



International
Labour
Organization



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR
AND SOCIAL SECURITY



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2022

This newsletter provides information about the activities from September to December 2022 covering a 4-month period of the project "An Integrated Model for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Seasonal Agriculture in Hazelnut Harvesting in Türkiye".

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CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Seasonal Evaluation Meetings in Ordu, Samsun, Düzce and Sakarya

The ILO Office for Türkiye held year-end seasonal evaluation meetings in Ordu and Samsun on 15-16 December and in Sakarya and Düzce on 21-22-23 December under the project "An Integrated Model for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Seasonal Agriculture in Hazelnut Harvesting in Türkiye".



During the visits paid to the project provinces by Senior Project Coordinator Ayşegül Özbek Kansu; along with Mr. Onur Torun, Board Chairman of the project's implementing partner Pikolo Association, Board Member Mr. Ömer Dede and regional coordinators, evaluation meetings were held in Altınordu on 15 December 2022, and Ünye and Çarsamba, Samsun on 16 December 2022.

These meetings were followed by those held in Kocaali on 21 December 2022, Hendek and Akyazı districts of Sakarya on 22 December 2022 and Yiğilca, Düzce on 23 December 2022.

Organised under the coordination of respective District Governorships, the meetings were attended by representatives from respective District Directorates of National Education, of Health, of Agriculture and Forestry, District Police Directorates,



and District Gendarmerie Commands, as well as other relevant public institutions and organizations. The purpose of the meetings was to evaluate activities to prevent child labour during the last harvest season. In each meeting, various institutions emphasised that the efforts made by all parties were important, that such meetings should also be held before the start of the next season, and that the coordination by District Governorships on the district level would be of critical importance. Furthermore, various representatives stated that future training activities, like those carried out under the project during the summer, should be coordinated by District Directorates of National Education.



► CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Preparations for the Twelfth National Development Plan

Ms. Ayşegül Özbek Kansu and Ms. Fatma Gelir Ünal, Senior Project Coordinators, attended the preparatory meeting of the Specialized Commission on Children held by the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye on 14-15 December, as part of the Twelfth Development Plan preparations. From the perspective of necessity of eliminating the worst forms of child labour in Türkiye, Ms. Kansu and Ms. Ünal contributed to the national efforts aimed at strengthening children's rights. During the meeting, Ms. Kansu and Ms. Ünal told about certain activities carried out by the ILO Office for Türkiye as part of its Child Labour Programme and emphasised the measures that should be taken in the upcoming period to combat child labour.



Supply Chain and Product-based Risk Analysis Seminar in Eskişehir

A seminar was organised on 12-13 September in Eskişehir to inform the private companies in the supply chain on their roles and responsibilities for combating child labour and to evaluate product-based risk analyses. The seminar was attended by more than 70 participants, including representatives from private sector companies operating in the agriculture sector, ILO staff, the Head of Employment Policies Department of the MoLSS and several experts academics, and representatives from the Young Life Foundation and Pikolo Association. During the first session of the seminar, experts from MoLSS introduced the National Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour. The first session continued with a presentation on the current situation of Child Labour in Agriculture delivered by Prof. Dr. Bülent Gülçubuk and another presentation on the particular situation in Eskişehir delivered by Ms. Mehtap Taşkın. During the second session of the seminar, Ms. Ayşegül Özbek Kansu and Ms. Fatma Gelir Ünal, delivered presentations on the roles and responsibilities of supply chains in hazelnut harvesting in relation to combating child labour and the international regulations defined in the fight against child labour. During the sessions on the second day, Dr. Mustafa Ünlü, Prof. Dr. Melikşah Ertem, Prof. Dr. Zeynep Şimşek and Prof. Dr. Orhan Derman shared their experiences on working conditions of young agricultural workers, work accidents, physical and psycho-social development of young workers.



► DIRECT INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES

Monitoring and Evaluation Visits

Mr. Nejat Kocabay, ILO Senior Programme Officer and Ms. Ayşegül Özbek Kansu, Senior Project Coordinator at ILO Office for Türkiye, paid monitoring visits to Şanlıurfa on 22 and 23 December. The programme team first visited Mr. Salih Ayhan, Governor of Şanlıurfa, at his office.



