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, 12 December 2016:** Education Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at the MoEHE.
- **Tuesday, 13 December 2016:** Consultation Workshop on the Justice Sector strategy (organized by a joint Committee of the Justice Institutions, LACS and EUPOL COPPS) at 8.30 at the Red Crescent building, Jerusalem Road, Ramallah.
- **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

❖ **Private Sector Development & Trade SWG Meeting, 14 November 2016**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30073

- MoNE – National Economic Plan Framework (2017 – 2022), 14 November 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30074
- MoNE – National Industrial Strategy Framework 2016–2025, 14 November 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30076

Documents & Reports

Prime Minister's Office – United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Summary Report – Palestine 2030 – Demographic Change: Opportunities for Development, December 2016
  http://palestine.unfpa.org/publications/palestine-2030

United Nations

❖ **WHO**

- Health Access for Referral Patients from the Gaza Strip – October 2016, 30 November 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30072
- Right to Health – Crossing barriers to access health in the occupied Palestinian territory, 2014 – 2015, 29 November 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30057

- **OCHA**
  - Protection of Civilians Report 15 – 28 November 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30065
  - Humanitarian Bulletin, November 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30097

- **WFP**
  - Secondary Impact of the Cash Based Transfer – Voucher Modality in Palestine, 5 December 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30071
  - Supporting the capacity of the Palestinian Civil Defence, December 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30084
  - WFP State of Palestine Country Brief, November 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30083

GIZ

- Strengthening of Police Structures Programme, 9 December 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30089 (in English)
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30090 (in Arabic)

Protection Cluster – Gender Based Violence Sub-Cluster

- Child marriage in the occupied Palestinian territory, December 2016
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30098

Press Releases and Formal Statements

Prime Minister's Office – United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Launch of Palestine 2030 – Demographic Change: Opportunities for Development, 5 December 2016

Ramallah, Monday, 5 December 2016: Under the auspices of the Prime Minister H.E. Dr. Rami Hamdallah, the National Population Committee and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) State of Palestine country office, with financial support from the office of Special Coordinator (UNSCO), launched a study entitled: "PALESTINE 2030 – DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE: OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT". This study is considered to be the first report ever, in Palestine, to provide evidence and understanding of the linkages between population dynamics and development and where Palestine stands in terms of demographic transition.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30077 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30078 (in Arabic)

UN

Statement by United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Mr. Nickolay Mladenov, on Israel's Legalization bill, 6 December 2016

The so-called "Legalization bill" has the objective of protecting illegal settlements and outposts built on private Palestinian property in the West Bank. Some have pronounced it to be a step towards the annexation of the West Bank.

If adopted, it will have far reaching legal consequences for Israel, across the occupied West Bank and will greatly diminish the prospect of Arab-Israeli peace.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30087

World Bank

New US$5 Million Grant to Promote Job Opportunities for Palestinian Graduates, 4 December 2016

Jerusalem, December 4, 2016 – The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved on Friday, December 2, 2016 a US$5 million grant to support ongoing efforts to increase job opportunities for Palestinian graduates. The additional financing for the Education to Work Transition (E2WT) project will focus on improving the employability of Palestinian students graduating from tertiary education institutions, thus improving their job prospects as well.

Faced with multiple challenges, such as the impact of conflict and restrictions on mobility, coupled with high population growth, the Palestinian economy has not been able to create enough jobs.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30067 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30068 (in Arabic)

WHO

WHO releases latest health access report for the occupied Palestinian territory, 29 November 2016

29 November 2016, Gaza – On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, marked by the UN since 1977, WHO launched a 2-year report on health access today at an event in Gaza to highlight how the Israeli permit system and physical barriers obstruct health access for Palestinian patients, ambulances and health workers. The study "Right to health: crossing barriers to access health in the occupied Palestinian territory, 2014-2015," is based on data provided by Palestinian Authority ministries and non-profit healthproviders, as well as patient interviews and field studies.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30058 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30059 (in Arabic)

