



**Global Environment Facility (GEF) 9771: Global best practices on emerging chemicals policy issues of concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)
Component 1: Promoting regulatory and voluntary action by government and industry to phase out lead in paint**

Technical Reformulation Guidance Launching workshop

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Amman, Jordan

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1 Paint Reformulation Technical Guidance Launching Workshop

1.1 Introduction

Cleaner Production Unit Jordan has been selected to execute a pilot demonstration in the country on phasing out lead in paint in selected small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The project is part of Global Environment Facility project titled: Global best practices on emerging chemicals policy issues of concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

In addition, CPU Jordan will also provide support regarding policy advice and advocacy in engaging the national network, to collaborate with the Output 1.2: Policy, advocacy and public awareness campaigns to generate support for local phase-out.

1.2 Launching Workshop

On April 1st 2019, the RSS Team in collaboration with UN Environment conducted the project launching workshop. The workshop represents the initiation of SME's demonstration activities in Jordan. The overall goal of the workshop is discussing in detail the project work plan and the draft technical guidelines on paint reformulation as it applies to SMEs project output 1.1.

Workshop objectives include:

- To raise awareness on the advances on lead paint elimination at the global level.
- Increase understanding of the adverse health and economic impact of lead compounds.
- To present global and national status of lead in paint.
- To present and discuss the technical guidelines on paint reformulation manual prepared by NCPC Serbia that will be pilot tested in selected SMEs through Jordan CPU with support of other relevant parties.
- To make a connection between international and local activities on phasing out lead in paint.
- To gain understanding that eliminating lead from paint is possible and that the project will support the participants in doing so.
- To facilitate discussion about issues related to paint manufacturer, import, export and regulation.



(Please See Annex 1 – Launching workshop - List of Participants)

The Launching Workshop was consisted of:

1.2.1 Welcome Addresses Session

The first session of the event was consisted of welcome speeches from RSS, UN Environment

- Eng Rafat Assi, Vice President for Research and Development (RSS)
- Dr. Desiree Narvaez, Programme officer, UN Environment Chemical and Health Branch Economy Division.



1.2.2 Presentation of Project

Health impact of lead in paint: Eng. Mazen Malkawi from WHO (Regional office for Environmental Health Action Progress) presented the impact of lead exposure on health. He indicated that lead in paint is a major source of childhood lead exposure, and that the lead persists in the environment. He spoke about lead toxicity where even low levels of exposure to lead can cause serious and irreversible neurological damages,



such as loss of IQ points. He presented some figures to show the economic impact of lead exposure, for example the estimated economic losses due to reduced IQ are ~1.2% of global GDP and 1% of Jordanian GDP. He gave a conclusion that prevention lead in paint through banning lead paint is cheapest and most practical option.

Status of global and national lead in paint laws: Dr. Desiree from UN Environment, Dr. Mohammad Al-Khashashneh (Ministry of Environment), and Eng. Husam Alkilany from RSS presented an overview of the status of global and national lead in paint laws; where Dr. Desiree showed the Progress of Implementation of Lead in Paint and the Percent of Countries with Lead Paint Laws in Each UN Environment Region. Also she referred to IPEN study on Jordan (2012) where the levels of lead exceeding target levels of 90 or 600 ppm were found in 12% to 18% of samples for 17 samples. Dr. Mohammad insisted on the need of issuing legislation for phasing out lead from paint industry, because of lead negative effects on health, especially on the children. Eng. Husam gave statistical data about the paint industry in Jordan.



Description of SAICM GEF project work with governments: Dr. Desiree introduced presentation about Promoting “Regulatory and Voluntary Action by Government and Industry to Phase-out Lead in Paint”. She gave an overview about SAICM Emerging Policy Issues and introduced the two project outputs 1.1 and 1.2 and how activities in both outputs will interact. She introduce guidance for a Country Approach toward Development of Lead in Paint Laws, also she gave an overview about SAICM GEF Project Executing Partners.

Description of SAICM GEF Project work plan with industry: Eng. Husam from RSS introduced the project work plane and the main project activities, such as providing national baseline about Paint Market in Jordan, Launching of Technical Guidance, Pilot Demonstration and Advocacy with National Government.

Paint Reformulation Guideline: Ms. Vojislavka Satric from NCPC Serbia introduced a presentation about the content of the lead paint reformulation technical guidelines. She gave information about paint raw materials that may contain lead compounds and substitution process.



1.2.3 Meeting with Companies Representative's

Dr. Desiree Narvaez, together with Ms. Vojislavka Satric held short meetings with four companies separately to discuss the status of companies and to discuss the ways of cooperation. These Companies showed their interest to participate in the project.

The companies' representatives were asked to fill a questionnaire provided by Ms. Vojislavka Satric, the other interested companies promised to send the filled questionnaire by fax.



1.2.4 Discussion

Some paint industries argued that it is impossible to reach the value of 90 ppm in industrial paints, mainly because of economic reasons, but the UN-Environment mentioned that the 90 ppm was set according to its technical and economical applicability; otherwise, there is no safe lead concentration in paint, since the safe concentration is lead free paint. Paint representatives asked governmental bodies to consult them on issues related to industry. Also Mr Rimawi from industry claim that every produced paint batch is tested before introduced to market

One academia representative mentioned that the lead concentration in paint should be according to the economic interest of the country. However, this statement is not a scientific statement, since it is well-known in the hierarchical priorities in sustainable management that protect the human comes at the first place then the environment and finally the economic. Therefore, the project final target is to phase out the lead in paint.

1.2.5 General Remark

- The Paint Testing Lab representative at RSS will be integrated in the project.
- RSS should follow up closely with companies for selection of suitable companies for demonstration

Annex 1 –List of Participants

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Component 1: Promoting regulatory and voluntary action by government and industry to phase out **lead in paint**

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