



**a toxics-free future**

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## **International SAICM Implementation Project (ISIP)**

In 2010, in an effort to demonstrate SAICM implementation via IPEN Participating Organizations, IPEN launched an International SAICM Implementation Project, also known as ISIP. ISIP aims to mobilize resources for initial enabling activities pertaining to national priorities, in keeping with the work areas set out in the strategic objectives of section IV of the SAICM Overarching Policy Strategy.

In particular, the ISIP supports the Governance objective of SAICM's Overarching Policy Strategy paragraph 26, which calls for enhanced "cooperation on the sound management of chemicals between Governments, the private sector and civil society at the national, regional and global levels."

In addition, ISIP builds on the 2008-2009 Global SAICM Outreach Campaign to raise awareness about SAICM and strengthen collaboration among the public interest, health and labor sectors.

### **ISIP Objectives**

ISIP's four objectives include:

- Promoting the need for sound chemicals management
- Advancing National SAICM Implementation
- Promoting global SAICM implementation by global civil society
- Building capacity among NGOs developing countries and countries with economies in transition

**Title of activity:** Awareness-raising on lead paint poisoning in Tanzania

**NGO:** AGENDA for Environment and Responsible Development (AGENDA)

**Country:** Tanzania

**Date:** October, 2012

### **Elements of SAICM Covered:**

Participation in activities related to the Global Partnership to Eliminate Lead Paint including identifying potential lead exposure, raising awareness of toxicity to human health and the environment and alternatives, prevention programs to reduce exposure, and promotion of national regulatory frameworks; Follow up recommendations and options for the SAICM OEWG and ICCM3 (57, 157, ICCM2 decision II/4)

### **Description of the harms of lead exposure, including suspected harm:**

Human exposure to lead is mainly through inhalation, ingestion, or in a small number of cases, absorption through the skin. Lead acts as a poison. It has the same affinity for

our biological systems as essential minerals such as iron, calcium and zinc. Lead causes harm wherever it deposits in the body. In the blood stream, for example, it damages red blood cells and limits their ability to carry oxygen to tissues and organs. Most lead ends up in the bones, where it interferes with the production of blood cells and the absorption of calcium that the bone needs to grow healthy and strong. Even very low level exposures can impact young children. When lead is absorbed into the body, it can cause damage to the brain and other vital organs, like the kidneys, nerves and blood. Lead may also cause behaviour problems, learning disabilities, seizures and in extreme cases, death. There is wide recognition of this problem, which led to a number of bans of lead in paint across North America and Western Europe over the past 70 years.

**Description of the Global Partnership and decision taken at ICCM2, including any national initiatives to advance this decision:**

One of the decisions made by ICCM2 in 2009 was adoption of the terms of reference of the Global Partnership to Eliminate Lead in Paint as the basis to develop a business plan articulating clear milestones for progress in achieving a global phase-out of lead in paint in the following areas:

- (a) Raising awareness of toxicity to human health and the environment and alternatives;
- (b) Guidance and assistance to identify potential lead exposure;
- (c) Assistance to industry (manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers);
- (d) Prevention programmes to reduce exposure; and
- (e) Promotion of national regulatory frameworks.

Three years after ICCM2, there are no concerted efforts at the national level to address this issue. The project aimed to raise awareness of stakeholders and inform /remind them about this decision.

**Description of any existing national laws or policies about lead in paint:**

In Tanzania there is no specific policy or act on lead-in paint management, but a number of policies and acts are in place which aim at protecting human health and the environment. However, there exists a voluntary standard on paints that stipulates the maximum allowable content of lead in paints. Standard TZS 722:2008 is for matte emulsion paints for interior and exterior use, and the maximum lead content allowed is 0.045 percent. Among the existing policies and acts related to lead in paint management include; the National Environment Policy (1997), National water policy (2002), National Trade Policy (2003), Development Policy (2003), The National Health Policy (2003), The Industrial and Consumer Chemicals (Management and Control) Act No. 3 of 2003, The Environmental Management Act, 2004, The Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetic Act, 2003 and The Occupational Health and Safety Act, 2003. The mentioned policies and Acts above are classified in that group (related to lead in paint management) because one of their goals is to protect the human health and environment from toxic chemicals.

**Description of types of paints available on the market, including paints that do not contain lead:**

In Tanzania there are mainly two types of paints that exist in the market, water - based paint and oil-based paint. Among these types of paints, only oil-based paints contain lead; this is due to the type of raw materials required for its production. In addition to

that, lead-based raw material enhances drying, shininess and durability properties of the paint after application on surfaces.

#### **Description of the concentrations of lead in the paints tested:**

The project was based on raising awareness on the health and environmental effects associated with lead poisoning. But, according to the project which was conducted by AGENDA under the Global Paint Study “Lead in New Decorative Paints” in 2009 (coordinated by an IPEN participating organization based in India, Toxics Link), lead levels were found to be high in paints from Tanzania.

