



2025 Global Lead Program Report

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29 Projects Across 16 Countries

During 2025, Pure Earth implemented programmatic activities under 29 projects across 16 countries—through broad, impactful engagement at local, national, and global levels.

This year, we opened offices in two new countries, Brazil and Ethiopia, and expanded our staff by 40 percent, welcoming new leaders and technical experts, thereby strengthening the organization's capacity to deliver high-impact programs, and support more complex, multi-country initiatives.

This growth was made possible through new and ongoing grants from Bloomberg Philanthropies, Coefficient Giving's Lead Exposure Action Fund (LEAF), Takeda Pharmaceuticals, the French Facility for Global Environment (FFEM), and the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), and hundreds of generous individuals.

In parallel, Pure Earth deepened its role in global collaboration, serving as a founding member of the Partnership for a Lead-Free Future and working closely with ministries of health and environment, national research institutions, and global partners such as UNICEF, WHO, Vital Strategies, the Center for Global Development (CGD), the Lead Exposure Elimination Project (LEEP),

and the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME).

In 2025, we administered over 3,500 blood-lead level (BLL) tests in five countries, including the Philippines, where the City of Valenzuela mobilized its own physicians, nurses, and health workers to screen children with disabilities.

We conducted 47 environmental and 2 market assessments to gain information about lead exposure sources and assessed over 600 homes in four countries for lead-adulterated products and environmental media.

We produced 35 major awareness-raising events and 33 videos, published 7 peer-reviewed papers, and developed technical tools to standardize environmental testing.

We remediated 2 toxic sites, specifically former used lead-acid battery (ULAB) recycling operations in Ghana and Bangladesh, directly protecting over 3,000 people living or working in these sites' vicinity.

In the service of strengthening healthcare systems and governments' capacity to conduct BLL surveillance and source assessments, we donated 15 LeadCare II analyzers and 80 LeadCare test kits (i.e., 3,840 tests) to India, Indonesia, Peru, and the Philippines. In Brazil and Bangladesh, we funded the secondment of environmental experts into their respective ministries of environment.

These programmatic activities, combined with strategic communications, capacity-building, and advocacy, continue to position Pure Earth as a driving force in global efforts to reduce childhood lead poisoning and create safer environments for all. The Global Lead Program has been instrumental in elevating lead exposure as a priority for action by governments, policymakers, multilateral organizations, and major funders. (see Annex A)

Our achievements were reinforced by growing external recognition. In a chapter of the 2025 World Happiness Report on effective giving, the Happier Lives Institute ranked Pure Earth as the most cost-effective charity for improving the wellbeing of others. By bringing greater visibility and increased understanding of lead exposure through new data and evidence on its prevalence, severity, and sources, and through advocacy around impacts and interventions to prevent or mitigate it, the goal of tackling lead exposure has steadily gained traction among national and global actors.

2025 Accomplishments By The Numbers

In 2025, Pure Earth's Global Lead Program made important strides in its mission to measurably and sustainably reduce lead pollution and poisoning in countries where we work. Learn more about the impact of our Global Lead Program.



29 Projects

in 16 countries to assess and prevent lead poisoning from sources including spices, pottery, metal cookware, cosmetics and contaminated sites from used lead-acid battery recycling.



1.76 Hectares

of land remediated in Bangladesh and Ghana, with 3,380 individuals directly benefiting from remediations



624 Homes

assessed for lead exposure sources through 4 home-based assessment projects in India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, and the Philippines.



35 Major Events

around the world organized to raise awareness of lead pollution, including webinars, briefings, and outreach events.



3,581 Blood Lead Tests

administered in India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mexico, and the Philippines.



47 Sites Surveyed

in Ghana, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Kenya, Mexico, and the Philippines



15 LeadCare II Analyzers

and 80 test kits donated to Governments in Peru, Indonesia, India, and the Philippines





Detail On Key Accomplishments By Outcome

The Global Lead Program tracks its achievements across five outcomes and associated indicators. Further information about the outcomes, activities, and results, by country and project, are included in the body of this report.

Outcome 1

Increased Profile and Prioritization Of Lead Exposure At National and Global Levels Through Advocacy and Awareness Raising

This outcome is reflected through “signals of support,” actions taken by national and sub-national governments, key non-government organizations (NGOs), and academic institutions that demonstrate their commitment to prioritize and tackle lead exposure as a result of increased awareness of the issue. Where Pure Earth was directly involved in these actions, this is noted.

Under Outcome 1, we also report outputs achieved through the modes Pure Earth uses to raise awareness such as major media coverage, events, webinars, videos, social media, participation in key conferences, and publications about our work.





Bangladesh

- In January 2025, **Pure Earth**, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**, and the **Department of Environment (DoE)** signed a tri-party MOU, *“Collaboration to Enhance Environmental Management and Policy Implementation to Manage Lead Pollution in Bangladesh.”* It establishes a framework of cooperation to strengthen the GoB’s capacity to manage lead pollution, and to support the transition of the informal battery recycling sector to a formal economy.
- In March 2025, a **Project Steering Committee was formally constituted at the DoE** to provide strategic oversight to Pure Earth’s lead pollution prevention and mitigation activities. Chaired by the Director General, the committee comprises DoE officials from all relevant wings, along with representatives from the Bangladesh Battery Manufacturers and Exporters Association.
- From September 2024 - December 2025, the DoE shut down 21 informal battery facilities and imposed fines on 49. In March 2025, the **DoE, in collaboration with law enforcement, and with community support, shut down 12 illegal ULAB factories** in Dhaka. From January - March, 10 courts took action against 26 ULAB dismantling and lead melting factories,

oversight to Pure Earth’s lead pollution prevention and mitigation activities. Chaired by the Director General, the committee comprises DoE officials from all relevant wings, along with representatives from the Bangladesh Battery Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

- From September 2024 - December 2025, the DoE shut down 21 informal battery facilities and imposed fines on 49. In March 2025, the **DoE, in collaboration with law enforcement, and with community support, shut down 12 illegal ULAB factories** in Dhaka. From January - March, 10 courts took action against 26 ULAB dismantling and lead melting factories, shutting 16, demolishing 6 lead furnaces, imposing fines, and jailing one individual.
- The development of the **National Strategy for a Lead-Free Bangladesh and Multi-Year Action Plan (2026–2035)** was initiated under the overall stewardship of the MoEFCC. A core technical working group was established by the ministry, comprising UNICEF, Pure Earth, and ESDO, to provide sustained technical guidance, policy-relevant inputs, and support in structuring the strategic pillars and implementation pathways. The first consultative workshop to review the strategy was held on 23 August 2025 at the Department of Environment, leading to the refinement and finalization of the document.
- On July 14, the DoE and Pure Earth

convened a high-level meeting, ***“Results Sharing of Lead Remediation and Blood Lead Level Study, and Innovations in Battery Recycling and Taxation,”*** chaired by the DOE’s Director General, Dr. Md. Kamruzzaman, with 20 participants representing government, academic, development, and private sector stakeholders. The objective was to present recent progress in the site remediation in Khulna, including findings from the BLL study of the affected community.

- Between October 2024 - end of 2025, the **DoE shut down 5 informal recycling sites** as a result of awareness campaigns carried out during International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW) by 25+ member organizations of “YouthNet Global,” a youth action network, with support from UNICEF and Pure Earth.

Brazil

- On October 17, the **National Commission on Chemical Safety (CONASQ) established a Permanent Lead Technical Working Group** to inform the implementation of the National Action Plan for Lead Contamination. Pure Earth is contributing to the Working Group’s Action Plan and methodological framework.
- On October 22, the **Ministry of Environment and Climate Change**, under coordination of the **National Secretary of Urban Environment**

and Environmental Quality,
announced its **National Strategy for
Joint Actions to Combat Lead
Contamination 2025–2030** at a

launch led by Marina Silva, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and attended by Pure Earth, Vital Strategies, and Bloomberg Philanthropies.

- Starting in October, the **Ministry of Environment and Climate Change** began hosting a **Pure Earth** secondee as a **Technical Advisor** to provide specialized support around inter-institutional governance and coordination and implementation of Bloomberg Philanthropies-funded source assessment activities.
- In December, the **Permanent Lead Technical Group** convened its first meeting, bringing together 34+ members and 12+ representatives from government, academia, and civil society. The group was presented with a proposed National Action Plan to support coordinated implementation efforts aimed at reducing lead exposure and contamination in Brazil through 2030.

Colombia

- On December 10, the **National Association of Businessmen of Colombia (ANDI)** signed an agreement with Pure Earth, strengthening collaboration with the private sector and opening opportunities to advance discussion on heavy metals, environmental

- responsibility, and regulatory alignment.

Ethiopia

- On November 13, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) held the **2nd National Lead Poisoning Prevention Day**, demonstrating strong political commitment to coordinated national lead poisoning prevention and mitigation efforts. During the event, the **EPA signed an MoU with Pure Earth**, creating a clear framework for joint action, including through re-establishment of the **National Technical Working Group** and the recruitment of a secondee, to be embedded in the EPA to support interagency coordination, data sharing and technical oversight. Dissemination of the National Child Environmental Health and Lead Poisoning Prevention Assessment Report (MOH & UNICEF) provided timely evidence on the scale and urgency of the lead poisoning crisis.
- In December, the MOH and UNICEF jointly held a workshop to develop a health-based guideline on lead poisoning prevention and hazardous chemicals.

Ghana

- On July 10, the **EPA launched the National Lead Technical Working Group**, with an aim of harmonizing national strategies and actions to effectively address lead pollution. The

group will provide strategic oversight, facilitate multi-sectoral coordination, drive the national agenda toward the elimination and management of lead exposure, and develop a National Roadmap. At its first meeting in October, the Group adopted terms of reference (TORs) to support its operationalization.

