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PALESTINE ECONOMIC POLICY
RESEARCH INSTITUTE (MAS)

Background Paper

Round Table (5)



**The Effectiveness of Providing Basic Services
(Healthcare, Education, and Sanitation)
to Bedouin Communities and Remote Areas**

2025



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The Effectiveness of Providing Basic Services (Healthcare, Education, and Sanitation) to Bedouin Communities and Remote Areas

Prepared by: Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS)

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1. Introduction

Bedouin communities in the West Bank are among the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, typically residing in Area C, which comprises over 60% of the West Bank¹ and is under full Israeli administrative and security control.² Within this context, communities face an increasing rate of forced displacement and systematic policies that hinder their development, denying them access to even the most basic and essential services. These policies have intensified since October 7, 2023. In less than a year, 47 pastoral communities have been displaced as part of a violent settlement campaign, often carried out with direct protection from (or tacit approval of) Israeli occupation forces.³

The threat extends to more than the loss of land. It includes the destruction of the very foundations of daily life: these communities are denied access to water, electricity, education and healthcare. They are also prohibited from building schools or clinics, even when funded by international organizations, while existing structures constantly face the threat of demolition. Simultaneously, grazing areas are restricted, as their primary source of livelihood – livestock – is frequently confiscated, or attacked. Thus, the occupation's policies create a combination of environmental, social and economic displacement. This not only aims at physical displacement, but at taking apart the basic requirements for daily survival.⁴

This paper analyzes the effectiveness of essential services provided to Bedouin communities and remote areas in the West Bank, specifically in the fields of healthcare, education and sanitation. It seeks to assess the availability, quality and continuity of these services under the constraints imposed by the occupation, while also highlighting the stark disparities between these communities and surrounding Israeli settlements. The paper does not claim to offer comprehensive solutions, but rather seeks to map the systematic deprivation facing these communities. It proposes urgent interventions to improve their current situation in the short term, and strengthen their resilience in the long term.

1.1 Methodology

This paper relies on a descriptive-analytical approach, based on both primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include a 2025 field survey conducted with the support of Oxfam, targeting a random sample of Bedouin populations across various governorates. In addition, qualitative interviews were held with representatives of Palestinian institutions working in the field of community support and services, in order to identify the challenges facing the provision of basic services.

1. B'Tselem (2024-2025). Facing Expulsion: The ongoing forced displacement of Bedouin communities. <https://www.btselem.org/>

2. This data, issued by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), refers to localities that are wholly classified as Area C, and have been categorized under the name "localities". These total 96, without limiting them solely to the designation of Bedouin communities.

3. Oran Ziv. The Demarcation Project: Dozens of Pastoral Families Were Expelled During the War, Local Conversation, November 7, 2024. See: <https://short-link.me/186a1>.

4. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) (n.d.). The humanitarian impact of Israeli settlement activities. OCHA oPt. Available at: https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/israeli_settlement_activities.pdf

Secondary sources include official reports issued by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), as well as data from outfits such as Al Baydar Organization⁵ and Karam Nabut,⁶ in addition to updated geographical maps and demographic data. These were utilized to understand the spatial distribution of communities, analyzing the connection between geography and deprivation. This paper also relies on the analysis of indicators related to coverage levels, infrastructure and human resources, as well as institutional support structures within the three areas of study.

1.2 Structure of the Paper

This paper is divided into three main sections, each complementing the others, providing a comprehensive, analytical perspective. The first section addresses the geographic and demographic landscape of Bedouin communities, examining their distribution across governorates, with a focus on population size, living patterns, sources of income and levels of forced displacement. It also provides an analysis of the population's reliance on livestock herding, as well as challenges caused by the ongoing reduction of grazing lands. This section highlights statistical discrepancies in the estimation of the number of communities, as well as calls for unified classification standards, combined with data references to ensure accurate and coordinated interventions.

The second section sheds light on the reality of basic services, divided into three subsections: healthcare, education and sanitation. In terms of healthcare, it discusses the absence of permanent clinics, the reliance on makeshift clinics that face demolition threats, and the difficulty of accessing emergency services. In the education sector, the paper documents the weakness of educational infrastructure, the prevalence of schools under threat of demolition, and the interruption of children's education, given the distance to schools or lack of transportation. Regarding sanitation, the paper notes that the absence of centralized sewage networks forces residents to use primitive systems. This exacerbates healthcare and environmental risks, revealing structural discrimination in comparison to nearby settlements.

The third section outlines indicators to measure the effectiveness of services, including geographic coverage, support sustainability, availability of personnel, inter-sectoral coordination and guarantees of basic rights. The paper concludes with a set of structural and political challenges, along with proposed, urgent interventions in each sector. These include establishing 24/7 medical centers, supporting e-learning (given mobility difficulties), and improving sanitation infrastructure, even if only through temporary projects. These proposals represent a minimum threshold meeting urgent demands to safeguard human wellbeing and ensure continued existence.

