LAC

SECRETARIAT

CONTENTS

News from LACS	9
Shared Calendar of Events	2
Documents & Reports	2
Newsletters	9
Job Vacancies	9

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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

- **Thursday, 25 May 2017**: Water Sector Working Group meeting at 12:00 at PWA in Ramallah.
- **Tuesday, 30 May 2017**: Election Working Group meeting at 10:00 at the premises of the CEC in Ramallah.

List of Upcoming Meetings

- **Thursday, 8 June 2017**: Social Protection Sector Working Group at 11:00 at the MoSD.
- **Tuesday, 13 June 2017**: Environment Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at the EQA.

Aid Coordination Meetings

Minutes of Meetings & Related Documents

❖ **Health Sector Working Group meeting, 26 April 2017**
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31510

- MoH – Some of Main Indicators Palestine Health 2016, 26 April 2017 http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31511
- MoH – Reproductive Health Achievements, challenges, Steps forward, 26 April 2017 http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31512
- MoH – MOH Action Plan 2017, 26 April 2017 http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31513
- MoH – Health Sector Report–Main MoH Cost Drivers, 26 April 2017 http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31514
- WHO – Health Cluster, Summary of Achievements, Challenges and Way Forward http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31515
- MoH – Thematic Group of Pharmaceuticals, 26 April 2017 http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31516
- MoH – Presentation of progress of the Technical Working Groups of the HSWG April 2017 http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31517
- MoH – Service Purchase Unit, 26 April 2017 http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31518

Documents & Reports

United Nations

❖ UNSCO

- Humanitarian Impact of the Gaza Electricity Crisis – May 2017
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=30469

❖ OCHA

- Occupation is the main cause of humanitarian needs in the occupied Palestinian territory, 31 May 2017
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31538
- Gaza Crossings' Operations Status – April 2017, 17 May 2017
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31496

❖ WFP

- WFP Country Brief, March 2017
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31490

❖ FAO

- Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 22 –25 May 2017
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31533
- Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade 14 – 18 May 2017
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31509
- Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 7 –11 May 2017
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31491

❖ WHO

- Health Access for Referral Patients from the Gaza Strip – March 2017, 16 May 2017
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31494

❖ UNFPA

- The Humanitarian Impact of Gaza's Electricity and Fuel Crisis on Gender-Based Violence and services, 29 May 2017
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31535

ILO

- Report of the ILO Director-General on "The situation of workers of the occupied Arab territories", May 2017
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31506 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31507 (in Arabic)

Press Releases and Formal Statements

EU

The EU and Ministry of Social Development host Iftars for poor families during Ramadan, 30 May 2017

The EU Representative Ralph Tarraf and the Minister of Social Development Ibrahim Al Shaer launched today a series of Iftars to be organized during the Holy month of Ramadan. The Iftars kicked off at the SOS Children's Village in Bethlehem which brought together children, local officials, and social workers from the Ministry. During the month, ten Iftars will be organized by the EU and the Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) in the West Bank and Gaza for beneficiaries of the Cash Transfer Programme (CTP).

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31536

EU Heads of Cooperation visit Area C projects in the Jordan Valley, 25 May 2017

European Union Heads of Cooperation in Jerusalem and Ramallah visited today different localities and projects in Area C in the Jordan Valley. The Norwegian Head of Cooperation also joined the visit. The group was briefed on various humanitarian and developmental projects funded by the EU and its Member States supporting the Palestinian communities in the area.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31528

Palestinian Students celebrate the 60th anniversary of Rome Treaties, 25 May 2017

The EU and the Ministry of Education awarded today Palestinian students from across the West Bank who participated in the "Know Europe" competition. The competition was organized on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Rome Treaties. On 25th March the European Union marked 60 years since the signature of the Rome Treaties, the first step towards a united Europe against wars and towards peace.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31527

The EU and Norwegian Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah urge the authorities in Gaza not to carry out execution of prisoners, 24 May 2017

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

The authorities in Gaza have announced that they, on 25 May 2017, intend to implement the three death sentences delivered on 21 May 2017. The Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah recall their firm opposition under all circumstances to the use of capital punishment and call for the authorities in Gaza to refrain from taking such decisions.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31521

The EU Local statement on three death sentences issued in Gaza, 22 May 2017

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

"The Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn the three death sentences issued in the Gaza Strip on 21st May.

The Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah recall their opposition under all circumstances to the use of capital punishment.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31508

UN

UN Briefing to the Security Council on the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question, 26 May 2017

Mr. President, Members of the Security Council, On the eve of the holy month of Ramadan, allow me to extend my warmest wishes to Muslims and wish them Ramadan Kareem. Mr. President, This briefing unfortunately follows on the heels of the despicable terrorist attacks in Minya and in Manchester. I offer my deep condolences to the families of the victims and to the Egyptian and British Governments and people. There is no justification for terror. On his recent visit to the Middle East, U.S. President Trump pressed for a common approach to addressing the scourge of extremism and terrorism. He also made it very clear that resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is critical to combating this threat and to achieving peace in the region

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31530

Statement by the Humanitarian Coordinator, Robert Piper, on the electricity crisis in Gaza, 19 May 2017

Gaza has been experiencing a severe electricity crisis since mid-April, when the Gaza Power Plant went silent due to a dispute between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas in Gaza over tax rates for the fuel needed at the plant.

