

# HEALTHCARE POLICY IN PALESTINE

PORTLAND

## The Portland Trust

I conducted my Leadership in Action project at The Portland Trust, an independent think tank focused on promoting peace and stability in Israel and Palestine through economic development.

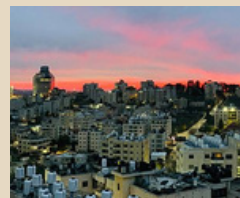
## Palestine Emerging

Within the Trust, I engaged with Palestine Emerging, a coalition of Palestinian private sector leaders and technical organisations, international experts and global policy makers, working closely with the Palestinian government to build on existing strengths and foster new opportunities to accelerate and substantiate economic recovery.

## My role

I joined the Portland Trust as a Healthcare Analyst to support projects aimed at the strengthening of the Palestinian healthcare system, together with the Palestine Emerging coalition.

## Location: London & Ramallah



The main office of the Portland Trust is located in London, but most of the partner organisations I worked with had their headquarters in Ramallah, the de facto capital of Palestine.

## The team

I had the honour to collaborate with extremely competent, hardworking and passionate professionals during my time at the Portland Trust.

From the London office, I was inspired by:

- Aimee, who leads the health projects with strength and courage.
- Tamara, my incredibly knowledgeable line manager.
- Hugo, Luc & Alexander, three bright fellow Laidlaw Scholars.



From the Ramallah office, I am grateful to:

- Dr Walid, for his compassion and kindness.
- Shireen & Mona, for sharing their vision of a strong and independent Palestine.

## Jenin Mental Health Mobile Unit

I worked on a pilot-scale project to deliver tele-mental health support through mobile units, complemented by healthcare training programs and the supply of essential medical products in Jenin, a city in the north of the West Bank.

The project was co-funded by :

- **Anera**, a NGO focused on providing primary care in the Middle East.
- **Hakini**, a private mental health provider.
- The **PSHA**, an organisation that mobilises corporations to intervene in regions of crisis via CSR projects.

I supported this by drafting a call for proposals for candidate partner organisations and contributing to the implementation plan.



Jenin was selected as the target location for this project owing to its large refugee population—estimated at approximately 20,000 individuals—who represent a particularly vulnerable group with significant psychosocial and healthcare needs. Furthermore, the northern West Bank is characterized by a high density of checkpoints and roadblocks, which severely restrict mobility and impede timely access to healthcare services. These structural barriers result in poorer health service provision relative to other regions of the West Bank, underscoring the importance of deploying mobile health units in this area.

## Projects

### Palestinian Healthcare Partnership

The Palestinian Healthcare Partnership is a collaboration of various players from the public and private healthcare sector, as well as established NGO.

The objective of the organisation is to identify the most pressing problems of the Palestinian healthcare system and to work together to solve them. This approach limits the duplication of work and allows to concentrate all available resources in a coordinated and transparent manner.

Members of the partnership include the Palestinian Hospital Union, the Palestinian National Institute of Public Health, the Union of Palestinian Pharmaceutical Manufacturers (UPPM), Palestine Insurance Federation, NatHealth, Jhpiego and Anera.

I collaborated to the initiative by drafting a Terms of Reference document, aimed at defining membership criteria.

### Health Theory of Change

I worked on a Theory of Change document, a strategic long-term framework designed to identify the key development priorities for the Palestinian healthcare system and outline the practical steps needed to achieve them.

The main areas for improvement identified include:

- Expanding **access** to healthcare through widespread provision of primary care services and the development of robust, well-resourced secondary and tertiary care providers.
- Establishing **financial sustainability** by creating a viable, long-term healthcare insurance system that ensures universal coverage and efficient resource allocation.
- Strengthening the **pharmaceutical sector** to increase the availability of advanced medicines, leverage the research capacity of Palestinian universities, and develop potential export pathways for locally produced pharmaceuticals.