LAC

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, 14 November 2016:** Private Sector Development and Trade SWG meeting at 10:00 at the MoNE.
- **Wednesday, 23 November 2016**: Agriculture Sector Working Group meeting at 12:00 at MoA.

List of Upcoming Meetings

- **Tuesday, 13 December 2016**: Environment Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at the premises of the EQA.
- **Wednesday 14 December 2016**: Municipal Development and Local Government Sector Working Group meeting at 11:00 at the MoLG

Aid Coordination Meetings

Minutes of Meetings & Related Documents

- **Social Protection Sector Working Group Meeting, 7 November 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30052
  - MoSD – Social Development Sector Strategy (2022-2017), 7 November 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30053

Documents & Reports

United Nations

- **United Nations Country Team**
  - Common Country Analysis 2016, 24 November 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30042 (in English)
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30043 (in Arabic)

- **WFP**
  - Japan and WFP's Partnership in Palestine, 22 November 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30030
  - Supporting National Capacity in Palestine, 16 November 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30006
  - Delivering cash-based transfers in Palestine, 16 November 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30005
  - WFP State of Palestine Country Brief, October 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30034

- **OCHA**
  - Protection of Civilians, 1 – 14 November 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30014

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, 23 November 2016

As we stand here today, the continuing status quo in the occupied Palestinian territory reduces the prospect for sustainable and just peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Rarely have the risks to the two-state solution been greater.

How many times have we said in this Chamber, that we must move past the blatant obstructionism, the false starts and the perpetual claims that the time is simply "not right" for action?

Inaction has a cost. A cost measured in human lives and suffering. The situation on the ground is changing steadily, dangerously, as proponents of Israeli settlement expansion feel emboldened, internal divisions among Palestinians flare up, and the prospect of a future Palestinian state comes under threat like never before

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30033

Statement by Under UN Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien to the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in the oPt, 23 November 2016

Last month, I provided an overview of the humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territory. Today, I will focus my remarks on the increasing challenges humanitarian actors are facing in responding to the needs of these vulnerable Palestinians, and for which we need greater support from this Council. Mr. President, in the occupied Gaza Strip, 70% of the population currently receives

some form of international assistance, mostly food aid. Yet our ability to deliver that assistance has become increasingly restricted.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30037

United Nations Country Team

As occupation enters its 50th year, a joint UN analysis focuses on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged Palestinians, 24 November 2016

24 November 2016, Jerusalem – A new report released today by the UN Country Team in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) focuses on the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups among Palestinians and the development constraints they face.

The Common Country Analysis (CCA) report identifies 20 groups who are at high risk of being 'left behind' in Palestine's development trajectory and analyzes the factors driving their vulnerability.

As the Israeli occupation enters its 50th year, development in Palestine is constrained by a multitude of factors, ranging from restrictions on movement, and inequitable access to resources, to reduced policy autonomy of the Palestinian government.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30040 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30041 (in Arabic)

World Bank

Water Situation Alarming in Gaza, 22 November 2016

Adnan Ghosheh, Senior Water & Sanitation Specialist, remembers a time not so long ago when everyone in Gaza could drink water from their tap. That was in the late 1990s, but so much water has been pumped out of the natural aquifer underneath Gaza since then that seawater has seeped in, making it too salty to drink. These and other factors mean that only 10% of Gaza's population has access to safe drinking water, compared to 90% in the West Bank or about 85% in MENA in general.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30031 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30032 (in Arabic)

Reforms Underway to Boost Palestinian Business Environment – Critical for Economic Growth and Employment Opportunities, 16 November 2016

Jerusalem, November 16, 2016 – The Palestinian economy remains mired in income stagnation and high unemployment, with reforms to lay the foundation for sustainable growth a priority. While Israeli restrictions remain the biggest impediment for the Palestinian economy to realize its full potential, progressive reforms to improve the business environment could set the stage for a more dynamic private sector as an engine of economic growth.

The Palestinian Authority has recently taken concrete steps towards improving the business environment. Most notably the enactment of the Law of Secured Transactions in April 2016, which established the legal grounds and modern systems to regulate the use of movable assets as collateral.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30015 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30016 (in Arabic)

OCHA

UN Coordinator for Aid to Palestine condemns continued obstruction of relief items to Palestinian communities, 10 November 2016

The UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and Development Activities, Robert Piper, today condemned the Israeli authorities' continued obstruction of humanitarian assistance to Palestinian communities in the occupied West Bank.

