Massive Returns: Economic Efficiency of Interventions to Prevent and Reduce Lead Pollution

Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR) The economic return **(benefit)** generated for every \$1 spent **(cost)** on the intervention.

MEXICO

Converting leadglazed pottery production



Source: World Bank 2020

ZAMBIA

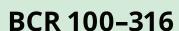
Remediation of mining dumpsite and soil removal in residential areas

BCR 1.6-2.3

Source: Yamada et al. 2023

GEORGIA

Eliminating lead additives in turmeric



Source: World Bank

MALAWI

Abolishing lead in paint

BCR 101-705

Source: World Bank

*Up to \$142-361 in economic benefits for every \$1 spent on lead removal; other BCRs figures follow example

BANGLADESH

Eliminating lead additives in turmeric

BCR 2,600-8,382

Source: World Bank 2023

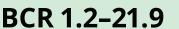
Iron supplementation



BCR 6.6-9.1

World Bank 2024

Cookware intervention



World Bank 2024

Interventions to prevent lead pollution are not just public health measures—they are among the **most economically efficient development investments** globally, yielding **hundreds**, **and even thousands**, **of dollars** in benefits for every dollar spent.

