LAC

SECRETARIAT

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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

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Shared Calendar of Events

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

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

List of Recent Meetings

- **Monday, 17 December 2018:** Energy Sector – Thematic Group meeting for "Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency" at 13:00 at PENRA.
- **Thursday, 20 December 2018**: Education Core Group meeting at 1:00 at the Representative Office of Finland.

List of Upcoming Meetings

- **Tuesday, 8 January 2019:** Justice Core Group Meeting at LACS
- **Tuesday, 17 January 2019**: Security Sector Thematic Group – AP#9 Gender at EUPOL COPPS
- **Monday, 21 January 2019:** Energy Sector Working Group meeting at PENRA.
- **Wednesday, 23 January 2019:** Tourism and Culture Core Group meeting at 12:00 at the Ministry of Culture.

Aid Coordination Meetings

- **Education Sector Working Group meeting, 21 November 2018**
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38937 (Minutes)
  - MoEHE Presentation: Education in Jerusalem, 21 November 2018
    http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38938
  - Joint MoEHE –WB: Costing Exercise – Preliminary Findings, November 2018
    http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38939
  - State of Palestine – Office of the President – Jerusalem Unit Presentation, 21 November 2018
    http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38940
  - Updates to the ESWG ToR and Palestinian Education Sector Partnership Principles, 21 November 2018
    http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38941
  - UNESCO – Third Arab Regional Meeting on Education 2030 (AR-MED III): Aligning Curriculum, Teachers and Learning Assessment to Reach SDG4 Targets in Arab Countries, 4-7 November 2018, Dead Sea, 21 November 2018
    http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38942

Documents & Reports

United Nations

❖ **FAO**

- Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade 16th to 20th December 2018

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38969

- Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 9 – 13 December 2018
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38952

❖ OCHA

- More casualties and food insecurity, less funding for humanitarian aid, 28 December 2018
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38973
- Protection of Civilians Report, 04 – 17 December 2018
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38955

❖ WHO

WHO Monthly report, November 2018
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38983

Press Releases and Formal Statements

Office of the Prime Minister

The Palestinian Cabinet Meeting Brief Statement,

The Palestinian Cabinet decides to ban the entry of all kinds of Israeli vegetables, fruits, and poultry products into the Palestinian markets, welcomes the UN General Assembly resolution on the Palestinians right to permanent sovereignty over Palestinian land including East Jerusalem, and confirms the government readiness to facilitate the conducting of the
legislative elections. During its weekly meeting held in Ramallah today, the Palestinian Cabinet, headed by Prime
Minister Dr. Rami Hamdallah:
Decided to ban the entry of Israeli vegetables, fruits and poultry products into the Palestinian markets, in line with the principle of protecting local products and in the response of the Israeli unilateral decision to prevent the entry of Palestinian vegetables and fruits to the Israeli markets.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38974

The Palestinian Cabinet Meeting Brief Statement, 18 December 2018

The Palestinian Cabinet strongly condemns Australia's decision to recognize West Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, demands the International community immediate intervention to halt the occupation violations and crimes, and calls the International Criminal Court (ICC) General Prosecutor to accelerate the opening of an investigation against Israel
During its weekly meeting held in Ramallah today, the Palestinian Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Dr. Rami Hamdallah:
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38945

Ministry of Social Development – UN

US$350 million appeal to address critical humanitarian needs of Palestinians launched, 17 December 2018

Today, the Minister of Social Development of the State of Palestine, H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Al-Shaer, and the Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Jamie McGoldrick, launched the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2019 in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).

The 2019 HRP appeals for $350 million to provide basic food, protection, health care, shelter, water and sanitation to 1.4 million Palestinians, who have been identified as most in need of humanitarian interventions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38936

World bank

An Additional US$ 18.5 Million for Improving Palestinian Infrastructure Services, 20 December 2018

Jerusalem, December 20, 2018 – Norway and Sweden contributed an additional total amount of US$ 18.5 million to the Palestinian Partnership for Infrastructure Development Multi-Donor Trust Fund (PID fund) administered by the World Bank.

The funds contributed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) of SEK 90 million, equivalent to US$ 10 million, and the Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs of NOK 73 million, equivalent to US$ 8.5 million, will support the Palestinian Authority implementing sector reforms and improving the quality and sustainability of infrastructure in water, energy and local government services provided to the Palestinian citizens.

