LAC

SECRETARIAT

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LACS Newsletter

Local Aid Coordination Secretariat

News from LACS

Dear colleagues,

Please find below the key reports and press statements released since 15th June 2016 concerning humanitarian and development assistance in Palestine.

The next LACS Newsletter will be published on 15st July 2016. We would welcome your suggested inputs for the next issue by COB 14th July 2016.

Sincerely,

LAC 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

- **Thursday, 16 June 2016:** Municipal Development and Local Governance Sector Working Group (MDLG SWG) meeting at 10:30 at the MoLG.
- **Tuesday, 21 June 2016:** Environmental Sector Working Group (EnSWG) meeting at 10:00 at the EQA.
- **Wednesday, 29 June 2016:** Election Working Group (EWG) meeting at 10:00 at the CEC.

Documents & Reports

United Nations

❖ OCHA

- Protection of Civilians Weekly Report , 21 - 27 June 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28701
- Protection of Civilians Weekly Report , 14 - 20 June 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28679
- Protection of Civilians Weekly Report , 14 - 20 June 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28679

❖ WHO

- WHO monthly report on Gaza referrals and access May 2016:
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28702

World Bank

- Strengthening Complaint Handling Mechanisms in Palestine - Summary Assessment Report, 27 June 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28697

Press Releases and Formal Statement

Office of the Prime Minister

Israel Is Waging a Water War against Palestinians,16 June 2016

Ramallah – Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah issued a statement decrying Israel's national water company Mekorot's decision to cut off water supplies to several Palestinian cities and villages.

"Israel wants to prevent Palestinians from leading a dignified life and uses its control over our water resources to this end; while illegal Israeli settlements enjoy uninterrupted water service, Palestinians are forced to spend great sums of money to buy water that is theirs in the first place," Hamdallah said.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28662

EU

The European Union and the Ministry of Social Development celebrate Ramadan with vulnerable Palestinian households, 30 June 2016

The European Union and the Ministry of Social Development co-hosted yesterday the last Iftar dinner during the holy month of Ramadan with vulnerable Palestinian families in the West Bank and Gaza.

In total nine Iftars for families, children, and vulnerable Palestinians were organised in the following locations: al-Aqaba Village near Tubas, al-Waffa house of elderlies in Salfit, Shoab al-Battam near Yatta, Tulkarem, the SOS Children's village in Bethlehem, Jabal al-Baba in East Jerusalem, and in Gaza. The Iftars targeted the beneficiaries of the social allowances programme of the Ministry of Social Development. The EU provides 40 million Euros to support the Palestinian Authority in making the quarterly payments under this programme.

The Iftars included a theatre performance of traditional Palestinian folklore performed by Fadi al-Ghoul where children were invited to be part of the performance.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28699

The EU and the Netherlands contribute €15 million to the PA's payment of June salaries and pensions, 30 June 2016
The European Union is making today a contribution of €15.0 million to the payment of June salaries and pensions of over 65,000 Palestinian civil servants and pensioners in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This contribution, which is channelled through the PEGASE mechanism, is being funded by the European Union (€14.0 million) and the Government of the Netherlands (€1.0 million earmarked specifically for PA salaries in the justice sector).
"Today's contribution by the European Union to the Palestinian Authority's salaries and pensions takes place during the holy month of Ramadan, a period during which solidarity, peace and cooperation has particular importance," said the Deputy EU Representative Mr. David Geer.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28698

European Union provides nearly € 154,000 to support farmers and agro – businesses in the West Bank, 24 June 2016
The European Union is making its first contribution to the Palestinian Authority's Programme "Assistance to Agriculture in the West Bank (AAWB)". This contribution, channelled through PEGASE, amounts to € 154,000 and is funded by the European Union.
The eligible beneficiaries are farmers and agro-businesses, in the West Bank, directly affected by Israeli Occupation. This contribution will help the farmers to restart, repair or replace their damaged businesses through different activities including acquisition of agricultural supplies, rehabilitation of land and other small infrastructure works.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28677

