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, 17 February 2016**: Health Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at the Central Public Laboratory, MoH, Ramallah.
- **Wednesday, 2 March 2016**: Education Sector Working Group meeting.
- **Monday, 7 March 2016**: Social Protection Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at MoSA.

## Documents & Reports

## United Nations

### OCHA

- Protection of Civilians, 12 – 25 January 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23302
- Protection of Civilians, 29 December 2015 – 11 January 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23265

### FAO

- Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 17 – 21 January 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23291
- Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 10 – 14 January 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23271

### WHO

- Health Access for Referral Patients from the Gaza Strip – November 2015, 20 January 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23278

### UNRWA

- Gaza Situation Report, 29 January 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23304
- Gaza Situation Report, 21 January 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23281

## Press Releases and Formal Statements

### Office of the Prime Minister

**Prime Minister Hamdallah appoints Director of Strategic Communications & Media, 26 January 2016**

Ramallah-Prime Minister Dr. Rami Hamdallah today, January, 26, 2016, announced the appointment of Mr. Jamal Dajani to be Director of Strategic Communications & Media at the Prime Minister's Office. Mr. Dajani's duties include managing the Communications Unit of the Prime Minister's Office and the Palestine Government Media Center.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23294

**Forced transfer of Palestinian Bedouin in the Jerusalem area must end, says Prime Minister Hamdallah, 20 January 2016**

Prime Minister Dr. Rami Hamdallah deplored the illegal transfer of Palestinian Bedouin in the Jerusalem area, stating that "Israel's systematic violation of international laws is no longer acceptable by the international community." PM Hamdallah expressed his thanks to Mr. Robert Piper, Coordinator for Humanitarian and UN Development Activities for the occupied Palestinian territory, and Felipe Sanchez, Director of UNRWA Operations in the West Bank, for their unwavering support to the Palestinian Bedouin community of Abu Nawar.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23280

### UN

**UN Secretary General remarks to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, 26 January 2016**

Sadly, 2016 has begun much like 2015 ended – with unacceptable levels of violence and a polarized public discourse across the spectrum in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory.

Stabbings, vehicle attacks, and shootings by Palestinians targeting Israeli civilians – all of which I condemn -- and clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces, have continued to claim lives.

But security measures alone will not stop the violence. They cannot address the profound sense of alienation and despair driving some Palestinians – especially young people.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23295

**UN officials call for an immediate revocation of plans to transfer Palestinian Bedouin in the Jerusalem area, 19 January 2016**

Today, the Coordinator for Humanitarian and UN Development Activities for the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), Robert Piper, and the Director of UNRWA Operations West Bank, Felipe

Sanchez, called for an immediate end to Israeli plans to transfer Palestinian Bedouin currently living within the occupied Palestinian territory in the Jerusalem area. The call follows a visit today with diplomats from 17 countries to the Palestinian Bedouin community of Abu Nuwar, the site of recent demolitions and aid confiscations by the Israeli authorities.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23274

### Statement by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, on the inauguration of the Qatari-funded housing project in Gaza, 17 January 2016

On the occasion of the inauguration of the first phase of the City of HH Sheikh Hamad in Gaza and the handing over of 1,060 much needed housing units to Palestinian families whose houses were totally destroyed in the 2014 conflict, the Special Coordinator Nickolay Mladenov said:

"I take this opportunity to thank the State of Qatar for its relentless efforts and commitment to supporting the Palestinian people in Gaza. The completion of the first phase of this project is a significant step in rebuilding lives and livelihoods in Gaza".

**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23270

## UNDP

### UNDP and ISOCARP Launch New Magazine on Spatial Planning in the Gaza Strip, 20 January 2016

Jerusalem/The Hague, 20 January 2016 – The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP/PAPP) and the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) launched the second edition of the Spatial Visioning Reflections magazine, with special focus on the Gaza Strip. The magazine provides innovative spatial planning solutions for the current and anticipated future challenges for spatial development in the Gaza Strip. It contains a collection of articles prepared by Palestinian and international planners addressing spatial planning issues across various critical sectors that will guide national planning policies and reconstruction efforts for the Gaza Strip as a result of the three recent wars.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23287

### New Projects Announced for Area C by the Ministry of Local Government, UNDP and Italy, 20 January 2016

Ramallah, 20 January 2016 – The Steering Committee for the Facilitating Access to Infrastructure Resilience in Area C and East Jerusalem programme (FAIR) approved the second package of six essential infrastructure projects worth over USD 1.2 million, with funding from the Government of Italy.

