Overview of Global Efforts to Eliminate Lead Paint

Side Event at the African Ministers of Environment Conference

Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

Outline



- Lead Paint Background
- Health and Economic Impacts of Lead
- Overview of Lead Paint Alliance
- Status of Lead Paint Laws
- Recent Momentum
- Region-Specific Activity
- Resources

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 a persistent neurotoxicant, and when released does not break down.
  - Once released into the environment, potential for human exposure for persists many years into the future, which is especially harmful to children.
- Lead exposure also happens during the manufacture, application, and removal of lead paint.

*The term **paint** is used throughout this presentation broadly to include varnishes, lacquers, glazes, stains, enamels, primers, and coatings.*

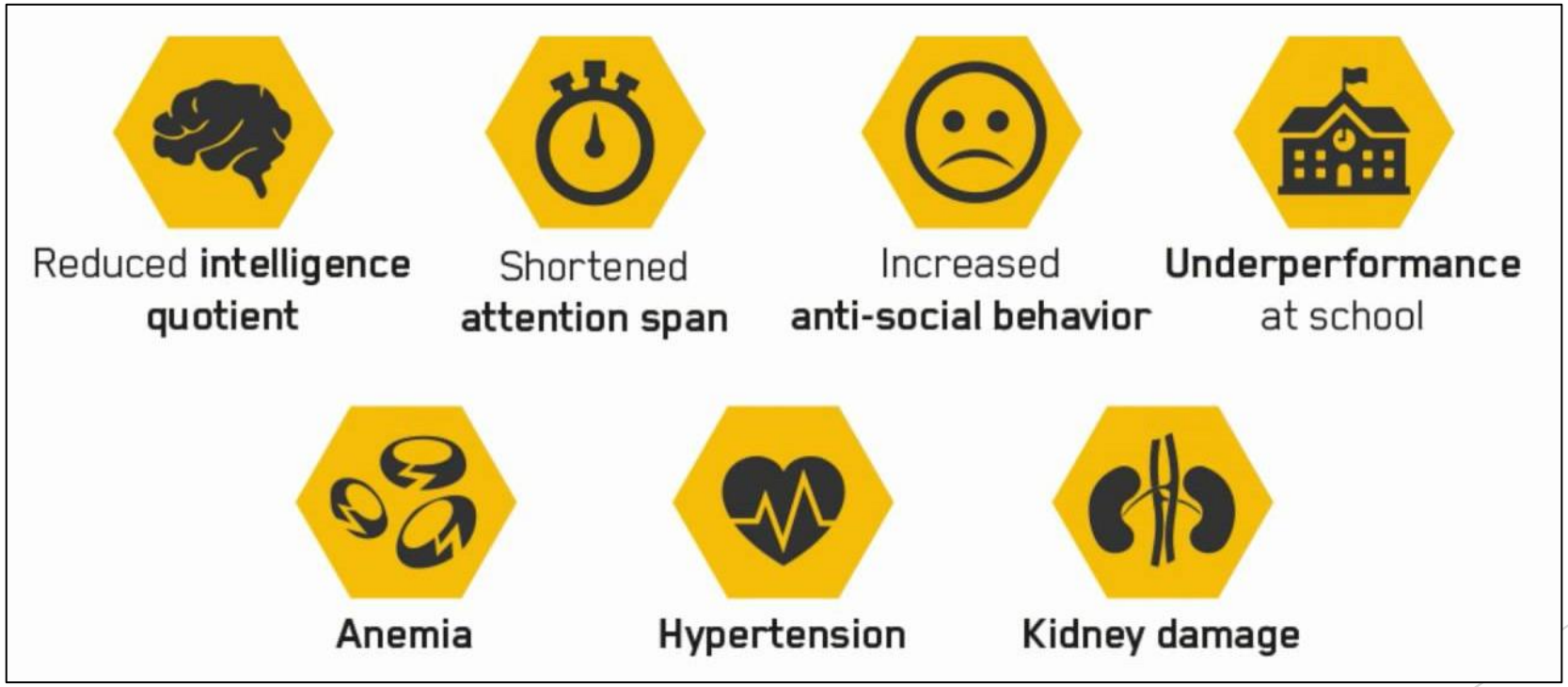
Children are at High Risk!

