

Overview of Global Efforts to Eliminate Lead Paint: Why Action Now Matters

UN Environment GEF Lead Paint Project

Regional Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia

March 19, 2019

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Chair of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

**Global Alliance to
Eliminate Lead Paint**





Lead is Poisonous

- ▶ Lead's lifelong consequences are borne by the affected children, their families, and society at large
- ▶ There is **NO** safe level of exposure to lead!
- ▶ Globally, lead in paint is a major source of childhood lead exposure

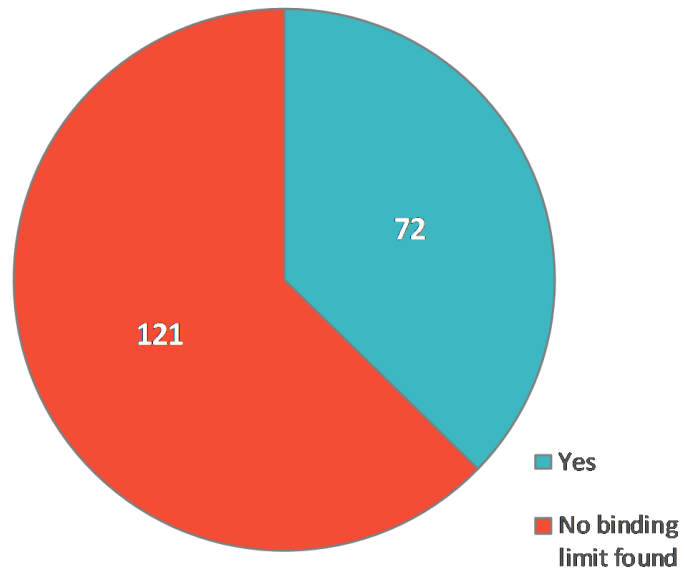
Why is Lead Paint a Problem?

- ▶ Lead compounds are added to paints to improve drying time and color brightness.
- ▶ Paint breaks down over time, fragmenting into flakes and dust that contaminate the domestic environment, air, and soil
 - ▶ Lead is persistent, and when released does not break down
 - ▶ Potential human exposure for many years into the future, which is especially harmful to children
- ▶ Lead exposure also happens during manufacturing, application, and removal of lead paint

The term 'paint' is used broadly to include varnishes, lacquers, glazes, stains, enamels, primers, and coatings.

