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.lacs.ps/EventCalendarEndUser.aspx

List of Recent Meetings

- **Wednesday, 6 February 2019:** Education Sector – Higher Education Thematic Working Group at 9:30 at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.
- **Tuesday, 12 February 2019:** Education Core Group meeting at 10:00 at LACS.
- **Wednesday, 13 February 2019:** Education Sector – Education in Emergency (EiE) Thematic Working Group meeting at 10:00 at the Ministry of Education & Higher Education.

List of Upcoming Meetings

- **Monday, 18 February 2019:** Agriculture Core Group meeting at 12:00 at MoA.
- **Tuesday, 19 February 2019**: The Local Government Core Group at 10:00 at MoL..
- **Wednesday, 27 February 2019:** Tourism and Culture Core Group meeting at 10:00 at MoC.
- **Thursday, 28 February 2019:** Security Core Group meeting at 10:00 at MoI.
- **Wednesday, 13 March 2019:** Technical Level – Justice Sector Working Group Meeting at 10:00.

Aid Coordination Meetings

- **Minutes – Energy Sector Working Group Meeting, 21 January 2019**
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39090
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39104 (Arabic action points)

Documents & Reports

PWA

(RPI) Semi– Annual Progress report, July – December 2018
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39105

United Nations

❖ **OCHA**

Protection of Civilians, 29 January – 11 February 2019
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39108

Humanitarian Bulletin, January 2019
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39103

- West Bank demolitions and displacement, January 2019
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39089

❖ **WHO**

- Attacks on health care in the Gaza Strip: January – December 2018
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39079

❖ **FAO**

- Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade: 3 – 7 February 2019
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39092

- Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 27 – 31 January 2019
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39082

Press Releases and Formal Statements

Office of the Prime Minister

The Palestinian Government Meeting Brief Statement, 12 February 2019

The Government condemns Israeli intention to deduct 'welfare funds' from Palestinian tax revenues, reviews the government financial performance for the period 2013-2018, evaluates the Government Budget for 2018 and the main features of general budget draft for 2019, slams settler militias attacks against defenseless Palestinian civilians, and confirms its boycott for the so-called "Warsaw conference".

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39091

The Palestinian Government Meeting Brief Statement, 5 February 2019

The Government condemns the latest news of the Israeli government on its intention to deduct the allocations of prisoners and martyrs families from the Palestinian tax funds, praises the joint UN statement on the violations of the Israeli occupation and settlers against the education sector in Palestine, and deplores the approval of the occupation government to build a cable car in the Occupied City of Jerusalem.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39083

UNRWA

American Government Accountability Office report affirms UNRWA's unwavering commitment to UN values, 10 February 2019

Jerusalem – The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) operates an educational system for over 532,000 girls and boys at its 715 schools in the West Bank, including

East Jerusalem, Gaza, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. The agency provides students with a quality education, the centerpiece of which is UNRWA's commitment to delivering a curriculum consistent with the broader UN development goals and the values and principles of the UN.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39088

UNOPS – KFW

More families in Gaza sign contracts with UNOPS and KFW to receive cash assistance to reconstruct their destroyed homes, 4 February 2019

Gaza, 3 February 2019 –The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), signed new contracts with seven families whose homes were destroyed during the 2014 conflict in Gaza; in presence of the Minister of the Palestinian Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MoPWH) H.E. Mofeed Al-Hasayineh.

The seven families are the first of 566 non-refugee families to sign a contract and receive the cash assistance for reconstructing their homes.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39077

WHO

Gaza patients' painful journey to cancer treatment, 4 February 2019

4 February 2019 – After being diagnosed with cancer, patients in Gaza often face months-long waits before being able to receive treatment. Getting a permit to access the health care needed outside can be a stressful and unpredictable process, and many apply multiple times before being able to exit. Even then, some patients are never able to secure the permits they need to access care. The ability of Gaza's hospitals to provide adequate diagnosis and treatment to cancer patients is severely limited due to chronic shortages of medicines and lack of medical equipment. Nuclear medicine scanning needed for staging cancers, radiotherapy equipment and some specialized surgeries are unavailable.

The full press release is available at the following link:
http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39078

EU

Local EU statement on the extension of the ban on Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem, 12 February 2019

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah deeply regret the extension of the ban on Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem, including the Orient House and the Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which have now been prevented from operating for the past 18 years.

The EU firmly believes that there is a strong need for such institutions, which should be allowed to function as focal points for Palestinians in East Jerusalem.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39093 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39094 (Arabic)

Dar Al Hikma Girls School Wins the First Place at the "Know Europe" Contest in Palestine, 12 February 2019

The European Union and Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education crowned today Dar Al Hikma Girls School from East Jerusalem after winning the first place at the "Know Europe" contest. European Union Representative Ralph Tarraf and Minister of Education Dr Sabri Saidam attended the final round of the "Know Europe" contest organised in Ramallah.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39095 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39096 (Arabic)

Consulate General of Italy

Investment opportunities in East Jerusalem, 7 February 2019

The Consul General of Italy, Fabio Sokolowicz, hosted a round table on investment opportunities in East Jerusalem, in which Bernard Sabella (Bethlehem University), Geoffrey Prewitt (UNDP), Hashim Shawa (Bank of Palestine Group), Amir Dajani (Amaar Jerusalem for Investment and Development), Roberto Carpaneto (Association of the Italian engineering, architectural and technical economic consulting organizations – OICE) and Vincenzo Ercole Salazar Sarsfield (Italian Construction Industry – ANCE) participated as keynote speakers, leading a delegation of 20 Italian businessmen from the two associations.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39087