5. a Palestinian human rights organization dedicated to defending the rights of Bedouin communities in Palestine, founded by a group of journalists, lawyers, and professionals

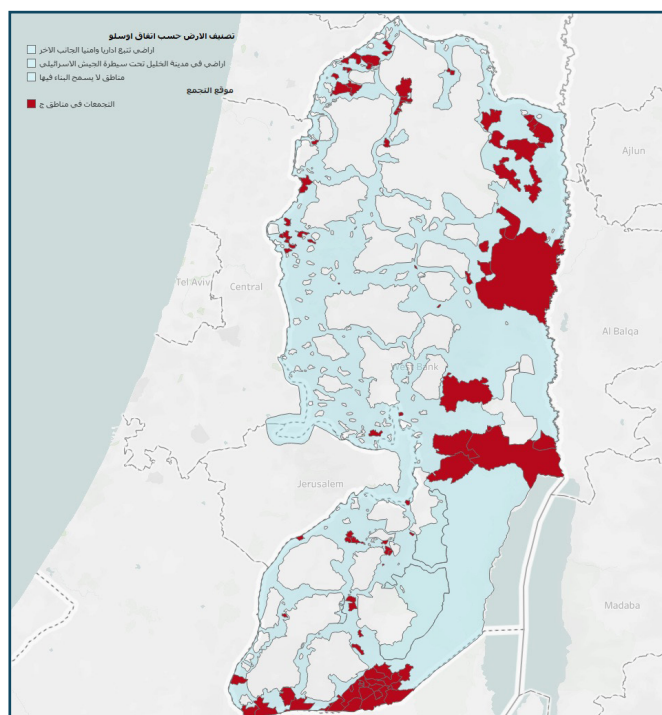
6. an Israeli civil society organization that focuses on monitoring, researching, and publishing facts and reports on the Israeli settlement enterprise and land policies in the West Bank.

2. The Demographic and Geographic Landscape of Bedouin Communities and Remote Areas

Bedouin communities in the West Bank, totaling approximately 109 communities, are unevenly distributed across governorates. Around 40% were forcibly displaced by the occupation and its various practices, including settler attacks under the protection of occupation forces, or through issuing military orders concerning areas where they reside, such as demolition orders for structures, bans on grazing and other measures. This occurred during 2024. Some also left for other reasons, such as rising costs, decreased agricultural and pastoral production, or the desire to pursue education. Additionally, 92% of communities were classified as permanent ⁷ in that year, while 8% were considered seasonal dwellings.⁸

According to PCBS data for 2017, there are 96 Palestinian communities located entirely within Area C. These communities share similar living and geographical conditions as Bedouin communities, as noted by organizations such as Al Baydar Organization which estimates the number of Bedouin communities at 109. This discrepancy in statistics highlights differences in the definition of geographic areas, as well as ongoing changes in population numbers. Therefore, it is essential for key official bodies to adopt a unified classification system (such as PCBS) for conducting an annual census of these communities and their populations, especially in light of the challenges they face. This requires a complementary role by other institutions, including local authorities and the Land Authority⁹ (see Map 1).

Map 1: Geographical distribution of communities classified as entirely within Area C in the West Bank



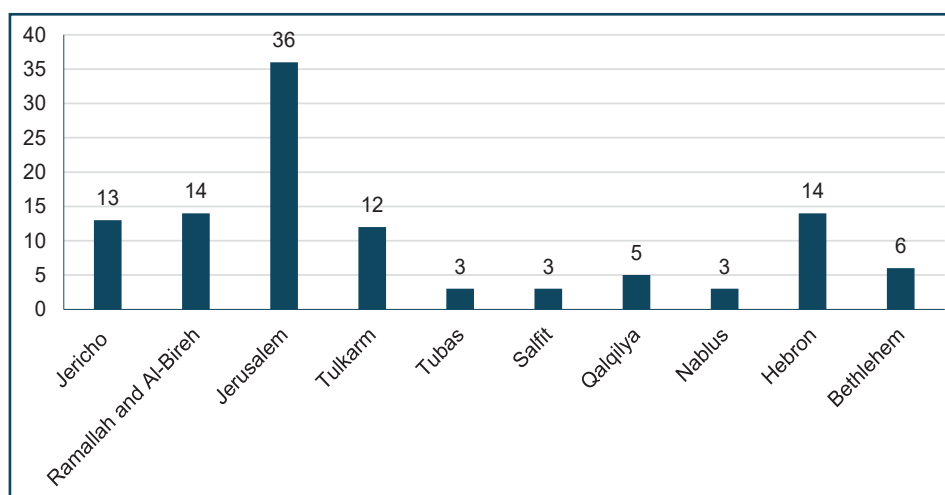
Source: Prepared by the researcher based on PCBS 2017 data. Geographical data last updated on January 1, 2021.

7. Permanent communities are those that do not change their geographical location on occasion, unlike pastoral communities that change location based on changing seasons across the year.
8. Results of an Oxfam field survey (2024). Bedouin communities in the West Bank (unpublished data).
9. Interview with the PCBS, on July 7, 2025.

