



# Pb

## Lead Paint

**Lead** is a multisystem toxicant for which **no safe level of exposure has been identified.**

**Lead exposure can cause chronic and debilitating health impacts in all age groups**, but it is particularly harmful to young children. This is because their developing nervous systems can be damaged by lead, resulting in reduced cognitive abilities, poor educational attainment, attention deficit disorder and anti-social behavior. In adults, lead exposure can cause hypertension, renal impairment and damage to the reproductive organs.



## What we do

**Lead paint<sup>1</sup> was identified as a global priority under the Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM).**

This resulted in the creation of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance or Alliance) with the goal to promote the establishment of lead paint laws<sup>2</sup> in all countries.



The Alliance is a voluntary partnership formed by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to prevent exposure to lead. The overall goal of the Alliance is to prevent children's exposure to lead from paints and to minimize occupational exposures to lead paint.

The Alliance is guided by an Advisory Council, currently chaired by the United States of America through the Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). The Advisory Council consists of government representatives from Colombia, the Republic of Moldova, Kenya, Thailand, International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN), Health and Environmental Alliance (HEAL), the World Coating Council (WCC), AkzoNobel and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). It currently has 96 partners.

<sup>1</sup> "Lead paint" is defined by the Lead Paint Alliance as any paint with levels higher than a maximum limit, e.g., 90 ppm

<sup>2</sup> "law" is used as a general term that means a legal mechanism or set of provisions that establishes a binding, enforceable limit on lead in paint with penalties for non-compliance.

## Impact

The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint has developed four tools to support countries adopt lead paint laws:



**Model Law and Guidance** for Regulating Lead Paint



Update on the Global Status of **Legal Limits on Lead in Paint**



Toolkit for Establishing **Laws to Eliminate Lead Paint**



**Awareness raising and communication materials** for International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2019

The Alliance also facilitated awareness raising events during [International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2019](#)

**89**

events

**81**

participating  
organisations

**57**

countries

Events were held in communities, schools, and paint industries used social media, videos, infographics, flyers and posters

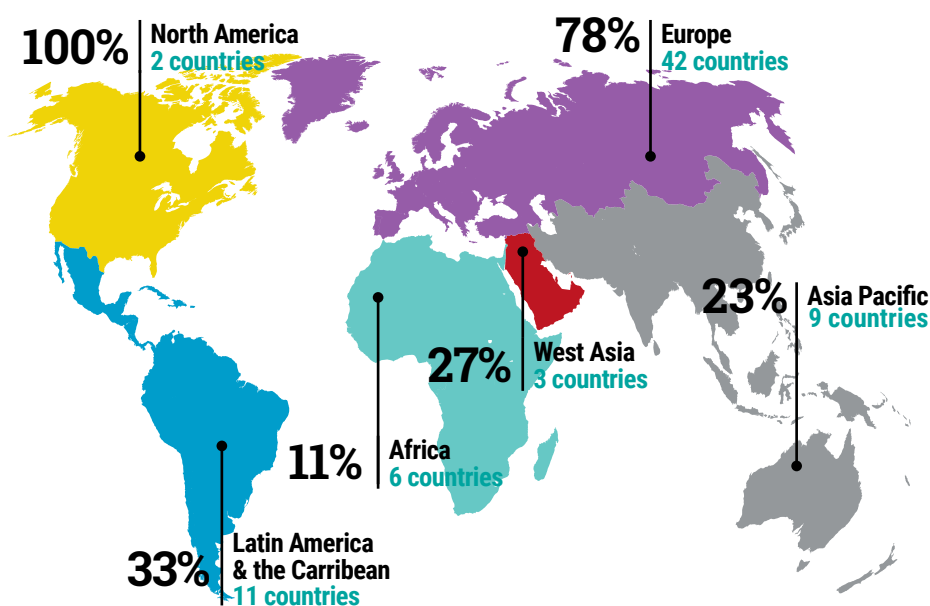
The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint has directly or indirectly **supported countries to adopt lead paint laws.**



**38%**

As of June 2019, 73 out of 194 countries (38%) have legally binding controls to limit the production, import and sale of lead paints

The Alliance has contributed to the following percentage of countries by region which have adopted lead paint laws:



## SAICM GEF Project - Lead in paint component

To support the Alliance's goal of lead paint elimination, a GEF-funded SAICM project "Lead in Paint component", is enabling the Alliance to provide expert advice to assist countries with establishing lead paint laws.

At the SAICM open-ended working group meeting that took place in Montevideo, Uruguay, in April 2019, 36 countries were awarded certificates of recognition for expressing interest to join the project.

65 countries have expressed interest to join the project and have designated focal points.

Since the project inception in January 2019, the project has delivered:



Regional workshops:

1. Central and Eastern Europe: Almaty, Kazakstan
2. Africa: Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
3. Latin America and the Caribbean: Panama City, Panama
4. Asia-Pacific: Bangkok, Thailand

The regional workshops resulted in country approach/country roadmap documents for:



## About the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

UNEP is the leading global voice on the environment. It provides leadership and encourages partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. UNEP works with governments, the private sector, civil society and with other UN entities and international organizations around the world

## About the Chemicals and Health Branch

UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch works to mini-mize the adverse effects of chemicals and waste on human health and the environment. Chemicals are integral to almost all sectors of society, bringing important benefits in areas from medicine and agriculture to consumer goods, clean technologies and poverty alleviation. While chemicals and waste are major contributors to world economies, their sound management is essential to avoiding risks to human health and ecosystems as well as substantial costs to national economies.

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