



## **ILPPWA 2019 Event 1 report - Association of Community Development (ACD), Bangladesh**

**Name of Event:** Consultation on Impacts of lead poisoning on human Health

**Date, Time and Location:** October 24, 2019, 10.00am-1.00pm, Conference Room, ACD, Rajshahi

**Description of the Event:** Association of Community Development-ACD in collaboration with 'IPEN' [ Box 7256, 402 35 Gothenburg, Sweden +46 31 799 5900 [ipen@ipen.org](mailto:ipen@ipen.org); [www.ipen.org](http://www.ipen.org) ] a



**a toxics-free future**

'Consultation on Impacts of lead poisoning on human Health' on the occasion of International Lead Poisoning Prevention week 2019. Mrs Salima Sarwar, Executive Director, ACD presided the consultation meeting. Md. Khairul Isalm, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), Rajshahi was present as the chief guest. Dr F. A. M. Anjuman Ara Begum, Chief Health Officer, Rajshahi City Corporation and Md Iqbal Hasan, Assistant Commissioner and Executive Magistrate (V.P Branch), Office of Deputy Commissioner (DC) were the special guests on the occasion. The main objectives of the event were:

- Raise awareness about health effects of lead poisoning;
- Highlight countries and partners efforts to prevent particularly childhood poisoning;
- Urge further action to eliminate lead paint through regulatory action at country level.

ACD Program Manager presented a keynote presentation addressing various negative impacts of lead poisoning to human health. Referring to various research findings he said lead is a cumulative toxicant that affects multiple body systems and is particularly harmful to young children.

Chief Guest said "Lead is a substance that is extremely harmful to the human body. We test the lead for several products. However, the issue of testing the lead in color has not yet come under the license of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI). For a long time, various organizations have been pressuring the government to keep the use of lead in colors to a tolerable level. In this continuation, the paint or various colors have been brought under the BSTI's license in 2018 Regulations. But it did not work". He said many different types of paintings are being used daily. But there is no mechanism to test whether the lead content is tolerable. In addition to awareness, I think there is a need to address the level of lead in paint that will be tolerable."

Mr Iqbal Hasan, Assistant Commissioner and Executive Magistrate of the Rajshahi District Administration said, "In 22 cities in South Asia, India have the highest lead in air in Delhi and Dhaka, Bangladesh [have the second highest]. These two cities are among the worst hit. But



the amount of lead in color [pigments] cannot be determined. Therefore, effective measures should be taken to determine the amount of lead in the paint “.

Rajshahi City Corporation Chief Health Officer Dr F A M Anjuman Ara Begum said, “There are three modes of the environment - air, water and soil. We are increasing the level of lead by polluting the air, water and soil in various ways. As a result, each one of us is somehow affected by the lead”. She also mentioned, "Need to identify which type of toys has the most lead, we know that girls use a wide variety of lipids, including lipsticks that contain a lot of lead. Especially in 'Eye Shadow', the amount of lead is used. Therefore, there is no standard for the quantity of lead used in a product. We are suffering from various diseases. The lead is extremely toxic. When this lead is mixed with blood, it prevents the fertility of pregnant women, and even it is a cause of cancer. Therefore, it is important to have a guideline for determining the extent to which lead is present in everyday use materials, including color.”

Chairperson of the event and the Executive Director of ACD, Salima Sarwar said, "Lead is extremely harmful to the human body. We come into contact with different colored materials in our daily life. But we do not know what color they were used in or to what extent lead were used. The use of these lead dyes is increasing the health risk of adults. As well, the beloved children are facing more and more losses. We use color for various purposes. It should have a lead level of 90 PPM. But in reality it is not. "In our country, there is no specific law or policy for the manufacture, import, sale and use of lead paint. It is necessary to take steps to implement and implement specific laws in this regard. ”

**Sponsors:** Not applicable

**Attendees:** 25 (male 16, female 9) representatives from government officials, Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), students, youth leaders, academics, civil society organization, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi Government College and healthcare professionals took part in the consultation.

**Prominent People:** The following prominent or important people participated in the event:

1. Md. Khairul Islam, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), Rajshahi
2. Mrs. Salima Sarwar, Executive Director, ACD
3. Dr F.A.M Anjuman Ara Begum, Chief Health Officer, Rajshahi City Corporation
4. Md Iqbal Hasan, Assistant Commissioner and Executive Magistrate (V.P Branch), Deputy Commissioner (DC) Office, Rajshahi District
5. Dr Ainul Haque, Senior Journalist, Bangladesh Sanghbad Sanghtha (BSS), Rajshahi
6. Mr Ratan Kumar Mondal, Assistant Headmaster, Khademul Islam Girls School and College, Rajshahi
7. Md Shamsujjaman, Senior Health Education Officer, Civil Surgeon Office, Rajshahi
8. Mr Tonmoy Kumar Saynal, Coordinator, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association