According to data from Al Baydar Organization,¹⁰ the Jerusalem Governorate contains the largest number of Bedouin communities compared to the other governorates of the West Bank, with a total of 36 communities. The number of communities in the Hebron and Ramallah governorates is relatively similar, followed by the Jericho Governorate, which has the fewest in terms of distribution. The remaining governorates (such as Bethlehem, Nablus, Salfit, Tubas and Qalqilya) contain fewer Bedouin communities. This is due to the geographical, economic and social topography in these areas, and their suitability for a traditional, pastoral lifestyle. (See Figure 1).

On the other hand, PCBS data on locations entirely within Area C indicates that the Hebron Governorate contains the largest number of these communities, totaling 32, followed by Jenin with 20 communities. As for the Jerusalem Governorate, it has four Bedouin communities. By comparison, data from Al-Baydar Organization estimates the number of Bedouin communities at 36 (see Map 2). This discrepancy in the number of communities is highly significant, as all communities are located in Area C and share similar levels of basic services, particularly in healthcare, education and sanitation, in addition to facing various challenges in withstanding Israeli measures aimed at displacing Palestinians.

Figure 1: Geographic distribution of Bedouin communities in the West Bank and their spread by governorate



Source: Prepared by the researcher, Al Baydar Organization data. Data on Bedouin communities in the West Bank, 2025.

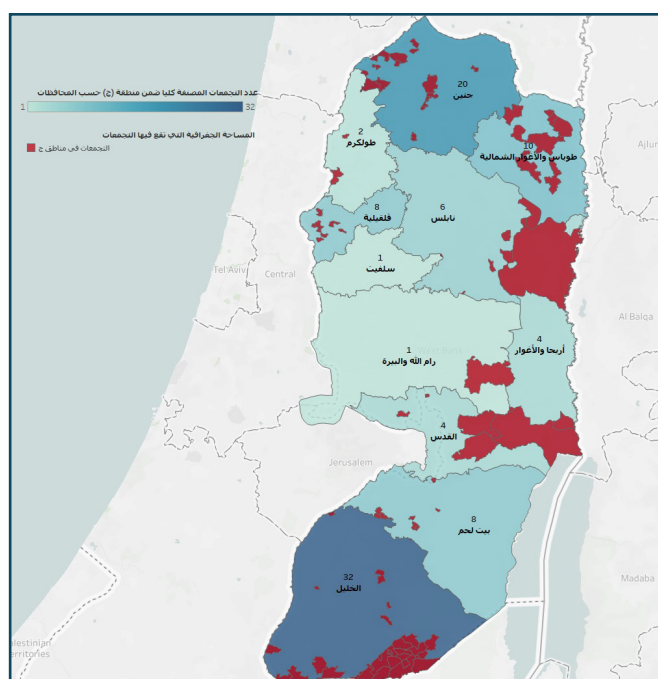
According to 2025 statistics, the population of Bedouin communities in the West Bank was around 23,133 people.¹¹ However, there is a significant disparity in the population distribution of these communities within the West Bank, largely attributed to overlapping environmental, political and economic factors. The population density of Bedouin communities in Jerusalem is the highest, relative to the number of pastoral communities located therein. This indicates major challenges faced by a large proportion of Bedouin communities in confronting displacement, demographic changes and

10. Al Baydar Organization. Data on Bedouin communities in the West Bank, 2025.

11. Al Baydar Organization. Data on Bedouin communities in the West Bank, 2025

Israeli measures. These challenges place increasing pressure on the resources of these communities, given that the areas they typically cultivate decreased by about 62%. It should be noted that part of this produce helps to meet their food needs.¹² Additionally, they face limited services and infrastructure, reflecting their current living realities. The same applies to other Bedouin communities across the rest of the West Bank's governorates. Varying population levels among Bedouin communities, whether large or small, highlight their fragility given the lack of structural, economic support in the face of Israel's policies. This, in turn, weakens the chances of achieving sustainable stability, strengthening the resilience and continuity of these Bedouin communities (see Figure 2).

Map 2: Geographical distribution of communities classified as entirely within Area C in the West Bank, by governorate



Source: Prepared by the researcher based on PCBS 2017 data. Geographical data last updated on January 1, 2021.

