LAC

SECRETARIAT

CONTENTS

News from LACS	8
Shared Calendar of Events	2
Aid Coordination Meetings	2
Documents & Reports	2
Newsletters	7
Job Vacancies	8
New Arrivals	8

Local Aid Coordination Secretariat
Tel: 02- 297-6330/1/2/4

Fax: 02-297-6335

Email: secretariat@lacs.ps

Website: www.ldf.ps

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, 13 September 2017**: Agriculture Sector Working Group (ASWG) at 12:00 at the Ministry of Agriculture.
- **Wednesday, 27 September 2017:** Education Sector Working Group (ESWG) at 10:00 at Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

Aid Coordination Meetings

Minutes of Meetings & Related Documents

- **Environmental Sector Working Group meeting, 13 June 2017**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31664
  - EQA – Palestinian National Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production, 13 June 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31665

Documents & Reports

United Nations

- **WHO**

  WHO monthly report on Gaza referrals and access – June 2017
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31676

- **OCHA**

  Gaza Crossings Operations Status: Monthly Update, July 2017
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31682
  - Protection of Civilians Report:18–31 July 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31670

- **UNDAF**
  - The United Nations Development Assistance Framework State of Palestine 2018–2022
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31662 (in English)
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31663 (in Arabic)

- FAO
  - Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 6 – 10 August 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31689
  - Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 30 July – 3 August 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31673
  - Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 23 – 27 July 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31660

Press Releases and Formal Statements

EU

The Local EU statement on the imminent threat of eviction of Shamasneh family in Sheikh Jarrah , 11 August 2017

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

The EU missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah express concern at the imminent threat of eviction of the Shamasneh family from their home in the Palestinian neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem. If carried out, the eviction would be the first in the area since 2009. Further settlement plans including evictions are being moved forward in Sheikh Jarrah. The EU calls on the Israeli authorities to reconsider these decisions.

The Shamasneh family is one of at least 180 households in East-Jerusalem, mainly in Sheikh Jarrah, Silwan, the Old City and Beit Safafa, facing the threat of eviction from their homes.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31681

UN

The Statement by United Nations Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and Development Activities, Robert Piper, and UNFPA Representative, Anders Thomsen, 12 August 2017

On 12 August 2017, the United Nations (UN) in Palestine celebrates International Youth Day and this year's theme on "Youth Building Peace". In 2015, the UN adopted the first Security Council resolution (UNSCR) on youth; UNSCR 2250 advocates for youth's active role as ambassadors for conflict prevention and social justice. In Palestine, youth are gradually climbing the ladder towards decision and policy making processes. Youth (aged 15-29) comprise 30% of the total Palestinian

population, however they remain a largely disempowered group many of whom lack certain rights and access to economic opportunities and quality education.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31683

Security Council Briefing on Situation in Middle East, including Palestinian Question (As delivered by UN Special Coordinator Mladenov, 25 July 2017

As we meet today to discuss the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, the risks of escalation and violence in the region continue to increase, despite the emergence of a newfound agreement among a number of countries of the need to stand united against terrorism and radicalism .As societies continue to fracture along ethnic or religious lines and non-state actors continue to control large territories, recent events in Jerusalem resonate across the Middle East. For nearly a century, despite a myriad of peace efforts, one conflict has evaded solution. Some say it is irresolvable. Others challenge the basic premise of international consensus on how it can be resolved. The Palestinian - Israeli conflict is not only about land and peace. It is about two peoples who both have legitimate national aspirations for statehood and recognition. Two nations, whose histories are intertwined, and whose future is forever intricately linked.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31648

UNRWA

UNRWA announces halt to intake of certain categories of patients at Qalqilya Hospital, 14 August 2017

