

Lead Exposure Costs Developing Nations \$977 Billion Each Year

Lead exposure costs countries \$977 billion international dollars each year, with developing countries carrying the greater cost burden, according to a new map released by New York University School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics (NYU). The map shows that the costs of lead exposure are seven times the amount of funding provided to developing countries through development aid in 2014.¹

Economic Costs of Childhood Lead Exposure in Low-and Middle-Income Countries is an interactive website where countries can compare the costs of lead exposure in their country with other countries and see how those costs stack up against development aid support. Annual costs of lead exposure by region:

- \$134.7 billion in Africa (4.03% of gross domestic product (GDP) in that region),



- \$142.3 billion in Latin America and the Caribbean (2.04% of GDP in that region), and
- \$699.9 billion in Asia (1.88% of GDP in that region).

See the cost of lead exposure in your country:
<http://nyulmc.org/pediatricleadexposure>

According to the NYU researchers: “One of the most important things we can do to decrease children’s exposure to lead in LMICs (low- and middle-income countries) is to ensure lead is no longer used in household paint and other paints

to which children may be exposed (such as paints on playground equipment).”

“Children’s developing brains are permanently harmed by exposure to lead. One key impact is reduction in IQ score, which is correlated with decreases in lifetime earning potential. Population-wide reductions in IQ mean greater social costs, reduced intellectual capital, and adverse economic impact,” said Sara Brosché, Manager for IPEN’s Global Lead Paint Elimination Campaign.

¹ “Net official development assistance (ODA) from DAC members totalled USD 135.2 billion, level with a record USD 135.1 billion in 2013, though marking a 0.5% decline in real terms” <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/development-aid-stable-in-2014-but-flows-to-poorest-countries-still-falling.htm>

INSIDE:

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IPEN Global Lead Paint Elimination Campaign

Although banned for more than 40 years in industrialized countries, paint with high lead content continues to be sold in most countries. IPEN is working for the global elimination of lead in the manufacture, sale, import, export and use of paint.

INDIA: GOVERNMENT PROPOSES MANDATORY LEAD PAINT BAN

A ban on the “manufacture, trade, import and export” of household and decorative paints containing metallic lead exceeding 90 parts per million (ppm) has been proposed by India’s Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Though India has a voluntary 90 ppm standard, the new regulation would make that standard mandatory.

This move follows a persistent campaign by the NGO Toxics Link, whose landmark study in 2007 revealed that paints with high lead contents were widely sold in low- and moderate-income countries.

A draft of the *Regulation on Lead Contents in Household and Decorative Paints Rules, 2016* was put up online for public comment in April. The government is now reviewing those comments and is expected to finalize the rules soon.

The proposal says that every paint maker or importer should possess a valid certificate of approval from the nodal agency for the manufacture of the product in India or for import into India. Paint cans also will have to carry a label stating that the lead content does not exceed 90 ppm.

NEW LEAD PAINT STUDIES IN TAIWAN, MALAYSIA, AND CHINA

New studies from NGOs analyzing the content of lead in paints sold in local markets came out this year in Taiwan, Malaysia and China. All three reports found high lead levels in a majority of paints and paint brands sold in local markets.

Taiwan. Following widespread media coverage of the Taiwan Watch Institute’s lead paint report in May, the Committee on Social Welfare, Health and Environment of the Legislative Bureau held a public hearing on banning the use of lead in paints to stop lead poisoning among children. Soon afterwards, the Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection announced its plan to draft a safety regulation, in coordination with the Taiwan Paint Industry Association, that will set threshold limits for lead, cadmium, hexavalent chromium and mercury in paints. The BSMI is expected to announce the regulation in late August.

Malaysia. The Consumers Association of Penang’s (CAP) report, released in March, got attention from various government agencies, including the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs. The authorities indicated that concerted effort and collaboration with several Ministries is needed to discuss and draw up the policy framework. The Malaysia Medical Association also responded and offered its support in the call to ban lead in paints and prohibit false claims about lead content.

China. Following the release of the report from Insight Explorer in January, the China National Coatings Industry Association (CNCIA) released a statement on lead paint, which explained the dangers of lead exposure, especially to children. The statement also referenced discussions at the international level, supported by Chinese government officials, to phase-out lead in paint.

