

Background Document on The Turkish Government¹ approach to Eliminating Child labour, improving working conditions and hazelnut sustainability in Turkey

In summary

The proper legal and policy framework is in place in Turkey. The Turkish government, under the coordination and responsibility of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare recognises the specific needs of workers in the hazelnut supply chain including concerns over child labour and limited access to school which they have outlined in

1. Legal Framework

Turkey is a member of many international organizations and a country that rapidly complies with the international decisions made by such organizations on the rights of children and child labour.

Labour Act No. 4857,
Vocational Training Law No. 3308,
Public Health Law No. 1593,
Primary Education and Training Law No. 222,
Trade Union Act No. 2821,
Law of Police Powers No. 2559,
Municipal Law No. 1580,
Law on Social Services and Child Protection Agency No. 2828,
Child Protection Law No. 5395
Statutory rules and orders enacted according to law.

2. Policy Framework

This action plan is part of a policy framework under the coordination and responsibility of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare which is composed of:

- A. *The Framework for time-dependent National Policy and Program to Prevent Child Labour*
- B. *The Action Plan Activities for keeping children away from nut farms in the Provinces where nuts are grown 2011*
- C. *METIP - The Turkish Government Action Plan to improve the working and social conditions of seasonal migratory workers – such as those harvesting hazelnuts*
- D. *Ministry of National Education Circular for the children of seasonal and migrant*

¹ The Turkish Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare is the lead Ministry and coordinator of efforts with regards labour conditions including child labour.

A. The Framework for time-dependent National Policy and Program to Prevent Child Labour

Background

ILO-IPEC programme from 1992 – 2006

During the special session of ILO General Assembly held in Geneva in June 2006 with the participation of the Ministers of Labour from 189 countries, Turkey was named as one of top 3 countries most effectively fighting against Child. The Child Labour Surveys, performed by the Turkish Statistics Institution in 1994, 1999 and 2006, show significant reductions in the percentage of children economically employed gradually from 15.2% in 1994 for the age group of 6-17, to 10.3% in 1999 to 5.9% in 2006

Child Labour Surveys were performed by the Turkish Statistics Institution (TÜİK) in 1994, 1999 and 2006

The number of the children between 6-17 age group involved in economic activities (employed) in the agriculture, industry, trade and Service sectors:

In 1994, 2.269.000 (15.2%)

In 1999 1.630.000 (10.3%)

In 2006 958.000 (5.9%)²

In follow up to the last survey of 2006, the Turkish Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare assumed responsibility for the elimination of child labour. The Turkish Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare is the lead Ministry and coordinator of efforts with regards labour conditions including child labour.

Renewed commitment by signing a MoU with ILO in February 2009

September 2009 – Disadvantageous Groups Agency consisting of Gender Equality, Handicapped and Working Children established within the Ministry of Labour and Social Security

The Advisory Board's basic objective is to exchange information between organizations about the activities performed for child labour, share actions and experiences and offer solutions for preventing child labour.

Members include high level representatives from the all relevant government ministries, 3 largest workers' unions (TURKIS, HAK-IS, DISK), 2 largest employers' organisations (TISK, TESK), and non-governmental organizations³. ILO and UNICEF representatives participate as observers.