Action Needed on Lead Paint

Countries with Lead Paint Laws



Many countries banned lead in paint in 1970s and '80s

However, in many lower- and middle-income countries lead paint is still legal

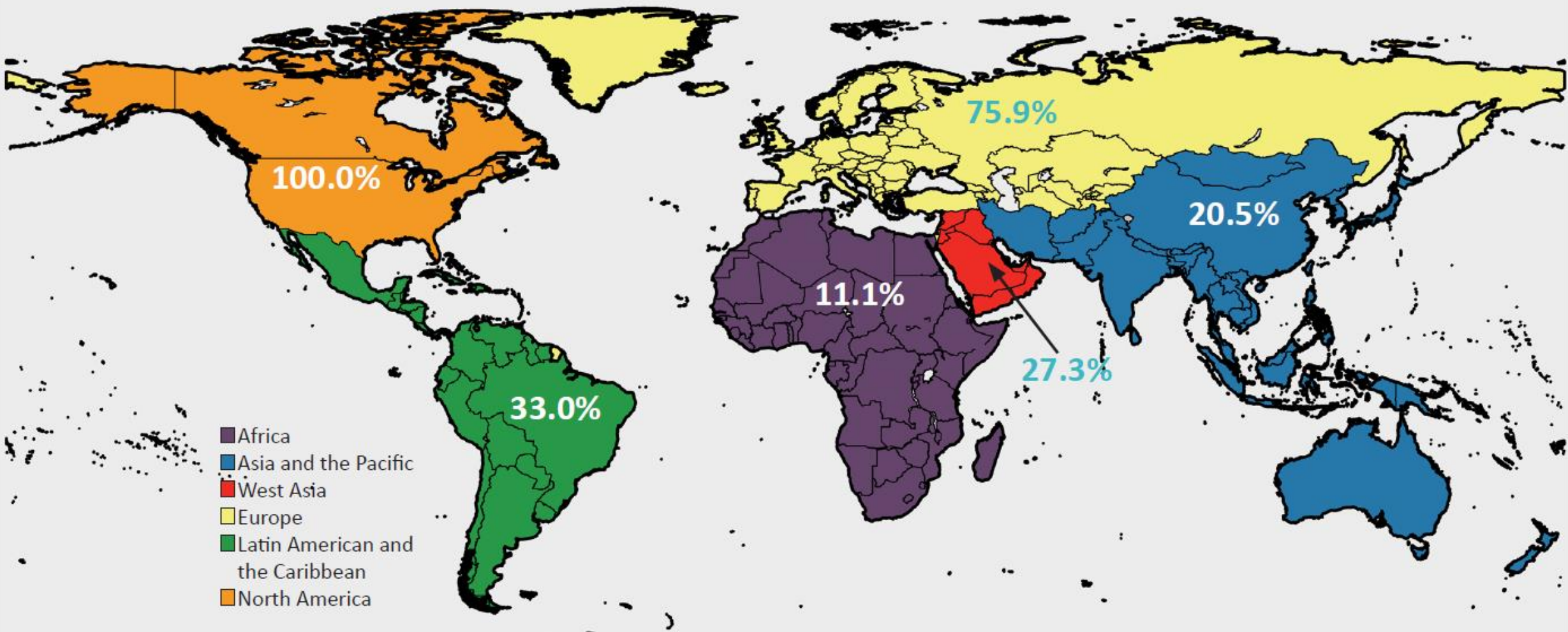
Lead compounds are added to paints to improve drying time and color brightness

Alternative paints without added lead are affordable and widely available

Voluntary labeling of paints is not effective

Industry and governments agree:
Solution is enacting lead paint laws in countries worldwide

Map 1: Percent of Countries with Lead Paint Laws in Each UN Environment Region, as of September 2018



Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance)

- ▶ Voluntary global public/private partnership
 - ▶ Secretariat: UN Environment and WHO
 - ▶ Chair of Advisory Council: US EPA
 - ▶ Partners: Governments, NGOs, and Industry
- ▶ **Goal: Establish lead paint laws in every country**

Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

Lead Paint Alliance Advisory Council

Governments



Colombia



Kenya



Republic of Moldova



Thailand



United States of America

NGOs



Health and Environment Alliance



ABA RULE OF LAW INITIATIVE



IPPIC
International Paint & Printing Ink Council

AkzoNobel



Key Activities of Lead Paint Alliance

- ▶ Encourage countries and regions to establish and enforce lead paint laws.
- ▶ Encourage governments to join the Lead Paint Alliance to support the *global effort to establish lead paint laws to ban Lead in Paint by 2020.*
- ▶ Provide information and tools:
 - Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint
 - Toolkit with information about health and economic impacts, alternatives to lead paint, testing
- ▶ available at:

www.unep.org/noleadinpaint

Growing Momentum Toward Laws

▶ International

- ▶ Resolution at UNEA3 (2017)
- ▶ World Health Organization Chemicals Road Map (2017)
- ▶ GEF SAICM project goal: 40 or more countries pass new lead paint laws or improve existing laws (2019)

▶ Regional

- ▶ Latin American Minister's Action Plan (2018)
- ▶ African Environment Minister's resolution (2018)
- ▶ Moldova Lead Paint Workshop (2016)

