



Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION 2397

Socio-Economic Development Plan for Negev Bedouin: 2017-2021¹

March 3, 2017

On February 12th 2017, Israel's cabinet approved **Government Resolution 2397**,² the second five-year **Socio-Economic Development Plan for Negev Bedouin**³ ("GR-2397"), which allocates **NIS 3 billion** to "continue to act for socio-economic development of the Negev Bedouin community." The plan was developed by the Ministry of Agriculture⁴ and comes on the heels of the first five-year development plan for Bedouin society, approved in 2011, which allocated NIS 1.26 billion for economic growth and development for the Bedouin population in the Negev.⁵

GR-2397 also follows the first year of the government's unprecedented national [Economic Development Plan for the Arab Sector \(GR-922\)](#) that designates 15% of its NIS 10-15 billion budget to Bedouin society in the Negev. Citing government statistics, GR-2397 language explains that Negev Bedouin are economically the weakest community in Israel by far (*see appendix*), and that "a specific additional program is required to close gaps vis-à-vis the Bedouin community" beyond the broader economic national development plan for Arab society. GR-2397 therefore draws approximately half of its allocations from the national plan and designates new budgets to reach the NIS 3 billion total investment over the five years. GR-2397 also grants the localities incorporated in the plan National Priority Status, which entitles them to additional government aid and subsidies.⁶

¹ Sincere thanks goes out to Yariv Mann, Senior Department Head, Socio-Economic Development of Negev Bedouin Society at the Ministry of Agriculture, for generous assistance with information and insight.

² Israel: *Government Resolution 2397, The Socio-Economic Development Plan for Negev Bedouin: 2017-2021*. February 12, 2017. Available at: <http://www.pmo.gov.il/Secretary/GovDecisions/2017/Pages/dec2397.aspx> (Hebrew)

³ "Bedouin" in this paper refers to the approximately 240,000 [Bedouin](#) citizens living in the Negev. Israel also has a population of about 100,000 Bedouin living in the country's northern region for whom the government passed a [different, NIS 900 million development plan](#).

⁴ The Ministry of Agriculture (MOAG) is responsible for Negev Bedouin issues and houses the Bedouin Development Authority (responsible for land and planning issues) as well as the Department for the Development of Bedouin Society (responsible for economic and social development.)

⁵ Two evaluations of this first plan have been issued by Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute with a final evaluation expected in 2017. The first two can be found here:

First report: [Program to Promote Economic Growth and Development for the Bedouin Population in the South of Israel \(Government Resolution 3708\). Myers-JDC-Brookdale, August 2016.](#)

Second report: [Program to Promote Economic Growth and Development for the Bedouin Population in the South of Israel \(Government Resolution 3708\). Myers-JDC-Brookdale, December 2016.](#)

⁶ "National Priority" is a designation the government of Israel has for localities it wishes to strengthen which entitles the area to various subsidies, such as planning and construction, tax benefits and so forth.

With nearly triple the budget of the first five-year plan, GR-2397 is also more tightly focused. Lessons learned from implementation, oversight and evaluation of the previous plan prompted more concentrated investment across four areas that exhibit the widest socio-economic gaps between Bedouins and the rest of Israeli society, Arab and Jewish. These four areas are: (i) education and social services, (ii) employment and economic development, (iii) infrastructure, and (iv) the capacities of local authorities.

Beyond socio-economic development, the plan is also geared towards advancing regulation of Bedouin settlement in the Negev, arguably the most sensitive issue between the Bedouin community and the state.⁷ On the whole, GR-2397 aims to boost development of recognized Bedouin communities in the Be'er Sheva district⁸ so they will be better able to attract, absorb and serve the tens of thousands of Bedouin from unrecognized villages the state aims to relocate. This includes an unprecedented intent, stated in the plan—but not yet elaborated, budgeted, nor approved by government—to build 25,000 new housing units⁹ in the district over the five years (potentially an additional NIS 10 billion commitment.) It also calls for an inter-ministerial team to review the formula currently in use to compensate families for relocation and make recommendations for “governmental land regulation policy for the Bedouin community for the next 10 years.”¹⁰

