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World Health Organization

Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

Eliminating lead paint matters! | October 2022



Introduction

The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint is pleased to present its October newsletter, highlighting the ten-year anniversary of the [International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week](#) (ILPPW or “Week of Action”), which will take place this year from 23–29 October 2022. This newsletter provides information about tools and materials available for the Week of Action, as well as examples of successes from the 2021 Week of Action. An [updated campaign website](#) for the 2022 Week of Action is also available. (See below for details!)



BAN LEAD PAINT

Just in time for the campaign, we are also pleased to share that the 2021 [Update on the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint](#) is now available! The report is a snapshot of 2021 work, including a global and regional view of efforts undertaken, laws reviewed, and trends of progress toward laws.

We encourage you to be creative in your efforts to advance the work to eliminate lead paint during the Week of Action. The campaign includes materials that can be used for virtual activities, email newsletters, social media and other media promotion – as well as in-person activities when appropriate. Below you will also find Recent and Upcoming Events, 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!

Wishing you all success in your campaign activities this October!

What Can You Do?

Participate in the Week of Action!

International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW) takes place every year during the last week of October. 2022 will mark 10 years of action to eliminate lead paint. Governments, civil society organizations, industry, health partners and others are encouraged to organize campaigns during ILPPW.



The aim of the Week of Action is to raise awareness about health effects of lead exposure; highlight the efforts of countries and partners to prevent lead exposure, particularly in children; and urge further action to eliminate lead paint through regulatory action at the country level. The focus of this year's week, "Say no to lead poisoning," recognizes the additional urgency of action needed to identify and eliminate all

sources of lead exposure.

The [comprehensive Campaign website](#) is now live. If you haven't yet, please register your event on the [Registration web page](#) so your event can be seen and your efforts shared with others! You can see the events taking place in your area in the [List of registered events](#). Join the conversation online using the hashtags [#ILPPW2022](#) [#BanLeadPaint](#) [#leadpoisoning](#)

As in previous years, a wide range of [materials are available](#) including customizable, multilingual materials for use in campaigns. The ILPPW website includes the following graphics:

- [Campaign poster](#) (6 UN languages, with space to add your own logo)
- [Customisable poster](#) (for all languages)
- [10-year anniversary graphic](#) (6 UN languages)
- [Ban Lead Paint graphic](#) (6 UN languages)
- [Flyer](#) (square, in 6 UN languages, with space to add your logo or event)
- [Web banner](#) (horizontal, in 6 UN languages)
- [Social media card](#) (rectangle, in 6 UN languages)

The following additional materials will be available soon on the campaign website. To receive updates as materials are launched, please send an email to noleadpoisoning@who.int.

- [Social Media Toolkit](#), including targeted messages about lead paint elimination and graphics for social media use on the campaign's key messages.
- [Four things you should know about lead](#) - updated video animation for

social media use.

- New [factsheets on lead](#) being developed by UNEP

Tools for Campaign Organizing

The following policy and planning materials may also be helpful as you plan events for ILPPW this year.

Information about Lead Paint

[Guidance on organizing an advocacy or awareness-raising campaign on lead paint](#)

[WHO Global Health Observatory: Legally-binding controls on lead paint](#) – An interactive map and database on the status of lead paint in countries

[Toolkit for establishing laws to eliminate lead paint](#)

[Suggested Steps for Establishing a Lead Paint Law](#)

New! [2021 'Update on the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint'](#) on the development of laws and other efforts



to eliminate lead paint in 2021, with detailed views by region and country.

Information about Lead and Lead Poisoning

[Questions and Answers on Lead and Lead Poisoning](#) – updated for 2022!

[Exposure to lead: a major public health concern](#) – This WHO document provides concise information about lead, including sources of exposure to lead, health impacts, guideline values for lead in environmental media, and risk mitigation measures.

[Factsheet on lead poisoning and health](#) – This WHO website presents key facts on lead, the sources and routes of exposure, the health effects of lead exposure in children and adults and the burden of diseases from lead exposure. (updated for 2022)

[WHO Chemicals of Major Public Health Concerns: Lead](#) – This WHO website provides links to fact sheets, resources, short documents for policy makers, and publications on lead topic.

