LAC

SECRETARIAT

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Local Aid Coordination 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 Recent Meetings

- **Monday, 24 October 2016:** Health Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at the MoH.

List of Upcoming Meetings

- **Wednesday, 2 November 2016:** Private Sector Development and Trade SWG meeting at 13:00 – 15:00 at the MoNE.
- **Monday, 7 November 2016:** Social Protection Sector Working Group meeting at 11:00–13:00 at the MoSD.

Aid Coordination Meetings

Minutes of Meetings & Related Documents

- **Fiscal Sector Working Group meeting, 7 September 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29902

Documents & Reports

PA

- State of Palestine report to the AHLC meeting, 19 September 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29904

United Nations

- **OCHA**
  - Humanitarian Bulletin, September 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29928
  - Protection of Civilians, 20 September – 03 October 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29923

- **WFP**
  - State of Palestine Country Brief – August 2016, 10 October 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29931

- **WHO**
  - Health Access for Referral Patients from the Gaza Strip, – August 2016, 11 October 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29934

Press Releases and Formal Statements

Prime Minister's Office

PM Hamdallah: Local Elections Postponed Four Months, 4 October 2016

Hebron – Today, Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah announced the postponement of the upcoming local elections.

"The Palestinian Cabinet, in consultation with President Mahmoud Abbas, decided to postpone the local elections for four months.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29895

UN

Statement by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov, on the Palestinian government's decision to postpone municipal elections, 4 October 2016

"I welcome today's decision to postpone local elections. It is in the national interest of the Palestinian people that when such elections take place, they be organized both in the West Bank and Gaza.

I urge all Palestinian bodies to work together in good faith to overcome internal divisions and uphold democracy.

The full statement is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29896

UNESCO

UNESCO Message from Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child, 11 October 2016

Today in the world, too limited progress has been made in the elimination of early marriage. Every year 15 million girls are married before they reach 18 years old. 1 in 9 girls in the developing world are married by the age of 15. Although in many countries we can assist to a gradual increase in the median age of first marriage, this has been mainly restricted to children from families with higher revenues.

The full message is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29936 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29937 (in Arabic)

UNESCO and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education celebrate World Teachers` Day, 6 October 2016

Ramallah, 6 October 2016. World Teachers' Day in Palestine was celebrated on 5 October in Ramallah in a ceremony attended by hundreds of teachers from all over the country, with the participation of the Minister of Education and Higher and the Heads of UNESCO, UNICEF and ILO offices together with representatives from the Teachers' Union, UNWRA and key international donors of the Education Sector. This year World Teachers' Day marks the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers. It is also the first world Teachers' Day (WTD) to be celebrated within the new Global Education 2030 Agenda adopted by the world community one year ago.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29921 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29922 (in Arabic)

UNESCO, ILO, UNICEF, UNDP and Education International

Joint message from Agency Heads on the occasion of World Teachers' Day, 4 October 2016

Every year on World Teachers Day we celebrate the limitless contributions made by teachers around the world. Day after day, year in and year out, these dedicated women and men guide and accompany students through the world of learning, helping them discover and fulfill their potential. In doing so, teachers not only help shape the individual futures of millions of children; they also help shape a better world for all.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29897 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29898 (in Arabic)

UNRWA

Japan Contributes JPY 420 Million to Support Food Assistance for Palestine Refugees in Gaza, 9 October 2016

Earlier today, the Japanese Ambassador for Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the Palestinian Authority, Takeshi Okubo, and UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl signed an agreement for a JPY 420 million (approximately US$ 4 million) contribution from Japan to support the Agency's Gaza food assistance programme for the fifth year in a row.

Given the ongoing blockade, now in its tenth year, and the overall dire socioeconomic conditions in the coastal enclave, food insecurity remains a critical issue in Gaza, and many Palestine refugee families face difficulties in meeting their minimum food needs.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29929 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29930 (in Arabic)

UNRWA Launches Final Report on Education Reform in Celebration of World Teachers' Day, 5 October 2016

On World Teachers' Day on 5 October, UNRWA officially launched the final report on its Education Reform to celebrate the achievements of the Agency's 19,000 teachers in transforming teaching and learning practices in its 692 schools.

The Education Reform, which was implemented from 2011 to 2015, was designed to meet the needs of the twenty-first century for innovative, critical and creative thinkers.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29912 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29913 (in Arabic)

UNRWA Commissioner-General Calls Attention to Plight of Palestine Refugees during Visit to the Netherlands, 5 October 2016

On 4 October, the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Pierre Krähenbühl, concluded a two-day mission to the Netherlands, during which he met with several high-level Dutch officials and parliamentarians and attended the opening event of 'The Long Journey', a travelling exhibition of select photographs from the UNRWA Film and Photo Archive, currently being hosted at the City Hall of The Hague.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29906

EU

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn death sentence issued in Gaza, 11 October 2016

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn the death sentence issued in Gaza on 9th October.