## Event Agenda:

Time	Description	Responsibility
09.30am-10.00am	Registration	Md. Anowar Hossain, Program Officer
10.00am-10.20am	Introduction and welcome address	Md. Meraz Uddin Talukder, Project Coordinator
10.20am-11.20am	Presentation on Impacts of Lead Poisoning on Human Health	Md. Ali Hossain, Program Manager
11.20pm-12.20pm	Open Discussion	Participants
12.00pm-12.20pm	Speech by Special Guest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Md Iqbal Hasan, Assistant Commissioner and Executive Magistrate (V.P Branch), Deputy Commissioner Office, Rajshahi District</li><li>Dr F.A.M Anjuman Ara Begum, Chief Health Officer, Rajshahi City Corporation</li></ul>
12.20pm-12.40pm	Speech by Chief Guest	Md. Khairul Islam, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), Rajshahi
1.40pm-01.00pm	Vote of Thanks	Salima Sarwar, Executive Director, ACD

## Event Materials:

- Power point presentation on 'Impacts of lead poisoning on human Health'

## Media Coverage:

- <http://www.bssnews.net/?p=291961>
- <https://btcnews.com.bd/রাজশাহীতে-এসিডির-পরামর/h>
- [https://www.daily-sun.com/printversion/details/433773?fbclid=IwAR2g7akotZuHzCcRy0cWxMD4pXaUN8-VSABRDLfb\\_xfJFlvkQSsyj8E5-W0v](https://www.daily-sun.com/printversion/details/433773?fbclid=IwAR2g7akotZuHzCcRy0cWxMD4pXaUN8-VSABRDLfb_xfJFlvkQSsyj8E5-W0v)
- [www.theindependentbd.com/printversion/details/220849](http://www.theindependentbd.com/printversion/details/220849)
- [https://www.bangladeshpost.net/posts/concerted-efforts-to-prevent-lead-poisoning-stressed-15488?fbclid=IwAR12yCWpQFHXYtcPR45J9NV5Y8sQOTfIM7X4aP7eDUcjxfc52\\_q\\_02hyFA4](https://www.bangladeshpost.net/posts/concerted-efforts-to-prevent-lead-poisoning-stressed-15488?fbclid=IwAR12yCWpQFHXYtcPR45J9NV5Y8sQOTfIM7X4aP7eDUcjxfc52_q_02hyFA4)
- <https://www.amarrajshahi.com/রঙে-সীসার-ব্যবহার-সহনীয়-পর্যায়েআনতে-সরকারি-পদক্ষেপ-জরুরি/11092>
- [www.newsrajshahi.com/রঙে-সীসার-ব্যবহার-সহনীয়-পর্যায়ে-আনতে-সরকারি-পদক্ষেপ-জরুরি/13384](http://www.newsrajshahi.com/রঙে-সীসার-ব্যবহার-সহনীয়-পর্যায়ে-আনতে-সরকারি-পদক্ষেপ-জরুরি/13384)



8. <https://sonalisangbad.com/2019/10/25/রঙে-সীসার-ব্যবহার-সহনীয়-প/>
9. <https://khorbor24ghonta.com/রঙে-সীসার-ব্যবহার-সহনীয়-প/>
10. [www.bssnews.net/?p=291961&fbclid=IwAR19LzGiTrnuIEOfqambBdWZwtrnterGcoQw5JLbrbJYXDUeCfk1cZB4R8](http://www.bssnews.net/?p=291961&fbclid=IwAR19LzGiTrnuIEOfqambBdWZwtrnterGcoQw5JLbrbJYXDUeCfk1cZB4R8)

#### Local Newspapers:

1. The Daily Sonali Sangbad
2. The Daily Sunshine
3. The Daily Sonar Desh

#### Event Photos:



**Results:** The participants are sensitized and motivated to eliminate lead paint. The following recommendations came up from the discussion:

- Initiate comprehensive approach (plan and implementation) to reduce and eliminate lead paint
- BSTI should take proactive role to test lead in colors and others needed products and should have to take legal procedure
- Rajshahi City Corporation has to establish eco-friendly garbage management system and install led scanner system.
- Campaign program from community level
- Advocacy with government to take legal and administrative procedure
- Media (print and electronic media) should play proactive role; media can create mass awareness and pressurize government to take initiative
- Government should take initiative for research work on lead poisoning

They agreed to work in collaboration with each other to eliminate lead paint. ACD will continue linkage with stakeholders and share information regarding lead.

#### Evaluation:

According to the schedule, all topics tremendously discussed. Most of the participants participated in Open Discussion Session and they presented their valuable remarks and



recommendations. The participants are motivated to work to prevent lead poisoning and appreciated ACD to organize such an event. In future, it will be better; if we use video materials on the said topics. All participants committed to involve in different activities to reduce or eliminate lead poisoning from individual level and institutional aspect. They will aware family members, community people, organize awareness campaign and they will talk in different forum, meetings and gatherings. ACD will keep linkage with stakeholders, monitor activities including communicate with district level relevant government officials (i.e. Deputy Commissioner, Executive magistrate, Chief of district environment Office, Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), Rajshahi City Corporation, etc.), National and local NGOs and CBOs and print and electronic media round the year. ACD will gather information /statistical data, news story, research documentation and will disseminate to others.

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