



World Health
Organization

Global Alliance to
Eliminate Lead Paint

Eliminating lead paint matters! | July 2026



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Introduction

The Alliance is pleased to present its July 2026 newsletter in which updates are shared about the ongoing work to phase out lead paint worldwide, including new lead-related resources, updates on progress towards laws, and lead paint in the news.

New Tool



The Lead Paint – Reformulation is Entirely Possible e-course has been prepared with the support of UNITAR based on the UNEP Lead Paint Reformulation Technical Guidelines and is available [here](#).



Upcoming Events

International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (18–24 October 2026)

The 14th year of WHO's International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week will take place from 18–24 October 2026. The 2026 theme is “From Detection to Prevention”. The campaign website will be launched in the coming months and will contain a link to register your event, a list of registered events, a social media post builder in multiple languages, and other resources to support your ILPPW campaign. For more information, contact noleadinpaint@who.int.

The Global Framework on Chemicals – First International Conference (16–20 November 2026)

The First International Conference will take place from 16 to 20 November 2026 at the Geneva International Conference Center in Switzerland. The conference will feature a high-level segment, bringing together governments, industry, companies, and non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, for a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste. The Global Framework on Chemicals provides the foundation for a future in which humanity benefits from chemicals in a safe and sustainable way. Its five strategic objectives and 28 targets guide countries and stakeholders to address the full lifecycle of chemicals, including products and waste, while preventing harmful impacts on human health and the environment. [More information](#) and [Registration](#).



Recent Events

IOMC Regional Webinars/Consultation on the Global Framework on Chemicals Implementation Programmes: Proposals for the First International Conference (IC-1) (5–7 May 2026)

Building upon prior [Global Framework on Chemicals](#) (GFC) webinar discussions, the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) hosted three regional webinars/consultations to gather feedback from stakeholders in the Asia Pacific region, Africa, Central Europe, Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean on proposals for GFC Implementation Programmes (IP) to ensure regional perspectives are reflected in final proposals. The webinars provided an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback on strengthening national chemicals legislation and institutional capacities (IP1), strengthening economic and industry sector engagement along value chains (IP2), and integrating chemicals and waste issues into sustainable development decision-making (IP3). Recordings of all three regional webinars are available on the [IOMC webinar series website](#).

Evidence to action: Preventing lead poisoning to save lives (18 May 2026)



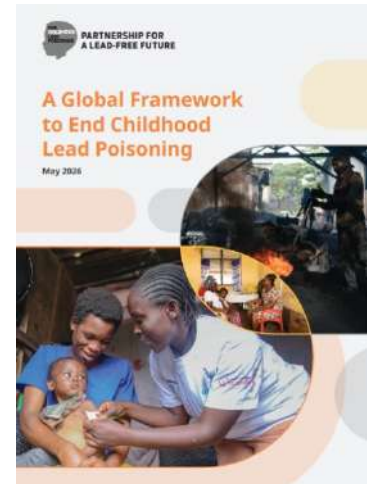
The World Health Organization (WHO), Bloomberg Philanthropies, and Resolve to Save Lives co-organized the event [Evidence to action: Preventing lead poisoning to save lives](#) on the margins of the 79th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland. WHO and partners presented a discussion paper providing an overview of the forthcoming WHO PREVENT



Technical Package on Lead Poisoning Prevention. During the event, national and international leaders discussed the urgency in addressing the global burden of childhood lead exposure. Member States and other stakeholders were invited to provide input on the discussion paper to inform the development of the full technical package which is expected to be released with the WHO Global Action Plan on Lead Mitigation in 2027. The event recording, discussion paper, and ways to provide feedback can be accessed on [WHO's website](#).

A Global Framework to End Childhood Lead Poisoning (May 2026)

The Partnership for a Lead-Free Future (PLF) launched a [Global Framework to End Childhood Lead Poisoning](#) by 2040. The Framework provides a shared direction through which the PLF will drive and support collective action across the partnership, including indicators of success on progress toward laws to address sources.



Second Annual Research Conference on Global Lead Exposure (3 and 4 June 2026)



The Centre for Global Development (CGD) and Partnership for a Lead-Free Future co-hosted the Second Annual Research Conference on Global Lead Exposure in London. The multidisciplinary conference focused on translating research into action and addressed several topics, including sources of lead exposure (i.e., consumer products, drinking water, food, contaminated sites); blood lead surveillance; health outcomes associated with lead exposure; treatment options for lead poisoning; and legal, regulatory, and policy instruments to prevent lead exposure. The full agenda and presentation recordings are available on [CGD's website](#).

