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

- **Wednesday, 21 February 2018:** Education Sector Working Group Meeting at 09:30 at the Main Meeting Hall at MoEHE.

List of Upcoming Meetings

- **Wednesday: 7 March 2018:** Energy Sector Working Group at 12:00 at PENRA in El – Bireh.
- **Wednesday, 14 March 2018:** Agriculture Sector Working Group Meeting at 10:00 in Al Mashtal Hotel in Gaza.
- **Tuesday, 20 March 2018:** Environment Sector Working Group Meeting at 10:00 at the EQA in Al-Bireh.

Documents & Reports

United Nations

- **OCHA**
  - West Bank Demolitions and Displacement – January 2018, 16 February 2018
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34110
  - Gaza Crossings' Operations Status – January 2018, 16 February 2018
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34108
  - Protection of Civilians, 30 January – 12 February 2018
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34109

Press Releases and Formal Statements

UN

Briefing by Nickolay Mladenov, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, 20 February 2018

We meet this month as regional tensions are taking an increasingly perilous turn. Fighting in Syria is increasing, endangering de-escalation arrangements and regional stability, as well as undermining efforts for a political solution.

Despite the positive news from Iraq and the defeat of Da'esh, much of the Middle East continues to be in the grips of an ongoing human tragedy of immense proportions.

Against this backdrop and after over a century of hostilities including 50 years of continued military occupation, Israelis and Palestinians are still no closer to peace; many have lost hope that they will see it in their lifetimes.

The full briefing is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34116

Statement by United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov, on yesterday's trilateral meeting with Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah and Israel's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, Major General Yoav (Poli) Mordechai, 15 February 2018

Following his joint meeting with Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah and Israel's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories, Major General Yoav (Poli) Mordechai on 14 February, UN Special Coordinator Mladenov stated:

"I am encouraged by the trilateral meeting yesterday, in which all sides focused on the urgent need to finalize the reconstruction of physical damages from the 2014 Gaza conflict and on facilitating critical humanitarian solutions related to the electricity, water and health sectors.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34106

OCHA

oPt Humanitarian Fund fills critical gap for 140,000 of the most vulnerable Palestinians, left by cut in UNRWA funding, 20 February 2018

Today, the Humanitarian Fund for the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt HF) released approximately US $900,000 for health and food support over the next six months to around 140,000 Palestinians, almost half of them children, in dozens of West Bank communities, including in East Jerusalem.

"This allocation provides support to some of the most vulnerable Palestinian residents in the West Bank, Bedouin and herders, the elderly, persons with disability, women and children." said the acting Humanitarian Coordinator, Roberto Valent.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34113

UNESCO

Education stakeholders gathered to discuss successes and challenges of the education sector at the Education Sector Working Group, 21 February 2018

Ramallah – On 21 February 2018, hthe Education Sector Working group meeting gathered in Ramallah all main education partners in Palestine, to discuss developments in the Education sector since the last meeting of the Sector Working Group, which had been held in Gaza for the first time. The meeting was the opportunity to both present achievements in the educational reform and discuss enduring and emerging threats to Education in Palestine.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34119 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34120 (in Arabic)

UNRWA – EU

The European Union and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) reaffirm strong commitment to serving Palestine refugees, 27 February 2018

Brussels, 27 February 2018

The European Union and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) are holding a Strategic Dialogue on the way forward for their partnership. The discussion takes place in light of the current financial crisis facing UNRWA and the need to broaden its donor base and continue reforming the Agency. The EU and UNRWA remain committed to protecting the rights of Palestine refugees and continue the delivery of essential services to more than 5 million Palestine refugees in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34121

UNRWA – EC

The European Union and UNRWA Reaffirm Strong Commitment to Serving Palestine Refugees, 27 February 2018

The European Union (EU) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) are holding a Strategic Dialogue on the way forward for their partnership. The discussion takes place in light of the current financial crisis facing UNRWA and the need to broaden its donor base and continue reforming the Agency..

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34122 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34123 (in Arabic)

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

Italian commitment for the control of the breast cancer and the establishment of a multidisciplinary breast unit in Palestine, 15 February 2018

A two days conference in Bethlehem in the framework of the support of the Italian Cooperation to the Palestinian Health System

Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed female cancer, accounting for 30% of all cancers. In 2016, over 500,00 women were diagnosed with breast cancer worldwide (47,000 in Italy only). In Palestine, breast cancer is the first type of cancer reported among females, accounting for 28.9 % of total reported cancer cases among Palestinian females (MoH 2016).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34105

Representative Office of Japan

Grant Signing Ceremonies for Three GGP Projects in Palestine funded by Japan, 20 February 2018

Grant Contracts for three Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) were signed today by Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, and representatives of Beit Furik Municipality, Aqqaba Municipality, and Jericho and Jordan Valley Cooperative Association for Bee-breeding at the Representative Office of Japan to Palestine in Ramallah for a total amount of US$207,109.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34114 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34115 (in Arabic)

Consulate General of Italy

Ceremony for the renovation of the ancient Turkish Bath now serving as visitor center in the old city of Hebron, 22 February 2018

The Consul General of Italy, Fabio Sokolowicz, took part on February 22, together with the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Rula Maayah, and the Minister of Local Government, Hussein al Araj, in the closing ceremony for the completion of the renovation of the ancient Turkish Baths in the Old Souq of Hebron, now serving as the visitors center for the city.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34124

PCBS

Palestinian Producer Price Index – January 2018, 28 February 2018

The overall Producer Price Index (PPI) for Palestine with its base month (December 2015=100) reached 100.75 in January 2018, as it increased by 1.73% compared to December 2017.
Producer Price Index for locally consumed products (December 2015=100) reached 100.89 in January 2018, which indicates an increase by 1.92% compared to December 2017.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34125 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34126 (in Arabic)

Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Registered External Trade in Goods of December 2017, 19 February 2018

Palestinian Exports increased in December, 2017 by 2.5% compared to November, 2017. It also increased by 12.8% compared to December, 2016 and reached USD 95.3 million.
Exports to Israel increased in December, 2017 by 6% compared to November, 2017 and represented 85.4% of total exports in December, 2017.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34111 (in English)
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34112 (in Arabic)

Newsletters

- **UNRWA Gender Bulletin, February 2018**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34128

- **The Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin, February 2018**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34118

New Arrivals

- **Mr Tokumitsu Kobayashi** appointed as Representative and Director of UNOPS Jerusalem Office as of 20 February 2018. As such, Mr Kobayashi will be responsible for UNOPS operations in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt.). Please see attached the letter of appointment.
  His contact details are as follow:
  Email: TokumitsuK@unops.org , mobile: +972 (0) 54 817 4197