



INTERNATIONAL LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK OF ACTION

OCTOBER 21-27, 2018



a toxics-free future



Established in 1998, **IPEN** is currently comprised of over 500 Participating Organizations in 116 countries, primarily developing and transition countries. IPEN brings together leading environmental and public health groups from around the world to establish and implement safe chemicals policies and practices that protect human health and the environment. IPEN’s mission is a toxics-free future for all.

IPEN launched its Global Lead Paint Elimination Campaign in 2008. The Campaign works in cooperation with UN Environment, World Health Organization and other partners in the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint. IPEN assists non-government organizations (NGOs), government officials, and paint industry leaders working at the national level to promote regulatory controls on lead paint and to raise awareness about the adverse human health impacts of lead paint, particularly on the health of children.

Since 2008, IPEN has assisted NGOs in sampling and analyzing paints in more than 50 low- and middle-income countries and in the development of national lead paint elimination projects and programs.

CONTENTS

Anglophone Africa	4
Francophone Africa	5
Middle East and North Africa	6
South Asia	7
Southeast Asia and East Asia	9
Latin America and the Caribbean.....	11
Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia	12

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IPEN's international campaign to end the use of lead paint and avoid unnecessary, irreversible lead poisoning, which hits children particularly hard, took significant steps forward in 32 countries around the globe during IPEN's International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, held November 21-27, 2018. What follows is a brief summary of their activities.



ANGLOPHONE AFRICA

GAMBIA. Members of the National Assembly Environment Select Committee and other key policy-makers heard a presentation on the findings and recommendations from a Young Volunteers for the Environment (YVE)/IPEN study, titled *Lead in Solvent-Based Paints for Home Use in The Gambia*. Lawmakers gained a greater understanding of the issue, which will be helpful as they review of lead paint regulations to be developed by the National Environment Agency. The presentation was part of activities undertaken by YVE to “raise awareness about lead poisoning, the government’s role and the people’s power to eliminate lead paint.”



KENYA. The Centre for Environment Justice and Development (CEJAD) released a video documentary on lead paint that they had produced earlier, and which can be downloaded at <http://cejadkenya.org/lead-paints-and-the-impacts-of-lead-exposure-to-children-documentary/>. The video provides background information focused on the health effects and the economic costs associated with lead exposure. It also cites the results of the lead paint study conducted by CEJAD with IPEN in 2017, which underscores the need for effective enforcement of the lead paint standards adopted in Kenya. The group also issued a press release and partnered with the University of Nairobi to organize an awareness-raising activity.



TANZANIA. The Agenda for Environment and Responsible Development pressed the Tanzania Bureau of Standards and other government institutions to enforce the standard limiting lead in decorative enamel paints to no more than 90 ppm, as adopted in 2017 to improve the health of children. The group pointed out that eliminating lead paint has become a viable goal, as safe and affordable substitutes to lead additives have become widely available.

ZAMBIA. The Children’s Environmental Health Foundation (CEHF) held a successful, multi-sectoral march and program coinciding with Zambia’s Independence Day celebration in Livingstone. Given Tebuho, a grade 11 student, delivered a speech appealing to the authorities to regulate lead in paint to protect children’s health. Another highlight of the program was the “Most Supportive in Health and Environment” award given to the CEHF by Mr. Mwangala Liomba, Southern Province Permanent Secretary in the Office of the President. In return, the CEHF gave Mr. Liomba a copy of the report “Lead in Solvent-Based Paints for Home Use in Zambia” to be forwarded to the President of the Republic.”



FRANCOPHONE AFRICA

CAMEROON. Paint manufacturers and distributors learned about the requirements of Cameroon's lead paint regulation during an event sponsored by the Centre de Recherche et d'Education pour le Développement (CREPD) in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and the U.S. Embassy in Yaoundé. CREPD reminded stakeholders that: "Regulation with no implementation simply means no regulation; and its intended purpose, namely, to protect the health of children and the population against exposure to lead from paint and subsequent related diseases, will not be achieved."

COTE D'IVOIRE. The Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (JVE) organized a roundtable discussion on lead paint regulation at the Directorate of Public Health and Environmental Health in Cocody-Angré. The event highlighted the impact of lead exposure on people's health, especially children's health, and the need to control the production and marketing of lead-added paints in Côte d'Ivoire through binding regulation. Government officials, civil society representatives, and members of the media attended the event.