As in last week's statement of 7th October, 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 protection 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 press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29935

Statement by the Spokesperson on Israel's continuing settlement expansion in the West Bank, 7 October 2016

The Israeli authorities have recently approved plans to construct 98 new housing units in what is effectively a new settlement in the northern West Bank, near the existing settlement of Shiloh. This decision continues the accelerating trend of new settlement announcements since the start of 2016 and risks further separating Ramallah from Nablus and thus further undermining the contiguity of a future Palestinian state.

The full statement is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29926

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn death sentence issued in Gaza, 7 October 2016

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn the death sentence issued in Gaza on 5th October.

As in their most recent statement on 21st July, 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 protection 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 press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29927

The Palestinian Authority and the European Union lay the cornerstone of Dura Courthouse, 4 October 2016

Today, the Palestinian Authority and the European Union laid the cornerstone of the new Dura courthouse in Hebron. The new 5000 square meters courthouse will serve thousands of Palestinians living in Dura and surrounding communities. The event was attended by the EU Head of Cooperation, the Head of High Judicial Council, Minister of Justice, Minister of Finance and Planning, Minister of Public Works, and the General Attorney.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29901

Consulate General of Italy

West Bank: growing concern of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the announcement of new Israeli settlements, 6 October 2016

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses its growing concern about the announcement of new plans of construction of Israeli settlements around the area of Shilo in the West Bank.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29918

Palestine: Italy gives a one million euro emergency contribution to UNRWA, 4 October 2016

Italy has approved a one million euro emergency contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). The initiative aims to assure the continuity of essential services and protection activities in favor of Palestinian refugees in the Gaza Strip.

The funds are particularly earmarked to support the "Transitional Shelter Cash Assistance" Programme launched after the conflict in the summer of 2014 to assist Palestinian refugees whose homes were destroyed or seriously damaged through the distribution of subsidies to pay for the rent of temporary accommodation.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29900

British Consulate General

British Consulate General launches initiative to support Palestinian olive harvest, 14 October 2016

British Consul General in Jerusalem, Dr Alastair McPhail, announced that for the second year in a row, the British Consulate General will be supporting the Palestinian olive harvest in Area C and East Jerusalem. Dr McPhail made the announcement during an olive picking event in the village of Yanoun, near Nablus.

This year, the UK will support 36 Palestinian communities affected by Israeli settlements and settler violence.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29941 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29942 (in Arabic)

British Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Minister for the Middle East statement on plans to construct a new settlement in the West Bank, 5 October 2016

British Minister for the Middle East, Tobias Ellwood, on Wednesday condemned the Israeli announcement to construct a new settlement near Shilo in the West Bank.

Foreign Office minister, Tobias Ellwood, said:

We condemn the recent announcement of plans to construct a new settlement near Shilo. This is the latest example of a series of worrying new settlement announcements in recent months.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29914 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29915 (in Arabic)

British Trade Envoy visits the Occupied Palestinian Territories, 5 October 2016

Baroness Morris of Bolton, the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Jordan and Kuwait visited the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, this week. Her visit focused on building partnerships with Palestinian businesses, following the visit of UK Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for International Trade Mark Garnier in September.

During her visit, Baroness Morris visited Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem and East Jerusalem to discuss how to improve links between Palestinian and British businesses.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29916 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29917 (in Arabic)

Representative Office of Germany

Statement by the German Federal Foreign Office Spokesperson on Israeli settlement plans in the West Bank, 5 October 2016

A Federal Foreign Office Spokesperson issued the following statement today (5 October) on Israel's plans to erect a further settlement near the Shilo settlement in the West Bank:
We have noted with great concern the recent announcements on plans to build a new settlement in the heart of the West Bank. The German Government's standpoint on this is unchanged. Settlement activities in the occupied territories violate international law. Settlements jeopardise the foundations of the two-state solution.
The full statement is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29924 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29925 (in Arabic)

Representative Office of the Republic of Malta

Palestinian Students presented with Scholarships given by the Maltese Government, 26 September 2016

On Thursday 22 September 2016, the Representative Office of the Republic of Malta in Ramallah, Palestine, handed two scholarships offered on a yearly basis since 2014 by the Maltese Government through the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to two Palestinian students to follow their Masters degree. This year's scholarships consist of a course leading to Master of Science in Conservation of Decorative Architectural Surfaces and a course leading to Master of Arts in Humanitarian Action, both at the University of Malta.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29911

