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**World Health
Organization**

**Global Alliance to
Eliminate Lead Paint**

Eliminating lead paint matters! | February 2021



Introduction

Even in the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint continues to work with countries who are actively working toward the phase-out of the manufacture, sale and import of paints containing lead through the establishment of laws. This effort will prevent the exposure of many future generations of children to lead in paint that would have been used in homes, schools and playgrounds in countries without lead paint laws in place to stop the addition of lead. As we rebuild and recover from the pandemic, eliminating lead paint is an achievable goal that will help protect public health.

Moving toward this goal, the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint is pleased to present its February newsletter, highlighting new updates to support our shared efforts and recent successes from 2020. Specifically, the Alliance is proud to offer the [2020 Update on the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint](#). This update includes global and regional maps and the latest information on the [status of countries' lead paint laws](#) as provided by governments to UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). As of 31 December 2020, 79 countries had confirmed that they have legally binding controls on lead in paint.

In this newsletter, we are also pleased to share updates about global efforts to address lead paint, including new resources to support national efforts, updates on progress towards laws, success stories from our Advisory Council, and lead paint in the news. You can also learn more about how you can continue to take action to make a difference.

We hope you will use these materials to plan or promote effective programs to work towards eliminating lead paint. Wishing you all a safe and healthy year, without added lead!

Upcoming Events

Are you working with your community, industry, or government to establish or implement a lead paint law? The [Lead in Paint Community of Practice](#) is for you!



In collaboration with different stakeholders, the Secretariat of the Strategic

Approach to Chemicals Management (SAICM) together with the University of Cape Town offers an opportunity for shared learning and dialogue around issues related to the elimination of Lead Paint through the Lead in Paint Community of Practice (LiP CoP). The LiP CoP is supporting the substantial amount of work already being done on lead paint by a number of organisations. You are invited to join the LiP CoP so that you can participate in online discussions facilitated by experts. By signing up, you will receive invitations to the upcoming discussions and summary digests upon their conclusion. [Register here.](#)

The next LiP CoP session will be held on 10 March at 12 pm Greenwich Mean Time and will discuss: “Where are there laws? A global and regional overview.” It will facilitate a discussion of regional activities and progress toward laws, based on information presented in the new 2020 Update on the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint. We look forward to having you as part of the conversation.

Newly Published Global Tools

The new [2020 Update on the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint](#) reports new laws, new tools, and new momentum on progress toward laws to eliminate lead paint in 2020. Available in English and Spanish, the Update also describes activity and results by region. As of 31 December 2020, 79 countries have confirmed that they have legally binding controls on lead in paint, which is 41% of all countries. Since October 2019, Colombia, Lebanon and Vietnam established new laws to address lead in paint; China updated an existing law; and the status of Ecuador, Pakistan and Qatar in WHO’s database was updated to reflect existing laws.



Other new tools developed by UNEP and WHO include:

- [Process Considerations for Drafting Lead Paint Laws](#), a factsheet providing guidance on the drafting process that have been helpful to countries drafting lead paint laws, is available in 5 UN languages, for countries ready to draft a law to limit lead in paint;
- [Guidance on organizing an advocacy or awareness raising campaign on lead paint](#);
- a [Brief guide to analytical methods for measuring lead in paint](#); and
- both a [Policy](#) and [Technical](#) brief on Global elimination of lead paint: why and how countries should take action.

Last year, the Alliance led two English-language webinars on topics most relevant to policymakers and industry, respectively, including understanding the

harms of lead paint exposure, developing regulations based on the Model Law, working with industry on testing and reformulation efforts, views of the global paint industry, lessons learned from paint reformulation, and lead paint testing. Presenters included UNEP, WHO, the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the International Pollutant Elimination Network (IPEN) (a global network of environmental NGOs), the Serbian National Cleaner Production Center (NCPC), BASF (a global coatings company), and the World Coatings Council. Further information and presentations about each webinar are available on UNEP website, including a recording of and report from the [policymakers webinar](#) and a report from the [industry webinar](#).

What Can You Do? Take Action!

Do you know the latest status of laws in your country or region? If not, check out the new [2020 Update on the Global Status of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint](#). To keep up with progress as it occurs in 2021 or to find out when laws were passed, check out the UNEP [Lead paint law status interactive map](#). You can find the results of lead paint testing in your country on IPEN's [Lead Levels in Paint Around the World](#) page.

If your country does not yet have a law, sharing this information in a regional or global context can have a powerful effect on government leaders. If your country does have a law, the government may have influence as a leader in the region.

Information from the recently held global [policymaker](#) and [industry](#) webinars is available in English online. This information can be used to inform webinars or meetings at the country or regional level.



Success Stories from the Advisory Council

IPEN: NGOs in [36 countries](#) took part in the 2020 ILPPW by conducting awareness-raising activities, mostly via online meetings, webinars, and social media campaigns highlighting the need to hasten progress toward the global goal of phasing out lead paint through regulatory and legal measures. Also that week, IPEN released a [global report](#) with data on lead in paint from almost 60 countries which showed that lead paint remains available for sale in the majority of countries despite global efforts to phase them out. The report highlighted the key role NGOs played in supporting country actions to adopt lead paint regulations in collaboration with stakeholders from government, industry, and civil society.