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) announced today that it will halt the intake of new patients for ear nose and throat treatments (ENT), cold services and child births at the Agency hospital in Qalqilia in the West Bank. The decision to do this was taken pending an investigation into the recent death of a child and is effective on the 21st of August, 2017.During the interim, UNRWA will contact all patients scheduled for treatment in these three categories to ensure they are redirected to an UNRWA contracted hospital. This practice is in line with UNRWA health service provided throughout the rest of the West Bank as well as in the four other fields of UNRWA operations across the Middle East.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31686 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31688 (in Arabic)

World Bank

Solar Energy — putting power back into the hands of ordinary Gazans, 9 August 2017

"We have electricity for two hours every 24 hours," says a high-ranking energy official in Gaza. Up to just 10 years ago, Gaza enjoyed full, round-the-clock electricity supply 24 hours a day. But by 2016, this was reduced to 12 hours per day due to severe power shortages — and the situation has declined rapidly since.

Gaza typically imports 120 Megawatts (MW) of power from Israel and 20MW from Egypt, while generating 60MW domestically at the Gaza Power Plant (GPP). Together, this supply is only enough to meet half of Gaza's power demand, resulting in the rationing of electricity in which eight hours of power supply is followed by eight hours of power cuts. To make matters worse, recent political disagreements have led to the shut-down of GPP due to increased fuel costs, and a 30% reduction of electricity imports from Israel. In the sweltering heat of summer, this reduced supply covers only a small fraction of overall demand, resulting in only two hours of electricity per day. For a population blocked on one side by land and on the other by sea, this is a severe blow to the already miserable quality of life.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31675

The jobs crisis in Palestine needs an innovative response, 8 August 2017

Landing a job after college can be difficult anywhere, but it is especially hard in conflict-affected economies, such as Palestine. Joblessness and job insecurity are an unfortunate reality for too many young Palestinians. Unemployment is now approaching 30 percent on average, and remains stubbornly high especially for youth and women. A young person growing up in Palestine has just one-third of the likelihood of gaining employment compared to a young person in Israel. In Gaza, job prospects are even more grim. In that area, electricity is available for only four to six hours a day, and draconian movement restrictions limit what goods can move across borders. Economic activity is severely restricted, driving the youth unemployment rate to about 60 percent.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31674

Connecting Palestinian cities for a more sustainable future, 7 August 2017

growth come corresponding issues. This is immediately apparent when you drive through a Palestinian city and observe the severe traffic problems. While such gridlock may be inconvenient for a person caught in it, it can be a severely damaging for many small business owners, whose shops become inaccessible due to the traffic build-up. Among the main contributing factors to this situation are the weak, under-capacitated urban planning practices in Palestine. Palestine is now 74% urban. Over the last 10-15 years, urban sprawl has resulted in extended built-up spaces connecting cities, refugee camps, towns, and villages into wide-spread urban areas with indistinguishable borders. Hebron, Nablus, Bethlehem, and Ramallah have each merged with surrounding villages to form large cities with multiple jurisdictions. Often, you cannot tell where one municipality ends and another starts.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31672

World Bank Approves US$ 43 Million in Grants to Improve Palestinian Living Conditions, 4 August 2017

Washington, July 27, 2017 – The World Bank announced today four projects in the Palestinian territories aimed at improving living conditions and expanding opportunities. The projects will be funded by grants totaling of US$ 43 million, and will support of job creation, recovery and reconstruction, service delivery, and social protection of the most vulnerable. "Through these new

projects, the World Bank seeks to support living standards in a challenging and fragile environment. This includes delivery of services to Palestinian citizens, engagement of the private sector for job creation, and building up of the public's trust in local institutions," said Marina Wes, World Bank Country Director for West Bank and Gaza.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31671

Japanese Representative Office

Completion of the Project for Rehabilitation of Electricity Network in Deir Al-Ghusun, Funded by Japan, 9 August 2017

