



Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

ACTION PLAN for 2015-2016

(May 2015)¹

PREAMBLE:

This two-year Action Plan facilitates implementation of the long-term Business Plan of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance) by providing near-term priorities for key action areas. The Action Plan is intended to encourage and support priority activities in 2015 and 2016 by Alliance partners and other stakeholders that will help move toward the goal and objectives of the Alliance.

The primary goal of the Alliance is to prevent children's exposure to paints containing lead and to minimize occupational exposures to lead paint. Its broad objective is to achieve the phase-out of the manufacture and sale of paints containing lead and to eventually eliminate the risks that such paints pose. The Alliance is committed to efforts that support primary prevention, seeking to reduce or eliminate the conditions that give rise to environmental lead exposure before such exposures can occur.

The Business Plan of the Lead Paint Alliance was developed in response to resolution II/4/B adopted by the second session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in 2009. It provides a road map describing the strategies, milestones and means of achieving the goal and overall objective of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint., including targets for accomplishments by the year 2020. It is addressed to all persons and organizations interested in contributing to the work of the Alliance.

The Action Plan for 2015-16 highlights the need for near-term efforts, in particular by national governments around the world to phase out the use of lead paints, with special attention to eliminating lead decorative paints and in paints for other applications most likely to contribute to childhood lead exposure. New laws and regulations should establish legal limits on the lead content of these paints, by either banning lead additives and severely limiting the total amount of lead content. Such actions in countries where legal limits are not currently in place will help prevent new exposures to lead from paint, especially for children in homes and schools. where decorative lead paint is still used. Regulatory controls on other categories or uses of paint should also be considered.

The Action Plan for 2015-2016 was developed for the Lead Paint Alliance by the UN Environment Program (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO), in consultation with

¹ Revised by UNEP/WHO Advisory Group for the Lead Paint Alliance on 27 September 2015.

the Advisory Group for the Alliance. It is designed to be a living document and will be updated to describe specific activities as they are identified and implemented. This will help facilitate information sharing and coordination among Alliance partners and other organizations and individuals that are actively pursuing and supporting the priorities described in this two-year plan. It is envisioned that a similar action plan could be developed for 2017-2018.

ACTION AREAS FOR 2015-16:

During 2015 and 2016, the Alliance will focus on four key action areas:

- Encourage governments in countries where legal limits are not currently in place to establish and enforce national legal limits on lead in paint, with special attention to the elimination of lead decorative paints and lead paints for other applications most likely to contribute to childhood lead exposure.
 - TARGET: During the 2015-16 period, 20 more countries will have adopted new legal limits on lead paint, bringing the total countries with existing legal limits to 72 (baseline October 2014 – 52 countries²).
- Encourage industry activities to voluntarily stop the manufacture and sale of lead paint, focusing on residential and decorative paints containing lead additives in countries where legal limits are not currently in place.
 - TARGET: By 2016, an increased number of paint manufacturers will have confirmed that they do not add lead to their residential paints (baseline 2014 – 1 company³).
- Increase awareness of the health and environmental risks posed by lead paint, to help prompt actions by governments and manufacturers to stop the production and sale of lead paints.
 - TARGET: An increased number of governments and organizations will have participated in the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action in October 2015 and October 2016 (baseline 2013 week of action, when activities took place in more than 100 cities in 44 countries).
- Increase and diversify the number of Alliance partners.

² SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/27

³ Third meeting of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint and its Workshop on Establishing Legal Limits on Lead in Paint, 22-24 September 2014

- TARGET: 15 governments or organizations will have become new partners during 2015 or 2016⁴.

ACTIVITIES IN 2015-16:

Specific activities to be implemented by various stakeholders will continue to be identified and added to this 2-year plan. The following pages include specific project information plus suggestions and ideas for potential activities. Partners in the Alliance are especially encouraged to inform UNEP, WHO and/or the Advisory Group members of any activities planned for 2015 or 2016.

⁴ Lead Paint Alliance partners : www.unep.org/noleadpaint

ACTIVITIES TO ESTABLISH LEGAL LIMITS ON LEAD IN PAINT

UNEP, WHO AND ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS

- Project: Develop a regulatory toolkit for use by governments in establishing national legal limits on lead in paint – USEPA, UNEP, WHO, other partners.

This will be a web-based toolkit that assembles or links to key information needed by a government to establish and implement a national program to limit lead in paint. USEPA will finalize a draft toolkit in June/July 2015. The toolkit will be pilot-tested in a regional or sub-regional workshop in late 2015, and then revised as needed.