The team then held meetings with the Şanlıurfa field team of Pikolo Association, the ILO's local implementing partner, to get informed about the monitoring component, through which the formal school attendance of children who participated in training activities during the hazelnut harvest season was monitored.

The delegation also met with Şanlıurfa Provincial Director of Youth and Sports and exchanged views about potential activities aimed at children. In addition, the delegation met with Ms. Fatma Şeker, Head of Women and Family Service Department at Şanlıurfa Metropolitan Municipality, and Mr. Mehmet Cengiz, Foreign Relations Director at Eyyübiye Municipality, to discuss possible contributions from local governments. Other authorities who were consulted on potential collaboration were the Chairman and the Secretary-General of Şanlıurfa Union of Chambers of Tradesmen and Craftsmen, an expert of the Karacadağ Development Agency covering Şanlıurfa and Diyarbakır, and representatives from the Local Development Association.

Regular Monitoring Activities

The regular monitoring mechanism established by Pikolo Association, the ILO's implementing partner, continued to show a marked improvement in this period as well. Accordingly, the relevant staff called the families and schools of children who benefited from the project activities during the summer to follow up on their school attendance. Regarding formal education attendance, children who were at risk of leaving school or who already left were monitored through school visits, family visits, and other regular control mechanisms. In line with the activity plan prepared, the children are reached on a weekly basis at the outset, then once every ten days, and finally biweekly if they renew their enrolment.

As part of the monitoring activities, the children, whose residential addresses have changed, are regularly called via telephone to follow up on their situation in terms of school attendance. During the reporting period, the families of 2,406 children were called on a regular basis by phone, and those who requested material support or assistance with the school enrolment process were visited at their homes by field teams in Şanlıurfa. The studies revealed that, of the 1,266 children who were residing in Şanlıurfa and found to temporarily live in the receiving provinces, 734 children returned to Şanlıurfa, whereas 532 children did not return or migrated to another province.



► AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES

20 November World Children's Day celebrated in Şanlıurfa



A Painting Exhibition Opened in Şanlıurfa Museum of Archaeology

On the occasion of 20 November "World Children's Day", a week-long series of events was organised in Şanlıurfa, one of the project provinces, to draw attention to the importance of combating child labour and children's right to education.

The exhibition opened in the Art Gallery of Şanlıurfa Museum of Archaeology contained paintings drawn by the children of the seasonal agricultural workers in the scope of the educational activities of the project in the 2022 summer at various provinces. Among the attendees of the programme were Mr. Numan Özcan, Director of ILO Office for Türkiye; Mr. Nejat Kocabay, Senior Programme Officer; Ms. Ayşegül Özbek Kansu, Senior Project Coordinator, and Ms. Yeliz Yıldızhan, Şanlıurfa Deputy Governor, Mr. Hasan Maral, Head of Şanlıurfa GAP Administration, as well as many teachers and students.

In his opening speech at the programme, Mr. Özcan said: "Today, we are here on the occasion of 20 November World Children's Day. Through the projects implemented in the framework of the Child Labour Programme, we are working to prevent child labour in seasonal agriculture in 21 provinces in Türkiye."

The programme also welcomed students from Ankara Doku Schools. A group of 10 students, whose paintings that were painted during the activities of the ILO's Programme on Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media (SCREAM) were exhibited, also performed an oratorio with

a theme of children's rights and experienced the excitement of being together with their peers.

The programme continued with an inspiring speech delivered by Sinan Altun, who was one of the role models of the ILO Office for Türkiye as he once had to work as a child of a seasonal agricultural worker family, and took part in projects implemented as part of combating child labour, to tell his own story to the participating children. Following the opening of the exhibition, all children had the opportunity to take a guided tour of Şanlıurfa Museum of Archaeology. The event concluded with the distribution of various gifts to all participating children, as well as the 'Lo' book, written by Şermin Yaşar, that told the school journey of a child of an agricultural worker family. The exhibition was open for a week at Şanlıurfa Museum of Archaeology.