- In August, **Ghana Health Service** signed an MOU with Pure Earth, paving the way for joint implementation of various lead poisoning prevention and mitigation activities.
- In November, the **EPA put forth a proposal to develop a National Lead Roadmap** and institutional commitments, to be advanced in 2026.

India

- On February 24, 2025. NCDC's **National Biomonitoring Program for Chemical Toxicants** held a Consultative Workshop attended by 62 participants from government ministries, medical colleges, and NGOs from 10 priority states.
- In early 2025, the Bihar State Food and Safety Department approved the formation of an Intergovernmental Panel for Lead.

Indonesia

- The **Government of Tegal Regency allocated funds** to complete remediation of lead-contaminated lands, done by the Ministry of

Environment in phases in 2024, 2025, and continuing into 2026-2027 in Pesarean Village.

- In May 2025, the **Ministry of Health's** Director of Environmental Health confirmed **funding from the State Budget** to support site visits to the 6 selected provinces of the **"Strengthening Health Systems to Reduce Lead Exposure"** project's BLL survey.
- **The Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Culture** (Kemenko PMK) initiated the development of a **National Action Plan for Lead-Free Indonesia** and formation of a **Technical Working Group** which met for the first time in November.

Kyrgyzstan

- In November, the **Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic** invited Pure Earth implementing partner Ekois to participate in a working group discussion about the action plan for the implementation of the National Development Program 2030. **An indicator on lead, "Strengthening the laboratory service of the National Institute of Health for monitoring preschool children for lead levels in the blood,"** was included in the action plan.
- Pure Earth and the MOH have drafted a **National Clinical Manual** on lead poisoning and have begun to establish **Kyrgyzstan's first reference laboratory for heavy metals testing,**

including ICP-MS capacity, creating a durable foundation for diagnosis, surveillance, and response.

Mexico

- In July, as part of the periodic review of Mexican Official Standards (NOMs), the **Federal Government's Commission for the Regulation of Health Risks**, with Pure Earth participation, began work on **two new environmental health standards**: (1) Lead concentrations in blood that define health action in the non-occupationally exposed population (periodic monitoring from 3.5 µg/dL and medical interventions from 10 µg/dL; and (2) Maximum permissible limit

for total lead content (90 ppm) and health requirements that the labeling of paints and related products must meet.

Peru

- On **March 24, 2025**, the **MOH signed an agreement with Pure Earth and Vital Strategies** to strengthen surveillance and care for children exposed to lead. The agreement marks a milestone in Peru's strategy against lead exposure, enhancing collaboration with the MOH's technical offices and increasing capacity through equipment donation, healthcare personnel training, and the identification of important sources of



exposure.

- On October 29, **UNICEF Peru signed an MOU with Pure Earth**, an important step toward strengthening the prevention and reduction of lead exposure among children and adolescents by: (1) coordinating actions within the Global Lead-Free Future Alliance framework; (2) sharing evidence and technical tools to support informed decision-making; (3) supporting Peru to create and apply policies; and (4) developing interventions that protect the health of the most vulnerable populations.
- On December 22, the **Public Prosecutor's Office of Peru signed a Letter of Intent with Pure Earth**, establishing a framework for cooperation focused on: (1) lead – identification and control of exposure sources; (2) mercury – technical support in actions against mercury use in illegal gold mining; and (3) training for prosecutors, forensic experts, and technical staff on heavy metals contamination and risk assessment.

The Philippines

- On March 6, Pure Earth Philippines and the Valenzuela City Government convened a multi-stakeholder dialogue to **Take the LEAD** (Leading and Enabling Actions to mitigate Disabilities due to lead), to discuss the impacts of lead exposure and urgency of institutionalizing lead-prevention programs nationwide. Nineteen

participants representing 8 agencies

signed a joint declaration, the “Valenzuela Declaration,”

announcing their support for a number of propositions aimed at ensuring lead-free futures for Filipino children.

- On September 16, Valenzuela City passed the **Lead Exposure Prevention and Child Protection Ordinance of 2025, the Philippines’ first city-level legislative action** specifically enacted to prevent lead poisoning—particularly among children with disabilities and other high-risk groups. By institutionalizing BLL screening, strengthening local enforcement, and prioritizing public health protections, Valenzuela City sets a powerful example for other cities to follow and serves as proof for the national governments that it is possible to launch local lead surveillance.
- In December, the **City of Valenzuela mobilized its own physicians, nurses, medical technologists, and Barangay Health Workers** and, using the LeadCare II analyzer and kits donated by Pure Earth, screened 60 children with disabilities, demonstrating government commitment to implementing the Ordinance of 2025.

Major Media Coverage

Major Media Coverage, Briefing Events & Webinars, Videos, Website and Social Media, Conferences, Peer-Reviewed Publications



Pure Earth's major publications are a centerpiece of our communications and advocacy efforts. A media campaign and briefing events accompany each major publication. Between major publications, we pitch program accomplishments and write opinion pieces to maintain a steady stream of key message visibility and awareness. Pure Earth receives frequent requests for information from press contacts as the media regards us as a trusted expert on pollution and health issues.

In a chapter of the **2025 World Happiness Report** on effective giving, the Happier Lives Institute ranked Pure Earth as the most cost-effective charity for improving the wellbeing of others. This was the first global review of published evidence on the cost-effectiveness of charities in terms of happiness per dollar. Vox's Future Perfect highlighted Pure Earth's recognition and impact in its coverage of effective giving, including Want to help save the most lives possible? and How to buy a year of happiness, explained in one chart.

Pure Earth's global media coverage reached more than 200 million people worldwide, including AFP and TRT World's investigations into Bangladesh's ULAB crisis; DW and The World's reporting on mercury pollution from gold mining in Peru; Devex's examination of the growing global movement to eliminate childhood lead exposure; and Consumer Reports' coverage of Pure Earth's research on lead in traditional eyeliners sold online in the US. A TV report on Electric three-wheelers and lead pollution from informal ULAB in Bangladesh; broadcast on DBC News channel, received the "Best Reporting Award 2025" from the Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Pure Earth's work was also featured in El Financiero, Africanews and the Associated Press, Reuters, The Observer, Context, and Forbes. In the Stanford Social Innovation Review, President Drew McCartor co-authored an article on building a global lead surveillance network.

Briefing Events & Webinars

HQ

1. On January 27, the Partnership for a lead-free future **hosted** a **webinar on conducting environmental risk assessments** to identify and evaluate lead exposure risks in children's environments, particularly in resource-constrained settings. The session featured real-world case studies from Médecins Sans Frontières in Nigeria and Pure Earth in the Philippines, offering practical insights that build on existing resources like the **Assessing Environmental Lead Exposure in Resource-Constrained Settings** report. Speakers included Larah Ortega-Ibañez (Pure Earth), Simba Tirima (MSF), and Bret Ericson (UNICEF) as moderator. The webinar was third in the Lead-FreeFuture for Every Child series.
2. On March 6, the **International Women's Day Force of Nature Celebration**, celebrating the strength and achievements of honorees as well as countless women the world over working every day to solve pollution, protect their families and communities, and advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable. Honorees: Jaclyn Bowen, Executive Director of the Clean Label Project; Kathryn Huarte, Treasurer, Pure Earth Board of

- Directors; and Catherine Lufkin, Senior Director, Global Point of Care at Meridian Bioscience Inc.
3. On March 13, Pure Earth hosted "Toxic Exposures and Women's Health: Emerging Research and Global Solutions," an International Women's Day webinar on pollution's impact on women's health. Leading researchers from Columbia University, Universidad Iberoamericana, the National Centre for Disease Control in India, and the Clean Label Project presented new data on impacts of heavy metal exposure on pregnant and breastfeeding women, and new findings on toxic metal contaminants in tampons, baby foods, prenatal vitamins, cookware and cosmetics. Panelists include: Jackie Bowen, Executive Director, The Clean Label Project; Dr. Alejandra Cantoral, Professor, Universidad Iberoamericana; Dr. Meera Dhuria, Assistant Director, National Centre for Disease Control (India); Dr. Kathrin Schilling, Assistant Professor, Columbia University Irving Medical Center of Environmental Health Sciences.
 4. In June, Pure Earth and ISCHE co-hosted a virtual research briefing, **"New Findings on BLLs in Georgia, Cookware Contamination, and a Lead Burden Index Tool"**, which spotlighted three new studies on

global lead exposure and its health impacts; the briefing was attended by 162 participants.

5. On September 22, 2025, during UNGA in New York, Pure Earth and Vital Strategies hosted **Making a Lead-Free Future a Reality**, a conversation and cocktail reception with global organizations to celebrate progress and discuss continued needs in lead-affected countries.
6. To mark International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (ILPPW), on October 27, Pure Earth hosted a webinar to provide an update on the Takeda Pharmaceuticals-supported **“Strengthening Health Systems to Reduce Lead Exposure”** project. The project is working toward establishment of BLL surveillance programs to understand the prevalence and severity of childhood lead exposure in Colombia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Maharashtra, India, and Peru. The webinar featured project leaders describing progress to date and plans for the coming year. Speakers included: Drew McCartor, CEO, and Pure Earth and Vital Strategies project leads from the 5 countries.
7. On November 26, Pure Earth’s Vice-President of Programs, Richard Reithinger, and Vital Strategy’s Senior Vice President for Environmental Health, Dan Kass, opened **“Protecting Children from Lead: Country Actions for an Exposure Free Region,”** a PAHO regional

webinar. The webinar brought together representatives of the MOHs, Environment, and Education, international organizations and academic centers to share main activities, policies and strategies implemented by governments of the Americas region for the prevention, regulation, and elimination of lead in consumer products.

