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

- **Thursday, 19 October 2017:** Health Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at the Central Public Laboratory, Ramallah.
- **Thursday, 26 October 2017:** Technical level Justice Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at Grand Park Hotel.

List of Upcoming Meetings

- **Wednesday, 01 November 2017:** Social Protection Sector Working Group meeting at 11:00 at MoSD.
- **Wednesday, 22 November 2017**: Education Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at the MoEHE.

Aid Coordination Meetings

Minutes of Meetings & Related Documents

- **Municipal Development and Local Governance meeting, 27 September 2017**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31882
  - USAID Communities Thrive Project Brief, 27 September 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31883

- **High Level Security Sector Working Group meeting, 25 September 2017**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31892

Documents & Reports

United Nations

- **UNFPA – Representative Office of Norway**
  - Youth in Palestine: Policy and Program Recommendations to address Demographic Risks and Opportunities, October 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31878

- **OCHA**
  - Protection of Civilians, 10 – 23 October 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31885
  - Gaza Crossings' Operations Status – September 2017, 16 October 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31853

- **WFP**
  - WFP State of Palestine Country Brief – September 2017, 18 October 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31860

- **WFP – UNRWA**
  - Food Insecurity is on the Rise amongst Bedouins and Herders in Area C of the West Bank, 18 October 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31861

- **WHO**
  - Health Access for Referral Patients from the Gaza Strip – September 2017, 26 October 2017
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31884

Press Releases and Formal Statements

UN

Briefing by Miroslav Jenca, UN Assistant Secretary – General to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, 18 October 2017

Today's briefing is taking place as important developments unfold to end the more than ten-year long Palestinian divide and return Gaza to the full control of the legitimate Palestinian Authority. Last month when Hamas dissolved the Administrative Committee, a parallel institution to run governmental affairs in Gaza, it agreed that the Palestinian Government of National Consensus should assume its responsibilities in the Strip.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31862

Statement by United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov, on his meeting with Palestinian Prime Minister Hamdallah in Ramallah, 16 October 2017

This afternoon I met with Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah to discuss the implementation of the intra-Palestinian agreement that was signed in Cairo on 12 October.

The agreement provides for the return of the crossings of Gaza to the Palestinian Authority by 1 November. The timely and effective implementation of this provision and concrete steps to alleviate the humanitarian crisis will be critical for effectively empowering the Palestinian Government in Gaza.

The full statement is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31854

UNFPA

UNFPA and Norway Representative Office to launch "Youth in Palestine: Policy and Program Recommendations to Address Demographic Risks and Opportunities", 25 October 2017

Ramallah, Palestine, 25 October 2017 – Youth between the age 15 – 29 years old comprise 30% of the total population, and youth population is set to continue growing at a concerning rate. Although a rapidly increasing youth population can cause extreme stress on already underdeveloped infrastructure (education, health, social services, urban infrastructure, housing, and access to economic opportunity), a large youth population can also be seen as a "missed opportunity."

Today, UNFPA in partnership with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched a report on Palestinian Youth titled "Youth in Palestine: Policy and Recommendations to Address Demographic Risks and Opportunities".

The full statement is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31879

UNFPA – Consulate General of Italy

Italy grants 500,000 Euros to Reproductive Health and Rights in Palestine, 31 October 2017

Tuesday 31 October 2017, Jerusalem – The Italian Government is contributing to women's and girls' health in Palestine through a generous grant of 500,000 euros. The grant will support the implementation of the "Unfinished agenda to address social determinants for achieving Reproductive health and rights in Palestine" to ensure women and girls have greater access to quality sexual and reproductive health care.

The grant from the Italian Government will enable UNFPA to work closely with governmental, academic and civil society organizations to ensure that national policy and service delivery entities adopt comprehensive approach for SRHRs as well as support the development of local level health services for young women.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31889

UNESCO

Message from Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists 2017, 2 November 2017

Justice is a cornerstone of a free society. It dissuades those who threaten freedom of expression and emboldens those who stand to defend it. This is why injustice against journalists is so costly for all societies.

From 2006 to 2016, no less than 930 journalists were killed. In 2016 alone, we saw the loss of 102 journalists in the line of duty.

The full message is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31880 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31881 (in Arabic)

EU - PWA

European Union Improves Environmental and Health Conditions in Gaza through a EUR 3.5 Million Project, 18 October 2017

Head of Palestinian Water Authority, H.E. Mazen Ghunaim, European Union Representative, Mr. Ralph Tarraf, and Director KfW Office Ramallah/Al Bireh, Mr. Jonas Blume, inaugurated today the Public Infrastructure Development Program- Extension of the Sanitation Systems in the Municipalities of Beit Lahia, Jabalia and Deir Al-Balah in Gaza.

The Palestinian Water Authority with a EUR 3.5 Million financing from European Union through KfW (German Development Bank) extended, in collaboration with the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility, 20 kilometres of wastewater collection networks in Amer area (at the boundaries of Beit Lahia and Jabalia municipalities) and a further 26 km in Berka area (with the boundaries of Deir Al-Balah municipality).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31858

EU

The EU provides €20 million to support families in need in Palestine, 30 October 2017

Today, the European Union has made a contribution of €20 million to the Palestinian Authority's quarterly payment of social allowances to poor Palestinian families in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This contribution is the first payment channelled following the signing of the intra-Palestinian agreement between Fatah and Hamas. Nearly 80% of the 70,000 beneficiary families live in Gaza.

