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

Aid Coordination Meetings

List of Recent Meetings

- **Wednesday, 12 April 2017:** Fiscal Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at the Palestinian Public Finance Institute, Ramallah.

List of Upcoming Meetings

- **Wednesday, 26 April 2017:** Health Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at the Ministry of Health

Minutes of Meetings & Related Documents

- **PSDT SWG – Enabling Environment Thematic Group, 21 March 2017**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30378

Documents & Reports

United Nations

- **UNSCO**
  - Socio-Economic Report: Overview of the Palestinian Economy in Q4/2016, 6 April 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30388

- **World Bank**
  - Preventing economic collapse in Gaza, realizing the potential of the Jordan Valley, 10 April 2017 http://blogs.worldbank.org/arabvoices/preventing-economic-collapse-in-gaza (in English)
    http://blogs.worldbank.org/arabvoices/ar/preventing-economic-collapse-in-gaza (in Arabic)

  - Update on "Reconstructing Gaza – Donor Pledges", 6 April 2017
    http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/rebuilding-gaza-donor-pledges

- **OCHA**
  - Protection of Civilians, 21 March – 3 April 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30391
  - Gaza Strip: Access & Movement in 2016, March 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30392
  - OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin, March 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30406

- **FAO**
  - Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 2 –6 April 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30398
  - Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 26 – 30 March 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30379

- **WFP**
  - Standard Project Report 2016: Food Assistance for the Food-Insecure Populations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, 6 April 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30389
  - WFP Palestine in Action: 2016 Achievements, 6 April 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30390

Press Releases and Formal Statements

UN

The statement by United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov, on the growing tensions in Gaza, 8 April 2017

"I am deeply concerned by the growing tensions in Gaza. Over the past decade, Palestinians in Gaza have lived through four conflicts, with no freedom, unprecedented Israeli restrictions, a dire humanitarian crisis, high unemployment, an ongoing electricity crisis and the lack of political perspective.

The full statement is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30397

World Bank

Building Communities, Cities and Governance in the Palestinian Territories, 13 April 2017

Over the last 12 years in Gaza City, the municipality has kept urban services going despite the serious challenges it has faced. Improvements in revenue collection and own-source revenue, as well as participatory processes, finances, accounting, and budgeting were all critical to making this possible.

"Across the Palestinian territories, local governments have worked to improve the services and infrastructure needed today and to build the capacity critical for the future," said Anna Wellenstein, Director in the World Bank's Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice. "And, as a result, municipalities are becoming more capable, transparent and, most importantly, more accountable to their citizens. This is significant progress in any context, but in the fragile context of the Palestinian territories, it is truly impressive."

The full story is available at the following link:

http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2017/04/13/building-communities-governance-and-cities-in-the-palestinian-territories (in English)

http://www.albankaldawli.org/ar/news/feature/2017/04/13/building-communities-governance-and-cities-in-the-palestinian-territories (in Arabic)

UNICEF

UNICEF seawater desalination plant helps head off Gaza water crisis, 7 April 2017

Water resources have long been critically scarce in the Gaza Strip, and the situation is getting beyond dire. A new UNICEF seawater desalination plant is providing safe tap water to communities that previously bought or imported their drinking water.

GAZA, State of Palestine, 6 April 2017 – For 13-year-old Ahmad, the idea of drinking water from the tap did not make sense.

The full story is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30394

Palestinian students say 'No' to violence, 24 March 2017

BETHLEHEM, State of Palestine, 24 March 2017 – Palestinian students living in Bethlehem are among many who suffer from violence in different aspects of their lives.

A 2014 UNICEF study revealed that more than 90 percent of children age 1-14 years living in the State of Palestine had experienced psychological aggression or physical punishment during the previous month.

The full story is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30387

UNESCO

UNESCO Ramallah Office teaming up with Environment Quality Authority and environment stakeholders on the management of Natural Heritage sites in Palestine, 13 April 2017

In the framework of the project Local development through the rehabilitation and revitalization of the historic environment in Palestine, funded by the Government of Sweden, UNESCO Ramallah Office organized a capacity-development workshop on management of natural heritage sites. The activity was conducted in cooperation with the Environment Quality Authority (EQA) and in

partnership with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (Advisory Body to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention) and the Arab Regional center for World Heritage in Bahrain.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30405

Accountability for SDG 4 and Citizen Participation core themes at the Launch of the Global Action Week for Education, 12 April 2017

Ramallah – On 12 April 2017, the launch of the Global Action Week for Education (GAWE) took Place at the Government Media Center in Ramallah. The event was organized by The Palestinian Education Coalition in partnership with UNESCO Ramallah Office, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and UNRWA. Every year the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) organizes a Global Action Week on different themes.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30402

UNRWA

UNRWA Commissioner-General Concludes Official Visit to the Russian Federation, 10 April 2017

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 Moscow on Friday. He met with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mikhail L. Bogdanov, who is also the Special Presidential Representative for the Middle East and Africa.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30399

