

Press Release: Towards Lead Paint Ban in Vietnam

On the 24th of October in Hanoi, the Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (CGFED) organized the workshop, “Towards Lead Paint Ban in Vietnam” to share the effects and impacts of lead on human health and the situation of lead poisoning (including lead poisoning in coating paint) in Vietnam. The use of lead paint in Vietnam and solutions to ban lead in paint in the future were discussed.

CGFED’s report shows that with around 600 paint manufacturers and traders, the total amount of paint produced is about 250 million liters per year in total. Vietnam is considered one of the developing countries in the world that produces and consumes lead paints widely. The most obvious evidence is that the results of CGFED’s research conducted in 2016 on lead concentrations in some solvent based paints currently circulating in Vietnam show that up to 54% of the solvent-based paint used for home use containing total lead concentration exceeds 600ppm. Red and yellow paints contained the two highest concentrations of lead in paint samples (over 10,000ppm). There is currently no information available on the lead levels provided on the packaging label, and the warning information does not address the effect that lead dust in paint has on people—particularly children and pregnant women.

According to experts in the field of health care and the environment, the role of paints in preserving the beauty of a product, protecting the surface and contributing to rust prevention, etc. cannot be denied. However, the use of lead paints has an unfavourable impact on human health, manifesting itself primarily in exposure to lead. To prevent the harmful effects of lead paint, delegates suggested that state management agencies should issue regulations to control lead concentrations in paint, housing, and schools in order to achieve the global goal of ban lead paint by 2020. In addition, participants also recommended action be taken by strengthening advocacy and education. Improve public awareness of the use of lead paint and remove potentially hazardous lead products in everyday life such as lead paint and lead in children’s toys. To do this requires the cooperation of both state and civil society organizations.