



The thirteenth International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW)

What is lead poisoning

Lead is a toxic metal that poses damaging effects on human health when exposed to it through lead contaminated food, air and water leading to lead poisoning. This in turn leads to accumulation of lead in the body which affects the reproductive, haematological, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal and renal systems.

How lead gets in the body

Ingestion: Children may ingest lead paint chips, contaminated dust, or soil by playing in lead-contaminated areas or putting their hands or contaminated objects in their mouth.

Inhalation: Children may inhale lead dust from deteriorating lead paint or from industrial emissions.

Health impacts



Affects the neurological, cardiovascular, renal, gastrointestinal.

Reduced IQ, learning disabilities, behavioural problems (e.g., hyperactivity, aggression), hearing loss, seizures, coma.

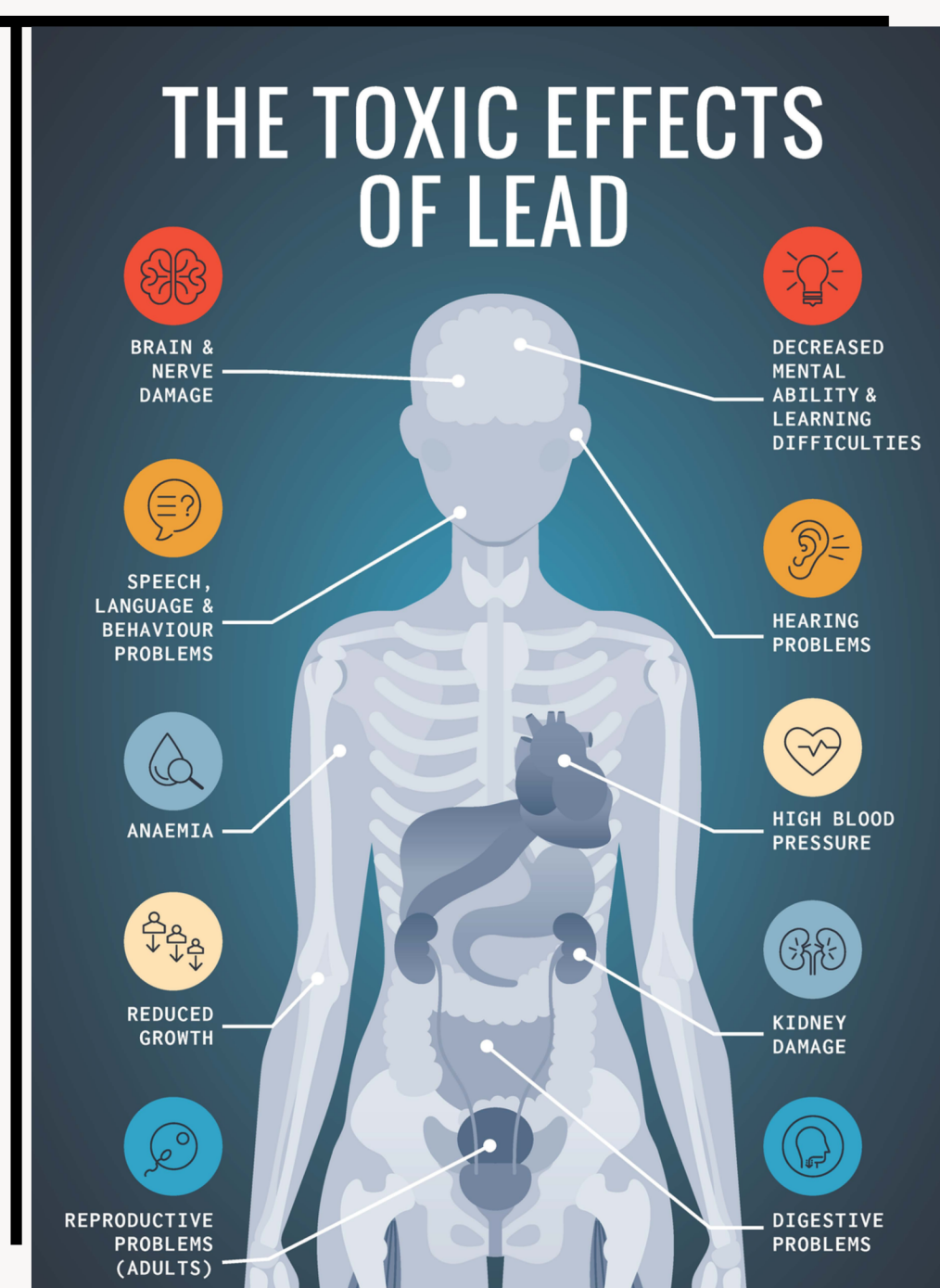
Exposure to very high level to Lead exposure can have serious consequences for the health of children; severe damage to the brain and central nervous system, convulsions and death.

