#### The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance)

Patricia Beneke Director, UNEP Regional Office for North America 29 October 2015



# No Level of Lead Exposure Is Safe

- Lead is poisonous, especially harmful to children
  - Children are vulnerable because they absorb more lead
  - Children's exposure is through paint particles, dust and soil
  - Malnutrition exacerbates the impact
- Can cause loss of IQ, learning and developmental disabilities, death
- With the successful removal of lead from gasoline through the UNEP PCFV, lead paint is now a principal pathway for lead poisoning







### Lead Paint : A Gobal Problem

- More than 100 countries worldwide do not have laws limiting lead additives in paint
- Lead paint levels in developing world up to 20,000ppm
- Paint with lower lead levels is often available at comparable costs
- Enforcement and compliance is a concern







#### **About the Lead Paint Alliance**

- Lead Paint Alliance is a voluntary partnership
- Jointly led by WHO and UNEP
- Supported by multi-sector UNEP/WHO Advisory Group
- Governments, NGOs, Industry, and Academia are Alliance partners
- GOAL all countries enact lead paint laws by 2020





### Action Plan for 2015-2017

The primary goal of the Alliance is to prevent children's exposure to paints containing lead and to minimize occupational exposures to lead paint.

- 1. Encourage governments to enact lead paint laws
- 2. Encourage industry to voluntarily stop the manufacture and sale of lead paint
- Increase awareness of the health and environmental risks posed by lead paint
- 4. Increase the number of Alliance partners



# The Lead Paint Alliance in 2015

- Nepal, Philippines recently passed laws; Thailand coming soon
- Germany, Moldova, Thailand and Akzo Nobel became Alliance partners in 2015
- Colombia in process of becoming partner
- Alliance Regulatory toolkit launched at http://www.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/noleadinpaint/toolkit
- Sub-regional workshop in Africa planned for 2-4 December 2015
- International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action







## Thank you

