LAC

SECRETARIAT

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# LACS Newsletter

Local Aid Coordination Secretariat



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## 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, 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.

## Aid Coordination Meetings

## Minutes of Meetings & Related Documents

- **Minutes – Agriculture Sector Working Group meeting, 25 February 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24418

- **Minutes – Health Sector Working Group meeting, 17 February 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24379

  - Referral TG PPP, 17 February 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24381 (in English)
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24382 (in Arabic)

  - Pharmaceutical TG PPP, 17 February 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24383

  - Universal Health Coverage PPP, 17 February 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24384

  - Hospital Master Plan PPP, 17 February 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24385

  - Referrals Master Plan PPP, 17 February 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24386

## Documents & Reports

## United Nations

### ❖ WHO

- Health Access for Referral Patients from the Gaza Strip – January 2016, 3 March 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24388

### ❖ UNRWA

- Gaza Situation Report, 10 March 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24406
- Gaza situation report, 3 March 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24389

### ❖ OCHA

- Protection of Civilians, 23 February – 7 March 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24407
- Wide-scale demolitions in Khirbet Tana, 4 March 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24392

### ❖ FAO

- Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 6-10 March 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24417
- Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 28 February-3 March 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24394

### ❖ UNFPA

- Country Assessment toward monitoring and reporting: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) conducted by Miftah and the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR) – December 2015
  http://ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24409

## Press Releases and Formal Statement

### Office of the Prime Minister

**PM- Congratulations to Hanan al-Hroub, You Make Us Proud, 13 March 2016**

Ramallah-- Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah issued a statement today congratulating Palestinian teacher Hanan al-Hroub for winning the Global Teacher Prize.

"Teacher Hanan al-Hroub accomplished the impossible despite of all the obstacles put in front of every Palestinian by the Israeli occupation; she makes us proud," declared PM Hamdallah.
Hanan Al-Hroub was selected winner of the Valley Park Foundation's Global Teacher's Prize for 2016, out of about 8,000 contestants from around the globe.
**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24411

## UN

### Remarks by Robert Piper, Coordinator for Humanitarian and UN Development Activities for the occupied Palestinian territory, on the Gaza Launch of the Humanitarian Response Plan, 9 March 2016

On behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team in the occupied Palestinian territory, thank you for attending today's launch of the Humanitarian Response Plan for the occupied Palestinian Territory for 2016. I would like to especially thank Mr. Naji Sarhan, Deputy Minister of Public Works and Housing for co-hosting this important event. The Government's active participation in the development of this year's humanitarian response plan is highly appreciated.
With your support, and the contributions of donors from all over the world, together we provided food assistance and vouchers to 1.4 million people across the oPt (mostly in Gaza) in 2015; cash assistance to almost 17,000 IDP families in Gaza; improved access to safe drinking water for 80,000 people in Rafah, Khan Younis and the Middle Area; and much more.
**The full remarks are available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24403

### Statement by the United Nations Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and Development Assistance, Robert Piper, on behalf of the UN Country Team, on the occasion of International Women's Day, 8 March 2016

On International Women's Day, the United Nations joins in the celebration of the accomplishments of women across the world and closer to home, we salute the Government of Palestine and civil society for their hard work and dedication towards the advancement of women's rights and empowerment.
**The full statement is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24399

## UNRWA

### West Bank Palestine Refugee Wins Education 'Nobel' Prize - UNRWA Commissioner-General Pays Tribute to Unique Achievement, 14 March 2016

Palestine refugee and West Bank teacher, Hanan al-Hroub, has been awarded the Global Teacher Prize, known as 'the Education Nobel', for her work with traumatized children in the West Bank.
Speaking at the ceremony in Dubai where she picked up the million dollar award, Hanan, a Palestine refugee from Dheisheh camp in Bethlehem, announced she would use the prize money to support other Palestinian teachers. "Teachers could change the world," she said.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24415 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24416 (in Arabic)

### Korean Initiative 'Better Life for Girls' Contributes US$ 447,996 to Support Refugees through the UNRWA Technical and Vocational Education and Training Programme in Gaza, 26 February 2016

The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) signed an agreement with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) earlier today, pledging US$ 447,996 in support of the UNRWA technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programme in the Gaza Strip.