Finally, the plan also includes a section on enforcement, added during extended deliberations, that enhances and prioritizes the capacities of law enforcement bodies to “protect state lands” and “prevent illegal expansion” so that “over time there will be decreasing portions of land on which illegal construction exist.”¹¹ This section was added after several government ministers refused to approve the plan without including measures to ensure that unrecognized villages will actually be evacuated.¹²

The addition of the section on enforcement reinforced suspicions within the Bedouin community that the plan’s ultimate aim is to forgo compromise and accelerate home demolitions and evacuations without any agreements about regulation being reached. “[T]he current five-year plan makes the investment in the Bedouin community contingent on its relocating to recognized towns,” writes attorney Sanaa Ibn Bari. “The direction is clear: forcing planning solutions on the Arab community as a whole and on the Bedouin in particular.”¹³

⁷ Settlement regulation and land claim conflicts are arguably the most sensitive issues between Negev Bedouin and the state. Approximately 40% of Bedouin (estimated 100,000 people) live in villages not recognized or serviced by the government (i.e. lacking infrastructure such as water, electricity, roads..etc.) because they are located on disputed land. Israeli property law does not recognize Bedouin claims on land as they are unable to provide the documentation that the courts require.

⁸ There are seven recognized Bedouin towns in the Beer Sheva District: Rahat (around 62,000 residents), Hura (~20,000), Tel-Sheva (~19,000), Laqiya (~12,000), Segev Shalom (~10,000), Kseyfe (~19,000), Arara in the Negev (~16,000), that were established by the state in the 1970s and 80s. More recently, in the early 2000, 11 Bedouin villages became officially recognized in the regional councils of Al Kassum (~8,500) and Neve Midbar (~7,000). Together, these 9 localities are home to approximately 60% of the Negev Bedouin population. Source: Israel Central Bureau of Statistics from 2015.

⁹ Roughly “12 times the current rate of legally built homes in the Bedouin community.” Arlosoroff, Meirav “[Israel's Far-right Minister's Brave pro-Bedouin Revolution](#)” *Haaretz*, December 1, 2016.

¹⁰ Israel: [Government Resolution 2397](#)

¹¹ Ibid.

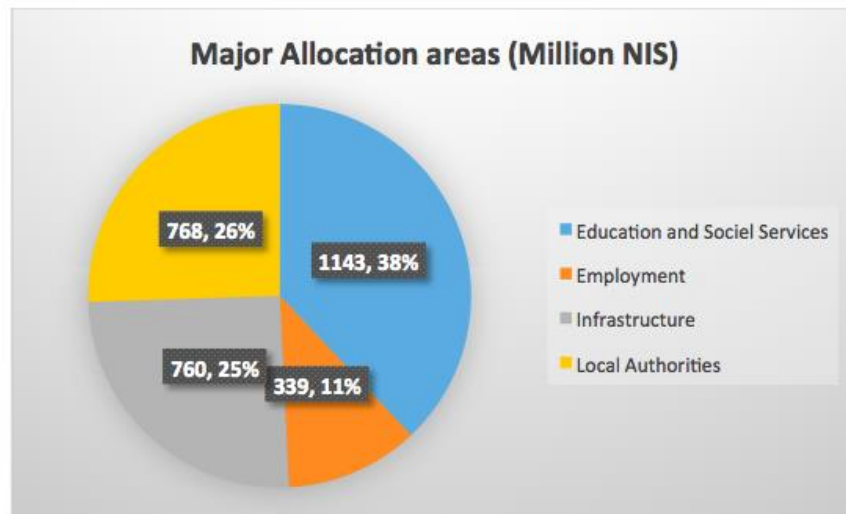
¹² Arlosoroff, Meirav “[Gallant and Yariv Levin postponed approval of the government Bedouin plan – NIS 3 billion over five years](#)” *Haaretz*, January 15, 2017. (Hebrew)

¹³ Ibn Bari, Sanaa. “[The Real Intention Behind Israel's Five-year Plan for the Bedouin](#)” *Haaretz*, January 19, 2017.