- Unborn babies and young children are especially at risk.
  - Pregnant women can pass lead to their unborn baby.
  - Babies and young children put their hands and other objects into their mouths. If lead dust or paint chips are present in their environment, they can ingest lead.
- Growing bodies absorb more lead, since lead is absorbed into the bloodstream before settling in the bones.



Health Effects

- Exposure to lead in children has permanent negative impacts on children's developing brains.
- It can have life-long, negative consequences, such as:



Individual Children & Global Costs

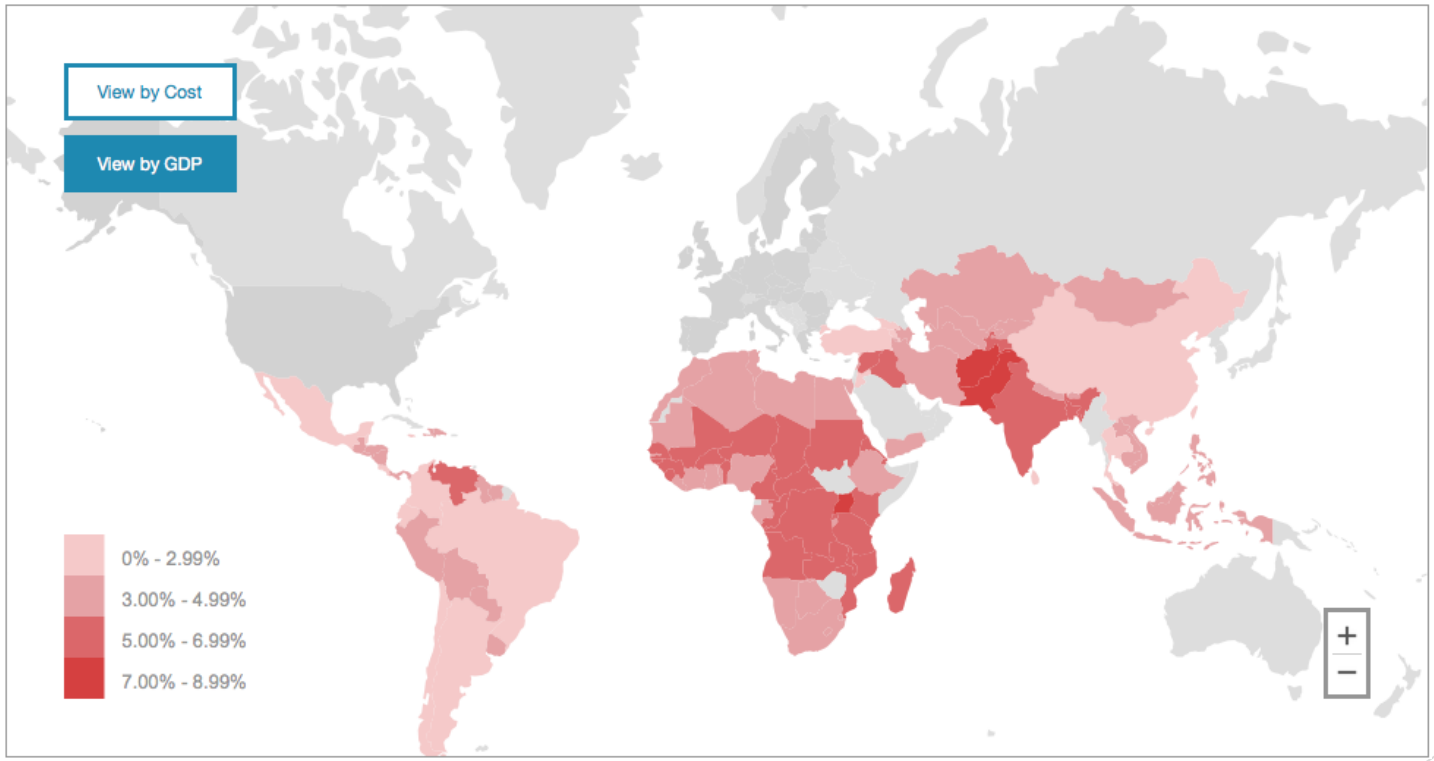
- Childhood lead exposure (from all sources) has staggering economic costs.
  - Reduction in intelligence quotient (IQ) can be correlated with decreases in lifetime earning potential.
- Lead exposure costs **$977 billion** annually to low and middle-income countries from children's lost IQ.
  - In Africa,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



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

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.



