LAC

SECRETARIAT

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LACS Newsletter

Local Aid Coordination Secretariat

Issue No. 2016/11 1 June 2016

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

- **Thursday, 23 June 2016:** Health Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at MoH.

Aid Coordination Meetings

Minutes of Meetings & Related Documents

- **Minutes – Security Sector Working Group Meeting, 27 April 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27603

Documents & Reports

United Nations

- **OCHA**
  - Protection of Civilians, 17 – 23 May 2016
    https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-weekly-report-17-23-may-2016
  - Protection of Civilians, 10 – 16 May 2016
    https://www.ochaopt.org/content/protection-civilians-weekly-report-10-16-may-2016

- **FAO**
  - Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 22- 26 May 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27631
  - Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 15- 19 May 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27608
  - Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 8- 12 May 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27589

ILO

- The situation of workers of the occupied Arab territories, May 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27590

Press Releases and Formal Statement

PMO

PMO: Israel's destruction of Palestinian water infrastructure is atrocious, 26 May 2016

Ramallah – Today, Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah issued a statement condemning Israel's illegal practice of destroying Palestinian water infrastructure. "Israel uses every means possible to chase Palestinians away from their ancestral land," Hamdallah said. "Water is life, and if you don't have water you cannot exist."

On Tuesday, Israel handed out demolition notices for four water wells and agricultural structures in the village of Qusra, south of Nablus. The water wells were built with Dutch financial support. Last week, Israel threatened to demolish four water tanks in the town of Beit Ummar, close to Hebron. Those tanks had been constructed as part of a UN-funded water development program.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27618

We Appreciate France's Efforts in Launching an International Conference for Peace, 24 May 2016

Ramallah – Today, Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah thanked France for its continued support for the Palestinian people, as he welcomed French Prime Minister Manuel Valls in his office. "We highly appreciate the French efforts to launch an international peace conference in order to put an end to the brutal Israeli occupation," Hamdallah said. "We value France's continued support for the Palestinian people, both on the economic and political level, as well as in providing expertise to help build our future Palestinian state.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27609

UN

Statement by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, on statements by the Israeli Prime Minister and Defense Minister on the Arab Peace Initiative, 31 May 2016

I welcome yesterday's statements by the Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and Defense Minister Liberman on the Arab Peace Initiative (API). This can help advance negotiations on achieving a two-state solution. It follows the call by the President of Egypt to Israelis and Palestinians to continue the historic step toward peace taken by Israel and Egypt 37 years ago.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27634

Briefing by Nickolay Mladenov, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, 25 May 2016

Over the past decades, a broad consensus has been built around the understanding that the Palestinian-Israeli conflict can only be resolved through negotiations and on the basis of a two state

solution. This consensus is at the core of the work of the Middle East Quartet, which continues to work with the parties and the region to bring about the necessary conditions for the resumption of meaningful negotiations. The Quartet is also finalising its first report on the impediments to the two-state solution and the way forward.

The full briefing is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27613

Statement by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, on the resumption of the private import of cement into Gaza, 23 May 2016

I welcome the decision to resume the private import of cement into Gaza after nearly 45 days of suspension. This has become possible because of the efforts by both the Israeli and Palestinian authorities. All sides need to ensure that cement deliveries reach their intended beneficiaries and are used solely for civilian purposes.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27606 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27607 (in Arabic)

UNRWA

UNRWA: No Plans to Close Gaza Headquarters - Denies False Reports, 26 May 2016

Several media outlets have reported that UNRWA intends to close its headquarters in Gaza. These reports are false. UNRWA HQ Gaza is not closing. The Agency affirms categorically that there are no plans to do so and staff are not being let go.

UNRWA is fully committed to maintaining its presence in the Gaza Strip, which represents the largest of UNRWA's field operations and is vital to serving and protecting the Palestine refugees, who make up two thirds of the population of Gaza.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27619 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27620 (in Arabic)

Challenged by War, Violence and Dispossession UNRWA Maintains High Standard of Basic Health Care for 5.2 million Palestine Refugees, 24 May 2016

Today in Geneva, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) launched its 2015 Annual Report of the Department of Health, which highlights the remarkable gains achieved by UNRWA in reducing mother and child deaths, infectious and communicable disease transmission, and achieving nearly 100 per cent vaccination coverage rates. This is largely due to health reforms implemented by UNRWA, in particular the Agency's Family Health Team (FHT) model, which is a comprehensive, person-centred, and holistic primary health-care approach that focuses on family care and behavioral and lifestyle modifications.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27610