The EU's support to vulnerable families is a commitment to the welfare of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. The EU supports the Ministry of Social Development to serve a total of 111,000 vulnerable families through an inclusive and equitable social protection system.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31886

The EU provides €13 million to East Jerusalem Hospitals, 23 October 2017

The EU supports the East Jerusalem Hospitals Network to stay open and continue providing essential care to thousands of patients from the West Bank and Gaza. These Hospitals are among the few remaining functional Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem.

The East Jerusalem Hospitals face endemic cash flow problems which put in jeopardy their operations. The EU was among the donors who responded since 2012 with regular contributions that have reached over €90 million.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31870

European Union Representative visits Gaza, 18 October 2017

Today, the EU Representative Ralph Tarraf visited Gaza. He inaugurated EU-funded projects, visited an UNRWA school, and met with Palestinian officials. This visit sends a signal of support of the European Union to the process which started with the signing of the recent agreement between Hamas and Fatah in Cairo.

"The EU is aware of the important period ahead to make genuine progress on the intra-Palestinian reconciliation. We hope that this process will lead to the Palestinian Authority assuming its full responsibilities in Gaza," said EU Representative Ralph Tarraf during his visit. "We stood by the people of Gaza in the past, and we will continue to do so in the future. The people in Gaza have a right to a better future. The EU remains ready to support the efforts to reunite Gaza and the West Bank under one single and legitimate Palestinian Authority, "he added.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31859

The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

Last screening of the one-month educational campaign CinemArena, 17 October 2017

On October 17th , the last screening of the one-month educational campaign CinemArena took place in Jabal Al Baba in the presence of the Deputy Minister of Health Assad Ramlawi, the representative of the Governor of Jerusalem Hazam Ashlanon, the Anti-Wall and Settlements Commission Ministry Walid Assaf, the representative of the Jerusalem Unit at the Presidential Office Waed Ghannan, the Regional Director for Education Bassam Tahbub, the representative of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in Jerusalem Cristina Natoli and the Deputy Consul General of Italy in Jerusalem Luigi Mattirolo.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31857

Japan Representative Office

Grant Signing Ceremony for Construction of Additional Classrooms in Secondary Mixed School in Farkha funded by Japan, 19 October 2017

Grant Contract for one Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP) was signed today by Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, and representative of Farkha Village Council at JICA Office in Ramallah for a total amount of US$89,851.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31865 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31866 (in Arabic)

Grant Signing Ceremony for construction of New School Building in Boys Secondary School in Kufr Dan funded by Japan, 19 October 2017

Grant Contract for one Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP) was signed today by Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, and representative of Kufr Dan Municipality at JICA Office in Ramallah for a total amount of US$90,690. Kufr Dan Municipality will use the fund to construct a new building with 3 classrooms in Kufr Dan Boys Secondary School.
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31867 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31868 (in Arabic)

Completion Project for Extension of the Water Network in Beit Imrin Village, 17 October 2017

Today, October 17th,2017, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, visited Beit Imrin, Nablus 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 $83,000 was extended to Beit Imrin Village Council. It was used to secure sufficient tap water supply for the residents through installing total 3.6 km of 2 inch and 1 inch pipes for water network. Upon the completion of this project, 350 residents (50 households) will benefit from safe and improved water network.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31855 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31856 (in Arabic)

PCBS

Palestinian Producer Price Index – September 2017, 31 October 2017

The overall Producer Price Index (PPI) for Palestine with its base month (December 2015=100) reached 99.45 in September 2017, as it decreased by 4.11% compared to August 2017.
Producer Price Index for locally consumed products (December 2015=100) reached 99.36 in September 2017, which indicates a decrease by 4.32% compared to August 2017.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31887 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31888 (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 September 2017, 26 October 2017

Increase in the Construction Cost Index (CCI) for Residential Buildings
The Construction Cost Index (CCI) for residential buildings reached 104.71 with an increase of 0.52% in the West Bank during September 2017 compared with August 2017 (base year 2013=100).
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31876 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31877 (in Arabic)

Article by Ms. Ola Awad, President of PCBS, on the occasion of World Statistics Day, 20 October 2017

The world is celebrating today the World Statistics Day. This day flags the work of thousands of women and me working mainly at statistical bureaus striving for providing the world, the communities, researchers and individuals with reliable data and information on all aspects of life.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31873 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31874 (in Arabic)

Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Registered External Trade in Goods of August 2017, 25 October 2017

Exports increased in August, 2017 by 3.3% compared to July, 2017. It also increased by 8.8% compared to August, 2016 and reached USD 91.7 million.
Exports to Israel increased in August, 2017 by 5.8% compared to July, 2017 and represented 92.9% of total exports in August, 2017.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31871 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31872 (in Arabic)

Increase in the Wholesale Price Index during the Third Quarter of 2017, 19 October 2017

The overall WPI in Palestine with its base year (2007=100) reached 124.51 in the Third quarter 2017, which indicates an increase by 2.06% compared with the Second quarter 2017.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31863 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31864 (in Arabic)

Newsletters

- **The Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin, October 2017**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31875

- **UNRWA Gender Bulletin, October 2017**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31890 (in English)
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=31891 (in Arabic)

New Arrivals

- **Mr. Kgaogelo Mukoma** has joined the Representative Office of South Africa as First Secretary: Corporate Services. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: mukomak@dirco.gov.za ,phone: 02-2987355

- **Ms. Cynthia Cook** has joined the US-Consulate General as Political Officer. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: CookCL3@state.gov ,phone: 02-6226954

- **Mr. Jalili Ali** has joined the US-Consulate General as INL Deputy Director. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: JaliliA@state.gov ,phone: 02-9661313

- **Mr. Palmer Robert** has joined the US-Consulate General as Political Military Affairs Officer and Political Advisor to the U.S. Security Coordinator. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: PalmerRC@state.gov ,phone: 02-6227293