

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
Infectious Diseases in
Conflict Settings
2026

📍 Birzeit University - Palestine



Organised By



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The International Conference on Infectious Diseases in Conflict Settings: Interconnected Risks and Responses, hosted by Birzeit University, will gather researchers, policymakers, humanitarian practitioners, and public health professionals to examine infectious disease risks in conflict-affected and humanitarian environments.

The conference will feature scientific sessions addressing disease surveillance and early warning, outbreak preparedness and infection prevention, vaccination strategies, antimicrobial resistance, environmental and zoonotic disease drivers, and health risks affecting displaced and vulnerable populations.

★ Exclusive event for 150 - 300 key stakeholders

📅 Scheduled for October

CONFERENCE MISSION & THEMATIC STRUCTURE

The conference advances a shared vision for addressing infectious diseases in conflict and humanitarian settings through collaboration, innovation, and evidence-based public health action..

● Conference Vision

To position Birzeit University—shaped by the lived experience of a protracted humanitarian context in Palestine—as a regional and global platform advancing equitable and resilient responses to infectious diseases in conflict and displacement settings.

● Global Dialogue & Collaboration

To provide a platform that brings together experts, policymakers, humanitarian actors, researchers, and innovators to exchange knowledge and strengthen coordinated responses in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

● From Knowledge to Action

To translate lessons from protracted and emerging humanitarian crises into practical and scalable strategies that improve preparedness, disease prevention, and health system resilience.

● Strengthening Health Systems in Crisis

To promote surveillance, preparedness, vaccination, antimicrobial resistance control, and community resilience while addressing environmental and social determinants of infectious disease risks.



“Protecting health in conflict settings demands resilient systems, collaboration, and science-driven action”

01



A DUAL MISSION: LAUNCHING A DEPARTMENT, LEADING A DIALOGUE

This conference serves a dual purpose:

- ① To advance global dialogue and scientific collaboration on infectious diseases and One Health in humanitarian and conflict settings.
- ② To catalyze transdisciplinary partnerships that translate research into policy, preparedness, and action in fragile contexts.



Every element of the event will be crafted to reflect the department's commitment to innovation, research, and global health equity.



The focused audience of 150~300 attendees-comprising **international experts, local policymakers, humanitarian leaders, and academics**-ensures high-level networking and collaboration.

02



A DEEP DIVE INTO INFECTIOUS DISEASE THREATS IN CONFLICT SETTINGS

The scientific program is organized around key thematic tracks that address critical infectious disease challenges in conflict and humanitarian settings.

2.1 Thematic Tracks

The program is structured around four key thematic tracks:

Track	Title	Focus Area
1	Global Health Security	1.1 Integrated disease surveillance systems in fragile and conflict-affected settings
	Surveillance	1.2 Early warning and epidemic intelligence (event-based and indicator-based surveillance)
	Early Warning	1.3 Digital health tools, GIS, and real-time outbreak monitoring
		1.4 Laboratory networks, genomic surveillance, and pathogen detection capacity
		1.5 Cross-border surveillance and International Health Regulations (IHR) implementation
		1.6 Data governance, risk communication, and public health reporting in emergencies

Track	Title	Focus Area
2	Outbreak Preparedness	2.1 Emergency preparedness planning and rapid response mechanisms
	Emergency Response	2.2 Field epidemiology and outbreak investigation in humanitarian contexts
	Infection Prevention and Control in Conflict Settings	2.3 Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) in resource-limited and conflict-affected facilities
		2.4 Health system surge capacity and emergency coordination
		2.5 Risk communication and community engagement during crises
		2.6 Logistics, supply chains, and continuity of essential health services during conflict
3	Protection Through Prevention: Vaccination	3.1 Immunization programs in fragile and displaced populations
	Immunization Strategies	3.2 Vaccine equity, access barriers, and cold chain management
	AMR Control	3.3 Vaccine hesitancy and community-based trust building
		3.4 Antimicrobial stewardship and rational antibiotic use
		3.5 Surveillance and containment of antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
		3.6 Integration of vaccination and AMR control within primary health care
4	Zoonotic and Emerging Infectious Diseases in Conflict and Displacement (One Health Approach)	4.1 One Health frameworks linking human, animal, and environmental health
		4.2 Zoonotic disease transmission in displacement and pastoralist settings
		4.3 Environmental drivers of emerging infectious diseases
		4.4 Wildlife, livestock, and human interface in fragile ecosystems

