

## ROLE OF COOPERATIVES IN COMBATING CHILD LABOUR IN SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL LABOUR

**Key Words:** Cooperatives and child labour, forced labour, decent work in the rural economy, labour legislation and policies, social protection

### **ABSTRACT**

Approximately ¼ of employment in Turkey is in agriculture sector.<sup>1</sup> According to TÜİK (Turkish Statistics Institute) 2014 data, there were approximately 6,5 million people employed in agriculture sector of Turkey<sup>2</sup> and almost half of them were seasonal migratory and temporary labourers. Employment in this sector fluctuates with the seasons and the seasonal increase in labour demand is met by a seasonal migratory or local labour force. It is officially estimated that 300,000 people (unofficial estimate is 1 million) leave their actual areas of residence and migrate to work as seasonal and migratory agricultural workers during certain periods of the year.<sup>3</sup> Meanwhile, TÜİK 2012 Child Labor Force Survey revealed that the number of employed children between 6 and 14 age group was 292.000 and between 15 and 17 age group was 601.000. Moreover, 44.7% (399.000 persons) of total employed children engaged in agricultural sector.<sup>4</sup> Children that work as paid workers in seasonal agricultural work and/or seasonally migrate with their families, face major and immediate risks. Many end up dropping out of school, become injured or even lose their lives in accidents and poor living circumstances, heavy working conditions and malnutrition lead to temporary or chronic health problems.

Development Workshop Cooperative which was established 11 years ago (2004) as a non-profit social enterprise, has been producing baseline surveys, gap analysis, policy papers, as well as conducting capacity development programmes, advocacy and lobbying activities to make child labour in seasonal agricultural work visible and to open for debate a set of measures and interventions to reduce adverse effects.

The panel presentation primarily reflects the multiple rights violations experienced by these children and Cooperative Enterprises' role as catalysers of change who have stronger and collective voice for advocacy and capacity to mobilise and empower local communities to provide local solutions and to stimulate solidarity for impactful interventions.

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<sup>1</sup> According to TurkStat's May 2015 Labor Force Statistics employment rate in agriculture sector is 21,3%, in industry 20%, in construction %7,2, in service sector 51,5. <http://www.tuik.gov.tr/PreHaberBultenleri.do?id=18640>

<sup>2</sup> Data on labor force in agriculture sector calculated from TÜİK website [www.tuik.gov.tr](http://www.tuik.gov.tr)

<sup>3</sup> Mevsimlik İşçi Göçü İletişim Ağı (MİGA), Mevsimlik Tarımda İşçi Göçü Türkiye Durum Özeti, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, May 2012. <http://www.mevsimliktarimiscileri.com/sayfadetay.aspx?id=11>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.turkstat.gov.tr/PreHaberBultenleri.do?id=13659>

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### SOCIAL ENTERPRISES AS ACTORS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social development goes with and beyond the economic growth. It is clear that social problems such as misdistribution of income, the persistence of poverty, environmental pollution and destruction, the spread of violence, abuse and neglect, discrimination and inequalities, may affect economic growth and cannot be left aside until economic development has taken place, because development is a never ending process and cannot be sustained in the long run while social ills are increasing.

Social development, in terms of greater participation of the population in decision-making and in the execution of development activities, that minimizes poverty and promotes equity, that advances the status of women and integrates youth in the development process and that insures in general a more humane social environment, itself plays a major positive role in the long-run intensity and sustainability of economic development.

For a fair, inclusive and sustainable development, challenges and obstacles request actors of change equipped with know-how, skills and courage to initiate and innovate actions.

Social enterprises or businesses aiming to provide social benefits through a right-based approach are acting with a sense of this social responsibility. As Professor Muhammed Yunus, the ambassador of the concept of social enterprise and 2006 Nobel Prize winner, said; social business model helps us to be both process and result-oriented and ultimately, it reinforces sustainability. Instead of giving a man a fish and feeding him for one day, third sector organizations using this reinforcement strategy and working for public welfare encourage life-long learning through participative and practice-based initiatives, entrepreneurship and management which make social responsibility not an institutional obligation but an aim.

For instance, United Kingdom has very good examples of social enterprises and cooperatives, whereas Italy's social cooperatives and social business model are quite famous. Meanwhile, countries in the Western Europe such as Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Albania are slowly adapting the method and South African nations are experiencing a boom of such business model to support developmental issues. Rather than being a civil society organisation that rely on funds and/or donations, social enterprises prefer to generate their own capital by providing services or selling products. Thus, social enterprise carefully monitors the market and generate income to facilitate search for social good.