The FAIR Steering Committee was represented by H.E. Dr Hussein Al Araj, Minister of Local Government, Mr Roberto Valent, UNDP Special Representative of the Administrator, H. E. Davide La Cecilia, Consul General of Italy, Dr Vincenzo Racalbuto, Head of the Italian Development Cooperation Agency and representatives from the Prime Minister's Office,
Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs and Ministry of Agriculture.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23288

## UNRWA

### Belgium contributes EUR 2.45 Million to support Palestine Refugees in the occupied Palestinian territory, 11 January 2016

The Kingdom of Belgium has made a generous contribution of EUR 2.45 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in support of the Agency's services for Palestine refugees in the occupied Palestinian territory. The contribution will be divided between the UNRWA shelter assistance programme in the Gaza Strip and supporting the Mobile Mental Health Programme, targeting vulnerable Bedouin communities, in the West Bank.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23292 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23293 (in Arabic)

## EU

### Local EU statement on Palestinian prisoners in administrative detention, 27 January 2016

The EU missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah express their longstanding concern about the extensive use by Israel of administrative detention without formal charge.

Beyond the well-known cases of Etraf Rimawi of the Palestinian Bisan Center for Research and Development, and Mohammed Abu Sakha, a trainer at the Palestinian Circus School, there are over 500 Palestinians, amongst them at least 4 minors, who are currently being held in administrative detention.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23296

### The European Union provides EUR 2 million to Construct Social Infrastructure Projects in Area C, 20 January 2016

Palestinian Minister of Local Government, Hussain Al A'raj, and the EU Representative, Ralph Tarraf, today attended a signing ceremony for EU Grant Agreements for the implementation of social infrastructure projects in Area C.

The Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF) and representatives of nine local communities concerned signed the agreements to which the European Union provided EUR 2 million.

This contribution is part of a 9.5 million Euros Area C development programme being funded by the EU, Denmark, France, and the UK. It is the result of a community-based planning approach that involved the local communities.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23279

### Council of the EU conclusions on the Middle East Peace Process, 18 January 2016

The Council is deeply concerned that the continuing cycle of violence has led to a serious loss of human life in Israel and the Palestinian territory in recent months. The EU firmly condemns the terror attacks and violence from all sides and in any circumstances, including the death of children. The EU calls on political leaders to work together through visible actions to contribute to calm and address the underlying causes of the tensions.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23273

### The Palestinian Authority and the European Union celebrate the inauguration of eight new community police stations, 18 January 2016

Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah, the EU Representative Ralph Tarraf, and the German Representative Peter Beerweerth inaugurated today the new community police station in Aqraba town near Nablus. This station is one of eight new community police stations in the West Bank that were constructed through an EU funded project implemented by the GIZ. The eight new stations were all handed over to the Palestinian Civil Police and they serve now thousands of Palestinians in the West Bank.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23272

### The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn four death sentences issued in Gaza, 15 January 2016

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn the four death sentences (including three in absentia) issued by a Military Court in Gaza on 13 January. These are the first death sentences to be issued this year. Last year, Palestinian courts issued 12 death sentences, including three in the West Bank where a moratorium on executions is respected since 2005.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23268

## French Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### Excerpt from a statement by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Laurent Fabius, during his annual greetings to the Diplomatic Corps, 30 January 2016

Those burning crisis do not make us forgot the endless and tragic Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is about time for the international community to move – in a decisive way this time – toward a

definitive settlement of the conflict. Bearing in mind the following: the security of Israel is an absolute requirement, on which France will not compromise; the Israeli people has the right to live in peace and security, and we must do everything so that this fundamental right is guaranteed; but there is no peace without justice, and the current situation of the Palestinians, who do not have a State, is fundamentally unfair. I said at the National Assembly in November 2014, in the name of the Government, that the final settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and a sustainable peace in the Middle-East would only be achieved through the coexistence of two sovereign and independent States and that, if the current deadlock endured, France would recognize the State of Palestine. I added that this recognition was not a favor, a privilege, but a right. France, I confirm it to you, will not give up on the security requirement for Israel, nor on justice for Palestinians.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23307

## Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### Press release regarding the decision of Israel to build 153 new housing units in illegal settlements in the West Bank and in East Jerusalem, 29 January 2016

We strongly condemn Israel's approval to build a total of 153 new housing units in different illegal settlements in the West Bank and in East Jerusalem occupied since 1967.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23306

### Israel's Confiscation of Agricultural Lands belonging to Palestinians in the West Bank, 21 January 2016

We strongly condemn the decision of Israel to confiscate 1,545 dunams of agricultural land belonging to Palestinians near Ariha in the occupied West Bank.

Such settlement activities undermining the basis for a two-state solution are null and void in terms of international law and will not be accepted by any means.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23282

## Representative Office of Japan

### Statement by Foreign Press Secretary Yasuhisa Kawamura on Settlement Construction by Israel, 28 January 2016

The Government of Japan deeply deplores that, according to information, the Government of Israel has approved plans of housing units in settlements in the West Bank.

Settlement activities are in violation of international law, and Japan has repeatedly called upon the Government of Israel to fully freeze settlement activities. Taking this opportunity the Government of Japan also expresses its deep concern about recent announcement by Israel declaring the land in the West Bank as "state land".

**The full statement is available at the following link:**

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23303

### Grant Signing Ceremony for GGP Project in Palestine funded by Japan, 28 January 2016

Today, January 28, 2016, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the PA, signed a Grant Contract for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) with Mr. Sami Ibrahim, Mayor of Zababdeh, at the Representative Office of Japan in Ramallah for a total amount of $90,495.

Zababdeh Municipality, located in Jenin governorate in the northern West Bank, will use the grant to expand the drainage network in the area where it's underdeveloped.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23300 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23301 (in Arabic)

## PCBS

### Palestinian Producer Price Index, during December 2015, & during 2015, 28 January 2016

The overall Producer Price Index (PPI) in Palestine with its base year (2011=100) reached 106.07 in 2015, which indicates an increase by 1.73% compared to 2014.

Prices of Producer Price Index for 2015 increased due to the increase in the prices of the Fishing group by 21.62%, Agriculture goods by 6.12%, and Mining and quarrying by 1.84%, while the prices of Manufacturing group decreased by 0.97%.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23297 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23298 (in Arabic)

### Construction Cost Index (CCI), Road Cost Index (RCI), Water Networks Cost Index (WNCI) and Sewage Networks Cost Index (SNCI) in the West Bank during December 2015& during 2015, 25 January 2016

The Construction Cost Index for Residential buildings in the West Bank reached 100.49 during 2015 with a decrease of 0.40% compared with 2014 (base year 2013=100).

**The full press release is available at the following link:**

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23285 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23286 (in Arabic)

### Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Registered External Trade in Goods of November 2015, 24 Janaury 2016

Exports increased in November, 2015 by 6.6% compared to October, 2015. It also increased by 7.0% compared to November, 2014 and reached USD 81.3 Million.

Exports to Israel slightly increased in November, 2015 by 0.8% compared to October, 2015 and represented 79.2% of total exports in November, 2015

**The full press release is available at the following link:**

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23283 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23284 (in Arabic)

### Palestinian Wholesale Price Index, Fourth Quarter of 2015 & during 2015, 19 January 2016

The overall Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in Palestine with its base year (2007=100) reached 123.63 in 2015, which indicates an increase by 1.21% compared with 2014.

