

Brief report from the Project Preparation Workshop for SAICM GEF Project Component 1: Promoting regulatory and voluntary action by government to phase out lead in paint

Date: Thursday, October 12, 2017 to Friday, October 13, 2017

Venue: International Environment House 1
Chemin des Anémones 11-13, CH-1219 Châtelaine (GE) Switzerland

All presentations and documents are available at
<http://web.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/what-we-do/technology-and-metals/lead/lead-paint-alliance/resources/meetings-and-events/events-8>

Background

Lead is a cumulative toxicant particularly harmful to young children and pregnant women and lead in paint is a major source of childhood lead exposure. Regulatory controls and best practices for lead in paint are already established and adopted in many developed countries and in some transition and developing countries. However, legally binding regulatory controls are still lacking in two thirds of the countries of the world.

The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint is hosted by the United Nations Environment Program and the World Health Organization, and its Advisory Council Chaired by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The Council also includes government, industry and civil society stakeholders. The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint works towards the goal of having such laws or regulations in place in all the countries by 2020, by developing regulatory guidance for governments and raising awareness through an annual International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action (end October).

In May 2017, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) reviewed and approved the Project Information Form (PIF) for the Full-Sized Project *Global best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)*. The overall Project Objective is to accelerate and measure adoption of national activities to control Emerging Policy Issues to achieve the 2020 implementation of SAICM goal and support early planning for chemical management in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Project Component 1 focuses on Promoting regulatory and voluntary action by government to phase out lead in paint. The intended component outcome is that 40 countries restrict the use of lead in paint.

To further develop the strategies to reach the outcome and outputs laid out the Project Information Form and facilitate finalization of activities and plans for the full project document, this workshop was conducted.

Participants

The Project will be executed in close collaboration with the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint. Also, the National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs) will play a key role in

implementing Pilot Studies with Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to develop replicable strategies for SMEs to replace leaded paint ingredients with safe alternatives.

Therefore, invitations to participate in the workshop was sent out the stakeholders represented in the Advisory Council of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint. In addition, a targeted outreach was made to National Cleaner Production Centers in all UN Regions. The full [participant list](#) included governments, industry and civil society.

Substance of the workshop

a) Goals of workshop

The goal of the workshop was to facilitate all necessary input to ensure the successful preparation of detailed strategies and activities to achieve the outcome and outputs of Component 1 of the project *Global best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)*.

To reach this goal, the workshop was designed to fully utilize the experiences and lessons learned from the participating stakeholders and jointly provide input on the design, modalities and execution of the project.

The goal and expected outcomes of the project preparation workshop were to:

- Advance stakeholder cooperation and develop strategies to support implementation of the GEF SAICM project on lead in paint
- Exchange baseline information on the current status of lead paint elimination today, including stakeholder experiences and available tools such as the Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint
- Develop a tentative list of focus countries for achieving the project outcome of new lead paint laws in 40 countries
- Develop a tentative list of countries and NCPCs for implementing the SME pilot projects
- Provide input to the final project workplan, logframe, and budget.

b) Workshop approach

Since many of the participating stakeholders had extensive experience in strategies and activities relevant to achieve the goal and expected outputs of the workshop, an approach was selected that would encourage open dialogue based on previous experiences and lessons learned. The approach was built on presentations of earlier experiences and lessons learned, followed by questions and discussion around what strategies and activities would be most useful to build upon for the upcoming project.

Also, for the participants that had not worked specifically on the issue of lead paint elimination and/or the plans for the upcoming project but contributed with other types of experiences, the workshop approach included an initial set of sessions intended to bring everyone up to speed.

This approach allowed for both a discussion on the project baseline and on the strategies and proposed activities under the project. The agenda was developed to provide much room for discussions and questions.

c) Workshop sessions and content

Because of the diverse backgrounds of the participants, the workshop [agenda](#) was designed to start out broad with providing background information about the hazard of lead paint and the global effort to eliminate lead paint to ensure that the dialogue during the workshop was based on a common understanding of the current situation. The following sessions were aimed at discussing the specific outputs of the project, with a concluding session providing opportunity to discuss the activities and other relevant input to the project in more detail.

Day 1

Session 1: Background and Project Overview

The workshop was officially opened and participants welcomed by Mr Jacob Duer, Ms Jacqueline Alvarez and Ms. Desiree Montecillo Narvaez from the Chemicals and Health Branch at the United Nations Environment Program. They explained the background of the workshop, its objectives and expected outcomes (as described above). Also, Ms Brenda Koekkoek the SAICM Secretariat gave an overview of the upcoming project and the lead paint component to put the workshop into perspective.