EU Remarks by President Donald Tusk following his meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, 24 June 2016
Dear President, dear friend, today I had the pleasure to meet you again, after my visit to Ramallah last year, and to discuss our relationship and the situation in the region.
The EU has been working with the Palestinian Authority to help build the institutions of a future democratic, independent and viable Palestinian state, living side-by-side with Israel and its neighbours. Rest assured, the European Union will remain a strong and reliable partner in this. We will continue to provide financial support to Palestinian social and economic development.
The full remarks is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28678

British Consulate General

British Consulate General inaugurates new street lights and hosts Ramadan Iftar in Sinjil, 29 June 2016
The British Consulate General in Jerusalem inaugurated new street lights and attended an Iftar reception in Sinjil, north east of Ramallah, on Monday. The event was attended by the British Consul General, Dr Alastair McPhail, the Mayor of Sinjil, Mr Ayub Suid and mayors of neighbouring villages.
The British Consulate General funded the infrastructure for street lights for the village's roads and streets located in Area C, through the FCO's bilateral programme. These street lights provide the village's residents with a sense of security from settler violence, as the community of Sinjil has faced numerous settler price tag attacks over the last few years.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28690 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28689 (in Arabic)

British Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) statement on settlements in East Jerusalem, 22 June 2016
A Foreign Office spokesman said:
"We are concerned by the Jerusalem municipality's decision to issue a permit for a new four storey building in Silwan, East Jerusalem. This is part of a worrying trend in the area, where the settler population is growing while Palestinian residents are being displaced by evictions and demolitions.
"We are also concerned by the recent Israeli Government approval of an additional £12m of funding for settlements, which sends a worrying message. Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, are illegal under international law, present an obstacle to peace and take us further away from a two-state solution."

The full statement is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28674 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28675 (in Arabic)

World Bank

$55 million in World Bank Grants to Support Palestinian Municipalities, Education, Energy, Job Creation and Reforms, 27 June 2016

Washington, June 27, 2016 – The World Bank's Board of Governors authorized on June 24 the transfer of US$55 million to replenish the Trust Fund for Gaza and the West Bank. Since 1993, the World Bank has contributed a total of US$1.025 billion in the trust fund.
The World Bank's program continues supporting the Palestinian Authority in developing its economy and building institutions for a future state that provides services, jobs and opportunities for the Palestinian people.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28691 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28694 (in Arabic)

UN

The UN Briefing to the Security Council on the Situation in the Middle East (As delivered by Special Coordinator N. Mladenov), 30 June 2016

Mr. President, Members of the Security Council, over the past decades, a broad consensus has been built around the understanding that the Pales-tinian-Israeli conflict can only be resolved on the basis of a two-state solution. Palestinians and Israelis have accepted this vision. Countries in the region have also repeatedly endorsed this out-come.
At the beginning of June, the Secretary-General and Ministers from some 30 countries gathered in Paris to discuss how to put forward incentives that could kick-start momentum towards that goal. The underlying message from Paris was clear – we must act decisively now, or continue dealing with the damaging repercussions for years to come.
Despite all these efforts and despite the two-state vision remaining the professed goal of both sides, the conflict grinds on.
The full briefing is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28700

The UN Secretary-General's remarks at joint press conference with the Prime Minister of the State of Israel, 29 June 2016

Thank you for your very warm welcome and very kind words about the United Nations.
I know you are just back from Rome. Let me start by commending your leadership in restoring full diplomatic relationship with Turkey. The countries of the region need more dialogue and this is a welcome step and a hopeful sign.
Mr. Prime Minister, I am pleased to be in Israel for my 11th visit as Secretary-General, the exact same number I have visited my home country, Korea. There are not many countries I have visited this many times. Yesterday, I had the pleasure of visiting Tel Aviv University where I met researchers and entrepreneurs developing innovative solutions to some of the world's biggest challenges.
The full remarks is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28686

UN Secretary-General's remarks at press encounter in Gaza - 28 June 2016

Ladies and gentlemen,
Good morning, salam aleikum, Ramadan kareem
I am honoured to be in Gaza once again.
The Palestinians in Gaza have a very special place in my heart. I have visited Gaza four times in the ten years that I have been Secretary-General of the United Nations.
I have personally witnessed the ravages of war and have been profoundly moved by the resilience and determination of the Palestinian people. They have stood up and rebuilt their lives in the face of staggering obstacles and hardships.
I want to thank donor countries. I just had the privilege of visiting a rehabilitation hospital generously donated by the government of Qatar. I thank all donors for their support in the reconstruction effort.
Nearly 90 percent of schools and hospitals have been repaired. Many homes have been rebuilt. But so much more needs to be done
The full remarks is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28685

UN Secretary-General's remarks at Press Encounter with H.E. Mr. Reuven Rivlin, President of the State of Israel, 27 June 2016

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen.
Shalom and thank you, Mr. President, for your warm welcome to Israel.