On 7 November, the Israeli Civil Administration and the Israeli army seized nine donor-funded tents (two of which were not yet erected) in the Palestinian Bedouin community of Khirbet Tell al Himma in the northern Jordan Valley. The structures were all provided as humanitarian aid, following earlier demolitions in the same community on 27 September 2016, which left the affected families without shelter or kitchens.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=29998

UNESCO

Message from Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 25 November 2016

Violence against women is a grave violation of fundamental human rights and a threat to millions of girls and women across the world. At least one out of every three women worldwide has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Entire societies are affected by violence that may be physical, sexual (harassment, coercion or discrimination) and psychological (verbal or emotional abuse, such as bullying or ostracizing).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30028 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30029 (in Arabic)

UNESCO Ramallah Office launches Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report – Education for people and planet: Creating sustainable futures for all, 17 November 2016

On 17 November 2016, UNESCO and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education launched the Global Education Monitoring Report 2016 in Ramallah. The Report entitled `Education for people and planet: Creating sustainable futures for all` shows us the world`s education challenges and the way forward for the next 15 years.

The event was opened by the Minister of Education and Higher Education, Dr. Sabri Saidam and Dr. Lodovico Folin Calabi, UNESCO Representative to Palestine and Head of UNESCO Ramallah Office.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30012 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30013 (in Arabic)

UNRWA

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Contributes US$ 67 Million to UNRWA for Projects in Gaza, the West Bank and Jordan, 28 November 2016

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, through the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), has contributed US$ 67 million for projects to be implemented in Gaza, the West Bank and Jordan. The three agreements were signed today by the SFD Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, H.E. Eng. Yousef al-Bassam, and the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Pierre Krähenbühl.

The first agreement, valued at US$ 28 million, will support ongoing projects, including the reconstruction of shelters in Gaza.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30047 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30049 (in Arabic)

China Contributes US$ 300,000 to UNRWA in Support of Human Development Programmes for Palestine Refugees, 24 November 2016

The Government of the People's Republic of China has contributed US$ 300,000 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in support of the Agency's core programmes and services for Palestine refugees, including education, health, relief and social services and camp improvement.

The contribution marks a 50 per cent increase in China's annual contribution to the Agency's Programme Budget and was formally presented by the Representative of the People's Republic of China to the Palestinian National Authority, Ambassador Chen Xingzhong, to the UNRWA Commissioner-General, Pierre Krähenbühl, during a signing ceremony in Ramallah on Sunday, 20 November.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30038 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30039 (in Arabic)

EU

Statement by the EU Spokesperson on the settlements in Ramat Shlomo, 28 November 2016

The Jerusalem Municipality has announced that it will advance plans for 500 new housing units in Ramat Shlomo, East Jerusalem. It would affect land privately owned by Palestinians, and extend the settlement northeast, further encroaching on Palestinian inhabited areas, while linking to expansion of a neighbouring Israeli settlement to the west.
The policy of settlement construction and expansion, illegal under international law, continues to undermine the contiguity of a future Palestinian state and therefore raises questions about Israel's stated commitment to the two-state solution.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30045

Nativity Church glows in orange marking the international day for elimination of violence against women, 26 November 2016

The European Union Representative Ralph Tarraf and the Mayor of Bethlehem Vera Baboun joined Palestinian youth to light the Nativity Church in orange as part of the EU-campaign ''Enough''. This campaign is organized with Palestinian partners and youth to mark the international day for the elimination of violence against women. In parallel, Al Manarah Square in Ramallah and Ibn Rushd Square in Hebron were also lit in orange to mark the day. This initiative coincides with the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign in Palestine.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30046

British Consulate General

Minister for the Middle East concerned by settlement plan in East Jerusalem, 29 November 2016

We are deeply concerned by reports that the Jerusalem Municipality has revived a plan for constructing 500 new units in the illegal settlement of Ramat Shlomo in East Jerusalem. The planned expansion of Ramat Shlomo includes construction on privately owned Palestinian land and further cuts off East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank.
It is disappointing that Israel has proceeded with this plan despite serious international criticism when these plans were announced in 2014.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30054 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30055 (in Arabic)