Ms. Joanna Tempowski from the World Health Organization gave an overview of the problem with lead paint, emphasizing that there are no safe levels of lead, that cost-effective alternatives to lead in paint is widely available and the significant burden of disease from lead exposure.

Ms. Walker B. Smith from the United States Environmental Protection Agency presented the approach to eliminate lead paint globally by establishing lead paint laws, emphasizing the staggering costs of lead exposure to individuals as well as the society as a whole, that a majority of countries today do not have lead paint laws, and gave an overview of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint.

Ms. Desiree Montecillo Narvaez then delved further into the details about Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead Paint, showing that only 67 of 126 countries have legally binding limits on lead paint today and highlighting that Africa and West Asia have the lowest percentage of countries with legal limits. She also gave an overview of the project component, explaining its expected outcome and three expected outputs aimed towards legal limits being adopted (or strengthened) in 40 additional countries as well as model strategies and technical guidelines being developed to support SMEs removing lead from their paint production.

Ms. Eloise Touni from the GEF team at the United Nations Environment Program followed up with an overview of the project design process, including explaining about the logframe, workplan, budget (including co-finance requirements) and execution modalities. She also provided an overview of the Theory of Change that would lead to countries adopting legal limits on lead in paint.

Session 2: Project Output 1.1 and 1.2 (Pilot demonstration projects and Best Available Technology (BAT)/Best Environmental Practice (BEP))

This session focused in more detail on previous experiences and lessons learned in relation to project Output 1.1: Demonstration pilots with paint manufacturers in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and 1.2: Global Technical guidelines on BAT/BEP for manufacturers. Key questions addressed throughout the session were what drives manufacturers? How are governments involved? What is the role of civil society? What issues must paint manufacturers take into consideration when reformulating their paint, what are the challenges and what are the drivers for success?

Ms. Sara Brosché from IPEN started with giving an overview of IPEN's strategies reaching out to and working with paint manufacturers in countries in Africa and Asia to facilitate their shift to lead-free paint production. She highlighted that obstacles for SMEs to change their production primarily includes access to raw materials in smaller amounts to an affordable prize as well as advice on how to conduct the reformulation itself, and some facilitation strategies successfully utilized by IPEN to help overcome these obstacles. Also, the background documents developed for the workshop about the current status of Best Practices for replacing leaded paint ingredients with safer alternatives and current available technical guidelines were presented.

Mr. Johnson Onking from Pacific (Boysen) Paint, Philippines, presented their work with completely eliminating lead from their paint production, their participation in the Lead Safe Paint Certification Program and the role of the Philippine Association of Paint manufacturers in promoting a national ban on lead in paint in the Philippines, which came into force in 2016. He explained the successful strategy in the Philippines, where all stakeholders worked together towards the common goal of eliminating lead paint. The process was initiated by the NGO EcoWaste Coalition who provided information about the hazard of lead paint and data on lead content of paint on the market. The paint manufacturers through the Philippines Association of Paint Manufacturers (PAPM) responded very positively to this information and understood that continued use of lead in paint would damage the reputation of the whole industry. He specially emphasized the support from the PAPM for legally binding limits on lead in paint since they wanted to create a level playing field for all manufacturers in the country. He also emphasized the positive response and constructive approach by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) when the Ecowaste Coalition with the support of PAPM petitioned the to develop regulation on lead in paint. Thanks to the support of all these key stakeholder groups, lead levels in paint decreased drastically between 2013-2017 in the Philippines.

This was followed by a series of presentations given by representatives from the National Cleaner Production Centers (NCPCs):

Mr. Branko Dunjic, NCPC of Serbia

Mr. Husam Alkiliary, NCPC of Jordan

Ms. Marice Salvador Alejos, Peru NCPC

Ms. Zixiu Li, China NCPC

Mr. Juan Gregorio Correa, Colombia NCPC

Each of the presenters provided an overview of their NCPC and their work on chemicals issues, previous experiences working with the national industry (especially SMEs), and experiences with lead paint.

The final session of the day was a group discussion focused on next steps and providing relevant input to the development of this part of the project. The roles of the stakeholders, i.e. NCPC, Manufactures, Government, Civil Society, were discussed, the activities relation to the overall outcome of enacted laws and the potential execution modalities.