The City Garnished with Awareness-Raising Material

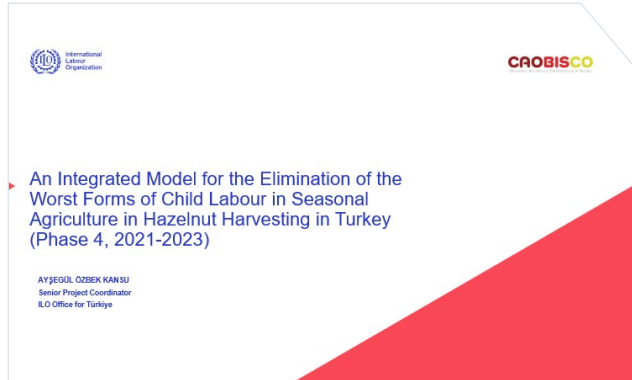


The project team designed billboards and videos for awareness-raising purposes using pictures taken as part of the ILO's Programme on Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media (SCREAM) during the 2021 harvest season. The billboards were hung at the busiest areas of the city to present to the public, whereas the videos were displayed on LED screens at squares and on intra-city public buses for a week. This activity aimed to increase public awareness in Şanlıurfa, which was regarded as the most important province in terms of seasonal agriculture in hazelnut harvesting.



Informative Presentation at the University of Health Sciences

Senior Project Coordinator attended an event on October 27 at the Ergotherapy Programme of the University of Health Sciences and delivered a presentation to introduce ILO's Child Labour Programme and the project to the students. After the presentation that was followed by approximately 100 students, a Q&A session took place, during which the students posed their questions and received answers. The presentation served to raise awareness of prospective therapists on child labour.



Informative Presentation to Students of Tarsus University

Senior Project Coordinator met with students at Tarsus University on 24 November. She informed the students at a session called "United Nations Agencies and Career Planning: ILO, Work Area, Career Opportunities and Recommendations" organised by the university administration. During her presentation, she informed the students on the projects implemented under the Child Labour Programme of the ILO Office for Türkiye, and answered the questions posed by students after the presentation.

Child Poverty Panel

Child and Child Rights Platform - Işık University

Senior Project Coordinator attended the Child Poverty Panel organised by the Platform for the Protection of Children and their Rights at Istanbul Işık University on 18 December. During the panel attended by key actors of the civil society, a report prepared by the Growth from Knowledge (GfK) initiative was introduced, whereas Ms. Kansu delivered a presentation to draw attention to the important connection between child poverty and child labour and to inform participants on ILO's programmes and projects aimed at the elimination of child labour. After her presentation, Ms. Kansu answered questions from participants and exchanged views.



MEDIA COVERAGE

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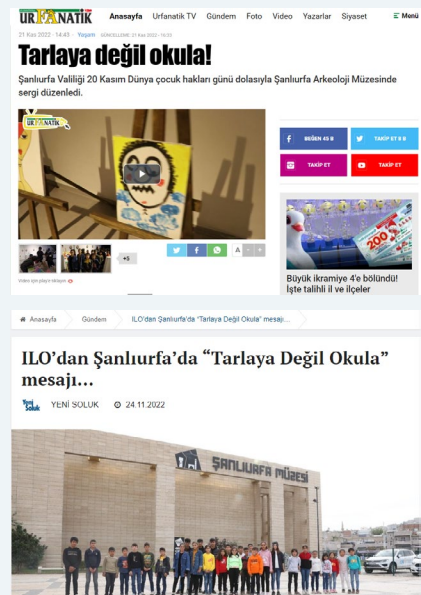
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<https://www.gaziantepsubah.com/haber/ilo-dunya-cocuk-haklari-gununde-sanliurfada-tarlaya-degil-okula-mesaji-verdi-143227.html>

<https://www.gazeteipekyol.com/haber/12581576/sanliurfada-tarlaya-degil-okula-sergisi-acildi>

<https://www.urfanatik.com/haber/12580431/tarlaya-degil-okula>

<https://www.urfadegisim.com/sanliurfada-cocuklar-tarlaya-degil-okula-kosacak/68316/>





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