

## 2024 Palestine Social Medicine Course: Brief Overview

The [Palestine Program for Health and Human Rights](#) is an academic hub engaging in a broadly collaborative justice and rights-based approach in the study of Palestinian health through knowledge production, education, and multidisciplinary community engagement. The program is a collaboration between the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University and the Institute of Community and Public Health at Birzeit University.



**Course Overview.** In August 2024, the program hosted the Second Annual Palestine Social Medicine Course in Amman, Jordan, in collaboration with the [World Health Organization – office for the occupied Palestinian territory](#). The course's primary objective is to foster a critical understanding of the social and structural determinants of health within Palestinian society.

A total of 28 students from the United States and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region participated in the course. The U.S.-based participants included students and professionals from fields such as medicine, public health, and anthropology. The MENA cohort included students from Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco.

**Guest Speakers and Lectures.** The course featured medical practitioners, academics, activists, technical officers, and community organizers from various non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and United Nations agencies based in Palestine, Jordan, and beyond.

**Field Visits.** A central component of the course involved visiting organizations and sites integral to the health and wellbeing of Palestinians. Students toured medical facilities, a refugee camp, and the headquarters of international organizations in Amman that provide essential services to Palestinians. Additionally, cultural field visits offered insights into the history, archaeology, embroidery, and gastronomy of Palestine and the surrounding region.



**Looking Ahead.** We are thrilled to see our community of Palestine Social Medicine alumni growing and are committed to expanding a network of social medicine practitioners. We are tentatively planning to hold the Third Annual Palestine Social Medicine Course in the summer of 2025.