GUINEA. Twenty-four executives from relevant ministries and professional organizations involved in chemicals management in Guinea participated in a workshop aimed at promoting lead paint regulation in that nation. The Carbone Guinée convened the workshop, with the theme, "Strong measures for lead-free paint by 2020. Advocacy for binding legislation in Guinea." Hadja Hawa Diallo, Legal Advisor of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests, and Ibrahima Sory Sylla, President of the NGO Carbone Guinée, facilitated the event.



TOGO. The Les Amis de la Terre-Togo organized a press conference followed by a conference-debate and mobilization to push for lead paint regulation in Togo. The conference-debate included 50 participants from the environmental and health ministries, the paint industry, the health sector, academe, environmental and consumer NGOs, and representatives from the United Nations. They discussed the challenges associated with the use of lead paint, and the benefits of developing regulations and other measures to prevent lead poisoning. A majority of the participants signed a commitment sheet marking their agreement in favor of eliminating lead paint in Togo by 2020.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



IRAQ. The Together to Protect Human & Environment Association released the report, *Lead in Solvent-Based Paints for Home Use in Iraq*, during two separate events held at the Ministry of Health and Environment and at Anbar University. According to the study, jointly conducted with IPEN, nearly half (42 percent) of the analyzed solvent-based paints contained lead concentrations above 90 ppm. Moreover, 5 percent of the paints contained dangerously high lead concentrations above 10,000 ppm. The Ministry announced its plan to urge manufacturers and importers of lead paints to commit to the study's recommendations to reduce lead in paint to less than 90 ppm. It also suggested commending companies whose paint products were found to contain less than 90 ppm lead. As a follow-up to the paint study, the group has embarked on blood lead analysis targeting paint workers.

JORDAN. To advance its continuing effort to promote a lead paint law in Jordan, the group Land and Human to Advocate Progress (LHAP) published an updated brochure about the need to eliminate lead in paint products. The group also wrote and released a discussion and negotiation paper on lead paint elimination, and LHAP organized meetings with agencies that would be most germane to getting a regulation on lead paint adopted.

MOROCCO. The Moroccan Society of Clinical and Analytical Toxicology (SMTCA) tapped Dr. Naima Rhalem to present the highlights of a study it conducted with IPEN on *Lead in Solvent-Based Paints for Home Use in Morocco*, at the 7th International Congress of Toxicology in Rabat. The report found that more than one-third of solvent-based paints sold in Morocco had lead levels above 90 ppm. The presentation was held in collaboration with Center for Poison Control and Pharmacovigilance of Morocco, as well as with two toxicology societies from France. The Congress provided SMTCA with an opportunity to not only share the study results but also advocate for lead paint regulation in Morocco.

TUNISIA. The Association de L'Education Environnementale pour les Futures Générations (AEEFG) organized an awareness campaign on lead in paint, held at the Faculty of Sciences in Tunis. Chemical engineering students learned about the hazards of lead in paint, particularly the risk of exposure for children, pregnant women, and paint industry workers. The students also learned about the technical guidelines for replacing lead in anti-corrosive paint developed by IPEN, which included specific information relevant to the Tunisia.



SOUTH ASIA



Photo by ESDO

BANGLADESH. The Association for Community Development (ACD) organized a dialogue around the theme, “Learn the Risks, Ban Lead Paint,” to raise awareness about the hazards of lead paint and to underscore the importance of preventing lead poisoning. Mrs. Salima Sarwar, ACD Executive Director, presided over the event, which was attended by Mr. Mamunur Rashid, Deputy Director of the Department of Environment; Mr. Subodh Chandra, Senior Chemist at the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution; along with other government officials, academicians, healthcare professionals, journalists, students, and civil society representatives.

BANGLADESH. The Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO) organized a human chain in front of the Parliament Building to raise awareness of lead paint among lawmakers and the public. Together with the Department of Environment, ESDO also organized a roundtable titled, “Ban Lead Paint: Protect Public Health and Environment,” which was attended by representatives of the ministries of Health and Family Welfare, Industry and Commerce, the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution, the Bangladesh Paint Manufacturers Association, non-government organizations, and the media.

