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World Health
Organization

Global Alliance to
Eliminate Lead Paint

Eliminating lead paint matters | OCTOBER 2019



Introduction

The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint is pleased to present our October newsletter, highlighting International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW), which will take place on 20–26 October 2019. This newsletter provides information about tools and materials available for the Week, as well as examples of successes from the 2018 campaign. 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 a revised 2019 version of the Update on the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint and a new fact sheet, “Suggested Steps for Establishing a Lead Paint Law.” A revised [2019 version of the Resource Package](#) for International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is also available. Below you will also find Progress Toward Laws, and Lead Paint in the News.

Wishing you all an October without added lead!



What Can You Do? Organize events for the Week!

- **Plan your own event with customizable materials:** Every year UN Environment and the World Health Organization create customizable materials to support partners planning ILPPW events, including a campaign resource package, flyers, posters, and graphics. [Find these materials \(and others\) online.](#)
- **Promote ILPPW communications and outreach:** Share key messages via social media and other media channels about the health effects of lead exposure and actions that governments, academia, industry and civil society can take to ban lead paint. [View key messages in the social media toolkit.](#)
- **Share tools to help pass laws:** The Alliance has developed materials to raise awareness and help governments pass laws to ban lead paint, including the [Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint](#), the [2019 Update on the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint](#), and [Suggested Steps for Establishing a Lead Paint Law.](#)

Success Stories

As you consider opportunities to raise awareness during this year's ILPPW, consider these examples of successful outreach from 2018:

- In **The Gambia**, Young Volunteers for the Environment (in collaboration with IPEN) presented the [Lead in Solvent-Based Paints for Home Use in The Gambia](#) study to policymakers and legislators to help increase awareness as

the National Environment Agency develops lead paint regulations.

- In **Togo**, the Les Amis de la Terre–Togo (ADT–Togo) gathered 50 participants from government, industry, civil society, and academia for a conference–style debate to advocate for lead paint regulations, followed by a press conference. Participants signed a commitment to eliminate lead paint in Togo by 2020.
- In **Colombia**, Colnodo/Red de Desarrollo Sostenible organized an event at a school in Guarne, promoting the creation of spaces without added lead, where children can safely study and play. More than 100 volunteers decorated a school with paint without added lead.

Progress Toward Laws: Recent Regional Workshops to Initiate Country Action

- In August, 11 countries participated in the [Asia Pacific Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand](#).
- In September, 5 countries participated in the sub–regional [workshop for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia in Tblisi, Georgia](#).
- 17–18 October, small–medium paint manufacturers will participate in the launching workshop to take place in Beijing, **China**.

Bangladesh is the 73rd country with a lead paint law. They have set a lead paint limit of 90 ppm in decorative paints.

Lead paint in the news

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) covered two recent lead paint workshops in their Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Knowledge Management Hub. Articles with full details of the programs are available below.

- [CEE and Central Asia Regional Meeting Supports Governments to Phase Out Lead in Paint](#) (March 2019)
- [Workshop Helps SMEs in Jordan to Phase Out Lead in Paint Production Processes](#) (April 2019)

A Jordanian newspaper, the Jordan Times, also featured a short article, "[Scientific society launches project to phase out lead in paint](#)", about Jordan's efforts and the paint reformulation launching workshop in Amman.

In addition, Dr. Faridah Were and her work with the Kenyan Centre for Environmental Justice and Development were highlighted in the newsletter "[Focus on Powder Coatings](#)" an international newsletter monitoring technical and commercial development in powder coatings, following her presentation at the 2019 East Africa Coatings Congress in Nairobi. The author writes:

During the discussions... a delegate wondered if suitable non-lead pigments were available for paint formulators to replace lead-based types. I chimed in as a long time powder coating formulator with a resounding "yes". Powder formulators got

the lead out of their products long before local regulators enforced laws banning lead in coatings. When asked what the cost to make the change would be – “trivial when compared to the health and well-being of Kenya’s next generations of children and the general population.”

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