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

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

List of Upcoming Meetings

- **Thursday, 4 May 2017:** Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting in Brussels.
- **Wednesday, 10 May 2017:** Education Sector Working Group meeting (Opening session for the ASR 2017) at 9:00 at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.
- **Wednesday, 10 May 2017:** Agriculture Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at the Ministry of Agriculture, Ramallah.

Aid Coordination Meetings

Minutes of Meetings & Related Documents

❖ **Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting, 4 May 2017**

The Government of Palestine Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting, 4 May 2017
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30445

IMF West Bank and Gaza Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee meeting, 4 May 2017
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30425

World Bank Economic Monitoring Report to the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, 4 May 2017
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30449

Office of the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) Report for the meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, 4 May 2017
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30453

Office of the Quartet Report for the Ad-Hoc Liaison Committee meeting, 4 May 2017
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30455

Documents & Reports

PNGO

- PNGO factsheet on Palestinian Political Prisoners, April 2017
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30417

United Nations

- **WHO**
  - Health Access for Referral Patients from the Gaza Strip – February 2017, 18 April 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30419
- **FAO**
  - Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 23 –27 April 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30456
  - Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 16 –20 April 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30438
  - Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 9 –13 April 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30424
- **OCHA**
  - Protection of Civilians, 4 – 18 April 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30427
  - Shutdown of Gaza's power plant jeopardizes the delivery of basic services, 21 April 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30432

Press Releases and Formal Statements

Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister's Office press release on the Occasion of Palestinian Prisoners' Day, 17th April 2017

On Palestinian Prisoners' Day April 17, 2017, a mass HUNGER STRIKE started today calling for basic needs and rights of prisoners in an attempt to put an end to the practice of arbitrary administrative

detention, torture, ill-treatment, unfair trials, detention of children, medical negligence, solitary confinement, inhuman/degrading treatment, deprivation of basic rights such as family visits and the Right to Education.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30412

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30413 (Facts about Palestinian prisoners in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30414 (Facts about Palestinian prisoners in Arabic)

UN

UN Report: Lack of Progress in Resolving Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Impedes Palestinian Development; Social, Economic and Political Consequences of Crisis in Gaza should not be Underestimated, 1 May 2017

Monday, 1 May 2017, Jerusalem - The persistent absence of progress to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues to significantly impede Palestine's development, according to a new report issued by the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO). The parties are overdue to take the necessary steps, on the ground to create an environment conducive to peace, as recommended by the Middle East Quartet.

The report will be presented to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC) at the bi-annual meeting in Brussels on May 4, 2017. The report notes that despite a number of international efforts over the past six months to advance the two-state solution, last year has been characterized by a continued lack of progress on the political front.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30454

Briefing by Nickolay Mladenov, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, 20 April 2017

Thank you for this opportunity to again address the Council on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. I took note of the Presidency's interest this month in discussing a number of issues pertaining to the Middle East and North Africa region. I will therefore highlight some of them in my presentation and defer to my fellow UN envoys who regularly brief the Council for greater detail on many of these challenges.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30426

Statement by United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov, on the electricity crisis in Gaza, 19 April 2017

I am following with great concern the tense situation in Gaza, where a new energy crisis is now unfolding.

Reform of the Gaza Electricity Distribution Company (GEDCO) is essential to improve revenue collection and transparency in line with international standards. The defacto authorities in Gaza must ensure that collection rates are improved and that revenue collected in Gaza is returned to the legitimate Palestinian authorities in order to keep fuel and electricity supply flowing.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30415 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30418 (in Arabic)

World Bank

World Bank Calls for Decisive Policies by All Parties to Stop the Deterioration of the Palestinian Economy, 26 April 2017

JERUSALEM, April 26, 2017 – Foreign aid and investment alone will have limited impact on the Palestinian economy without significant changes on the ground, according to a new World Bank report. A paradigm shift is needed among all parties to break the vicious cycle of near-stagnant economic growth and ongoing political uncertainty – and this could allow foreign aid to have a much more catalytic impact.

The new World Bank report will be presented to the Ad Hoc Liaison committee (AHLC) on May 4, 2017 in Brussels, a policy-level meeting for development assistance to the Palestinian people. The report points out that actions to address past recommendations for policy changes have been inadequate. In addition, the report issues a call to address immediate risks created by economic stagnation that could endanger the social equilibrium by creating the conditions for sustainable growth.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30450

UNRWA

Commissioner-General of UNRWA meets Palestinian Prime Minister in Ramallah, 17 April 2017

The Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), Pierre Krähenbühl, met today in Ramallah with the Prime Minister of the State of Palestine, H.E. Dr. Rami Hamdallah.

The meeting addressed the rights and critical needs of Palestine Refugees in the West Bank including East Jerusalem, and Gaza. The Commissioner-General updated the Prime Minister on his recent visit to Aleppo, Syria and the situation of Palestine Refugees in Lebanon and Jordan.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30410 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30411 (in Arabic)

OCHA

UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and Development Activities releases emergency funding for fuel for hospitals in the Gaza Strip, 27 April 2017

The UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and Development Activities, Robert Piper, expressed concern about the deteriorating energy situation in the Gaza Strip and called for swift action from Israeli and Palestinian authorities and members of the international community to protect the provision of critical basic services to Gaza's 1.9 million residents.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30446

UNFPA – Representative Office of Japan

UNFPA Welcomes Japanese US$ 471,275 Contribution to Support Women`s Health in the State of Palestine, 20 April 2017

Ramallah, 20 April, 2017 – The Government of Japan and UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, announced today the launching of a project under the title "Women's health: addressing pressing needs for sexual and reproductive health and breast cancer services in hardly hit communities". The project will be implemented in Gaza and area C with financial support of USD 471,275 by the Government of Japan.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30430 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30431 (in Arabic)