Recent Events

ASTM International Webinars on Standard Methods for Testing

Lead in Paint

An essential part of developing a lead law is setting a regulatory limit, as well as specifying the analytical testing methods that will be used to determine whether a product is in compliance with the limit. Many countries cite sample preparation and testing methods within their draft or final laws. To support their efforts, two three-hour intensive webinars for the Africa region and Latin America and Caribbean Regions on Standard Methods for Testing for Lead in Paint, co-sponsored by UNEP, U.S. EPA and [ASTM International](#), was held in September 2022. These webinars provided an overview of specific methods related to sampling and sample preparation, laboratory analysis (including ISO 6503), and field analysis (including ASTM 2853 for High Definition X-Ray Fluorescence spectroscopy). Country case studies from the region were provided to discuss the use of the specific methods. The webinars were attended by 75 participants in Africa and over 200 participants in Latin America and the Caribbean. Attendees were from international organizations, Governments, laboratories, standards bodies, accreditation organizations, and NGOs. A recording and presentation materials were provided to registered attendees.

Third LiP CoP Discussion Features Awareness Raising During Week of Action

The third Lead in Paint Community of Practice (LiP CoP) discussion for 2022 was on the topic of [Preparing for the 10th International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week](#). The discussion highlighted the successes and challenges of countries, NGOs and industry that have used International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW) to raise awareness and drive change. [View the PowerPoint presentation of the discussion](#). A summary of the discussion is also available [in English](#) and [in French](#).

New! You can watch the video segments with English closed captioning at the links below:

- Introduction by [Lesley Onyon](#) from the WHO
- [Olga Irimca](#) from the National Agency for Public Health, Chemical Safety, and the Toxicology Department in the Republic of Moldova presented on how the National Agency for Public Health raised awareness in Moldova on the issue of Lead in Paint in the country by organising events for the ILPPW since 2013.
- [Mageswari Sangaralingam](#) from Consumers' Association of Penang (CAP), Malaysia, presented on tools used during the ILPPW to raise awareness on the Lead in Paint issue in their country.
- [Jesse Martens](#) from AkzoNobel presented on the role of the industry in driving change using campaigns during the ILPPW.

Upcoming Events

G7 Ministers Take Stock of Lead Pollution

To address the issue of global lead pollution, the G7 will conduct a workshop this November, following recognition of the G7 Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers in a Communiqué from their May meeting that lead pollution is a burden on human health and the environment globally. Ministers expressed their strong commitment to reduce lead in the environment, and to reduce the disproportionate lead exposure in vulnerable communities. The aim of the workshop will be to take stock of activities undertaken by G7 members and others to address lead pollution and develop possible options for future work and cooperation on sources of lead to reduce lead exposure in developing countries. More information will be shared about the results of this exciting session.

Community of Practice Discussion: “Compliance with Lead Paint Laws”

The next online session of the Lead in Paint Community of Practice (LiP CoP) will be held on 16 November at 14:00 – 15:30 Central European Time (CET) and will discuss [Compliance with Lead Paint Laws](#). The LiP CoP is an opportunity to bring representatives from different sectors together and to create a learning network around issues related to the elimination of Lead Paint. Presenters from Kenya, Philippines, and Uruguay, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency will lead discussions on compliance activities, including actions taken to inform paint manufacturers, importers, and consumers about the requirements in a lead paint law; how a Government may verify if paint producers and importers are in compliance; and how paint producers and importers can document compliance. [Register to join the conversation](#).



Success Stories from ILPPW 2021

As you explore opportunities to raise awareness during this year’s ILPPW, the examples below of successful outreach from 2021 might inspire ideas for your upcoming event.

ARMENIA

The Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment NGO organized an event on Extending the Awareness Campaign on Health Hazards of Lead in Paint and influencing procurement policies in education sector. The activities

OMAN

The Department of Environmental and Occupational Health (DEOH), Ministry of Health Oman in collaboration with WHO Oman conducted several activities contributing to improving the recognition and prevention of lead

consisted of outreach to secondary schools through their Facebook pages; outreach to general public through online journalist resources and organization's website; outreach to decision makers through letter of appeal.

AUSTRALIA

[Eco Health Solutions](#) interviewed Elizabeth O'Brien, from [The LEAD Group](#) which informed that despite lead now being phased out of petrol, lead dust can still be found around busy roads, in soil and in ceiling dust in Australia. She described new legislation prohibiting the addition of lead to paint (apart from the two exceptions of anti-fouling paints and anti-corrosion primers).

AZERBAIJAN

A program was organized for 6-11 year-children attending Sunday school in the medical university. A scenario of lead poisoning and first aid measures was played out using modern simulation robots. Awareness raising webinars were held for medical professionals, including for six-year students at medical university, toxicologists from the poison centre, and health managers and public health specialists in cooperation of Azeri Toxicologist Society and Centre for Public Health and Reforms of the Ministry of Health.

