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 Upcoming Meetings

- **Thursday, 3 August 2017**: Private Sector Development and Trade Sector Working Group (PSDT SWG) at 10:00 at the Ministry of National Economy.

List of Recent Meetings

- **Wednesday, 14 June 2017:** Thematic Group on Trade meeting (part of the Private Sector and Trade Sector Working Group) at 10:00 at the MoNE.

Aid Coordination Meetings

Minutes of Meetings & Related Documents

- **Election Working Group meeting, 30 May 2017**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31601
  - CEC – 2017 Local Election Results, 30 May 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31602

- **Municipal Development and Local Governance Sector Working Group meeting, 24 May 2017**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31603
  - GIZ – Mapping of Donor Engagement in the Local Governance Sector in the Palestinian Territories, 24 May 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31604
  - MoLG – Action Plan, 2017 – 2019
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31605 (in English)
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31606 (in Arabic)

Documents & Reports

United Nations

- **World Bank**
  - Reforming aid management in the West Bank and Gaza, 1 March 2016

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31607

- **WHO**
  - Monthly report on Gaza referrals and access – May 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31625
  - WHO access report 2016
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31626

- **OCHA**
  - The humanitarian impact of the internal Palestinian divide on the Gaza Strip, June 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31590
  - Humanitarian Bulletin, May – June 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31597

- **WFP**
  - WFP State of Palestine – Country Brief, 4 July 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31594

- **FAO**
  - Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 2 – 6 July 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31614
  - Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 25–29 June 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31599
  - Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 18 –22 June 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31598

Press Releases and Formal Statements

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The statement by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs over the recent settlements announcements, 11 July 2017

The Foreign Ministry expresses concern for the intensified expansion of Israel's settlements, testified by the Israeli Authorities' recent approval of the plan to build 944 housing units in the Pisgat Ze'ev Settlement (East Jerusalem). The decision runs against the two-State perspective and undermines the chance of assuring a future of peace and security to the Parties

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31617

Netherlands Representative Office

Dutch Good Growth Fund Invests in Palestinian Businesses, 10 July 2017 Today the Netherlands Representative Office in Ramallah officially launched the Dutch Good Growth Fund (DGGF) in the

Palestinian Territories. The Fund will invest in two Palestinian financial intermediaries, FATEN and Ibtikar, that will use the funding to finance Palestinian small and medium enterprises (SME). This is part of the Dutch strategy to enhance private sector development, SME growth and employment creation. Established in 2014, the DGGF is active in 68 developing countries and emerging markets. Worldwide, many SME's have difficulty securing the financial backing they need to grow. They have a problem accessing regular financial services. In the Palestinian Territories, over 95% of the companies fall in the category of SMEs. Dutch representative Peter Mollema said that "for this reason, I expect there will be a good market for the Fund".

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31620

UNDP – Japan

Joint Press Release Funded by the Government of Japan UNDP Kicks off Tokyo Football League II in Gaza, 11 July 2017

Gaza, 10 July 2017 – The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Japan, in partnership with the Palestinian Football Association, kicked off the Tokyo Football League II in the Gaza Strip. The project is part of their shared commitment to empowering youth in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank through the "Tamkeen- Emergence Response to Palestinian Youth through Sports Initiatives" project, funded by the Government of Japan for the amount of USD 386,000. H.E. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, expressed gratitude to all partners for making the project successful, including UNDP, the Palestinian Football Association and the Palestinian Olympic Committee. "As we are well aware, youth is the pillar of the future of Palestine as they represent 30% of the total Palestinian population". "We believe that the Tokyo League II will help tackle the despair the Palestinian youth, both males and females, are feeling due to the severe political and economic situation," he added.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31618 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31619 (in Arabic

UN – QO

The Quartet Envoys' Joint Press Statement, 13 July 2017

"On 13 July, the Envoys of the Middle East Quartet met in Jerusalem to discuss current efforts to advance Middle East peace, as well as the deteriorating situation in Gaza. The Envoys expressed serious concern over the worsening humanitarian situation in Gaza and discussed current efforts to resolve the crisis.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31627

UNDP

Gaza Economy – Nearing Total Collapse: Living conditions in Gaza have deteriorated to a breaking point, rendering the Gaza population among the most impoverished, left alone and exposed to vulnerabilities globally, 12 July 2017

Gaza, 12 July 2017- Gaza's private sector, the engine of future economic growth potential, is presently incapacitated due to the blockade, restrictions on movement and access to natural resources and markets, and recurrent destructive wars, according to the latest Gaza economic recovery report released today by UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People in Gaza, and authored by Dr Mohammed Samhouri. The report "Three Years After the 2014 Gaza Hostilities – Beyond Survival: Challenges to Economic Recovery and Long-Term Development" provides an analysis of the main challenges that are currently dominating Gaza's business environment, three years after the 2014 hostilities, and proposes a fresh approach to support Gaza's private sector to thrive, not just to survive.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31621 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31622 (in Arabic)

OCHA

Appeal for funding to stabilize Gaza's deteriorating humanitarian conditions, 3 July 2017

Humanitarian agencies in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) are calling upon the international community to provide US$25 million in new humanitarian funding to stabilize the spiralling humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. In a document presented to diplomats today in Jerusalem, agencies identified top-priority, life-saving interventions in health, water, sanitation and hygiene, and food security sectors.

