LAC

SECRETARIAT

CONTENTS

News from LACS 0	1
Shared Calendar of Events	2
Documents & Reports	2
Newsletters	9
Announcements	9
New Arrivals 0	1

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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

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

Documents & Reports

United Nations

- **OCHA**
  - Protection of Civilians, 29 November – 12 December 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30103

- **UNFPA**
  - Palestine 2030, Demographic Change: Opportunities for Development, 15 December 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30101

Press Releases and Formal Statements

Ministry of Social Development – UN

$547 million funding appeal to address humanitarian needs in Palestine during 2017, 19 December 2016

Bethlehem, 19 December 2016 – Today, the Minister of Social Development of the State of Palestine, H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Al-Shaer, and the UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and Development Activities, Mr. Robert Piper, launched the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2017, to support the humanitarian needs of 1.6 million Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).

"From the holy city of Bethlehem, we call upon the international community to exert the utmost effort to end occupation," said Minister Al-Shaer. "This occupation has left many Palestinians highly vulnerable, whether 'inside' or 'outside' Palestine.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30111

UN

UN Secretary-General's remarks to Security Council on the Situation in the Middle East, 16 December 2016

Today, I report to the Security Council for the last time on the Situation in the Middle East.
It saddens me that my last such briefing brings no sense of optimism for the future.
Some may ask why, given all the crises in the region, I chose to address the Council on the question of Palestine.
To them, I say that while the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not the cause of the wars in the Middle East, its resolution can create momentum for peace throughout the region.
In 1947, on the basis of UN General Assembly Resolution 181, the world recognized the two-state solution and called for the emergence of "independent Arab and Jewish states".
On 14 May 1948, the State of Israel was born.
Almost seven decades later, the world still awaits the birth of the Palestinian state.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30107

UNICEF

UNICEF and Finland sign grant agreement on non-violence project for Palestinian schools, 23 December 2016

EAST JERUSALEM, 23 December 2016 – Today UNICEF and the Representative Office of Finland to Palestine signed a grant agreement for an innovative, cross-sectoral project aimed at promoting a culture of non-violence in Palestinian schools.
Thanks to a contribution of EUR one million from Finland, the new UNICEF programme will support efforts to address the violence which affects Palestinian children from their early years through adolescence.
Using a comprehensive approach, the project will challenge the use of violence and social disruption in Palestinian schools and communities by strengthening policies and practices to promote peaceful conflict resolution, positive discipline, and violence-free schools.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30130

Children design the school of their dreams in the Gaza Strip, 15 December 2016

Across the Gaza Strip, many classrooms have been damaged or destroyed in conflict, leaving children unprotected from the elements and without the tools they need to excel. Learn how UNICEF is working with students to design the school of their dreams.
GAZA, State of Palestine, 14 December 2016 – Two years ago, 50 days of armed conflict took an unprecedented toll on Gaza's children and schools, with 258 of the latter incurring minor, partial,

or severe damage. The destruction of schools had devastating consequences for the education system.

When children began their academic year in September 2014, they found that the appearance of their schools had changed forever – dust and debris covered playgrounds and some classrooms had been reduced to rubble. The damaged schools adversely affected the learning environment and children's ability to focus on their studies – a problem that continues to this day.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30105

UN-Habitat

Digital technology to increase participation of women, youth in reconstruction of Gaza Strip, 13 December 2016

With financial support of the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium, UN-Habitat and UN Women have launched a new innovative Programme to advance women's and youth's rights to participate in reconstruction and recovery efforts in Gaza.

Implemented in cooperation with the Palestinian Housing Council, AISHA Association for Women and Child Protection, and GGateway for Outsourcing Information Technology, the "Utilizing Digital Tools to Promote Human Rights and Create Inclusive Public Spaces in the Gaza Strip" will support the design and implementation of three inclusive, safe and accessible public spaces through the utilization of digital technologies.

The UN-Habitat-UN Women joint programme will take advantage of digital tools and video games such as MineCraft and SaftiPin to support engagement of communities in the design of their public spaces, linking simultaneously with selected female architects from Gaza trained on the use of digital technologies for the development of gender inclusive, safe and accessible public spaces free from violence against women.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30112

OCHA

Record number of demolitions in 2016; casualty toll declines, 29 December 2016

reliminary analysis of data collected by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) indicates that, during 2016 (until 28 December), the Israeli authorities demolished or seized 1,089 Palestinian-owned structures throughout the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, displacing 1,593 Palestinians and affecting the livelihoods of another 7,101. These are the highest West Bank demolition and displacement figures at least since OCHA started recording them in 2009. The vast majority of these structures were destroyed or seized for lack of Israeli-issued building permits.

