

# Overview of Lead Paint Laws in Africa

Regional meeting for the development of a regional standard  
on lead in paint in the ECOWAS region

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**Global Alliance to  
Eliminate Lead Paint**

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# Outline

- ▶ Status of Laws in Africa
- ▶ Status of Laws in ECOWAS countries
- ▶ Economic Costs
- ▶ Lead Paint Testing
- ▶ Past Activities Supporting Lead Paint Laws in Africa
- ▶ ECOWAS Regional Efforts
- ▶ Paint industry in ECOWAS countries
- ▶ Lead Paint Alliance Goal: Encourage Development of Lead Paint Laws in all African Countries

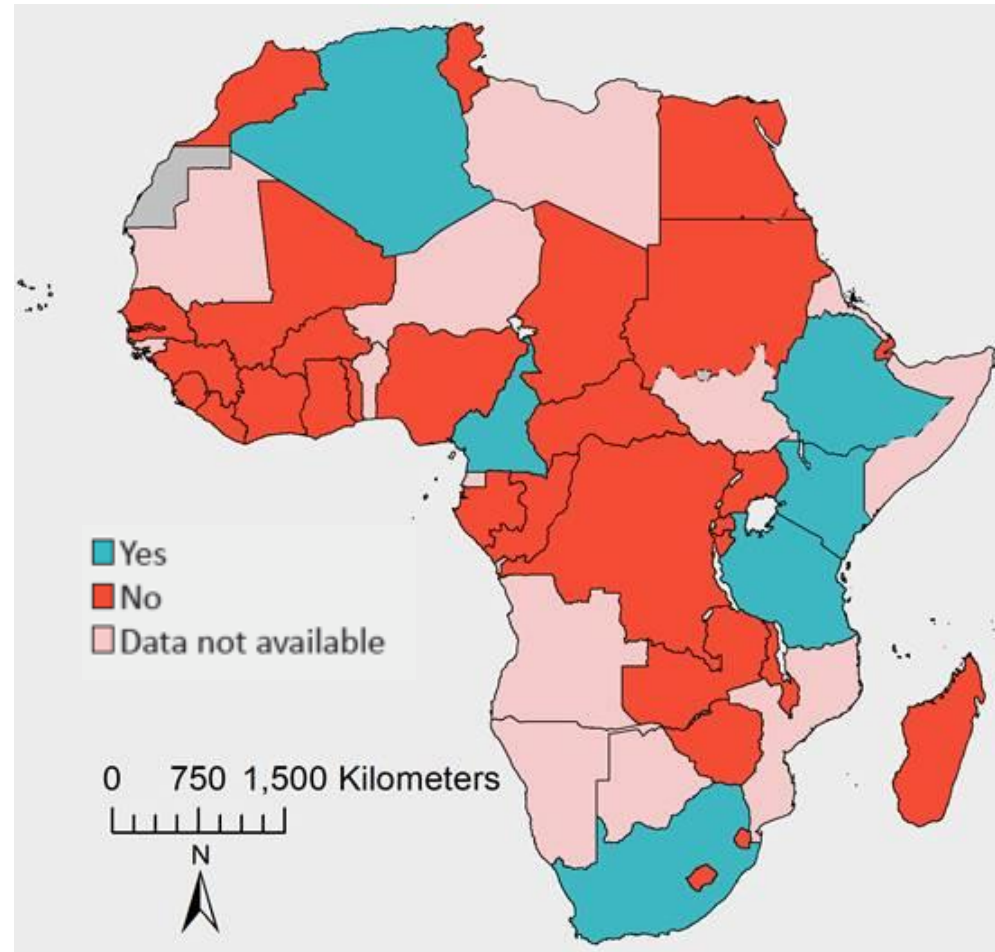
# Status of Laws in Africa

Countries with lead paint laws as of July 2020:

- ▶ Algeria - 5,000 ppm
- ▶ Cameroon - 90 ppm
- ▶ Ethiopia - 90 ppm
- ▶ Kenya - 90 ppm
- ▶ South Africa - 600 ppm
- ▶ Tanzania - 90 ppm
- ▶ East African Community - 90 ppm
  - ▶ Yet to be implemented in Burundi, South Sudan, Rwanda and Uganda