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland

Switzerland regrets Israel's decision to approve new constructions in settlement in the occupied Palestinian territory, 6 October 2016
The FDFA views the Israeli settlements as a violation of international humanitarian law and as a major obstacle to peace and the implementation of a two-state solution.
The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) regrets the decision of the Israeli government to approve the construction of new residential units near Shilo in the occupied Palestinian territory.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29938

Representative Office of Japan

Grant Signing Ceremonies for Two GGP Projects in Palestine, funded by Japan, 10 October 2016

Grant Contracts for two 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 of Abud Village Council and Beit Sahour Cooperative Society for Health Welfare at the Representative Office of Japan in Ramallah for a total amount of US$ 143,647 .

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29932 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29933 (in Arabic)

Japan – WFP

WFP Welcomes Japan's Continued Support for Food insecure Palestinians in Gaza, 5 October 2016

RAMALLAH – The Government of Japan has announced a JPY 260 million (US$2.6 million approximately) donation to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to support the most vulnerable non-refugee Palestinian families living in Gaza.

Japan's contribution will enable WFP to provide wheatflour enriched with vitamins and minerals to 89,000 of the poorest non-refugee Palestinians for two-and-a-half months. WFP will also use the contribution to buy Japanese-produced, high-quality canned tuna – an excellent source of protein and micronutrients, such as vitamin A, zinc, and iron – and a key commodity in WFP's nutritious food rations. The canned tuna also has a long shelf-life, allowing WFP to store part of the purchase as a contingency stock in case of an emergency.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29909 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29910 (in Arabic)

Japanese Ministry of foreign Affairs

Advancing the plans of settlement construction by Israel, 6 October 2016

The Government of Japan deeply deplores that, according to information, the Government of Israel has approved plans for 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.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29919 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29920 (in Arabic)

PCBS

Increase in the Consumer Price Index during September, 13 October 2016

The overall Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Palestine during September 2016 increased by 0.10% compared with August 2016 (by 0.83% in Jerusalem J1, while it decreased by 0.20% in the West Bank, and by 0.14% in Gaza Strip).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29939 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29940 (in Arabic)

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) announce the results of school-to-work transition survey 2015, 5 October 2016

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in cooperation and partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) organized a workshop to announce the results of school-to-work transition survey 2015 today Wednesday, 05.10.2016 at the PCBS headquarters in Ramallah, the workshop was attended by several representatives of ministries public and private and international institutions, research centers and interested parties, media and journalists.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29907 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29908 (in Arabic)

Increase in the Industrial Production Index in Palestine during August, 5 October 2016

The overall Quantity of Industrial Production Index (IPI) in Palestine reached 112.32 during August 2016 with an increase of 14.01% compared to the previous month (Base Month December 2015 = 100).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29903 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29905 (in Arabic)

PCBS press release on Eve of Arab Housing Day Titled Urban planning guarantees Sustainable Development of Urban Areas in Palestine 2016, 3 October 2016

The Council of Arab Housing and Reconstruction at its eightieth meeting at the League of Arab States, decided the subject of the Year Award 2016 to be " Urban Planning guarantees sustainable development of urban areas," and to be dedicated for the best scientific research in the field of housing and urban development.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29893 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29894 (in Arabic)

Newsletters

- **PCBS Electronic Monthly Bulletin, 4 October 2016**
  http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_121/Monthly%20bulletin_e.htm
  (in English)

http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_121/Monthly%20bulletin_a.htm
(in Arabic)

Job Vacancies

- **The Danish Representative Office** in Ramallah wishes to employ a Driver/Office-Assistant on a full time basis. For further details, please see attachment

New Arrivals

- **Ms. Cristina Natoli** has joined the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation as Head of Office. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: cristina.natoli@esteri.it ,phone: 02-5789602

- **Mr. Francoise Vanni** has joined UNRWA as Director to External Relations Department. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: f.vanni@unrwa.org ,phone: 02-5890230

- **Mr. Marc Lassouaoui** has joined UNRWA as Chief Donor Relations Division. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: mlassouaoui@unrwa.org ,phone: 02-5890290

- **Mr. Emmanuel Rixhon** has joined the Consulate General of Belgium as Deputy Consul General-Consular Affairs and Administration. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: emmanuel.rixhon@diplobel.fed.be ,phone: 02-5828263

- **Ms. Marie Cherchari** has joined the Consulate General of Belgium as Consul - Political Affairs. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: marie.cherchari@diplobel.fed.be, phone: 02-5820251