The funding is needed to help mitigate the effects of deep power cuts and lack of fuel for generators for hospitals, water treatment plants, sewerage pumps and other key facilities.

The full briefing is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31593

UNRWA

Nearly 200,000 Gaza Children Take Part in UNRWA 'Summer Fun Weeks, 10 July 2017

10 July 2017

Gaza

One hundred and eighty-six thousand children have registered to participate in a month-long programme of summer activities organized by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The 'Summer Fun Weeks' (SFWs) will begin on 8 July and culminate in a series of closing ceremonies that end on 5 August.

According to the Director of the Summer Fun Weeks, Yousef Moussa, the event is well-balanced in terms of the gender of the participants: "50.3 per cent of participants will be girls and 49.7 will be

boys. There will be football for the boys and basketball for the girls. We have also included mural painting and handicrafts, as well as bouncy castles and trampolines for the younger children."

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31612

PCBS

Ms. Ola Awad, Announces the Launching of the Fieldwork Activities for the Population Housing and Establishments Census 2017

Ms. Ola Awad, Announces the Launching of the Fieldwork Activities for the Population Housing and Establishments Census 2017. Ms. Ola Awad, President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics "PCBS"/National Director of the Census, announced the launching of the census fieldwork activities, highlighting that PCBS is preparing for conducting the census in all Palestinian governorates and localities during 2017, taking into account that this is the third census to be conducted by the Palestinians under an independent Palestinian decision and it is going to be the first time conducting the census using modern technologies in collecting data through tablets and GIS.

Ms. Awad also added that the census is considered the largest statistical process to be conducted nationally and it is conducted every ten years aiming to secure a comprehensive database covering different demographic, economic, social characteristics as well as the housing conditions of the population of the State of Palestine, where such data is used for the purposes of development planning and policy making and it represents a comprehensive frame for conducting the different statistical surveys.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31628 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31629 (in Arabic)

Decrease in the Consumer Price Index during June 2017, 13 July 2017

The Palestinian CPI during June 2017 decreased by 0.68% compared with June 2016 (by 1.66% in Gaza Strip, by 0.41% in the West Bank, while it increased by 1.38% in Jerusalem J1).

The Palestinian CPI during the first half of 2017 increased by 0.45% compared with the same period of the previous year (by 3.00% in Jerusalem J1, by 0.73% in the West Bank, while it decreased by 0.11% in Gaza Strip).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31623 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31624 (in Arabic)

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and National Population Committee- The International Population Day 11/07/2017

The Estimated Population of Palestine by mid-2017 was about 4.95 Million

Based on estimates prepared by PCBS according to the results of the Population, Housing and Establishments Census of 2007, the total population of Palestine by mid-2017 was about 4.95 million; 2.52 million males and 2.43 million females. The estimated population of West Bank was 3.01 million of which 1.53 million males and 1.48 million females, while the estimated population of Gaza Strip totaled 1.94 million of which 988 thousand males and 956 thousand females.

Palestinian Population in Gaza Strip is Younger than the West Bank Population

The percentage of individuals aged (0-14) constituted 38.9% of the total population by mid-2017 of which 36.6% in the West Bank and 42.6% in Gaza Strip. The elderly population aged (65 years

and over) constituted 2.9% of the total population of which 3.3% in the West Bank and 2.4% in Gaza Strip by mid-2017.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31615 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31616 (in Arabic)

Decrease in the Industrial Production Index (IPI) in Palestine during May, 4 July 2017

The overall IPI in Palestine reached 103.97 during May 2017 with a decrease of 0.49% 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=31595 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31596 (in Arabic)

Newsletters

- **UNRWA Gender Bulletin, June 2017**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31600

- **PCBS Electronic Monthly Bulletin, 4 July 2017**
  http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_130/Monthly%20bulletin_e.htm
  (in English)
  http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_130/Monthly%20bulletin_a.htm
  (in Arabic)

- **Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin, June 2017**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31591

- **MoLG – JICA Project Team, June 2017**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31608 (in English)
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31609 (in Arabic)

New Arrivals

- **Mr. Julien Thoni** has joined the Representative Office of Switzerland as Representative. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: Julien.thoeni@eda.admin.ch ,phone: 02 – 2408360