INDIA. Toxics Link conducted a study to assess the compliance of small- and medium-sized paint manufacturers with the country’s lead paint regulation adopted in 2016, and to check the level of awareness about lead paint among paint retailers and consumers. To test the level of lead content in paints, 32 locally manufactured paint samples were collected with the help of NGO partners from nine states and analyzed by a government-accredited laboratory. Varying levels of lead, ranging from 15 to

199,345 ppm, were detected in the analyzed samples. To measure awareness levels, Toxics Link disseminated two surveys targeting consumers and retailers in eight states with the help of partner NGOs. The surveys revealed that most of the retailers were not aware about the lead paint regulation, and that many retailers were still keeping old paint stocks, which by law could no longer be sold after November 2018. Consumer awareness of lead in paints and its health impacts was also found to be extremely low. For more information, please see the report *Lead in Paints in India: Concerns and Challenges*, which can be downloaded here: <http://www.toxicslink.org/?q=content/lead-paints>.



Photo by Toxics Link

INDIA. Guide Foundation For Development, with technical support from Toxics Link, organized a lecture on lead paint and the impacts of lead poisoning on human health at SRR & CVR Government Degree College in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. The awareness-raising event was attended by students, teachers and media representatives. The group earlier had conducted a survey that showed only 15 percent of the respondents were aware of the presence of lead in household paints.



Photo by GFD



NEPAL. The Center for Public Health and Environmental Development organized a series of activities aimed at popularizing and strengthening the enforcement of Nepal’s lead paint law. A Kick-Off Press Meet emphasized the need for regular market monitoring and was followed by stakeholders’ workshops held in Kathmandu and Bharatpur Chitwan to rally support for the effective implementation of the law. During the week, special public service announcements were aired on select radio and television programs publicizing the country’s efforts to eliminate lead paint. Health and Population State Minister Surendra Kumar Yadav and other government officials made high-level political commitments toward the implementation of the law.

NEPAL. The Society for Legal and Environmental Analysis and Development Research (LEADERS) conducted blood-lead-level testing for children under the age of 2, targeting children of workers living within paint industry compounds. LEADERS also held an awareness-raising program for paint workers.

SRI LANKA. The Center for Environmental Justice (CEJ) produced and distributed advocacy stickers on buses, trains, and other public places to raise awareness about lead paint and its impact on human health. With support from lead-safe paint manufacturers, CEJ also provided compliant paints to a hospital and to 19 preparatory schools in two districts.



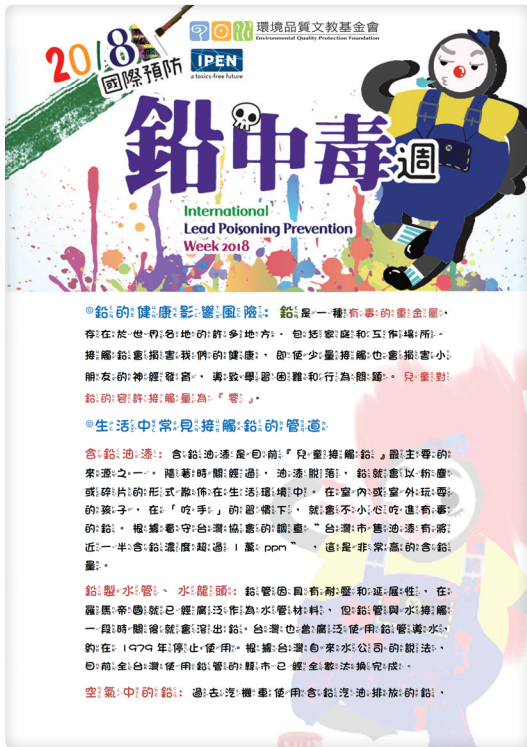
INDONESIA. BaliFokus/Nexus3 and IPEN organized a national workshop on sustainable production and consumption, which focused on “Lead-Safe Paint Certification as a Best Practice of Responsible Business.” Keynote speaker Johnson Ongking, a Filipino paint industry leader, shared the experience of Pacific Paint (Boysen) Philippines, Inc., in obtaining third-party certification under the Lead Safe Paint Certification program. Joining the government and non-government participants were several paint industry representatives, from PT Propan Raya, PT Rajawali Hiyoto, PT Bitall Asia, PT Indaco Warna Dunia, PT IMCD Indonesia, Pacific Paint Indonesia, Warna Agung, and the Indonesia Paint Manufacturers Association.