United Nations Secretary General Urges Member States to Make UNRWA funds "Sustainable" Praising the Agency's "Indispensable Role" in the Middle East, 7 April 2017

In a landmark report presented today, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres, urges all member states actively to support and make the funding of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) "sustainable, predictable and sufficient".
Mr. Guterres underscores that member states "widely value the indispensable role" UNRWA plays in the provision of essential services to the Palestine Refugees and the "impact it has had in the context of the unresolved Arab-Israeli conflict".
The full statement is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30396

Switzerland – Norway – EU

Local statement on the execution of three prisoners in Gaza on 6 April 2017, 7 April 2017

The Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah strongly condemn the execution of three prisoners in Gaza on 6 April 2017. The prisoners had previously been sentenced by a military court in Gaza.
The Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah recall their firm opposition under all circumstances to the use of capital punishment. Switzerland, the EU and Norway consider that abolition of the death

penalty contributes to the enhancement of human dignity and the progressive development of human rights.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30395

EU

The EU provides nearly €12 million to support families in need in the West Bank and Gaza, 11 April 2017

The European Union is making its contribution to the Palestinian Authority's (PA) quarterly payment of social allowances to 109,000 poor Palestinian families in the West Bank and Gaza. This contribution amounts to €11.75 million and is funded by the European Union (€10 million), the Governments of Austria (€1.25 million) and Ireland (€0.5 million).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30401

The European Union Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah express serious concern about exit restrictions from Gaza introduced on 26 March 2017, 5 April 2017

The EU missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah express serious concern at exit restrictions imposed by the de facto authorities for travels out of the Gaza Strip. In the January 2016 Council Conclusions the EU called all parties, state and non-state actors to guarantee unimpeded humanitarian access to Gaza, as foreseen by international humanitarian law, for national, local and international humanitarian organizations, including EU bodies and Member States.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30386

Consulate General of Italy

Italian Minister of Economic Development, Carlo Calenda, met Palestinian high level representatives from the energy and private sectors, 3 April 2017

On April 3rd, the Minister of Economic Development of the Italian Republic, Carlo Calenda, met the Chairman of the Palestinian Investment Fund, Mohammad Moustafa, the Acting Chairman of the Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority, Zafer Milhem, the Chairman and General Manager of Bank of Palestine, Hashim Shawa, and the Chairman of the Palestinian Federation of Business Association, Samir Zraiq.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30384

Representative Office of Brazil

Statement by the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil on the recent announcement made by the Israeli government regarding the construction of a new settlement in Palestinian Territory, 4 April 2017

Brazil received with concern the announcement by the Israeli government of the construction of a new settlement in Palestine, the first in more than 20 years, and urged Israel to respect its commitments under international law. Settlements in Palestine are illegal and represent an obstacle to a two-state solution and a just and lasting peace.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30385

Japan - UNICEF

UNICEF welcomes Japanese US$3,138,950 contribution to support children in Palestine, 03 April 2017

RAMALLAH, 3 April 2017 – The Government of Japan has donated USD $3,138,950 in support of UNICEF's humanitarian response focusing on life-saving and other interventions addressing urgent needs and rights of Palestinian children. This new grant will enable the United Nations Children's Fund and its partners to implement interventions for nearly 130,000 children and 25,000 caregivers in the critical areas of education, water and sanitation, protection, health and nutrition across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30381

PCBS

The Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs and Palestinian Prisoners Club and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics press release on the Occasion of Palestinian Prisoners' Day on 17th April, 15 April 2017

History of the case of Palestinian prisoners began since the outset of Israel's occupation of the Palestinian Territory in 1948 as one million cases of arrest were recorded since then. The question of Palestinian prisoners is central for the Palestinian cause. The time during the Palestinian Stone Intifada that broke out in 1987 and the Al-Aqsa Intifada of 2000 were among the most difficult historical phases. During these two Intifadas, the Palestinian people faced arbitrary arrests of hundreds of thousands of people of all society segments.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30407 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30408 (in Arabic)

Palestinian Consumer Price Index (CPI) - March 2017, 13 April 2017

The overall CPI for Palestine during March 2017 increased by 1.08% compared with February 2017 (by 2.33% in Gaza Strip, and by 0.22% in the West Bank, while it decreased by 0.70% in Jerusalem J1).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30403 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30404 (in Arabic)

Decrease in the Industrial Production Index in Palestine During February 2017

The overall IPI in Palestine reached 103.23 during February 2017 with a decrease of 6.11% 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=30382 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30383 (in Arabic)

Newsletters

- **PCBS Electronic Monthly Bulletin, 5 April 2017**

  http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_127/Monthly%20bulletin_e.htm

  (in English)

  http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_127/Monthly%20bulletin_a.htm

  (in Arabic)

- **EUPOL COPPS Newsletter, March 2017**

  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30400