▶ National

- ▶ Countries adopting strong legal limits for lead in all paint

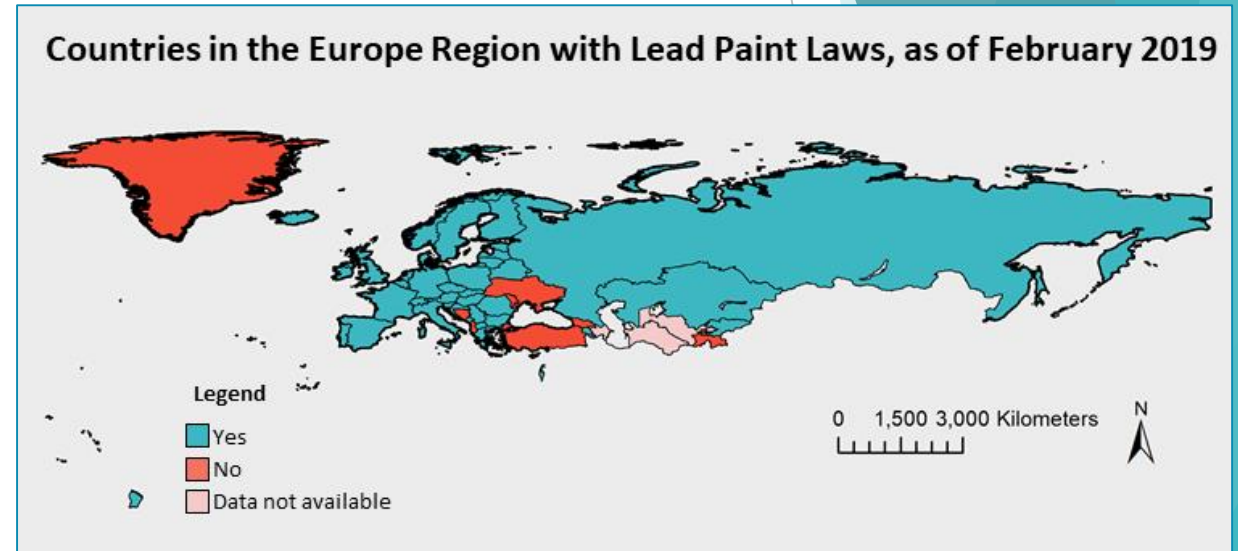
Highlights of Lead Paint Law Status

72 countries have laws, including:

- ▶ 31 countries ban lead additives in paint through their implementation of EU REACH
- ▶ Recent laws have 90 ppm total lead limit: Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines, Israel
- ▶ Examples of current activity:
 - ▶ Brazil and Argentina are revising their laws to reduce lead limit from 600 to 90 ppm
 - ▶ The East African Community is finalizing regional standard with lead limit of 90 ppm

Status of Laws in the Region of Europe

- ▶ 42 countries in the Europe Region have lead paint laws
- ▶ Many follow EU REACH
- ▶ 3 countries use total lead limits (Armenia and Belarus - 5,000 or 150,000 ppm and Switzerland - 100 ppm)
- ▶ The Eurasian Economic Union drafted a regional lead paint standard
- ▶ Israel recently finalized a mandatory standard for 90 ppm
- ▶ Ukraine draft law is being reviewed by the Cabinet of Ministers



Source: WHO Database

Action For Global Elimination of Lead Paint

- ▶ Lead paint elimination is gaining momentum
- ▶ This problem can be solved in the foreseeable future
- ▶ Solving this problem results in health, economic and social benefits in all countries
- ▶ Individual country actions that will help
 - ▶ Establish new or strengthen existing laws
 - ▶ Serve as “champions” to encourage others to take action
 - ▶ Join the Lead Paint Alliance

Thank you!

Resources

- ▶ Lead Paint Alliance (Model Law available here):
<https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/emerging-issues/global-alliance-eliminate-lead-paint>
- ▶ UNEA3 Resolution: <https://www.informea.org/en/decision/eliminating-exposure-lead-paint-and-promoting-environmentally-sound-management-waste-lead>
- ▶ WHO Database of Lead Paint Law Status:
http://www.who.int/gho/phe/chemical_safety/lead_paint_regulations/en/
- ▶ World Health Assembly Chemicals Roadmap:
<http://www.who.int/ipcs/saicm/roadmap/en/>
- ▶ Economic Impact of Childhood Lead Poisoning:
<http://www.med.nyu.edu/pediatrics/research/environmentalpediatrics/leadexposure>
- ▶ IPEN Map of Levels of Lead in Paint:
<http://ipen.org/projects/eliminating-lead-paint/lead-levels-paint-around-world>