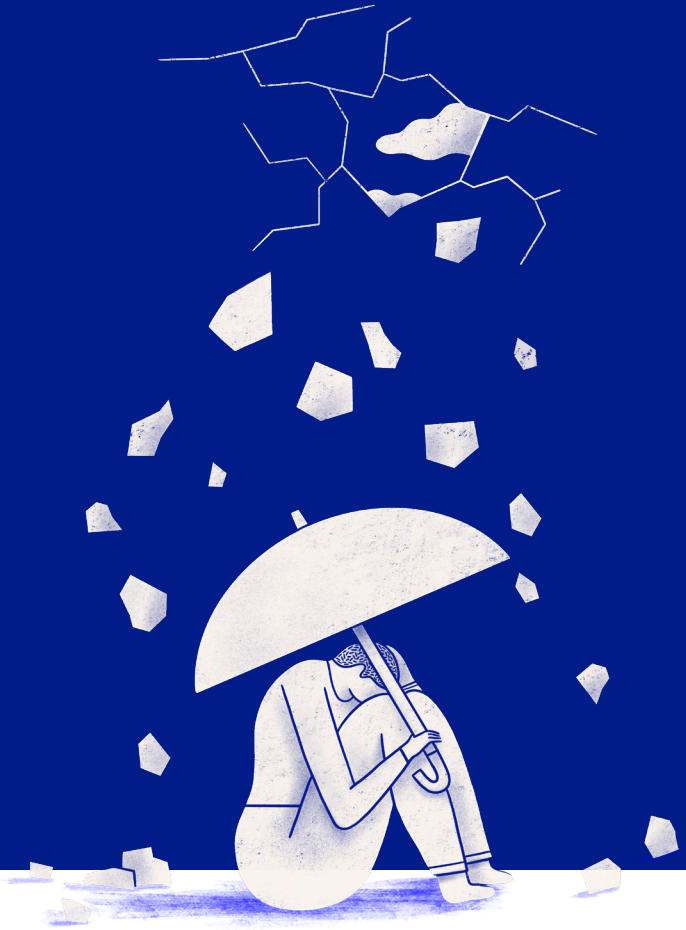


# Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

Reducing preventable harm to children caused by lead



**Lead is a potent toxin that can severely affect mental and physical functioning of children and the health of adults.**

Despite clear evidence of harm, many countries do not sufficiently monitor lead poisoning events or regulate lead in consumer products or industrial practices.

65% of preventable intellectual disabilities are caused by lead exposure in childhood.

To reduce the number of exposed and poisoned children, Vital Strategies works with governments to identify areas of concern and prioritize prevention efforts.

Our work in Peru goes beyond crisis response to support ongoing lead poisoning surveillance, raise public awareness and improve regulation of lead in consumer products.



The majority of countries do not know how many children are exposed to lead or how to reduce levels of exposure. In Peru, we are supporting government efforts to safeguard children's health with a multi-pronged strategy:

### 1. Surveillance

Vital Strategies works in partnership with governments to assess data quality and availability and to improve the use and reporting of data on:

- Areas where soil or water is contaminated
- Consumer products that contain lead
- How many people, especially children, are exposed to lead

The data system will be supplemented by targeted surveillance in areas where limited data are available to characterize risk factors and prioritize prevention efforts.

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### 2. Prevention and Response

We promote proven and cost-effective strategies to prevent exposure to lead, such as reducing lead contamination at its source, and working with policymakers to assess and close gaps in current policy and regulations. Vital Strategies will also develop clinical training and guidance on evaluating children's exposures and managing acute lead poisoning.

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### 3. Public Education

Educating clinicians, parents and caretakers of children is critical to reduce exposure to lead. Through a strategic public education and communication campaign, Vital Strategies aims to change behavior to help reduce the risk of exposure.

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*Less than one third of the world's children live in countries with enforced bans on lead paint.*