*Data Source: World Health Organization: Regulations and controls on lead paint*

Countries in the Africa Region with Lead Paint Laws

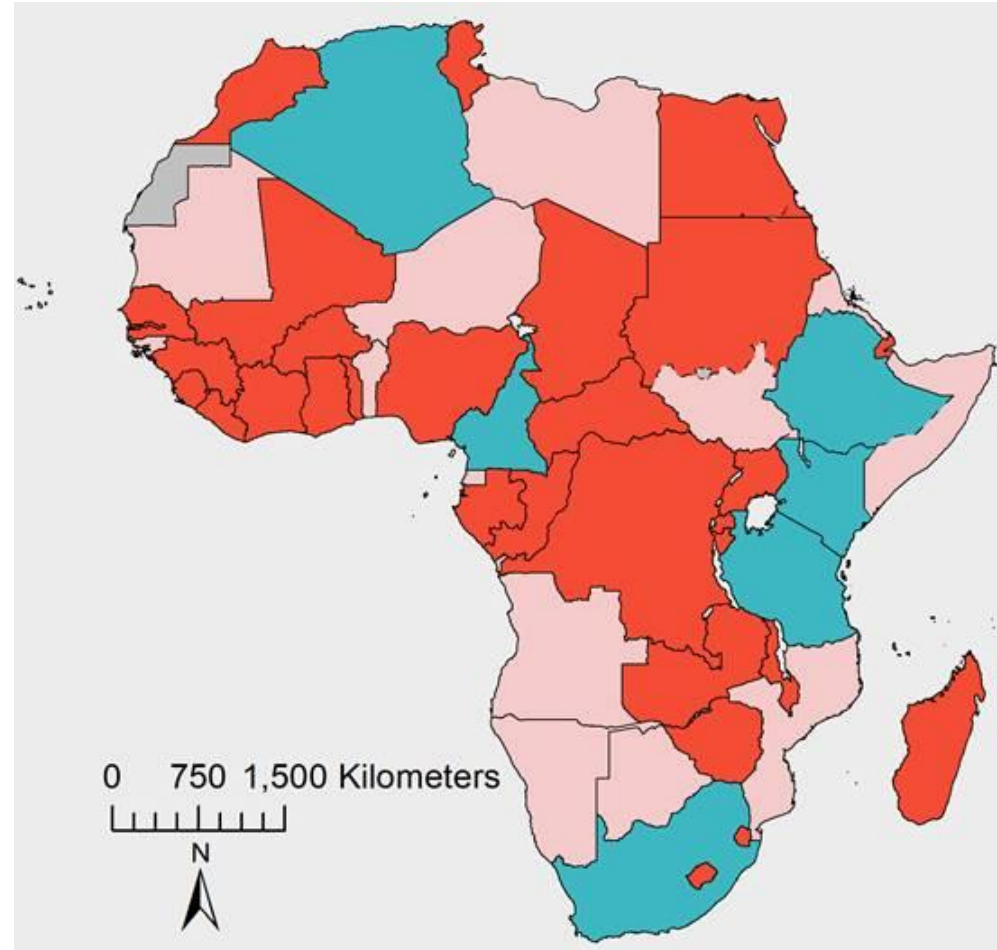


# Status of Laws in Africa

Countries/region with draft lead paint laws:

- ▶ Côte d'Ivoire
- ▶ South Africa (*revisions; 90 ppm*)
- ▶ Zambia (*90 ppm*)
- ▶ Nigeria
- ▶ Ghana
- ▶ Rwanda
- ▶ Tunisia
- ▶ Morocco

Countries in the Africa Region with Lead Paint Laws



*Data Source: World Health Organization: Regulations and controls on lead paint*

# Status of Laws in ECOWAS Countries

- ▶ Drafting a lead paint law
  - Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria
- ▶ Government has taken first steps
  - Benin, Liberia
- ▶ Government has expressed interest
  - Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo
- ▶ No government action has been taken, or status unknown
  - Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau

