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, 21 January 2019:** Energy Sector Working Group meeting at11:00 at PENRA.
- **Tuesday, 22 January 2019:** Education Core Group meeting at 10:00 at LACS.
- **Tuesday, 22 January 2019:** Social Protection Sector: Thematic Working Group meeting on Disability at 12:00 at LACS Office.
- **Thursday, 24 January 2019:** Security Core Group meeting at 11:00 at the Ministry of Interior.
- **Thursday, 24 January 2019**: Security Sector – Security Thematic Group meeting – AP4 (Training) at 1:00 at BST HQs Ramallah
- **Tuesday, 29 January 2019**: Security Sector – Security Thematic Group meeting – AP8 took at 12:30 at BST HQs Ramallah.
- **Wednesday, 30 January 2019:** Education Sector – Pre-school Technical Thematic Working Group meeting at 10:00 at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.
- **Wednesday, 30 January 2019:** Tourism and Culture Core Group meeting at 13:00 at the Ministry of Culture.
- **Thursday, 31 January 2019**: Justice Core Group meeting at 9:00 at LACS Office.
- **Thursday, 31 January 2019:** Labour Sector Working Group at 10:00 at MoL.

List of Upcoming Meetings

- **Tuesday, 12 February 2019:** Education Core Group meeting at 10:00 at LACS.
- **Tuesday, 12 February 2019:** Agriculture Core Group meeting at 10:00 at MoA.
- **Thursday, 28 February 2019:** Security Core Group meeting at 10:00 at MoI.

Documents & Reports

Palestinian Water Authority

(RPI) Semi- Annual Progress report, January – June 2018
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39059

United Nations

❖ FAO

Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 13 – 17 January 2019
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39052

Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 6 – 10 January 2019
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39019

❖ OCHA

- Gaza Strip: Early Warning Indicators – December 2018
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39030
- Humanitarian Snapshot: Casualties in the context of Demonstrations and Hostilities in Gaza, 30 March – 31 December 2018
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39028
- Protection of Civilians, 1 – 14 January 2019
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39023
- West Bank Demolitions and Displacement, December 2018
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39024
- Humanitarian Bulletin, December 2018
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39020

❖ **WHO**

- Health Access – Barriers for patients in the occupied Palestinian territory, December 2018
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39063

❖ **FAO**

- Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 20-24 January 2019
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39064

Press Releases and Formal Statements

Office of the Prime Minister

The Palestinian Cabinet Meeting Brief Statement, 29 January 2019

The Government submits its resignation, places it under the disposal of President Abbas and announces its readiness to continue performing its duties until a new Government is formed, condemns the humiliating Israeli election campaigns, hails the fourth Arab Economic and Social Development Summit, reviews participation outcomes of Prime Minister Hamdallah in the Summit.
The full statement is available at the following link:
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39062

World Bank

US$12 Million Boost for Efforts to Expand Access to Electricity for the Palestinian People, 14 January 2019

WASHINGTON, January 14, 2018 – The World Bank approved a US$12 million grant today to scale up the ongoing efforts to enhance the operational performance of key Palestinian energy sector institutions, and pilot a new business model for solar energy in Gaza. The new funding builds on

the progress under the Electricity Sector Performance Improvement Project and expands the scope of activities to achieve its goals.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39018

UN – NGO

Statement by Jamie McGoldrick (Humanitarian Coordinator), Gwyn Lewis (Director of West Bank Operations for UNRWA), James Heenan (Head of OHCHR in the occupied Palestinian territory) and Kate O'Rourke (Country Director of the Norwegian Refugee Council) – UN officials and NGO partners call for a halt to plans to displace Palestine refugees from Sheikh Jarrah, 22 January 2019

Today, we visited the Sabbagh family in their home, who face imminent forced eviction from their home in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of East Jerusalem, part of the occupied Palestinian territory, and are at heightened risk of forcible transfer.

The Sabbagh family are Palestine refugees originally from Jaffa city, who were settled in the neighbourhood, along with 27 other families, with the support of the United Nations and the Jordanian government, in the 1950s. Like other families in the area, for years they have been engaged in a legal dispute opposing efforts by Israeli settler organizations to evict them from their homes.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39048

UNESCO

The message from Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO on the occasion of International Day of Education, 24 January 2019

Today marks the first International Day of Education, as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly last December. This significant decision recognizes the capital role of education in"Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".Without inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong opportunities for all, countries will notsucceed in breaking the cycle of poverty that is leaving millions of children, youth and adults behind. We will not succeed in mitigating climate change, adapting to the technological revolution, let alone achieve gender equality,without ambitious political commitment to universal education.

