



Editorial, LEAD Action News volume 19 number 2, November 2018 – The 6th annual Lead Week of Action is a big success! (Part 1)

By Elizabeth O'Brien, instigator of ILPPWA, co-Founder of The LEAD Group Inc.

The International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action (ILPPWA) is held in October every year since 2013 and 88 ILPPWA activities were held in 74 cities in 49 countries in 2018. We have event reports from 17 organisations from around the world to showcase the need for public awareness in eliminating and preventing lead poisoning.

The Lead Week of Action has a particular focus on eliminating lead in paint, one of the major contributors to lead poisoning. This is showcased in the Madagascar Ministry of Environment Ecology and Forest event report on their use of a notification on their website www.ecologie.gov.mg and distribution of information emails about an event to discuss developing regulations and standards to phase out lead in paint in Madagascar. There is both a French and English Madagascar event report which was kindly translated by our Spanish and French translator volunteer, Orlando Aguirre-Lopez. Following the translated 2018 event report in English is the original event report in French.

The Children's Environmental Health Foundation, (CEHF) Republic of Zambia 2018 ILPPWA videoed their event and The LEAD Group has uploaded the video to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZL6cHob1944E4gX3jmGSeg>

Public awareness is effective in facilitating change. This can be seen in the ILPPWA 2018 activities by the NGO "LA GRANDE PUISSANCE DE DIEU", an organisation in the Republic of Benin, who reports on how their continuous efforts, like those of CEHF in Zambia are aiming to bring about regulations limiting lead in paint to 90 parts per million (90 ppm).

Following this in LEAD Action News v19n2, is the report of 3 ILPPWA events from Together Association in Iraq who held press conferences in Baghdad and Anbar University and a field trip to paint workshops that was documented by the media to promote awareness of lead in paint.



The ILPPWA 2018 event organised by Red de Desarrollo Sostenible took action to reduce the risk of lead poisoning from paint in schools in Colombia and the English translation is followed by the original report in Spanish.

The Kazakhstan Analytical Environmental Agency “Greenwomen” developed three posters on lead’s health effects and the importance of banning lead paint, and distributed these widely via social media, as well as making an appeal to regulators to ban lead paint in Kazakhstan by 2020.

Young Volunteers for the Environment (YVE) in The Gambia held a meeting of prominent people about lead in paint and conducted radio talk shows and social media outreach to successfully promote the establishment of regulations to ban lead paint.

Ahmed Elmi Gure, Environmentalist & Environmental Coordinator, Ministry of Planning, Investment & Economic Development – Somalia, submitted a report of general information on Environmental Hazards in Somalia to understand where, what and how to establish future actions on lead poisoning prevention. It would be truly wonderful if organisations with more capacity than The LEAD Group, such as WHO, UN Environment or IPEN, could assist Somalia to undertake activities in the coming year and especially for ILPPWA 2019 – Sunday 20th to Saturday 26th October.

In Saudi Arabia, four Tweets sent by King Fahad Medical City were viewed 5916 times. The campaign hashtags were #BanLeadPaint and #ILPPW2018. It was the third year in a row that King Fahad Medical City participated in ILPPWA.

Dr Faridah Were, Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry, University of Nairobi, Kenya, organized a remarkable “Road Show” with a Police Band, Police Riders and 300 participants in their Anti Lead Paint Campaign.

Indonesia’s Bali Fokus was focused on testing paint for lead using XRF to raise awareness of lead in the paint on toys and in childcare centres, during their ILPPWA 2018 activities, and they were very successful at gaining the public’s interest and getting in the media. Bali Fokus Foundation advocates for new lead paint law in Indonesia.

Over 30 IPEN organizations from the following countries have shared a paragraph about their ILPPWA event at <https://ipen.org/projects/international-lead-poisoning-awareness-week-2018> :

Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Colombia, Cote d’Ivoire, Egypt, Gambia, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia,



Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Nepal, Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine, Vietnam, Zambia.

Lastly in this issue we have VAP 2018 Winners and Lead-Safe Working Kit article about the 1st Prize Winning entry Justone Lead Soldier.

See Part 2 to this ILPPWA 2018 success story in the next issue which will also include a short summary of each of the 74 events held during the Lead Week of Action in 2018 from the List of Events at http://www.who.int/ipcs/lead_campaign/events/en/