Representative Office of the Republic of Malta

Malta organizes a Mediterranean Tourism Conference in Bethlehem, 14 November 2016

On Thursday 10 November 2016, the Mediterranean Tourism Foundation and the Representative Office of the Republic of Malta in Ramallah, Palestine collaborated with the Ministry of Tourism and the Antiquities of Palestine and the Holy Land Incoming Tour Operators Association to organize a Mediterranean Tourism Conference coined “Empowering Tomorrow’ in the Palestinian city of Bethlehem. The aim of the event was to promote the Maltese experience in the tourism sector in a city well known for its touristic potential and to bring together Maltese and Palestinian specialists on the subject in order to expand the relation between both sides and further enhance the industry.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30048

Representative Office of Japan

Completion of the Project for Renewing Medical Beds in the Surgical Department of St. Joseph's Hospital, funded by Japan, 21 November 2016

Today, November 21st,2016, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the PA, visited Shaikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem to celebrate the completion of the project funded by the Government of Japan through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

The grant of US$89,435 was extended to St. Joseph's Hospital. It was used to provide thirty pieces of new medical beds functioning with the electrical nursing control system, in order to alleviate the burdens on the patients and medical staffs and to better operate the treatment for the patients in St. Joseph's hospital.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30024 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30025 (in Arabic)

Completion of the Project for Rehabilitation of Water Network in Aizariya, funded by Japan, 21 November 2016

Today, November 21st 2016, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the PA, visited Aizariya in Jerusalem Governorate to celebrate the completion of the project funded by the Government of Japan through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

The grant of US$89,335 was extended to Aizariya Local Council.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30022 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30023 (in Arabic)

Completion of the project for Reconstruction of Classrooms in Beita Mixed School, funded by Japan, 20 November 2016

Today, November 20th,2016, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the PA, visited Beita in Nablus Governorate to celebrate the completion of the project funded by the Government of Japan through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

The grant of US $90,576 extended to Beita Municipality. It was used to reconstruct three old classrooms in the ground floor of Beita Mixed School in Beita in order to secure the safety and adequate educational environment for the students. The direct beneficiaries shall be about 80 students.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30019 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30020 (in Arabic)

PCBS

Decrease in the Producer Price Index during October, 29 November 2016

The overall Producer Price Index (PPI) for Palestine with its base month (December 2015=100) reached 102.19 in October 2016, as it decreased by 0.58% compared to September 2016.
Producer Price Index for locally consumed products (December 2015=100) reached 102.36 in October 2016, which indicates a decrease by 0.65% compared to September 2016.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30050 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30051 (in Arabic)

PCBS press release on Hotel Activities Survey in the West Bank during the third Quarter 2016, 24 November 2016

During the third quarter of 2016, the total number of the guests who stayed in hotels reached 114,501, where the guests from Asia formed around 12% of the total guests.
The number of hotel guests was 1% higher than it was in the second quarter of 2016 and 7% lower than the third quarter of 2015.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30035
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30036

Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Registered External Trade in Goods of September, 22 November 2016

Exports decreased in September, 2016 by 10.6% compared to August, 2016. While it increased by 18.9% compared to September, 2015 and reached USD 75.4 Million.
Exports to Israel decreased in September, 2016 by 12.5% compared to August, 2016 and represented 88.9% of total exports in September, 2016

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30026 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30027 (in Arabic)

PCBS press release on the occasion of the International Children's Day, 20 November 2016

The estimated number of children less than 18 years old mid 2016 is about 2,207,535 children in Palestine, representing about 45.8% of the population, of whom 1,127,283 males and 1,080,252 females, the number of male children in the West Bank totaled 650,709 and the number of female children totaled 624,320 while in Gaza Strip, the number of males totaled about 476,574 while the number of females amounted to 455,932. Where children constituted 49.6% of the population of the Gaza Strip against 43.4% of the total population of the West Bank.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30017 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30018 (in Arabic)

Newsletters

- **Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin, November 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30044

Announcements

- **UNESCO – Request for Consultancy Submissions: Terms of Reference for National Consultant for drafting the new MoEHE/UN SDG4 Package in Palestine**
  For further details, please see attachment

New Arrivals

- **Ms. Jeremie Toussaint** has joined the UNDP as Recovery and Reconstruction Advisor. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: jeremie.toussaint@undp.org, phone: 02-6268200