Strengthening Global Efforts in Lead Poisoning Prevention (5 June 2026)

WHO hosted a webinar to provide an update and seek further input on the draft Global Action Plan for Lead and draft Technical Package for Lead Poisoning Prevention that WHO is developing in collaboration with Resolve to Save Lives in response to World Health Assembly resolution 78.27 (2025). During the webinar, participants discussed approaches to assessing and prioritizing data for actions, key capacities required to implement actions, and overarching strategies for addressing major sources of lead exposure. Information on the Global Action Plan for Lead and the Technical Package is available on [WHO's website](#).



Lead in Paint Community of Practice (LiP CoP) Global Webinar (18 June 2026)

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) hosted the Lead in Paint Community of Practice (LiP CoP) global webinar on growing global momentum on the adoption and enforcement of lead paint laws which highlighted recent experiences from the Africa region and built on the outcomes of regional capacity-building workshops that were held in Nairobi and Tomé earlier this year. The global webinar featured speakers from international NGOs, government agencies, and industry. During this interactive webinar, speakers presented the outcomes of the regional capacity workshops, progress in advancing regulatory action to address lead paint in Ethiopia and Niger, Cameroon's experience in submitting a lead chromate notification to the Rotterdam Convention, and industry experiences in transitioning to paints meeting the 90 ppm lead limit. Furthermore, webinar participants engaged in polls and the webinar chat to indicate effective strategies and barriers in advancing lead paint regulation and compliance in their country.



Partner Corner

GAELP Welcomes 1 new member

The Alliance is pleased to welcome its newest partner the World Intangible Cultural Heritage Foundation. This organization joins over 100 [partners](#) who have committed to help catalyze the efforts of a diverse range of stakeholders to achieve international goals to prevent children's exposure to lead from paint and to minimize occupational exposures to lead paint. More information is available from the Alliance website on [how to become a partner and a sample letter of intent](#) to join the Lead Paint Alliance.

Nomination of "Lead" as a new Issue of Concern under the Global Framework of Chemicals



The Global Alliance on Health and Pollution submitted a nomination form titled "[Towards a Broader Approach on Lead: Expanding the Scope Beyond Lead in Paint](#)" to the Global Framework on Chemicals. Stakeholders are invited to [submit comments](#) by 21 August 2026.

IPEN calls for Rotterdam Convention action on lead chromates to mark 'World Environment Day'



In observance of 'World Environment Day' on 5th June 2026, IPEN highlighted in a [Press Release](#) the ongoing risks to children from lead paint—lead chromate pigments—should be considered for global controls under the Rotterdam Convention. The press release garnered news coverage in [Bangladesh](#), the [Gambia](#), [Nigeria](#), [North Macedonia](#), the [Philippines](#), [Tunisia](#), and [Zambia](#). Cameroon, Morocco, Switzerland, and Australia have notified the Convention of their bans on the use of lead chromates in paint, [putting](#) the chemicals on the path for the agenda at the next Conference of Parties to control the toxic trade of these pigments. IPEN member groups in more than 20 low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are currently assessing their country's trade and uses of lead chromates and will seek their governments' support for this global approach under the Rotterdam Convention.

Updates from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Federal Interagency Efforts



As part of ongoing leadership under the [Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposure](#), EPA has committed to support the completion for one or more tools on best practices for lead pollution reduction in low- and middle-income countries to encourage global reductions in lead use and in import of lead-containing products into the United States. [Learn more about the EPA's commitments for fiscal year 2026 under the Federal Lead Action Plan](#).



Progress Towards Laws: Country updates

BURKINA FASO A multi-stakeholder workshop convening the Ministry of Health, bureau of standards (Ministry of Commerce), and Ministry of Environment will be held in late June with support from the Lead Exposure Elimination project (LEEP). The Ministry of Health and other government stakeholders have agreed on a strategy to relaunch the regulatory process, including securing ministerial buy-in from the bureau of standards (Ministry of Commerce) and the Ministry of Environment before presenting the draft regulation to the Council of Ministers, showing a broad coalition of government support.