Children who survive may be left with **permanent intellectual disability and behavioural disorders**

Exposure to pregnant women

Lead exposure during pregnancy is dangerous for both the mother and the developing baby and can cause potential fertility issues.

- Lead interferes with the production of haemoglobin. This can result in anemia.
- During pregnancy:
- Lead stored in bone may be released into the blood during pregnancy and expose the foetus.
- Neurodevelopmental damage to the developing foetus
- High blood levels of lead can cause increased risk of miscarriage and stillbirth Premature birth and low birth weight.





BAN LEAD PAINT

**TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF
LEAD IN PAINT, CEJAD
PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING**

GOVERNMENT

The Kenya Bureau of Standards should enforce strict regulation on the sale of paints to ensure only maximum permissible level of total lead in paints, varnishes, coatings, and related products is 90 parts per million (ppm), based on dry weight of the paint. (aligns with WHO and UNEP's recommendations)



PAINT INDUSTRY

Paint companies that still produce lead paint should expeditiously stop the use of leaded paint ingredients in paint formulations.

INDIVIDUAL CONSUMERS

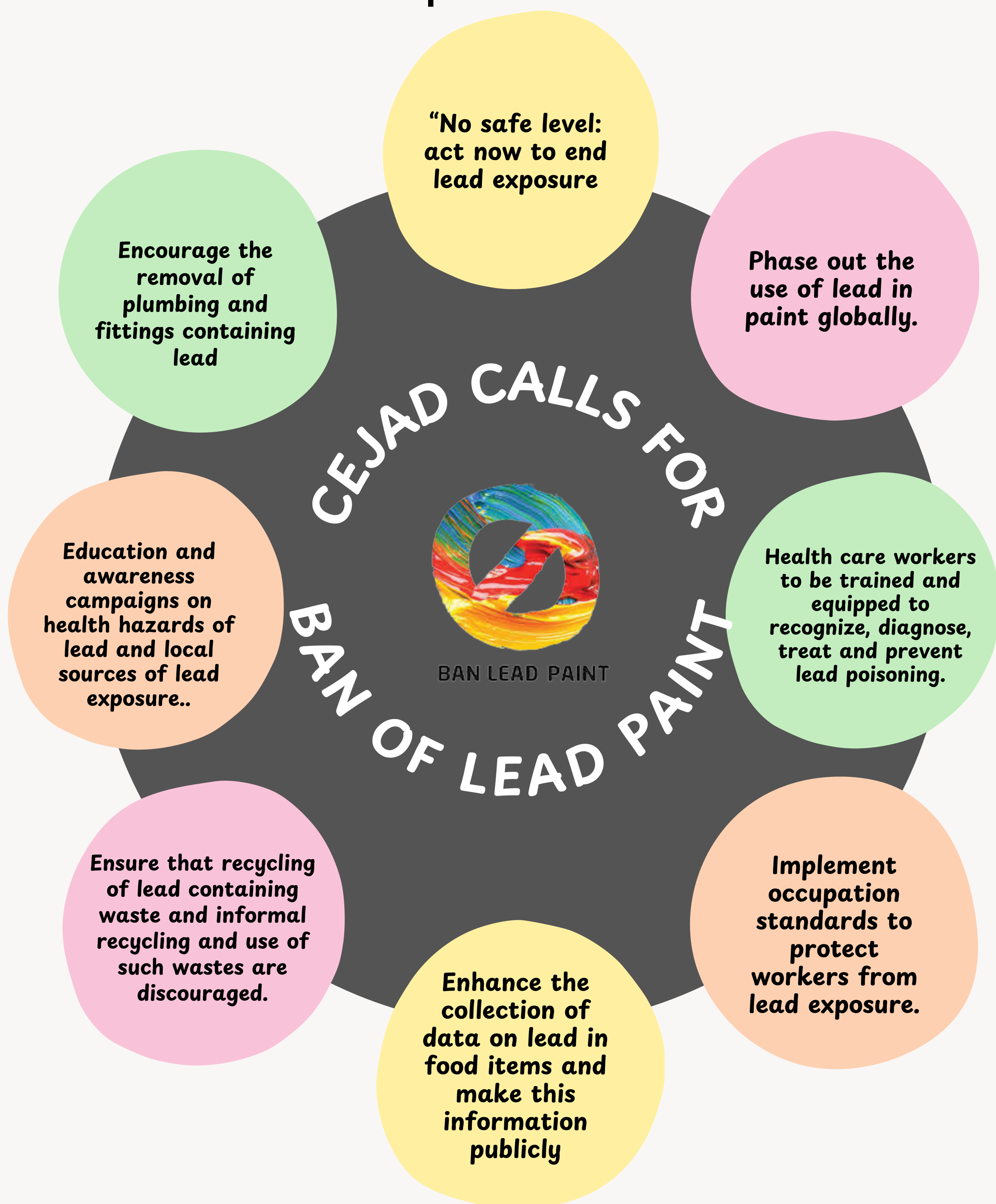
Paint consumers should demand paints with no added lead from paint manufacturers and retailers, as well as full disclosure of a paint product's lead content.