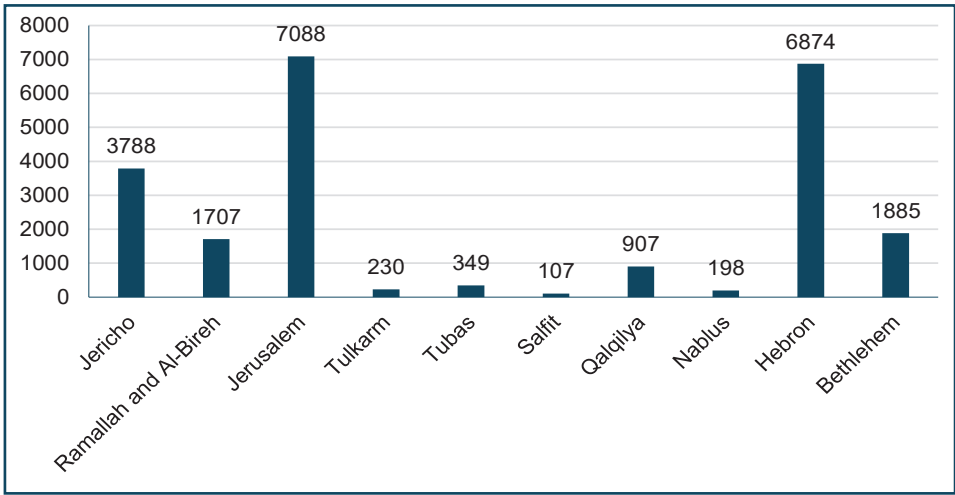
It is evident that the residents of Bedouin communities in the West Bank rely primarily on livestock herding, which they consider their main source of livelihood. This reflects a traditional way of life closely tied to the environmental and geographic topography in which these communities live. Data indicates that a large percentage of Bedouin households depend on raising livestock to meet their living needs, whether through the production of milk and its derivatives, or meat. This reliance strengthens their ability to cope with escalating economic and political crises,¹³ a form of dependence directly linked to the availability of lands for open grazing, providing a suitable environment for livestock. At the same time, these areas are increasingly under threat due to settlement expansion and the imposition of more restrictions on access to grazing lands, as dictated

12. Results of a field survey by Oxfam, 2024. Bedouin communities in the West Bank (unpublished data).

13. Interview with the Palestinian Center for Economic and Social Development, July 7, 2025.

by Israeli authorities.¹⁴ Furthermore, 96% of residents are prevented from grazing in areas that they used to access before October 7, 2023, coinciding with the start of the war in the Gaza Strip.¹

Figure 2: Distribution of residents in Bedouin communities in the West Bank by governorate



Source: Prepared by the researcher, Al Baydar Organization data. Data on Bedouin communities in the West Bank, 2025.

The structural stability of these Bedouin communities continues to weaken, along with their ability to develop sustainable infrastructure, improve access to consistent healthcare and establish an educational system that meets the needs of Bedouin families. This decline is occurring while ongoing conflict poses a constant struggle to exist, under the constant threat of forced displacement and attacks by settlers, especially as adjacent settlement expansion accelerates.

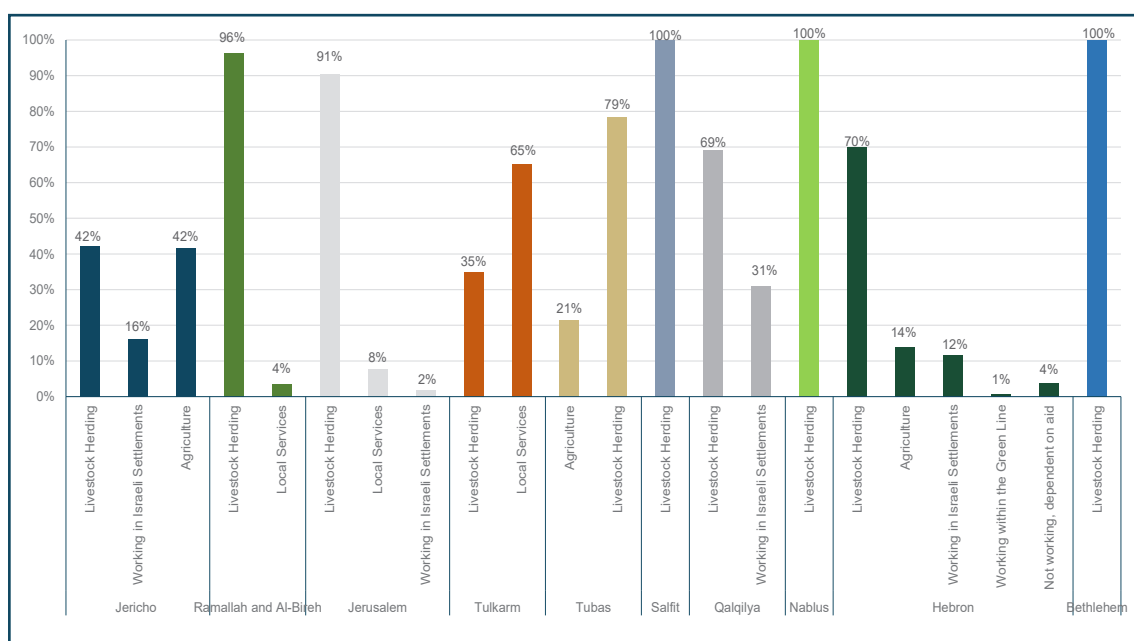
The relative distribution of main income sources in Bedouin communities across the West Bank by governorate (Figure 3) shows that livestock herding remains the primary livelihood for most of these communities. However, the ongoing conflict, and the restrictions on grazing areas imposed by the occupation, intensifies the burden on herders by limiting access to pastureland, increasing feed costs, and exposing them to fines and livestock confiscations. a 2024 survey by Oxfam shows that 37% of the Bedouin population have received fines for grazing in restricted areas, and 7% have had their livestock confiscated¹

14. Interview with the Palestinian Center for Economic and Social Development, July 7, 2025.

15. Results of a field survey by Oxfam, 2024. Bedouin communities in the West Bank (unpublished data).

16. Results of a field survey by Oxfam, 2024. Bedouin communities in the West Bank (unpublished data).

Figure 3: The relative distribution of types of income sources in Bedouin communities in the West Bank, by governorate



Source: Prepared by the researcher, Al Baydar Organization data. Data on Bedouin communities in the West Bank, 2025.