As you know, I am in my tenth and final year as Secretary-General – and this is my eleventh visit to Israel.
I wanted to use this opportunity to meet with leaders in both Israel and Palestine to discuss the way forward. I also appreciate the chance I had earlier today to meet with innovators at Tel Aviv University who are working to build a better tomorrow.
Mr. President,
A better tomorrow also means a future free from violence.
The latest appalling terror attack in Tel Aviv is a vivid example. I offer my deepest condolences to the victims and their families.
Stabbings, shootings and bombings will not achieve anything because violence is never a solution.
The full statement is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28684

UNRWA

Escalation of violence in Syria claims the lives of three more Palestine refugees in Khan Eshieh camp, 16 June 2016

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) strongly condemns the ongoing escalation of the armed conflict in Syria which on 14 June claimed the lives of another three Palestine refugees in Khan Eshieh camp, and continues gravely to endanger the safety of civilians throughout the country.
On 14 June, at around 22:30hrs, as worshippers were returning to their homes after the evening prayer, the main road of Khan Eshieh camp was hit by an artillery shell in the vicinity of Al Reda Mosque.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28663

EU

EU Council conclusions on the Middle East Peace process,21 June 2016

1. In line with previous Council Conclusions on the Middle East Peace Process, and in close coordination with the Quartet – in anticipation of its forthcoming report and recommendations, the EU continues to work with its Israeli and Palestinian counterparts, all other relevant stakeholders in the region and beyond, towards a two-state solution. Both parties to the conflict need to demonstrate, through policies and actions, a genuine commitment to a peaceful solution in order to rebuild mutual trust and create conditions for direct and meaningful negotiations aiming at ending the occupation that began in 1967, and resolving all permanent status issues.
The full conclusions is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28667

Remarks by HRVP Federica Mogherini at the press conference following the Foreign Affairs Council, 21 June 2016

We had a good day of discussions with the EU Foreign Ministers today on different issues.
We started with our policy in the Arctic. We continued with the Sahel where I debriefed the ministers on the contacts we have with the G5 Sahel and our work with them to support our common work, on migration, security and development. I also debriefed them on the fact that I started to work on the Migration Compacts with two of the G5 Sahel countries – Mali and Niger - last Friday.
The full remarks is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28666

PWA

Cut off water supply to North areas during Ramadan is new evidence on Israel's violation against basic human Palestinian needs, 23 June 2016

As of the beginning of June this year, and without any prior notification during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, and at the time of frequent hot summer heat waves where demand on water increases naturally, the Israeli water carrier Mekorot, has cut off water supply to large areas of the northern West Bank governorates leaving more than 150,000 Palestinians without drinkable water; including several villages in Nablus Governorate (Huwara , Deir Al Hatab, Salem , Azmout, Jeet, Sarra and Kafr Qaddum), in Qalqilia Governorate (Al-Funduq, Jinsafut), as well as the city of Salfit and its surrounding villages (Qarawat Bani Hassan and Biddya). Mekorot also reduced water supplies to Jenin Governorate (Fandaqumiya, Asa'sa, Silat ad-Dhahr), leaving families under severe conditions; searching for scarce alternative temporary water resources to drink and meet their basic human needs, and unable to access water for agricultural nor other farming purposes.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28676

PCBS

Preliminary Estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (First Quarter 2016) - Main Results, 30 June 2016

Preliminary estimates at constant prices showed an increase of 8.0% in GDP in Palestine during the 1st quarter 2016 compared to the 1st quarter 2015, (increase 4.2% in the West Bank and increase 21.1% in Gaza Strip compared to the 1st quarter 2015. And it showed an increase of 0.6% in Palestine compared to the 4th quarter 2015 at constant prices, and the base year is 2004. GDP for the 1st quarter 2016 at constant prices was USD 1,491.6 million for the West Bank and USD 508.9 million for Gaza Strip.

