LAC

SECRETARIAT

CONTENTS

News from LACS	7
Shared Calendar of Events	2
List of Recent Meetings	2
List of Upcoming Meetings	2
Aid Coordination Meetings	2
Documents & Reports	2
Newsletters	7

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

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, 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.
- **Thursday, 28 February 2019:** Security Thematic Group meeting AP4 "Training "at 12:30 at BST

List of Upcoming Meetings

- **Tuesday, 5 March 2019:** Justice Core Group meeting at 10:00 at MoJ
- **Thursday, 7 March 2019:** Private Sector Core group meeting at 10:00 at MoNE.
- **Wednesday, 13 March 2019:** Technical Level – Justice Sector Working Group Meeting at 10:00 at the Grand Park Hotel.
- **Thursday, 14 March 2019:** Education Core Group meeting at 1:00.
- **Monday, 18 March 2019:** Social Protection Core Group meeting at 1:00 MoSD.
- **Tuesday, 19 March 2019:** Education Core Group meeting at 10:00 at MoEHE.
- **Monday, 25 March 2019:** Agriculture Sector – SPS Interest Group meeting at10:00 at LACS Office.
- **Thursday, 28 March 2019:** Education Thematic Working Group meeting at MoEHE.
- **Thursday, 28 March 2019:** Security Core Group meeting at MoI.

Aid Coordination Meetings

- **Minutes – Labor Sector Working Group Meeting, 31 January 2019**
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39127

Documents & Reports

Abu Tor Economic Research Collaborative – Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Palestinian Territories

- Gaza Electricity Reform & Restoration – Fast Track Approach to Economic Revival, January 2019
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39114

AFD

- Summary of the Conference – "Water, Energy and demographic growth connected to sustainable development in Gaza", 31 January 2019
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39121

United Nations

❖ OCHA

- Gaza Crossings' Operations Status: Monthly update – January 2019
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39129
- Gaza crisis: early warning indicators – January 2019
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39130
- Protection of Civilians, 12 – 25 February 2019
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39145

❖ FAO

- Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 17 – 21 February 2019
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39144
- Humanitarian Response Plan 2019
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39116
- Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 10 – 14 February 2019
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39112
- Gaza Strip Agricultural Trade, 3 – 7 February 2019
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39113

Press Releases and Formal Statements

Office of the Prime Minister

The Palestinian Cabinet Meeting Brief Statement, 26 February 2019

The cabinet calls upon the Palestinian nation to stand behind President Mahmoud Abbas, salutes the citizens of Occupied Jerusalem for breaking the Israeli occupation successive measures of control and closure imposed on Al-Rahma gate since 2003, and condemns the occupation government order to re-close the gate.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39133

The Palestinian Cabinet Meeting Brief Statement, 19 February 2019

The Palestinian Cabinet condemns the Israeli decision to block the UN Security Council bid to visit the State of Palestine, rejects cutting money from Palestinian tax revenues considering this move as a political blackmailing and announces its readiness to confront such punitive measure.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39115

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 2019

I brief you today as we continue to confront a growing humanitarian, security and political crisis in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The prospect of sustainable peace is fading by the day as the specter of violence and radicalism grows. Our efforts today are focused on the immediate challenges – on preventing the risk of an economic and humanitarian implosion in the West Bank and Gaza and on preserving the hope – slim as it is – that Israelis and Palestinians will be able to live in peace, side by side, in states of their own that are recognized and integrated into the global and regional community.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39119

UNRWA

The European Union Announces a Vital EUR 82 Million Contribution to UNRWA, 27 February 2019

The European Union Representative, Ralph Tarraf, and Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Pierre Krähenbühl, signed at UNRWA headquarters in East Jerusalem the EU-UNRWA contribution agreement in support of the Agency's 2019 Programme Budget.

