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 25th and Thursday 26th April 2018**: Education Annual Sector Review at 9:00 at the MoEHE.

List of Upcoming Meetings

- **Wednesday, 09 May 2018:** Labour Sector Working Group meeting at 10:00 at the Ministry of Labour.

Aid Coordination Meetings

❖ **Minutes of Social Protection Sector Working Group meeting, 12 April 2018**

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34257

- MoSD – Annual Statistical Report 2017 of Women Victims of GBV, 12 April 2018
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34250

Documents & Reports

United Nations

❖ **OCHA**

- Three Palestinians killed and hundreds injured in Gaza during continuing demonstrations along the fence with Israel, 27 April 2018
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34272
- Humanitarian snapshot: Mass casualties in the context of demonstrations in the Gaza strip, 23 April 2018
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34247
- Four Palestinians killed and hundreds injured in Gaza during demonstrations along the fence, 20 April 2018
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34239
- Humanitarian Snapshot: Mass casualties in the context of demonstrations in the Gaza Strip, 16 April 2018
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34232
- Protection of Civilians, 10 – 23 April 2018
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34267

- **WHO**
  - Special Situation Report on occupied Palestinian territory, Gaza 15th –20th April 2018
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34252
  - Health Access – Barriers for patients in the occupied Palestinian territory – March 2018, 24 April 2018
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34246
  - WHO Special Situation Report on Gaza mass demonstrations 9th – 14th April 2018, 17 April 2018
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34238

- **WFP**
  - Standard Project Report 2017 – Food Assistance for the Food-Insecure Populations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, 25 April 2018
    https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000070037/download/?_ga=2.226576605.1947149490.1524466568-1360994167.1493731831
  - WFP Palestine in Action: 2017 Achievements – April 2018
    http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34248

Press Releases and Formal Statements

UN

Statement by United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov, on the convening of the Palestinian National Council, 30 April 2018

I welcome the convening of the Palestinian National Council, which meets today in Ramallah for the first time in two decades.

It is a critical time for Palestinians. The leadership has a responsibility to end divisions and the deteriorating economic, humanitarian and social situation in Gaza.

The full statement is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34278

Briefing by Nickolay Mladenov, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, 26 April 2018

Two weeks ago, the Secretary-General addressed the Security Council on the crisis in the Middle East and the threats to international peace and security.

He spoke of a region that is plagued by sectarian divisions, by imploding states and exploding extremist groups.

A region in which anger and frustration quickly turn to terror, violence and radicalism.

A region where the battle between moderation and radicalism is the battle for the future of millions of people.

What happens today in the Middle East has immediate implications for the rest of the world.

The full briefing is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34266

Humanitarian Coordinator calls for protection of Palestinian demonstrators in Gaza alongside support for urgent humanitarian needs, 19 April 2018

The Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Jamie McGoldrick, today called for the protection of Palestinian demonstrators and for urgent funding to meet critical humanitarian needs that have been generated by the massive rise in Palestinian casualties in Gaza since 30 March.

"The current surge in humanitarian needs is a crisis on top of a catastrophe," said Mr. McGoldrick.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34236

OCHA

oPt Humanitarian Fund releases US$ 2.2 million in funds to meet urgent humanitarian needs in the Gaza Strip, 26 April 2018

Today, the Humanitarian Fund for the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt HF) announced the release of US$ 2.2 million to address urgent humanitarian needs resulting from the massive rise in Palestinian casualties in the Gaza Strip.

"Over the course of four Fridays of demonstrations, far more Palestinians have been injured in the Gaza Strip than in the preceding three years combined" said the Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Jamie McGoldrick. "This staggering rise has had a catastrophic impact on the already-struggling Gaza health sector, and is worsened by violence against health staff providing first aid in the field and the difficulties facing some patients in accessing urgently-needed care outside of Gaza."

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34265

UN Officials visit Khan al Ahmar and call for respect for international law, 18 April 2018

Today, the Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Jamie McGoldrick, and the UNRWA Director of Operations in the West Bank, Mr. Scott Anderson, joined Palestinian officials in a visit to the Palestinian Bedouin community of Khan al Ahmar-Abu al Helu, on the outskirts of East Jerusalem in the occupied Palestinian territory.

"We are monitoring the situation in Khan al Ahmar closely and are deeply concerned by what we see here, and in the scores of other vulnerable Bedouin communities," said Mr. McGoldrick. "We call on the Israeli authorities to respect their legal obligations, as the occupying power, including through stopping the demolition of Palestinian-owned structures and ceasing plans for the relocation of Palestinian Bedouin communities."

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34230

UN Women

Japan Donates Half-a-Million USD to UN Women to Support Vulnerable Women in Gaza, 19 April 2018

Thursday 19 April, 2018, Gaza – The Government of Japan donated half-a-million US dollars to UN Women Palestine Office for a one-year project to improve the situations of women in Gaza. The project, with a special focus on vulnerable women suffering from displacement and disability, as well as elderly women, will provide specialized protection services and economic empowerment activities for almost 1,700 direct beneficiaries until April next year.

