



## ILPPWA 2019 report – ESDO Bangladesh



**LEARN**  
the Risks



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the Action



**ELIMINATE**  
Lead Paint

OCTOBER 26-27, 2019

OBSERVED BY

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
ORGANIZATION - ESDO

BANGLADESH



**BAN LEAD  
PAINT**



## Executive Summary

Significant health exposure of lead especially to children and environment has now become a global concern. Therefore, addressing children's exposure to lead from paint, UN Environment and the World Health Organization (WHO) jointly formed The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint with a view to minimizing occupational exposures to lead paint. Besides, International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week-ILPPW is an initiative of the Global Alliance. In Bangladesh, ESDO observed the week this year through a human chain in front of the National Press Club and a round table meeting in the headquarter of ESDO. The prime objective of both the human chain and round table meeting was to raise the urge to ban lead in paint in Bangladesh. All our efforts were to sensitize the government to introducing a regulation and law banning this toxic pollutant from our country. Media people were there to accelerate the campaign through mass publicity. Young generation of our country formed the human chain where university students, girl guides, and ESDO team took part. On the other hand, the round table meeting was participated by government representatives, academicians, media people, ESDO advisory and technical team and girl guides. Remarkable advancement has been observed in Bangladesh regarding lead use in paints. Last year in 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2018, Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) has been published by the Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institutions (BSTI) in which it is clearly stated that Maximum lead content in Economy Emulsion Paint, Enamel, Synthetic, Exterior (a)undercoating (b) finishing is **90 ppm**. Since the SRO is in place, Bangladesh should move forward to introducing a law otherwise the execution of the order would be gradually difficult.

## Introduction

International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is observed every year worldwide to raise awareness and promote action to address the human health effects of lead exposure, especially for children. During the week, governments, academia, industry and civil society organize activities worldwide. The campaign promotes efforts to prevent childhood lead poisoning, and especially actions to eliminate lead in paint. Activities included art competitions, official statements of support, public events, policy debates, workshops and scientific conferences.

In 2019, ESDO observed the week through human chain and roundtable meeting on 26 October and 27 October respectively. Since BSTI already published an SRO on lead use in paint, the prime objective was on urgency of a regulation on ban of lead in paint in Bangladesh. It was discussed with great emphasize that the monitoring of the implementation of SRO is still lacking. Therefore, everyone expressed the importance of monitoring of the mandatory standard implementation. Again, the meeting attendees focused on the usefulness of an immediate law on ban of lead in paint in Bangladesh because otherwise this, the government won't be able to curb the illegal trafficking of leaded paint from our neighbouring countries.



Apart from the round table meeting, ESDO team conducted a human chain on 26th October which took place at two significant locations of Dhaka city viz National Press Club and Teacher Students Center (TSC) of University of Dhaka. The human chain demanded the immediate enforcement of legislation regarding the ban of lead contained paints in order to protect the environment and avoid human health hazards. Fact sheets, posters IEC materials were distributed to passer-by.

Besides, ESDO ran a weeklong social media campaign with a view to disseminating the information of danger of lead poisoning all around the world. The campaign also focused on the emergence of a regulation on ban of lead paint in Bangladesh.

## Objective

Two events were organized, had different objective to fulfill:

### ❖ Human Chain:



- Drawing attention of the government for close monitoring of the SRO on lead in paint implementation
- Urging the government for a regulation to Ban Lead in Paint
- Raising awareness about health effects of lead poisoning
- Ultimately promote lead free paints in Bangladesh
- Using social media as an effective tool for information dissemination.

### ❖ Round Table Meeting:



- To sensitize the government for a regulation to ban lead paint
- To strengthen collaboration with multi stakeholders
- To eliminate lead paint in Bangladesh by promoting a regulation on Ban Lead Paint in Bangladesh

## Background

### Why is Lead an issue?

Exposure to small amounts of lead over a long period of time is called chronic toxicity. Lead is particularly dangerous because once it gets into a person's system; it is distributed throughout the body just like helpful minerals such as iron, calcium, and zinc. And lead can cause harm wherever it comes into contact of the body. Lead exposure is toxic to human and especially harmful for young children and pregnant women. Exposure to lead in the womb or during childhood can have lifelong health impacts, including learning disabilities and disorders in coordination, visual, spatial and language skills. Lead exposure accounts for approximately 9% of the global burden of intellectual disability without known cause. High exposure to lead can result in behavioral and mental disorders. For pregnant women, harmful effects include premature births, smaller babies and miscarriage. {Ref: <https://www.google.com/search?q=Why+Lead+is+an+issue&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&client=firefox-b-ab>}