NYU School of Medicine
NYU LANGONE MEDICAL CENTER

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

Lead Paint Testing Around the World

Legend

Percent of Paints Tested With Lead over 90 ppm

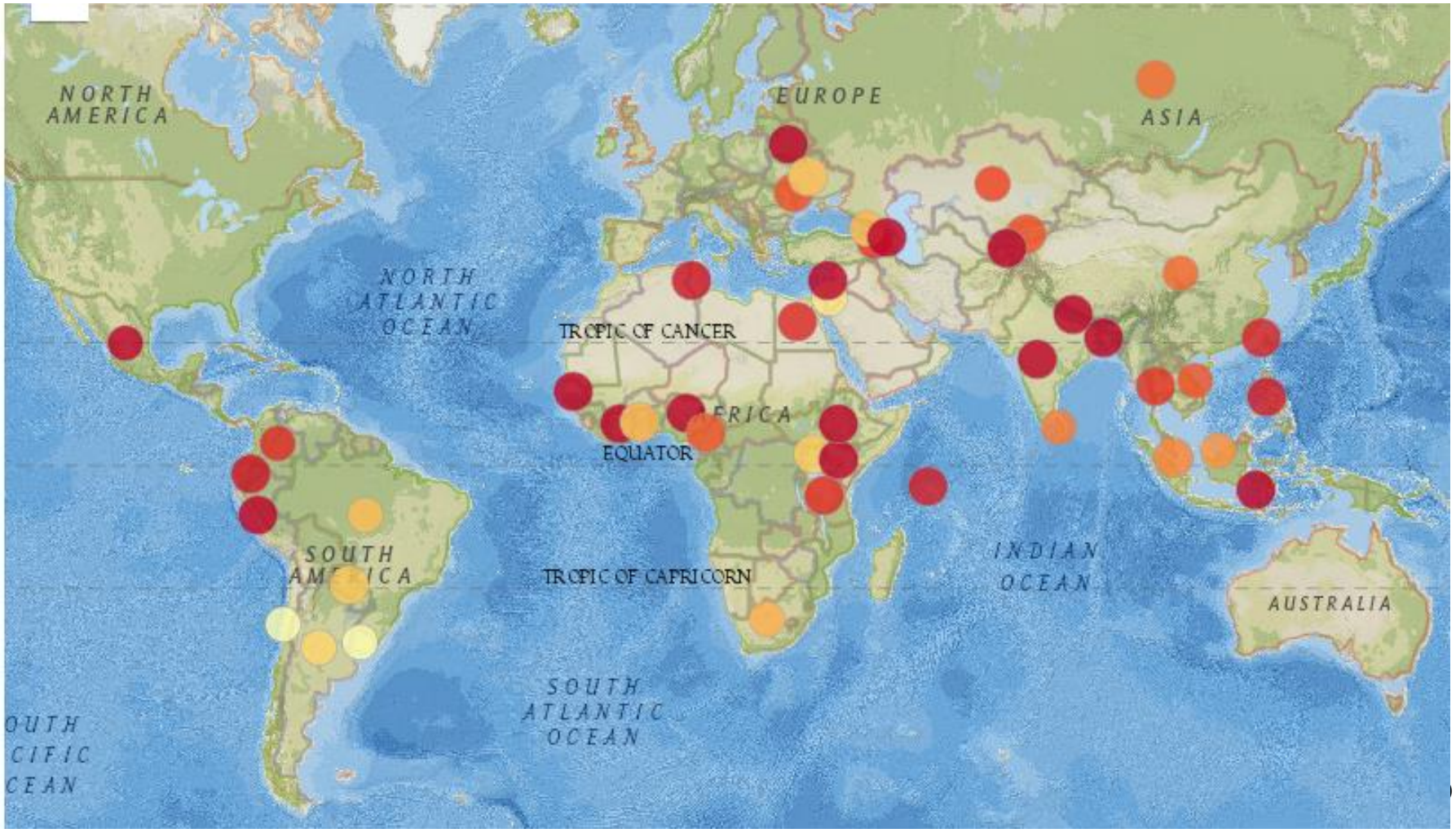
% > 90 ppm

> 75

42.4

< 10

Percent of Paints Tested with Lead over 600 ppm (Brazil, Sri Lanka, China, Malaysia, Vietnam, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan)



