LAC

SECRETARIAT

CONTENTS

News from LACS	7
Shared Calendar of Events	2
Documents & Reports	2
Newsletters	7

LACS Newsletter

Local Aid Coordination Secretariat

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

Fax: 02-297-6335

Email: secretariat@lacs.ps

Website: www.ldf.ps

Shared Calendar of Events

Please click on link to see a full calendar of aid coordination meetings:

http://www.ldf.ps/EventCalendarEndUser.aspx

Documents & Reports

United Nations

- OCHA
  - Protection of Civilians, 2 – 15 January 2018
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34038
  - Humanitarian Bulletin – December 2017, 15 January 2018
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34025

UNFPA – PMRS – MoH

- Pathway to Survival: the Story of Breast Cancer in Palestine, January 2018
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34031

Office of the Quartet

- Office of the Quartet Strategy 2018 – 2020, January 2018
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34051

Press Releases and Formal Statements

UN

Briefing by Nickolay Mladenov, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, 25 January 2018

Too often we have met in this chamber and said that the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is at a critical stage; that the situation on the ground is unsustainable.

We have all fallen into the paradigm of managing, rather than resolving the conflict.

There are those who believe that the conflict can be solved through peaceful bilateral negotiations and compromises, by addressing the final status issues of borders, security, refugees and the status of Jerusalem on the basis of prior agreements and relevant UN resolutions. That to resolve it you must have two states, living side by side in peace, security and mutual recognition.

Some believe in making unilateral moves that can only lead to a one-state reality that is incompatible with the aspirations of both peoples.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34052

Statement by the Acting Humanitarian Coordinator for the oPt, Roberto Valent, on the reduction in funding to UNRWA, 17 January 2018

I am deeply concerned about the significant reduction in funding for UNRWA, which is critical to the provision of humanitarian assistance in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). Some 2.5 million Palestinians in this area, or about half of the population, need humanitarian aid, including 1.4 million Palestine refugees, who are among the most vulnerable groups in the oPt. The reduction is particularly worrying against the backdrop of an overall decline in humanitarian funding in the oPt in recent years.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34032

UNRWA

UNRWA Launches US$ 800 Million Emergency Appeal for Syria, Gaza and the West Bank, 30 January 2018

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has launched an appeal for its emergency programmes of over US$ 800 million; approximately US$ 400 million each for Syria and the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), which consists of Gaza and the West Bank. The appeal also covers some 50,000 Palestine refugees from Syria who have fled to Lebanon and Jordan.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34058 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34059 (in Arabic)

UNRWA Launches the Dignity is Priceless – Global Fundraising Campaign in Gaza, 22 January 2018

Today, hundreds of school children in Gaza gathered with the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), Mr. Pierre Krähenbühl, to launch the global fundraising campaign #DignityIsPriceless.

The campaign follows the dramatic reduction of funding announced by the United States last week. It aims to raise US$ 500 million.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34043 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34044 (in Arabic)

Statement by UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl, 17 January 2018

Not for the first time in its proud history, UNRWA faces a formidable challenge in upholding its mandate – an expression of the will of the international community – and preserving key services like education and health care for Palestine Refugees.

Today, the US government has announced a contribution of $60 M, in support of our efforts to keep our schools open, health clinics running, and emergency food and cash distribution systems functioning for some of the world's most vulnerable refugees.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34027 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34028 (in Arabic)

Consulate General of France

Statement by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Deputy Spokesperson on"Aid for Palestinian refugees in the Middle East (UNRWA)", 17 January 2018

A-France regrets the U.S. decision to freeze part of its contribution to the UN program that assists Palestinian refugees (UNRWA). It hopes that in the end, these funds will be disbursed. This decision is likely to exacerbate the program's financial difficulties.

UNRWA, whose employees operate in often difficult conditions, plays a fundamental and necessary role in assisting more than 5 million Palestinian refugees.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34033

EU

The EU provides around €11 million to support families in need in Palestine, 24 January 2018

Today, the European Union has made a contribution of €11.28 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 funded by the European Union (€10 million), and the Governments of Spain (€1million) and Ireland (€0.28 million). It will contribute to payments made to around 67,500 families of which nearly 80% live in the Gaza Strip.

