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World Health Organization

Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

Eliminating lead paint matters! | February 2023



Introduction

The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint is pleased to present its February newsletter. This newsletter provides information to support you in efforts to eliminate lead paint.

Read below for information and updates about the [Lead in Paint Community of Practice \(LiP CoP\)](#), Recent Events including webinars and workshops; New Tools; Progress Toward Laws; What You Can Do; and Lead Paint In the News.

With the newsletter, we also welcome our newest partners – Vital Strategies and NCPC Jordan – as partners to the Alliance. [Learn more and become a partner!](#)

We hope you will use these materials to plan effective programs to work towards eliminating lead paint in your country.



Recent Events



International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW) takes place every year during the third week of October. The year 2022 marked 10 years of action to eliminate lead paint, with 116 events organised by 103 organizations in 57 countries, compared to 57 events in 40 countries in 2013.

The 2022 theme, Say no to lead poisoning, recognized the urgent action needed to eliminate all sources of lead exposure. Governments, civil society organizations, health partners and others were encouraged to organize campaigns during ILPPW.

Engagement was supported through a [range of advocacy and technical materials, available in six UN languages.](#)

WHO has reached out to event organizers with a short survey to collect information and opinion about the 2022 ILPPW campaign in order to optimize upcoming campaigns and the support provided for event organizers. If you received the survey, please respond! A summary of results will be shared in the next newsletter.

In October 2022, a webinar for International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 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 the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Health Organization (WHO) and the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Conventions Secretariat.

In November 2022, a LiP CoP discussion was held on the topic of [Compliance with Lead Paint Laws](#). Presenters included Steve Wolfson of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Dr. Faridah Hussein Were, University of Nairobi; Joel Maleon from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines; and Isabel Artagaveytia from the Ministry of Environment of Uruguay. Presentations and a summary of the discussion are available in English and French at the link above. [Watch the video](#) with English subtitles.

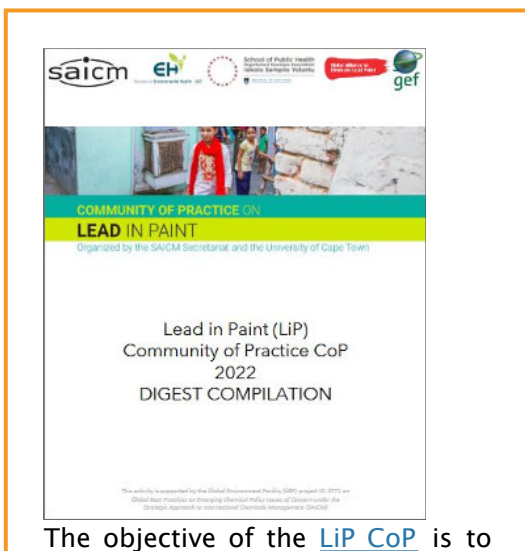
In response to a May 2022 G7 Environment Ministers' communiqué stating a

strong commitment to reduce lead in the environment and to reduce the disproportionate lead exposure in vulnerable communities, a G7 Workshop on Lead as a major threat for human health and the environment – an integrated approach strengthening cooperation toward solutions was held on 9–10 November 2022 in Berlin and online. The workshop recognized lead paint as a success story in addressing lead exposure to be continued and replicated. [A report to G7 Ministers on key workshop outcomes](#) with possible options for future work by G7 members was developed. The Center for Global Development published their report on the [Opportunities for G7 to address the global crisis of lead poisoning](#), which was used as input to the G7 lead pollution workshop. CGD also provides key highlights from the report in a blog entitled [Four things G7 should know about global the global lead poisoning crisis](#).

The Global Alliance on Health and Pollution’s Global Lead Forum entitled: [Strengthening Global Cooperation Towards Addressing Lead Exposures: Where Next?](#) took place in December 2022. The Global Lead Forum is an open, global platform for knowledge-sharing and exchange by a wide variety of actors working on lead exposure, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. A panel featuring WHO, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the German Ministry of Environment and the European Commission noted the importance of learning from successful voluntary public-private partnership models for addressing lead sources, such as the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint.

In January 2023, the second in-person meeting of the multistakeholder Working Group on Understanding and Mitigating the Global Burden of Lead Poisoning, convened by the Center for Global Development (CGD), brought together representatives from WHO, the Asian Development Bank, UNICEF, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the United States government, and Pure Earth. The Working Group objectives are to increase awareness and galvanize action to address lead poisoning. CGD plans to develop Working Group products to promote international action, including on lead paint.