Violent escalations during home demolitions in Umm Al Hiran¹⁴ that took place in the midst of plan deliberations in January heightened the already strained atmosphere in which this plan was finalized and approved. The impact of these events on the ability of government officials and local Bedouin leaders to navigate implementation of this plan is yet to be seen.

The following update presents the provisions for each of the four major allocation areas of the plan, the key commitments related to implementation—including participation of Bedouin leadership in the public monitoring committee, and the provisions added under enforcement.

MAJOR ALLOCATION AREAS



1. EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES: NIS 1,143,000,000 - 38%

EDUCATION

- **Annual goals:** The Ministry of Education will set clear and measurable goals and monitor annual progress on (i) lowering dropout rates of Bedouin high school students, (ii) enhancing matriculation rates of Bedouin high school graduates, (iii) closing gaps in standardized test scores between Bedouin pupils and general Israeli society and (iv) enhancing teaching capacities.
- **Workplan for closing gaps and socio-economic integration:** The Ministry of Education, together with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Finance, will develop, within 100 days, a workplan to close gaps, prevent dropout, and to promote education for excellence, early childhood education, informal education, technological education, youth in distress services, labor-market skills, Arabic and Hebrew proficiency, and integration in Israeli society. This will include a tailor-made plan for each Bedouin locality. Allocation of **NIS 112 million** is earmarked over five years with exact budgets specified pursuant a consultation process with Bedouin municipal leadership.

¹⁴ [“Home Demolitions and State-Minority Relations: The Events in Qalansawe and Umm Al Hiran”](#) Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues, January 2017.

- **Classroom construction:** Around 1,500 classrooms and two centers for educational staff training are planned to address a shortage of school buildings and “to equalize physical teaching conditions.” A special inter-ministerial team of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Transportation, and Ministry of Finance will work under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture to lift barriers to construction. A budget of **NIS 1.180 billion** is allocated (at no less than **NIS 236 million** per year.)
- **Teacher training:** The Ministry of Education will build, within 100 days and in cooperation with the Council for Higher Education, a workplan to enhance Bedouin teacher training, focusing on integrating student teachers in Israeli institutions (rather than in the Palestinian Authority or Jordan). Budgets for this program will come from within GR-922.
- **Higher education:** The Council for Higher Education will present its plan to enhance Bedouin access to higher education as part of its own five-year plan, including specific measurable goals. A budget of **NIS 55 million** from the Ministry of Finance will be matched by the Council for Higher Education for a total of **NIS 110 million** over the five years.
- **Informal education:** Budgets will be allocated according to Bedouin society’s share from GR-922 with an additional budget of **NIS 20 million** from the Ministry of Agriculture for programs in partnership with civil society organizations.

SOCIAL SERVICES

- **Ministry of Social Welfare:** The Ministry of Social Welfare will present a workplan within 60 days focused on (i) reducing violence, (ii) emergency preparedness skills, and (iii) developing community work. It will address related needs in the following areas: youth and youngsters at risk; the elderly population; strengthening the family unit; enhancing community work and voluntarism; training emergency preparedness personnel; and developing services for adults and children with special needs. Budgeted at **NIS 75 million**.
- **Ministry of Health:** The Ministry of Health will create a workplan for Bedouin society within 60 days, to be approved by the Ministries of Finance and Agriculture, addressing the following: emergency health issues, health promotion in the community, preventing home accidents and enhancing safety, and addressing the needs of young children. Budgeted at **NIS 10 million**. Additional budgets will be allocated from a 2014 government resolution (GR-2025) that focuses on developing the southern region and includes specific plans for Negev Bedouin.
- **Ministry of Agriculture:** The Ministry of Agriculture will also work to develop a plan to support Bedouin farmers and herd owners.
- **Ministry of Public Security:** The Ministry of Public Security will create a workplan within 60 days to enhance personal security services including: (i) establishment of police stations in Bedouin localities, (ii) adding policemen for Bedouin localities (within the general program for Arab society), (iii) an additional budget of **NIS 20 million** will be allocated to the [City Without Violence](#) program operated in Bedouin localities by the Ministry of Public Security. No budgetary participation of the Bedouin localities is required.
- **Budget for socio-economic development:** A **NIS 45 million** budget will be disbursed by the Ministry of Agriculture to those governmental ministries that “show high implementation capacities” of programs within the social services portion of this plan.

2. EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: NIS 339,000,000 – 11%

EMPLOYMENT

- **Riyan Employment Centers:** The 9 Riyan Employment Centers¹⁵ in Bedouin localities will continue to operate with a budget of up to **NIS 80 million** allocated within GR-922 for this purpose. GR-2397 allocates an additional **NIS 3 million** for 2017 towards developing Hebrew language skills of some 2,500 participants, focusing on women. If successful, up to **NIS 2 million** more will be provided.
- **Employment subsidies:** A budget of **NIS 40 million** will be allocated as salary subsidies to incentivize employers to hire Bedouin employees.
- **Employment initiatives:** A special inter-ministerial team¹⁶ is to present new employment initiatives within 150 days, focusing on local businesses, especially those with a potential to employ women. A budget of **NIS 10 million** drawn from all the combined employment budgets of this plan could be used for this purpose. Existing employment programs including “[Cycles of Employment \(Ma’agale Ta’asuka\)](#)—a welfare to work program” and occupational Hebrew training will be operated by the Ministry of Social Welfare, budgeted at **NIS 7 million** for the years 2017-18, and **NIS 0.75 million** annually, respectively. The Government Institute for Technological and Scientific Training will train Bedouin men and women in practical engineering. Budgeted at **NIS 7.5 million annually**.
- **Early childhood:** Budgets to develop early childhood facilities in Bedouin localities, enabling women to go to work, will come from their share in GR-922.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Local commerce and trade areas:** The Bedouin Development and Settlement Authority (within the Ministry of Agriculture), will develop local commerce and trade areas with a budget of **NIS 30 million** over the five years.
- **Ministry of the Negev and Galilee:** The Ministry will spend up to 30% of its budget from GR-922 on development of Bedouin localities in the spheres of welfare, informal education, tourism and employment.
- **Small and Medium Business Agency:** The agency will develop assistance tools (i.e. subsidies and business development programs) specific to Bedouin society. **NIS 23 million** budgeted.
- **Industrial activity:** A budget of **NIS 30 million** will be allocated to stimulate additional industrial activity of eligible factories operating within industrial areas around the Bedouin localities.

3. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT: NIS 760,000,000 – 25%

LAND AND HOUSING

- **Reducing Cost of Housing Development:** To develop “infrastructure supportive of regulating Bedouin settlement in the Negev,” the Ministry of Finance is allocating **NIS 20 million** over 5 years to lower the cost of future housing development – see next bullet.

¹⁵ [Riyan Employment Centers are operated by Al Fanar](#), an organization established by JDC-TEVET and the government of Israel.

¹⁶ With representatives from the Ministries of Social Welfare, Agriculture, Finance and Economy.

- **Housing Development Plan:** Outside the framework of GR-2397, the Bedouin Development Authority intends to develop a parallel and complementary process through which, at the end of the five-year period, at least **25,000 housing units** will be built and marketed to the Bedouin community.
- **Land Regulation Policy Development and Review:** The Bedouin Development Authority will establish a team composed of its director and representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Finance and the Israeli Land Authority that, within 180 days, will present the plan's Steering Committee (*see Implementation section*) with (i) a review of the formula currently in use for compensating relocated Bedouin land claimants; (ii) recommendations for addressing exceptional land claims that fall outside the Land Authority's existing regulatory framework; and (iii) recommendations for "governmental land regulation policy for the Bedouin community for the next 10 years."
- **National Priority Housing and Construction Subsidies:** The last section of the GR-2397 (see below) designates all Bedouin localities in the Negev as "A1" Development areas, or National Priority status, which entitles them to governmental construction and housing subsidies of **up to NIS 77 million**.
- **Development on Private Land:** The Bedouin Development Authority will receive a budget of **NIS 3 million** to aid project development on private land.