Evaluate the effectiveness of the toolkit based on input from countries that have used it as an information resource for developing new lead paint laws. Depending on that input, UNEP and WHO may consider the need for a more detailed written guidance document based on the UNEP brochure *Elements of national legal and regulatory framework*.

- Work with individual governments to encourage or facilitate progress on establishing national legal limits – UNEP, WHO, Advisory Group members
 - When the regulatory toolkit is ready, reach out to all governments currently working on legal limits to learn about their progress, identify any barriers, and provide assistance as appropriate. Use any lessons learned to improve the regulatory toolkit or develop other new assistance tools. Use opportunities of bi-lateral and international meetings to reach out to governments that are not currently working on legal limits on lead in paint to encourage them to do so.
 - Use opportunities of bi-lateral and international meetings to reach out to individual governments that are or might be interested in establishing legal limits on lead paints.
 - Encourage the formation of national alliances (whose participants might include: government officials; health sector representatives; representatives of the private sector; public interest organizations; and/or others) to assist ~~their~~ governments in establishing national limits on lead paint.
 - UNEP-DELC's lawyers can help raise awareness of lead paint issues within countries. DELC has a legal officer in every UNEP regional office that can provide legal assistance to a national government that is drafting legal limits.
- Develop regional approaches to encourage governments to establish national regulations – UNEP, WHO, Advisory Group members

Plan regional projects and activities to engage multiple governments, such as through regional or sub-regional workshops and activities. Develop regional project plans that will facilitate obtaining funds and other assistance and encourage participation of additional governments in a regional/sub-regional area. Government members of the Advisory Group will play a leading role regarding workshops and follow-up activities planned for their regions.

- Regional/sub-regional Workshops:
 - Hold one pilot workshop in late 2015 for countries in a region or sub-region (probably for East African countries), then expand in 2016 with 2-4 additional regional/sub-regional workshops, subject to availability of resources.
 - During the workshops, use the regulatory toolkit to inform countries about the health and environmental risks of lead paint and how to establish and implement national legal limits, using examples from other countries.
 - Follow-up workshops with country-specific national outreach/assistance, such as facilitating and supporting national workshops to help governments implement recommendations, tools and activities.
 - Revise regulatory toolkit, as needed, based on feedback from the workshop.
 - Develop plans and financing for additional workshops in other regions/sub-regions during 2016.
- Identify existing local organizations, national or regional centres, regional offices, or economic cooperation organizations, e.g. APEC Secretariat, that can facilitate regional, sub-regional or national workshops and other projects to assist national governments interested in developing, establishing and implementing legal limits on lead in paint.
- Encourage formation of national, sub-regional and regional alliances of a broad range of key stakeholders to support the work of national governments to establish legal limits on lead in paint.
- Share approaches and lessons learned from regional and sub-regional projects.
- Identify and work with government “champions” for regional efforts as another way to share the experiences of those governments that have already established national legal limits on lead in paints.

GOVERNMENTS:

- Governments without legal limits on lead in paint should establish and implement such limits.
- Governments with legal limits can serve as government “champions” to encourage other governments to take action, especially for regional efforts and activities.
- Governments with legal limits can share their experiences with passing legislation and implementing programs on lead paint, through case studies in the regulatory toolkit and in regional or national workshops.
- Governments with legal limits should take all necessary measures to ensure full compliance.

NON-GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs)

- Continue to conduct paint sampling studies in countries without legal limits in order to raise awareness and support for action to develop legal limits and, in countries where legal limits have been established, to help evaluate their effectiveness.
- Engage with governments to support the development and implementation of legal limits on lead in paint.
- Engage with small and medium enterprises to encourage reformulation of lead paint.
- Health NGOs can provide information to policy makers, parents and others interested in child health on the dangers of lead paint and how to prevent lead poisoning.
- Ongoing Project: IPEN’s Asian Lead Paint Elimination Project (2012-2015) is a 3 year project to eliminate lead paint in seven countries: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. For more information go to:
<http://ipen.org/projects/asia-project-2012-2015>
- Ongoing Project: IPEN’s African Lead Paint Elimination Project (2014-2016) is a 2.5 year project to eliminate lead paint in four countries: Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast and Tanzania. For more information go to:
<http://ipen.org/projects/africa-project-2014-2016>

INDUSTRY:

- Industry can engage with governments to support the development and implementation of legal limits on lead in paint.