In the 2009 study, AGENDA sampled a total of 26 paint samples which included 20 enamel paint samples and 6 plastic paint samples. Out of the 20 enamel paints samples, 19 samples had lead concentrations greater than 450 ppm. The average (arithmetic mean) lead concentration of lead in all enamel paints tested was 14,537 ppm lead. The median concentration was 4,130. The highest concentration for all samples tested was 120,862 ppm (12%) lead, taking into account that the voluntary standard, according to the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) (TZS 722:2008), allows only 450ppm or 0.045% of lead in paint.

#### **Project Outcomes:**

##### **Description of the activity conducted to advance the Global Partnership to Eliminate Lead in Paint:**

Consultation with and awareness-raising for stakeholders to get informed on what products and strategies are in place and improve knowledge on the following:

- Existence of laws and policies regarding protection of human health and environment in relation to lead exposure,
- Severe health and environmental harm caused by lead exposure, particularly to children, and
- Lead in paint as an important source of lead exposure, particularly to children at home, and painters and workers in paint manufacturing industries.

##### **Impact on target groups:**

Awareness enhancement was the major activity in this project, and the main stakeholders that were involved include paint producers, distributors, consumers and regulators. Before awareness-raising, some stakeholders, such as distributors of paints and paint consumers, did not have knowledge on what lead is and its associated effects to human health and environment. The main concern of the consumers regarding paint is the price and quality. After the activity most of the stakeholders consulted recommend that there is an urgent need for a framework that will regulate the amount of lead in paint. Majority of producers were aware of health effects emanated from lead and their recommendation was that if lead is to be removed then the removal process must be gradual. The government authorities were keen for further consultation on the issue.

##### **Impact on target policies:**

From the desktop review and consultation made during this project, it was found that there is a voluntary standard set by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) TZS 722: 2008 ICS: 87.040), which indicates that lead in paint should not exceed 450 ppm (0.045%). The supervision of the named standard is under TBS which was among the stakeholders that were consulted and their opinions were incorporated in the awareness materials.

There are also policies and laws which give directives and procedure for chemicals management and control. The Industrial and Consumer Chemical Act No 3 of 2003 (Management and Control) is among such laws. Section 30 subsection 1 part (a) to (e) of the named law stipulates on restriction, banning and elimination of chemicals:

“Upon application for the registration of a chemical or where after registration, a chemical is:

- a) Proven to be dangerous to human life or environment
- b) Proven to be highly toxic, highly hazardous, persistent or biologically accumulative
- c) Proven to cause poisoning effect to human and animals of which no effective antidote is available
- d) Severely restricted by National, International Convention or Treaty, and
- e) Subjection to action according to International Convention or Treaty after ratified in the United Republic;

The Board shall restrict, severely restrict, ban or phase out the use and handling of chemicals specified under the Eighth schedule to this Act.”

The administration and function of the Industrial and Consumer Chemical Act No 3 of 2003 is under the Government Chemist Laboratory Agency (GCLA). The GCLA is the main enforcer of Act. In this project the GCLA was among the consulted stakeholders. GCLA, which is under the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, is also the National SAICM Focal Point.

This project found that there is opportunity to enhance the enforcement of The Industrial and Consumer Chemical Act No 3 of 2003 and that of the standard TZS 722: 2008 ICS: 87.040 through enhanced collaboration and by establishing linkage between the two government bodies; TBS and GCLA as the starting point (particularly in solving this problem).

#### **Outreach to stakeholders:**

The stakeholders involved were comprised of government ministries and agencies, manufactures, distributors and consumers of paint.

From the government ministries and agencies the following were engaged

- Vice – President Office, Department of Environment (DoE). The DoE is the National Focal Point of the Stockholm and Basel Conventions, among other instruments.
- Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).
- Government Chemist Laboratory Agency (GCLA) (National SAICM Focal Point).

Stakeholders from manufactures of paint were comprised of:

- Berger Paint international Ltd
- Insignia industry
- Kiboko paint industry
- Goldstar paint industry (but did not respond)

There is high a potential to make a follow-up as there was big interest, especially from the ministries, agencies and consumers. Some manufacturers were also interested, but their challenge was the time for eliminating lead in paint and the related incentives.

The NGOs (AGENDA and others) will act as facilitators to make sure there is good participation from both parts so as to attain maximum achievement of our goal, which is to make sure that all paint manufacturers reduce and ultimately phase out lead in paint.

**Deliverables, outputs and/or products:**

The main deliverable outputs from this report are:

- Brochures that will be used in awareness-raising to stakeholders that were consulted and the general public.
- News articles (print media) to target the wider public.
- Project report.

**Communication efforts:**

Since one of the outputs from this project is news article, mass media (newspapers) will be engaged to convey the messages to stakeholders and general public. Newspapers were selected because of their affordability in price and because they have a wider coverage, including offices and places where the public cannot access electronic media due to lack of electricity connections. In addition, electronic media will be engaged in communication with some stakeholders.

**SAICM National Focal Point: .**

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**NGO Recommendations for next steps:**

The opinions from AGENDA on establishing the relationships between the named stakeholders are to:

- Promote collaboration between TBS and GCLA in enforcing The Industrial and Consumer Chemical Act No 3 of 2003 (Management and Control) and TZS 722: 2008 ICS: 87.040 as the starting point.
- Build a coalition among the stakeholders so as to enhance information exchange.