Bangladesh

8. On February 17, 2025, Pure Earth held a launch ceremony for the **“Capacity Building for the Reduction of Lead Contamination in Bangladesh Project”**. Over 100 participants from government institutions, development partners, and private organizations attended, including: Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Honorable Advisor of the MoEFCC, Dr. Md. Kamruzzaman, Director General, DoE, HE Marie Masdupuy, Ambassador, Embassy of France and representatives from the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (on behalf of FFEM), the Directorate General of Health Services, ESDO, icddr,b, Society School of Social Reform, and UNICEF Bangladesh.
9. On February 23, Pure Earth, Khulna University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, and SSR School, with the DoE and Khulna City Corporation, organized a **community engagement program** to raise awareness about lead contamination and promote community involvement

in remediation efforts. Over 350 people including students, teachers, parents, local NGOs, law enforcement, and media participated. The event featured videos and a puppet show to illustrate dangers of lead pollution and highlight mitigation efforts. The presence of government officials and community members under one platform reinforced a unified commitment to tackling lead contamination.

10. For ILPPW, Bangladesh saw expansive mobilization activities, including a youth-led cycle rally, discussion sessions, and human chains organized nationwide, across 64 districts in collaboration with YouthNet and UNICEF.
11. On December 11, following the successful remediation of an abandoned ULAB smelting operation at the SSR School in Labanchora, Khulna, Pure Earth organized a community awareness and stakeholder engagement event, “Sharing Lead Remediation Outcomes: Engaging Communities and Stakeholders for a Lead-Free Future.” Nearly 300 participants took part in the event which highlighted the remediation process, reductions in soil lead levels, and the importance of sustained community vigilance to prevent future infringement on the community’s livelihood and the environment. The event reinforced collective ownership of environmental health and strengthened collaboration

among communities, academia, and government institutions to prevent future lead contamination.



Brazil

12. Brazil marked ILPPW with the launch of the **“National Strategy for Joint Actions to Combat Lead Contamination 2025–2030,”** signaling renewed national coordination on lead pollution and exposure risks. The launch event was hosted by Adalberto Maluf, Brazil’s National Secretary for Urban Environment, Water Resources, and Environmental Quality, with the keynote speaker being Marina Silva, Minister of Environment and Climate Change. The event also included remarks from Bloomberg Philanthropies’ Dr Jessica Leighton, Vital Strategies’ Pedro de Paula, and Pure Earth’s Dr Richard Reithinger.

Colombia

13. On August 19, Pure Earth and Vital Strategies, along with the Colombian Association of Public Health

presented **“Let’s Talk about Lead Exposure,”** a webinar attended by 370 people.

14. For **ILPPW**, Pure Earth supported a Pan American Health Organization-led regional seminar, **“Protecting Children from Lead: Country Actions Toward a Region Free from Exposure,”** bringing together MOHs from Colombia, Mexico, and Peru. The bilingual event emphasized regional policy alignment and shared learning, with opening remarks by Pure Earth and Vital Strategies leadership.

Ethiopia

15. In October, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and the MOH, with technical support from Pure Earth, hosted the 2nd National Lead Poisoning Prevention Day in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The event convened nearly 150 participants from more than 15 government institutions, along with partners from WHO, UNICEF, Vital Strategies, CHAI, civil society, academia, industry, and the media.

Georgia

16. On June 23, NCDC, UKSHA, and Pure Earth hosted a workshop to share the findings of the **Assessment of Blood Lead Levels in Children in Poti: A Pilot Study of Environmental Lead Exposure Sources**, and share information with other projects carried out in Georgia.
17. June 26, 2025, Pure Earth and the

International Society for Children’s Health and the Environment (ISCHE) presented **New Findings on Blood Lead Levels in Georgia, Cookware Contamination, and a Lead Burden Index Tool.** The briefing spotlighted three new studies, presenting data and analytical tools for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners: (1) a new metric, the **Cumulative Population Blood Lead Level** (aka the Lead Burden Index), which can help qualify the gross impact of lead exposure; findings of an initial **post-intervention blood lead level study in Poti, Georgia; and an analysis of leachable lead in aluminum cookware from 25 countries.**

Speakers included: Ekaterine Ruadze, NCDC, Georgia; Aelita Sargsyan, Gordon Binkhorst, and Rich Fuller, Pure Earth; and Bruce Lanphear, Simon Fraser University.

Ghana

18. On June 9, to mark World Environment Day, Pure Earth, with the University of Nevada Las Vegas School of Public Health and the Nevada Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, hosted the **“Lead Exposure and Preeclampsia: Understanding the Risks to Maternal Health in Ghana,”** webinar. Experts presented new evidence on the prevalence of lead poisoning in pregnant women and discussed strategies to address it.
19. During ILPPW, PE Ghana held a

national briefing involving the MOH and EPA, underscoring growing government engagement on lead exposure risks from consumer products and informal recycling. The event brought together more than 125 stakeholders, reaffirming Ghana's national commitment to raising awareness and calling for urgent action toward a lead-free future. Additional awareness activities continued beyond the official campaign window, reflecting sustained national attention. The events received national press coverage in the **Ghana Times Newspaper** and **MyJoyOnline**.

India

20. On May 5-6, Pure Earth presented its work at the **Bureau of Indian Standards' (BIS)** workshop for 75+ representatives from consumer organizations and NGOs on how to strengthen engagement with consumer and civil society stakeholders and enhance their understanding of standardization, quality control, and consumer rights. Pure Earth has been collaborating with BIS on a cookware study in Tamil Nadu and recently received a letter of support for its planned work on cookware in 2025.
21. May 21, 2025 **Tamil Nadu (GW) dissemination workshop**, facilitated by Pure Earth, Vital Strategies, and Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher education and Research, in

collaboration with the Directorate of Public Health & Preventive Medicine, which officially released the report.

22. **India (Maharashtra)**. The Public Health Department of Maharashtra leveraged ILPPW 2025 to amplify public awareness on lead exposure by releasing a series of locally contextualized communication collaterals in the regional language across its official social media platforms. These posts reached a substantial audience, with the department's Instagram account engaging over 28,000 followers and its Facebook page reaching more than 348,000 followers—significantly expanding the visibility of lead poisoning prevention messaging at the state level.

Indonesia

23. On July 10, Pure Earth Country Director Budi Susilorini spoke at the **Asian Development Bank's INSPIRE Health Forum** in Manila, sharing the current state of lead pollution and interventions in Indonesia. On August 10, Program Officer Alfi Sina Vinci shared information about lead exposure from consumer goods in the Women's Health Expo in Jakarta. On September 2, Program Manager Nickolaus Hariojati spoke about lead impacts from ULAB at the 9th International Secondary Lead and Battery Recycling Conference in Kota Kinabalu.
24. In conjunction with National Health

Day, for ILPPW, Pure Earth Indonesia co-hosted a major joint **webinar** with the MOH, WHO Indonesia, BRIN (the National Research and Innovation Agency), and Vital Strategies titled **“No Safe Limits: Building a Healthy Future Without Lead Exposure.”**

The event brought together national experts to address child health impacts, policy responses, and cross-sector collaboration toward a lead-free Indonesia.

Kyrgyzstan

25. On December 21, a press conference on the Takeda Pharmaceuticals supported Strengthening Health

Systems to Reduce Lead Exposure Project was held with representatives of the MOH and the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH). The event was widely covered by national media outlets.

26. In October 2025, a roundtable discussion was conducted with specialists from the NIPH, the Republican Center for Health Promotion, and the headquarters of the MOH to discuss the results of the BLL study conducted under the Takeda project.

27. In addition, in October 2025, a webinar for health promotion specialists was organized on the



results of a BLL study of preschool children (13–72 months). The webinar was attended by 84 participants.

Mexico

28. On May 14, the Circle of Women Potters of San Marcos Acteopan, Puebla participated in the **Diplomatic Cultural Bazaar**, organized by the Association of Spouses of Diplomats.
29. Ahead of ILPPW, Pure Earth Mexico held two activation events combining health outreach and private-sector engagement, including lead testing. The campaign highlighted **CREA lead-free cookware**, supported by short promotional content and two blog posts to encourage safer consumer choices.

Peru

30. A major milestone during the ILPPW period was the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding between Pure Earth Peru and UNICEF Peru**, formalizing collaboration to prevent and reduce lead exposure among children. The agreement strengthens joint technical assistance to government institutions, policy design, and field-level interventions alongside the Ministry of Health and regional governments. Additional activities, including a MOH-led webinar and a World Bank roundtable, are planned. This partnership reinforces Pure Earth's role in Peru as a key actor in evidence generation, child health protection,

and government capacity strengthening.

The Philippines

31. On January 27, Pure Earth Philippines Country Director Larah Ortega-Ibañez **participated in a webinar** hosted by the Partnership for a Lead-Free Future, providing practical guidance on **how to conduct an environmental lead exposure risk assessment**. The session explored strategies for risk assessments in resource-limited settings, featuring case studies from Nigeria and the Philippines. Speakers included Zeineldin Elmikaty (IFMSA), Larah Ortega-Ibañez (Pure Earth), Casey Bartrem (TerraGraphics International Foundation), and moderator Bret Ericson (UNICEF).
32. On March 25, Country Director Larah Ortega-Ibañez participated on a panel at the ARNEC and Vital Strategies-hosted "**Lead Poisoning and Early Childhood Development**," a webinar amplifying the link between early childhood development and climate/environmental factors with a focus on how lead found in common household items is posing a threat to health.
33. On May 16, at the Department of Health-chaired **Inter-Agency Committee on Environmental Health's (IACEH)** meeting, Country Director Larah Ortega-Ibañez presented "Efforts to Institutionalize BLL Screening & Follow Up Services in the Philippines" to representatives

- of ~30 agencies and organizations.
34. Pure Earth Philippines engaged in a public health forum with 60 participants organized by the Department of Health, WHO, Medecins du Monde to advance commitments under the “Philippine Lead-Free Framework and National Environmental Health Action Plan.”
 35. Country Director Larah Ortega-Ibañez presented “PureEarth’s Best Practices in Achieving Lead-Safe Communities, including Valenzuela City’s Declaration to Take the LEAD” at a webinar organized and hosted by Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) entitled “Link-Up for Lead-Safe Communities: Best Practices and Collaborative Action” which was attended by around 150 participants from concerned sectors across the country.
 36. In October, Pure Earth Philippines celebrated **the country's first city-led BLL surveillance program in Valenzuela City** during **International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2025**. A public event combined blood lead screening, the launch of a city ordinance to prevent lead exposure, and the handover of a LeadCare II analyzer—demonstrating how local governments can translate policy into action. Pure Earth Philippines **celebrated the city** with a Commendation for this pioneering achievement.

