LAC

SECRETARIAT

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LACS Newsletter

Local Aid Coordination Secretariat

Shared Calendar of Events

Please click on link to see a full calendar of aid coordination meetings:

http://www.ldf.ps/EventCalendarEndUser.aspx

List of Upcoming Meetings

- **Wednesday, 13 January 2016**: Environment Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at the EQA.

- **Wednesday, 27 January 2016**: Agriculture Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Aid Coordination Meetings

Minutes of Meetings & Related Documents

❖ **Minutes – Education Sector Working Group meeting, 2 December 2015**

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23229

- PPP Non-Formal Education, 2 December 2015
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23230
- PPP Planning and Budgeting, 2 December 2015
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23231
- PPP Education in Emergencies, 2 December 2015
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23236
- ESWG ToR, 2 December 2015
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23237

Documents & Reports

United Nations

❖ **OCHA**

- Protection of Civilians, 15 – 28 December 2015
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23250
- Protection of Civilians, 1 – 14 December 2015
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23222

❖ **FAO**

- Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 20-24 December 2015
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23245
- Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 13-17 December 2015

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23232

- **UNRWA**
  - Gaza Situation Report, 22 December 2015
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23235
- **WHO**
  - Monthly report on Gaza referrals and access, October 2015
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23244

Press Releases and Formal Statements

UN

Briefing by Miroslav Jenca, Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, 16 December 2015

Some two months ago the Secretary-General visited Jerusalem and Ramallah to support collective efforts to stop the violence which had begun to erupt in Israel, the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem and Gaza.

It is sad that over the past few weeks, despite a decline in attacks, the bloodshed has not stopped with some seven Israelis and 34 Palestinians killed during the reporting period.

Stabbings, vehicle attacks and shootings by Palestinians targeting Israelis continue to claim victims on an almost daily basis – including, just two days ago, serious injury to a one and a half year old baby, one of eleven victims of a car ramming in Jerusalem – as suspected assailants are shot and killed in return and as clashes continue to result in Palestinian deaths.

The full briefing is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23216

UN Women – UNSCO

Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process consults with representatives of women's organizations in Gaza on their participation in decision-making on peace and security issues, 14 December 2015

Gaza, 14 December 2014 – Today Nickolay Mladenov, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, accompanied by Bo Schack, Director of UNRWA Operations in Gaza, and Sabine Machl, UN Women Special Representative in Palestine, met with representatives of women's organizations in Gaza to discuss a broad range of issues and challenges facing Palestinian women, and in particular their participation in decision-making on peace and security issues.

The meeting, organized by UN Women and funded by the European Union Partnership for Peace, and in the framework of the Open Days on Women, Peace and Security, allowed direct dialogue between women's representatives and Mr. Mladenov on the issues of the exacerbation of violence

and the protection of Gazan women; and the impact of the humanitarian crisis and the need for greater support for the participation of Palestinian women's civil society in the current recovery and reconstruction process in Gaza.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23213 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23214 (in Arabic)

World Bank

An Additional US$ 3.9 Million for Improving Infrastructure in Palestine, 21 December 2015

Jerusalem, December 21, 2015- Finland contributed the amount of EUR 3.6 million, equivalent to US$3.9 million to the Palestinian Partnership for Infrastructure Development Multi-Donor Trust Fund (PID fund) administered by the World Bank.

The funds contributed by the Finland Ministry of Foreign Affairs will support the Palestinian Authority improving water, energy and local government services provided to citizens.

The Partnership for Infrastructure Multi-Donor Trust Fund (PID MDTF) was established in 2012 with the objective of improving the coverage, quality, and sustainability of infrastructure in the Palestinian territories through financial and technical support in the water, urban development, and energy sectors.

With the new contribution, the total amount allocated to the PID fund is about US$ 101 million. Finland has contributed so far an amount equivalent to US$10.5 million Currently, donors contributing to the fund include the governments of Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and Sweden.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23226

New Project to Create Jobs by Supporting Start-Ups and Developing Skills of Youth and Women in Palestine, 18 December 2015

WASHINGTON, December 18, 2015. The World Bank Group's Board of Executive Directors approved today a US$ 5 million grant focused on job creation in Palestine. The Finance for Jobs project aims at catalyzing private investment in high potential sectors for job creation.