## Sources of Lead contamination in Bangladesh





## How Does Lead impact on Health and Environment?

{Ref: <https://www.lead.org.au/lanv1n2/lanv1n2-8.html>}



## Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint is a cooperative initiative jointly led by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Program to focus and catalyze the efforts to achieve international goals to prevent children's exposure to lead from paints containing lead and to minimize occupational exposures to lead paint. Its broad objective is to promote a phase-out of the manufacture and sale of paints containing lead and eventually to eliminate the risks that such paints pose. Lead is one of ten chemicals of major public health concern. Substitutes for lead paint are cost effective and relatively easy to obtain. Paints without lead additives have been used in many countries for decades



and have proven to be viable, cost-effective alternatives to lead paint. Establishing legal limits on lead in new paint has been shown to be an effective tool to decrease the sale and use of lead paint. Yet there are still many areas of the world where it is legal to sell paint containing lead additives. Working together through the Global Alliance, governments, industry and NGOs are working to protect people around the world from exposure to lead through paint. Global Alliance announces its goal to eliminate lead in paint by 2020.

## Lead free paint movement in Bangladesh

ESDO started working on eliminating lead in paints through creating awareness and policy advocacy since 2008. ESDO's efforts were to minimize and ultimately to eliminate the manufacture, import sale and use of lead decorative paints in Bangladesh. ESDO started working with European Union through the IPEN SWITCH Asia project on Lead Paint Elimination in 2012 and the organization collaborated with Bangladesh Paint Manufacturers' Association (BPMA) in 2013. As a result of the affiliation, major paint manufacturers have phased out lead paint. ESDO published three national reports on lead use in household paints of Bangladesh. The current status of our country is Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institutions (BSTI) prepared a draft standard to fix up the limit of lead paint as 90 ppm. A draft regulatory framework and guideline for complete lead paint elimination was prepared by ESDO and submitted to the department of Environment which is under revision.

## ESDO's observation of ILPPW-2019

ESDO observed the ILPPW-2019 with great enthusiasm like every years by organizing a human chain on 26<sup>th</sup> October in front of the national press club and a round table meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> October at ESDO's head office.

## Human Chain

### i. Location, Date and Time



## NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

- Date: 26 October, 2019
- Time: 10.00 am



## ii. Program Schedule

| Activity  | Time (a.m.) |
|---|-------------|
| Arrival of ESDO Team Members National Press Club  | 9.00        |
| Posters, banners, festoons distribution           | 9.00-10:00  |
| Human chain                                       | 10.00-11.00 |
| Photography and leaflets, fact sheet distribution | 11.00-11.15 |

## iii. Attendee

50 youngsters from Girl Guides association and Daffodil International University and ESDO team members formed the human chain in front of our National Press Club with an urge to immediate ban of lead in paint in Bangladesh. Reporters of different print and electronic media observed the human chain and wrote about it in their respective media.

## iv. Activities

All the team members of ESDO, Girls' Guide and other volunteers from Daffodil International University formed a human chain demanding for an immediate ban of lead paint in Bangladesh by 2020. The participants formed the human chain with festoons, banners, and placards in front of the National Press Club at 10:00 am. Apart from the human chain, Fact sheets and posters were distributed to passer-by. The group of young people again gathered in front of the Teacher Student Centre (TSC) of the University of Dhaka and replicated the human chain. People present on the human chain urged for a phase out of lead paint as a top public health priority.

## v. Deliverable Materials

Different Information, Education, and Communication materials were distributed after human chain. Besides, poster, sticker, fact sheets were distributed to the passersby and mass people.

