LAC

SECRETARIAT

CONTENTS


| | |
|---|---|
| News from LACS | 9 |
| Shared Calendar of Events | 2 |
| List of Recent Meetings | 2 |
| List of Upcoming Meetings | 2 |
| Documents & Reports | 2 |
| Newsletters | 8 |
| Announcements | 8 |



Local Aid Coordination Secretariat
Tel: 02- 297-6330/1/2/4

Fax: 02-297-6335

Email: secretariat@lacs.ps

Website: www.ldf.ps


# 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 Recent Meetings

- **Wednesday, 17 February 2016**: Health Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at the Central Public Laboratory, MoH, Ramallah.
- **Thursday, 25 February 2016:** Agricultural SWG meeting at 11:30 at MoA's conference room.

## List of Upcoming Meetings

- **Wednesday, 2 March 2016**: Education Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at the MoEHE.
- **Monday, 7 March 2016**: Social Protection Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at MoSA.

## Documents & Reports

## United Nations

### OCHA

Protection of Civilians, 9 – 15 February 2016
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23350

### FAO

Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 21– 25 February 2016
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24373

Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 14– 18 February 2016
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23358

Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 7– 11 February 2016
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23341

### WHO

WHO monthly report on Gaza referrals and access, December 2015
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23344

- **UNICEF**
  - Humanitarian Situation Report, 17 February 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23363

- **UNRWA**
  - Gaza Situation Report, 25 February 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23367

## Press Releases and Formal Statements

### UN

#### Briefing by Nickolay Mladenov, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, 18 February 2016

I regret to inform you that the violence which has been erupting in Israel and Palestine since October of last year shows no sign of relenting.

Some recent incidents may point to a new troubling phase in the conflict. On 31 January a Palestinian security officer traveling in an official vehicle opened fire at a checkpoint near Ramallah and injured three Israeli soldiers. This was one of the three incidents to date involving a member of the Palestinian security forces. Although he was acting independently, such incidents can be potentially harmful to the relationship between both security forces.

**The full briefing is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23351

### UNRWA

#### Japan Contributes US$ 38.21 Million to UNRWA to Support Palestine Refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and Syria, 29 February 2016

The Government of Japan has contributed US$ 38.21 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The contribution was confirmed earlier today in an agreement jointly signed by Ambassador Takeshi Okubo from the Representative Office of Japan to the Palestinian Authority (PA) and UNRWA Deputy Commissioner-General Sandra Mitchell at the Agency's Kalandia training centre in Ramallah.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24374 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24375 (in Arabic)

#### Sweden increases support to Palestine refugees to US$ 40.6 million, 23 February 2016

Sweden has announced an increase in its annual contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Programme Budget to US$ 40.6 million. This 15 per cent increase follows the past years growth in Sweden's support for the Agency, highlighting its status as a consistent and valued partner in aiding Palestine refugees. In addition, Sweden's support to the UNRWA emergency appeal will be announced later on this year.
Reiterating Sweden's commitment to the well-being of Palestine refugees, Sweden's Consul General Ann-Sofie Nilsson said: "The decision to increase our core funding to UNRWA shows the great importance that Sweden attaches to the Agency and its work for Palestine refugees."
**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23359 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23360 (in Arabic)

### UNRWA and Al Jazeera Children's Channel Sign MOU, 18 February 2016

Earlier today, Al Jazeera Children's Channel and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) renewed their 2010 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU further strengthens the fruitful collaboration between the two organizations for the benefit of UNRWA students. Through the MOU, Al Jazeera Children's Channel will provide UNRWA with education tools and resources to be used by the UNRWA TV satellite channel.
**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23348 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23349 (in Arabic)

### UNRWA and the Lajee Center Inaugurate the First Child-Friendly Spaces in Aida Refugee Camp, 17 February 2016

Today, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the Lajee Center inaugurated the first ever child-friendly spaces – a football pitch and a playground – in Aida refugee camp in Bethlehem.
The new child-friendly spaces have been made possible with a generous contribution from the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP) and will provide the children of Aida camp with a rare opportunity to play and make new friends within a very challenging environment.
**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23345 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23346 (in Arabic)