Half of UNRWA Schools Affected By Conflict in the Last Five Years – UNRWA Showcases its Innovative 'Education in Emergencies' Response, 22 May 2016

Of the many tragedies occurring in the Middle East, the story of embattled schools may be one of the least well known. Front lines shift and run through school grounds, artillery rounds hit installations, incursions by armed forces or groups occur, and access is prevented or rendered impossible for young boys and girls, for whom education is a critical life-line.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27604 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27605 (in Arabic)

UNRWA Participates in the European Parliament's Socialists and Democrats Group's Conference on EDUCATION NOW!, 20 May 2016

UNRWA Deputy Director of Education Nilse Ryman participated in a panel discussion at an education conference held recently in Rome, Italy. The EDUCATION NOW! Conference, sponsored by the European Parliament's Socialists and Democrats Group, focused on the importance of access to education in humanitarian crises and on the need to increase the proportion of humanitarian aid for education.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27601

UN Secretary-General's remarks on the sustainability of UNRWA, 5 May 2016

Your Excellency Ms. Dina Kawar, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Jordan, Your Excellency Mr. Olof Skoog, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Sweden,

Distinguished representatives of Member States, Observer States and Regional Organisations who support UNRWA, including those States generously hosting Palestine refugees.

Thank you for taking part in this important meeting.

The unresolved plight of Palestine refugees -- a community of 5.2 million people -- is a great source of pain to me – as I know it is for you.

The full remarks are available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27570

OCHA

Humanitarian Coordinator calls on Israeli authorities to stop destruction of humanitarian aid and respect international law, 18 May 2016

The UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and Development Activities for the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), Robert Piper, today condemned the demolition and confiscation of donor-funded humanitarian assistance by the Israeli authorities in the Palestinian community of Jabal al Baba.

On 16 May, the authorities demolished seven homes and confiscated materials for three other ones. Nine Palestine refugee families, comprising 49 members were left without shelter as a result, 22 of them children. The materials were part of a humanitarian aid package for vulnerable Palestinian Bedouin families, provided by the UN's Humanitarian Pooled Fund earlier this year.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27595

UN-Habitat

Launch of the World Cities Report 2016, 18 May 2016

UN Habitat launched today the first edition of the World Cities Report (download at: http://wcr.unhabitat.org or get the app for android phones at http://appstore.unhabitat.org/#). The World Cities Report examines the remarkable changes that have taken place in urban areas over the past 20 years, and explores the new forms of collaboration and cooperation, planning, governance, finance and learning that can sustain positive change.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27598

UN-Habitat launches Spatial Development Strategic Frameworks for Bethlehem, Qalqiliya, and Tubas Governorates, 18 May 2016

Wednesday May 18th, 2016, Ramallah – UN-Habitat along with the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) and other partners has launched the Spatial Development Strategic Frameworks for Bethlehem, Qalqiliya, and Tubas Governorates with the financial support of the United Kingdom for International Development (UK/DFID).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27594

UNESCO

Ministry of Education and Higher Education organizes Annual Sector Review, 26 May 2016

Ramallah- 23-26 May. From 23 May to 26 May the Annual Sector Review (ASR) took place in Ramallah, organized by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), with special focus on two themes, namely child-centered teaching and learning and protection. First the MoEHE organised two field visits on 23 and 24 May, visiting Al Shareqah Girls Primary School in Qalqilya, Atteel Girls Primary School in Tulkarem and the Al Huda and Jabal Al Zeitoun Primary Schools in East-Jerusalem.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27621

WHO – Consulate General of Turkey

Turkey supports emergency needs in Gaza for fuel and medicines for health facilities, 31 May 2016

Jerusalem, 31 May 2016 – The World Health Organization and the Government of Turkey held an event today in Gaza's Shifa hospital to mark the start of implementation of a USD 1.5 million assistance package from Turkey for emergency needs in the Palestinian health sector. The project will provide Gaza's 13 hospitals and 54 Primary Health Centers with fuel sufficient for the next 6 months, and will provide the most needed medicines for patient care. The World Health Organization is coordinating the project with the Ministry of Health and UNRWA and providing logistical assistance.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27632 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27633 (in Arabic)

EU

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn the executions carried out in Gaza, 31 May 2016

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn the execution of three prisoners carried out in Gaza this morning 31st May.