Videos

Since 2020, we have made progress on a story gathering/storytelling initiative to center the voices and experiences of people in communities severely impacted by lead pollution. This effort has resulted in award winning documentaries:



1. **One in 36 million - A Story of Childhood Lead Poisoning in Bangladesh.** Pure Earth's short documentary telling the story of one child's struggle with lead poisoning in Bangladesh wins Grand Prix Prize at WHO's 'Health for All' film festival along with a \$10,000 prize. Communications lead Mitali Das was interviewed live as part of the globally broadcast awards ceremony.
2. **The Lead Rush.** Pure Earth's short documentary follows the story of a community in Senegal that came together after a lead poisoning tragedy to stop future poisoning. By working with the government and Pure Earth, the community was able to clean up their village to protect future generations. The film was nominated as a finalist in the WHO's 'Health for All' film festival, and an Official Selection for the Oregon Documentary Film Festival, Spring 2023, where it was a Best International Film Award Finalist.

In 2025, we published 33 videos focused on lead poisoning impacts and solutions on our [YouTube channel](#):

1. [Indonesia: Progress on Strengthening Health Systems to Reduce Lead Exposure in Indonesia 2024](#)
2. [Indonesia: Education on the Dangers of Lead Exposure to the Health of Workers](#)
3. [Indonesia Kicks Off the First Phase of Blood Lead Surveillance Piloting](#)
4. [UNICEF Webinar Highlight: Larah Ortega Ibañez: Lead Exposure Risk Assessment Presentation](#)
5. [Training Healthcare Workers in Kyrgyzstan: Strengthening Health Systems to Reduce Lead Exposure](#)
6. [Lead Communications Training in Kyrgyzstan: Strengthening Health Systems to Reduce Lead Exposure](#)
7. [Webinar: Toxic Exposures and Women's Health: Emerging Research and Global Solutions](#)
8. [Dr. Laura Geer Presentation - Toxic Exposures and Women's Health Webinar](#)
9. [Dr. Alejandra Cantoral Presentation - Toxic Exposures and Women's Health Webinar](#)
10. [Jaclyn Bowen Presentation - Toxic Exposures and Women's Health Webinar](#)
11. [Utv media coverage on the Northern Ghana Cookware and Cosmetics Project Launch.](#)
12. [Pure Earth VP, Programs, together with Country Director Esmond Quansah interview on TV3](#)
13. [UNLV PE Webinar on Lead & Preeclampsia Exposure](#)
14. [Potential Lead Exposure from Aluminum Cooking Pots in Lower and Middle-Income Countries](#)
15. [New Findings on Blood Lead Levels in Georgia, Cookware Contamination, and a Lead Burden Index Tool](#)
16. [Olmosai's Story: How Pure Earth is Preventing Lead Exposure in Kyrgyzstan](#)
17. [Interview with Starr Fm](#)
18. [Interview with Joynews](#)
19. [The Pure Earth Headquarters team, along with funding advisors, visits Ghana.](#)
20. [Public Awareness: Lead and Mercury Pollution Interview with Truth TV](#)
21. [Preventing Lead Exposure in Sovietskoe Village, Kyrgyzstan](#)
22. [Lead-Free Pottery Project in Puebla with Australian Aid & Pure Earth México](#)
23. [Collective Action Against Lead: New Initiative to Improve ULAB Recycling Practices in Indonesia](#)
24. [Strengthening Health Systems to Reduce Lead Exposure Project: Progress Report 2025](#)
25. [Webinar: Progress in Year 3 of the Project: Strengthening Health Systems to Reduce Lead Exposure](#)

26. [Celebrating the Philippines' First City-Led Lead Surveillance Program in Valenzuela](#)
27. [Dr. Atul Gawande's Full Speech | 2025 Pure Earth Benefit](#)
28. [Lead Poisoning in locally Cookware-Dades3n on Tv3](#)
29. [Double Your Impact to Protect India's Children from Lead Pollution](#)
30. [Your Gift Can Clean Up Toxic Lead Sites in Bangladesh — Matched Through Dec 31](#)
31. [Help Us Stop Lead Contaminated Eyeliner From Poisoning Communities in Ghana](#)
32. [LEAD IN COOKWARE](#)
33. [Learn to Prevent Lead Exposure with Pibi the Lead](#)

Website and Social Media

Social Media

In 2025, we launched two new social platforms: Bluesky and Threads. We implemented a strategy of organic (unpaid) posts with some paid promotional posting on LinkedIn and TikTok.

Social Analytics:

- 931 total posts across LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky, and TikTok
- 337,234 impressions across platforms
- 26,832 followers across platforms

Blogs

- In 2025, 64 blog posts were published on various aspects of lead pollution and Pure Earth's work.

Website Google Analytics:

- 192,000 active users
- 189,000 new users
- Top countries for Active users: United States, China, Singapore, India, Bangladesh

Key Conferences

Mar 18–19

Pure Earth Ghana Country Director Esmond Quansah participated in “**Upgrading the Lead-Acid Battery Recycling Sector in the African Region**” conference in Abuja, Nigeria — the first regional conference on the topic.

Sept 1-2

Pure Earth Indonesia Program Manager Nickolaus Hariojati delivered a presentation on the scale of lead exposures in Indonesia and strategies for mitigations of impacts at the **9th International Secondary Lead and Battery Recycling Conference**, held in Kota Kinabalu

June 3-4

Pure Earth and partners presented new research at the Center for Global Development’s **First Annual Research Conference on Global Lead Exposure**, which brought together researchers, policymakers, and implementers.

Oct 12-14

At the **World Health Summit** in Berlin, Pure Earth President Drew McCartor presented progress and remaining gaps in global lead poisoning prevention.

Aug 19

Pure Earth’s CEO Drew McCartor co-chaired a session “**Reducing Children’s Lead Exposures in Sub-Saharan Africa**.” at the **Atlanta International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISES-ISEE)** conference.

Dec 8-12

Esmond Quansah, Ghana Country Director, participated in the **Seventh Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-7)** in Nairobi, Kenya

- On March 18-19, Pure Earth Ghana Country Director Esmond Quansah participated in the [“Upgrading the Lead-Acid Battery Recycling Sector in the African Region”](#) conference in Abuja, Nigeria of industry, civil society, government, and academia stakeholders committed to transforming the ULAB recycling sector. Organized by the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency, Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development, and Oeko Institut, it was the first regional conference on the topic, showcasing successful models and policy approaches. The event concluded with a **call for collective action** to adopt sustainable practices that protect public health and enhance the sector’s sustainability
- On June 3-4, **Pure Earth and partners presented new research at the Center for Global Development’s First Annual Research Conference on Global Lead Exposure** which brought together researchers, policymakers, and implementers. Pure Earth’s work was showcased in presentations on **“Potential Lead Exposure from Aluminum Cooking Pots in Lower- and Middle-Income Countries,”** (Gordon Binkhorst, Pure Earth) and **“Lead Exposure and Source Attribution in Children: Evidence from Poti and Guria, Georgia, Demonstrating Local Capacity Building.”** (Ekaterine Ruadze, NCDC Georgia)
- On August 19, 2025, at the [Atlanta International Society for Environmental Epidemiology \(ISEE-ISEE\)](#) conference, Pure Earth’s CEO Drew McCartor co-chaired a session, **“Reducing Children’s Lead Exposures in Sub-Saharan Africa.”** He and Program Manager Caroline Baylor presented on the Ghana Rapid Market Study results and the Ghana Home-Based Assessments. Partner iccdr,b presented a poster, “A Qualitative Study on Community Engagement and Implementation Challenges in Soil Remediation for Lead Contamination in Mirzapur, Bangladesh,” on a clean-up conducted with Pure Earth.
- Represented by Nickolaus Hariojati, Indonesia Program Manager, Pure Earth delivered a presentation on the scale of lead exposures in Indonesia and strategies for mitigations of impacts at the [9th International Secondary Lead and Battery Recycling Conference](#), held in Kota Kinabalu on September 1-2.
- At the October 12-14 [World Health Summit](#) in Berlin, Pure Earth President Drew McCartor presented progress and remaining gaps in global lead poisoning prevention.
- On December 8-12, Esmond Quansah, Ghana Country Director, participated in the [Seventh Session of the UN Environment Assembly \(UNEA-7\)](#) in Nairobi, Kenya. He attended the Synergies in the

KEY CONFERENCES

- Chemicals and Waste Cluster, and the Official Unveiling of the UN 2026 Biodiversity Conference Side Events, sharing information about Pure Earth and the Partnership for a Lead-Free Future, and met with the delegations from Tanzania, Malawi, Ethiopia, and Antigua & Barbuda.