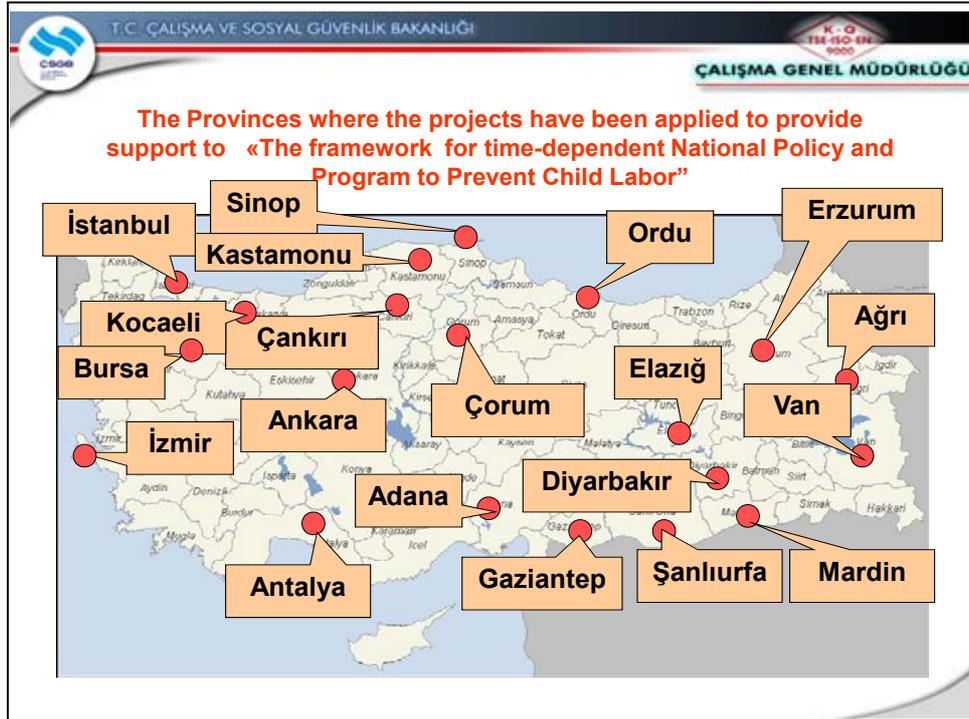
National Steering Committee (NSC) is responsible for deciding on, coordination and monitoring the programs and projects to be implemented nationwide in order to prevent

² 5.9% of 16 million 264 thousand children in the age group of 6-17 involved in economic activities (employed) (958 thousand people). Among the children (6-17) employed, 47.7% live in urban and 52.4% in rural areas. 66% of the children employed are boys and 34% are girls (TSI, Working Children, 2006, 2007)

³ The Chambers of Agriculture in the various provinces, "Fisek Institute Science and Action Foundation for Child Labour in the center, Science and Action Foundation for Child Labour as well as various Associations working on children's rights

child labour, particularly the worst forms of child labour. NSC operates as a decision making, activity monitoring and advisory mechanism about child labour under the chair of the Deputy Undersecretary of our Ministry.

Members include high level representatives from the all relevant government ministries, 3 largest workers' unions (TURKIS, HAK-IS, DISK), two largest employers' organisations (TISK, TESK), and non-governmental organizations (see footnote). ILO and UNICEF representatives participate as observers.



Key Focus areas: working on the streets often due to migration; difficult and dangerous work in small and medium size businesses; temporary agricultural work – migrant labour (apart from family farming activities)

Projects implemented by different institutions and organizations under the coordination of General Directorate of Labor:

1. The project of “The Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor in the Furniture Sector in the Provinces of Ankara, İzmir and Bursa” run within the context of ILO/IPEC by the Work Supervisory Board of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (2004-2008)
2. The project of “The Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor through Education in the Seasonal Travelling and Temporary Agricultural Works in the town of Karataş of the province of Adana” run within the context of ILO/IPEC by the General Directorate of Primary Education of Ministry of National Education (2005-2007)
3. The project of “Steering the children working on the streets towards Education in the targeted thirteen provinces (Adana-Ankara-Antalya-Bursa-Çorum-Diyarbakır-Gaziantep-İstanbul-İzmir-Kocaeli-Şanlıurfa)” run within the context of ILO/IPEC by the

- General Directorate of Social Services and Child Protection Institutes of the Prime Ministry (2005-2007).
4. The project of “Social collaboration against child labor” runs within the context of ILO/IPEC by Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions (TÜRK-İŞ) and [Turkish Confederation of Employer Associations](#) (TİSK) (2005-2008).
 5. The project of “Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labor through Providing Vocational Training to the Families of the Child Workers”, run within the context of ILO/IPEC by HAK Confederation of Trade Unions (HAK-İŞ).
 6. The project of “Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labor through Providing Vocational Training to the Families of the Child Workers”, run within the context of ILO/IPEC by Gaziantep Metropolitan Mayoralty (2006-2007).
 7. The project of “Application of the Modular Child Labor Survey together with the Household Work Power Survey”, run within the context of ILO/IPEC by the Turkish Statistics Institute (TÜİK) (2006).
 8. The project of “Preventing Child Labor through directing them to Education” has been presented to EU for the 2012 schedule. A feasibility study is ongoing. The project has not been approved yet.