And it stated that the CNCIA is a cooperative partner in promoting the issue including lead paint-related policies and regulations and standards.



PHILIPPINES: NO LEAD PAINT IN SCHOOLS

A new directive from the Department of Education in the Philippines has made the use of lead safe paint in schools mandatory. In May, Philippines Education Secretary Armin Luistro issued a memorandum stating: “the use of lead free paints in schools must be observed at all times, especially during the conduct of activities related to Brigada Eskela (a Philippines Department of Education initiative for repairing and preparing schools prior to opening) and other preparations for the opening of classes.”

An earlier request from EcoWaste Coalition to make lead safe coatings mandatory in schools had won widespread support from Senators Chiz Escudero, Loren Legarda and Grace Poe, along with incoming Senators Risa Hontiveros and Migz Zubiri and 100 health professionals, educators, environmentalists, religious leaders, and trade unionists.



THAILAND: MANDATORY LEAD PAINT STANDARD ADOPTED

In January 2016, Thailand became the latest country to issue compulsory legislation controlling the amount of lead and other heavy metals in enamel paints. According to this national decree, all enamel paints used for construction and decorative purposes which are manufactured or sold in Thailand must meet the following requirements:

- No more than 0.01% lead, mercury and cadmium (dry weight)
- No more than 0.1% hexavalent chromium (dry weight)

In addition, all alkyd enamel paints manufactured or sold in Thailand will be required to show a warning label about potential dangers from the product, for example, “contains toxic substance” or “keep away from children.”

The regulation will enter into force in 2017 and is the direct result of a campaign waged by the NGO, EARTH, a partner organization with IPEN in its the European Union-funded Asian Lead Paint Elimination Project.



AFRICA

PROGRESS IN LEAD ELIMINATION IN FOUR AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Important progress has been made in the focus countries of the African Lead Paint Elimination Project – Ethiopia, Cameroon, Tanzania and Côte d'Ivoire.

In December 2015, Mr. Mehari Wondimagegn, Director in the Ethiopia Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change announced that his department is in the process of developing draft regulation for consideration by the Ethiopian Council of Ministries that would establish a 90 parts per million (ppm) limit for decorative paints. This standard is based on a recommendation from the Ethiopian Standards Agency, which consulted the paint industry on the issue.

In January 2016, the Presidency of the Republic of Cameroon asked an inter-ministerial committee to report back as soon as possible on measures

undertaken to address lead paint exposure. Those deliberations are ongoing.

In Tanzania, Safari Fungo, the Tanzanian Bureau of Standards, has reported that the East African Community has adopted a 90 ppm total lead standard, which Tanzania will adopt as a national standard in the coming months.

All four project countries released studies in 2015, which found that the majority of paint brands contain high levels of lead. New studies planned for release in 2017 will follow-up on those studies to determine whether any progress has been made in eliminating lead.

IPEN is Executing Agency and UNEP is the Implementing agency for the Global Environment Facility-funded African Lead Paint Elimination Project.

EAST AFRICAN PAINT AND COATINGS CONGRESS

IPEN brought its Global Lead Paint Elimination Campaign to the East African Paint and Coatings Congress held June 8 & 9 in Nairobi, Kenya. Jeiel Guarino spoke on behalf of the Campaign at one of the plenary sessions.

Other campaign team members talking with paint manufacturers about lead in at the Congress included: Atalo Belay Berhanu, PAN Ethiopia; Dora Swai, AGENDA, Tanzania; Okeyo Benards, Eco-Ethics, Kenya; and Griffins Ochieng, CEJAD, Kenya.



LEAD SAFE PAINT® CERTIFICATION

PHILIPPINE COMPANIES ARE FIRST TO RECEIVE LEAD SAFE PAINT® CERTIFICATION

Two companies, Pacific Paint (Boysen) Philippines, Inc. and Davies Paints Philippines, Inc., are the first in the world to earn the Lead Safe Paint® mark under a newly-established certification program. The certification program was created to let customers know that the paints they are purchasing meet the Philippines mandatory regulatory standard and the world's strictest regulatory standard for lead content in paint.