Publications

- Nash E et al. (2025) **“Lead Exposure in Homes as Modifying Factors of Blood Lead Levels Among Young Children in Bihar, India.”** Environ Monit Assess. 197: 967.
- Milena B et al. (2025) **“Assessment of blood lead levels in 2-7 year-old children in Poti, Georgia, 2023: A pilot study of environmental lead exposure sources.”** Environmental Research 278: 121708
- Binkhorst G et al. (2025) **“Potential Lead Exposure from Aluminum Cooking Pots in Lower and Middle-Income Countries.”** Journal of Hazardous Materials 492: 128134.
- Fuller R et al. (2025) **“Cumulative population blood lead levels.”** BMJ Global Health.
- Kinally, Christopher et al. (2025) **“A review of lead exposure source attributional studies.”** Science of the Total Environment. 990: 179838.
- Rodriguez-Hernandez MF et al. (2025) **“Evaluation of Three Traditional Curing Methods Applied in Mexican Lead-Glazed Ceramics: Detection, Concentration, and Leaching of Lead into Food.”** Processes 13: 2766.
- Nash E et al. (2025) **“Industry and consumer products as lead exposure sources among children across 3 regions in Ghana.”** Environmental Research. 287: 123013.



Outcome 2

New Data And Evidence On Prevalence, Severity, And Distribution Of Lead Exposure

This outcome focuses on the collection and analysis of BLL data to establish the evidence and information that decision-makers need in order to understand the magnitude and potential impacts of lead exposure for a given population or within a given geographic area, such as a polluted site, and to show just cause for taking action.

Under Outcome 2, we report the number of BLL tests administered, by country and project; our implementation partners, if applicable; timeframe of the data collection and analysis; type of subjects tested; and key findings, if available.



Bangladesh

BLL tests administered: 202

Labanchora,

Khulna Pre-Remediation BLL survey

- February 2025
- Hotspot remediation site
- Former lead smelting site, Society School of
- Social Reform
- Partners: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University with lab testing support from iccdr,b

Results

- 202 individuals tested (173 male students (age 5-13), 24 teachers, 5 community members).

Students

- Median 5.5 µg/dL (range: 2.1 - 12.2)
- 94.8% (n=164) >3.5 µg/dL; 65.9% (n=114) >5 µg/dL; 1.7% (n=3) >10µg/dL

Teachers/staff

- Median 3.9 µg/dL (range: 1.9 - 6.4)
- 62.5% (n=15) >3.5 µg/dL; 16.7% (n=4) >5 µg/dL; 0% >10 µg/dL

Community members

- Median 6.4 µg/dL (range: 2.1 - 15.9)
- 80% (n=4) >3.5 µg/dL; 80% (n=4) >5 µg/dL; 20% (n=1) >10 µg/dL

Results showed widespread elevated exposure; 90.6% of participants exceeded the 3.5 µg/dL lead threshold, establishing a robust benchmark for post-remediation impact evaluation.

Students exhibited the highest median BLLs, closely followed by community members. Teachers and school staff showed considerably lower levels. BLLs across different environmental and residential factors revealed distinct exposure patterns. Children who used the playground had a higher mean BLLs (5.68 µg/dL) compared to those who did not (5.1 µg/dL). Similarly, those who played near the ULAB factory exhibited a higher mean BLL (5.66 µg/dL) than those who did not (4.4 µg/dL). Residential participants showed a higher mean BLL (5.68 µg/dL) compared to non-residential individuals (4.3 µg/dL). Notably, those residing beside the ULAB factory had the highest mean BLL (6.0 µg/dL).

Duration of stay in the area influenced lead levels. Participants who had been in the area for ≤1.10 years had the highest mean BLL (5.87 µg/dL), followed by those with 2.50–4.99 years of residence (5.7 µg/dL). Lower mean levels were observed among those with 1.11–2.50 years (5.25 µg/dL) and ≥5 years of residence (5.09 µg/dL)

India

BLL tests administered: 1,346 (Tamil Nadu BLL tests were reported in 2024; results available in 2025)

Project: Reducing Lead Exposure in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (Tamil Nadu State Representative BLL survey activity)

- November 2023 - June 2024
- Partners: Vital Strategies and Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research
- 7 districts
- 727 children 1-6 years of age
- 76 pregnant women

Findings finalized and disseminated in May 2025

- **Children**
 - Weighted geographical mean BLL: 4.2 µg/dL
 - 39% children >5 µg/dL; 6% children >10 µg/dL
- **Pregnant Women**
 - Geographic mean BLL: 3.2 µg/dL
 - 20% pregnant women >5 µg/dL; 0% pregnant women >10 µg/dL

Initial Results

- Findings show that 39% of children <6 years of age and 20% pregnant women in Tamil Nadu have BLLs >5 µg/dL, with the highest risk among children in urban areas aged 5–6 years. Follow-up HBAs found that elevated BLLs were linked to recent home renovations, chipping paint, proximity to lead-related industries, and certain flooring types.

Project: Strengthening Health Systems to Reduce Lead Exposure,

Maharashtra

- May 2025 - ongoing
- Partner: Government of India, Department of Health
- 1,346 BLL tests (of 1,400 total) in 7 (of 8 total) districts completed
- **Testing to be completed and data analyzed in 2026.**

Indonesia

BLL tests administered: 1,617 (1,609 of them successfully analyzed)

Project: Strengthening Health Systems to Reduce Lead Exposure

- May - November 2025
- 1,617 children 12-59 months of age in 12 locations
- Partners: Ministry of Health, National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Vital Strategies, Provincial and City/Regency Health Agencies, Community Health Centres

Results

- Average/geometric mean BLL: 2.9 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$
- 14.6% $\geq 5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$; 2.3% $\geq 10 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$

One in seven children (14.6%) had BLLs $\geq 5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. Factors associated with elevated BLLs included: presence of chipping paint at home, parental occupations related to lead, use of metal cookware, and use of cosmetic powder. Protective factors included: higher parental education, higher income, and living in urban areas. Children with caregivers who have a high level of education have up to a 69% lower likelihood of having BLLs $>5 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$. Children from higher-income households have 7% lower BLLs. Children of parents working in lead-related sectors have 7% higher BLLs. Children of parents/caregivers who use cosmetic powder have 8% higher BLLs. Children living in homes that use metal cookware have 10% higher BLLs.



Children living in houses with peeling paint have 61% higher chance of having BLLs ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g/dL}$. Children consuming calcium supplements had lower BLLs. Children from urban areas have a 29% lower likelihood of having BLLs ≥ 5 $\mu\text{g/dL}$.

Kyrgyzstan

BLL tests administered: 0 (Kyrgyzstan BLL tests reported in 2024; results available in 2025)

Project: Strengthening Health Systems to Reduce Lead Exposure

- Partners: EKOIS-Bishkek, MOH, NIPH, Department of Disease Prevention and State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance, Republican Center for Health Promotion and Mass Communication
- Data collection: October - December 2024.
- Analysis and Results: 2025
- 1,140 children (of which 1103 were analyzed) <6 years of age (note, 173 samples were collected from children from a contaminated area, 930 were

- not [representative sample / non-contaminated])
- 21 settlements (3 contaminated sites, 18 non-contaminated)

Results

- Representative sample
 - Average: 3.9 ug/dL
 - Geometric mean: 2.3 ug/dL
 - 79% < 5 ug/dL (n=733); 21% > 5 ug/dL (n=197); 3% > 10 ug/dL (n=27)
- Contaminated area
 - Average: 9.58 ug/dL
 - Geometric mean: 7.9 ug/dL
 - 21% < 5 ug/dL (n=37); 79% > 5 ug/dL (n=136); 34% > 10 ug/dL (n=59)



The data allowed, for the first time, an assessment of the scale of lead poisoning among children in Kyrgyzstan, helping to identify key risk factors, and informing the development of targeted measures to reduce exposure. The dataset includes 1,103 children of which 930 (84.3%) are from the nationally representative survey and 173 (15.7%) are from regions with contaminated region sites, **one in five children (21%) in Kyrgyzstan had elevated BLLs**, exceeding the threshold requiring action according to the WHO guideline.

The levels of lead exposure varied by demographics and by region in the national representative sample. Higher BLLs were found among boys, older children, and children living in rural areas and with less educated caregivers. Children living in contaminated areas had much higher BLLs compared to the national population level. Average BLLs were higher among boys compared to girls living in the contaminated areas.

Mexico

BLL tests administered: 181

Pure Earth's work in Mexico focuses on the country's main source of lead poisoning, the glaze used in artisanal pottery. To complement workshops for artisanal potters interested in transitioning to lead-free techniques through training on the use of lead-free glazes and improved kilns, the Mexico team administered BLL tests of artisanal potters and their families. Mexico also administered BLL tests in support of research on the link between lead exposure and pre-eclampsia.

Project: Occupational Risk BLL Tests

BLL tests are performed in potter communities as part of lead-free pottery transition programming.

- 91 tests
- Average BLL: 22.5 µg/dL

Non-Occupational BLL Tests

BLL tests performed to raise awareness:

- 90 tests
- Average BLL: 5.8 µg/dL

Philippines

BLL tests administered: 235

Project: Valenzuela City Lead

Monitoring and Surveillance Pilot

- August 18 and October 27, 2025
- Partner: Valenzuela City
- 22 children with disabilities

Results

- 10% >3.5 µg/dL (n=2); 5% >5 µg/dL (n=1)

These 22 tests, plus the 29 administered in 2024, complete the original commitment made by Valenzuela City under the pilot project. Following the City's launch of the **Lead Exposure Prevention and Child Protection Ordinance of 2025**, more children will be tested using Valenzuela City's own programming and budget (see below).

Project: Valenzuela City-Led Lead

Monitoring and Surveillance

- December 20, 2025
- Valenzuela City, with support from Pure Earth
- 60 children with disabilities

In December, the City of Valenzuela mobilized its own physicians, nurses, medical technologists, and Barangay Health Workers and, using the LeadCare II analyzer and kits donated by Pure Earth, screened 60 children with disabilities, demonstrating government commitment to implementing the Ordinance of 2025.