11 years ago (2004) founders of Development Workshop (DW hereafter) have decided to be structured as a cooperative because of its distinctive features; independent and flexible organisational structure (horizontal), democratic participation mechanism (1 vote for each), common interest, consensus and solidarity, sharing and joint production, being dynamic, easily adaptable to conditions. Innovation and entrepreneurship were also significant elements that provide local remedies as well as stimulating innovative solutions or adapting global models for change. Meanwhile, it also became obvious to them that cooperatives may

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play quite an important and even life-changing role in fighting the challenges of social justice, and in recommending and implementing sustainable solutions with their distinctive features and networking capacity. Therefore, solidarity and dialogue between stakeholders, volunteers and friends of the cooperative plays crucial role for learning from good practices, risk reduction by applying tested methods, participative policy making and decision taking by including local expertise and real life experiences.

Since there is not yet a law on social enterprises in Turkey, cooperative model is the most suitable institutional structure to act on behalf. Accordingly, DW's programme structure includes a "research pillar" through which consultancy services may be provided to various sectors. These services can be in the form of data collection, validation and reporting of a social impact assessment of a development investment or field research for a strategy improvement. DW provides its expertise to conduct the assignment and deliver the outputs with good quality and timely. That way certain level of income is generated for temporary employed shareholders/volunteers/friends and also surplus is either used as seed-funding for project ideas and advocacy activities or set aside to be used for future expenses. However, it is never shared among stakeholders, since it is the ultimate principle.

As a civil society organisation working in the field of social development, DW first defines the problematic reality/unjust equilibrium together with policy, strategy, further in-depth analysis, areas of cooperation recommendations, strategy and action plans. Thus, DW's combat against child labour in agricultural work, decent working and living conditions for seasonal workers, gender equality in every segments of society or quality educational for all always needs mainstreaming know-how and sharing good practices.

Secondly, DW conducts capacity and partnership building activities in participation by local actors (civil society organisations-CSOs, public agencies, decision-makers, leaders, affected groups etc.) which empower youth, women, producers, community members and leaders, disadvantaged groups to participate in decision making process, to learn their rights and related procedures, to initiate their own solutions. These kind of work has multiplier effect; starting from few which will then influence its vicinity, so will end up with critical mass.

Rather than putting these methods in separate boxes, DW use a hybrid model; using them simultaneously or consecutively. Thus, advocacy for desired outcomes are supported by scientific proofs, coordination between related actors, tested by beneficiaries, embraced by stakeholders. In all methods, DW works inclusively; persons from all segments of society and from all business sectors. Therefore, collaboration with and targeting all increases the possibility of societal change.

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### CHILD LABOUR IN SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN TURKEY

#### SOME FACTS: LEGISLATION AND POLICY

*"We wait impatiently for the day in which everyone in Turkey asks whether child labour was involved in the production and sale of all things we eat, drink and wear."<sup>5</sup>*

*"... a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier."<sup>6</sup>*

*"... a child means any person under the age of 18 regardless majority is attained earlier."<sup>7</sup>*

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC hereafter) entitles the child the right to be protected from economic exploitation and from employment that may adversely affect child's education, health, physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.<sup>8</sup>

Another globally accepted set of norms, European Social Charter adopted in 1961 and revised in 1996<sup>9</sup>, defines basic rights as follows: housing, health, education, labour rights, full employment, reduction of working hours equal pay for equal work, parental leave, social security, social and legal protection from poverty and social exclusion, free movement of persons and non-discrimination, also the rights of migrant workers and that of the persons with disabilities. Precisely, as stated in Article 7, signatory states are obliged to ensure that the minimum age of admission to employment shall be 15 years, subject to exceptions for children employed in prescribed light work without harm to their health, morals or education; the minimum age of admission to employment shall be 18 years with respect to prescribed occupations regarded as dangerous or unhealthy; persons who are still subject to compulsory education shall not be employed in such work as would deprive them of the full benefit of their education; the working hours of persons under 18 years of age shall be limited in accordance with the needs of their development, and particularly with their need for vocational training; recognise the right of young workers and apprentices to a fair wage or other appropriate allowances; the time spent by young persons in vocational training during the normal working hours with the consent of the employer shall be treated as forming part

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<sup>5</sup> Taken from "Letter from A Seasonal Agricultural Worker Child" as a part of the package; "Development Workshop Intervention Program for Children (6-14 Age Group) Affected by Seasonal Agricultural Migration" comprising the policy paper, research report and action plans prepared by the Development Workshop in 2011-2012

<sup>6</sup> Article 1 of "Convention on the Rights of the Child-CRC" adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989 entry into force 2 September 1990

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>

Turkey signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 14 September 1990 and ratified it on 9 December 1994. The Convention entered into force as Law no.4058 upon publication in the Official Gazette on 27 January 1995.

<sup>7</sup> Child Protection Law entered into force as Law no.5395 upon publication in the Official Gazette on 15 July 2005.

<http://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/MevzuatMetin/1.5.5395.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> CRC Article 32

<sup>9</sup> Turkey signed the Charter on 1961 and ratified on 1989 with reservations. Revised version (no.163) of 1996 was entered into force as Law no. 11907 on 2007.