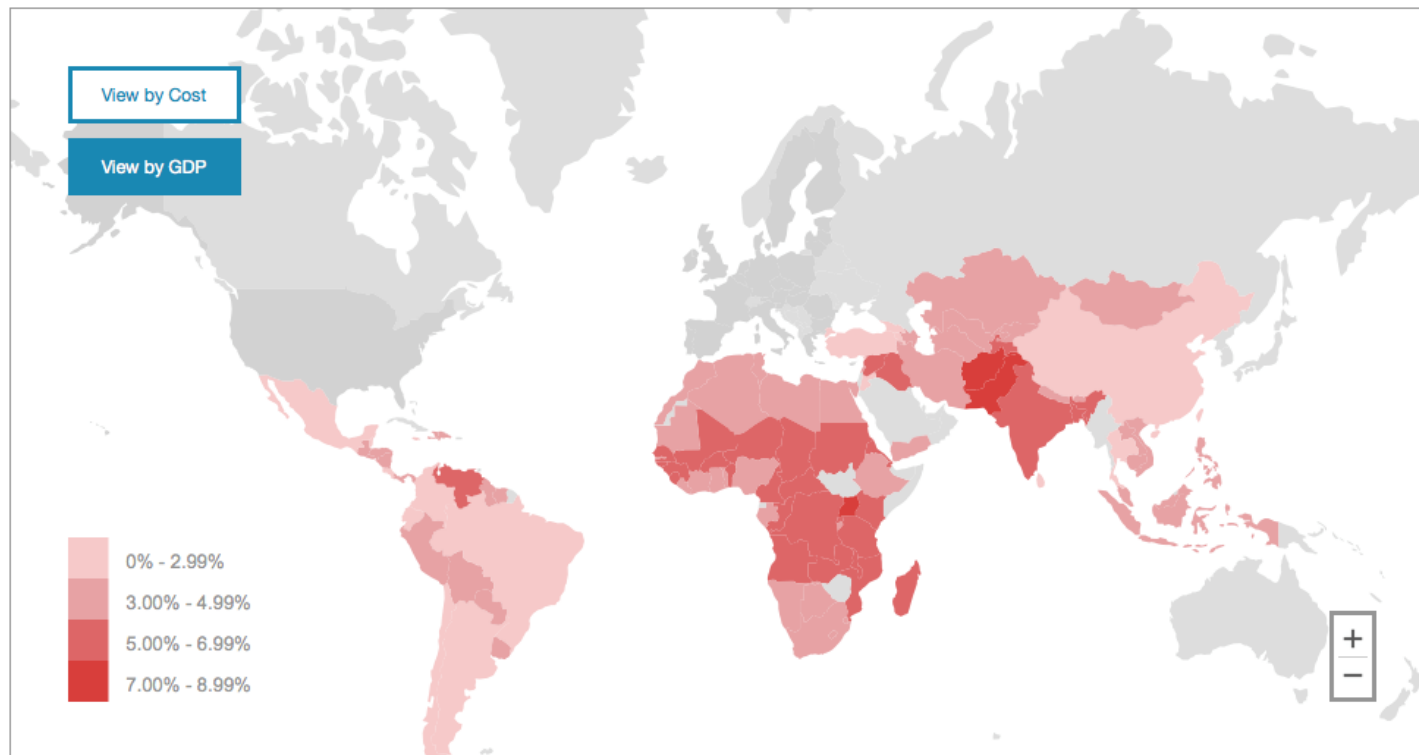
# Individual Children & Global Costs

- ▶ Childhood lead exposure (from all sources) has staggering economic costs.
  - ▶ Reduction in intelligence quotient (IQ) can be correlated with decreases in lifetime earning potential.
- ▶ Lead exposure costs **\$977 billion** annually to low and middle-income countries from children's lost IQ.
  - ▶ **In Africa, it costs \$135 billion.**
  - ▶ Latin America: \$142 billion
  - ▶ Asia: \$700 billion



# Economic Costs of Childhood Lead Exposure in Low-and Middle-Income Countries

- ▶ An interactive map based on the findings of a New York University (NYU) analysis displays cost and corresponding percent loss to GDP in 110 low- and middle-income countries.



