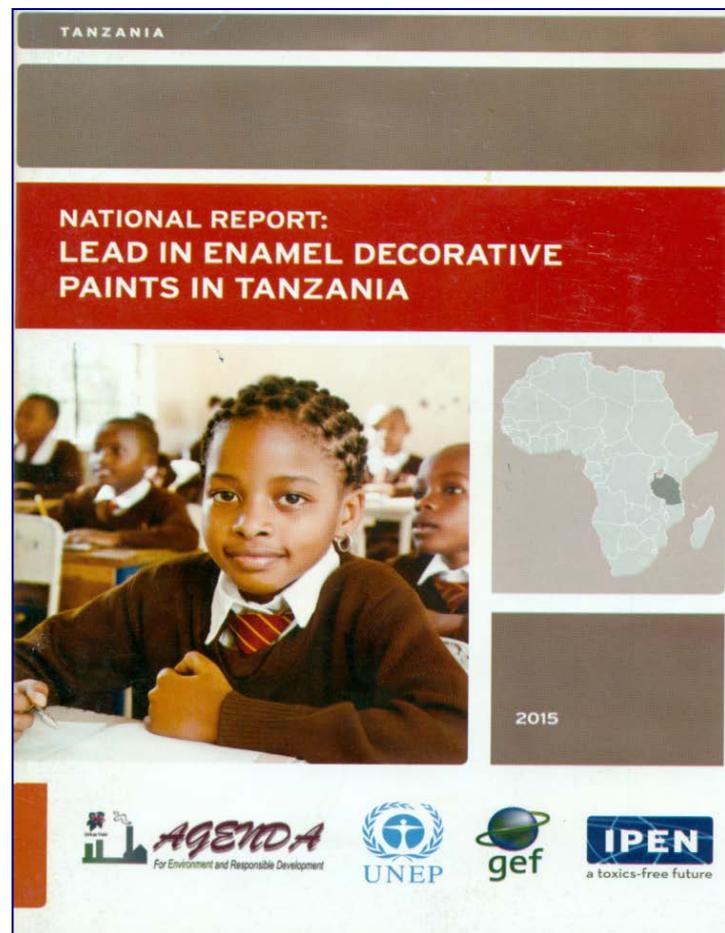
# Paint studies show that most enamel decorative paints in low - and moderate income countries contain high lead levels



Most enamel decorative paints contain high lead levels

# Analysis shows paint in Tanzania have high lead levels

- The recent results released by AGENDA in Sept 2015 revealed high lead levels 99,000; 69,000; 61,000 (ppm – total lead); etc.
- These are from locally produced paints as well as from imported paints.
- A few (including from the local manufacturers) had lower than 90 ppm - total lead.



# Paints contain high levels of lead when manufacturers intentionally add one or more lead compounds

Driers help  
paints dry  
fast and  
evenly



Compounds  
that inhibit  
rust or  
corrosion



Pigments  
give paint  
their color



# Awareness program on elimination of lead on paint

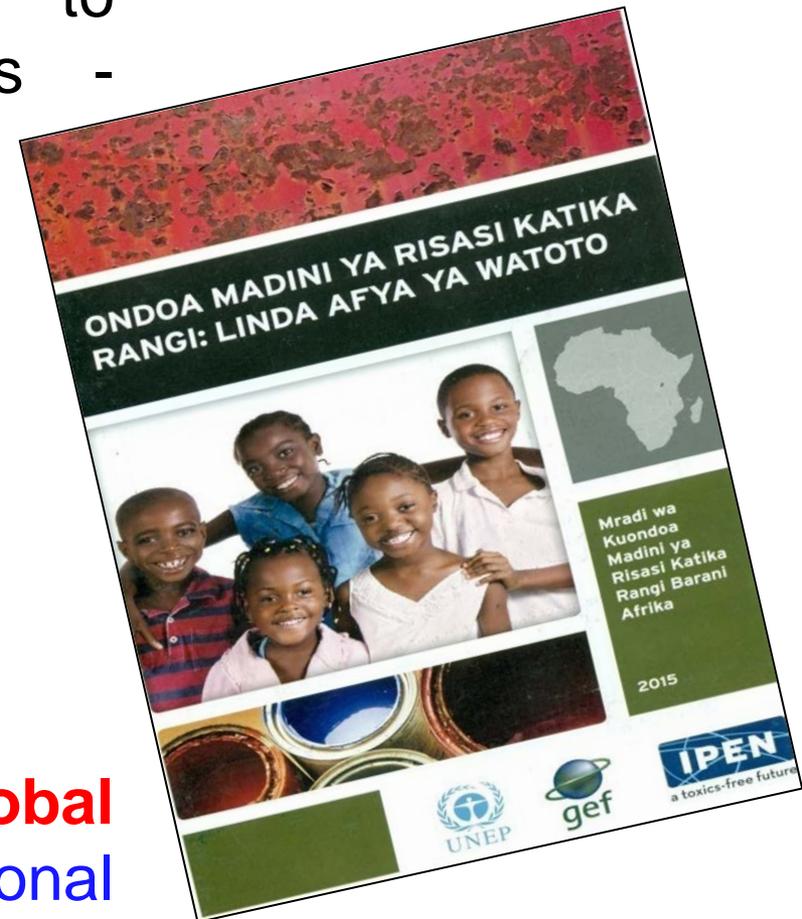
- Disseminated information to interested parties in booklets - (Kiswahili and English)