The contribution will enable UNRWA to conduct a comprehensive study of its existing TVET programme in Gaza, with the aim of improving its effectiveness and maximizing employment prospects for TVET students and graduates.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24378

## UNESCO

### Congratulations to Ms. Hanan Al Hroub for winning the Global Teacher Prize, 14 March 2016

Ramallah – 14 March 2016. It is with great pleasure that UNESCO Ramallah Office is extending its warmest congratulations to Ms. Hanan Al Hroub for winning the Global Teacher Prize. This is a wonderful recognition, not only for the deserving winner Ms. Al-Hroub, but for all dedicated teachers in Palestine. The teaching profession in Palestine is a challenging assignment which deserves to be praised and rewarded – at such special occasions as well as every day. Teachers everywhere face many challenges, yet they are the key to securing a sustainable future and building national capacities for learning and societies based on knowledge, values and innovation. They are the foundation of society`s future generation – in Palestine as well as in the rest of the world.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24414

### Education Sector Working Group organized by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 2 March 2016

Ramallah – On 2 March 2016 the Education Sector Working Group (ESWG), established within the Aid Coordination Structure in Palestine, took place in Ramallah at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE). The Working Group is an interactive dialogue meeting between key officials of the MoEHE and all members of the education community in Palestine, including local and international civil society and development partners.

His Excellency the Minister of Education and Higher Education, Dr. Sabri Saidam, emphasized the challenges that the Education system in Palestine is still facing, despite the great achievements in the implementation of the Education for All agenda.

**The full press release is available at the following link:**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24380

## UN Habitat

## Building Back Better – Supporting Spatial Planning in Khuza'a Municipality, 1 March 2016

Gaza, Mar 1st, 2016- UN Habitat through a partnership with Dutch Creative Industries Fund deployed a team of four planning and architectural experts from Belgium, Netherlands, and Germany for a technical exchange with Gazan planners, engineers and community representatives in the context of developing detailed local outline plans for Abu-Reida and Al-Najar neighborhoods in the Municipality of Khuza'a in south eastern Gaza.

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

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24387

## EU

### Finland provides €3 million to East Jerusalem Hospitals, 9 March 2016

The Government of Finland is providing today €3 million to help East Jerusalem hospitals maintain critical medical services to Palestinians. The contribution is channelled through the European Union's PEGASE mechanism.

Since 2012, the EU and its Member States have released over €66 million to help relieve the financial burden facing the six hospitals of the East Jerusalem Hospitals network. This amount has helped to cover a substantial part of the costs of referral of Palestinian patients for treatment to East Jerusalem Hospitals by the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

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

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24404

### The European Union and Palestinian Authority hold policy dialogue meetings in Ramallah, 9 March 2016

The European Union (EU) and Palestinian Authority officials are meeting in Ramallah on Tuesday and Wednesday as part of an annual policy dialogue, which guides the partnership between the EU and Palestine. The two days will be dedicated to the work of two separate sub-committees: one on Human Rights, Good Governance, and the Rule of Law; and another on Research, Innovation, Information Society, Education, Youth, Media and Culture.

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

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24401

### The European Union celebrates the International Women's Day in Palestine, 8 March 2016

On the occasion of the International Women's Day, the Office of the European Union Representative joins Palestinian women and men to acknowledge women's critical economic, social, and political contributions and celebrate their remarkable achievements. Throughout the week, EU implementing partners will celebrate this occasion by organizing different activities in Gaza, Jericho, Ramallah, Hebron, and East Jerusalem.

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

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24400

## EU - CEC

### The Central Elections Commission and the European Union support Palestinian civil society organizations in promoting democratic practices, 9 March 2016

Thirty Palestinian civil society organizations signed today individual grants agreements with the Palestinian Central Elections Commission. The grants are funded by the European Union and will promote the engagement and participation of Palestinian public in future national elections. The activities will be implemented across the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem.

Civil society organizations and the Central Elections Commission are collaborating to enhance and increase Palestinian's participation in electoral and democratic processes.

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

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24402

## European Commission

### EU renews its support to Palestinian Authority and Palestinian refugees with a first 2016 assistance package totalling €252.5 million, 1 March 2016

Today, the European Commission has approved a €252.5 million assistance package supporting the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian refugees. It is the first part of the EU's 2016 annual support package in favour of Palestine.