INDIA

The Saveetha University provided simulations on the management of lead poisoning to final year students during toxicology curriculum classes. The simulation was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Community Medicine and WHO and involved villagers assembled at

poisoning in industries and communities through developing and disseminating awareness raising materials to decision makers, industry and the public e.g. a [video on lead poisoning risks to human health and its prevention and control](#); broadcasts using [national radio channels](#).

PHILIPPINES

A webinar on "Lead Safe Paint Ordinance of Davao City" was conducted. The purpose of the webinar was raising awareness about the Lead Safe Paint Ordinance in Davao City and to inform the audience about the harm of exposure to high levels of lead in products especially in paints. A novel 4-minute video was also released showcasing all the activities conducted in the country during the ILPPW 2021.

TOGO

The awareness workshop on the risks associated with lead paint, and urgent request for national regulation by 2022, consisted of bringing together officials from the Ministry of Health, Public Hygiene and Access universal care as well as the heads of trade unions of painting professionals, the media and members of civil society. The discussion was initiated to achieve a regulation limiting the level of lead in paint at 90 ppm, preferably by the end of 2022.

UNITED STATES

In October 2021, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its blood lead reference value to 3.5 ug/dL ([CDC updates blood lead reference value | Lead | CDC](#)) to encourage

Mappedu, a rural outreach centre of Saveetha Medical College.

NIGERIA

The Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development (SRADev Nigeria), in collaboration with the Paint Manufacturers Association (PMA), held a one-day workshop focused on raising awareness and educating SME manufacturers on the hazard of lead paint and engaging PMA members, paint raw material suppliers, agencies such as Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) and Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) and the media.

CDC, federal agencies, health departments, providers, communities and other partners in the U.S. to focus resources on children with the highest levels of lead in their blood, identify and eliminate sources of lead exposure and take more prompt actions to reduce the harmful effects of lead.



In the News: Lead Paint and Other Sources of Lead Exposure

[Leaded spray paints sold at stores selling school supplies](#) (*Journal Online*, 02 September 2022)

[Lead in drinking-water: Health risks, monitoring and corrective actions](#) (*World Health Organization*, 31 August 2022)

[Taking action on lead in drinking-water from evidence to practice | On-site session](#) (*worldwaterweek.org*, 31 August 2022)

[NGOs seek legal controls on international trade in lead chromates](#) (*Asia Pacific Coatings Journal*, Vol. 35 No. 3 p. 46–47, August 2022)

[Half a century after a ban, lead pipes are still killers](#) (*Socialist Worker*, 09 August 2022)

[Environmental group, paint manufacturers back DepEd policy on lead-safe paints](#) (*The Manila Times*, 03 August 2022)

[CEHF unveils roadmap on development of the lead in paint regulation](#) (*Lusaka Star*, 12 July 2022)

[Video: Children risk poisoning from lead paints, expert warns](#) (*TVC News Nigeria*, 02 July 2022)

[Production of lead-free paint in Nigeria is possible—study](#) (*Ecogreen News*, 02 July 2022)

[SRADev seeks elimination of leaded paint in Nigeria](#) (*EnviroNews Nigeria*, 01 July 2022)

[Video: Jamaica adopting international standard for lead](#) (*The News—PBC Jamaica*, 01 July 2022)

[CARPIN welcomes Jamaica's adoption of global standard for lead limit in paint](#) (*Jamaica Information Service*, 29 June 2022)

[Di Indonesia masih ada cat bertimbal, arsitek harus tolak!](#) (“*In Indonesia there is still lead paint, architects must refuse!*”) (*Greeners.co*, 21 June 2022)

[EcoWaste Coalition warns paint consumers vs. leaded products](#) (*Daily Guardian*, 27 June 2022)

[Mengajak arsitek dan kontraktor peduli dengan isu timbal](#) (“*Inviting architects and contractors to care about the issue of lead*”) (*Mongabay*, 13 June 2022)

[Toxics watchdog asks Government to stop lead-containing paints importation](#) (*The Sun Monitor*, 10 June 2022)

[Une réglementation contraignante, moyen le plus efficace de prévenir l'exposition au plomb \(médecin\)](#) (“*Constraining regulations, the most effective means of preventing exposure to lead—physician*”) (*ALLAfrica*, 09 June 2022)

[UNEP Technical Guidelines: Lead Paint Reformulation “Entirely Possible”](#) (*IISD SDG Knowledge Hub*, 02 June 2022)

[Arsitek muda Bali tolak penggunaan cat bertimbal](#) (“*Young Balinese architects reject the use of lead paint*”) (*Greeners.co*, 02 June 2022)

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