Following the 2014 conflict in Gaza which created massive displacement, women in Gaza have been disproportionately affected by the humanitarian conditions which systemically create gender-based vulnerabilities. Unsafe living conditions and overcrowding along with the loss of livelihood and properties, often led to the negative coping mechanisms, such as drop out of children from school and early marriage of girls.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34235

WHO

WHO press release on Gaza mass demonstrations 9th – 14th April 2018, 17 April 2018

17 April 2018, Gaza – Mass demonstrations in Gaza have left at least 33 Palestinians dead and more than 4279 injured since 30 March, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health. The escalating violence has also led to the injury of 41 health staff, of whom 3 were injured by bullets, with 13 ambulances damaged by bullets and tear gas.

“The deteriorating humanitarian situation is extremely worrying. Hospitals in Gaza are overwhelmed with the influx of injured patients. With further escalations expected during the coming weeks, the increasing numbers of injured patients requiring urgent medical care is likely to devastate Gaza’s already weakened health system, placing even more lives at risk,’ said Dr Gerald Rockenschaub, WHO’s Head of Office for the West Bank and Gaza.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34237

UN HABITAT

Utilizing Minecraft to design Wadi El Joz Community Garden in East Jerusalem, 17 April 2018

East Jerusalem, April 17th, 2018 – UN Habitat in partnership with Bimkom – Planners for Planning Rights, Al Enaya Community Center and the Green Mosques Youth Group inaugurated Wadi Al Joz community garden, which was developed as part of the “UN Habitat Global Public Space Programme”. The project aimed at creating an inclusive public space in Wadi Al Joz neighborhoods in East Jerusalem that improves the urban environment and the living conditions for the residents, in particular children and youth, and also to support the community initiatives and encourage community participation.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34240

UNESCO

Message from Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, 3 May 2018

Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost." These words written by Thomas Jefferson in 1786, when he was fighting for the independence of his country, have a universal scope that transcends the historical moment of the foundation of the United States of America. Any State under the rule of law that respects individual freedoms, and particularly the freedoms of opinion, conscience and expression, relies on a free, independent press that is safe from censorship or coercion.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34263 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34264 (in Arabic)

Annual Sector Review-Achievements in 2017 and way forward 2018, 26 April 2018

Ramallah – On 25-26 April 2018, the Annual Sector Review of the Education Sector Working Group in Palestine took place at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), with a special focus on Education to Work as the theme of this year's meeting. This annual event is a forum for constructive dialogue among the main education actors in Palestine to review the performance and achievements made in the past year and make recommendations on policies and strategy for the future.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34261 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34262 (in English)

UNRWA

United Arab Emirates makes extraordinary contribution of US$ 50 million to UNRWA, 27 April 2018

UNRWA warmly welcomes a US$ 50 million contribution announced upon the directives of the President of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Khalifah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

This remarkable support by the United Arab Emirates comes as UNRWA faces the most serious financial crisis in its history. It represents an important step towards preserving UNRWA's crucial services to 5.4 million Palestine refugees in the Middle East.

Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl commended this unprecedented decision, saying: "The UAE is a valued and dynamic partner, standing with UNRWA and for the dignity and rights of Palestine Refugees. I am immensely grateful for this outstanding announcement, which confirms the UAE's commitment to our mandate and the preservation of hope for Palestine Refugees."

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34270 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34271 (in Arabic)

EU

European Union Heads of Mission visit Nablus, 26 April 2018

EU Heads of Mission in Jerusalem and Ramallah yesterday visited Nablus governorate in the northern West Bank. They met with the Governor and the Mayor of the city. The group of more than twenty European Diplomats also visited Balata Refugee Camp and met with UNRWA Officials. At Burin village, the diplomats were briefed by the local community on EU development and humanitarian projects and on the exposure of the community to Israeli settlers.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34258 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34259 (in Arabic)

The European Union Launches Agricultural Programmes in Palestine, 23 April 2018

The European Union and the Palestinian Authority (PA) launched today the Assistance to Agriculture Programmes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in a ceremony organized in Bethlehem. The ceremony was attended by Palestinian Prime Minister, Rami Al Hamdallah, Deputy EU Representative, Tomas Niklasson, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Palestinian Agriculture Risk Reduction and Insurance Fund and a large group of Palestinian farmers benefiting from the assistance.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34241 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34242 (in Arabic)

European Union Heads of Cooperation visit Area C projects in Jenin, 18 April 2018

European Union Heads of Cooperation in Jerusalem and Ramallah visited today projects and localities in Area C located in Jenin, north of the West Bank. The delegation was briefed on humanitarian and developmental projects funded by the EU, its Member States and like-minded partners supporting the Palestinian communities in the area.