High Representative/ Vice-President Federica Mogherini, said: "The European Union renews its concrete commitment to the Palestinians. Through this package, the EU supports the daily lives of Palestinians in the fields of education and health, protecting the poorest families and also providing the Palestinian refugees across the country with access to essential services.

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

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24377

## Consulate General of France

### Visit in Israel and in the Palestinian territories of Mr. Pierre Vimont, special envoy for the preparation of the international conference for the restart of the peace process in the Near-East, 13 - 15 March 2016

Pierre Vimont, special envoy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the preparation of the international conference for the restart of the peace process in the Near-East, will visit Israel and the Palestinian territories from March 13 to 15, 2016. With both parts, he will discuss the next steps and the frame that shall lead, before summer, to an international conference gathering both parts and their main partners.

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

http://ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24408

### Statement by French Ambassador, Nicolas Galey, Interministerial Delegate for Mediterranean Sea at the OIC extraordinary summit about the question of Palestine, 9 March 2016

I am extremely honoured to address you today in France's name. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jean-Marc Ayrault, unfortunately cannot be among us today, but he entrusted me with the task of delivering France's message on his behalf. It is a message of hope and determination. The hope of finally seeing the declaration of a State of Palestine living in peace and security alongside Israel. The determination of restarting negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians in order to reach a fair and definitive resolution to this conflict that has lasted too long.

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

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24405

## Representative Office of Japan

### Launching Ceremony and Film Screening for Japanese-funded Project Implemented by Japanese NGO – Frontline, 7 March 2016

Today, March 7, 2016, a movie screening for a film called "Wonder Stone – Gaza Sky" was held in the launching event of Frontline's (Japanese NGO) project for psychological care to children with the presence of Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan

to the Palestinian Authority, and Ms. Namiko Maeda, the Acting Director of Frontline at the Representative Office of Japan to the PA in Ramallah.

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

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24395 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24396 (in Arabic)

### Completion of a Project for Construction of Additional Classrooms in Yatta, Funded by Japan, 3 March 2016

Today, March 03, 2016, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the PA, visited Yatta village in Hebron Governorate to celebrate the completion of a project funded by the Government of Japan through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

A grant of USD 97,166 was extended to Yatta Municipality to construct an additional floor with four classrooms in Haleema Sa'deah Girls School in Yatta in order to mitigate the high density of classrooms and improve the overall learning environment for the students. The direct beneficiaries shall be about 205 students studying currently in rented classrooms.

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

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24390 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24391 (in Arabic)

## Kingdom of Belgium Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

### Alexander De Croo et Didier Reynders worried about the increase in demolitions and confiscations of Palestinian structures, 4 March 2016

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development Cooperation Alexander De Croo and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Didier Reynders are worried about the alarming increase in the number of demolitions and confiscations of Palestinian structures in Area C in the West Bank since the beginning of this year. They are very concerned by the demolitions that took place the day before yesterday, on 2 March 2016, in Khirbet Tana. These demolitions have particularly affected structures funded by the EU and by Belgium through the consortium 'Humanitarian Support to contribute to the protection of Palestinians in the West bank from forcible transfer.

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

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24393

## PCBS

### Decrease in the Consumer Price Index during February 2016, 14 March 2016

The overall Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Palestine during February 2016 decreased by 0.26% compared with January 2016 (by 0.56% in the West Bank, by 0.51% in Jerusalem J1, and with a slight decreased by 0.04% in Gaza Strip).

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

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24412 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24413 (in Arabic)

## International Women's Day, 8 March 2016

The estimated population of Palestine the end of 2015 was 4.75 million, of whom 2.41 million were males and 2.34 million were females. Males comprise 50.8 percent of the total population compared to 49.2 percent for females. In other words, a sex ratio of 103.3 (There are 103 males for each 100 females)

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

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24397 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24398 (in Arabic)

## Newsletters

- **PCBS Electronic Monthly Bulletin, 1 March 2016**
  http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_114/Monthly%20bulletin_e.htm
  (in English)
  http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_114/Monthly%20bulletin_a.htm
  (in Arabic)

- **Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin – February 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=24410