MALAYSIA. The Consumers’ Association of Penang (CAP) observed the IPEN Week of Action in advance by participating in the Asia Pacific Coatings Show in Kuala Lumpur on September 13. Speaking on behalf of CAP and IPEN, Hatijah Hashim talked about the campaign to eliminate lead paint in Asia and globally, and the need for unified action. “The paint industry in the Asia Pacific region is thriving, buoyed by the increase in infrastructure projects in many countries. Continued use of lead paint will result in more children getting poisoned by lead, which renders irreversible damage to human body,” she said. “Ethical manufacturers need not wait for government controls before they act. Now is the time to end all manufacture and sale of lead paints.”

PHILIPPINES. The EcoWaste Coalition and the Philippine Association of Paint Manufacturers (PAPM) jointly conducted a skillshare that provided some 150 participants with practical knowledge and skills on safe work practices to protect themselves and their clients from lead exposure during painting, maintenance, repair, and renovation activities. Together with the PAPM, the EcoWaste Coalition organized a clean production seminar on “Safer and Effective Alternatives for Methylene Chloride in Paint Stripping Products,” featuring visiting expert Dr. Greg Morose from the University of Massachusetts Lowell as speaker. Joel Maleon of the Environmental Management Bureau and Manny Calonzo of EcoWaste Coalition/IPEN also spoke on a government-hosted radio program that delved into the health impacts of lead exposure, the Philippines’ Chemical Control Order for Lead and Lead Compounds, the phase-out of lead paints, and practical steps to prevent lead exposure among children, especially during the Christmas holidays. Lastly, the EcoWaste Coalition organized a press briefing to launch the report “Get the Lead Out of Paint Brushes,” documenting the presence of lead on the handle of paintbrushes, which are often improperly used for street food preparations.



TAIWAN. The Environmental Quality Protection Foundation held a “Toxic-Free Campus” circuit teaching event for about 500 schoolchildren, ages 6 to 12. The group designed teaching materials with games for kids and adults to learn about the hazards of lead poisoning; links to the most useful lead exposure resources in Taiwan; and best practices information to prevent lead poisoning. The group also used the occasion to cite the need for stronger lead paint standards.



VIETNAM. The Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development (CGFED) organized a workshop to raise awareness about lead paint hazards affecting secondary, primary, and kindergarten school leaders and teachers in Hai Hau district, Nam Dinh province. Representatives from local authorities and members of the Hai Hau Women’s Union also participated in the event. CGFED shared the results of its joint study with IPEN in *Lead in Solvent-Based Paints for Home Use in Vietnam*, which found that more than half of solvent-based paints tested had levels above 600 ppm, the regulatory limit in Singapore, South Korea, and Sri Lanka. During the workshop, the participants also received campaign resources from the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint and discussed solutions to prevent lead exposure, especially at home and school, by buying lead-safe paints and consumer materials, such as toys.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ARGENTINA. The Taller Ecologista organized three events in the city of Rosario. First: “Primera Ambiental y Ecológica de Rosario,” a talk on lead in paint as a health, environmental, and economic problem, held at the Biblioteca Popular. Second: a talk on lead contamination and the health risks held at La Maquineta, where presenters also discussed the global campaign to eliminate lead paint, and showed a video by Lic. Montecchia about lead, mercury, and persistent organic pollutants. Third: a talk on lead paint and its impact on children, held at the Escuela de Educación Secundaria. Each activity drew attention to the need to lower the current lead paint limit from 600 to 90 ppm.



COLOMBIA. The Colnodo/Red de Desarrollo Sostenible, with support from IPEN and the Orbis de Pintuco Foundation, organized an event that focused on reducing lead hazards in schools. Held at the Toldas Rural School Headquarters in Guarne, the event promoted the creation of lead-free spaces where children can safely study and play. More than 100 volunteers participated in decorating the facilities of a school in the municipality of Rionegro with lead-free paint.

JAMAICA. The Caribbean Poison Information Network (CarPIN) released the report, *Lead in Solvent-Based Paints for Home Use in Jamaica*. Based on a study CarPIN conducted in collaboration with IPEN, the report showed that 35 of the 36 analyzed solvent-based paints intended for home use contained lead concentrations below 90 ppm. The other paint, a yellow automotive OMNI Mae industrial paint, was found to contain 150,000 ppm of lead. Manufactured by PPG Paints USA and imported into Jamaica, the

paint had a warning on the label stating, “leaded” and “for professional use only—not intended for household use.” Prior to the report’s release, CarPIN appeared as a guest at the JIS “Think Tank” to discuss the problem with lead paint and the need to protect children from lead exposure.