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 Africa

Country	# of Paints	Year of Study	% < 90 ppm	% < 600 ppm	% < 10,000 ppm
Benin	28	2017	79%	71%	36%
Cameroon	35	2017	43%	40%	15%
Cote D'Ivoire	44	2017	63%	59%	27%
Egypt	58	2017	62%	26%	3%
Ethiopia	36	2017	75%	72%	42%
Ghana	18	2013	33%	28%	17%
Guinea	18	2017	28%	6%	0%
Kenya	31	2017	69%	55%	33%
Morocco	33	2017	39%	39%	18%
Mozambique	32	2017	25%	25%	12%
Nigeria	23	2017	74%	72%	54%
Senegal	21	2009	86%	76%	19%
Seychelles	28	2009	68%	61%	43%
South Africa	29	2009	38%	34%	31%
Sudan	25	2017	64%	56%	28%
Tanzania	46	2017	46%	37%	22%
Togo	27	2017	30%	15%	7%
Tunisia	30	2013	70%	63%	27%
Uganda	50	2017	67%	57%	37%
Zambia	39	2017	36%	33%	18%

Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint



- The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance) is a voluntary, global public-private initiative formed by:
  - **Secretariat**: UN Environmental Programme and World Health Organization
  - **Chair of Advisory Group**: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
  - **Partners,** including governments, NGOs, industry, and academia
- The Alliance is modeled on successful on another successful public-private initiative, the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles.
- **Alliance Goal:** Establish lead paint laws in every country

Lead Paint Alliance Advisory Council

Governments



Colombia



Kenya



Republic of Moldova



Thailand



United States of America (Chair)