B. The Action Plan Activities for keeping children away from the nut farms in the provinces where nuts are grown in 2011 (incorporating all three national plans above)

- Address Child labour on the agenda of Provincial Employment and Vocational Educational Council meetings (Duzce, Ordu, Giresun, Sakarya, Trabzon)
- Define the minimum working age in determining the minimum wages and the work principals of the workers that will work in nut harvest
- Record the seasonal agricultural workers by the local Government and other relevant organizations.
- Establishing a social support center providing day care facilities for children between 2-15 years old in areas where seasonal agricultural workers are densely situated
- Organise children appropriately according to their age and provide education and rehabilitation programmes for children suitable to their positions and ages
- Assign teachers, trainers, psychologists, child development experts and helpmates suitable for the programme
- Provide clothing, (Tracksuits, school uniforms etc.), books and stationary
- Plan various social and sport activities (such as theatre, movies, swimming etc.) general culture courses, Turkish, Math's and also reading sessions
- Identify and pay special attention to disabled children who require special training and inform their families, intermediary people and employers of all available training facilities for such disabilities
- Create awareness among the public with regard to child labour (Press releases, radio and TV programmes, sensitivity meetings etc.)
- Organise Provincial activities around the 12th June, World Day Against Child Labour
- Activities for the children of the seasonal agricultural workers where they densely inhabit.
- Health Checks (eyesight, hearing, vaccination etc.)
- Train mothers on hygiene and health
- Awareness building - 350.000 brochures and 4000 poster have been published and distributed in regions in 2011. Short films have also been shown. Special meetings

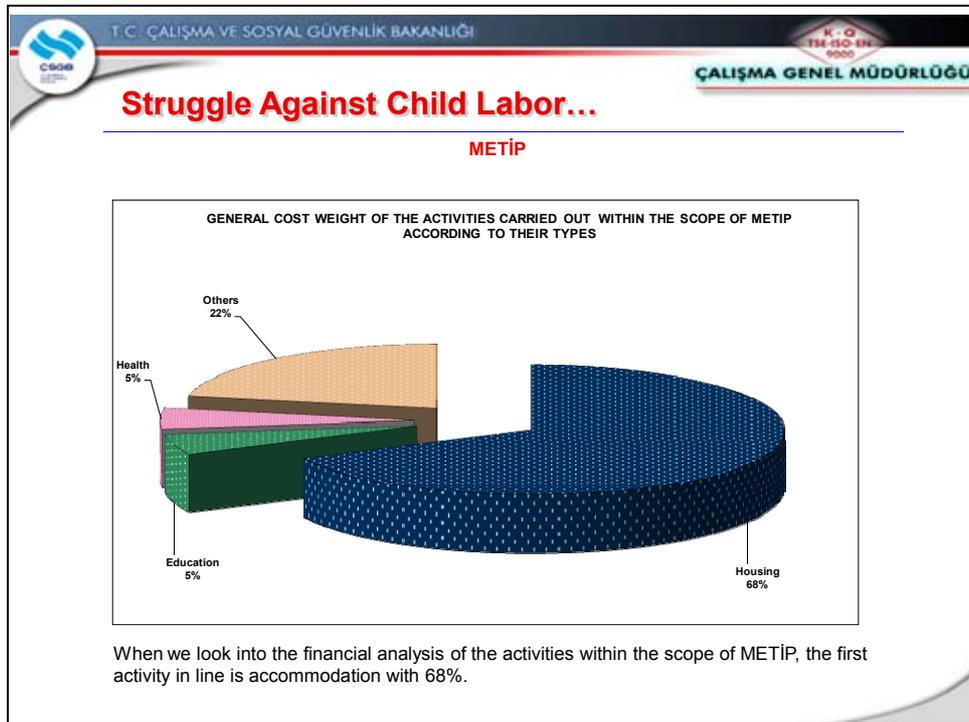
are being held in order to increase awareness among the public workers, local administrators and farmers.