The PID Fund was established in 2012 with the objective of improving the coverage, quality, and sustainability of infrastructure in the Palestinian territories through financial and technical support in the energy, water and urban development sectors.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38962

UN

Briefing by Nickolay Mladenov, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East, reporting on UNSCR 2334 (2016), 18 December 2018

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I will present today the eighth report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2334 covering the period from 13 September to 14 December. I will focus on developments on the ground in accordance with the provisions of the resolution, including on regional and international efforts to advance peace.

Let me underscore that these developments cannot be divorced from the broader context: Israel's continued military occupation of Palestinian territory; uncertainties about the future of the peace process and the two-state solution; Hamas' continuing hold over Gaza, its militant activity; the persistent threat of war; unilateral actions that undermine peace efforts; reduced donor support for Palestine; and turmoil in the wider region.

The full briefing is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38946

OCHA

Humanitarian Coordinator expresses concern amidst escalation of violence in the West Bank, 16 December 2018

Today, the Humanitarian Coordinator for the occupied Palestinian territory, Mr. Jamie McGoldrick, expressed concern over the deteriorating security situation in the West Bank. Since 9 December, three Israelis and five Palestinians have been killed across the West Bank in attacks, clashes and arrest operations. Over 400 Palestinians and at least 13 Israelis were injured, and more than 200 Palestinians have reportedly been arrested.

The full statement is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38935

UNRWA

China Provides US$ 2.35 Million in Support of UNRWA Food Assistance in Gaza, 21 December 2018

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) acknowledges the generous contribution from the People's Republic of China (PRC) of US$ 2.35 million in support of the Agency's 2018 Emergency Appeal for the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).

This generous contribution from China contributed to the critical emergency food assistance to nearly one million abject and absolute poor Palestine refugees in Gaza from October through December 2018 as part of the Agency's fourth round of 2018 emergency food distribution. Funding support of this nature remains critical in helping to mitigate the severity of food insecurity experienced amongst Palestine refugees living under blockade in Gaza.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38963 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38964 (Arabic)

UNRWA – Italy Makes Multiple Contributions to UNRWA Operations in Gaza and the West Bank, 20 December 2018

The Government of Italy contributed EUR 2 million to UNRWA health services in Gaza and EUR 2 million to UNRWA food programmes in the West Bank and Gaza.

These vital funds were disbursed rapidly in response to the Agency's unprecedented budget deficit. In the West Bank, some EUR 300,000 were funneled to the UNRWA Emergency Food Assistance programme for Bedouin-herder communities and the emergency cash programme.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38961

Taawon (Welfare Association) and Open Society Foundations (OSF) deliver vital support to UNRWA school children, 19 December 2018

Today, the Director General of Taawon (Welfare Association), Dr. Tafeeda Jarbawi, and the UNRWA Director of Communications and Spokesperson, Mr. Sami Mshasha, signed a US$ 1.5 million Memorandum of Understanding to support the UNRWA education programme.

The grant, which has been made possible through joint matched funding from Taawon and the Open Society Foundations, will enhance critical thinking skills at UNRWA schools and provide psycho-social and counselling support to Palestine refugee students across Jordan, Lebanon, the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Syria.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38953

Landmark multiyear agreement signed between the Qatar Fund for development and UNRWA, 17 December 2018

On the sidelines of the Doha Forum, H.E. Mr. Khalifa Bin Jassim Al-Kuwari, Managing Director of the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and Mr. Pierre Krähenbühl, the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), signed a landmark two-year agreement in support of the Agency's core services including education, health-care, relief and social services.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38943

Representative Office of Japan

Grant Signing Ceremonies for Two GGP Projects in Palestine, 27 December 2018

Grant Contracts for Two 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 Dajan Village council and Talfit village council at the Representative Office of Japan to Palestine in Ramallah for a total amount of US$ 174,796.

Beit Dajan Village council in Nablus Governorate will use a fund of $88,247 to provide 122 students with an appropriate educational condition in the school building by constructing 4 classrooms (192 M2) in Beit Dajan secondary school and stop using the old and the dangerous first floor building in the school.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38976 (English)
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38975 (Arabic)

WFP

Funding crunch forces WFP to reduce food assistance in Palestine despite rising need, 19 December 2018

JERUSALEM – The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is facing a severe funding shortfall in Palestine that will affect some 193,000 of the poorest people in Gaza and the West Bank as of January 2019.