ACTIVITIES TO VOLUNTARILY STOP MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF LEAD PAINT**INDUSTRY:**

- Industry can identify ways for regional paint associations and large multinational paint and pigment manufacturers to provide expertise or encouragement to other companies interested in stopping their use of lead additives, and to assist national governments interested in setting legal limits on lead paint.
- Industry can engage specifically with small and medium enterprises to encourage reformulation of lead paint.
- Industry representatives can invite Alliance Partners to industry meetings to discuss the efforts of the Lead Paint Alliance and the health and environmental risks of lead paint.
- Companies that produce paints without added lead can participate in third-party certification of their paint products to help consumers recognize lead-safe paints.

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO):

- Work with governments to establish legal limits.
- Support projects and activities to help SME (small & medium enterprise) paint manufacturers address barriers to stopping their use of lead additives, such as the lack of knowledge of and access to lead-free alternatives. Currently planned UNIDO products include:
 - SME guidance on reformulation (using alternatives) to be developed jointly by UNIDO, IPEN and UNEP.
 - Waste paint management guidance to be developed by UNIDO in consultation with UNEP.
- Explore a larger role for UNIDO in engaging industry, especially focusing on SMEs.

UNEP & USEPA

- Work with governments to establish legal limits.
- Explore how to engage the major paint manufacturers and the lead pigment industry in a productive way to stop the manufacture and sale of lead paints, especially for residential and decorative paints containing lead additives in countries where legal limits are not currently in place.

**ACTIVITIES TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE RISKS OF LEAD PAINT,
TO HELP PROMPT ACTIONS BY GOVERNMENTS AND MANUFACTURERS
TO STOP THE PRODUCTION AND SALE OF LEAD PAINTS**

WHO, UNEP & ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS:

- World Health Organization is developing “WHO Guidelines on the Prevention and Management of Lead Poisoning,” which will address lead paint.
- WHO will review and update as necessary awareness-raising materials on human health aimed at different audiences, and training materials for health-care providers.
- All - Continue to support and encourage participation in the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action in October 2015 & 2016.
- All - Use opportunities of bi-lateral and international meetings to increase awareness of governments and industry regarding the health and environmental risks of lead paint, and the need for governments to establish legal limits on lead paints.
 - UNEP to host a high-level awareness session about lead paint at the ICCM4 meeting, which will hopefully involve senior officials from UNEP, WHO, EPA, UNIDO, Uruguay, AkzoNobel and/or others.
 - Other potential opportunities:
 - UNEA side event(s)
 - Global Network of Women Ministers of Environment (interested in children’s health issues)
 - Children’s Health Conference (WHO, 2016)
 - World Health Assembly side event(s)
 - WHO Regional Committee meetings (such as PAHO)
 - Engage with education ministers
 - UN Habitat
 - WHO guidelines on housing and health
 - Environmental Management Group of UN agencies, including IOMC Participating Organizations (POs)
- Subject to availability of resources, UNEP and WHO could develop a communication strategy, including the development of a suite of materials for specific audiences. Such materials could include a short hand-out for decision makers that will be distributed during the high level segment of ICCM4.

GOVERNMENTS:

- Continue to participate in the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, held annually in October.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- Is there a role for UNESCO especially in relation to educational interest and further increase of awareness?

NON-GOVERNMENT ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs):

- Participate (or continue to participate) in the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, held annually in October.
- IPEN and individual NGOs can identify additional ways for NGOs to help increase awareness of risks so as to promote the development of national legal limits on lead in priority countries or regions.
- Health NGOs can initiate outreach to the medical community and health care providers, both internationally and nationally.
 - To pediatricians
 - To other physicians such as psychologists?
- Provide outreach to schools or other organizations in countries without legal limits on lead paint, and in countries with existing high levels of lead in residential or decorative paints.

INDUSTRY/IPPIC:

- Participate (or continue to participate) in the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, held annually in October.

ACTIVITIES TO INCREASE & DIVERSIFY NUMBER OF ALLIANCE PARTNERS**UNEP & WHO:**

1. Recruit new partners, especially governments and industry, as an important way to further raise the profile of the partnership in the short-term.
2. Finalize new Advisory Group membership in early 2015. New membership will include new government members that are diverse regarding regions of the world and status of their legal limits on lead in paint.
3. Establish mechanisms during 2016 that will enable and promote greater partner participation and engagement in activities aimed at achieving Alliance objectives.