As in their most recent statement on 26th May, the EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah recall the EU's firm opposition under all circumstances to the use of capital punishment. The EU considers that abolition of the death penalty contributes to the enhancement of human dignity and the progressive development of human rights. It considers capital punishment to be cruel and inhuman, that it fails to provide deterrence to criminal behaviour, and represents an unacceptable denial of human dignity and integrity.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27635

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah urge authorities in Gaza not to carry out execution of prisoners, 26 May 2016

Following the announcements made by the authorities in Gaza of their intention to implement several death sentences in the coming days, the EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah call for a reversal of the decision to carry out the execution of a number of prisoners. The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah recall the EU's firm opposition under all circumstances to the use of capital punishment.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27623

European Union Heads of Mission visit Bethlehem, Al Nahle and the Cremisan Valley, 26 May 2016

European Union Heads of Mission in Jerusalem and Ramallah visited Bethlehem, Al Nahle and the Cremisan Valley on 26 May 2016. They held meetings with the Governor and the Mayor, members of local civil society organisations, and representatives from the business community. The visit came to gain a first-hand impression of developments in the governorate and particularly in the Cremisan valley.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27622

Statement by the EU Spokesperson on the latest demolitions in the West Bank, 19 May 2016

The regrettable trend of confiscations and demolitions since the beginning of the year, including of EU-funded humanitarian assistance, was confirmed once again this week by demolitions of temporary shelters in Jabal al-Baba, a Bedouin community in the so-called E1 area. Bedouin communities in the central West Bank have faced repeated confiscations and demolitions in recent years, as part of the plans which have put them in grave humanitarian need and risk ending in forced transfers.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27600

Consulate General of Italy

Closing Ceremony Fourth MIADIT Mission, 27 May 2016

The closing ceremony of the fourth MIADIT, the Training Course of the Palestinian Security Forces by the Arma dei Carabinieri took place on the 24 May 2016 in Jericho. The ceremony was attended by the Governor of Jericho Majid, the Deputy Commander General of the Carabinieri Gen. Ricciardi, the Commandant of the General Military Training Commission Gen. Al-Hilu, the Commander of the Mission MIADIT Colonel Di Stefano and the Consul General of Italy in Jerusalem Davide La Cecilia. The training program was approved during the Joint Ministerial Committee between the Italian and Palestinian governments in 2012 and was later extended until 2017 for a total of seven missions.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27626

Consulate General of France

Answer by the spokesperson of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development to a question regarding the schedule of the French initiative, 17 May 2016

As the President said on Europe 1 this morning, the French initiative on the peace process is necessary and urgent.

The full answer is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27593

Interview by Prime Minister Manuel VALLS to AL-AYYAM daily

I have been willing to make this official visit for a long time, in order to meet personally Israeli and Palestinian leaders. My aim is also to meet all those who are personally involved in the relationship with France: business, civil society leaders, students, university teachers or actors of the cultural scene. All these contacts have one objective: to have a better understanding of the the situation on the ground in Israel and the Palestinian territories, in order for France to be even more receptive and able to take initiative.

The full interview is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27602

KFW

Germany provides new funding for technical and vocational training of Palestinian youth, 25 May 2016

On behalf of the German Government, KfW Development Bank signed today agreements totaling 10 million EUR with the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education and Ministry of Finance and Planning to improve job opportunities of Palestinian youth. The funds will be used to enhance technical and vocational training facilities in the West Bank and the Gaza strip. Students

will receive better training in subjects such as automotive, electrical and mechanical engineering, solar technology, computer technology, food processing, fashion, nursery and tourism.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27617

Representative Office of Japan – UNRWA

Japanese Donation Paves Way for Qalqilya Health Centre Reconstruction, 26 May 2016

The Representative of Japan to the Palestinian Authority, Ambassador Takeshi Okubo, and the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Pierre Krähenbühl, inaugurated the newly reconstructed Health Centre in Qalqilya in the West Bank earlier today. The inauguration ceremony was held in the presence of the Governor of Qalqilya, Rafa' Rawajbeh; the Mayor of Qalqilya, Othman Daoud; representatives of the Palestinian community; and UNRWA staff.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27624 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27625 (in Arabic)

Representative Office of Japan

Completion of a Project for Relocating and Improving the Kobar Public Clinic 24 May 2016

Today, May 24, 2016, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the PA, visited Kobar in Ramallah 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).