Track	Tittle	Focus Area
		<p>4.5 Environmental surveillance (water, wastewater, food systems)</p> <p>4.6 Climate change, ecological disruption, and emerging pathogen risks</p>
5	<p>Health of Displaced and Crisis-Affected Populations: Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons, and Children</p>	<p>5.1 Maternal, neonatal, and child health in humanitarian settings</p> <p>5.2 Nutrition, food insecurity, and micronutrient deficiencies</p> <p>5.3 Mental health and psychosocial support in displaced populations</p> <p>5.4 Gender-based health vulnerabilities and protection frameworks</p> <p>5.5 Chronic diseases and continuity of care in refugee settings</p> <p>5.6 Health equity, access barriers, and social determinants of health</p>
6	<p>Infectious Diseases</p> <p>Community Resilience</p> <p>Health Justice in Conflict and Displacement</p>	<p>6.1 Social Resilience in Displaced communities /resilience strategy in displaced communities.</p> <p>6.2 Public Health in Conflict, War and Peace Building /health and peace.</p> <p>6.3 Primary Health Care and the Health Workforce for Sustainable Health Equity in conflict affected area.</p> <p>6.4 Political Determinants of Global Health, Health Governance and Global Collaboration in conflict settings.</p> <p>6.5 Hygiene & Sanitation - including Clean Water and Hospital Hygiene for displaced populations.</p> <p>6.6 Food system, nutrition and agriculture in displaced populations and conflict areas.</p>

2.2 Cross-Cutting Themes

These four themes will be woven throughout the conference sessions to foster interdisciplinary connections:



2.3 Post-Conference Summer School (3 Days of Intensive Training)

To strengthen scientific and operational capacities, a 3-day intensive summer school will be held for students, researchers, and practitioners. This establishes the new Medical Department as a center for advanced training from day one.



03



SHOWCASING CAPABILITIES: THE ADVANCED MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY HUB

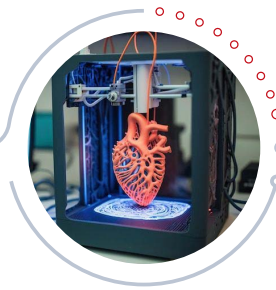
To provide the "wow factor" and demonstrate the university's technological prowess, the lobby of the Nasseb Azeez Shaheen Auditorium or 104 التنمية will be transformed into a dynamic **Advanced Medical Technology Hub**.



Holography



Virtual Reality (VR)



3D Printing



AI in Diagnostics

- **Holography:** A keynote address from a world-renowned speaker delivered via a live, 3D holographic projection.
- **Virtual Reality (VR):** Immersive surgical training simulations and virtual tours of crisis response field hospitals.
- **3D Printing:** A live lab creating anatomical models for surgical planning and custom medical device prototypes.
- **AI in Diagnostics:** An interactive center demonstrating machine learning algorithms analyzing medical images and predicting outbreaks.

04



DRIVING INNOVATION: THE AI IN HEALTH AMR CHALLENGE



To foster innovation, the conference will host a competition focused on developing intervention models to mitigate Antimicrobial Resistance, including chemical, biological, mechanical, digital, and artificial intelligence-based approaches.



A prize of \$8,000 USD will be awarded to the winning team, generating pre-conference buzz and highlighting the new department's focus on cutting-edge, applied research.

05



LOGISTICS, SUPPORT, AND CONTINGENCY

Event Details



Scheduled for October



Nasseb Azeez Shaheen Auditorium or Said Khoury for Development Studies room no. 104



Capacity: approximately 150~300 guests



Full simultaneous translation services



admin@icid-conflict.org



icid-conflict.org

TA Support



A structured Teaching Assistant program will provide students with hands-on experience and support all aspects of the conference, from academic coordination to logistics and on-site tech support. *(See separate TA Roles & Responsibilities document).*

Hybrid Contingency



A robust plan is in place to pivot to a high-quality hybrid or fully virtual event, utilizing a professional online platform and a broadcast studio setup, should travel be restricted. *(See separate Hybrid & Online Contingency Plan document).*