



## TEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL MECHANISM – TIM

### Window III

#### TIM Social Allowances

1 June 2007

#### ■ Introduction

The TIM Window III was set up to provide direct and urgent relief to poor and vulnerable members of Palestinian society, affected by the current fiscal and socioeconomic crisis.

The **Low Income Cases (LIC) scheme** targets people who have suffered a sudden and unexpected loss of income. This group consists of civilian, non-political staff of the public sector and pensioners without regular salary since March 2006 and who are therefore facing a steep decline in their purchasing power.

Over 77,000 households, amounting to approximately 88% of the Palestinian public service providers not including civil police and security forces, receive TIM social allowances under the LIC scheme.

The number of poor in the Palestinian Territory reached 2.1 million in mid 2006, compared to 1.3 million at the end of 2005. In order to alleviate the effects of the crisis amongst the most vulnerable, the TIM also implements the **Social Hardship Cases (SHC) scheme**, which provides direct cash assistance to the Palestinian poor.

**With an average household size of six, around 1 million people directly benefit from the TIM support through Window III.**



#### ■ Beneficiaries of social allowances

The TIM has a time-bound mandate, making it necessary to quickly identify beneficiary groups on which auditable and reliable databases exist. The collection of data on beneficiaries is closely coordinated with the Office of the President.

#### LIC Scheme

Initially, the TIM focussed on health care providers who deliver vital services to all segments of Palestinian society. Since October 2006, the health care providers have been included in the general scheme for Low Income Cases.

As of February 2007, the LIC scheme was expanded to include non-permanent public service providers. The income threshold was waived; the LIC Scheme now includes all non-political civilian public service providers.

#### SHC Scheme

Beneficiaries of the SHC scheme are families without a regular source of income. SHC beneficiaries are screened on the basis of well-defined and tested criteria which are applied in a uniform manner. Households are assessed individually to verify eligibility and needs.

#### ■ Control Measures

The TIM developed efficient and effective methods to ensure transparency and accountability. Verification and audit procedures were set up as an integral part of operating systems and an audit plan was elaborated for every Window III payment scheme.

Transferring funds through an international bank facilitates full tracing of all executed transactions. Individual beneficiaries are uniformly checked against established international lists (EU, United Nations, OFAC, Bank of England, Hong Kong Monetary Authority).

#### ■ Communication



TIM press releases inform the Palestinian and European publics on social allowances payments through the local and international media. The TIM organises press briefings and distributes information material to its partners and to journalists on a regular basis.

Beneficiaries of the LIC scheme are informed about the payments to their individual bank account through the Office of the President. Beneficiaries of the SHC scheme are directly notified by social workers about the over-the-counter payment of allowances. Beneficiaries receive an individual information slip which further indicates the source of the allowance as well as the date and place where it can be collected.

During the payment periods, designated counters in the banks feature the EU and Palestinian flags. Posters and leaflets are on display in the banks.