Gross Domestic Product Per Capita

GDP per Capita for Palestine at constant prices was USD 444.3 during the 1st quarter 2016, it showed an increase of 4.9% compared to the 1st quarter 2015.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28695 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28696 (in Arabic)

Palestinian Producer Price Index, during May 2016

Sharp Increase in the Producer Price1 Index during May 2016

The overall Producer Price Index (PPI) for Palestine with its base month (December 2015=100) reached 101.94 in May 2016, as it increased by 3.18% compared to April 2016.

Producer Price Index for locally consumed products (December 2015=100) reached 102.04 in May 2016, which indicates an increase by 3.38% compared to April 2016.

Producer Price Index for local exported products (December 2015=100) reached 101.05 in May 2016, which indicates an increase by 1.31% compared to April 2016.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28687 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28688 (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 May 2016

Increase in the Construction Cost Index for Residential Buildings

The Construction Cost Index for Residential buildings reached 102.60 with an increase of 0.96% in the West Bank* during May compared with April 2016 (base year 2013=100).

The Construction Cost Index for Residential buildings increased due to the increase in the prices of raw materials by 1.54%, and rental of equipment by 0.61%. At the same time, labor wages remained stable during May 2016 compared with the previous month.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28680 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28681 (in Arabic)

PCBS Issued a special press release for the students who sit for the General Secondary School Certification Examinations "Tawjihi" of the academic year 2015/2016

Educational fields and labor market for persons aged 20-29 years in 2015.

The international classification of education divides study disciplines into the following fields of education:

Basic programs; literacy and numeracy programs; personal development; teacher training and education; arts; humanities; social and behavioral sciences; journalism and information programs; business and administration; law; life sciences; physical sciences; mathematics and statistics; computing; engineering and engineering trades; manufacturing and processing; architecture and construction; agriculture, forestry and fishery programs; veterinary programs, health programs; social services; personal services; transportation; environmental protection and security services.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28682 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28683 (in Arabic)

Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Registered External Trade in Goods of April 2016, 23 June 2016

Exports:

Exports increased in April, 2016 by 3.8% compared to March, 2016. It also increased by 5.3% compared to April, 2015 and reached USD 80.0 Million.

Exports to Israel increased in April, 2016 by 2.5% compared to March, 2016 and represented 88.6% of total exports in April, 2016.

At the same time, exports to other countries increased by 15.1% during the same period compared to March, 2016.

Imports:

Imports slightly increased in April, 2016 by 0.3% compared to March, 2016. While it decreased by 3.5% compared to April, 2015 and reached USD 405.1 Million.

Imports from Israel increased by 5.2% in April, 2016 compared to March, 2016 and represented 54.5% of total imports in April, 2016.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28670 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28671 (in Arabic)

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA) Results Announcement: Palestinian Balance of Payments – First Quarter 2016

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 first quarter of 2016 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 preliminary results of BoP for the first quarter of 2016 showed

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28672 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28673 (in Arabic)

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA) Results Announcement, 22 June 2016

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA) announced the preliminary results of the International Investment Position (IIP), and External Debt statistics for Palestine as of end of first quarter 2016.The primary results of the IIP (external assets – foreign liabilities) for Palestine at the end of First quarter 2016 revealed that the net IIP amounted to about USD 906 million, which means that the Palestinian economy's investment outside Palestine outweighs investment in Palestine from abroad.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28668 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28669 (in Arabic)

On the Occasion Of the International Day of Refugees, 20 June 2016

66% of Palestinians who were living in Historic Palestine (British-Mandated Palestine) in 1948 were Expelled and Displaced

The human plight and tragedy that has befallen on the Palestinian people in 1948, a devastating tragedy was expelled and displaced from land seized by Israel as about 957 thousand Palestinian Arabs, representing 66.0% of the total Palestinians who were living in historic Palestine on the eve of the war of 1948, according to estimates in 1950.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28664 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28665 (in Arabic)

Newsletters

- **The Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin, June 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28692
- **UNRWA Gender Bulletin, June 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=28692

Announcements

- **Birzeit University - Faculty of Business and Economics offers a new Executive Master in Business Administration (EMBA) program starting from August 2016.**
  For further details, please see attachment.