

## LEAD PAINT ELIMINATION PROJECT

### THE CHALLENGE

Nepal and Bhutan are among the least developed countries (LDC) in the world with 30.85% (2009 data) It is well known that exposure to lead causes significant and widespread injury to human health, and that children are especially sensitive since even very low levels of exposure damages the developing brain. This is why lead is banned from gasoline and paints in Europe, the U.S. and Australia. However, in developing countries lead is still allowed in paints, and when these paints are used in e.g. homes and schools a number of lead exposure pathways are created. The greatest sources of exposure are from increase lead content of household dust and soils and the exposure of children through mouth contact.

### LEAD PARTNER

International POPs Elimination  
Network (IPEN), *Sweden*

### PARTNERS

- Arnika - Toxics and Waste Programme, *Czech Republic*
- Environmental and Social Development Organisation (ESDO), *Bangladesh*
- Balifokus, *Indonesia*
- Centre for Public Health and Environmental Development (CEPHED), *Nepal*
- The Just Environment Charitable Trust (Toxics Link), *India*
- ISEAL Alliance, *UK*
- Ecological Waste Coalition of the Philippines, Inc. (EcoWaste Coalition), *Philippines*
- Centre for Environmental Justice (Guarantee) Limited (CEJ), *Sri Lanka*
- Ecological Alert and Recovery Thailand (EARTH), *Thailand*

### CONTACT DETAILS

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### THE OBJECTIVES

The project aimed at significantly reducing or eliminating lead decorative paints on the market in the Asian partner countries, in this way promoting sustainable production and consumption and contributing to the global efforts aimed at eliminating the production and use of all decorative lead paints. This has reduced childhood lead poisoning and contributed to better health conditions for children in the seven participating countries.

### RESULTS ACHIEVED

- At the conclusion of the project in June 2015, the market-leading brands in the seven countries had eliminated lead from decorative paints, followed by many smaller manufacturers;
- Contributed to new legislation in three of seven participating countries. Nepal and Philippines have established mandatory limits on lead in paint of 90 parts per million (ppm) total lead (dry weight). The Nepal standard requires information on paint can labels about lead concentrations. The Philippine paint regulation covers both industrial and decorative paints, making it the most rigorous regulation in the world. In Sri Lanka, additional legislation demanding lead content labeling of paint cans was enacted to enforce the existing legislation. In the other four countries (India, Indonesia, Thailand, and Bangladesh), the proposed, mandatory regulations to control lead in paint are in development;
- Major paint producers in the Philippines and Sri Lanka are participating in the world's first, third party, Lead Safe Paint Certification Programme – a programme developed under the project.



**Duration** 12/2011 – 6/2015

**Total budget** EUR 1,798,563 (EU Contribution: 77.8%)