## EU

### Local EU statement on recent demolitions and confiscations in Area C, 24 February 2016

The EU missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah express deep concern at an unprecedented number of demolitions and confiscations of Palestinian structures in Area C in recent weeks, including of EU donor-funded humanitarian aid delivered consistent with international humanitarian law. These

include the dismantlement and confiscation of the school in Abu Nwar on 21st February, which was funded by France and is the only school in a Bedouin community severely threatened in its existence, and the virtual complete destruction on 15th February of the community of Ain Rashash, where 60 people including 38 children lost their homes and livelihood structures.

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

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23362

### The EU Representative and Prime Minister Hamdallah lay the first stone for the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Tubas, 22 February 2016

Prime Minister Dr. Rami Al Hamallah and the EU Representative Ralph Tarraf together with the Head of the Palestinian Water Authority and Tubas Governor laid the first stone for the construction of the wastewater treatment plant in Tubas. This large-scale project will serve around 34,000 people living in Tubas, Tayasir, and Aqqaba. It will also provide treated water for agricultural use for farmers in the Governorate that relies significantly on agriculture.

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

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23354

### The EU and its partners launch the TVET Week in Gaza, 15 February 2016

The Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the GIZ, the European Union (EU), the Belgian Development Cooperation (BTC), and five Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions have launched the 2016 "TVET Week in Gaza" under the theme of "Transforming Skills into Work".

The opening ceremony of the "TVET Week in Gaza" took place on Monday 15 February 2016, at the Shalihat Resort in Gaza city. The event was officially opened by the Palestinian Minister of Labor Ma'amoun Abu Shahla and attended by Alessandra Viezzer, the EU Head of Cooperation, Sabine Brickenkamp, the Deputy Head of Development Cooperation at the Representative Office of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ramallah, Florence Duvieusart, the Head of Development Cooperation at the General Consulate of Belgium, representatives of TVET institutions, and dozens of TVET students and graduates in Gaza strip.

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

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23343

## French Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### Statement by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development spokesperson on the dismantlement of humanitarian projects funded by France in the West Bank, 23 February 2016

France condemns the dismantlement by the Israeli army, during the night of February 20- 21, of an elementary school under construction which was funded by the French humanitarian aid in Abu Nuwar, in the West bank.

This project is located in an area considered by the European Union as key to the viability of the Two-State solution.

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

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23361

## British Foreign & Commonwealth Office

### Minister for the Middle East visits the Occupied Palestinian Territories, 18 February 2016

British Foreign Office Minister for the Middle East, Tobias Ellwood, visited the Occupied Palestinian Territories this week to see firsthand the situation on the ground. During his visit, the Minister saw the impact of Israeli settlements and settler violence on Palestinian communities in Area C and East Jerusalem. The Minister also met Palestinian leaders and business leaders from the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Ellwood met PLO Secretary General, Saeb Erekat, in Jericho and PLO Central Committee member, Hanan Ashrawi, in Ramallah, to discuss the latest political and security developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The Minister also discussed the social and economic situation in Gaza with a group of Gazan business leaders.

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

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23352 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23353 (in Arabic)

## Consulate General of Italy

### Italian Minister of Environment and Chairman of the Palestinian Environment Quality Authority sign MOU, 25 February 2016

On Tuesday 23 February 2016 the Italian Minister of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea, Mr Gian Luca Galletti, and his Palestinian counterpart, the Chairman of the Environment Quality Authority, Ms. Adalah Atteireh, signed in Bethlehem a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development.

