



مؤسسة إسناد
لدعم الطالب الفلسطيني
ISNAD FOUNDATION - IFPS

PULSE OF LIFE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Health of Palestine ... Our Responsibility



Summary Project Data	
Project Title:	Pulse of Life Scholarship Program for Medical and Health Science Students
Total annual cost per student	8,300 \$
Total cost over 5 years per student	40,000 \$
Project Duration:	5 years
Project Start:	15.05.2025
Project End:	15.05.2030
Project Sector:	Education and Health
Beneficiary Group	Palestinian students inside and outside Palestine
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Project Introduction

In light of the escalating health challenges faced by the Palestinian people, compounded by the ongoing blockade and the severe shortage of medical resources and capabilities, there is an urgent need for sustainable strategic solutions. These solutions must go beyond merely repairing the current healthcare reality; they must lay the foundation for a resilient and empowered generation of Palestinian medical professionals capable of driving transformative change in this vital sector.

It is from this vision that the **Isnad Foundation -IFPSS** launches its bold and exceptional initiative: **the Pulse of Life Scholarship Program**.

This program is not just a traditional educational initiative—it is a national strategic project that aims to establish a comprehensive ecosystem of health education, community engagement, and youth empowerment. The program seeks to provide **1,000 scholarships** to outstanding Palestinian students, enabling them to pursue degrees in medicine and health sciences. These disciplines have been carefully selected in alignment with national health priorities and the pressing needs of the Palestinian community.

Palestine, particularly its remote and underserved regions, suffers from significant gaps in healthcare services and a severe shortage of specialists in critical fields such as oncology, surgery, and public health. This program is not limited to addressing the human resource deficit; it envisions creating a network of young doctors deeply connected to their communities—doctors who carry a profound sense of humanitarian and national responsibility and who are equipped to deliver high-quality healthcare services to all segments of society.

In addition, the program includes integrated, community-focused initiatives that amplify its social impact. These include **mobile medical clinics and health awareness campaigns** managed by scholarship recipients under the supervision of medical professionals. These initiatives reflect the program's philosophy of blending academic excellence with practical application—bridging education with community service, and empowering youth to lead the next wave of healthcare transformation.

Pulse of Life is more than a name—it is a living symbol of renewed hope for thousands of patients, and a beacon of collective social responsibility carried by a new generation of Palestinian doctors. These doctors are shaped by experience and driven by circumstance to become the vanguard of the upcoming healthcare renaissance.

At the Isnad Foundation -IFPSS, we firmly believe that building a robust Palestinian healthcare system begins with education. Empowering students today is a direct investment in a future Palestine—free, healthy, and resilient.

Context and Problem Analysis:

The Palestinian healthcare sector is facing **complex and chronic crises**, including a shortage of medical personnel, weak infrastructure, limited resources, and the ongoing impact of **occupation and blockade**, particularly in the **Gaza Strip**. These challenges have led to a **deterioration in the quality of healthcare services** and limited access to medical care, especially in marginalized and remote areas. Recurrent crises have further **drained the healthcare system**, depriving it of the capacity for renewal or development.

According to the Palestinian Ministry of Health's 2023 report:

- The number of operational **primary healthcare centers** in Gaza reached **159**, of which only **52 are functioning efficiently**, while **53 centers have ceased operations** due to damage or lack of resources.
- The number of patients suffering from **chronic diseases** has risen to over **485,000**, including more than **225,000** with hypertension and **71,000** with **diabetes**.
- Over the span of a single year, there were more than **179,000 cases of respiratory infections** and **136,000 cases of diarrhea**, reflecting the **fragility of the preventive healthcare system**.
- There are **1,100 kidney failure patients** struggling to access regular dialysis sessions.
- The number of hospital beds has **decreased significantly**, while **bed occupancy rates have exceeded 246%**, forcing many hospitals to **convert regular beds into emergency and surgical units**.

Problem Indicators:



SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL

There is a severe shortage of qualified healthcare professionals, which hinders the delivery of adequate quality care in healthcare institutions.



LACK OF SPECIALIZED FIELDS

The local healthcare system lacks specialized medical fields, forcing patients to seek treatment outside the Ministry of Health facilities.