Source: NYU School of Medicine  
<http://www.med.nyu.edu/pediatrics/research/environmentalpediatrics/leadexposure>

# Select African Country Results

A full report by NYU researchers is available online and by request.

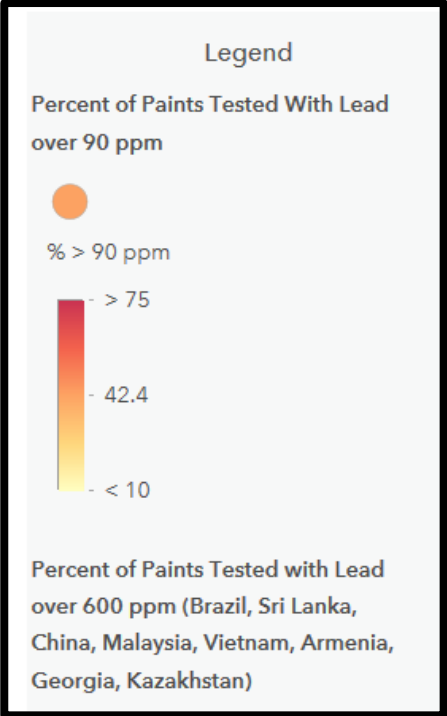
Country	Annual Cost (billion \$)	% GDP
Algeria	11.83	3.77
Cameroon	2.52	5.28
Côte d'Ivoire	1.76	4.85
DR Congo	1.52	5.99
Egypt	17.79	3.41
Kenya	3.76	5.26
Madagascar	1.19	5.73
Nigeria	16.22	3.94
South Africa	17.71	3.17
Zambia	1.44	6.59

Source: NYU School of Medicine

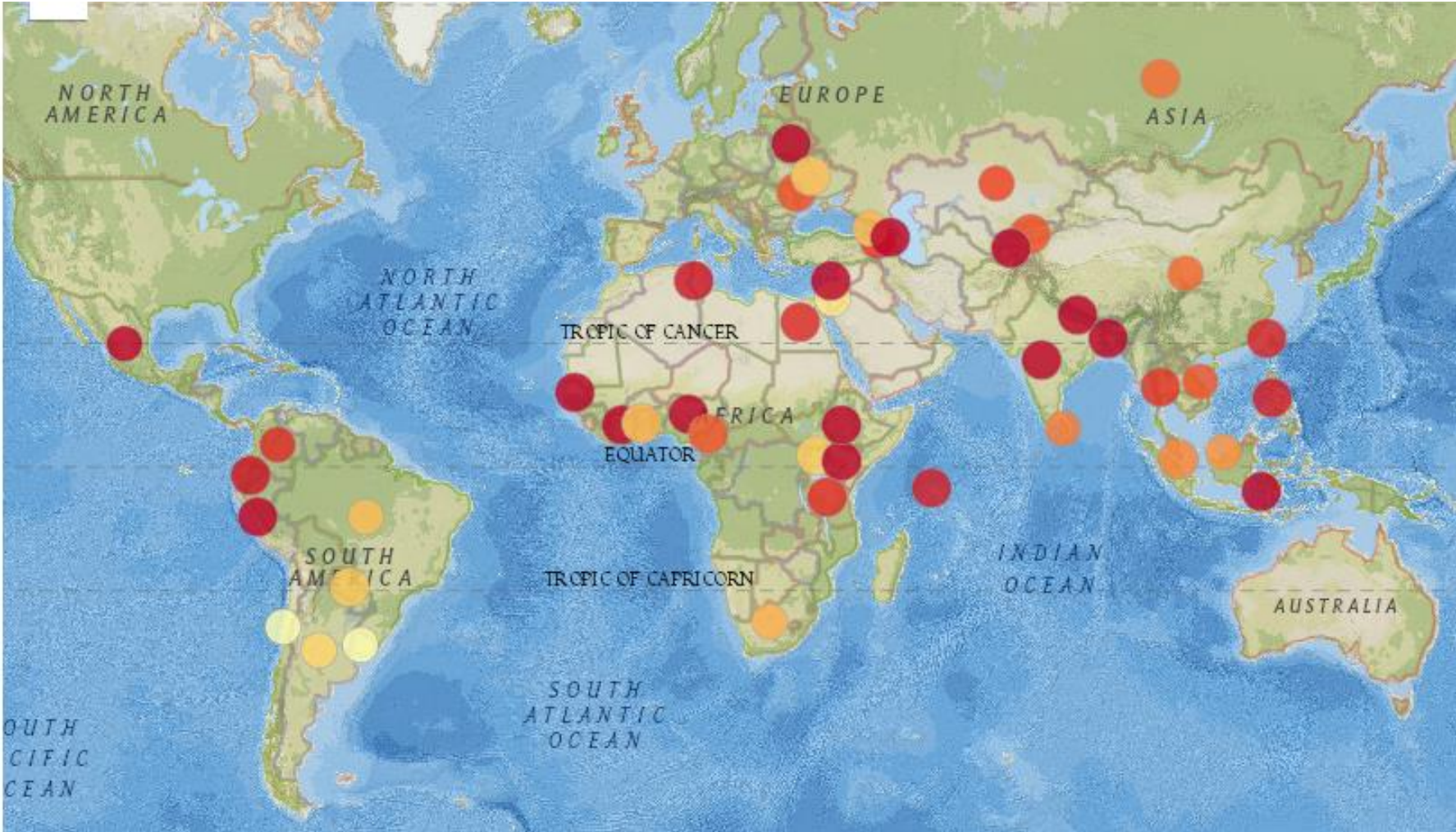
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# Lead Paint Testing Around the World