NGOs

IPEN
a toxics-free future

Health and Environment Alliance

Industry

IPPIC International Paint & Printing Ink Council

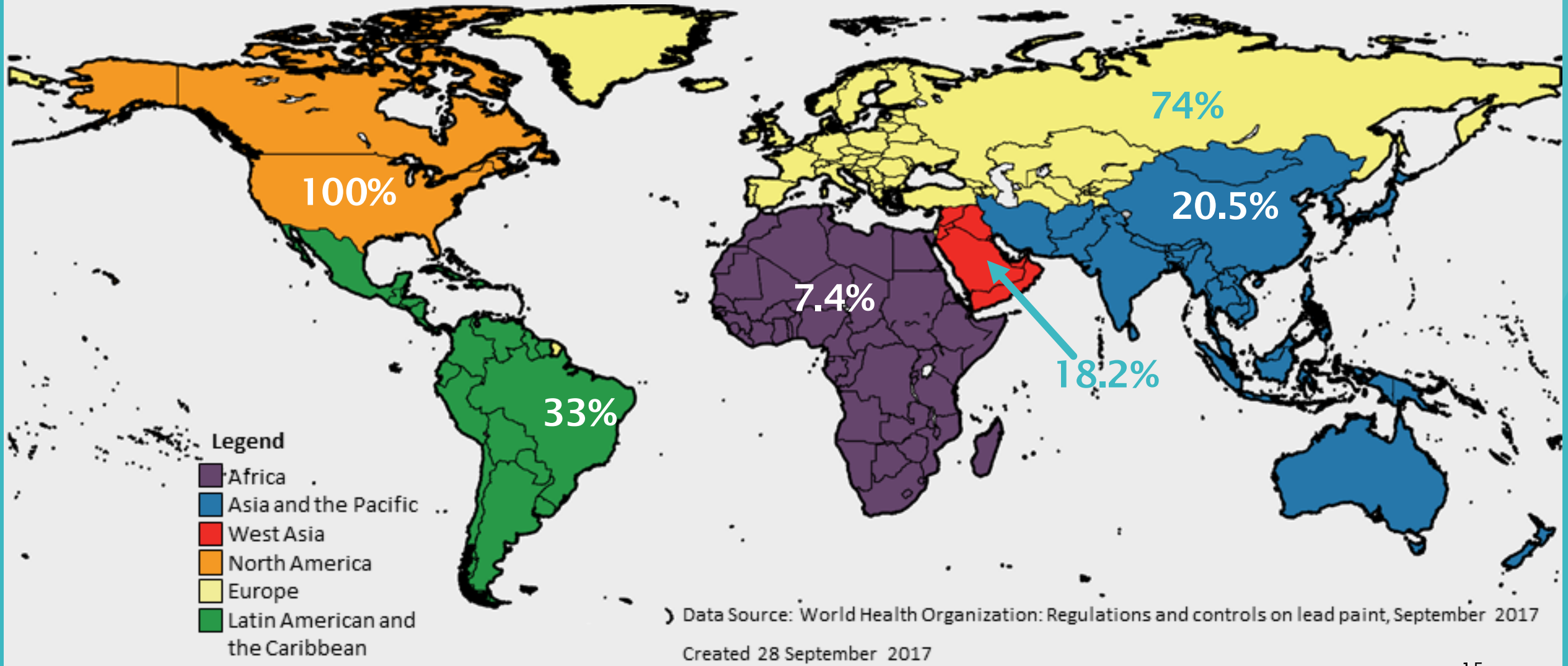
AkzoNobel

Flags Designed by Freepik; https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/flags-of-the-world-collection_837815.htm.

Action Needed on Lead Paint

- Countries in the developed world banned lead in paint in 1970s and 1980s.
- However, in most of the developing world, lead paint is still legal.
- Alternative paints without added lead are affordable and widely available
- Voluntary labeling of paints is not effective.
- Industry and governments agree that the solution is enacting lead paint laws in countries worldwide.

Percent of Countries with Lead Paint Laws in Each UN Environment Region



Growing Momentum



SWITCH-Asia Lead Paint Elimination Project

2012-2015



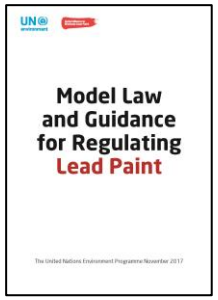
Roadmap for Health in Chemicals Management

May 2017



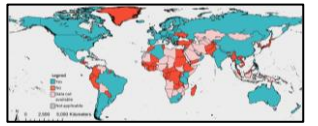
American Bar Association Resolution to Support Lead Paint Laws Worldwide

August 2017



Model Law & Guidance

November 2017



GEF Global Lead Paint Project

2018-2021

Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

SAICM establishes the Lead Paint Alliance

2009



GEF Lead Paint Elimination Project in Africa

2014-2017



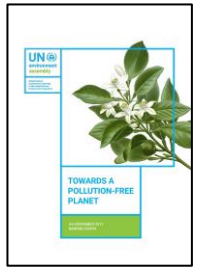
2017-2018 Lead Paint Alliance Action Plan

June 2017



Global Status Update

September 2017



UNEA-3 Resolution on Lead Paint

December 2017

2009-2016 | **2017** | **2018**

ABA Resolution

- Adopted August 2017: Urges national governments worldwide to enact laws to phase out the manufacture, import, and sale of lead paint.
- Supports efforts of the international community, governments, industry, and non-governmental organizations to promote the phase-out of lead paint by no later than 2020.
- Urges lawyers, law firms, bar associations, and other professional and nonprofit organizations to support adoption and implementation of laws to phase out and eliminate lead paint through pro bono support, educational initiatives, and other appropriate means.