The full message is available at the following link:

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000366448 (English)

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000366448_ara (Arabic)

UNOPS

UNOPS Work with the Government of Canada to strengthen Justice Sector in West Bank, 29 January 2019

Jerusalem, 29 January 2019 –UNOPS and the Government of Canada agreed to support the Public Prosecution (PP) plans to enable the protection, privacy and human dignity of children and women who are victims of violence and abuse in the West Bank.

In close cooperation with the Palestinian Authority Office of Attorney General (OAG); UNOPS established and fully equipped seven "women and children safe facilities" in seven different Public Prosecution districts around the West Bank.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39060 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39061 (Arabic)

EU

The European Union provides €2.37 million to support Palestinian farmers, 31 January 2019

The European Union made a new contribution of €2.37 million to support Palestinian farmers and agro-businesses in the West Bank. The contribution was channelled through the Palestinian Authority's programme "Assistance to Agriculture in the West Bank – AAWB".

241 Palestinian farmers and agro-businesses affected by Israeli occupation in the West Bank will benefit from this new contribution. This support will help the farmers relaunch, repair or replace damaged businesses through different activities including the acquisition of agricultural supplies, rehabilitation of land and other small infrastructure works. This brings the total beneficiaries of the programme up-to-date to 365 farmers.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39073 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39074 (Arabic)

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn death sentence issued in Gaza, 31 January 2019

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn the death sentence issued in the Gaza Strip on 29 January 2019.

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah recall their firm opposition under all circumstances to the use of capital punishment. The EU considers that abolition of the death penalty contributes to the protection of human dignity and the progressive development of human rights. It considers capital punishment to be cruel and inhuman, that it fails to provide deterrence to criminal behaviour, and represents an unacceptable denial of human dignity and integrity.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39071 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39072 (Arabic)

Local EU statement on the dissolution of the Palestinian Legislative Council, 21 January 2019

The European Union Representative issues the following statement in agreement with the EU Heads of Mission in Jerusalem and Ramallah.

The EU missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah have noted the dissolution of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) in December 2018 and the announcement of legislative elections within 6 months.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39033 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39035 (Arabic)

EU Heads of Mission in Jerusalem and Ramallah visit the Sabbagh family from East Jerusalem's Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood, 21 January 2019

Today, the EU Heads of Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah visited the Sabbagh family, who is under threat of eviction from their home in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood in East Jerusalem.
On 15 November 2018, Israel's Supreme Court dismissed a final appeal against the eviction of the Sabbagh family.
The EU Heads of Mission met with members of the family who briefed the visiting diplomats on the current status of their case. If the eviction is carried out, it would amount to the displacement of around 32 members of the Sabbagh family, including 6 children.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39040 (English)
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39041 (Arabic)

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation – World Health Organization

Improving health system in the West Bank and Gaza to achieve health for all, 22 January 2019

With the generous support from the Italian Cooperation, World Health Organization in the occupied Palestinian territory is launching a two-year project to improve health systems towards universal health coverage. The health system in the West Bank and Gaza is afflicted by the continued occupation, prolonged conflict and deteriorating social-economic conditions. The funding from the Italian cooperation will help to implement a number of interventions to support the improvement and sustainability of the Palestinian health system.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39042

Italian Foreign Ministry

Statement by the Italian Foreign Minister, Enzo Moavero Milanesi regarding Israel's decision on TIPH Mission, 30 January 2019

"We learnt about this decision with regret but we maintain our commitment". This is what the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Enzo Moavero Milanesi, said with regard to Israel's decision not to renew the mandate of the mission of TIPH (Temporary International Presence in Hebron) observers, in which Italy also takes part. "We will discuss it also with the other States involved", the Ministry added.
The statement is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39067

Representative Office of Japan

Grant Signing Ceremonies for Four GGP Projects in Palestine funded by Japan, 29 January 2019

Grant Contracts for four 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 Never Stop Dreaming Charity Association, Nasser Medical Complex at KhanYounis, Al-Shatee services center at Beach Camp, and Joint Service Council for Solid Waste Management in Khan Younis, Rafah and the Middle Area (JSC-KRM), at the UNDP Headquarter in Gaza for a total amount of US$341,348.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39065 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39066 (Arabic)

Project for Sanitary Units in Aqqaba Girls School in Aqqaba City Funded by Japan, 15 January 2019

Today, January 15th, 2019, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, visited Aqqaba City in Tubas 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).