PUBLIC FACILITIES, TRANSPORTATION AND SEWAGE

- **Public Facilities:** The Ministry of Construction and Housing will receive an additional NIS 95 million to build public facilities over the five years. To do so, it will coordinate with local authorities to develop a needs assessment per locality and a 5-year construction plan. 5-10% of this budget will be allocated to operationalize existing buildings (e.g. by connecting them to electricity).
- **Transportation Infrastructure:** The Ministry of Transportation will develop a plan for transportation infrastructure including internal roads, access roads and public transportation between localities and to major employment and service areas. A budget of **NIS 50 million** is allocated as well as budgets from GR-922.
- **Sewage:** Sewage infrastructure will be developed from GR-922 budgets.

4. EMPOWERING LOCAL AUTHORITIES: NIS 768,000,000 – 25%

- **Managing Team Workplan:** The Ministry of Interior, Agriculture and Finance will establish a team (the "Managing Team") to develop, manage and monitor a process of strengthening the local authorities. This team will create, within 100 days, a workplan with steps to improve municipal services and advance economic and organizational development of the local authorities, including goals for increasing municipal revenues and closing service gaps. **A budget of NIS 500 million** is allocated over the five years for development and implementation of this plan, from which individual budgets per locality will be determined.
- **Local Authority Guidelines:** From the workplan developed by the Managing Team, specific steps will be prepared for each locality to increase revenues and economic development, enhance municipal services, improve their attractiveness, professionalize municipal institutions, implement tools to enhance law enforcement, and more. The Managing Team will guide each locality through implementation of an asset survey.

- **Local Authority Workplans:** Each local authority will be required to develop and present for approval their own detailed workplan drawing on guidelines and steps (both optional and obligatory) articulated by the Managing Team, with specific and measurable goals set for each step. Localities that will not meet criteria will have their budgets cut or revoked in the following years. Budgets not allocated can then be reallocated to other spheres of activity. Bedouin elected officials and community representatives will be included and consulted throughout, including via a Hebrew and Arabic website.
- **Excelling Arab Localities Program:** Localities participating in and benefiting from the Excelling Arab Localities Program budgeted within GR-922 (Hura and Rahat) will continue to receive budgets from that program as well as receive their share of budgets due to them from this five-year plan, GR-2397.
- **Services for Residents of Unrecognized Villages:** The Ministry of Interior, together with the Managing Team, will identify within 100 days how to budget services provided by the Bedouin localities to residents of surrounding unrecognized Bedouin communities.
- **Population Survey:** The Bedouin Development Authority will conduct a detailed population survey of all Bedouin society residing in the recognized and unrecognized localities, assigning a recognized locality to each Bedouin citizen.
- **Capacity Building:** In order to enhance the human capital of the local authorities, the Ministry of Interior and the Managing Team will, in 2017, create a unique organizational plan for each locality. These plans will emphasize organizational structure, retirement incentives, workplans and work management, training and data systems. For this purpose the Ministry of Finance will allocate **NIS 5 million** per year for each of the five years of the plan (NIS 25 Million).
- **Municipal Collaboration for Regional Development:** The Ministry of Interior will also encourage collaboration of local authorities to advance shared services and regional development with emphasis on closing gaps and improving the overall quality of life for Bedouin in the Negev, and on encouraging Bedouin localities not part of Regional Clusters¹⁷ to join. The Ministry of Interior will receive an additional budget of **NIS 10 million** for this purpose.
- **Cadets for Local Government:** The Ministry of Interior will advance implementation of the Cadets for Local Government in Bedouin localities both in recruiting and placement processes.
- **Disposal Services:** The Ministry of Environment will allocate **NIS 12.5 million** to those localities not included in the Regional Clusters so that they can receive garbage disposal services from one of the Clusters and also to encourage them to join one.
- **Services for Absorption of Families:** The Ministry of Interior, together with the Ministry of Finance and the Bedouin Development Authority will assign a team to determine (i) the range of services that need to be offered by local authorities in order to absorb families relocating to developed neighborhoods within their locality and (ii) the needs of each locality to be able to provide these services. They will consult with relevant government agencies and recommend a five-year absorption plan per family. **NIS 30 million** will be allocated for this purpose.

