

Groups 2 & 4

East Africa Regional Workshop on
Lead in Paint

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1. Elements of Success

- Commitment of governments and stakeholders
- Advocacy and awareness raising increased
- Exposure of the problem through blood tests (laboratory results) increased awareness
- Lack of legislation did not deter surveys
- Blood testing results highlighted the problem and increased awareness of the issue

Elements of Success Cont'd

- Engaging the paint industry and sharing the results with them proved powerful
- Personalising the lead in paint problem made it successful and all stakeholders could relate to it
- Identifying champions such as pediatricians, toxicologists helps to move the agenda forward
- Collaboration with the industry to highlight their challenges and possible solutions

2. Barriers

- How to get decision-makers/policy makers on board to buy-in on the subject through generation of national data
- Negative publicity
- Low political will
- Strategy:
 - Involvement of children in campaigns
 - Involvement of the media

3. Awareness

- Some countries have held awareness campaigns during lead in paint awareness weeks but it is not enough
- Data is very crucial to create awareness with evidence
- Collection of extrapolative data by checking labels of paint for ingredients
- Holding awareness activities alongside specific commemoration days e.g. Day of African Child

Sub-regional/Regional Approaches

- Use bottom-up approach (begin at national level) and then take it to the Regional levels (AU level), since national activities can be made mandatory compared to sub-regional, which are voluntary in nature
- Identify champion countries to advance the agenda to regional level and beyond (e.g. South Arica, Ethiopia)

Sub-regional/Regional Approaches

- Involvement of AU in such regional workshops and discussions to have them on board
- The regional approach will be more efficient than sub-regional in order not to block trade within Africa