



Young Volunteers for the Environment (YVE) The Gambia



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Name of Event: International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2018 (National Stakeholders' Forum on the Elimination of Lead Paint)



Date, Time and Location: 9th November 2018, 10:00am - 12:30pm, National Assembly, Banjul, **Media outreach:** 20-27th October, radio talk show and social media

Description of the Event

In commemoration of the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW) 2018, Young Volunteers for the Environment (YVE) organized a meeting with the



National Assembly Environment Select Committee to present to them the findings of the "Lead in Solvent-Based Paints for Home Use in The Gambia" and the purpose of the ILPPW, in order to put lead paint elimination as a national priority during decision making. The National Environment Agency (NEA) as a partner institution also participated in the meeting to give further verification about the effects of lead poisoning and the importance of establishing regulations that will ban the sale, import and use of lead paints in the country.



In addition to the meeting conducted, YVE also conducted a media outreach to sensitize consumers including those involved in selling and importing paints through radio talk shows and social media platforms in order to raise awareness

regarding the health effects and economic losses of lead paint consumption.

Outcome that the event was designed to achieve

- To bring together key policy makers from the parliament, environment agency and health department to promote the establishment of lead paint laws
- To ensure that there is increase in awareness about the effects of lead and use of lead paints in our homes and schools through the various media platforms
- To urge all stakeholders to continue working together and make the elimination of lead chemicals a national priority.

Target audience(s)

- The Gambia National Assembly Environment Select Committee





Sponsors: IPEN

Attendees

The number of participants at the meeting was 17 who were representatives from the National Assembly, Public Health Directorate, Environment Agency,

Civil Society Organization, and the Press

Prominent People:

- National Assembly Environment Select Committee chairperson and members
- Pesticide and Hazardous Chemical Officer from NEA
- A Public Health Officer

These participants who attended the meeting are from government institutions that are policy makers who formulate national regulations, review and approve to become laws.

Event Agenda:

No.	Item	Person responsible
1	Introduction	Participants
2	Remarks	Ejatou Jaiteh: Communications and Volunteer Officer, YVE
3	Remarks	Omar Bah: Pesticides and Hazardous Chemical Officer, NEA
4	Analysis of Lead Paint issue in The	Mr. Amadou Barry: Public Health Officer and YVE



	Gambia and the world in general	member
5	Research Findings report	Ejatou Jaiteh: Communications and Volunteer Officer, YVE
6	Observations/Comments/Questions	National Assembly Environment Select Committee/ all participants
7	Closure	

Event Materials:

Lead Paint report, Press release, concept note

Media Coverage:

Radio talk show

The Voice newspaper

Facebook

Twitter

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10155998928151452&id=608861451

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10161169743710235&id=801540234

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10161107119930235&id=801540234

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1985542534862065&id=100002190120409

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1986856281397357&id=100002190120409

<https://twitter.com/gambianbarry/status/1060893423908147200?s=19>

<https://twitter.com/yvegambia/status/1054714851669561344?s=19>

<https://twitter.com/yvegambia/status/1054383965648379904?s=19>

Results

- There is an increase in awareness about the effects of Lead Paint and its Elimination among the national assembly members which will help during the review of environmental regulations formulated by the national Environment Agency.
- There has also been increased awareness among individuals through our media outreach on the radio and social media platforms



Lessons learnt

- NEA is currently planning to amend Gambia's environmental regulations, which according to the Environment Select Committee is a convenient time to include the issue of banning lead paint into the legislature which they are counting on for the proceeding of the lead paint elimination.
- The committee recommended that the regulation should include the banning of all lead consumer products
- More people are now interested in using water-based paints in their homes than solvent-based paints due to climate change effects, because it causes increase in temperature
- In the banning of lead paint, the Committee also recommended that the government should put into consideration, control of goods coming into the country through borders with Senegal.
- There should be a lot of sensitization to increase awareness among paint consumers and dealers
- The Committee agreed to share the research findings with the parliament as it is an alarming issues for the nation
- A lot of concerns were expressed as to why the issue of lead elimination is only coming up now in this part of the world when the developed nations have banned it forty years ago.

Evaluation

- Did the number of people that attended meet or exceed expectations or were you disappointed in the turnout?



- The number of participants met expectations
- Did the event attract the target audience(s) you hoped for? Was there participation by individuals or organizations that you hadn't anticipated in advance? Who didn't come that you wanted to be there?
 - The event attracted the target audience
- Did the event agenda go off as planned? What might you improve for next time?
 - It went off as planned
- Did you meet or exceed your objectives for the event or were you unable to achieve your objectives? Please explain.
 - The objectives of the programme were accomplished, as the purpose of the meeting was to share the findings of the research by YVE with the national assembly in order for them to know the effects of lead poisoning and take its elimination as national priority.
- Did you have the right materials/handouts? If not, what materials/handouts would be helpful to have in the future?
 - all necessary materials were in place
- How do you plan to follow up after the meeting? Please provide details.
 - To follow up with the development of new environment regulations by the National Environment Agency
 - Conduct media outreach sensitizations