CHINA Two mandatory national standards on lead in [architectural](#) and [industrial](#) coatings entered into force on 1st June 2026. The two standards, issued last year by the [Ministry of Industry and Information Technology](#) and set a 90-ppm total limit for lead in architectural and industrial paints, will be implemented by the [National Technical Committee on Standardization of Coatings and Pigments](#).

MEXICO A technical working group convened by COFEPRIS — Mexico's federal regulatory body — reconvened in June 2026 to begin the formal review of 62 public comments submitted on the draft updated standard, which would potentially reduce the maximum lead limit in paint from 600 ppm to 90 ppm. The group adopted an accelerated weekly meeting cadence rather than a bi-weekly schedule, a significant positive signal for finalizing the standard within the legal one-year window. COFEPRIS has publicly committed to completing the process this year, with the proposed standard tentatively expected to enter into force in 2026 followed by a one-year grace period — meaning full compliance from manufacturers would be required in 2027.

MOZAMBIQUE The Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries (MAAP) and the Ministry of Health (MISAU) in partnership with the Lead Exposure Elimination project (LEEP) convened a workshop in May bringing together around 70 participants including government representatives, paint manufacturers, civil society, and journalists. The workshop presented findings from the national paint study — which found that 28% of oil-based samples contained lead paint — and made the case for a lead-paint-specific decree rather than a broader pollutants law. A major outcome was MAAP's Director publicly stating that Mozambique's next step is to work towards a specific lead paint regulation. Manufacturers who attended the workshop also expressed a strong commitment to reducing lead in paint and emphasized support for strong regulations limiting lead in paint to 90ppm.

ZIMBABWE The Government of Zimbabwe promulgated Statutory Instrument 82, known as the Environmental Management (Prohibition of Lead in Paint and Coating Materials) Regulations, 2026. This new legislation sets the maximum permissible lead content in paints and coating materials at 90 ppm. The new law bans the manufacture, importation, distribution and sale of paints containing lead above this limit and authorizes enforcement authorities to conduct inspections, collect and test samples, and request documentation from manufacturers and importers. A transition period will allow industry to come into compliance with the new legislation after which all non-compliant products must be removed from the market.



In the News: Lead Paint and Other Sources of Lead Exposure

These articles do not necessarily reflect the views or work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint.

Information and Action to Address Health Effects of Lead Exposure

[The factory that poisoned this Congolese town is gone. But the toxic lead remains.](#)
Will Fitzgibbon. *The Examiner*. 1 April 2026

[Blood Lead Levels \$\geq\$ 45 mcg/dL in Pregnancy: An Observational Study](#)
Allison Trim et al. *BJOG*. 1 April 2026

[Toxic Lead Paint Pigment Exports from Rich to Poor Countries](#)
Rory Todd et al. *Center for Global Development*. 9 April 2025

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Carol Cusack et al. *Reviews on Environmental Health*. 13 April 2026

[Lead chromate pigments dominate lead paints sold in Mexico](#)
Gottesfeld et al. *Annals of Work Exposures and Health*. 13 April 2026

[Heavy metal toxicity in clinical and environmental health: Sources, mechanisms, diagnostics, and evidence-based management of mercury, lead, cadmium, and arsenic](#)
Chakif & Furrer. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*. 14 April 2026

[Blood lead levels in children from a non-industrial urban area in Indonesia](#)
Suraya et al. *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health*. 20 April 2026

[What it takes to fix lead-acid battery recycling: A conversation with LABRI's Micaella Rogers](#)
Hugo Smith. *Lead Battery Notes*. 27 April 2026

[Prenatal and early postnatal lead exposure and later adulthood BMI: The Saint Louis baby tooth – Later life health study](#)
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[Evaluation of a lead screening program in children aged younger than 5 years at an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation in New South Wales, Australia](#)
Morgan et al. *Public Health Research & Practice*. 28 April 2026

[Cheap Toys, Toxic Consequences](#)

Caroline Mallory & Maria Jose Talayero Schettino. Center for Global Development. 30 April 2026

[Lead exposure in children around a lead battery recycling plant: An environmental health approach for clinical and community management](#)

Campillo i Lopéz et al. International Journal of Hygiene and Environmental Health. May 2026

[Lead Levels in Pakistan Pose Toxic Threat to Children](#)