New Tools



support all practitioners working to eliminate lead paint. In 2022, the LiP CoP successfully hosted four online discussions on Lead Paint Testing: Case Studies of Impact, transitioning to paints without added lead, 10th International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, and Compliance with Lead Paint Laws. Collectively, these discussions saw participation from 351 members from Africa, Asia Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin American and the Caribbean, and Western Europe. Participants represented various stakeholder groups including academia, intergovernmental organisations, non-governmental organisations, governments, and private sectors. A new [digest compilation](#) with an overview of activities in 2022 is available.

status of lead paint laws in countries. It can be used to find out what regulatory controls apply in neighbouring countries or important trading partners. To maintain the map and database, WHO conducts a regular survey to inquire about the status of legally binding control measures on lead in paint and to document any steps taken towards the adoption of such limits.



Progress Towards Laws

New Laws in 2022

JAMAICA

In Jamaica, the new [standard on lead in paint](#) enters into force as of July 31, 2023. The Bureau of Standards Jamaica (BSJ) promulgated the *Jamaican Standard Specification for the Limit of Lead Content in Paints* (JS 358:2022) in June 2022. The standard sets a mandatory 90 ppm total lead limit in paints and varnishes. The enforcement of the standard will be led by the National Compliance and Regulatory Authority (NCRA), an agency arm of BSJ.

JORDAN

In Jordan, five new Jordanian Standards for decorative paints were revised in first quarter of 2022 to align with Ministry of Health decree (with a 90 ppm limit).

MADAGASCAR

Madagascar enacted a new standard limiting lead in paint.

The statuses of **MALAWI, SAUDI ARABIA** and the **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** were updated in the [Global Health Observatory](#) to reflect existing laws.

Additional New Progress

ECOWAS

ECOWAS conducted a meeting 25-26 October 2022 to review the technical regulation to implement the ECOWAS lead paint standard, which would make the standard mandatory.

EGYPT

The Alliance provided comments on a ministerial decree regarding lead in paint which sets a limit of 5000 ppm.

GHANA

The Alliance reviewed a draft standard for lead in paint which sets a 90 ppm limit for lead in paint, and is due to be adopted shortly.

NIGERIA

In January 2023, the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) shared that the Hazardous Chemicals Regulation has been approved by the Ministry of Justice. It is now in the process of publication in the official gazette.

PANAMA

In November 2022, a national stakeholder meeting took place with UNEP support. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of the Alliance provided comments on a draft decree to update the existing regulation by lowering the limit to 90 ppm and improving enforcement mechanisms.

SIERRA LEONE

A stakeholder meeting was held in November 2022 to present a paint study conducted with LEEP and planning for finalization of the lead paint regulation.

TUNISIA

In December 2022, the grace period given by the Ministry of Environment (MoE) to the Chamber of Paint Industry to submit its inputs regarding the economic impacts of the draft lead paint law has passed. The MoE will be coordinating with the Ministry of Health (MoH) to work on the official announcement of the law, after which will be published in the official gazette.

ZAMBIA

A stakeholder workshop was held in December 2022 to develop a draft law to reduce lead in paint and make their existing 90 ppm lead paint standard mandatory.

What Can You Do?

Join us in implementing this year's Priority Action Areas as reflected in the [Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint: business plan \(Addendum\)](#) .:

- a. Encourage and support governments in countries where legal limits are not currently in place to establish laws, and encourage all countries to enforce and strengthen national legal limits to restrict lead in paints, to achieve the eventual phase-out of the manufacture, import and sale of paints containing lead.
- b. Encourage industry activities to voluntarily stop the manufacture, import and sale of lead paints.
- c. Increase awareness of the need to prevent and address the health and environmental risks posed by lead paint, including but not limited to helping to prompt actions by governments and manufacturers to stop the production, import and sale of lead paints.
- d. Engage with and encourage Alliance partners to fully realize the goals and objectives of the Alliance.



In the News: Lead Paint

Global calls to action on lead paint

Creating a Strong Policy Framework for Sound Chemicals Management

<https://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/policy-briefs/creating-a-strong-policy-framework-for-sound-chemicals-management/>

SDG Knowledge Hub, 15 February 2023

Protecting Children Around the World from the Dangers of Lead Paint

<https://www.epa.gov/perspectives/protecting-children-around-world-dangers-lead-paint>

US EPA Perspectives, 27 October 2022

Inside the push to eliminate lead from paint

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/inside-push-eliminate-lead-paint>

United Nations Environment Programme, 25 October 2022

Global health groups say: "Our kids can't wait, end lead paint now!"