The EU's support to vulnerable families is a commitment to the welfare of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34046 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34047(in Arabic)

Remarks by EU High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini at the joint press statements with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, 22 January 2018

Today, the European Union has made a contribution of €11.28 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 funded by the European Union (€10 million), and the Governments of Spain (€1million) and Ireland (€0.28 million). It will contribute to payments made to around 67,500 families of which nearly 80% live in the Gaza Strip.

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 in serving a total of 115,000 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=34045

European Commission

New assistance package for Palestine: EU strongly committed to support socio-economic revival of East-Jerusalem, 31 January 2018

The EU will fund projects to increase the resilience of locals and support the Palestinian presence in the city, through targeted measures benefiting young people and the private sector.

The European Commission has adopted a new €42.5 million assistance package benefiting Palestinians, including substantial support in East Jerusalem.

Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn, said: "With this new assistance package the European Union continues to support the Palestinians on their way towards the establishment of their own state as part of the two-state solution, with Jerusalem as capital of both Israel and Palestine. The European Union is, and will remain, Palestine's most reliable and important donor, investing in businesses, youth and schooling, helping to provide access to clean water in Gaza, strengthening civil society and investing on education and health."

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34063

Representative Office of Japan

Completion Project for Establishment of a New School Building in Abud Secondary Mixed School, 30 January 2018

Today, January 29th,2018 Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, visited Abud village in Ramallah and Al-Bireh 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 full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34055 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34056 (in Arabic)

Completion Project for the Improvement of Educational Environment for People with Disabilities in the West Bank, funded by Japan, 25 January 2018

Today, January 25th, 2018, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, visited Kifl-Hares village 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 $79,550 was extended to Palestinian Youth Union to construct basic facilities for people with disabilities, such as toilets and ramps.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34053 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34054 (in Arabic)

Completion Project for Rehabilitation of the Water Network in Al-Shawawrah, funded by Japan, 22 January 2018

Today, January 22nd,2018, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, visited Al-Shawawrah in Bethlehem 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 $80,498 was extended to Al-Shawawrah Village Council. It was used to replace 2,450m of old water pipelines with new underground galvanized steel pipes.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34041 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34042 (in Arabic)

PCBS

Palestinian Producer Price Index (PPI) during 2017& during December2017, 31 January 2018

Increase in the Producer Price1 Index (PPI) during 2017

The overall PPI in Palestine with its base month (December 2015=100) reached 101.15 in 2017, which indicates an increase by 0.88% compared to 2016.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34060 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34061 (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 2017 & during December 2017, 25 January 2018

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

The Construction Cost Index (CCI) for Residential buildings in the West Bank reached 104.15 during 2017 with an increase of 2.32% compared with 2016 (base year 2013=100).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34048 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34049 (in Arabic)

Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Registered External Trade in Goods of November 2017, 22 January 2018

Exports increased in November, 2017 by 7.5% compared to October, 2017. It also increased by 3.7% compared to November, 2016 and reached USD 93 million.

Exports to Israel slightly increased in November, 2017 by 0.5% compared to October, 2017 and represented 82.6% of total exports in November, 2017.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34039 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34040 (in Arabic)

Palestinian Wholesale Price Index during 2017 & Fourth Quarter of 2017, 18 January 2018

The overall Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in Palestine with its base year (2007=100) reached 124.16 in 2017, which indicates a decrease by 1.17% compared with 2016.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34034 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34035 (in Arabic)

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics hosts the first consultations meeting of monitoring the socio-economic conditions for 2018, 17 January 2018

PCBS hosted the first consultations meeting of monitoring the socio-economic conditions for 2018 on Wednesday, 17/12/2018. The meeting discussed the importance of implementing the survey and the indicators to be covered in light of the need to provide SDGs data in relation to the survey, in addition to the covered Socio-economic indicators in the previous rounds of the survey.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34029 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34030 (in Arabic)

Newsletters

- **UNRWA Gender Bulletin, January 2018**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34062

- **The Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin, January 2018**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34050

- **MoLG/ JICA Newsletter, December 2017**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34036 (in English)
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34037 (in Arabic)