UNICEF. 1 May 2026

[Toxic Legacy: Bonus episode with Samantha Power](#)

FT Podcast. 4 May 2026

[Blood Lead Levels in Adults and Children of East Otago Communities, New Zealand: Findings From a Public Health Response to Lead Detected in Drinking Water](#)

Melyssa Roy et al. Public Health Challenges. 14 May 2026

[Urban gardens may contain lead — here's what the research says about the hidden health risk](#)

Melody Lynch. The Conversation. 19 May 2026

[Jenna Forsyth on tracing lead from turmeric to batteries](#)

Hugo Smith. Lead Battery Notes. 21 May 2026

[Lead pollution in soils within the African mining landscapes: Current status, impacts, and nature-based interventions](#)

Matungu et al. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment. 27 May 2026

[Firearms, storage practices, and child blood lead levels and household dust lead loadings: findings from the HOME study](#)

Christian Hoover et al. Journal of Exposure Science & Environmental Epidemiology. 30 May 2026

[Low Intake of Zinc and Vitamin D Is Associated with High Blood Lead Level Proportion Amongst Male Workers with Lead Exposure](#)

Ade Mutiara et al. Nutrients. 30 May 2026

[Exposure to lead on children's intellectual functioning: A target trial with multimedia biomarkers in Mexico City](#)

Victor Florez-García et al. Chemosphere. June 2026

[Blood lead and lung function in Danish solid-waste incineration workers: A cross-sectional study](#)

Sofie Juul Fulton et al. Environmental Toxicology and Pharmacology. June 2026

[Review on lead poisoning in domestic animals: Prevention and control strategies](#)

Firomsa Hailu & Yebelay Muluget. Veterinary and Animal Science. June 2026

[Low-dose fluoride and lead co-exposure alters bone mineral density in youth: A nationally representative cross-sectional study](#)

Chunxiang Li et al. Journal of Trace Elements in Medicine and Biology. June 2026

[Maternal blood lead level and its association with birthweight and preterm birth in Adjara, Georgia: An inverse probability of selection weighting analysis of a population-based cohort study](#)

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[A survey of studies on blood lead concentrations and its health outcomes in Nepal: A review](#)

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Lütfiye Tutkun et al. Toxicology and Industrial Health. June 2026

[Round 2: Up to \\$5 Million for Research on Global Lead Poisoning](#)

Lee Crawford et al. Center for Global Development. 2 June 2026

[Adapting, piloting, and evaluating a pediatric lead screening and risk-reduction intervention in Nairobi: A hybrid implementation-effectiveness trial protocol](#)

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[Pure Earth and the Ethiopian Environmental Health Association Join Forces to Address Lead Poisoning in Ethiopia](#)

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[An Introduction to the ULAB Problem](#)

Hugo Smith. Lead Battery Notes. 5 June 2026

[Living Near Lead-Releasing Facilities May Worsen Cognitive Function](#)

Hibah Khaj. Neurology Advisor. 8 June 2026

[Andreas Manhart on what actually makes lead-acid battery recycling clean](#)

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[Schools in the Shadow of Toxic Sites: Pollution Proximity in Low- and Middle-Income Countries.](#)

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[Lead Exposure, Anemia, and School Readiness among Low-Income Urban Children in Bihar, India: A Longitudinal Study.](#)

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[Environmental Burden of Lead and Public Health Issues in Nigeria: A Systematic Review of Emerging Evidence](#)

Polycarp Dauda Madaki et al. Biological Trace Element Research. 15 June 2026

[Soil Lead Risks Associated With Urbanization Histories in Springfield MA and Hartford CT, USA](#)

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[Lead-battery recycling must be regulated.](#)

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[The World Bank Has Invested \\$3 Billion in Drinking Water. We Don't Know if the Water Has Lead.](#)

Lee Crawford and Caroline Mallory. CGD Blog. 23 June 2026

[Ethiopia Reinvigorates National Leadership and Governance Mechanisms to Accelerate Lead Poisoning Prevention.](#)

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[Protecting US Children From Lead Exposures: Applications of a Data-Mapping Blueprint for Focusing High-Impact Interventions](#)

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[Lead exposure and poisoning among artisanal kohl manufacturers in Fez, Morocco](#)

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[Lead exposure in an urban population: Isotopic evidence reveals contributions from dietary and inhalation pathways](#)

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