In the Gaza Strip, as of end November , some 51,000 Palestinians are still displaced after losing their homes in the 2014 escalation, down from approximately 90,000 during the second half of 2015. Most displaced families are dependent on temporary shelter assistance provided by humanitarian organizations.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30137

World Bank

An Additional US$ 1.7 Million equivalent for Improving Infrastructure Services in Palestine, 22 December 2016

Jerusalem, December 20, 2016- Norway contributed the amount of NOK 15 million, equivalent to US$ 1.7 million to the Palestinian Partnership for Infrastructure Development Multi-Donor Trust Fund (PID fund) administered by the World Bank.

The funds contributed by the Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs will support the Palestinian Authority (PA) improving water, energy and local government services provided to citizens. The additional contributions come in at a critical time during which the PID fund is scaling up support to the Palestinian energy sector following the electricity debt agreement signed by the PA and the Government of Israel, which regulates past debts and energy collaboration.

The Partnership for Infrastructure Multi-Donor Trust Fund (PID MDTF) was established in 2012 with the objective of improving the coverage, quality, and sustainability of infrastructure in the Palestinian territories through financial and technical support in the water, urban development, and energy sectors.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30120

EU

The European Union provides €21 million to support families in need in the West Bank and Gaza, 16 December 2016

The European Union and Spain made a new contribution to the Palestinian Authority's (PA) payment of social allowances to Palestinian families living in poverty in the West Bank and Gaza. Around 111,500 poor Palestinian families will receive social allowances through the PA's Cash Transfer Programme (CTP). This contribution of €21 million is equivalent to more than two-third of the budget for this payment. Out of this amount, the EU provided €20 million and Spain €1 million.

Eligible beneficiaries are households living in extreme poverty that are registered in the cash transfer programme of the Ministry of Social Development. As part of the social protection package, the programme provides cash allowances to some 111,500 families, among which two-third live in Gaza.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30108

EU Heads of Cooperation visit Area C projects in Qalqiliya, 15 December 2016

European Union Heads of Cooperation in Jerusalem and Ramallah visited today different localities and projects in Area C in Qalqiliya Governorate. The group was briefed on various humanitarian and development projects targeting communities residing in Area C funded by the EU and Member State, and gained a first-hand impression of developments in this part of Area C of the West Bank.

At their arrival to Qalqiliya, EU Heads of Cooperation were briefed by Qalqiliya Governor and representatives of the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) on the challenges facing the governorate. The briefing primarily focused on the obstacles that the Palestinian Authority faces as it works to improve the living conditions of the Palestinians particularly in Area C of the Governorate.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30102

UK

Future UK support to the Occupied Palestinian Territories, 16 December 2016

The UK has confirmed that it will continue to provide funding to the Palestinian Authority in order to maintain stability, provide vital services and build and strengthen the institutions needed for a viable two-state solution.

However, certain key changes will be made to ensure this funding delivers the best value for money and maximum impact for Palestinians.

The decision forms part of an ongoing examination of UK aid to the Occupied Palestinian Territories, carried out by the Department for International Development, in close collaboration with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to ensure that support is reaching those it is meant to help, doing so as effectively as possible, and representing best value for money.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30109 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30110 (in Arabic)

Swiss

Switzerland to maintain assistance for Palestinian refugees in 2017-2020 period, 21 December 2016

Bern, 21.12.2016 - The Federal Council decided at its meeting of 21 December 2016 to maintain its contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine (UNRWA) over the coming four year period. The funding provided by Switzerland is primarily intended to help improve the access of the affected population to education, healthcare and social services. In this way Switzerland helps to improve prospects for the future, to reduce the risk of radicalisation among young Palestinians, and to support greater stability in the region. The funds also provide UNRWA with greater security in its budget planning.

Through its contribution to UNRWA Switzerland seeks to support the relief agency's efforts to continue performing its important mandate under the current difficult conditions. Switzerland's annual UNRWA contribution will be maintained at its present level of approximately CHF 20 million per year.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30116

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

Birzeit University, Institute of Women's Studies - Presentation of the findings of the study Re-integration of Women Survivors of Gender-Based Violence: Core Process for Combating Violence against Women in Palestinian Society, 15 December 2016

On December 15th 2016, at the Institute of Women's Studies - Birzeit University - the study "Re-integration of Women Survivors of Gender-Based Violence: Core Process for Combating Violence against Women in Palestinian Society" has been presented in the presence of Ms. Cristina Natoli - Representative of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) Jerusalem Office, Ms Carla Pagano - Head of the Gender Sector at AICS Jerusalem, Dr. Asem Khalil, Associate Professor at Birzeit University, Ms. Saida Al-Atrash, Head of Gender Unit at MoSD, Mr. Amin Assi, Acting General Director of Planning and Policy Unit at MoWA and Ms. Eileen Kuttab, Director of the Institute of Women Studies at Birzeit University.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30106

Representative Office of Japan

Grant Signing Ceremony for Rehabilitation of the Water Network in Al-Shawawrah Village funded by Japan, 21 December 2016

Grant Contract for one Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP) was signed today by Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the PA, and representative of Al-Shawawrah Village Council at the Representative Office of Japan in Ramallah for a total amount of US$ 80,498.

