

## Reducing Lead Poisoning Among Children in Karmalichak, Bihar State, India (2016-19)

**Issue:** Through the Toxic Site Identification Program in 2016, an informal battery-plates manufacturer was identified operating for 2 decades at substandard level from a residential area in Karmalichak. The soil-assessment showed high levels of Lead all around. Blood lead levels (BLL) testing among 40 school kids revealed very high BLL impacting their Intellectual capacity and brain development .

**Solution:** A risk reduction project was implemented with soil capping of contaminated outdoor areas followed by home and school- cleanups & community education

### Impact:

- This first lead risk reduction project led to the first lead source apportionment study in India
- The State Pollution Control Board took action & shutdown the unit
- Lead in soils restored to the safe level (below 400 ppm)
- Increased awareness and stakeholder participation



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