This initial Finance for Jobs Project – which is anticipated to be one in a series – will test the effectiveness of selected financial interventions. This will commence with a matching grant instrument to foster job creation through support to business start-up investment funds currently operating in Palestine. The series of projects will build on lessons learned and achievements over time and will scale-up the design in the direction of the most efficient financing.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23225

UNRWA

Germany Contributes EUR 45.8 Million to Support Palestine Refugees in Gaza, Lebanon and Jordan, 17 December 2015

On Monday, the German Development Bank (KfW) signed three agreements with UNRWA for contributions totaling EUR 45.8 million from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to support Palestine refugees in Gaza, Lebanon and Jordan.

EUR 30 million will go towards reconstruction efforts in Gaza and comes in addition to a previous EUR 20 million contribution from BMZ through KfW after the summer 2014 conflict, making Germany the second largest contributor to the UNRWA emergency shelter response in Gaza. These funds will provide cash grants to approximately 1,200 Palestine refugee families to make the necessary repairs or reconstruction works to their severely damaged or totally demolished homes, as well as transitional rental subsidies for nearly 3,300 families who are waiting for their shelters to be repaired.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23217 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23218 (in Arabic)

UNDP

OFID Signs Agreements with UNDP in Support of East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip Projects, 15 December 2015

Vienna, 15 December 2015 – The OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP) signed agreements worth USD 01 million to implement projects in support of the resilience of Palestinians residing in East Jerusalem and Gaza. The new agreements aim at increasing access to healthcare services for cancer patients in East Jerusalem and creating employment opportunities for youth in Gaza.

During the signing ceremony, OFID Director General Suleiman Al-Herbish commended UNDP/PAPP for their "excellent work" in the occupied Palestinian territory and spoke of OFID's "unwavering support and solidarity" with the Palestinian people, which spanned nearly four decades. Al-Herbish also said he looked forward to strengthening OFID's cooperation with UNDP/PAPP, especially in areas that fell within the framework of the SDGs, such as boosting energy access.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23224

Office of the Quartet

Quartet Envoys' Joint Press Statement, 17 December 2015

On 16 and 17 December, Envoys of the Middle East Quartet met in Jerusalem and Ramallah with Israeli and Palestinian counterparts.

Over the two days, the Envoys from the EU, Russia, U.S., and UN met with officials from the Israeli Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and officials from the Palestine Liberation Organization and Palestinian Authority to discuss current conditions on the ground and concrete actions to demonstrate their commitment to the two-state solution.

The Quartet Envoys strongly condemned all acts of terror and stressed the importance of opposing unequivocally incitement and violence and de-escalate the situation.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23223

EU

European Union Heads of Mission visit Hebron, 15 December 2015

European Union Heads of Mission in Jerusalem and Ramallah visited Hebron on 15 December 2015. They met the Governor, the Mayor, the Deputy Head of Mission for the Temporary International Presence in Hebron and representatives of Palestinian civil society and international organisations. The objective of this visit was to gain a first-hand impression of developments and to express concern at the deteriorating situation in Hebron. The EU Heads of Mission in Jerusalem and Ramallah call for immediate measures to reduce tension, restore calm, and move quickly to restart a credible political process.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23215

Representative Office of Japan

Completion of Water Network Rehabilitation Project in Anata, Funded by Japan, 22 December 2015

Today, December 22, 2015, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the PA, visited 'Anata to celebrate the completion of the rehabilitation of part of the water network project funded by the Government of Japan through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

A grant of USD 101,049 was extended to Anata Local Council to secure sufficient tap water supply for the residents in the village who suffer from less water provision due to water leakages. The grant was used to replace old and temporary pipelines with new ones and the direct beneficiaries shall be around 1,985 residents (about 330 households).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23242 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23243 (in Arabic)

Grant Signing Ceremony for Two GGP Projects in Palestine funded by Japan, 21 December 2015

Grant Contracts for two Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) were signed today by Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the PA, and representatives from Beita and Burqeen Municipalities at the Representative Office of Japan in Ramallah for a total amount of US$ 181,162.