High levels of lead found in paint.



Source: IPEN 2016; <http://ipen.org/projects/eliminating-lead-paint/lead-levels-paint-around-world>

# Lead Paint Levels in select ECOWAS countries

Country	# of Paints	Year of Study	% > 90 ppm	% > 600 ppm	% > 10,000 ppm
Benin	28	2017	79%	71%	36%
Cote D'Ivoire	55	2017	63%	59%	27%
Ghana	18	2013	33%	28%	17%
Guinea	18	2017	28%	6%	0%
Nigeria	54	2017	74%	72%	54%
Senegal	21	2009	86%	76%	19%
Togo	27	2017	30%	15%	7%
The Gambia	39	2018	62%	59%	41%

Source: IPEN Reports 2019 <https://ipen.org/projects/eliminating-lead-paint/ipen-research>

# Activities Supporting Lead Paint Laws in Africa

- ▶ **December 2015:** East African sub-regional workshop held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; all participants agreed to work toward a 90 ppm total lead limit in paint.
- ▶ **September 2016:** Workshop assisting the East African Community (EAC) in working towards harmonized regional standards for lead in paint (90 ppm total lead) held in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.
- ▶ **September 2018:** Nairobi Declaration at the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). Commitment made by the Ministers of the Environment to develop and ensure implementation of 90 ppm total lead content.
- ▶ **November 2018:** Third Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa. Outcome of the conference summarizes a strategic action plan for 2019-2029, including a commitment to reduce lead exposure from various sources (including paint) and promote the prevention of childhood lead poisoning by increasing awareness and enacting legislation to ban lead in paint.

# Activities Supporting Lead Paint Laws in ECOWAS Region

- ▶ December 2016: Central and West African workshop, including participants from other countries in Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

# Paint Industry in ECOWAS Countries

- ▶ In Nigeria, the industry association, Paint Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (PMAN) is one of the stakeholders involved in setting the 90 ppm limit on lead.
- ▶ Most countries in the ECOWAS region do not have paint associations, but there do exist general industrial associations.
- ▶ In some countries, such as Benin and Côte d'Ivoire, the paint industry has already started to engage on the lead paint issue.
- ▶ In general, most paint containers do not reflect lead paint content.

# Lead Paint Alliance Goal: Encourage Lead Paint Laws in all African Countries

- ▶ Momentum is growing in Africa.
- ▶ Countries are using the *Model Law and Guidance for Regulating Lead Paint*.
- ▶ Project Advisors will work under the coordination of UNEP to help ECOWAS use the Model Law to develop a regional standard.



**Thank you!**  
**Merci!**