The EU group started their visit in Bartaa' Al Sharqiah town where they were briefed by the Mayor, Ghassan Qabahah on the challenges facing the village and restraining the work of the Municipality. At the same meeting, representatives of the Ministry of Local Government briefed the group on the status of the master and cluster plans in light of the discussions with the Israel authorities.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34231

Enabel – Belgian Development Agency

Enabel supports Gaza's women to participate in the International Girls in ICT Day, in partnership with UCAS and UN WOMEN, 25 April 2018

Young women from Gaza will join other International Telecommunication Union (ITU) member states in celebrating the International Girls in ICT Day. The initiative aims at creating a global environment that empowers and encourages girls and young women to consider careers in the growing field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). The International Girls in ICT Day is celebrated in April every year.

The University College of Applied Science (UCAS) is organizing an event to celebrate the day at its venue on Monday 30th April, 2018 from 08:00 am. During the event, the five winner of the public tech information competition, which was launched one month ago (for girls in high schools,

colleges, universities, institutions and technology incubators), will be selected, announced and honoured.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34253

French Consulate General

Statement by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Deputy Spokesperson on the situation in the Gaza Strip, 23 April 2018

President Macron shared his concern over the situation in Gaza during his telephone conversation on April 21 with the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas. It is imperative to end the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip by ending the blockade and lifting restrictions, as well as through credible security guarantees for Israel.

Once again, France condemns the indiscriminate firing by the Israeli army on demonstrators in Gaza and deplores the five latest deaths in the past few days.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34245

Representative Office of German

Germany provides 2 Mio. EUR for Humanitarian Agencies in Gaza, 29 April 2018

Germany supports the work of humanitarian agencies in Gaza with two additional contribu-tions amounting to 2 Mio. EUR. This was announced in the light of the ongoing demonstra-tions at the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip. The contributions are meant to allow humanitarian organizations in Gaza to address urgent needs in the health sector as well as to conduct protection monitoring.

The German Representative in Ramallah, Peter Beerwerth, stated: “Gaza’s hospitals and medical centers are on the brink of collapse, with terrible consequences for its appr. 2 Mio. inhabitants. Humanitarian Agencies are doing an exceptional job in Gaza and their work – especially in the field of emergency medical assistance – has become even more important during the past five weeks.”

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34277

Representative Office of Japan

Visit of Prime Minister Abe to Palestine, 27 April 2018

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is scheduled to visit Palestine from May 1 to 2, 2018. This is Prime Minister Abe's second visit three years after the first visit in January 2015.

In Palestine, and Israel, Prime Minister Abe will reconfirm Japan’s commitment to actively contribute to the Middle East Peace Process currently facing challenges, based on its excellent relations with both parties.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34268 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34269 (in Arabic)

PCBS

PCBS press release on the occasion of the "International Workers' Day", 1 May 2018

About 364 thousand unemployed Individuals in Palestine during 2017

Unemployment in Palestine was 27.7% in 2017; in the West Bank was 17.9%, while it was 43.9% in Gaza Strip. The unemployment rate was for females 47.8% in 2017 and the rate was for men 22.5% in 2017.

The number of unemployed in Palestine reached 364 thousand in 2017; 146 thousand in the West Bank and 218 thousand in Gaza Strip.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34275 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34276 (in Arabic)

Palestinian Producer Price Index – March 2018, 29 April 2018

Decrease in the Producer Price Index (PPI) during March 2018.

The overall Producer Price Index (PPI) for Palestine with its base month (December 2015 = 100) reached 101.62 in March 2018, as it decreased by 1.44% compared to February 2018.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34273 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34274 (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 March 2018, 26 April 2018

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

The Construction Cost Index (CCI) for residential buildings reached 105.87 with an increase of 0.14% in the West Bankduring March 2018 compared with February 2018 (base year 2013 = 100).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34254 (in Arabic)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34255 (in English)

Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Registered External Trade in Goods of February 2018, 24 April 2018

Exports increased in February, 2018 by 15.6% compared to January, 2018. It also increased by 21% compared to February, 2017 and reached USD 95.8 Million.

Exports to Israel increased in February, 2018 by 4.5% compared to January, 2018 and it represented 79.5% of total exports in February, 2018.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34243 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34244 (in Arabic)

Palestinian Wholesale Price Index – First Quarter 2018, 19 April 2018

Decrease in the Wholesale Price1 Index (WPI) During the First Quarter of 2018

The overall WPI in Palestine with its base year (2007 = 100) reached 122.52 in the First quarter 2018, which indicates a decrease by 1.44% compared with the Fourth quarter 2017.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34233 (in English)

http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34234 (in Arabic)

Newsletters

- **Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin, April 2018**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34256

- **UNRWA Gender Bulletin, April 2018**
  http://www.ldf.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=34260

Announcements

- **UNESCO:** Call for application – "L'Oréal-UNESCO for women in Science" – Levant Regional Fellowships 2018.
  For further details, please see attachment.