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

Launch of a study about minor's rights in the Palestinian Juvenile Prosecution, 7 February 2019

Ramallah, February 7th 2019 – Minor's rights in the Palestinian Juvenile Justice System are at the core of the Italian Cooperation intervention in Palestine, through development projects implemented by the Palestinian General Attorney's Office and in partnership with the Ministries of Education, Social Development and Local Government. An analytical and comparative study has been drafted within the framework of the project Karama, funded by AICS, and was launched by a group of stakeholders this morning in Ramallah, among which the three Palestinian Ministries and two Italian experts from the Juvenile Department at the Italian Ministry of Justice, Vincenzo Starita and Donatella Caponetti, already involved in the project activities to study the judicial-social context and the possible introduction of the probation measure in Palestine.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39084

Representative Office of Japan

Signing and Exchange of Notes concerning Grant Assistance to Palestine, 13 February 2019

On February 13, a grant aid agreement was signed between Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and H.E Dr. Rami al-Hamd Allah, Prime Minister of Palestine, for improving collection and transport system of solid waste which amounts to approximately USD 15.93 million. The project provides equipment and vehicles for solid waste management such as waste collection vehicles, compactor, and containers, etc. to the Joint Service Council (JSCs) comprised of Local Government Units (municipalities, village councils), thereby contributing to the improvement of the living environment of residential areas, protection of natural environment and enhancement of governmental services for local communities.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39099 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39100 (Arabic)

Completion Ceremony of the Project for Finishing of Additional Classrooms in Ras Karkar School, funded by Japan, 7 February 2019

Today, February 7th, 2019, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, visited Ras Karkar town in Ramallah 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).

Ras Karkar village council used a grant of US $87,955 to improve the educational environment for the students in Ras Karkar School by completing the construction of three new classrooms for 68 female science students and by constructing a toilet unit for 5 students with disabilities who suffered from the lack of space in the school in the past years.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39085 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39086 (Arabic)

JICA

Signing of Grant Agreement with Palestine: Support for improving solid waste management for living environment and natural environment protection, 13 February 2019

On February 13, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a grant agreement with the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah, to provide aid up to 1.785 billion yen (Approximately 17 million USD) for the Project for the Improvement of Collection and Transport System for Solid Waste Management.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39097 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39098 (Arabic)

SIDA – UN Women – ILO

Sweden partners with UN Women and ILO to Promote Productive Employment and Decent Work for Women in Egypt, Jordan and Palestine, 14 February 2019

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), a long-standing partner of UN Women, announced a significant contribution of 70 million Swedish Krona (USD $7.64 million) to a regional programme on "Promoting Productive Employment and Decent Work for Women in Egypt, Jordan and Palestine". The programme seeks to support women to benefit from opportunities for better jobs, security at workplaces, equal access to professional development, social protection for families and better prospects for personal development and integration in society.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39109 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39110 (Arabic)

PCBS

Remarkable decrease in fuel prices with a stability in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) during January 2019, 14 February 2019

The overall CPI for Palestine during January 2019 slightly increased by 0.01% compared with December 2018 (by 0.15% in Gaza Strip, and with a slight increase by 0.01% in the West Bank, while it decreased by 0.19% in Jerusalem J1).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39106 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39107 (Arabic)

Results of the Labour Force Survey – 2018, 13 February 2019

The unemployment rate between the West Bank and Gaza Strip still high in 2018; 52% in Gaza Strip compared with 44% in 2017, while in the West Bank it was 18% and 19%, respectively. 25% for males and 51% for females in 2018.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39101 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39102 (Arabic)

Industrial Production Index (IPI) in Palestine during 2018 & during December 2018, 5 February 2019

Decrease in the Industrial Production Index (IPI) in Palestine during 2018.

The overall IPI in Palestine reached 103.59 during the year of 2018 with a decrease of 3.94% compared to the previous year (Base Month December 2015 = 100).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39080 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39081 (Arabic)

Newsletters

- **PCBS Electronic Monthly Bulletin. No. (149), 7 February 2019**
  http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_149/Monthly%20bulletin_e.htm (English)

http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Documents/Monthly%20bulletin_149/Monthly%20bulletin_a.htm (Arabic)

Announcements

- **Representative Office of Finland** open the new Fund for Local Cooperation (FLC) Call for Project Proposals for the year 2019. The deadline for applications is 14 March 2019. For further details, please see attachment.
  The Call for Project Proposals and its related attachments are available at the following link: http://www.finland.ps

Job Vacancies

- **Consulate General of France – "Economic and Commercial Officer / Responsable d'études" For further details, please see attachment**

New Arrivals

- **Mr. Haytham Al Wahidy** has joined the Ministry of National Economy as Deputy Minister. His contact details are as follows:
  Email: hwahidi@met.gov.ps , phone:

- **Ms. Hildegard Lingnau** has joined WFP as Deputy Country Director. Her contact details are as follows: hildegard.lingnau@wfp.org ,phone: 02-5401340