A grant of US $88,460 was extended to Aqqaba city to improve the sanitation environment for the students and teachers at Aqqaba girls school, by installing of new toilet unit. Upon the completion of the project, 315 students including disability students in addition to 230 students from 1st – 5th class and their teachers will benefit from healthy learning environment.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39021 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39022 (Arabic)

KOICA

Starting the operation of Palestine National Rehabilitation Center for Drug Addicts Treatment, 18 January 2019

Bethlehem - Ma'an - The Ministry of Health celebrated on Thursday 17 January 2019, the opening and the operation of the Palestine National Rehabilitation Center (PNRC) for Treatment of Addicts, where it was announced to start receiving patients from last Sunday.

The ceremony was held under the patronage of the Minister of Health, Dr. Jawad Awad, in the presence of the Deputy Minister Dr. Asa'ad Ramlawi, as the minister's representative. The event took place at the premises of PNRC.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39025

PCBS

Palestinian Producer Price Index (PPI) during 2018 & during December 2018, 31 January 2019

Increase in the Producer Price1 Index (PPI) during 2018

The overall PPI in Palestine with its base month (December 2015=100) reached 103.39 in 2018, which indicates an increase by 2.22% compared to 2017.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39068 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39069 (Arabic)

Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Registered External Trade in Goods of November 2018, 24 January 2019

Exports decreased in November, 2018 by 3% compared to October, 2018. While it increased by 3% compared to November, 2017 and reached USD 95.6 Million.

Exports to Israel decreased in November, 2018 by 6% compared to October, 2018 and it represented 84% of total exports in November, 2018.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39055 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39056 (Arabic)

President of PCBS receives the new Head of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) in Palestine, 23 January 2019

RAMALLAH, 23-01-2019 - H. E. Dr. Ola Awad, President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) received, on Wednesday at the PCBS headquarter in Ramallah, H.E. Ms. Sarah Muscroft, the new Head of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) in Palestine.

H.E. Dr. Awad expressed her best wishes to the new head of office on the assignment at her second home Palestine.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39053 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39054 (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 2018 & during December 2018, 23 January 2019

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

The Construction Cost Index (CCI) for Residential buildings in the West Bank reached 105.84 during 2018 with an increase of 1.63% compared with 2017 (base year 2013=100).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39050 (English)
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39051 (Arabic)

Palestinian Wholesale Price Index during 2018 & Fourth Quarter of 2018, 20 January 2019

Increase in the Wholesale Price1 Index (WPI) During 2018
The overall Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in Palestine with its base year (2007=100) reached 125.47 in 2018, which indicates an increase by 1.05% compared with 2017.
The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39026 (English)
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39027 (Arabic)

Newsletters

- **The Portland Trust Palestinian Economic Bulletin, January 2019**
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39070

- **UNRWA Gender Bulletin, January 2019**
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39075

Announcements

- **Belgian Call for Proposals "Business Partnership Facility – Enterprises for SDGs" is available at the following link**
  https://www.kbs-frb.be/EnterprisesForSDGs : **(Deadline for applications: February 12st 2019)**

Job Vacancies

- **Office of the European Union Representative – Programme Officer (this is only open to EU citizens)**
  For further details, please see attachments

- **Representative Office of Canada – Local Project Monitor (LPM)**
  For further details, please see attachment

- **The French Institute of Jerusalem – Chateaubriand branch is recruiting an Administrative Employee.**
  Candidates are invited to send a motivation letter, CV, copy of the ID and/or work permit to

scac.jerusalem-fslt@diplomatie.gouv.fr before February 13th 2019.

For further details, please see attachment

New Arrivals

- **Mr. Toshiya Abe** has joined JICA Palestine Office as Chief Representative. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: Abe.Toshiya@jica.go.jp , phone: 02-2977761

- **Mr. Damiano Pizzol** has joined the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation as Health Programme Officer. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: pizzol@itcoop-jer.org , phone: 02-5327447

- **Ms. Sarah Muscroft** has joined OCHA as Head of Office. Her contact details are as follows:
  Email: muscroft@un.org ,phone: 02-5829962