SHORTAGE IN HOSPITAL CAPACITY

The shortage of hospital beds has placed immense pressure on healthcare facilities, leading to a significant increase in occupancy rates beyond safe operational capacity.



POOR HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE

A large number of medical devices are non-functional, and the necessary resources to operate facilities efficiently are lacking.



IMPACT OF THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION

Since 2023, systematic Israeli attacks have led to the martyrdom of many medical personnel and the disabling of numerous health centers, severely undermining healthcare service capacity.

Project Summary

The Pulse of Life Scholarship proposal is a strategic national initiative aimed at addressing the rapidly deteriorating healthcare sector in Palestine. The project seeks to support and train 1,000 outstanding Palestinian students in the fields of medicine and health sciences, with a focus on rare and critical specializations.

This initiative provides comprehensive scholarships to academically exceptional students, along with structured guidance and training programs to ensure their return to serve within Palestine—particularly in remote and underserved areas. The project goes beyond academic support by integrating community health awareness programs, mobile clinics, and student-led research initiatives that contribute directly to strengthening the local healthcare system.

The primary objective is to bridge the gap in qualified healthcare professionals, reduce reliance on external medical referrals, and empower Palestine to build a self-sustaining, responsive healthcare system. This is achieved by equipping young talents and aligning educational outcomes with the actual needs of Palestinian society. The project will be implemented over a five-year phased plan, in collaboration with health and education institutions as well as international support organizations.

Project Outcomes and Activities

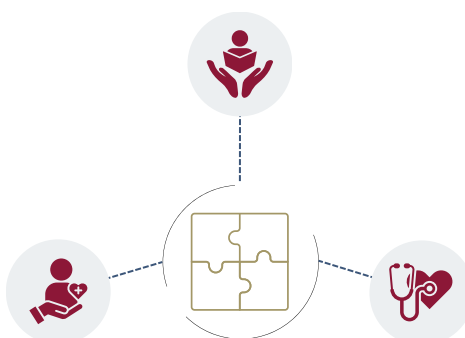
The Pulse of Life Scholarship Project aims to achieve three core strategic outcomes that collectively serve as the foundation for improving the healthcare system in Palestine and enhancing reliance on young national professionals:

Educating and Funding 1,000 Students in Medicine and Health Sciences

We provide full scholarships for outstanding Palestinian students with the aim of preparing highly qualified medical professionals in rare and critical specializations needed by the national healthcare system.

Delivering Healthcare Services to Marginalized Communities

We implement mobile clinics and awareness programs led by students and graduates to reach villages, refugee camps, and underserved areas lacking adequate healthcare services.



Integrating Graduates into the Palestinian Healthcare System

We work to employ graduates in local hospitals and health centers to strengthen reliance on national talent and reduce the need for external medical referrals.

Activities	Unit	QTY.
(1) Educating and Funding 1,000 Students in Medicine and Health Sciences		
Accrediting priority health-specialization tracks	Report	1
Signing official agreements with Palestinian, Arab, and international universities	Agreement	15
Launching a nationwide nomination and selection campaign	Campaign	1
Conducting interviews with scholarship nominees	Interview	3000
Providing full scholarships for accepted students	Scholarship	1000
Regular meetings with students to monitor their academic progress	Meeting	2000
(2) Integrating Graduates into the Palestinian Healthcare System		
Signing operational agreements with the Ministry of Health and local medical institutions	Employment	1000
Establishing a "Graduate Support Unit" within the program	unit	1
(3) Delivering Healthcare Services to Marginalized Communities		
Training graduates on managing community health initiatives	Training Sessions	20
Preparing and operating comprehensive mobile clinics	Mobile Clinic	22
Conducting regular medical outreach missions in remote areas	Outreach Areas	22
Developing easy-to-understand health education materials	Education Materials	220.000
Designing and implementing seasonal health awareness campaigns	Campaign	25

Project Duration

The Pulse of Life Scholarship Project is proposed to commence on **May 15, 2025**, with the planned activities implemented over a **total duration of 60 months (5 years)**. Accordingly, the proposed project end date is **May 15, 2030**.