Since mid-April, electricity levels have fluctuated between about 100 and 150 Megawatts. In practical terms, this means that most households and services in Gaza receive electricity from the grid for at most, four hours at a time, followed by a 12 hour power-cut.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31501

UNESCO

UNESCO and Consulate General of Sweden inaugurated the rehabilitated cultural heritage sites in the Historic Town of Beit Iksa village, 26 May 2017

Beit Iksa, Jerusalem – On 18 May, UNESCO Ramallah Office, the Consulate General of Sweden in Jerusalem, Riwaq Center for Architectural Conservation inaugurated the rehabilitated cultural heritage sites in the Historic Town of Beit Iksa village in Jerusalem. Several sites were rehabilitated between 2012 and 2016, including a public place used currently as a children playground and a locale for the Women's Association in the village. These two rehabilitation projects were implemented within the framework of the project "Local development through the rehabilitation and revitalization of historic environment in Palestine" funded by the government of Sweden through UNESCO.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31531

World Bank

World Bank Delegation: Committed to Supporting the Palestinian People on their Path to a Better Future, 23 May 2017

On a recent visit to the Palestinian territories, a Group of World Bank Executive Directors had an opportunity to witness first-hand the ongoing innovative thinking even in a very challenging and constrained environment. The visit also drove home the critical importance of economic and social services to the Palestinian people during this difficult period of economic contraction.

The ten members of the Bank's Board were in the Palestinian territories from May 10 to May 12 as part of a broader tour of the region.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31522 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31523 (in Arabic)

FAO – World Bank

Water Management is Key to Sustainable Development and Stability in the Middle East and North Africa, 15 May 2017

Cairo, Egypt, May 15, 2017— The importance of water management for sustainable development and stability in the Middle East and North Africa is at the heart of the League of Arab States' conference on the Sustainable Development Goals which opened in Cairo yesterday. The World Bank Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa, Hafez Ghanem, and the FAO Director-General and Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa, Abedssalam Ould Ahmed, joined the launch of the Arab Sustainable Development Week to raise awareness of the issue and to discuss the dynamics between water insecurity and fragility, conflict, and violence.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31488 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31489 (in Arabic)

UNRWA

Kuwait Patients Helping Fund Society Donates Medicines to Palestine Refugees in Gaza, 21 May 2017

The Kuwait Patients Helping Fund Society (KPHFS) has contributed US$ 200,000 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to help Palestine refugees in Gaza living with non-communicable diseases manage their conditions. The agreement will enable UNRWA to provide antidiabetic and antihypertensive medicines to approximately 78,000 Palestine refugee patients in Gaza over the course of a year. The agreement that was signed today is the second cooperation between KPHFS and UNRWA following a similar donation last year for Palestine refugees in Lebanon.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31502 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31503 (in Arabic)

UNESCO

First Skills Forecasting Model in Palestine launched, 25 May 2017

Ramallah, 25 May 2017 – The Launch of the first Skills Forecasting Model in Palestine took place today in Ramallah. Within the framework the EU funded project Networks of Mediterranean Youth (NET-MED Youth), the skills forecasting simulation model, developed by UNESCO in partnership with the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute-MAS and with the cooperation of the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, is a tool that provides quantative projections on the future supply and demand of skills in the labor market. Therefore, the model works on the anticipation and identification of skills needs and translates this into curricula and training programmes as well as employment strategies. All this within the framework of a national dialogue involving relevant stakeholders, including civil society and youth.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31529

The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

Bethlehem Municipality inaugurates Road Rehabilitation Works with support from the Government of Italy and UNDP, 26 May 2017

Bethlehem, May 26th, 2017- The Bethlehem Municipality, the Government of Italy and UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People inaugurate the Caritas Road at the northern entrance of Bethlehem City, under the Facilitating Access to Infrastructure Resilience in Area C and East Jerusalem (FAIR) programme, a multi-donor platform which aims to empower and strengthen national institutions to plan and deliver essential public and social services in Area C and East Jerusalem. The program is supported by Italy, Norway, Bahrain and OFID, for projects worth over USD 11 million

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31532

PCBS

Palestinian Producer Price Index, April 2017

The overall Producer Price Index (PPI) for Palestine with its base month (December 2015=100) reached 100.72 in April 2017, as it increased by 2.70% compared to March 2017.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31537 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31539 (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 April, 25 May 2017

Decrease in the Construction Cost Index (CCI) for Residential Buildings

The Construction Cost Index (CCI) for Residential buildings reached 103.56 with a decrease of 0.15% in the West Bank during April 2017 compared with March 2017 (base year 2013=100).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31525 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31526 (in Arabic)

Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Registered External Trade in Goods of March, 22 May 2017

Exports increased in March, 2017 by 9.5% compared to February, 2017. It also increased by 12.5% compared to March, 2016 and reached USD 86.7 Million.

Exports to Israel increased in March, 2017 by 12.1% compared to February, 2017 and represented 88.9% of total exports in March, 2017.

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31504 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31505 (in Arabic)

PCBS - Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology press release on the eve of the International Day for Society of Information, 17 May 2017

The world celebrates the world information society day this year under the title "Big Data for Big Impact," focusing on the power of Big Data and its impact on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through exploring how to turn imperfect, complex, often unstructured data into actionable information in a development context. The technological developments have facilitated the emergence of Big Data, developing standards related to Big Data and identifying sources and uses of Big Data.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31492 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31493 (in Arabic)

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

First Conference "Microfinance Sector in Palestine – Prospects and Challenges" held in Jericho on15th and 16th May 2017

On May 15, the Consul General of Italy, Fabio Sokolowicz, and the Representative of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in Jerusalem, Cristina Natoli, in the framework of Italy's support to the Palestinian microfinance, welcomed together with other local and international donors more than two hundred participants in the first conference on microfinance in Palestine, co-organized by the Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA) and Sharakeh (network of local microfinance institutions). The Conference was opened by the Governor of Jericho, Majed Al-Fatiani.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31495

Newsletters

- **UNRWA Gender Bulletin, May 2017**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31534

- **The Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin, May 2017**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31524

Job Vacancies

- **KOICA** is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of "Program Officer". For further information, please see the attached document.