UNEA-3 Resolution

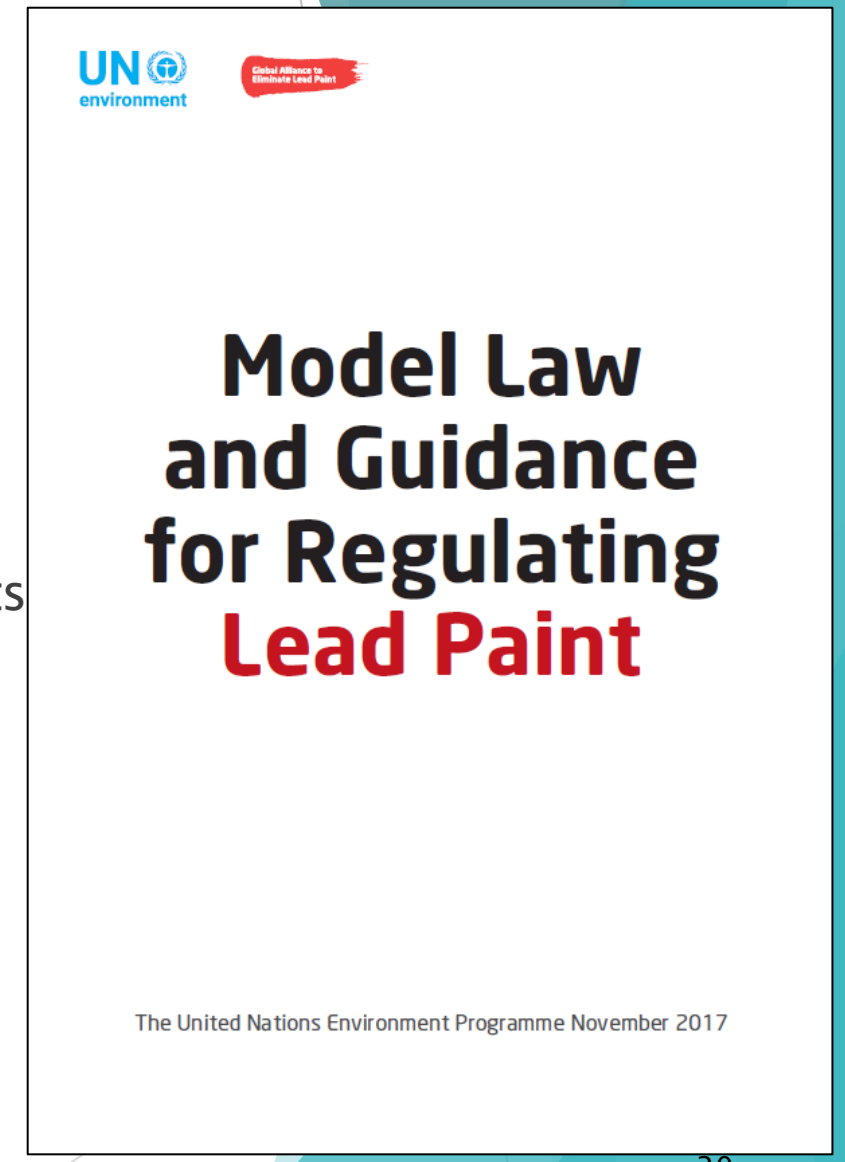
- The Third United Nations Environment Assembly passed a resolution in December 2017 to address lead paint that encourages governments to:
  - Develop, adopt and implement legislation/regulations
  - Support the development of private sector strategies to eliminate lead paint
  - Undertake actions to remove the risks from lead paint especially to vulnerable groups
  - Join the Lead Paint Alliance
- The resolution also requests the Executive Director of UN Environment to assist countries to eliminate lead paint, providing tools and capacity building for developing national legislation and regulations.

Progress and Momentum in Africa

- Lead paint testing and workshops helped bring about new lead paint laws in **Cameroon**, **Ethiopia, Kenya**, and **Tanzania.**
  - Paint testing was conducted in 13 countries in the African Region.
  - Depending on the country study and the target level, levels of lead exceeding target levels of 90 ppm to 600 ppm have ranged from 26% to 100% of samples.
- Workshops to promote lead paint laws in **East Africa**:
  - **December 2015**: East African regional workshop held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
  - **September 2016**: Follow-up workshop was held in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania to assist the East African Community (EAC) in working towards harmonized regional standards for lead in paint set at 90 ppm.
  - **December 2016**: Kenya finalized its lead paint law.
- Workshops to promote lead paint laws in **Central and West Africa**:
  - **December 2016**: A Central and West African workshop was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, including participants from other countries in Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Model Law

- Requested by governments
- Development supported by industry and NGOs
- Provides best available and practical regulatory approach by:
  - Encouraging a consistent lead limit of 90 ppm and regulatory approach.
  - Reducing global demand for lead paint through lead limits on both imported and locally-produced paints
  - Reducing trade barriers through consistent standards
- It is adaptable to each country's regulatory framework.
- Provisions include:
  - Definitions
  - Clear limit on total lead
  - Setting effective dates
  - Compliance and enforcement provisions
  - Consequences for non-compliance