MOLDOVA: For the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW) in October 2020, nearly 3,000 individual and group discussions and events were held in 36 territorial centers of public health in each administrative territory. Nearly 4000 individuals were trained, including trainings in schools, high schools, medical institutions, and other trainings that were taking place at that time. Activities also included eight seminars and more than 100 lectures communicating the risks of using lead paints and measures to prevent poisoning with them. Based on WHO recommendations, the specialists of the National Agency for Public Health developed informative materials that were submitted to all local Public Health Centers. To continue the lead regulation project, a new Working Group was established to develop a Regulation on the limits of the lead content in paints.

KENYA: For the 2020 ILPPW, a series of activities were organized around the theme “Intensified Campaigns to Ban the Import, Export, Manufacture, Sale and Use of Lead Paint across the East African Region.” The East African Community Virtual Conference was sponsored by Basco Paint company with coordination of the Chemistry Department of the University of Nairobi on 29th October 2020. Kenya’s ILPPW activities were covered in a newspaper report in *Nation.Africa*. A master’s student in the Department also disseminated findings on evaluation of lead levels in automotive paints in Kenyan markets. Additionally, three undergraduate students from the Department are currently carrying out research activities around assessment of lead levels in the effluent treatment plants of paint companies in Kenya.



Progress Towards Laws

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

Colombia is continuing the work after adopting a lead paint law in July 2020. The intersectorial working group is drafting a regulation to provide the implementation details to the law.

The Gambia is in the process of developing a lead paint regulation through a multi-stakeholder

Nigeria finalized a lead paint law that is now at the final stage of review and approval by the Federal Ministry of Justice in coordination with the Federal Executive Council (The Cabinet ministers). (December 2020) The Lead Paint Alliance provided comments on a draft lead paint law in Nigeria in November 2020.

committee led by the National Environment Agency. (February 2021)

Guinea's Ministry of Environment, Water and Forestry (MEWF) drafted a regulation on several "toxic and heavy metals" which includes a 90 ppm limit on lead in paint. The draft regulation is currently under review by the Lead Paint Alliance. (January 2021)

Honduras held various meetings with inter-institutional groups in 2020 to discuss a country approach to a lead paint law. A workshop will happen in the first quarter of 2021 for the National Commission on Chemicals to start the drafting work.

The Nexus3 Foundation and the Indonesian Center for Environmental Law (ICEL), both IPEN NGOs, are working to finalize a policy brief that recommends the development of an umbrella regulation for lead in paint and includes a review of relevant regulations in Indonesia. Nexus3 plans to submit the policy brief to the President Staff Office. (January 2021)

The Consumers' Association of Penang (CAP), an IPEN NGO working on lead paint issues in Malaysia, met with the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (MDTCA) and the Department of Standards (DoS) in December 2020, who agreed to begin working on a lead paint standard and implementing regulations starting in early 2021.

Morocco's Ministry of Industry, Trade, Green and Digital Economy (MITGDE) announced that they will issue a decree that will make the existing 90-ppm standard compulsory for all paints. (November 2020).

Peru drafted a lead paint bill in 2020. The Bill has been already approved by the Parliamentary review committee on health and it will be sent to the Congress for approval in the first semester of 2021.

Government ministries in Tajikistan have concluded a multi-stakeholder effort to develop a Technical Regulation on lead paint, which will be submitted to the legislature for final approval at the end of February 2021. The Lead Paint Alliance provided comments on a draft lead paint law in Tajikistan in December 2020.

Ukraine conducted an online public consultation on a draft Technical Regulation on lead in paint, which is now in the final stages of government agency review for submittal to the legislature for final approval. (January 2021) The Lead Paint Alliance provided comments on the law in December 2020.

Vietnam adopted a national technical standard on lead in paint. (December 2020) The Lead Paint Alliance provided comments on a draft lead paint law in Vietnam in August 2020.

Zambia is in the process of developing a regulation to make a recently established 90 ppm lead paint standard mandatory. (January 2021)

Lead Paint in the News

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

In December 2020, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) published a Foresight Brief on "[The Need to Eliminate Lead Paint Globally.](#)" The article stresses that eliminating the danger of lead-paint exposure is a globally achievable goal, and encourages the world community to support the effort to eliminate lead paint, especially in countries without legally binding controls on lead paint. The Foresight Briefs are published by UNEP to highlight a hotspot of environmental change, feature an emerging science topic, or discuss a contemporary environmental issue. The article was written by the University of Pennsylvania, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. National Council for Science and Environment.

Other recent articles include:

- [Environment: towards the regulation of heavy metals and lead in paint in Guinea](#) (20 January 2021, Guinea, *aConakry Live*, in French)
- [Regulations needed on levels of lead in paint](#) (15 December 2020, Malaysia, *The Star*)
- [CARPIN Encouraged by Government's Action to Prevent Paint with Lead from Entering the Island](#) (10 November 2020, Jamaica, *Jamaica Information Service*)
- [Stakeholders urge governments to effectively execute legislations to protect children's health](#) (30 October 2020, Nepal, *MyRepublica*)
- [Philippines makes history phasing out lead paints](#) (27 October 2020, Philippines, *SunStar Bagiuo*)

Partners Corner

As of January 2021, a total of 20 governments, 49 non-government organizations, 5 inter-governmental organizations, 7 academic organizations or institutions, and 22 industry or trade associations have joined as partners of the Lead Paint Alliance. A warm welcome and congratulations are extended to the new partners who have joined in the second half of 2020!

New members include:

- Civil society: International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES, The Netherlands) and Lead Exposure Elimination Project (LEEP, United Kingdom)
 - Intergovernmental organization: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
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