## vi. Outcome

The human chain was an opportunity to raise public awareness regarding the regulation of ban of lead in Bangladesh. It's essential for our society to respond to this global challenge and make the phase out of lead in paint as a top public health priority. It was about the urgency of a regulation on lead poisoning and its detrimental effects on human health due to children exposure and occupational exposure. Informative fact sheet, poster, sticker were reached to mass people through distribution. In addition to that, 'Daily Jugantor', 'Daily Shongbad', 'Daily Bartoman', 'Daily Amar Shongbad' four of the popular newspapers of Bangladesh featured news about the human chain which is a great source



to aware mass people of the country. The news snapshot and link is attached in the Annex 4.

## A Round Table Meeting

### i. Location, Date and Time



**ESDO Head Office, Lalmatia, Dhaka**

**Time: 10.00 am**

**Date: 27 October, 2019**

### ii. Program Schedule

| Time     | Activities   |
|----------|--|
| 9.30 am  | Participants Sign in   |
| 10.00 am | Introduction by<br><b>Syed Marghub Murshed,</b><br>Former Secretary, Govt. of Bangladesh &<br>Chairperson, ESDO                              |
| 10.15 am | Opening Remarks<br><b>Prof. Md. Abul Hasem</b><br>Former Chairperson and Professor<br>Dept. of Chemistry<br>Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka. |
| 10.30 am | Remarks by<br><b>Siddika Sultana</b><br>Executive Director   |



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Environment and Social Development Organization  
(ESDO)

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**11.00 am**

Presentation by

**Sayda Mehrabin Shejuti**

On

‘Ban Lead Paint: Protect Public Health and  
Environment’

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**11.30 am**

Discussion Moderated by

**Dr. Shahriar Hossain**

Secretary General

Environment and Social Development Organization  
(ESDO)

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**12.00 pm**

Open Discussion session

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**1.00 pm**

Closing Remarks by Session Chair

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**1.30 pm**

Lunch

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### **iii. Attendees**

Government representatives, environmental activists, experts, girl guides members, members of ESDO advisory and technical team, reporters from a good number of print and electronic media were present in the round table meeting. The lists of participated guests are attached in Annex-2.

### **iv. Open discussion:**

The meeting was presided over by Syed Marghub Murshed, Chairperson, ESDO and the open discussion session was moderated by Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary General of ESDO. The distinguished guests took part in the open discussion where they opined about the subject issue.

□

ESDO Chairperson and former Secretary of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Syed Marghub Mursheed said, "The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint was formed in 2011 to promote the phase-out of the manufacture and sale of paints containing lead and eventually to eliminate the risks that such paints pose. He informed that in Bangladesh ESDO had been working since 2008 from awareness-raising activities to policy advocacy on the issue of 'Ban Lead Paint' and which has been leading the country to have a standard and moving towards a regulation". ¶

□



□

Prof. Abul Hasam, Chairman (Chemical Division), Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute said, "According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the most common sources for lead poisoning in children can be from paint, as well as toys manufactured with lead in the paint, plastic or metal. And it is a whole BS TI team work to publish the SRO on restricting lead limit in paints" ¶

□



□

Siddika Sultana, Executive Director, ESDO said, "BS TI's role in publishing the SRO is undoubtedly a milestone in the whole Asia whereas a law regarding the ban of lead paint in Bangladesh is a demand of time to the government of Bangladesh now. She focused on inter-governmental cooperation which may eventually lead us to our goal. Yet again, we need to conduct the random market available paint sample testing to for our knowledge on present status of the paints." ¶

□



Dr. Shahriar Hossain, Secretary-General of ESDO said, "There should be steps to phase out lead, without proper mechanisms for monitoring and regulatory surveillance it can't be done." He also included that BSTI has the responsibility to standardize but implementation should be done by Department of Environment (DoE). He urged that we want regulation to prevent illegal trafficking of obsolete lead containing paints from Nepal, India etc."



Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, former Additional IGP, Bangladesh Police, Technical Adviser, ESDO said, "Lead has a very bad effect on new born baby. So we should create more public awareness. Now we should urge to the Government for a complete ban of this toxic metal."



Ishtiaq Ahmad, CCF (Rtd.), Former Country Director, IUCN, and Technical Adviser, ESDO said, "Import control of leaded paint should be given priority, capacity of regulatory body should be increased and boosted up to have the regulation in place."





