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World Health
Organization

Global Alliance to
Eliminate Lead Paint

Eliminating lead paint matters! | September 2020



Introduction

The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint is pleased to present our September newsletter, highlighting the eighth International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW or “Week of Action”), which will take place on 25–31 October 2020. This newsletter provides information about tools and materials available for the Week of Action, as well as examples of successes from the 2019 campaign. A newly-designed campaign website for the [International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week](#) is also available. Below you will also find news about Upcoming Events, Progress Toward Laws, and Lead Paint in the News. We hope you will use these materials to plan effective programs to work towards eliminating lead paint in your country!

To support you in this, the Alliance is proud to offer several new documents on the topic of lead paint recently developed by the World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), including a new [Guidance on advocacy and awareness-raising](#), a [Policy Brief](#) and [Technical Brief](#) on Global elimination of lead paint: why and how countries should take action, and the updated [WHO Brief guide to analytical methods for measuring lead in paint](#). These materials were funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) project lead paint component. Find more documents available in the “New Publications Available” section below.

Considering the COVID pandemic situation, we realize that awareness-raising activities may be more challenging this fall. Perhaps your community will benefit from virtual activities, email newsletters, social media and other media promotion. We encourage you to be creative and safe in your efforts to advance the work to eliminate lead paint.

Wishing you all success in your campaign activities this October!

Upcoming Events

The [International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week](#) is fast approaching. If you plan an event for the Week of Action using the [campaign materials](#), don't forget to [register](#)! A social media toolkit will also soon be available on the campaign website. You can also find what others are doing on the [List of Registered Events](#).

As part of the SAICM GEF project, the newly launched Lead in Paint Community of Practice (LiP CoP) aims to support all practitioners working to eliminate lead paint. The CoP's sessions are helping to share knowledge, latest research and developments, learn what representatives from different sectors are doing to phase out lead in paint and provide access to expertise on various topics related to lead in paint.



The LiP CoP held its first two discussions in July and August, focusing on “Steps toward adoption of national lead paint laws” ([summary digest](#)) and “Setting low limits for lead in paint” ([summary digest](#)). Representatives from academia, governments, industry, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, consumers, and citizens have participated in the discussions.

All are invited to join the LiP CoP and participate in the next discussion, “Awareness-raising for lead in paint elimination,” from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm CET on September 23. [Learn more about the LiP CoP and join here.](#)

In addition, the Alliance will host a Global Webinar for Policymakers on October 5, 15:00–17:00 (GMT+2). The webinar will feature presentations on topics most relevant to policymakers, such as understanding the harms of lead paint exposure, developing regulations based on the Model Law, and working with industry on testing and reformulation efforts. Presenters will include the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization, the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the World Coatings Council. The webinar will be held in English. If you are interested in participating, please register [using this registration link](#).

New Publications Available

- WHO [Policy Brief](#) and [Technical Brief](#) on global elimination of lead paint: why and how countries should take action
- WHO [Brief guide to analytical methods for measuring lead in paint](#),

second edition

- WHO [Brief guide to analytical methods for measuring lead in blood](#), second edition
- WHO-UNEP [Guidance on organizing an advocacy or awareness-raising campaign on lead paint](#)
- [Additional related resources](#) about the issue, policy background, the campaign and available publications to accelerate lead paint elimination

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



- Learn how to organize and use new strategies for your own awareness-raising campaign. The new [Guidance on advocacy and awareness-raising for organizing a targeted campaign on lead paint](#) is available for download from the WHO website. This provides information and tools to support awareness-raising and advocacy activities, including how to plan and organize a campaign, key messages and a catalogue of available materials (with links) that you can use for your advocacy and/or awareness-raising activities.

- Plan your own event with customizable materials. As in previous years, the Lead Paint Alliance has developed a package of [customizable materials](#) to support partners planning ILPPW activities, including infographics, flyers, posters, graphics, web banners and video for social media. Planning an event? Please [register here](#). Interested in joint actions? Please visit the [List of Registered Events](#) to see what others are doing.

Success Stories



As you explore opportunities to raise awareness during this year's ILPPW, consider these examples of successful outreach. You can also learn more about previous activities in the [WHO's report of the ILPPW 2019](#) and the [IPEN's report of the ILPPW 2019](#).