Highlights and Outcomes from day 1 included:

- The project should be a global and strategic project, i.e. it should function beyond 40 individual countries and include regional approaches that can be scaled up to reach several countries.
- The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint provides a good model for achieving the intended results of the project since it includes all stakeholders working together, each utilizing its strength and capacity.
- Lack of awareness is a major reason why lead paint is still being manufactured and sold in so many countries, and this project will contribute to spread awareness and help rectify the current situation.
- Paint manufacturers and their associations are typically very supportive of lead paint laws, since that provides them with a level playing field and no one loses by starting the process of eliminating lead from their paint production.
- A draft list of potential NCPCs and countries for conducting the pilot studies was developed.

Day 2

The second day of the workshop was designed to provide input on how to reach the overall Project Outcome of 40 countries restricting the use of lead in paint. The session approach was to:

- a) discuss previous experiences, including lessons learned and the effectiveness of these activities,
- b) to create an understanding on how the activities will lead to the intended project outcome (theory of change), and;
- c) based on this agree on a project strategy.

The first presentation of the day was from Ms. Angela Bandemehr that presented the new [Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint](#) available to governments and stakeholders, emphasizing its suggested total limit of 90 parts per million in all countries for all paint and how this model can help governments enact effective, enforceable legal limits on lead in paint. Also, experiences from earlier regional workshops aimed at providing support to countries to develop and enact lead paint laws was highlighted.

Ms. Sara Brosche presented a brief overview of IPEN's previous experiences in working on the ground with broad national stakeholder alliances to eliminate lead paint, the need for data on lead in paint in a country to enable movement on the issue and the important support from industry and civil society to enable governments to move forward towards adopting lead paint laws.

Mr. Jay Monteverde from the American Bar Association Rule Of Law Initiative (ABA-ROLI) followed up with providing an overview of their work internationally to support campaigns on the ground with legal advice and highlighting strategies that they have seen being useful. Also, the presentation included the role of ROLI in the project and how their expertise will be useful to help governments draft legislation using the Model Law into their national legal systems.

The International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action was presented by Ms. Joanna Tempowski, providing an overview of its background, how the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint has supported partners to conduct activities and outcomes from previous years. She emphasized that participation has been high and that 106 events were conducted in 47 countries in 2016. Also, ways to evaluate effectiveness of activities such as before-and-after questionnaires were discussed.

Much of the day was devoted to group discussions facilitated by the Global Environment Facility team at the United Nations Environment Program in order to ensure that all necessary input to the full project document development was accomplished. These discussions included questions such as what strategies and approaches have been effective to facilitate enactment of lead paint laws? what are the obstacles in a country? What support is needed?

Highlights and Outcome from day 2 included:

- The experience from workshop participants was that there is a need for consistent, ongoing activities in a country to reach a result. The drivers of change can be different between countries (governments, civil society, paint associations etc.) and countries probably need different levels of activities and focus.
- The existing country paint studies provides a good baseline for the project. It was noted that in some countries it can be possible to reach the goal of a law without an country paint study (e.g. if there is no paint production in the country or if paint studies have been done in nearby countries that makes the country acknowledge the problem without a country-specific study)
- The Model Law is to be understood as guidance and can be used by many various actors on the ground. It should be understood as a generic model for any legally binding regulation.
- The International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW) of Action was highlighted as an important tool to support the project goals. Awareness raising should not be limited to the ILPPW but should be a sustained activity on a regular basis in countries.
- As the target is set to 40 countries with new laws, the workshop participants identified the need to include 60-70 countries in the project.

- A first list of target countries was developed, understanding that the project budget would not include activities in 40 countries. Instead, a prioritization of countries needs to be done based on likelihood of success.
- Partners were informed on co-finance requirements and next steps forward.

Workshop outcomes

The workshop successfully fulfilled its attended outcomes as follows:

Goal	Outcome
Advance stakeholder co-operation and develop strategies to support implementation of the GEF SAICM project on lead in paint	Achieved. Project stakeholders had a chance throughout the workshop to share, discuss and develop strategies for a successful project implementation. The discussions will serve as input for the project design.
Exchange baseline information on the current status of lead paint elimination today, including stakeholder experiences and available tools such as the Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint	Achieved. Baseline information was shared from a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, civil society and industry (see link to presentations at the top of this document).
Develop a tentative list of focus countries for achieving the project outcome of new lead paint laws in 40 countries	Achieved. A tentative list of focus countries was developed with the understanding that the project will need to include up to 70 countries to be able to achieve the project goals
Develop a tentative list of countries for implementing the SME pilot projects	Achieved. A tentative list of countries for pilot projects and potential partners was developed, based on the input of the workshop participants.
Provide input to the final project workplan, logframe, and budget.	Achieved. The project concept team presented the steps forward and the requirements relating to time frames, co-funding, and GEF requirements.