C. METIP - The Turkish Government Action Plan to improve the working and social conditions of seasonal migratory workers – such as those harvesting hazelnuts

In summary and numbers

The Turkish government objective nationwide is to improve the working and social conditions of 300.000 agricultural labourers recognized to be working in challenging conditions.

So far the Special Provincial Administrations have reached 165.000 agricultural labourers residing in 14.500 tents located in 23 provinces. Such investments have reached 15,000 workers in Ordu and Giresun (hazelnut growing regions).



Since its implementation in 2010, a significant part of the expenditures has been allocated for infrastructural activities.

- 68% is used for accommodation (tent, electricity installation, potable water, mobile shower, mobile bathroom, kitchen, dishwashing places and ground leveling)
- 5% for education,
- 5% for health
- 22% for other expense items (playgrounds for children, maintenance, repair, transport and
- Assembly costs, security services.

In Budgetary terms, the following amounts have been allocated specifically for the action plan implementation of which a portion is allocated for children and educational activities:

- 44 Million TL in 2010
- 27.5 Million TL in 2011
- 21 Million TL is estimated for 2012 for the continuation of the project.

D. Ministry of National Education has announced a Circular on the children of seasonal and migrant agricultural labourers

As the result of unavoidable migration coinciding with the school calendar, many children of compulsory school going age are unable to attend school. It is very important that children in such conditions to benefit from their educational rights in areas where they go. Therefore in accordance with this circular the following roadmap will be followed in order to ensure access to and continuity of the education of the children of seasonal and migrant agricultural labourers. It will be executed in coordination with other relevant ministries and organisations.

Access to Education on the move

- Firstly it shall be ensured that the children of school going age of seasonal and migrant agricultural labourers shall be placed in regional primary boarding schools located in their areas.
- The children of seasonal and migrant agricultural labourers in areas unable to attend boarding school shall benefit from transported primary school application in the areas they migrate to.
- Mobile or tent schools shall be set up and mobile teachers shall be assigned in areas where children of seasonal and migrant agricultural labourers commonly live
- appropriate measures and programmes for children who have been unable to enroll in school or attend school for long periods of time shall be put in place
- The Counseling Research Center Directorates shall perform the necessary activities in order to ensure that children requiring special education benefit from educational rights.

Social and Financial assistance

- Necessary measures shall be taken in order to ensure that the children of families receive financial assistance including education and other educational aids.
- Teams consisting of managers, counselors, voluntary parents and the staff of other contributing bodies and organizations shall provide courses on issues such as the importance of education, access to education, benefiting from educational rights, first and second stage literacy courses as well as informative activities for seasonal and migrant agricultural labourers and social leaders within the body of public training centers.
- Additionally those requiring informal education shall be identified and their educational needs shall be addressed in light of the philosophy of lifelong education.
- The Managements of Public Education Centers located in the areas (priority being given to agricultural areas) where the seasonal and migrant agricultural labourers migrate shall provide families with social activities, organise vocational courses by

giving and provide intra-family and individual training-consultancy services (through teams to be formed by specialists) in order to support social development.

- The Provincial / District Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations shall give priority to provision of the material requirements of seasonal and migrant agricultural labourers and that the requirements of the children for school uniforms, stationery etc are met.

Monitoring and reporting

- School management committees shall regularly enter the student data into the section to be created on the e-school system student's general data screen in order to monitor the children of the families working as seasonal temporary agricultural labourers.
- The activities performed for the children of seasonal temporary agricultural labourers shall be reported on a semi-annual basis (June-December) and delivered to the Ministry of National Education.

For more information please contact the Turkish Ministry of Labour