- **GEORGIA:** The L Sakvarelidze National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health organized a range of activities dedicated to ILPPW2019. A scientific conference was organized, with the support of UNICEF and WHO, to discuss a multisectoral action plan to reduce harmful exposure to lead in children, including action to eliminate lead paint. A lecture was delivered to students at the Tbilisi State Medical University about the role of medical students in informing the population about the harmful effects of lead-containing paints. Informational brochures were distributed to the participants, including ILPPW campaign materials translated into Georgian. Other informational meetings were organized, and a video animation made.
 - **MEXICO:** Casa Cem (a Mexican NGO) published a [study](#) on the lead content of playground equipment in the cities of Zapopan and Guadalajara, Mexico. The study showed that 25 percent of sampled playground equipment contained lead levels above 100,000 ppm. The group presented the results of the study in a short documentary broadcast live via online streaming.
 - **JORDAN:** The WHO Centre for Environmental Health Action, in collaboration with the Jordanian Ministry of Health and Jordan Environment Society, held a number of activities to raise awareness about the health
 - **RUSSIA:** Eco-Accord (a Russian NGO) organized a multi-stakeholder round table to present scientific data on the dangerous impact of lead in paint on health, discuss loopholes in current legislation and the views from different groups to improve it, and enhance cooperation by all sectors to solve the problem effectively
 - **SOUTH AFRICA:** The South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) reiterated its support for the global ban on lead in paint in the build-up to ILPPW. The SAMRC commended the National Department of Health on its efforts, currently underway, to strengthen South Africa's lead paint regulations, and encouraged all stakeholders involved to take all possible measures to ensure full compliance.
 - **VIETNAM:** The Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (CGFED- a Vietnamese NGO) developed, printed and distributed copies of a policy brief describing the current status of lead paint in Vietnam and the effects of lead exposure on public health, especially on children, and disseminated related news articles through the social media. CGFED also used the opportunity to announce the [results of a small-scale study](#) showing the presence of lead in paint used in a preparatory school and a child's home in Hai Hau district in Nam Dinh province.
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effects of exposure to lead and the need to eliminate lead in paint. A national workshop was attended by around 30 delegates from different sectors and ministries. As a part of these campaigns, some school facilities were painted with non-lead paint.

Progress Towards Laws

Momentum toward lead paint laws continues. We are proud to share these updates:

- Colombia: A Bill (Law 2041) regulating various aspects of lead contaminants, including lead in paint, was passed by Congress. A transitory limit of 90 ppm is set up. A detailed lead paint technical regulation is now being developed as part of the SAICM GEF project lead in paint component.
- Pakistan has shared the details of its mandatory standard on lead paint, with a 100 ppm limit, which went into force in 2017.
- Ghana has added lead paint to a Chemical Weapons draft law. The Lead Paint Alliance provided comments on the draft.
- In Honduras, the Ministry of the Environment has held a virtual consultation meeting with relevant government ministries and stakeholders on regulation of lead in paint, which included presentations on the impacts of lead, the Lead Paint Alliance, the SAICM GEF Project, and the Model Law. A roadmap will be developed.
- Vietnam has published its draft National Technical Standard About Lead Limitation in Paint for public comment. The Lead Paint Alliance will provide comments on the draft in September.

Lead Paint in the News

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

- New Philippines [study](https://asiapacificcoatingsjournal.com/news/new-philippines-study-reveals-dangerous-levels-of-lead-in-spray-paints-being-sold-in-retail-outlets) reveals dangerous levels of lead in spray paints being sold in retail outlets: <https://asiapacificcoatingsjournal.com/news/new-philippines-study-reveals-dangerous-levels-of-lead-in-spray-paints-being-sold-in-retail-outlets>
- Hasbro recalls Super Soaker for lead paint: https://www.oleantimesherald.com/news/allegany_county/hasbro-recalls-super-soaker-for-lead-paint/article_075b5691-da64-5bf1-8ad8-7cd264a39d27.html
- 'Ticking time bomb': Toxic lead paint found in 900 NYC

classrooms:<https://nypost.com/2020/08/13/toxic-lead-paint-found-in-900-nyc-classrooms/>

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