As WFP prioritises its operations based on available funds, 27,000 people in the West Bank stand to receive no further assistance while the rest are set to receive only 80 percent of their monthly entitlement.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38954

European Commission

EU reaffirms strong commitment to support for Palestine refugees and for Palestine's socio-economic development, 20 December 2018

The EU mobilised €20 million additional financial assistance in support of the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), and €73.3 million to improve the living conditions for the people in East Jerusalem and to foster economic development in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The funding provided to UNRWA supports the Agency's efforts to ensure the provision of essential services to vulnerable Palestine refugees in the Middle East. This will bring the EU's total contributions to UNRWA in 2018 to €153 million.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38956 (English)
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38957 (Arabic)

EU

EU – Celebrating Christmas with patients at Augusta Victoria hospital: EU announces a €14 million contribution to East Jerusalem Hospitals, 20 December 2018

The European Union Representative Ralph Tarraf and the Italian Consul General Sokolowicz Fabio joined Red Noses Palestine to visit patients at Augusta Victoria hospital and celebrate the holiday season. The visit concurred with a new contribution of €14 million to support East Jerusalem Hospitals in maintaining critical medical services to Palestinians. This contribution is funded by the EU (€13 million) and the Government of Italy (€1 million).

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38958 (English)
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38959 (Arabic)

EU local statement on the dismantling of a Palestinian school in As Simiya, 19 December 2018

The EU missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah express strong concern about the dismantling by the Israeli authorities of a PA built school, serving 40 Palestinian schoolchildren from the first to the sixth grade in As Simiya, in Area C in the Southern West Bank, on 5 December.

This is the fifth demolition or confiscation of school and kindergarten structures which the Israeli authorities have carried out in the West Bank in 2018. In total, 50 schools in Area C and East Jerusalem have demolition or stop work orders creating a coercive environment affecting more than 5,000 school children.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38949 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38950 (Arabic)

PCBS

Dr. Awad Presents a Brief on Palestinians at the End of 2018, 31 December 2018:

There is More than 13 Million Palestinians in the world by the End of 2018

The projected number of Palestinians in the world is 13.05 million, of whom 4.91 million are in State of Palestine, 1.57 million in 1948 Territory, 5.85 million in Arab countries and around 717 thousand in foreign countries.

More than one-third of population in Gaza Strip

The projected number of Palestinians living in State of Palestine at the end of 2018 is 4.915 million: around 2.954 million reside in the West Bank and 1.961 million in Gaza Strip. Palestinian refugees make up 42% of the Palestinian population in State of Palestine: 26% of them in the West Bank and 66% in Gaza Strip.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38977 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38978 (Arabic)

A sharp decrease in GDP at constant prices in Gaza Strip during the first three quarters of the year 2018 led to slowing down in the growth of the Palestinian economy compared to the parallel quarters of the year 2017, 30 December 2018

The gross domestic product slightly increased by 0.1% through the first three quarters of the year 2018 compared to the same quarters of the year 2017, while the GDP has increased by 2.3% in the West Bank and decreased by 7.9% in Gaza Strip.

GDP for the third quarter 2018

Preliminary estimates at constant prices showed a decrease of 0.5% in GDP in Palestine during the 3rd quarter 2018 compared to the 3rd quarter 2017, (increase by 1.2% in the West Bank and decrease by 6.5% in Gaza Strip compared to the 3rd quarter 2017). And it showed an increase of 4% in Palestine compared to the 2nd quarter 2018 at constant prices, meanwhile the base year is

2015. GDP for the 3rd quarter 2018 at constant prices was USD 2,794 million for the West Bank and USD 693 million for Gaza Strip.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38981 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38982 (Arabic)

Decrease in the Producer Price Index (PPI) during November 2018

The overall Producer Price Index (PPI) for Palestine with its base month (December 2015 = 100) reached 101.82 in November 2018, as it decreased by 1.87% compared to October 2018.

PPI for locally consumed products

Producer Price Index for locally consumed products (December 2015 = 100) reached 101.93 in November 2018, which indicates a decrease of 2.10% compared to October 2018.