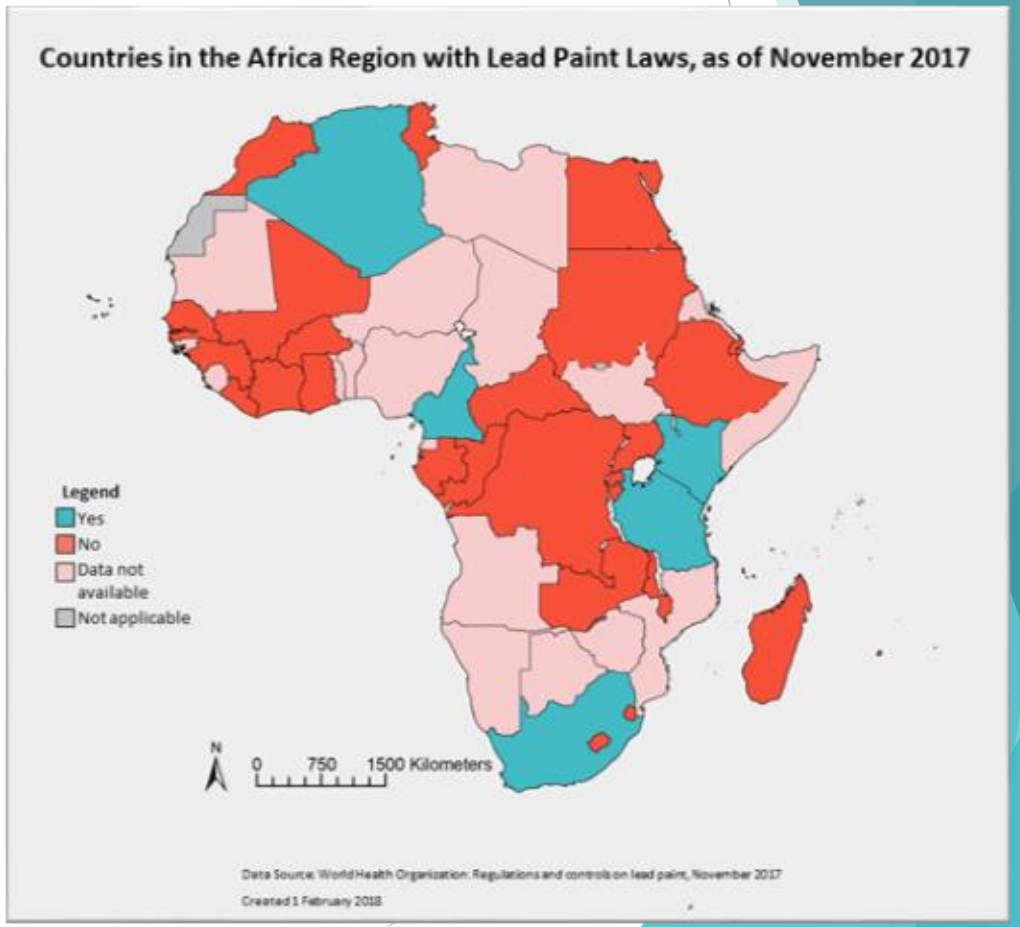
Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Project

Global best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under SAICM

- SAICM project with a lead component
- Managed by UN Environment
- Partners include:
  - World Health Organization
  - IPEN
  - American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative
  - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
  - National Cleaner Production Centers and industry

Status of Laws and Current Activities in Africa

- Countries with lead paint laws as of November 2017:
  - Algeria
  - Cameroon
  - Ethiopia
  - Kenya
  - Tanzania
  - South Africa
- Goals of new GEF funded Project on Lead Paint, 2018-2020:
  - 40 countries to establish or improve lead paint laws, including African countries; and
  - Paint Industry to conduct demonstration projects with Small and Medium Enterprises in 5-6 countries



Actions For Success

- Lead paint elimination is gaining momentum.
- This problem can be solved in the foreseeable future.
- Actions that will help:
  - Join the Lead Paint Alliance
  - Establish new or strengthen existing laws
  - Serve as “champions” to encourage others to take action

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 Map of Lead Paint Laws: http://www.who.int/gho/phe/chemical_safety/lead_paint_regulations/en/
- WHO Database of Lead Paint Law Status: http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main.LEADCONTROLLEG?lang=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
- Map of Levels of Lead in Paint:

  http://ipen.org/projects/eliminating-lead-paint/lead-levels-paint-around-world
- American Bar Association Resolution on Lead Paint: https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/images/abanews/2017%20Annual%20Resolutions/109B.pdf