Regular coordination will be maintained with the donor to ensure compliance with the approved work plan. Any changes to the timeline or activities will be communicated, with ongoing consultation as needed to ensure proper implementation and achievement of the project's strategic objectives.



Key Progress Indicators

Indicator	Target
Approving rare and critical specialties in coordination with the Ministry of Health	10 specialties
Signing cooperation agreements with local and international universities in the fields of medicine and health sciences	15 universities
Selecting scholarship recipients through a transparent national nomination and evaluation process	1,000 students
Providing full scholarships covering tuition fees	1,000 scholarships
Conducting extracurricular professional training workshops in medical and soft skills	25 workshops
Preparing periodic progress reports on students' academic and psychological development	Quarterly reports
Signing employment agreements with the Ministry of Health and medical institutions	22 agreements
Operating mobile health clinics in underserved areas	22 mobile clinic
Conducting community health awareness campaigns	25 campaigns
Producing and distributing easy-to-understand health education materials	220,000 copies

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Indicator	Target	Related SDG Goal
Percentage of students accepted into rare and critical specialties	60% of accepted students enrolled in high-need medical fields	SDG 3 (3.c): Health workforce support
Percentage of students who successfully complete the first academic year	At least 90% pass rate with academic and psychological support	SDG 4.3: Access to higher education
Overall graduation rate	95% of scholarship recipients graduate within the planned period	SDG 4.3: Access to higher education
Annual student retention rate	Maintain over 95% annual retention rate	SDG 4.5: Equity in education access
Student satisfaction rate with the scholarship and learning experience	85% positive satisfaction rate through periodic surveys	SDG 4.7: Education for sustainable development
Percentage of graduates employed in Palestinian health institutions	Percentage of graduates employed in Palestinian health institutions	SDG 8.5: Decent work and equal opportunities
Number of community health awareness campaigns implemented annually	At least 5 awareness campaigns per year	SDG 3.d: Health promotion and risk reduction
Coverage rate of mobile clinics in underserved areas	100% of identified priority communities covered	SDG 10.2: Social inclusion and equity
Graduate professional performance evaluation by employers	80% of graduates rated 'Very Good' or higher	SDG 16.6: Institutional efficiency and accountability
Number of active partnerships with educational and health institutions	Maintain at least 20 effective partnerships	SDG 17.16: Strengthen global partnerships

Monitoring & Evaluation

As a long-term strategic initiative aiming for a transformational impact on the Palestinian health sector, the Pulse of Life Scholarship Program spans over five years. This requires a rigorous and comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system to continuously track performance, assess progress, and measure short-term and long-term impact.

The M&E system will focus on monitoring implementation activities, measuring progress against key performance indicators (KPIs), and ensuring the program achieves its three strategic objectives. It will utilize both quantitative and qualitative tools and involve continuous feedback from beneficiaries and implementing partners.

Monitoring & Evaluation Objectives:

- Track the implementation of project activities according to the annual timeline for each of the five years.
- Measure progress toward achieving the short- and long-term strategic goals.
- Evaluate the quality of education and services provided to students, graduates, and the community.
- Identify operational and academic challenges throughout implementation and recommend data-driven solutions.
- Provide donors and stakeholders with regular reports and evidence-based analysis on project impact.

Monitoring & Evaluation Tools and Mechanisms:

- Biannual electronic surveys to measure student satisfaction with academic support and psychosocial services.
- Semi-annual progress reports and two annual evaluations (mid-year and end-of-year).
- Annual focus group discussions with students, graduates, and key stakeholders.
- Annual key informant interviews with university representatives, Ministry of Health, and implementing partners.
- Academic and professional performance tracking through an integrated digital platform.
- Benchmarking results against national and regional KPIs to identify strengths and areas for improvement.
- Annual community impact assessments of outreach campaigns and mobile clinics using field data collection tools.

Expected M&E Outputs:

Biannual progress report analyzing implementation results and providing recommendations.

Annual evaluation report reviewing progress toward strategic objectives.

Mid-term evaluation report (end of Year 3) assessing cumulative impact and recommending course corrections.