An analysis by third-party certifier SCS Global Services (SCS), the program's exclusive certification body, confirmed that paint brands from the two companies contained less than 90 ppm lead. Both companies now are licensed to use the Lead Safe Paint® certification mark on their paint can labels and other promotional materials. Using this mark will provide consumers with confidence that these paints will protect their families from the hazard of lead exposure.

The EcoWaste Coalition (a public interest NGO in the Philippines) and the Philippine Association of



Paint Manufacturers, with support from IPEN and Occupational Knowledge International, deliberated and endorsed the lead safe paint certification standard in 2014, following the adoption in 2013 of a historic government policy phasing out leaded decorative paints by January 1, 2017 and leaded industrial paints by January 1, 2019.

INDIA ADOPTS VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

India's Commerce and Industries Ministry has launched a voluntary certification scheme for lead content in paints. Designed by the Quality Council of India and supported by Toxics Link and IPEN, the program will certify paint manufacturers that maintain total lead content less than 90 ppm.

Participating paint manufacturers will be required to have their paints analyzed for lead content by an approved certification body. If their paints contain less than 90 ppm total lead, they will be certified to use the Lead Safe Paint® certification mark on their paint cans and other promotional materials.

IPEN GLOBAL LEAD PAINT ELIMINATION CAMPAIGN

IPEN FUNDS NEW PAINT STUDIES IN 21 COUNTRIES

IPEN is currently coordinating lead paint studies to be released this year in 21 countries. Participating countries and NGOs include:

Africa

Kenya: Centre for Environment Justice and Development (CEJAD)

Nigeria: Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development (SRADev Nigeria)

Uganda: National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)

Zambia: Children's Environmental Health Foundation (CEHF)

Togo: Les Amis de la Terre-Togo (ADT-Togo)

Benin: Groupe d'Action pour la Protection et la Promotion de la Flore et la Faune (GAPPROFA)

Sudan: Sudanese Environment Conservation Society (SECS)

Morocco: Societe Marocaine de Toxicologie Clinique et Analytique (SMTCA)

Asia

Pakistan: Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)

Latin America

Argentina: Taller Ecologista

Colombia: Colnodo

EECCA

Armenia: Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE)

Belarus: Centre of Environmental Solutions (CES)

Georgia: Gamarjoba

Kazakhstan: Helping Hands International

Kazakhstan: Green Women

Kyrgyzstan: Independent Ecological Expertise (IEE)

Moldova: EcoContact

Russia: EcoAccord

Tajikistan: Foundation to Support Civil Initiatives (Dastgiri Center)

Ukraine: MAMA86

MOLDOVA LEAD PAINT ELIMINATION WORKSHOP

Government representatives from seven countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Tajikistan), along with NGO representatives, attended a lead paint elimination

workshop in Moldova at the end of May. A number of the governments attending expressed interest in follow-up discussion and/or activities. Plans are now underway for a follow-up meeting in Belarus.

HIGH PROFILE FOR LEAD PAINT ELIMINATION AT UNEA2

Lead Paint Elimination had a high profile at the recent United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) in Geneva. Leo Trasande, M.D., New York University School of Medicine released a new report showing the costs of lead exposure worldwide (see page 1 story) at a well-attended media event; IPEN's Global Lead Paint Manager, Sara Broschè, spoke at a side event on lead paint, and delegates had the opportunity to create a mural for the meeting using lead-free paint. Unfortunately China blocked a proposed resolution to encourage countries to adopt anti-lead paint laws. As a result, a broad UN resolution to limit chemicals and waste worldwide contained no reference to lead paint.



IPEN wishes to acknowledge and thank the institutions that fund its Global Lead Paint Elimination Campaign: European Union; Global Environment Facility; New York Community Trust; and Swedish International Development Agency (Sida).

IPEN's global network is comprised of more than 700 public interest, non-governmental organizations in 118 countries. Working in the international policy arena and in developing countries, with international offices in the US and Sweden, IPEN is coordinated via eight IPEN Regional Hub Offices in Africa, Asia, Central / Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. IPEN works to establish and implement safe chemicals policies and practices that protect human health and the environment around the world.