3. Framework for Basic Services for Bedouin Communities and Remote Areas in the West Bank

Bedouin communities and remote areas in the West Bank suffer from severe limitations in accessing basic services due to restrictions imposed by Israeli occupation authorities, which hinder the establishment of essential infrastructure such as water, education, sanitation and transport.¹⁷ Bedouin residents often rely on primitive water sources that are expensive and unsafe for consumption.¹⁸ The absence of permanent healthcare facilities is also a continuous challenge, forcing international organizations to operate mobile clinics to fill gaps in healthcare services.¹⁹ In terms of education, schools face continuous threats of demolition, jeopardizing children's rights to stable education.²⁰

3.1 The healthcare system: Constraints, coverage and quality of services

Data shows that there are more than 100 Bedouin communities that do not have permanent healthcare centers. These communities rely on mobile healthcare units which face obstacles

17. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). (2024). *Humanitarian Needs Overview: West Bank*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ochaopt.org/>

18. Norwegian Refugee Council. (2023). *Nowhere to Call Home: Evictions and Displacement of Bedouin Communities*. Retrieved from: <https://www.nrc.no/>

19. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). (2023). *Protecting Bedouin Communities*. Retrieved from: <https://www.unrwa.org/>

20. B'Tselem. (2023). *Communities Facing Expulsion: The Bedouin in the West Bank*. Retrieved from: <https://www.btselem.org/>

while performing their work, or receive threats of demolition and removal from Israel. This forces Bedouins to travel distances that may exceed 20 km to receive even the simplest medical service, due to the lack of permanent facilities locally. Additionally, the lack of funding for these clinics poses a direct threat to the continuity of healthcare services, further exacerbating the suffering of Bedouin populations, forced to travel long distances to access basic, medical care. The healthcare sector also suffers from a shortage of medicines and medical equipment, limiting its ability to provide effective, preventive and therapeutic services. This has caused a decrease in healthcare coverage from 85% to 60%.²¹

Healthcare services are highly skilled, but they are not always available, whether mobile or permanent. Coverage is dependent not only on the availability of healthcare facilities and centers, but also on their operating hours and the scope of provided services throughout the day. Most healthcare units operate for limited periods during the day, especially in Bedouin settlements in the northern, central and southern Jordan Valley, where there is no provision of emergency medical services. This exposes the population to a high level of risk, particularly outside working hours, making women, the elderly and children more vulnerable given the lack of timely medical treatment.²² Although a healthcare center operates 24 hours a day in the northern Jordan Valley, it does not have sufficient capacity to cover emergency cases, especially in the central and southern areas, due to distances. Moreover, ambulances operated by the Red Crescent Society also work within limited hours and do not cover the needs of the Bedouin population outside regular hours in providing initial treatment before reaching a medical center.²³

Additionally, temporary healthcare projects are enacted in tandem with medical visits on specific days of the week, to Bedouin and remote communities. Some healthcare services are provided by organizations such as the Health Work Committees, mobile clinics and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, among others, and are considered effective initiatives in providing basic medical coverage for the population. However, these initiatives end when the project concludes.²⁴ This reality lived by the Bedouin population reflects a state of instability, with weak access to medical services that serve these communities effectively.

3.2 Status of education: Access and survival opportunities

The targeting of basic schools in Bedouin communities with demolition orders is recurring, and the percentage of schools threatened with demolition is estimated to be over 70%. This jeopardizes the right of more than 1,500 children to receive basic education.²⁵ According to a 2017 assessment, from 46 Bedouin communities in the West Bank, only six host elementary schools. The remaining elementary-age students, across 20 Bedouin communities, must use

21. Middle East Monitor. (2020, March 4). Healthcare for isolated Palestinian communities in West Bank at risk from funding shortfall. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20200304-healthcare-for-isolated-palestinian-communities-in-west-bank-at-risk-from-funding-shortfall/>

22. Interview with a fieldworker in the Jordan Valley region, Al-Haq Foundation, July 7, 2025.

23. Interview with the Palestinian Center for Economic and Social Development, July 7, 2025.

24. Interview with a field researcher in the northern, central and southern Jordan Valley. Al-Haq Foundation, July 7, 2025.