Final evaluation report (end of Year 5) analyzing full project impact and providing sustainability recommendations.

Project Evaluations:

Three key evaluations will be conducted during the program:

- Baseline Evaluation: Within the first six months of project initiation.
- Mid-Term Evaluation: At the end of Year 3 to assess cumulative outcomes.
- Final Evaluation: At the end of Year 5 to evaluate long-term impact and sustainability.

These evaluations will provide comprehensive assessments of performance, achievement of objectives, implementation quality, and community/academic impact. Results will be shared with all stakeholders to enhance accountability and inform future program design.



Critical Risk Assessment

Risk #1: Students' inability to adapt to university-level medical and health science studies		
Impact Level: High	Likelihood of Occurrence: High	Risk Rating: 9
Mitigation Strategy: Implement a preparatory program in academic skills (study techniques, academic English, critical thinking) before enrollment.		
Risk #2: Insufficient university seats available for the targeted number of scholarships		
Impact Level: High	Likelihood of Occurrence: Medium	Risk Rating: 8
Mitigation Strategy: Sign early MOUs with partner universities and distribute students across multiple institutions.		
Risk #3: Weak coordination with healthcare institutions to absorb graduates		
Impact Level: High	Likelihood of Occurrence: Medium	Risk Rating: 8
Mitigation Strategy: Establish a joint employment committee with the Ministry of Health to identify placement opportunities early.		
Risk #4: Limited community engagement in student-led health campaigns		
Impact Level: Medium	Likelihood of Occurrence: Low	Risk Rating: 4
Mitigation Strategy: Design campaigns with input from community leaders and promote through local media channels.		

Risk #5: Shortage or delay in mobile clinic equipment		
Impact Level: High	Likelihood of Occurrence: Low	Risk Rating: 6
Mitigation Strategy: Procure essential tools in advance and maintain emergency backup stocks.		
Risk #6: Student dropout due to academic, financial, or psychological reasons		
Impact Level: High	Likelihood of Occurrence: Medium	Risk Rating: 9
Mitigation Strategy: Provide flexible financial and psychological support and schedule regular check-ins with each student.		
Risk #7: Delays in fund disbursement from donors affecting activity continuity		
Impact Level: High	Likelihood of Occurrence: Low	Risk Rating: 7
Mitigation Strategy: Create a flexible cash flow plan with contingency reserves and diversify donor sources.		
Risk #8: Poor documentation of operations and outcomes hinders monitoring and evaluation		
Impact Level: Medium	Likelihood of Occurrence: Medium	Risk Rating: 6
Mitigation Strategy: Assign a dedicated documentation team and utilize electronic systems for real-time tracking.		
Risk #9: Changing donor priorities over five years affecting funding stability		
Impact Level: High	Likelihood of Occurrence: Low	Risk Rating: 6
Mitigation Strategy: Pursue diversified funding sources and develop long-term donor partnerships.		

Structure of Financial Support in the Pulse of Life Scholarship

The Pulse of Life Scholarship provides financial assistance through three key support pillars:



Covers the cost of medical and health sciences education, with an **average annual support of \$5,600 per student**.



Monthly financial assistance averaging \$200 to support essential housing and living expenses for the student, **totaling \$2,400 annually**.

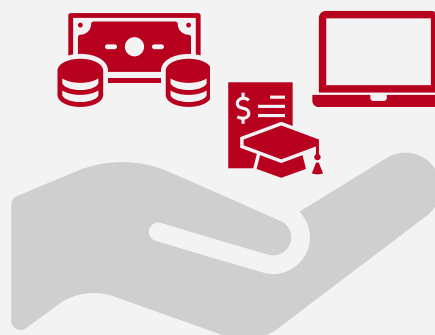


A one-time grant of \$300 to cover the cost of a **laptop, tablet, or smartphone** based on the student's academic needs.

Total annual cost per student: \$8,300
Total cost over 5 years per student: \$40,000

Flexible Donor Options

- Donors may choose to **fund only one of the three support pillars** (e.g., tuition, living expenses, or devices).
- **Full sponsorship is not required**; partial contributions are welcome.
- The **electronic device cost is a single-time payment** for the entire study period.





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