Results

- 10% (n=6) of the children had elevated BLLs:
 - 6.6% > 3.5 ug/dL (n=4); 3.3% > 5 ug/dL (n=2)

Project: A Cross-sectional Study on Lead Exposure Among Informal E-Waste Recyclers and Their Families from Tondo and San Andres, Manila

Pilot BLL and Workplace-based Assessment

- November 15-22, 2025
- Partners: Medecins du Monde and the National Poison Management and Control Center
- 153 people (51 male workers, 51 female spouses, 51 children) from 51 households
- 5 barangays in Tondo and San Andres, Manila
- E-waste workers, their spouses and children

Results

- 20.26% >3.3 µg/dL (n=31)
 - Of these, 12 male e-waste workers, 2 female spouses, 17 children (ages 1-6)
- E-waste workers
 - Mean: 3.17 µg/dL
 - 88% < 5 ug/dL; 12% > 5 ug/dL
- Spouses
 - Mean: 2.79 µg/dL
 - 98% < 5 ug/dL; 2% > 5 ug/dL
- Children
 - Mean: 3.39 µg/dL

Outcome 3

New Data And Evidence On Sources Of Lead Exposure

This outcome focuses on the generation of data through testing products from markets, products and environmental media from homes of individuals tested for BLLs, and environmental media in communities or from contaminated sites to identify the primary sources and exposure pathways that likely contribute most significantly to lead poisoning. With this information, decision-makers can prioritize sources to address and design and implement source-specific interventions.

New data on contaminated sites may be entered into the Toxic Sites Identification Program (TSIP) database, the largest global database of sites contaminated with toxic chemicals.

Under Outcome 3, we report on the number of assessments by country, project, and type of assessment (e.g., home, market, community, toxic site); number of sites entered into TSIP; implementing partners, if applicable; timeframe of the data collection and analysis; and key findings, if available.



Bangladesh

- 1 environmental assessments (non-HBA) conducted (Labanchora)
- 4 homes assessed, environmental (non-HBA) (Labanchora)

Environmental Assessment

Labanchora, Khulna Pre-Remediation Environmental and Home Assessments

- March 4-6, April 26-30, and August 26-30 (homes), 2025
- Hot-spot / remediation site
- Former lead smelting site, Society School of Social Reform (SSR School)
- Partners: Khulna University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), Department of Environment, Khulna City Corporation

Assessed area around contaminated site, the school (madrassa, dormitory, academic building, mosque, playground), and 4 community homes. Tested floors, walls, window grills, beds, bedding, carpets, food (spices, rice), and cookware.

Findings

- School. High levels of lead found in floors (glazing); painted walls, bed frames, and window grills; mosque and madrassa carpets, painted playground equipment; and metal cookware. Turmeric from the kitchen where student meals are prepared > reference level of 5 ppm.
 - 70% of metal cookware >100 ppm
 - 67% painted items >90 ppm



Community homes. Metal cookware, painted window grills, painted furniture. Occupational risks - community members are employed in metal recycling facilities.

- Mean lead concentration, metal cookware (n=27): 640.55 ppm; max lead concentration, metal cookware: 1,343 ppm
- Mean lead concentration corrugated metal sheet: 15,300 ppm; max, corrugated metal sheet: 15,400 ppm



Colombia & Peru

2 market assessments conducted

Market / Product Assessment

Diagnosis of Presence of Lead in Aluminum and Ceramic Cookware in Colombia and Peru

- November 2024 - January 2026
- Partner: Datum
- Peru: Lima, Callao, Tumbes, Tacna, and Moquegua
 - 183 aluminum cookware samples
- Colombia: Bogota, Medellin, Cali, Soacha
 - 132 aluminum cookware samples

Objectives:

Measure total lead concentrations in cookware, characterize market dynamics, and assess institutional capacity for surveillance.

Findings

Cookware, specifically pots and pans, were sampled from more than 75 marketplaces in both countries. Of aluminum cookware sampled, 21% in Colombia and 22% in Peru were found to have lead levels above recommended thresholds; on average, frying pans had 2–3 times higher lead concentrations than pots. In Peru, products with concentrations exceeding 1,000 ppm were identified in all five study cities and in Colombia, in two study cities.

Regulatory and programmatic gaps (e.g., manufacturing standards, certification of manufacturers, routine monitoring) were identified in both countries. From a supply chain perspective, the risk of lead contamination is greater in informal channels, characterized by a lack of traceability and oversight; however, formal channels are not exempt. Pure Earth is currently engaging government leaders and local authorities to address gaps.

Findings highlighted lead-containing aluminum cookware as a potentially important source of lead exposure, warranting further investigation, and raised interest from main public health institutions. Efforts to reduce lead in cookware is included in the countries' broader national strategies on lead poisoning prevention. Moreover, through a partnership with UNICEF Peru, Pure Earth is working to integrate lead-containing cookware into UNICEF's broader "source control" agenda, linking environmental exposure prevention with child protection and early childhood development efforts.

Ghana

1 new toxic/Pb sites entered into TSIP database

TSIP

Mercury and Other Heavy Metals Assessment project

- January 2025
- Partners: Ghana EPA and the Ministry of Environment Science Technology and Innovation
- 1 ISA, legacy lead smelting site
- Total number of individuals exposed: 120
- 53 soil samples

Findings

- Mean: 864 ppm (range: 5 - 8,340)
- 49% >200 ppm (n=26); 19% >800 ppm (n=10)

Assessment results were shared at a dissemination workshop in September 2025. Participants included representatives from the EPA, FCDO, UNICEF, Ghana Health Service, WHO, Minerals Commission, research institutions, and civil society organizations. The session generated visibility through media coverage and interviews. Recommendations from the study and dissemination discussions have been compiled into a policy brief.

India

- **1 HBAs conducted: (Takeda; Tamil Nadu already reported in 2024)**
- **156 homes assessed, HBA**
- **1 product manufacturer assessments (cookware manufacturers, Tamil Nadu)**

Product Manufacturer Assessment

Diagnosis of Presence of Lead in Aluminum and Ceramic Cookware in Tamil Nadu, India

- July - September

Description and Findings

At the request of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Pure Earth undertook mapping to systematically identify aluminum cookware manufacturers and assess their BIS certification (i.e., their license to produce aluminum cookware as per set lead level standards, their commitment to factory inspections and sample testing, and adherence to strict production quality control measures). In the 20 (of 38) districts mapped, **117 aluminum cookware manufacturers identified, 89% of which lacked BIS certification.** Secondary, informal (unregistered) manufacturers commonly use lead-containing scrap as raw materials, a likely key source of contamination of aluminum. The tertiary manufacturing unit, also informal (unregistered), uses scrap and adds lead dioxide to the melt to reduce the melting temperature. This is also likely a key

source of contamination of aluminum. The data creates a strong foundation for strategic engagement with manufacturers by the BIS to drive sensitization, capacity building, registration of informal manufacturers, and increased adherence to lead level standards.

Home-Based Assessment

Reducing Lead Exposure in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (Tamil Nadu)

- September 2024 - January 2025
- Partner: Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education & Research (SRIHER), Directorate of Public Health & Preventive Medicine
- 140 homes in 7 districts (57 in 2024 and 83 in 2025)

Initial Findings

- Lead was detected in various consumer products and the environmental media of the households we tested. It was found in >90% of metal cookware, >60% of paint samples, and 1/3 of toys
- Lead was found in 88% of soil samples, but only 1% surpassed the threshold of 100 ppm recommended by the US OPA.
- Metal cookware showed high levels of lead, with 78% exceeding the reference threshold of 100 ppm recommended by the Bureau of Indian Standards, and a maximum of 15,497 ppm.

Over 20% of cosmetics used by children and 25% of cosmetics used by pregnant women had lead levels exceeding national standards. Lead levels in sacred ash used in religious practices were concerning, with 72% exceeding the 10ppm threshold.

- Lead levels exceeding national standards were found in 18% of toys, especially toys with mixed and yellow colors.
- Notably, almost none of the spice samples contained detectable lead levels.
- HBAs will be finalized in 2026.

Strengthening Health Systems to Reduce Lead Exposure

- May 2025 - Ongoing
- Partner: All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Nagpur
- 73 homes in 2 (of 8) districts completed

HBAs to be completed and data analyzed in 2026.

Indonesia

- 16 new toxic/Pb sites entered into TSIP database
- 328 homes assessed, HBA

TSIP

Mitigating Lead Exposure in Indonesia: Improving Used Lead-Acid Battery

Recycling Practices

- November - December 2025
- 16 ISAs of active ULAB recycling sites and smelters, added to TSIP database
- Partners: Ministry of Environment, the Basel Convention Regional Center for Southeast Asia, the Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology
- Total number of individuals exposed: 8,918

Findings

All 16 sites:

- 396 soil samples tested
- Min soil lead levels: 0 ppm; Max soil lead level: 47,736 ppm
- 57% of total soil samples >200 ppm; 27% of total soil samples >800 ppm
- Mean soil lead level, by site: Site 1: 106 ppm; Site 2: 964 ppm; Site 3: 9,400 ppm; Site 4: 2,738 ppm; Site 5: 311 ppm; Site 6: 1,089 ppm; Site 7: 27 ppm; Site 8: 48 ppm; Site 9: 55 ppm; Site 10: 91 ppm; Site 11: 550 ppm; Site 12: 137 ppm; Site 13: 5,163 ppm; Site 14: 2,770 ppm; Site 15: 1,041 ppm; Site 16: 536 ppm.

Home Based-Assessment

Strengthening Health Systems to Reduce Lead Exposure

- May–October 2025
- Partner: Ministry of Health, National Research and Innovation Agency, Provincial and City/Regency Health Agencies, Community Health Centres
- 328 homes in 12 locations

Findings

For every twofold increase in soil lead concentration measured during HBAs, the mean BLL in children increased by 8%. Percent of environmental and household samples with lead concentration above threshold limits:

- Metal cookware (71%)
- Ceramic (52%) and plastic tableware (20%)
- Cosmetics (34%)
- Toys (24%)
- Children's clothing (21%) and adult's clothing (21%)

Every twofold increase in lead concentration in soil was associated with an average 8% increase in children's blood lead levels.