25. B'Tselem. (2024-2025). *Facing Expulsion: The ongoing forced displacement of Bedouin communities*. <https://www.btselem.org/facing>

public transport, while students from other communities are forced to travel distances of up to 6 km to reach the nearest school.^{.26}

In light of the continued issuance of demolition orders for schools in these communities (despite their limited number), the rights of hundreds of children to receive basic education are under threat, forcing Bedouin residents to send their children to more distant alternatives for their education.^{.27} On the other hand, additional evidence points to attacks or demolitions targeting schools that provide basic education in Bedouin communities, described as “temporary schools”. These are at risk of removal, such as the “Container School” in one of the Bedouin communities. This has led to the cessation of education, creating a state of educational insecurity among students’ families and teachers.^{.28}

On the other hand, schools in adjacent villages contribute to providing educational services to Bedouin communities. For example, in the northern Jordan Valley, the Palestinian Ministry of Education operates three schools in local villages, in addition to a school operated by UNRWA in the village of Al Jiftlik.^{.29} Additional initiatives aim to enhance access to education in remote and Bedouin areas, where “Challenge Schools” have been set-up in several regions of the northern and central Jordan Valley. These include Bedouin camps and remote areas such as the Maleh community, Arab Al Ka’abneh, the Al Auja waterfalls community, the Bzeik community and others. Described as “caravans” or tents providing basic education in a collective system, these schools combine classes (for example, first, second and third) based on students’ age groups, typically followed by further elementary education.^{.30}

Most of these schools provide educational services only up to the sixth grade, after which students have to move on to more distant schools located in nearby villages. However, these “caravan schools” have received notices of demolition or removal, and some of these schools are subject to legal proceedings in Israel’s occupation courts.^{.31} Some institutions and donor organizations have provided transportation for students who live farther away, such as special vehicles equipped with four-wheel drive, due to deficient roads and the rugged terrain.^{.32} The status of education in Bedouin communities and remote areas in the northern, central and southern Jordan Valley is a real example of the experiences of Bedouin populations in accessing education. Their conditions are similar to those of most Palestinian communities across various governorates - in addition to road closures and checkpoints that prevent students and staff from reaching schools, a significant number of teachers reside non-locally (in rural areas or cities) and are required to travel daily to these Bedouin communities, further negatively affecting the effectiveness of the educational process.^{.33}

26. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Occupied Palestinian Territory. (2018, March 15). West Bank demolitions and displacement continue at similar pace to 2017. Monthly Humanitarian Bulletin – February 2018. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/west>

27. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – oPt. (2024). Humanitarian Situation Update #266 – West Bank. <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/ocha-humanitarian-situation-update-266-west-bank/?utm>

28. New Arab. (2023). The container school: A Bedouin village fights for education. Retrieved from <https://www.newarab.com/features/>

29. Interview with a fieldworker in the Jordan Valley region, Al-Haq Foundation, July 7, 2025.

30. Interview with a fieldworker in the Jordan Valley region, Al-Haq Foundation, July 7, 2025.

31. Interview with a fieldworker in the Jordan Valley region, Al-Haq Foundation, July 7, 2025.

32. Interview with the Palestinian Center for Economic and Social Development, July 7, 2025.

33. Interview with a fieldworker in the Jordan Valley region, Al-Haq Foundation, July 7, 2025.

3.3 Sanitation services: Limited services, health and environmental risk

Bedouin communities in the West Bank face a severe crisis in sewage services, leading to significant health and environmental risks, particularly for women and children, who are most affected by the lack of a safe infrastructure. The majority of these communities rely on open latrines or primitive systems for wastewater disposal, in the absence of central sewage networks resulting from strict Israeli restrictions on planning and construction within Area C. This negative impact on public health limits opportunities to improve basic living conditions.³⁴ The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) also points to limited infrastructure for sewage services in Bedouin communities. This contributes to soil and groundwater contamination, leading to an increase in the spread of infectious diseases related to poor sanitation and hygiene.³⁵

Bedouin communities in the West Bank face significant challenges in developing sewage services. Infrastructural projects are subject to repeated attacks and demolitions by Israeli authorities, disrupting any efforts to improve health conditions and exacerbating the suffering of residents. Limited contributions were made by donors, such as a project in the Marj Na'jeh area (northern Jordan Valley) that set-up a sewage network for a small number of homes, however, it did not meet expected standards. Moreover, it was implemented in a village, not in a Bedouin or remote community. This complex reality highlights the urgent need to protect the rights of Bedouin communities and ensure a sustainable and healthy environment, by halting demolition practices and providing the necessary support to develop robust infrastructure that guarantees the safety and well-being of residents.³⁶

The gap in infrastructural deprivation (in terms of sanitation services) becomes evident when comparing illegal settlements to surrounding Bedouin communities and remote areas. The settlements have robust infrastructure, including a sewage network that extends from Jerusalem to all settlements in the southern Jordan Valley, despite their widespread and dispersed nature, reaching as far as the northernmost areas. Additionally, there are collection sites and wastewater treatment stations for reuse in irrigation and agriculture along the Jordan Valley, such as the wastewater treatment station in the Na'ama settlement near the Jiftlik community. In contrast, Bedouin communities, remote areas and Palestinian villages located wholly within Area C suffer from the lack of a sewage network infrastructure, despite ongoing urbanization, leaving these communities to cope without access to even the most basic services.

