

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 lead-glazed pottery production



BCR 142–361*

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

BANGLADESH

Eliminating lead additives in turmeric



BCR 2,600–8,382

Source: World Bank 2023

GEORGIA

Eliminating lead additives in turmeric



BCR 100–316

Source: World Bank

MALAWI

Abolishing lead in paint



BCR 101–705

Source: World Bank

Iron supplementation



BCR 6.6–9.1

World Bank 2024

Cookware intervention



BCR 1.2–21.9

World Bank 2024

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

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.