¹⁷ **Regional Clusters** are a newer model for geographic organization that includes Jewish and Arab localities, stronger and weaker communities, major cities, smaller local councils and regional councils. They bring together municipal leaders from these localities to create joint forums for regional dialogue, and to promote more effective services such as environmental protection, physical infrastructure, culture and sports. Currently, there are a total of five regional clusters—three in the Galilee and two in the Negev. According to recent legislation (December 2016), the Regional Clusters have been recognized as statutory entities.

IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT

5. IMPLEMENTATION

- **Overall Implementation by the Ministry of Agriculture:** The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for overall plan implementation—except for commitments and steps detailed in the Enforcement section below. In all other respects, the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all ministries' workplans, coordinating between government ministries and local Bedouin authorities, receiving detailed workplans from all the participating ministries, and setting goals for implementation activities and budgets. **A budget of NIS 5 million is allocated for this purpose.**
- **Steering Committee—budget allocation privileges, no Bedouin representation:** The Ministry of Agriculture will establish a Plan Steering Committee to be headed by the Minister of Agriculture with representatives from all the participating ministries to monitor progress, approve the ministerial workplans, and reallocate unused annual budgets within the framework of the plan.
- **Public Monitoring Committee—joint government / Bedouin committee:** The Ministry of Agriculture will establish a public committee to monitor and track implementation—except for enforcement issues—comprised of local council heads and Bedouin representatives named by the Ministers of Agriculture and Finance, and representatives from all government ministries active in plan implementation. This committee will receive progress briefings from the field and monitor implementation and use of budgets for the purpose of community development.

6. ENFORCEMENT

- **Increase Protection of State Lands and Enforcement of Regulations:** The government instructs law enforcement agencies in the south¹⁸ to increase law enforcement measures, “to guard the land,” and protect evacuated state land from repeated intrusion according to the measures detailed below, and in support of advancing regulation of Bedouin settlement.
- **Prioritize Regulation of Unrecognized Communities:** The Bedouin Development Authority is instructed to prioritize, within its GR-2397 workplan, regulating communities currently living illegally on state lands outside the recognized towns.
- **Prevention of Illegal Expansion on State Lands:** Based on GR-3707 from 2011 (the government adoption of the Praver-Begin Plan¹⁹ and decision to present it for Knesset legislation which has since been pending), the Ministry of Interior and law enforcement bodies will, within 30 days, submit workplans for approval that prioritize prevention of new instances of expansion onto state lands outside the recognized Bedouin towns.
- **Multiyear Plan to Expedite Enforcement:** All relevant law enforcement bodies, together with the Ministry of Justice, will prepare a multiyear plan, within 60 days, on how to expedite enforcement measures in the Negev so that over time there will be decreasing portions of land on which illegal

¹⁸ The National Unit of Planning Law Enforcement in the Ministry of Interior, the Israel Land Authority, the “Green Elite force” – a special unit established to “oversee open spaces under the Israeli Authority for Parks and National Gardens” and the Local Planning Committees of Abu Basma and Eastern Negev.

¹⁹ [“The Bill on the Arrangement of Bedouin Settlement in the Negev”](#) *Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues*, July 2013.

construction exists, and how to make such measures more efficient – including legislative changes if necessary. The plan will be presented to the relevant ministers.