PPI for local exported products

Producer Price Index for local exported products (December 2015 = 100) reached 100.64 in November 2018, which indicates an increase of 0.12% compared to October 2018.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38979 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38980 (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 November 2018

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

The Construction Cost Index (CCI) for residential buildings reached 105.91 with a slight increase by 0.04% in the West Bank during November 2018 compared with October 2018 (base year 2013 = 100).

The CCI for residential buildings slightly increased due to the slight increase in the prices of raw materials by 0.08%, while rental of equipment slightly decreased by 0.09%. At the same time, labour wages remained stable during November 2018 compared with the previous month.

Slight Increase in the Construction Cost Index (CCI) for Non-residential Buildings

The Construction Cost Index (CCI) for non-residential buildings reached 105.85 with a slight increase of 0.01% in the West Bank during November 2018 compared with October 2018 (base year 2013 = 100).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38971 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38972 (Arabic)

Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Balance of Payments – Third Quarter 2018 Deficit in Current Account is USD 445 Million, 23 December 2018

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA) announced the preliminary results of the Palestinian Balance of Payments (BoP) for the third quarter of 2018 under the joint issuance cycle for the Palestinian Balance of Payments (BoP). It should be noted that the data excludes those parts of Jerusalem which were annexed by Israel occupation in 1967.

The preliminary results of BoP for the third quarter of 2018 showed:

- An incessant deficit in the Current Account (goods, services, income, current transfers) which totaled USD 444.7 million marking an increase of 19.1% compared to the previous quarter, mainly triggered by the deficit of the Trade Balance of Goods, which reached USD 1,254.7 million, as well as the deficit in Services Balance, which amounted to USD 265.9 million.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38965 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38966 (Arabic)

Results Announcement International Investment Position & External Debt – Third Quarter, 2018, 24 December 2018

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and the Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA) announced the preliminary results of the International Investment Position (IIP), and External Debt statistics for Palestine as of end of the third quarter 2018.

The primary results of the IIP (external assets – foreign liabilities) for Palestine at the end of third quarter 2018 revealed that the net IIP amounted to about USD 1,433 million, which means that the Palestinian economy's investments outside Palestine outweighs investments in Palestine from abroad. The resident cash deposits in foreign banks and foreign exchange in the Palestinian economy accounted for the bulk of the external assets, constituting 61.8% of the total value of external assets.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38967 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38968 (Arabic)

Launching of the first version of the Palestinian Administrative Business Register, 19 December 2018

On December 19th, 2018, PCBS launched the shared Palestinian Administrative Business Register (ABR) which was developed in cooperation with Palestinian partners. This achievement has been realized with a technical support implemented by French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) and financial support by Expertise France.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38947 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38948 (Arabic)

Newsletters

- **The Portland Trust Economic Bulletin – December 2018**
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38970
- **UNRWA monthly Gender Bulletin– December 2018**
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=38984

Announcement

Diakonia International Humanitarian Law Resource Centre (IHLRC) is now accepting one-year project proposals from organisations with significant expertise working on International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

The IHLRC is funding one-year projects that:

- Contribute to strengthening compliance with IHL among the parties involved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- Emphasize the role and responsibility of third States to respect and ensure respect for IHL.
- Empower rights holders and communities affected by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- Influence duty bearers/national authorities to respect and ensure respect for IHL.
- Improve knowledge of IHL among local civil society and grass-roots organisations.

The selection criteria will be based on:

- Organisational capacity of the applying organisation.
- Alignment with Diakonia's global values, visions and principles.
- Focus or thematic areas, including geographic representation and vulnerable groups.
- Relevance to Diakonia IHLRC's 2017 – 2019 strategic objectives, work and intervention areas.
- Applying organisation's role in empowering rights holders and influencing duty bearers. Gender marker.

Attached, herewith, is the application and budget formats including guidelines and instructions, as well as obligatory templates to be annexed to the application.

Project proposals should be submitted using the online form found here. Obligatory annexes should be mailed to IHL@diakonia.se.

Each applying organisation can apply for up to USD $50,000 in line with the budgeting guidelines illustrated in the online application form.

About the application:
Cost eligible from January 1, 2019.
Project duration: 9-12 months.
Application submission deadline: January 28, 2019.
Signing off agreements: March 2019.

For technical support and guidance, please contact Ms. Yusra Jamous at yusra.jamous@diakonia.se or Ms. Nadine Tabari at Nadine.tabari@diakonia.se