Beita Municipality received a grant of US$ 90,576 that they will use to reconstruct the old and damaged school building that consists of 3 classrooms in Beita Mixed School to provide safe and adequate educational environment for around 80 students.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23227 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23228 (in Arabic

PCBS

Palestinians at the End of 2015, 30 December 2015

Increase in population of Palestinian in the world

The projected number of Palestinians in the world is 12.37 million, of whom 4.75 million are in State of Palestine, 1.47 million in Israel, 5.46 million in Arab countries and around 685 thousand in foreign countries.

More than one-third of population in Gaza Strip The projected number of Palestinians living in State of Palestine at the end of 2015 is 4.75 million: around 2.90 million reside in the West Bank and 1.85 million in Gaza Strip. Palestinian refugees make up 42.8% of the Palestinian population in Palestine: 27.1% of them in the West Bank and 67.3% in Gaza Strip.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23248 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23249 (in Arabic)

Press Report of Economic Forecasting For 2016, 29 December 2015

The preliminary estimates for 2015 compiled in accordance with data available for the first three quarters of the year, and indicators for the fourth quarter 2015 used to estimate the data for that quarter. It should be noted that data will be revised after the completion of collection of data from relevant sources.

Rise in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and GDP per capita during 2015

Preliminary estimates indicated an increase in GDP in Palestine by 3.5% during 2015 compared with 2014; GDP per capita has increased by 0.5% during 2015 compared with 2014.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23246 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23247 (in Arabic)

Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Registered External Trade in Goods of October 2015, 22 December 2015

Exports increased in October, 2015 by 20.3% compared to September, 2015. While it slightly decreased by 0.3% compared to October, 2014 and reached USD 76.3 Million.

Exports to Israel increased in October, 2015 by 12.6% compared to September, 2015 and represented 83.7% of total exports in October, 2015.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23233 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23234 (in Arabic)

PCBS – PMA

Construction Cost Index (CCI), Road Cost Index (RCI), Water Networks Cost Index (WNCI) and Sewage Networks Cost Index (SNCI) in the West Bank during November 2015

Decrease in the Construction Cost Index for Residential Buildings

The Construction Cost Index for Residential buildings reached 99.74 with a decrease of 0.53% in the West Bank during November 2015 compared with October 2015 (base year 2013=100).

The Construction Cost Index for Residential buildings decreased due to the decrease in the prices of raw materials by 0.86%, while rental of equipments slightly increased by 0.06%. At the same time, labor wages remained stable during November 2015 compared with the previous month.

Decrease in the Construction Cost Index for Non-residential Buildings

The Construction Cost Index for Non-residential buildings reached 99.99 with a decrease of 0.56% in the West Bank during November 2015 compared with October 2015 (base year 2013=100).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23240 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23241 (in Arabic)

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA) press release about the Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Balance of Payments – Third Quarter 2015, 17 December 2015

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA) have announced the preliminary results of the Palestinian Balance of Payments (BoP) for the third quarter of 2015 under the joint issuance cycle for the Palestinian Balance of Payments (BoP). It should be noted that the data excludes that part of Jerusalem which was annexed forcefully by Israel following its occupation of the West Bank in 1967.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23219 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23220 (in Arabic)

Newsletters

- **The Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin, December 2015**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23238
- **UNRWA Gender Bulletin, December 2015**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23221
- **The Palestinian Centre for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal "MUSAWA" newsletter, November 2015**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23239

Job Vacancies

- **The Office of the Quartet: Advisor on Economic and Fiscal Relations**
  For further details, please see attachment

Announcements

- International Parliament Scholarship 2016: For the fifth time, the German Government offers young committed graduates from Arab countries the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the political system in Germany, by providing a number of scholarships. For more information see the flyers attached.

- Call for partnership proposal 2016: Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Resource Centre (IHLRC) is now accepting one-year project proposals from organisations with significant expertise working on International Humanitarian Law (IHL). For further details, please see attachment.

New Arrivals

- **Ms. Marcia Pius** has joined the Australian Representative Office as Representative. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: Marcia.pius@dfat.gov.au ,phone: 02 2425303