Prices of Wholesale Price Index for 2015 increased due to the increase in the prices of Agriculture goods by 5.73%, while the prices of Fishing decreased by 2.32%, Manufacturing group by 0.67%, and Mining and quarrying by 0.40%.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23275 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23276 (in Arabic)

## Newsletters

- UNRWA Gender Bulletin, January 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23277

- Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin, January 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23299

- UNDP – ISOCARP – UN HABITAT: Spatial Visioning Reflections – Gaza, December 2015
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23289

## New Arrivals

- **Ms. Sahar Natshesh** has joined WFP as Programme Officer – Head of West Bank Operations. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: sahar.natsheh@wfp.org ,phone:02 5401340

- **Mr. Hojin Jahng** has joined KOICA as Program Officer. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: hjjahng@koica.go.kr ,phone: 02-2977045

- **Ms. Monica Smith** has joined USAID as Resident Legal Officer. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: msmith@usaid.gov ,phone: 03-5198637

- **Mr. Daniel Morris** has joined USAID as Democracy Officer, Governance and Civic Engagement Office. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: dmorris@usaid.gov ,phone: 02-5913708

- **Ms. Karla Fossand** has joined USAID as Director, Social Services Office. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: kfossand@usaid.gov ,phone: 03-5198616

- **Mr. Stanka Strukelj** has joined the Representative Office of Slovenia as Representative. His

contact details are as follows:
Email: stanka.strukelj@gov.si ,phone: 02-2413055

- **Mr. Christiaan Bergwerff** has joined the Representative Office of Netherlands as Policy Officer – Bilateral Forum and Private Sector Development. His contact details are as follows:
Email: christiaan.bergwerff@minbuza.nl ,phone: 02-2406639

- **Mr. Alfonso Anania** has joined the Italian Development Cooperation Agency as Health Programme Coordinator. His contact details are as follows:
Email: anania@itcoop-jer.org ,phone: 02-5789609
- **Mr. Dario Rossi D'Ambrosio** has joined the Italian Development Cooperation Agency as Programme Officer – Justice and Human Rights. His contact details are as follows:
Email: rossi@itcoop-jer.org ,phone: 02-5789606

- **Mr. Jilnar Khatib** has joined DFID as Programme Officer. His contact details are as follows:
Email: j-khatib@dfid.gov.uk ,phone: 02-5328460 – 122

- **Ms. Tala Dawani** has joined DFID as Programme Officer. Her contact details are as follows:
Email: t-dawani@dfid.gov.uk ,phone: 02-5328460 – 114

- **Mr. Savvas Vladimirou** has joined Representative Office of Cyprus as Representative. His contact details are as follows:
Email: cyprusoffice@palnet.com ,phone: 02-2413206

- **Ms. Agathe Stricker** has joined ICRC as Field Coordinator and Deputy Head of Mission. Her contact details are as follows:
Email: jer_jerusalem@icrc.org ,phone:02-5917900

- **Mr. Alix Van Zeebroeck** has joined the Representative Office of Denmark as Consular Officer. His contact details are as follows:
Email: alizee@um.dk ,phone: 02-2415281

- **Ms. Asta Olesen** has joined the Representative Office of Denmark as Consular – Development. Her contact details are as follows:
Email: astole@um.dk ,phone: 02-2415296

- **Mr. Carden David** has joined OCHA as Head of Office. His contact details are as follows:
Email: carden@un.org ,phone: 02-5829962

- **Mr. Hans Fruehauf** has joined GIZ as Head of Programme – Local Governance Reform Programme. His contact details are as follows:
Email: hans.fruehauf@giz.de ,phone: 02-2408541

- **Mr. Gerold Schwarz** has joined GIZ as Head of Programme – Private Sector Development Programme. His contact details are as follows:

Email: gerold.schwarz@giz.de ,phone: 02-2400735

- **Ms. Nisreen Alami** has joined UN Women as Humanitarian Gender Advisor. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: alami@un.org ,phone: 02-6280450

- **Mr. Rajesh Kayastha** has joined UNICEF as Chief of Operations. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: rkayastha@unicef.org ,phone: 02-5840444

- **Mr. Louise Kornung** has joined EUPOL COPPS as Political Advisor. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: louise.kornung@eupolcopps.eu ,phone: 02-2976677 - 112

- **Mr. Michael Storm** has joined EUPOL COPPS as Acting Senior Mission Security Officer. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: michael.storm@eupolcopps.eu ,phone: 02-2976677 - 111