Under this agreement, the EU provides a vital contribution of EUR 82 million in support of the human development work of UNRWA for this year. In light of the Agency’s ongoing financial challenges, the EU has agreed to provide the totality of its funding immediately upon the signature of the agreement.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39138

Japan Contributes US$ 23 million to UNRWA in Support of Palestine Refugees, 22 January 2019

The Government of Japan has contributed US$ 23 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The agreement was signed by the Japanese

Ambassador for Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, and UNRWA Commissioner-General, Mr. Pierre Krähenbühl.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39120

UNESCO

Inauguration of Al-Nasr Square and Kanaan Soap Factory in the Old Town of Nablus, 25 February 2019

Nablus, 25 February 2019 – The Nablus Municipality, its residents, the donor and UNESCO celebrated the inaugurations of the Kanaan Soap Factory and Al-Nasr square, located in the Old Town of Nablus. The two cultural heritage sites were renovated by UNESCO, in cooperation with the Old Cities Revitalization Programme of the Welfare Association – TAAWON, within the framework of UNESCO's project Local development through the Rehabilitation and Revitalization of Historic Built Environment in Palestine, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), that aims to contribute to the improvement of the quality of lives of local communities through the rehabilitation of Palestinian built heritage.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39131 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39132 (Arabic)

EU

The Palestinian Authority and the European Union inaugurate Dura Courthouse, 27 February 2019

Today, Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah and European Union Representative Ralph Tarraf inaugurated the Dura courthouse in Hebron. The new, fully functioning, 5000 square meters courthouse is now serving thousands of Palestinians living in Dura and surrounding communities.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39139 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39140 (Arabic)

EU4Youth Campus Tour arrives at Palestinian universities bringing higher education opportunities in Europe, 26 February 2019

The European Union, and a number of EU Member States, organised a campus tour across three Palestinian universities: Palestine Polytechnic, Birzeit University and An-Najah University within the #EU4YOUth initiative implemented across the region.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39134 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39135 (Arabic)

Local EU statement on the eviction of the Abu Asab family in the Old City of Jerusalem, 25 February 2019

The EU missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah condemn the eviction of the Abu Asab family from their home in the neighborhood of Aqbat al-Khalidiya in the Old City of Jerusalem on 17 February. The family was replaced by Israeli settlers. Further settlement plans including evictions are being moved forward in East Jerusalem, mainly in Sheikh Jarrah, Silwan, the Old City and Beit Safafa.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39128

Representative Office of Japan

Completion ceremony of the Project for Installation of Solar panel system in Abu Yousef Al-Najjar Hospital in Gaza, funded by Japan, 26 February 2019

Today, February 26th, 2019, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, visited Rafah in Gaza to celebrate the completion of the project funded by the Government of Japan through Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

Give Palestine Association used a grant of US 83,651 to provide a reliable and stable electricity supply to Abu Yousef Al-Najjar Hospital through the installation of solar panel system.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39136 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39137 (Arabic)

Grant Signing Ceremonies for Three GGP Projects in Palestine Funded by Japan, 24 February 2019

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 Ateel Municipality, Fahmeh village council, and Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality at the Representative Office of Japan to Palestine in Ramallah for a total amount of US$ 262,804.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39122 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39123 (Arabic)

Coalition for Accountability and Integrity – AMAN

Centralised management of the Higher Education Programme exacerbates financial crisis and widens gap between Ministry of Education and Higher Education and Palestinian universities, 24 February 2019

Ramallah – Amid a growing financial crisis and problematic transfers of budgetary allocations to Palestinian universities, the Civil Society Team for Enhancing Public Budget Transparency discussed its draft report, titled Higher Education Allocations in the Ministry of Education and Higher Education's Budget. In the discussion session, participants raised a core question: What is the actual percentage of expenditure on Palestinian universities from budgetary allocation of the Higher

Education Programme. Of 22 percent (US$ 86,310,000) designated for the education sector, almost 8 percent is earmarked for the Higher Education Programme.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39126

PCBS

Slight Decrease in the Producer Price Index (PPI) during January 2019, 28 February 2019

The overall Producer Price Index (PPI) for Palestine with its base year (2018 = 100) reached 100.07 in January 2019, as it slightly decreased by 0.03% compared to December 2018.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39141 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39142 (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 January 2019, 25 February 2019

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

The Construction Cost Index (CCI) for residential buildings reached 105.97 with a slight decrease of 0.04% in the West Bank during January 2019 compared with December 2018 (base year 2013=100).

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39124 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39125 (Arabic)

Preliminary Results of the Palestinian Registered External Trade in Goods of December 2018, 20 February 2019

Exports increased in December, 2018 by 5% compared to November, 2018. It also increased by 5% compared to December, 2017 and reached USD 100.2 Million.

The full press release is available at the following link:

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39117 (English)

http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39118 (Arabic)

Newsletters

- **The Portland Trust Economic Bulletin, February 2019**
  http://www.lacs.ps/documentsShow.aspx?ATT_ID=39143