4. Indicators of the effectiveness of basic services required for Bedouin communities and remote areas

Assessing the status of basic services provided to Bedouin and marginalized communities in Area C of the West Bank requires taking into consideration several objective indicators, as well as political realities and Israeli restrictions that directly impact the quality of these basic services

34. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2024, September 18). Humanitarian Situation Update #219: West Bank. OCHA oPt. Available at: <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-219-west-bank>

35. OCHA WASH Cluster and Partners. (2021, June 22). Palestinians strive to access water in the Jordan Valley. Humanitarian Bulletin: January–May 2021. OCHA oPt. Available at: <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/palestinians-strive-access-water-jordan-valley?utm>

36. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-225-west-bank?utm>
<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/west-bank-demolitions-and-displacement-january-march-2023?utm>

(healthcare, education and sanitation). There is also an urgent need to adopt a set of key indicators that determine the level and effectiveness of comprehensive basic services, including healthcare, education and sanitation infrastructure in Bedouin communities and remote areas (see Table 1).

Table 1: Indicators for measuring the effectiveness of basic services (healthcare, education, sanitation) in Bedouin communities and remote areas in Area C

Indicator	Description
Geographical extent and low coverage	A large proportion of Bedouin communities are located in remote and inaccessible areas, making the spread of clinics, healthcare facilities, educational centers and sewage networks both sporadic and incomplete. ³⁷
Basic infrastructure	The absence of formal water and sanitation networks is a major obstacle to the provision of sustainable services. ³⁸ Sanitation infrastructure is unavailable in all Bedouin communities and remote areas. ³
Sustainability and stability in basic services relies on external support and mobile teams	Most healthcare and educational services rely on mobile teams or temporary projects. This affects continuity and does not guarantee that Bedouin populations have access to regular, basic services. ⁴
Administrative and logistical systems	The occupation imposes restrictions on movement and barriers to access that prevent organizations from expanding, and providing basic services to Bedouin communities and remote areas. ⁴
Quality, complementarity and availability of resources and qualified personnel	The lack of adequately qualified medical and educational personnel in remote areas, and the delay in providing these areas with medicines and equipment, negatively impacts the quality of basic services (education, healthcare). ⁴²
Inter-sectoral integration	Poor coordination between the healthcare, education, and water sectors leads to a lack of integrated responses to basic needs. ⁴³
Basic rights and frequent violations of the structure of basic services (education, healthcare, infrastructure).	Infrastructure such as schools and mobile clinics are attacked and destroyed, hindering access to basic services for the population. ⁴
Equality in access	There is a clear gap in the level of service between urban areas and Bedouin or remote communities, which suffer from a continued lack of stable access to basic services. ⁴
Societal and health impact, poor health and education indicators	Increased rates of chronic diseases, high rates of school dropout, especially among girls. Relatively high maternal and child mortality rates reflect the limited effectiveness of provided medical and educational services. ⁴⁶

37. OCHA. (2023). Vulnerable Palestinian communities in Area C. <https://www.ochaopt.org>

38. WSRC. (2022). Water and Sanitation Services Annual Report – Palestine 2022. <https://www.wsrc.ps>

39. Interview with a fieldworker in the Jordan Valley region, Al-Haq Foundation, July 7, 2025. Interview with the Palestinian Center for Economic and Social Development, July 7, 2025.

40. UNRWA. (2024). Mobile health clinics in the West Bank: Reaching isolated communities. www.unrwa.org

41. Interview with a fieldworker in the Jordan Valley region, Al-Haq Foundation, July 7, 2025.

42. WHO. (2023). Health support in Palestinian territories. <https://www.who.int/palestine>

43. Interview with the Palestinian Center for Economic and Social Development, July 7, 2025.

44. B'Tselem. (2024). Fighting for survival: Bedouin communities under threat in Area C. <https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202402>

45. Interview with a fieldworker in the Jordan Valley region, Al-Haq Foundation, July 7, 2025.

46. UNICEF. (2023). Education under threat: Bedouin schools at risk in the West Bank. <https://www.unicef.org/stateofpalestine>

UNFPA. (2023). Sexual and reproductive health access in remote Palestinian communities. <https://palestine.unfpa.org>

Indicators of the effectiveness of basic services represent a key element in determining the levels of these services when they are set-up, as services provided to Bedouin communities are highly specific given their location in areas subject to Israeli security and administrative control. This situation requires an integrated relationship between all indicators, with the aim of empowering the Bedouin population and enhancing their opportunities for survival in their communities and in remote areas.

4.1 Challenges

The primary challenge facing the resilience and survival of Bedouin communities and residents in remote areas, while ensuring their ability to access basic services such as education, healthcare and sanitation, lies in finding international and legal interventions to curb the occupation's violations of treaties and international law, in accordance with agreements signed by the Palestinians and Israelis. This requires the comprehensive presence of international organizations and law enforcement actors, to achieve a level of basic services that meet the needs of Bedouin populations in their communities and in remote locations in Area C, strengthening their presence on the ground.