Dr. Mahfuza Parveen, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science and Disaster Management, Daffodil International University said, “We are discarding lead-containing product in an inappropriate manner, and in long-run lead is entering into soil and water and ultimately in the food chain.” She also urged that school level awareness should be done to aware people from root level. ¶



#### v. Power point presentation



Sayda Mehrabin Shejuti, Assistant Program Officer, ESDO made a presentation on ‘Ban Lead Paint: Protect Public Health and Environment’. Through a graph she presented the Countries with legally-binding controls on lead paint, as of June 2019 (WHO, UNEP). She added that through ESDO’s assiduous policy advocacy, Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institutions (BSTI) have already published an SRO which is Maximum lead content in Economy Emulsion Paint, Enamel, Synthetic, Exterior (a)undercoating (b) finishing is 90 ppm. She informed that Chemical Control Order and Gazette have already published in the United States, India, Nepal, Philippines, Sri

Lanka, Thailand and China. Shejuti presented the environmental and human health hazards of lead. She showed that \$857 billion is spent in low and middle-income countries from children’s lost IQ because of Lead Poisoning. She talked about some other uses of lead in our countries among which lead batteries and leaded toys are significant. She also informed that lead is used in toy jewelry which poses serious health issues, especially for young, growing children. So the importance of a regulation to ban lead in paint in Bangladesh was emphasized in the presentation.

In the end she added that as we are still striving for a regulation on Ban of Lead in paint so, our combined effort will put a drive into this.

#### vi. Deliverable Materials

Fact sheets were developed and distributed in the meeting.

#### vii. Outcomes:

Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) on restricting lead content in paint to 90 ppm has been published by BSTI in line with ESDO’s tenacious policy advocacy. ESDO had been working since 2008 from



awareness raising activities to policy advocacy on the issue of ‘Ban Lead Paint’ in Bangladesh. ESDO’s goal is to eliminate lead paint in Bangladesh by 2020 by promoting the establishment of a law to Ban Lead Paint in Bangladesh. The news of this meeting was also published in some widely used electronic and print media of Bangladesh.

## News coverage of Round Table Meeting

| Name of Newspaper               | Title of News  | Date              | News Link   |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------|---|
| Dhaka Tribune                   | Ban lead-based paints for healthy children   | 28 October, 2019  | <a href="https://www.dhakatribune.com/health/2019/10/28/ban-lead-based-paints-for-healthy-children">https://www.dhakatribune.com/health/2019/10/28/ban-lead-based-paints-for-healthy-children</a>   |
| The Daily Sun                   | Ban lead paint: Experts  | 28 October, 2019  | <a href="https://www.daily-sun.com/printversion/details/434449/Ban-lead-paint:-Experts">https://www.daily-sun.com/printversion/details/434449/Ban-lead-paint:-Experts</a>   |
| The Daily Manabzamin            | সীসায়ুক্ত রঙ নিষিদ্ধ করণের আহবান বিশেষজ্ঞদের শিশুদের স্বাস্থ্য সুরক্ষার জন্য আইন প্রণয়ন করুন | 13 November, 2019 | <a href="https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=196506">https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=196506</a>   |
| Channel i (Video News Coverage) | রঙে বিষাক্ত সীসার ব্যবহার  | 27 October, 2019  | <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UI5x1SjacPU&amp;feature=youtu.be&amp;fbclid=IwAR37xg46641d19kUIUJ3b3EFU3C23isEQ13wPHLQCxafyvIEe1pK7Q9wVN8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UI5x1SjacPU&amp;feature=youtu.be&amp;fbclid=IwAR37xg46641d19kUIUJ3b3EFU3C23isEQ13wPHLQCxafyvIEe1pK7Q9wVN8</a> |



## Social Media Campaign

ESDO continued social media campaign round the week of ILPPW 2019 that is from 20 to 27 October 2019. Different messages regarding the danger of lead poisoning were posted in ESDO Facebook page and the updates of the events organized in Bangladesh by ESDO were also circulated in Facebook and twitter. Some screen shots are attached in the Annex-5.



Fig: Facebook post from ESDO facebook page during round table meeting.

## Conclusion

International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action is an effort to raise awareness on the subject issue globally. Ban of lead paint in Bangladesh has become a timely step considering the environment and public health issue in the country. ESDO is committed to work hard until ban of lead in paint in Bangladesh is established as law.