Kenya

1 environmental assessment conducted

Isotopic Environmental Assessment

Mitigating Lead Exposure in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

- Partner: Columbia University
Department of Environmental
Sciences

Findings

Pure Earth and Columbia University conducted a pilot isotopic study in Kenya with local partners focusing on lead contamination in kale. The study confirmed the high levels of lead contamination in kale and indicated that it originated from airborne depositions from a nearby ULAB site (vs. contaminated soil).

Kyrgyzstan

- **0 HBAs conducted: 0 (reported in 2024)**
- **116 homes assessed, HBA**

Home-Based Assessment

Strengthening Health Systems to Reduce Lead Exposure

- November - February 2025
- Partners: EKOIS-Bishkek, Ministry of Health, National Institute of Public Health, Department of Disease Prevention and State Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance, Republican Center for Health Promotion and Mass Communication
- 188 households (72 in 2024 and 116 in 2025)
- 21 settlements

Findings

Primary sources of contamination are likely paint and ceramic and metal cookware. The maximum permissible concentration of lead in paint should not exceed 5000 ppm. Only 65 (34.6%) of the 188 households assessed contained paint below that level.

A strong correlation between high lead content paint and children with elevated BLLs was found. Children living in homes with high levels of lead in the wall paint had nearly double the levels of lead in their blood compared with children from lead-free paint homes. High concentrations of lead were also found in toys. Smoking was shown to be a risk

factor in households with children reporting high BLLs.

These findings underscore the importance of regulations to remove lead from paint as well as the paint used in other home products like ceramics.

Mexico

- 12 environmental assessments (non-HBA), 2025
- 12 homes/workshops assessed, environmental (non-HBA), 2025

Environmental Assessments

Pure Earth Mexico's work focuses on the country's main source of lead poisoning, the glaze used in its artisanal pottery. Through the Circle of Women, Barro Aprobado, and Communities of Knowledge projects, we tested pottery samples; assessed potters' workshops for lead; upgraded kilns and trained potters to use lead-free glazes and upgraded kilns. We also continued to support CREA, a specialized resources website for potters who want to transition to lead-free pottery. During 2025, assessment efforts were expanded to other possible sources that may affect potter's children in their homes or workshop/home compound when they are adjacent.

Pottery measurements, findings

- 2025: 5,287 samples taken of household items in 3 communities.
- Average lead levels:
- Unleaded enamel pottery: 90 ppm
 - Leaded enamel pottery: 276,310 ppm
 - Pottery pigments and enamels: 3,189 ppm
 - Pottery kiln soil: 146 ppm
 - Mattresses: 122 ppm
 - Toys: 33 ppm
- Mean pottery-lead levels (lead and non-lead) workshop/home compounds:
 - Tlayacapan: 328 ppm
 - Cohuecan: 100 ppm
 - Acteopan: 34,449 ppm

Environmental Assessments, findings

- 420 soil measurements in 12 workshops in 3 communities
- 35% >200 ppm, 19% >400 ppm



Philippines

- 2 HBAs conducted
- 24 homes assessed, HBA

Home Based Assessment

Valenzuela City Lead Monitoring and Surveillance Pilot

- September 27 and November 12, 2025
- Partner: Valenzuela City
- 4 homes assessed, based on August & October BLL test results

Findings

The most important likely sources found were the lead paint on a stair handrail used by one child, cookware, ceramics, and chipping paint.

A Cross-sectional Study on Lead Exposure Among Informal E-Waste Recyclers and Their Families from Selected Barangays in Tondo and San Andres, Manila

- December 1-5, 2025
- Partners: Medecins du Monde and National Poison Management and Control Center
- Tondo and San Andres Districts of Manila
- 20 homes assessed

Selected homes / workplaces of ten participants whose BLL >5 µg/dL and 10 participants whose BLL <5 µg/dL to identify sources of lead exposure.
Assessed consumer goods, building

- materials (paint), e-waste tools and materials, and environmental media (soil, water) in order to identify the participants' sources of exposure. Results currently being analyzed and will be reported in March 2026.

New Technical Tools and Resources to enable quality data collection

- **Desk Review Guidance Document**
- **X-ray Fluorescence (XRF) Usage Protocol**
- **The Investigation, Remediation, and Risk Reduction Guideline** - a 13-step remediation framework based on Bangladesh's national pilot experience.

Outcome 4

Risk Mitigation Activities Implemented and Results

This outcome focuses on the results of source-specific interventions designed using the data collected and evidence and knowledge generated under Outcomes 1, 2, and 3 and aimed at reducing human exposure to lead.

Interventions may include contaminated site remediations, supply chain monitoring, policy or regulation improvements, increased enforcement capacity, or consumer education. Results may be reductions in BLLs, reductions in soil-lead levels, or reductions in the presence of lead in consumer products of interest.





Global

LEEP and Pure Earth launched a working group on lead exposure from cosmetics. This forum, meeting quarterly, serves as a space for knowledge exchange where participants share insights, discuss challenges, and provide updates on their work.

Bangladesh

- 1 site remediated
- 1.2 hectares remediated
- ~700 exposed people benefiting from site remediation

Labanchora, Khulna Remediation

- February - December 2025
- Partners: Khulna University, BSMMU and iccdr,b, Department of Environment, Khulna City Corporation
- Number of people benefiting: ~700
- 12,000 m² (1.2 Ha) of soil remediated (plus madrassa, dormitory, academic building and mosque)
- Removed:
 - 120 cubic meters of concrete, smelter structure, and brick waste
 - 933 cubic meters of contaminated soil
 - 21 cubic meters of vegetation and waste
 - 88 battery casings and 13 bags of separators
- Pre-/post soil-lead
 - Primary smelter area: median surface lead concentrations reduced from 98,476 ppm to 99 ppm, representing a 99.98% reduction.
 - Northern smelter zone: concentrations reduced from 70,096 to 261 ppm, corresponding to a 99.91% median reduction.

The soil remediation at the site was completed under DoE supervision and included excavation, offsite disposal, stabilization, and site restoration.

Hazardous waste was stabilized using cement prior to burial at the approved municipal landfill. Post-remediation XRF readings confirmed **~99 percent reduction in soil lead concentrations across key zones, with soil lead levels reduced to < 200 ppm.**

Prior to remediation, baseline BLL tests were administered among 202 participants (173 students, 24 teachers/staff, 5 community members). Results showed widespread elevated exposure, with median BLLs of 5.5 µg/dL (students), 3.9 µg/dL (teachers/staff), and 6 µg/dL (community members); 90.6% of BLLs exceeded 3.5 µg/dL, establishing a benchmark for a post-remediation impact evaluation.[\[AB1\]](#)



A community-level HBA was conducted to identify exposure sources including cookware, paints, and spices. A community awareness and stakeholder engagement event was organized for nearly 300 participants including students, parents, teachers, community members, government officials, academics, and health representatives. The event disseminated remediation results, health risks of lead exposure, promoted preventive behaviors, and reinforced community and institutional ownership to safeguard the site and prevent future contamination. **BLL post-remediation testing will take place in 2026.**



Ghana

- **1 site remediated**
- **.56 hectares remediated**
- **2,680 exposed people benefiting from site remediation**

Bremang Legacy ULAB Site Remediation, Kumasi, Ghana

- February - May 2025
- Partners: Ghana EPA, Suame Municipal Assembly
- Number of people benefiting from remediation: 2,680
- 127 soil samples tested
- 5,600 m² (.56 Ha) of soil remediated
- Mean lead concentration, pre-remediation: 1,517 ppm
- Maximum lead concentration, pre-remediation: 13,000 ppm
- Reduction in Average lead concentration: 95.8%

Results

Enhanced local capacity and expertise in lead remediation, training EPA staff and local assembly officers through hands-on demonstrations. Post-remediation assessments verified reduction in lead concentrations of up to 96% compared to pre-remediation levels. Post risk mitigation assessment results confirm the risk mitigation measures have significantly reduced human exposure to lead at the site.

Coalition Against Lead Pollution

- Partners: EPA, Ghana Health Service, GSA (trainers), District Assemblies
- December 2024 - November 2025
- Kpone, Afiencya & Shai districts
- Number of people benefiting: 1,473

Trained 10 Community Health Nurse volunteers on public education and awareness about Used Lead Acid Battery recycling activities. The volunteers helped carry out 279 field activities at health facilities, household and school sensitization sessions, informal group discussions, and public awareness interactions, directly reaching 1,473 individuals in hotspots in Kpone, Afiencya, and Shai districts.

Northern Ghana Cookware and Cosmetics Regulatory Project

- February 2025 - ongoing
- Partners: Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) and EPA, Mountain Research Institute (Regulatory Analysis); Rinaatii Consult Ltd (Eyeliners); Environmental Sustainability Nexus (Cookware); Ghana Standards Authority (Development of Standards for Aluminum Cookware in Ghana)

Purpose: Map stakeholders, assess market and regulatory conditions, and disseminate findings to inform safer production practices and regulatory reforms. Support the development of national standards for aluminum



cookware and promote awareness of lead poisoning risks.

Results:

The GSA's National Technical Committee on GSA/TC 06 - Mechanical Engineering and Metallurgy, developed a lead standard for cookware which has been approved by the Director General the GSA for Public Enquiry and shared with stakeholders (Consumer Protection Agency, EPA, FDA, etc.) for review. Next steps: standard published, gazetted, & implemented by GSA, and training and public sensitization activities, are expected from February 2026.