UNESCO

Education stakeholders in Palestine gather at the Education Sector Working Group in Ramallah, 12 December 2016

Ramallah – On 12 December 2016 the last Education Sector Working Group of 2016 took place at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE). The Education Sector Working Group (ESWG) is chaired by the Minister of Education and Higher Education and co-chaired by Belgium, with the technical advise by UNESCO, gathers the main education stakeholders in Palestine, including national and international civil society, development partners and senior policy makers from the MoEHE, takes place every three months to discuss developments and challenges within the education sector in Palestine.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30093

The Message from Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO on the occasion of Human Rights Day, 10 December 2016

On 10 December every year, the world commemorates the day in 1948 on which the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaiming its principles as the "common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations."

Every year, Human Rights Day provides an opportunity for all to renew with the spirit of humanity's long struggle for rights and dignity and to mobilise against old and new challenges, in the shape of poverty and inequality, violence, exclusion and discrimination.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30091 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30090 (in Arabic)

UNESCO and UN Women release guidance to end gender-based violence in education, 8 December 2016

8 December – To help end a global phenomenon that affects millions of children, families and communities worldwide, UNESCO and UN Women are releasing today a *Global Guidance on Addressing School Related Gender-Based Violence*.

Every year, an estimated 246 million children are subject to some form of gender-based violence – mistreatment, bullying, psychological abuse and sexual harassment.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30081

Message from Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3 December 2016

Every year, International Day of Persons with Disabilities is an opportunity for the world to stand together against the discrimination of women and men with disabilities and to raise the flag for inclusion and empowerment through education, the sciences, culture and communication and information.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development connects inclusion and development – this is vital, because persons with disabilities continue to face discrimination, violence, stigma, and exclusion.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30060 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30061 (in Arabic)

EU

EU local statement on Israeli demolitions and confiscations of Palestinian structures in Area C, 13 December 2016

The European Union Representative and the EU Heads of Mission in Jerusalem and Ramallah issue the following statement.

The EU Heads of Mission in Jerusalem and Ramallah deplore the demolitions of Palestinian structures undertaken by Israel in the occupied West Bank.

On December 6, Israel demolished three residential structures in Fasayil al Wusta that had been provided as humanitarian aid by the EU and EU Member States, and confiscated solar panels and electrical equipment from the community of Susiya. The day after, two livelihood structures were demolished in Al Khalayleh and An Nabi Samwil. These incidents affected 257 Palestinians.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30094

EU local statement on administrative detention of Palestinians in Israeli prisons, 8 December 2016

The European Union Representative, the EU Heads of Mission and the Heads of Mission of Switzerland and Norway in Jerusalem and Ramallah issue the following statement.

The Heads of Mission in Jerusalem and Ramallah reiterate their longstanding concern about the extensive use by Israel of administrative detention without formal charge. Mohammed Abu Sakha, a trainer at the Palestinian Circus School, has been in administrative detention for almost a year and the decision for a possible extension will be taken within the coming days.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30082

Statement by the EU Spokesperson on the Regularisation Bill in Israel, 8 December 2016

The Israeli Knesset is in the process of adopting the so-called "Regularisation Bill" which could lead to legalisation of numerous illegal settlements and outposts, built on private Palestinian land in violation of Israeli and international law, by confiscating property rights of Palestinians for settler use.

If it passes, this would be the first law adopted by the Knesset on the status of land in the West Bank, an occupied territory not under its jurisdiction. Senior members of the Israeli government have called this a step towards annexation of the West Bank.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30088

The EU and Sweden contribute €19 million to the PA's payment of November salaries and pensions, 6 December 2016

The European Union made yesterday a contribution of €18.98 million to the payment of November salaries and pensions of 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 Sweden (€4.98 million).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30075

British Foreign & Commonwealth Office

UK Minister for the Middle East statement on settlements in the West Bank, 8 December 2016

British Minister for the Middle East Tobias Ellwood expressed his extreme concern over Israeli plans for further expansion of illegal settlements in the West Bank.