UNOPS

UNOPS hands over the first reconstructed unit to beneficiaries of the "House Reconstruction in Gaza" project, 26 April 2017

Gaza, April 2017 – The United Nations Office for Project services (UNOPS) handed over the first completely reconstructed unit within the "House reconstruction in Gaza" project, financed by the Federal Republic of Germany through its Development Bank KfW and in partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), to the first beneficiaries, who had lost their homes in the conflict of summer 2014.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30441

UN Women

One-Service-Centre for Women and Girls Victims of Violence Opens in Palestine, 26 April 2017

Ramallah, 26 April 2017 – Today, the Palestinian government opens a new model to provide protection, privacy and dignity to women and girls who are victims of violence. A One-Service-Centre that is designed to facilitate access to services for victims of violence was officially opened in the presence of Major General Hazem Attallah, Chief of the Palestinian Civil Police, and Dr. Sabine Machl, UN Women Special Representative. A number of representatives of the security, justice, government, civil society, and international institutions were also in attendance.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30442

Consulate General of France

Excerpts from the briefing by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development spokesman, 20 April 2017

Jean-Marc Ayrault, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development, received his Palestinian counterpart, Riyad al-Malki, on April 19.
The two ministers took stock of the situation in Jerusalem and in the Palestinian Territories and reaffirmed the need for all parties to re-establish the conditions necessary for a return to dialogue. In this context, Jean-Marc Ayrault reaffirmed France's attachment to the two-state solution. He reaffirmed our unwavering commitment to promoting peace, as demonstrated by the holding of the Middle East Peace Conference in Paris on January 15.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30428 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30429 (in Arabic)

Representative Office of Japan

Completion of the Project for Replacing Air Medium Voltage Network in Qarawat Bani Hassan, funded by Japan, 26 April 2017

Today, April 26th, 2017, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the PA, visited Qarawat Bani Hassan in Salfit 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$ 82,009 was extended to Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality. It was used to replace 900 meters of old electric wire to underground network and remove 8 old lattices column and install one new lattice column.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30443 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30444 (in Arabic)

Completion of the Project for Rehabilitation of Water Network in Anabta, funded by Japan, 19 April 2017

Today, April 19th,2017, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the PA, visited Anabta in Tulkarm 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$ 90,550 was extended to Anabta Municipality. It was used to replace 2,130m of old water pipelines with new coated galvanized steel pipes.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30420 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30421 (in Arabic)

PCBS

PCBS press release on the Eve occasion of May 1st – International Workers Day, 30 April 2017

Unemployment in Palestine increased during the last decade from 21.7% in 2007 to 26.9% in 2016. The rate in the West Bank increased from 17.9% in 2007 to 18.2% in 2016, also it increased in Gaza Strip from 29.7% in 2007 to 41.7% in 2016; the gap in the unemployment rate increased for females and males also; the gap increased between them in recent years, where the rate of men fell from 22.3% in 2007 to 22.2% in 2016, while the unemployment rate increased for females from 19.1% in 2007 to 44.7% in 2016.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30451 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30452 (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 March, 26 April 2017

The Construction Cost Index (CCI) for Residential buildings reached 103.72 with an increase of 0.44% in the West Bank* during March 2017 compared with February 2017 (base year 2013=100). The Construction Cost Index for Residential buildings increased due to the increase in labour wages by 1.72%, and rental of equipment by 1.00%, while the prices of raw materials decreased by 0.19% during March 2017 compared with the previous month.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30439 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30440 (in Arabic)

Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Registered External Trade in Goods of February 2017, 25 April 2017

Exports slightly decreased in February, 2017 by 0.3% compared to January, 2017. While it increased by 14.8% compared to February, 2016 and reached USD 79.2 Million.

Exports to Israel slightly decreased in February, 2017 by 0.9% compared to January, 2017 and represented 86.9% of total exports in February, 2017.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30436 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30437 (in Arabic)

PCBS press release on Hotel Activities Survey in the West Bank during 2016, 23 April 2017

During 2016, 448,247 guests stayed in hotels in the West Bank: 28% were from European Union countries and 11% were Palestinian, 9% were from the United States and Canada.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30433 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30435 (in Arabic)

Increase in the Wholesale Price Index during the First Quarter of 2017, 20 April 2017

The overall WPI in Palestine with its base year (2007=100) reached 125.82 in the First quarter 2017, which indicates an increase by 0.39% compared with the Fourth quarter 2016.
WPI for local products (2007=100) reached 129.02 in the First quarter 2017, which indicates an increase by 1.35% compared with the Fourth quarter 2016.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30422 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30423 (in Arabic)

Newsletters

- **The Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin, April 2017**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30448

- **UNRWA Gender Bulletin, April 2017**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30447

- **MoLG – JICA Project Team Newsletter, February 2017**
  https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8IM297dPk4tLTRjWVh6cXhFZ013UkpXMUR0OXdlR1RDbFJF/view

- **MoLG – JICA Project Team Newsletter, January 2017**
  https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8IM297dPk4tclhoSW1VLVhGUFEyX2JnM3NMbHRRUFhPTnVr/view (in English)

  https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8IM297dPk4tMXhFZHlNQ1FyUW1XQVUzYktad2ZEd2ZlVGZZ/view (in Arabic)

Announcements

- **The Representative of the Republic of Malta in Palestine**, Mr. Reuben Gauci wishes to announce that PhD Scholarships are being offered by the University of Malta to esteemed foreign students. For more information kindly follow this link:

  http://www.um.edu.mt/newspoint/noticeboard/notices/2017/04/scholarshipstostudyintheheartofthemediterranean