MEXICO. The Casa Cem-Vías Verdes A.C., based in Guadalajara, organized a press conference to release the results of its joint study with IPEN, *Lead in Solvent-Based Paints for Domestic Use in Mexico*. The study showed that more than half (55 percent) of the 118 solvent-based paints analyzed had lead concentrations above 90 ppm. Moreover, 27 percent of the paints contained dangerously high lead concentrations above 10,000 ppm. Prior to the public release of the report, Casa Cem reached out to national and local paint manufacturers to inform them about the study results and recommendations.



EASTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA



ARMENIA. The Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment (AWHHE) organized seminars on lead paint and lead poisoning prevention in various schools in Aygavan, Mushakan, Ararat, and Vosketap, and in the city of Yerevan. The group reprinted and distributed relevant booklets and posters to the schools and polyclinics visited, and it prepared an article on lead poisoning that was published online and in print. AWHHE also wrote to the Ministry of Health suggesting the upgrading of the technical regulation pertaining to lead in paint, noting that during a review of Eurasian Economic Union safety regulations for varnish materials, the Ministry of Health proposed to ban the use of lead in such materials.

AZERBAIJAN. The ecological society Ruzgar held a press conference to highlight the need to eliminate lead paint, and thereby reduce its negative impact on children's health. Experts discussed the presence of lead in household paints sold locally and the health effects of lead exposure, especially on young children. Another expert spoke about the properties and composition of paints used in repair and construction work in Azerbaijan.



KAZAKHSTAN. Greenwomen reached 1,500 people with various lead-paint awareness-raising activities. To reach government officials, paint producers and retailers, and the general public, the group worked with the Aarhus Centres for Environmental Information Network, which facilitates public access to information on environmental matters. With the help of young designers, Greenwomen developed posters about the harmful effects of lead that were distributed via mobile communications and social media. The group reached out to paint dealers in Almaty, visiting retail outlets and discussing the dangers of lead paint with vendors. Greenwomen likewise sent an appeal to the Committee for Environmental Regulation and Control of the Ministry of Energy, urging it to prohibit the use of lead in paint by 2020.

MOLDOVA. EcoContact organized a press conference about the use of lead paint in the country and related health and environmental risks, during which presenters put forth a draft strategy and action plan for the regulation and elimination of lead in paints in Moldova. Speakers also talked about relevant policy developments such as the newly adopted waste law and the recently submitted chemicals law. Invited experts were led by Svetlana Bolocan, Chief of the Waste and Chemicals Management Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment.

RUSSIA. Eco-Accord hosted the “Lead Poisoning Prevention: Public Awareness Raising and Multistakeholders Dialogue” via Zoom, which drew participants from countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. Teleconference participants discussed issues including the role of national legislation to regulate lead paint in the region, the importance of lead paint monitoring and enforcement, opportunities to choose lead-safe paints, and the need for independent, third party lead paint certification. The dialogue also tackled the question of whether it will be possible to monitor and prevent all trade or sales of toxic paint in the region. Eco-Accord sent a letter regarding the elimination of lead paint to the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation, prepared materials on lead paint that were disseminated through the listserv and related Facebook pages, and prepared a companion article for the UNEP-Europe website.



TAJIKISTAN. The Foundation to Support Civil Initiatives held a roundtable discussion in Dushanbe during which it presented the results and recommendations arising from the group’s study on lead paints, *Lead in Solvent-Based Paints for Home Use in Tajikistan*. Attendees discussed measures to eliminate lead paints, as well as address other hazardous chemical pollutants of concern. Experts and officials in attendance included Rahmatulloev U. Hurullozoda T. of the Agency for Standardization, Metrology, Certification, and Trade Inspection of the Government of Tajikistan.

UKRAINE. The “MAMA-86” continued with its policy advocacy with a goal of finalizing the country’s technical regulations limiting lead in paints. The group organized awareness-raising activities on the health risks of lead paint, especially targeting students, teachers and leaders in kindergartens and schools. “MAMA-86” also conducted a media campaign on keeping children’s playgrounds free of harmful chemicals.

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

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