This is the first time an environmental agreement is signed between Italy and Palestine. The agreement calls for partnerships, exchange of missions and information as well as technical assistance. The areas of cooperation will be the collection and disposal of waste, the emergency response to environmental disasters, governance in environment-related fields and activities for awareness and education in the field of sustainable development. The Agreement paves the way for joint programs in environmental management. A technical mission to Palestine for the implementation of concrete initiatives will follow shortly.

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

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23366

## Representative Office of Japan

### Grant Signing Ceremony for Two GGP Projects in Palestine funded by Japan, 28 February 2016

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 the Joint Service Council for Solid Waste Management (JSC) in Nablus and Salfit Governorates at the Representative Office of Japan to the PA in Ramallah for a total amount of US$ 154,653.
JSC in Nablus received a grant of US$ 65,600 for the improvement of waste collection in the area.
**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24368 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24369 (in Arabic)

### Signing and Exchange of Notes concerning General Cultural Grant Assistance to Palestine, 15 February 2016

On February 15, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the Palestinian Authority, and Ms. Abeer Odeh, Minister of National Economy, signed and exchanged notes in Tokyo, regarding General Cultural Grant Assistance of up to 74 million Yen related to the Project for the Construction of the Protective Shelter and the Presentation of the Great Bath at Hisham's Palace (Detailed Design), in the presence of Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, and Dr. Mahmoud Abbas, President of Palestine.
**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23342

## KOICA – BTC

### KOICA and BTC signs MOU for supporting Start-ups in Palestine23 February 2016

KOICA – BTC – Ramallah: BTC and KOICA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the 9th of February, 2016 in order to facilitate opportunities for cooperation between the EU funded and BTC implemented "Start-up Business Incubators" project and the KOICA "Palestine Start-up Support (PASS)" project and to avoid any duplication in activities. This cooperation will facilitate the creation of business start-ups through incubation, and in enhancing the skills of start-ups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in becoming more competitive and financially sustainable.
**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23355

## PCBS

### Palestinian Producer Price Index, during January 2016, 29 February 2016

The overall Producer Price Index (PPI) for Palestine with its base month (December 2015=100) reached 99.87 in January 2016, as it decreased by 0.13% compared to December 2015.
Producer Price Index for locally consumed products (December 2015=100) reached 99.72 in January 2016, which indicates a decrease by 0.28% compared to December 2015.
**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24370 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24371 (in Arabic)

### Results of the Labour Force Survey in Palestine 2015, 25 February 2016

The number of persons participating in the labour force in Palestine was 1,299 thousands in 2015; 828 thousands in the West Bank and 471 thousands in Gaza Strip.
The labour force participation rate in the West Bank was .461% and .453% in Gaza Strip in 2015, the gap in the participation rate between males and females in Palestine still very big where it reached 71.9% for males compared with 19.1% for females in 2015.
**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23368 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23369 (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 January, 25 February 2016

The Construction Cost Index for Residential buildings reached 99.47 with a decrease of 0.26% in the West Bank during January 2016 compared with December 2015 (base year 2013=100).
The Construction Cost Index for Residential buildings decreased due to the decrease in the prices of raw materials by 0.45%, while rental of equipments increased by 0.39%. At the same time, labor wages remained stable during January 2016 compared with the previous month.
**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23364 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23365 (in Arabic)

### Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Registered External Trade in Goods of December 2015, 23 February 2016

Exports decreased in December, 2015 by 4.6% compared to November, 2015. It also decreased by 3.4% compared to December, 2014 and reached USD 77.6 Million.
Exports to Israel increased in December, 2015 by 3.6% compared to November, 2015 and represented 86.0% of total exports in December, 2015.
On the other hand, exports to other countries decreased by 35.9% during the same period compared to November, 2015.
**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23356 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=23357 (in Arabic)

## Newsletters

- **UNRWA Gender Bulletin, February 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24372

## Announcements

- **MANARA Award Calls for Applications – Highlighting good practices towards gender equality.**

For further details, please see attachments

- MedGeneration – Call for projects to support Palestinian Diaspora entrepreneurs.
  For further details, please see attachment