<https://bit.ly/3WyogJR>

IPEN Press Release, 20 October 2022

Regional action to address lead paint

AFRICA

UN experts intervene in toxic legacy class action against lead pollution (South Africa)

<https://bit.ly/3ws2sVC>

UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner Media Centre, 19 January 2023

Africa must act against harmful paints in the market (Africa)

<https://newstrends.co.ke/africa-must-act-against-harmful-paints-in-the-market/>

NewsTrends, 1 November 2022

Paint manufacturers to explore new market routes despite challenges (Nigeria)

<https://bit.ly/3HsLAnT>

The Guardian Nigeria, 26 October 2022

ASIA

40pc of oil-based paints contain dangerous lead levels, study reveals (Pakistan)

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1737223/40pc-of-oil-based-paints-contain-dangerous-lead-levels-study-reveals>

DAWN, 22 February 2023

EcoWaste Coalition Finds Another Spray Paint Product Laden with Toxic Lead (Philippines)

<https://journal.com.ph/ecowaste-coalition-finds-another-spray-paint-product-laden-with-toxic-lead/>

Journal Online, 26 January 2023

会议 | “中国涂料绿色行动——含铅涂料调研成果发布会”在京召开 (Translation: Conference: China Coatings Green Action—Press conference on research results of lead-containing paints was held in Beijing) (China)

<https://www.chinacoatingnet.com/plus/view.php?aid=9761>

chinacoatingnet.com, 4 November 2022

Act urgently to ensure all paint lead-free, CAP tells govt (Malaysia)

<https://bit.ly/3XBR31m>

TheVibes.com, 2 November 2022

Environmental health groups pitch for third-party Lead Safe Paint® certification (Philippines)

<https://bit.ly/3JhzyiR>

Daily Guardian, 28 October 2022

Video: Bảo vệ trẻ em khỏi nhiễm độc chì (Vietnam) (Translation: Protecting children from lead poisoning)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68jTQVhr3wk>

VTVCab7, 28 October 2022

EcoWaste Coalition Says: Protect Children's Health, Uphold Lead Paint Ban (Philippines)

<https://journal.com.ph/ecowaste-coalition-says-protect-childrens-health-uphold-lead-paint-ban/>

Information and Action to Address Health Effects of Lead Exposure

Upcoming Webinar: [Sound Management of Lead–Acid Batteries](#) hosted by the Thematic Working Group on Chemical Waste and Health on 13 March 2023 at 1:00pm (UTC+7).

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErce6hrzovH9DoMK7yhBW-k486PzQeksS3>
Ministry of the Environment, Japan and Ministry of Health, Thailand, 22 February 2023

The 'gift of God' that has poisoned American kids for 100 years [video]

https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2023/jan/12/the-gift-of-god-that-has-poisoned-american-kids-for-100-years?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1

The Guardian, 12 January 2023

The lead industry's continuing influence and its consequences

<https://undark.org/2023/01/12/the-lead-industrys-continuing-influence-and-its-consequences/>

Undark, 12 January 2023

Webinar Highlights Continued Dangers of Lead Exposure

<https://sdg.iisd.org/news/webinar-highlights-continued-dangers-of-lead-exposure/>

IISD, 9 November 2022

Preventing an invisible killer

<https://ceylontoday.lk/2022/11/05/preventing-an-invisible-killer/>

Ceylon Today, 5 November 2022

30 years of data: Lead and other environmental toxins linked to CVD deaths in US, United Kingdom

<https://bit.ly/3Jhz9gl>

American Heart Association Newsroom, 31 October 2022

Research: 80% of Dhaka children have lead in their blood

<https://bit.ly/3DcgjDb>

Dhaka Tribune, 26 October 2022

Lead poisoning still a global issue

<https://www.hippocraticpost.com/global-reach/lead-poisoning-still-a-global-issue/>

The Hippocratic Post, 25 October 2022

Almost 1 million people die every year due to lead poisoning, with more children suffering long-term health effects

<https://bit.ly/3H8oXnH>

World Health Organization Departmental News, 23 October 2022

Lead and children: No amount of lead is safe

<https://www.cuimc.columbia.edu/news/lead-poison-and-children-no-amount-lead-safe>

Columbia University Irving Medical Center, 6 October 2022

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lead-cadmium.chemicals@unep.org and/or noleadpaint@who.int

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Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint
International Environment House
(MIE 1) Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

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