- **Monitoring Systems:** The relevant bodies will create a unified GIS system and an automatic digital system to monitor and report Bedouin building violations and intrusions into open lands to improve the efficiency of enforcement.
- **Forestation, Agriculture and Expedited Development:** The Israel Land Authority is instructed to take the following actions to protect evacuated state lands: planting trees on these lands at no less than **NIS 30 million a year** in cooperation with the Jewish National Fund, leasing such lands for seasonal agricultural use, advancing various development plans and expediting their implementation.
- **Evacuation Timetables:** The Bedouin Development Authority and the Israel Land Authority are instructed to ensure evacuation agreements include clear timetables, and that these timetables are implemented.
- **Additional Enforcement Personnel:** To support Intensive enforcement efforts budgets will be allocated for additional personnel in the various enforcement agencies (e.g. 10 new inspectors and two officers will be added to the “Green Elite Force”). To this end as well as to budget headquarters work on this issue, **NIS 32 million** will be provided.
- **Additional Planning Personnel:** Additional positions will be added to the National Unit for Planning and Construction Law Enforcement and to local planning committees, to address illegal construction by the Bedouin population, budgeted at **NIS 10.5 million**.
- **“Yoav” unit” of the Israel Police:** The explicit mission of the “Yoav” unit of the Israeli Police is to assist this type of law enforcement. Any additional task would require the approval of the Police Commissioner.

APPENDIX: GR-2397 Statistics on Negev Bedouin Society

Demographics

- **Population Size:** As of 2015, Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics estimates there are approximately 240,000 Bedouin citizens living in the Negev.*
- **Reproduction Rate:** In 2014, the Bedouin annual reproduction rate was 3.7%, compared with 2.3% in Arab society and 2% in Jewish society.
- **Young population:** In 2014, 60% of Bedouins were below the age of 19.

Socio-Economic Status of Bedouin Localities

- **Socio-Economic Rating:** As of 2016, all Bedouin localities—and only Bedouin localities—are in the bottom-most cluster (rank 1 on a scale of 1-10) of the Ministry of Interior's municipal socio-economic ratings. All other poor Arab, Jewish and Haredi localities are rated higher.
- **Government Oversight:** Of the nine Bedouin localities included in the plan, six are accompanied by a Ministry of Interior accountant, and two are managed by Ministry of Interior appointed overseers (not by elected Bedouin officials). These accountants and overseers are designated when a locality is deemed financially unstable, unsustainable or otherwise incapable of functioning independently.

Education

- **Matriculation:** In 2014, 47.5% of Bedouin 12th graders earned a complete Matriculation Certificate (compared with 59% of all Arab 12th graders, and 65% of Jewish ones). If parsed for age rather than grade the gap is greater: 30.3% of all 18 year-old Bedouins earn a full Matriculation Certificate, compared with 47.8% of 18 year-old Arab citizens, and 52.7% of the 18 year old population as a whole.
- **Higher Education:** In 2014, 4.9% of Bedouins between 20-29 years of age were studying in a higher education institution, compared with 8.4% of Arab citizens generally and 13.8% nation-wide.
- **Early Childhood:** Only 30% of Bedouin children ages 3-4 regularly attend any early childhood educational framework.

Employment and Income

- **Employment:** In 2014 Bedouin men and women had employment rates of 56% and 24%, respectively, compared with 74% and 32% among Arab citizens generally and 65.4% and 55.7% nationally.
- **Income:** In 2014, average personal income per capita in Bedouin society (before government subsidies) was NIS 1,180 (USD 310), compared with NIS 2,360 (USD 621) in the general Arab population and the national average of NIS 5,255 (USD 1,382).

Infrastructure Gaps

- **Education Facilities:** It is estimated that Bedouin society is lacking hundreds of educational facilities due to either non-existent or defective infrastructure. This includes early childhood facilities, day care centers, elementary school and high school classrooms.
- **Industrial and Commercial Areas:** There is a significant shortage of industrial areas and commercial zones in and around Bedouin localities.
- **Transportation:** Lack of adequate transportation routes and public transportation services are “an inseparable part of the difficulties of Negev Bedouin society” including a shortage of sidewalks, paved roads, and public transportation.

* The number is included for context. GR-2397 does not reference population estimates.