Al-Shawawrah Village Council will use the funds to replace 2,450 meters of 2 inches water pipelines in Al-Shawawrah. This project aims at securing sufficient tap water supply for about 2,743 direct beneficiaries and two main schools of 490 students and teachers.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30118 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30119 (in Arabic)

PCBS - PMA

Results Announcement, International Investment Position & External Debt - Third Quarter 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 third quarter 2016.

The primary results of the IIP (external assets - foreign liabilities) for Palestine at the end of third quarter 2016 revealed that the net IIP amounted to about USD 1,275 million, which means that the Palestinian economy's investment outside Palestine outweighs investment in Palestine from abroad. The Resident cash deposits in foreign banks and foreign exchange in the Palestinian economy accounted for the bulk of the external assets, constituting 63.7% of the total value of external assets.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30131 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30132 (in Arabic)

Results Announcement Palestinian Balance of Payments – Third Quarter 2016 Deficit in Current Account is USD 314.4 Million, 22 December 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 third 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 third quarter of 2016 showed:

An incessant deficit in the Current Account (Goods, Services, Income, Current Transfers) which totaled USD 314.4 million marking a decrease of 19.6% compared to the previous quarter

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30114 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30115 (in Arabic)

PCBS

Slight Increase in the Producer Price1 Index during November 2016, 29 December 2016

The overall Producer Price Index (PPI) for Palestine with its base month (December 2015=100) reached 102.24 in November 2016, as it slightly increased by 0.05% compared to October 2016.

Producer Price Index for locally consumed products (December 2015=100) reached 102.44 in November 2016, which indicates a slight increase by 0.08% compared to October 2016.

Producer Price Index for local exported products (December 2015=100) reached 101.51 in November 2016, which indicates a slight decrease by 0.05% compared to October 2016.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30135 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30136 (in Arabic)

Palestinians at the End of 2016, 29 December 2016

Increase in population of Palestinians in the world

The projected number of Palestinians in the world is 12.70 million, of whom 4.88 million are in State of Palestine, 1.53 million in Israel, 5.59 million in Arab countries and around 696 thousand in foreign countries.

More than one-third of population in Gaza Strip

The projected number of Palestinians living in State of Palestine at the end of 2016 is 4.88 million: around 2.97 million reside in the West Bank and 1.91 million in Gaza Strip.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30133 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30134 (in Arabic)

Preliminary Estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (Third Quarter 2016), Main Results, 28 December 2016

Increase in GDP at constant prices in Palestine during the 3rd quarter 2016 compared to the parallel quarter (3rd quarter 2015)

Preliminary estimates at constant prices showed an increase of 5.2% in GDP in Palestine during the 3rd quarter 2016 compared to the 3rd quarter 2015, (increase 3.9% in the West Bank and increase 9.7% in Gaza Strip compared to the 3rd quarter 2015). And it showed a decrease of 0.4% in Palestine

compared to the 2nd quarter 2016 at constant prices, meanwhile the base year is 2004. GDP for the 3rd quarter 2016 at constant prices was USD, 1533.9 million for the West Bank and USD 489.2 million for Gaza Strip.

Gross Domestic Product Per Capita

GDP per Capita for Palestine at constant prices was USD 442.9 during the 3rd quarter 2016, it showed an increase of 2.3% compared to the 3rd quarter 2015.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30123 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30124 (in Arabic)

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) Press report of economic forecasts for 2017, 27 December 2016

Ms. Ola Awad, President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), has reviewed today 27/12/2016, the performance of the Palestinian economy during 2016, as well as the economic forecasts for the year 2017.Palestinian Economic1 Performance during 2016The preliminary estimates for 2016 compiled in accordance with the data available for the first three quarters of the year, and indicators for the fourth quarter 2016 used to estimate the data for that quarter. It should be noted that the data will be revised after the completion of collection of data from relevant sources.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30125 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30126 (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 November 2016

Increase in the Construction Cost Index for Residential Buildings

The Construction Cost Index for Residential buildings reached 102.39 with an increase of 0.35% in the West Bank during November compared with October 2016 (base year 2013=100).

The Construction Cost Index for Residential buildings increased due to the increase in the prices of raw materials by 0.57%, and rental of equipment by 0.30%. At the same time, labor wages remained stable during November 2016 compared with the previous month.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30127 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30128 (in Arabic)

Newsletters

- **UNRWA Gender Bulletin, November 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30104

- **Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin, December 2016**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30121

Announcements

The UN Women Palestine Country Office, in collaboration with UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States and UN Women Headquarters in New York Global Advocacy Training entitled "Palestinian women, men and young activists come together to unify their global advocacy vision and plan for advancing the Peace and Security Agenda".

For more details please see the attachment

New Arrivals

- **Mr. Zeyad Elshakra** has joined UNHABITAT as Head of Office (OiC). His contact details are as follows:
  Email: Zeyad.elshakra@undp.org , zeyad.elshakra@unhabitat.org