The geographical dispersion of Bedouin communities poses a fundamental challenge for decision-makers when implementing development plans, taking into account demographic differences and ensuring the distribution of basic services, while establishing an effective infrastructure that serves Bedouin communities and remote areas. This calls for comprehensive development plans that address all the basic needs of Bedouin communities, enhancing their ability to withstand Israeli policies. This geographical dispersion of pastoral communities also reflects an additional burden within the political circumstances facing the Palestinian people.

4.2 Urgent responses and required interventions

In general, the situation of Bedouin and remote communities can be described as intertwined and complex due to restrictions imposed by the Israeli occupation. Therefore, ensuring the protection and security of the Bedouin population is one of the first urgent interventions required by local communities and the state, given that the area they inhabit is classified as under the administration of the Israeli occupation, according to the Oslo Accords. Furthermore, forced displacement practices are classified as an international crime, requiring legal accountability. Furthermore, there must be joint integration (collective action), unified and coordinated among local and international actors and organizations, to provide assistance and services to these communities. This integration across organizations is necessary to achieve more comprehensive and broader coverage for all Bedouin communities, in addition to ensuring the sustainability of service provision in the short- and long-term.

In addition to the above, there is a need to provide a unified database for Bedouin and remote communities, updated annually or every ten years, in a manner similar to the population or agricultural census carried out by the PCBS. This requires the adoption of a unified classification for these areas, set by local governance units and the Land Authority. Different types of international institutions and organizations can then use this data. The database should include all demographic and geographical information on the Bedouin population and its locations, including measurements of the state of essential and basic services provided to them, such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, sanitation,

roads, water, etc. This helps to examine various changes over the years, contributing to the adoption of developmental policies based on a robust database that reflects the realities of these communities, rather than simply monitoring violations and settler attacks. This strengthens steadfastness in Area C, helping individuals demand and achieve their basic rights at the local and global levels.

Urgent needs and interventions related to the three basic service categories can be identified more specifically, on an individual basis. These are covered in greater detail in this paper: healthcare, education and sanitation services. The following are the most important interventions required for each of these three basic services:

4.2.1 Healthcare services

1. Establish 24-hour emergency healthcare centers, spreading them geographically in accordance with the Bedouin population's distribution and access capabilities. An equipped ambulance should also be made available to operate in parallel with these centers.
2. Promote joint coordination between various health work committees. Provide organized healthcare and avoid duplication in services, ensuring long-term service delivery.
3. Provide residents with intensive first-aid courses and emergency medical equipment, in addition to medications and medical supplies.
4. Promote mental healthcare for Bedouin communities, especially as they are exposed to violence, assaults and settler attacks.

4.2.2 Educational services

1. Develop the education sector to a level commensurate with the needs of students in remote communities, by integrating e-learning technologies into the educational process.
2. Direct support from telecommunications' companies, such as exempting Bedouin users from the cost of tapping into roaming services on Israeli telecom networks, as well as providing them with 3G internet services to enable them to access e-learning.
3. Provide first- and second-level educational courses in information technology to develop an understanding of technical issues, addressing these without interrupting electronic services.
4. Direct private institutions' social responsibility programs to support alternative energy projects for Bedouin communities, equipping them with solar panels.

4.2.3 Sanitation services

1. Submit proposals for temporary infrastructure projects on behalf of some Bedouin communities, in order to mitigate environmental damage affecting public health and limit the spread of disease and epidemics.
2. Collect wastewater and establish desalination plants (even if basic ones), to mitigate environmental impact and the spread of health risks.
3. Increase the efforts of civil-society and international organizations to establish dedicated sanitation facilities, especially since these are frequently subject to demolition and removal. The aim here is to preserve the dignity and safety of the Bedouin population, while meeting their special needs.

Questions for discussion

1. What scenarios could regulatory bodies (local and international) pursue to ensure the protection and security of Bedouin or remote communities, as well as those located entirely within Area C?
2. By what means can a unified body sponsor and support Bedouin and remote communities, monitoring the availability of basic services therein?
3. What capabilities are available to commence work on creating a unified and comprehensive database for these communities, in cooperation with local governance, the PCBS and relevant authorities? How can Bedouin or remote communities, as well as those located entirely within Area C, be unified under a single classification, such as with Palestinian rural locations?
4. What is the possibility of establishing a local Palestinian fund to support the resilience of the Bedouin population and overcome challenges imposed by the occupation, enhancing their survival and providing them with security in healthcare and education?
5. What are the necessary procedures for providing tax exemptions on agricultural purchases, medicines and veterinary services required by the Bedouin population, given their primary reliance on livestock breeding? What is the possibility of establishing production lines in pastoral areas for dairy products and their derivatives, as well as introducing them to Palestinian markets?
6. What methods are available for directing volunteers and social services' trainees to pastoral areas?
7. What are the proposals and solutions for providing sewage networks to protect Bedouin communities from disease and epidemics, and to maintain a healthy environment? Is it possible to establish sewage networks and connect them to the existing infrastructure in neighboring villages, or those closest to the community?