Today, August 9th, 2017, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, visited Deir Al-Ghusun in Tulkarem 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$ 68,008 was extended to Deir Al-Ghusun Municipality. It was used to replace 4,100m of old naked cables with new ABC wires as well as 43 damaged electric poles with galvanized steel poles. This project aims to ensure safe electricity supply for the residents in Deir Al-Ghusun. Upon the completion of this project, around 2,700 residents (530 households) will benefit from the safe and improved electrical network.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31677 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31679 (in Arabic)

PNGO

Representatives of Civil Society call upon the Palestinian Authority to halt the serious deterioration of Palestinian Human Rights, 14 August 2017

On Wednesday, 09/08/2017, Representatives of coalitions of Palestinian Civil Society Organizations, trade Unions including Political parties met together in response of the urgent call by Al-Haq organization-Law for Human Rights, in order to consult regarding the expansion of exceptional legislation and it major violations of fundamental rights and basic freedoms, and the attendant serious deterioration in Palestinian human rights situation.

Participants discussed the Palestinian Authority latest measures and actions taken against the Gaza Strip and the serious repercussions on the Palestinian living in the Gaza Strip, they also discussed the recent developments that revolve around the independence of the judiciary, the interference of the executive branch in the judiciary and the continuing work of the Constitutional Court and the attendant concern of its work. Participants also discussed the expansion of the issuance of special legislation, including the electronic criminal law, also the re-launch a draft law on the Criminal Court that disregarded the Palestinian Civil Society critical and crucial remarks.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31684

PCBS

Decrease in the Consumer Price Index during July, 2017

The overall CPI for Palestine during July 2017 decreased by 0.15% compared with June 2017 (by 0.58% in Gaza Strip, and by 0.13% in Jerusalem J1*, while it increased by 0.36% in the West Bank).The changes in Palestinian CPI for July 2017 is traced back to changes in prices of the following expenditure sub groups compared with previous month:

Sub Groups	Percent Change
Liquid Fuel for House	- 3.58%
Liquid Fuel for Cars	- 3.42%
Fresh Vegetables	- 2.77%
Gas	- 2.19%
Potatoes and other Tubers	+ 6.77%
Fresh Fruit	+ 6.26%
Eggs	+ 2.85%
Vegetable Oils	+ 1.16%

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31685 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31687 (in Arabic)

On the eve of International Youth Day and under the theme "Youth, Peace and Security", 10 August 2017

On December 9th, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution number 2250 on "Youth, Peace and Security", which is the first of its kind, aiming to enhance the participation of youth in these areas. The Council urged Member States to consider ways to increase the overall representation of the youth in decision-making process at all levels to contribute in preventing and resolving conflicts.

3 out of 10 individuals in the Palestinian society are young

The percentage of youth in the age group of (15-29) in Palestine comprises 30% of the total population, distributed by 36% in the age group of (15-19) years and 64% in the age group of (20-29) years old. Where the sex ratio among the youth is 104 males per 100 females, noting that the population estimates in Palestine in mid-2017 indicate that the total population approximately reached 4.95 million.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31678 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31680 (in Arabic)

Newsletters

- **PCBS Electronic Monthly Bulletin, 6 August 2017**
  http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_131/Monthly%20bulletin_e.htm

(in English)
http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_131/Monthly%20bulletin_a.htm
(in Arabic)

- **The OCHA Monthly Humanitarian Bulletin, July 2017**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31669
- **The EUPOL COPPS Newsletter, July 2017**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31661

Job Vacancies

- **AFD – Project Officer in the Banking/Private Sectors: for further details, please see attachment**

New Arrivals

- **Ms. Elina Eloranta** has joined the Finland Representative Office as Deputy Head of Mission. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: Elina.Eloranta@formin.fi; phone: 02-2420340

- **Ms. Ulziisuren Jamsran** has joined the UN Women as Head of Office. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: ulziisuren.jamsran@unwomen.org; phone: 02-6280450

- **Mr. Thys Hoekman** has joined the Netherlands Representative Office as First Secretary – Economics Affairs. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: thys.hoekman@minbuza.nl; phone: 02-2409638