Household and institutional consumers should ask for, consciously buy, and apply only paints with no added lead in places frequently used by children such as homes, schools, day care centers, parks and playgrounds

STAKEHOLDERS

Public health groups, consumer organizations and other concerned entities should support the elimination of lead paint, and conduct activities to inform and protect children from lead exposure through lead paint, lead in dust and soil, and other sources of lead

Actions to eliminate lead exposure.



**"No safe level:
act now to end
lead exposure**

**Phase out the
use of lead in
paint globally.**

**Encourage the
removal of
plumbing and
fittings containing
lead**

**Health care workers
to be trained and
equipped to
recognize, diagnose,
treat and prevent
lead poisoning.**

**Education and
awareness
campaigns on
health hazards of
lead and local
sources of lead
exposure..**

**Ensure that recycling
of lead containing
waste and informal
recycling and use of
such wastes are
discouraged.**

**Implement
occupation
standards to
protect
workers from
lead exposure.**

**Enhance the
collection of
data on lead in
food items and
make this
information
publicly**

Existing regulations on lead in paint in Kenya

The Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) gazetted the two standards: KS 2661-1:2017 and KS 2661-2:2017 on the determination of total lead content in paints, varnishes and related products under **Gazette Notice Number 675 dated 26th January 2018**.

The maximum permissible level of total lead in paints, varnishes, coatings, and related products is **90 parts per million (ppm)**, based on the dry weight of the paint. (aligns with WHO and UNEP's recommendations)

Why Ban Lead Paint

Lead is harmful because it's a potent **neurotoxin** that is highly toxic to virtually every organ system in the body, there is no known safe blood lead concentration.

Bio accumulation: Lead is stored in the bones and teeth, much like calcium, where it can remain for decades. Disrupts the metabolism of calcium.

Children are the most affected by the harmful effects of lead poisoning as they are easily exposed from objects **such as toys, deteriorating lead paint from walls, doors, windows and contaminated soil**.

Normal hand-to-mouth behaviour, as well as playing in lead-contaminated dust and soil, increases a child's intake.



According to the WHO 2 , Children absorb a much higher percentage of ingested lead (up to 4-5 times more) into their bodies compared to adults.