- It was mainly on:

- What is lead paint
- Why is lead in paint
- How lead exposure occurs
- Effects of lead paint

- Publicity and community engagement

- **Participation into global awareness initiatives** “International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action (ILPPWA)”



# Publicity and community engagement



## Stakeholders want production of 'hazardous' paints banned

By Felister Peter

*The Guardian, Wednesday, 28 October 2015*

STAKEHOLDERS are pushing for a ban on the production, distribution, sale and use of paints said to contain lead in Tanzania due to its multiple effects to infants, young children and pregnant women.

Apart from affecting young children, lead exposure can also have reproductive effects such as causing miscarriage, premature births, low birth weight as well as reduced sperm count and sperm quality.

According to information released by Executive Director of AGENDA for Environment and Responsible Development, Silvani Mng'anya Tanzania is among the low-and-middle income countries with most leaded enamel paints.

"Most countries with developed economies in Europe and America have banned production, distribution, sale and use of lead paints," he said, mentioning other sources of lead as toys and other children's appliances that have been painted with lead.

Mng'anya noted that even lead acid batteries and other parts used in automobiles contribute to environmental

contamination, especially when they are dismantled at the end of their use.

He said according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) childhood lead exposure contributes to 600,000 new cases of intellectual disability every year.

He said young children under six years are particularly vulnerable to neuro-toxic effects of lead and irreversible neurological damage.

He said that WHO has estimated that lead exposure account for 143,000 deaths per year and 0.6 percent of the global burden of disease.

The effects in developing regions are 98 percent of adults and 99 percent of children in low-and-middle income countries.

Mng'anya said the recent research on economic effects of childhood lead exposure has estimated an economic loss of USD977bn per year for low-and-middle income countries and USD134.7bn for Africa continent which is equivalent to 4.03 percent of its GDP.

He said various efforts have been taken by stakeholders in Tanzania to try to reduce the effects of lead to children.

The efforts include establishment of a national project for eliminating lead paint project that are aimed to raise

public awareness of effects of lead paint to assist in setting up new lead paint standard for enamel decorative paint, law improvement and sensitisation voluntary certification of lead levels in paints.

He said a recent research under the project showed that most of the enamel paints that are produced, sold and used in Tanzania have high levels of lead where the maximum was 99,000 ppm - parts per million - where the upper limit adopted by the US is 90 ppm.

In October 13th this year, the world celebrated, for the first time, the International Lead Poisoning Week of Action following a decision by the Global Alliance for Lead Paint Elimination - GAELP and its partners.

AGENDA's message during celebration was a call to individuals and institutions to protect children against lead poisoning.

It said the government through the Tanzania Bureau of Standard (TBS) needs to carry out accelerated effort in setting up lead paint standards and enforce them.

He said the government and all stakeholders need to take action in awareness raising on the effects of lead and their control measures.





# Participation into global awareness initiatives

- International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action (ILPPWA).
  - It is an event that happens every October around the world since 2013.
  - Focuses on awareness raising on lead poisoning prevention.
  - We carried out awareness event in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.

# **We Must Eliminate Lead Paint**

## **Our children's intellectual future depends on it**





**Thanks you very much for  
your attention!**