Randomized Controlled Trials Item Replacement Pilot Project

- January 15 - April 30, 2025
- **Partners:** Yendi and Tolon District and Municipal Assemblies; Ghana Health Service (Yendi and Tolon Environmental Health Department; Yendi & Tolon District Health Directorate)

Purpose: Assess effectiveness and feasibility of identifying and mitigating household sources of exposure in Yendi Municipality and Tolon District, Northern Ghana. The pilot focused on aluminum cookware, eyeliners, and household dust.

Findings

A total of 137 metallic cookware samples, 53 eyeliner samples, and 43 dust wipe samples were collected from 47 households.

- **Cookware:** In Tolon and Yendi, 88% and 83% of the cookware, respectively, exceeded Pure Earth's reference value of 100 ppm. Overall, the mean lead concentration in cookware was 520 ppm, with individual samples ranging from non-detect to 4,313 ppm. Only a small proportion of cookware fell below the reference value, raising concerns about the risk of lead exposure through daily cooking.
- **Cosmetics:** 97% and 95%, respectively, of the eyeliners surpassed the GSA threshold of 1 ppm; the average lead level was 472,329 ppm.
- **Dust:** Dust wipe samples from both districts had low lead concentrations.

Replaced contaminated cookware and eyeliners in 20 households. Follow-up monitoring showed high adherence to the use of replacement items with 95% of households consistently and exclusively using replacement cookware and 100% using replacement eyeliners. The pilot also addressed the lack of lead poisoning awareness, demonstrating the impact of combining education with practical solutions to change behavior and improve community health. **The household-level intervention of replacing major sources of household lead exposure proved**

highly feasible.

A larger, four-arm randomized controlled trial of 300 households will be conducted in 2026, assessing the efficacy of replacing cookware, cosmetics, or both combined to reduce blood lead levels in children, and to measure the interventions' impact on education attainment



Mexico

Circle of Women Program

Since 2019, the **Circle of Women Program** has provided training through a training-of-trainers model and support to potter communities in the states of Puebla, Morelos, and Guerrero, supporting **potters to transition to lead-free pottery production**. The program comprises 3 phases: potter circles (improved techniques), participatory community-based research (kiln design improvements and development of local variations of lead-free glazes), and financial education. In 2025, we focused on supporting **3 communities**: Cohuecan and Acteopan in Puebla, and Tlayacapan in Morelos, **training 30 potters** and **improving 6 kilns** to reach temperatures needed for lead-free glaze.

Comunidades de Conocimiento Program

Universities and other institutions play an important role in research and dissemination of results, and **replication of Pure Earth's model of helping potters transition to lead-free methods**.

Center for Specialized Resources for Potters (CREA)

Since 2023, Pure Earth Mexico and partners have supported and managed the Centro de Recursos Especializados para Alfareros (CREA) for potters seeking to become lead-free. This virtual resource center provides videos, guides, and other

useful resources on the process of making lead-free pottery such as glazes, kilns, and financial literacy. The website is continuously updated with new videos and resources.



Barrio con Barro Initiative

Launched on July 21, 2021 with 25+ chefs and 40+ people representing restaurants of the Roma neighborhood in Mexico City, the Barrio con Barro promotes lead-free pottery use in hotels, restaurants, and shops to decrease lead exposure and increase demand for lead-free pottery. To date, 95 businesses have switched from conventional to lead-free pottery. This includes 2 major restaurant chains, El Pendulo (5 stores) and El Fogoncito (25 stores). In 2025, **92 businesses renewed their participation**.

Outcome 5

Pure Earth's Organizational Capacity Increased

In 2025, Pure Earth expanded its professional staff by 40 percent, welcoming new leaders and technical experts across offices worldwide, strengthening the organization's capacity to deliver high-impact programs with long-term sustainability and scientific rigor, and to support more complex, multi-country initiatives. Pure Earth also opened offices in two new countries, Brazil and Ethiopia, where progress towards full national registration is in process.





HQ

From our New York Headquarters, Pure Earth hired 16 staff including our first Chief of Staff, VP of Technical Support and Research, Global HR Director, a new VP of Programs, and regional directors for Latin America and Asia. Our Ghana Country Director was promoted to Regional Director, Africa.

Bangladesh

Pure Earth Bangladesh hired 2 staff, a government secondee and a Communications Manager.

Brazil

Opened a new country office. Legal registration of Pure Earth Brazil is in

process. Hired 4 new staff, a Country Director, Program Manager, a Technical Manager, and a government secondee.

Colombia

Pure Earth Colombia hired a temporary researcher and a consulting firm for a cookware project.

Ethiopia

Opened a new country office. Legal registration of Pure Earth Ethiopia as a Civil Society Organization is in process. Hired new staff: a Program Director, a Finance and Admin Officer, and a Program Manager.

Ghana

Pure Earth Ghana hired 9 staff, including a Technical Program Manager, a Finance and Admin Officer, and a Communications Officer.

India

As of February 2025, Pure Earth India has full, official incorporation as a for-profit entity: PE Lead India Private Limited. Hired 9 staff including a new Country Director, 4 Program Managers, and a Finance and Admin Manager.

Mexico

Pure Earth Mexico hired 3 staff, including a Communications Consultant.

Indonesia, Peru, and the Philippines did not hire additional staff in 2025.

Annex A: Signals Of Support By U.S. Government, Multilaterals, Global Institutions

In an attempt to capture the progression of global support and action addressing the problem of lead exposure, Annex A illustrates activities and accomplishments beyond Pure Earth's direct reach, including efforts and accomplishments by other global and national institutions to address the problem of lead exposure and poisoning.

US Government

The USD can help LMIC governments take action by: raising lead poisoning as an important development issue, helping LMICs create and implement effective policies, and ensuring its bilateral development programs support lead poisoning prevention.

Congress / US CDC

- On July 31, 2025, US CDC Lead program funding was restored by the Senate - FY 2026 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill, with \$51,000,000 to prevent and mitigate childhood lead exposure and expand the data capabilities of the program to rapidly identify and address emerging

threats in communities with elevated risk of exposure.

Global

These efforts draw high level political support for tackling lead pollution at the global level and help build momentum and future action

World Bank

- The World Bank completed an analysis of BLL survey data, which included 5,000 participants (4,250 children and 750 adults) from 500 villages across Indonesia. On February 5, 2026, the World Bank reported the survey results to the Deputy Minister of Health. The meeting was attended by relevant technical units in the Ministry of Health, academics, and development partners, including Pure Earth.

UNICEF

- In November, an MOU with UNICEF Peru to strengthen joint efforts to prevent and reduce lead exposure. Coordination under Global Alliance for

a Lead-Free Future, technical and programmatic information exchange, joint TA to gov't institutions on policy, collaboration in interventions, complementing PE's ongoing work with the MOH CDC and regional governments.

- November 26. PLF and UNICEF launched Tool 8 of the Toolkit to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, a new resource to help governments craft and enforce effective legislation to eliminate lead exposure. To introduce the tool, the PLF is hosting a webinar, designed to provide examples of national legal frameworks or legislation for regulating sources of lead exposure.
- UNICEF provided funding to the Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Culture (Kemenko PMK) of the Republic of Indonesia to lead the development of the National Action Plan for Lead-Free Indonesia, including the formation of a Technical Working Group in November 2025. UNICEF also provided funding to the Ministry of Health for the development of the module and curriculum for the National Guidelines for Clinical, Community, and Environmental Management of Lead Exposure in Children and Pregnant Women.

UNEP

- The Seventh Session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-7), held December 8-12 in Nairobi, Kenya, reached 3 resolutions that are well

aligned with Pure Earth's work:

- **UNEP/EA.7/Res.3 - Resolution on strengthening international cooperation on the environmentally sound management of minerals and metals**
- **UNEP/EA.7/Res.5 - Resolution on promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral**
 - environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments
- **UNEP EA.7/Res.8 - Resolution on sound management of chemicals and waste.**

Center for Global Development (CGD).

CGD enjoys considerable credibility as a global think tank, with influence over a large variety of stakeholders.

- On June 3-4, the **Center for Global Development**, as part of the PLF, **hosted its First Annual Research Conference on Global Lead Exposure** which brought together researchers, policymakers, and implementers working to stamp out global lead poisoning. Among the 20+ presentations and panel discussions on recent research and how it will inform funding and implementation studies as well as remaining knowledge gaps, Pure Earth's work was showcased in presentations on **"Potential Lead Exposure from Aluminum Cooking Pots in Lower- and Middle-Income Countries,"**

(Gordon Binkhorst, Pure Earth) and **“Lead Exposure and Source Attribution in Children: Evidence from Poti and Guria, Georgia, Demonstrating Local Capacity Building.”** (Ekaterine Ruadze, NCDC Georgia)

The Basel Convention

- From December 1-4, at the Meeting of the Small Intersessional Working Group on Waste Batteries in Geneva, Switzerland, Pure Earth’s Associate Researcher, Chris Kinally, presented Pure Earth’s experience and views in the latest negotiations shaping **revisions of the Basel Convention**
- **Technical Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of ULABs.** This succeeded in new text being added to the document, highlighting that food crop contamination is a key pathway for public lead exposure from substandard lead-acid battery recycling practices. The technical guidelines are currently being reviewed leading up to the 18th Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, May 2027.

WHO

- On February 5, the WHO published a resolution, **“Galvanizing global support for a lead-free future,”** a draft decision incorporating proposals from Bangladesh, Chile, Ghana,

Indonesia, Ireland, Malawi, Nepal, Philippines, and Vanuatu.

- At the **78th World Health Assembly** in May 2025, Member States **approved a resolution galvanizing global support for a lead-free future.**

The Resolution affirms the global health sector’s commitment to tackle exposure to lead. Member states acknowledge that exposure to hazardous chemicals and pollution contributes to over 9 million premature deaths annually - one in six globally. Member States are urged to reduce exposures to lead by integrating health into environmental policies and regulations and improving waste management systems.

Reducing childhood lead poisoning worldwide.

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