The grant of US $105,258 extended to Kobar Village Council was utilized for the construction of one-story building for the use of a public clinic.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27611 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27612 (in Arabic)

PCBS - Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology

International Day for Information Society, 17 May 2016

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day will focus on the theme: "ICT entrepreneurship for social impact". ICT entrepreneurs have a particularly relevant role in ensuring economic growth in a sustainable and inclusive manner. They are involved in the development of innovative ICT-enabled solutions with a unique potential to make a long-lasting impact in global, regional and national economies and as an important source of new jobs, especially for youth, in the current knowledge economy.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27592 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27591 (in Arabic)

PCBS

Hotel Activities Survey in the West Bank during the First Quarter 2016, 30 June 2016

During the first quarter 2016, 80,228 guests stayed at hotels in the West Bank: 33% were from European Union countries and 13% were Palestinians.

The number of hotel guests was 20% lower than in the first quarter of 2015 and 32% lower than in previous quarter.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27629 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27630 (in Arabic)

Palestinian Producer Price Index, during April 2016, 29 May 2016

The overall Producer Price Index (PPI) for Palestine with its base month (December 2015=100) reached 98.80 in April 2016, as it increased by 0.47% compared to March 2016.

Producer Price Index for locally consumed products (December 2015=100) reached 98.71 in April 2016, which indicates an increase by 0.51% compared to March 2016.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27627 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27628 (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 April, 26 May 2016

The Construction Cost Index for Residential buildings reached 101.62 with an increase of 0.73% in the West Bank during April compared with March 2016 (base year 2013=100).

The Construction Cost Index for Residential buildings increased due to the increase in the prices of raw materials by 1.20%, and rental of equipment by 0.10%. At the same time, labor wages remained stable during April 2016 compared with the previous month.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27615 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27616 (in Arabic)

Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Registered External Trade in Goods of March, 19 May 2016

Exports increased in March, 2016 by 11.7% compared to February, 2016. While it decreased by 1.4% compared to March, 2015 and reached USD 77.1 Million.

Exports to Israel increased in March, 2016 by 13.1% compared to February, 2016 and represented 89.7% of total exports in March, 2016.

At the same time, exports to other countries increased by 1.0% during the same period compared to February, 2016.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27596 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27597 (in Arabic)

Newsletters

- **UNRWA Gender Bulletin, May 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27599
- **The Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin, May 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=27614

New Arrivals

- **Mr. Andrey Adams** has joined Office of the Quartet as Movement and Trade Advisor. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: aadams@quartetrep.org , phone: 02-6333323

- **Ms. Cassandre Pignon** has joined Office of the Quartet as OQI Business Development Director. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: cpignon@quartetrep.org , phone: 02-6333323

- **Mr. David Khoury** has joined Office of the Quartet as OQI Investment Director. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: dkhoury@quartetrep.org , phone: 02-6333323

- **Mr. Henrik Moberg** has joined Office of the Quartet as Economic Development Associate. His

contact details are as follows:
Email: hmoberg@quartetrep.org , phone: 02-6333323

- **Mr. Khaled Alamleh** has joined Office of the Quartet as Economic Development Associate. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: kalamleh@quartetoffice.org , phone: 02-6333323

- **Ms. Lucia Denkmayr** has joined Office of the Quartet as Economic Development Associate. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: idenkmayr@quartetoffice.org , phone: 02-6333323

- **Ms. Marie-Claire Boillot** has joined Office of the Quartet as Project Manager. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: mboillot@quartetrep.org , phone: 02-6333323

- **Ms. Maya Kornberg** has joined Office of the Quartet as Economic Development Associate. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: mkornberg@quartetrep.org , phone: 02-6333323

- **Mr. Saleh Aboukamil** has joined Office of the Quartet as Business Development and Investment. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: saboukamil@quartetrep.org , phone: 02-6333323

- **Ms. Jean-Guy Lavoie** has joined UNMAS as Chief of Operations. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: jeanguyl@unops.org

- **Ms. Laura Mscagna** has joined the EUREP as Program Manager – OPS3 – Governance and Partnership for Peace. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: laura.mascagna@eeas.europa.eu , phone: 02-5415844

- **Ms. Meg Audette** has joined UNRWA as Deputy Director of UNRWA Operations (Programmes). Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: m.audette@unrwa.org, phone: 02- 5890403

- **Ms. Shaden Katbeh** has joined the Consulate General of Sweden as Program Officer – Private Sector Development. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: shaden.katbeh@gov.se ,phone: 02-6465887

- **Mr. Milko DolinŠek** has joined the Representative Office of Slovenia as Representative. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: milko.dolinsek@gov.si ,phone: 02-2413055