Foreign Office minister, Tobias Ellwood, said:

I'm extremely concerned that the Knesset has passed the first reading of a bill which would expropriate privately owned Palestinian land and pave the way for a significant further expansion of settlements in the West Bank. This would be illegal under international law, and once again calls into question the Israeli government's commitment to a two state solution.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30085 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30086 (in Arabic)

BTC

Palestinian e-learning project wins Belgian digitalisation prize, 1 December 2016

The Palestinian-Belgian project 'e-learning curriculum in Palestinian Primary and Secondary Education' has been rewarded with the Digitalisation for Development prize in Belgium.

From 2011 until 2015, the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) and the Belgian Development Agency (BTC) have jointly implemented the e-learning project to introduce the use of ICT in education to enhance student centered learning. The 4 million euro project was funded by Belgium and Palestine. After the official end of the project, the efforts have been continued and scaled up by the Ministry of Education.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30062

Consulate General of Italy – Italian Development Cooperation Office

Inauguration of the Children's Land Center La Terra dei Bambini in Um Al Nasser, 13 December 2016

The Consul General of Italy in Jerusalem, Fabio Sokolowicz, and the Representative of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation Jerusalem Office, Cristina Natoli, together with the Country Representative of the Italian NGO Vento di Terra, Gioia Benedetti, have inaugurated yesterday – Tuesday December 13th – the Children Land Center La Terra dei Bambini in Um Al Nasser, Gaza Strip, destroyed during the war of July 2014 and rebuilt in the framework of the Emergency Initiative 2016 funded by the Italian Cooperation for a total amount of approximately 250.000,00 Euro.

The Consul General of Italy, Fabio Sokolowicz, has recalled in his statement that the new ecofriendly Children's Land Center – aligned with the National Early Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for Gaza 2014-2017 – will allow more than 200 families, 170 children and 200 women to attend psychosocial and educational activities.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30099

The Consulate General of Italy in Jerusalem signs a Technical Agreement with the Ministry of Finance and Planning for the benefit of the Ministry of Health, 7 December 2016

RAMALLAH, December 7th 2016 – The Consul General of Italy in Jerusalem – Fabio Sokolowicz – on behalf of the Directorate Generale for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has signed a Technical Agreement – for a total amount of 1.650 M Euro – with H.E the Minister of Finance and Planning – Sukri Bishara – for the benefit of the Ministry of Health.

Within the framework of the programme "CRONO – Tackling noncommunicable diseases in Palestine" approved last May 2016, the Technical Agreement initiates the one-year programme which aims at decreasing the burden of noncommunicable diseases through the strengthening of the health service network at both primary and secondary levels through provision of equipment and construction of a health facilities as well as through the implementation of a national health education campaign.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30080

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

Inauguration of two classes in Al Jabal – Arab Al Jahalin School, 6 December 2016

The Representative of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation Jerusalem Office – Cristina Natoli – has inaugurated today – Tuesday December 6th – together with the Country Representative of the Italian Ngo Vento di Terra – Gioia Benedetti – the building of two classrooms in Al Jabal – Arab Al Jahalin School.

The intervention – part of the Emergency Programme 2016 funded by the Italian Agency of Development Cooperation – completes a structural work started by Vento di Terra in 2012 allowing more than 260 children to attend classes and has an eco-friendly impact due to an innovative technique made of stones and metal grids respecting the surrounding environment.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30079

PCBS

Decrease in the Consumer Price Index during November, 13 December 2016

The overall Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Palestine during November 2016 slightly decreased by 0.09% compared with October 2016 (by 0.12% in the West Bank, and by 0.10% in Jerusalem J1, while it increased by 0.26% in Gaza Strip).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30095 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30096 (in Arabic)

Newsletters

- **EUPOLCOPPS Newsletter, November 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30066

- **PCBS Electronic Monthly Bulletin, 1 December 2016**
  http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_123/Monthly%20bulletin_e.htm
  (in English)
  http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_123/Monthly%20bulletin_a.htm
  (in Arabic)