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of the working day; employed persons of under 18 years of age shall be entitled to a minimum of four weeks annual holiday with pay; persons under 18 years of age shall not be employed in night work with the exception of certain occupations provided for by national laws or regulations; persons under 18 years of age employed in occupations prescribed by national laws or regulations shall be subject to regular medical control; special protection against physical and moral dangers to which children and young persons are exposed, and particularly against those resulting directly or indirectly from their work.<sup>10</sup>

Though definition of a child is definite; below 18 years of age, and well-being of children includes protection from adverse impact of employment and economic exploitation, not all work done by children constitutes child labour. Young workers who are defined as above 15 years old but younger than 18 years old, can be engaged in appropriate work as defined by International Labour Organisation (ILO hereafter) Minimum Age for Admission to Employment Convention No.138<sup>11</sup> and complementary Convention No.146<sup>12</sup>. This work ranges from light work combined with education to apprenticeships and other transitional programs by which children move from education into full time work. Globally, 168 million children were engaged in child labour in 2012, according to the ILO. More than half of them, 85 million, are in hazardous work. Child labour exists in many supply chains, especially in agriculture, services and industry, and is often concentrated in the informal economy that is outside the remit of labour market institutions.<sup>13</sup> Agriculture remains by far the most important sector where child labourers can be found (98 million, or 59%).<sup>14</sup>

On the other hand, according to ILO Convention No.182<sup>15</sup> concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, worst forms of child labour include the following: a) All types of slavery, including the sale and trafficking of children; forced labour to pay off a debt; any other type of forced labour, including using children in war and armed conflict, b) All activities which sexually exploit children, such as prostitution, pornography or pornographic performances, c) Any involvement in illegal activities, especially the production or trafficking of drugs; d) Any work which could by its nature damage the health, safety or well-being of children. On the basis of the Convention and statement in (d) above, the Turkish Republic's Ministry of Labour and Social Security included the following as the worst forms of child labour in Turkey: (1) working on streets, (2)

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.coe.int/T/DGHL/Monitoring/SocialCharter/Presentation/ESCRBooklet/English.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C138](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C138) Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by 58th ILC Session of 26 June 1973 entry into force 19 June 1976. Turkey ratified it on 23 January 1998. The Convention entered into force on 27 January 1998.

<sup>12</sup> [http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:R146](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_ILO_CODE:R146)

<sup>13</sup> "How business affects children in global supply chains - in pictures", The Guardian – Partner Zone UNICEF

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/child-labour/lang-en/index.htm>

<sup>15</sup> [http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100\\_ILO\\_CODE:C182](http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO:12100:P12100_ILO_CODE:C182)

Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by 87th ILC Session of 17 June 1999 entry into force 19 November 2000. Turkey ratified the convention on 25 January 2001.

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working in heavy and hazardous works in small and medium size enterprises (3) apart from family work, working for wage in temporary agricultural works as migrant workers.

Meanwhile, national legislation in Turkey also requires protection of children from hazardous effects of “early” employment. Turkish Republic’s Constitution Article 41 defines state’s duty to take necessary preventive measures to protect children, Article 42 states the right to education for all and prohibition of exclusion, Article 56 refers to right to healthy and balanced living environment for all and benefiting from health and social services, Article 60 pictures the right to social security for all, and specifically Article 50 announces the prohibition of children working in works not appropriate for his/her age or strength and the right to be protected specifically with regards to working conditions. However, again the term “young labourer” comes to scene, so definition of children and child labour clashes again. For instance, it is prohibited under Articles 71 and 85 of the Turkish Labour Law No. 4857<sup>16</sup> to employ children under the age of 15. In the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS) Regulation on Principles and Procedures in the Employment of Child and Young Workers<sup>17</sup>, a child labourer is a person over age 14, but yet not completed the age of 15 who has completed primary education and young labourer is a working person over age 15, but yet under the age of 18.

Turkey is among the first members of IPEC countries that implemented more than 100 action plans with its national partners. IPEC developed successful intervention models and put serious efforts to implement them with partners including UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA. Moreover, support was given to create collaboration mechanisms such as local action committee and national consultation groups. ILO Convention 182, the Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, was undersigned by Turkey that is committed to eradicating this form of labour by the year 2015.<sup>18</sup>

In short, globally and nationally there exists legal framework prohibiting child labour and its harmful effects on children’s lives and rights. Though, there is no specific law or legal regulation for seasonal agricultural work in Turkish legal system, the Prime Ministry of Turkey issued a circular on March 2010 called “Mevsimlik Gezici Tarım İşçilerinin Çalışma ve Sosyal Hayatlarının İyileştirilmesi Genelgesi<sup>19</sup> – Enhancing the Working and Living Conditions of Seasonal Migratory Agricultural Workers” that allocated budget as well to 3 years long METİP-Mevsimlik Tarım İşçileri Projesi (the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Project) of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security. In line with this circular relevant ministries such as Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Family and Social

<sup>16</sup> <http://turkishlaborlaw.com/turkish-labor-law-no-4857/19-4857-labor-law-english-by-article>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.csgb.gov.tr/csgbPortal/cgm.portal?page=cc&id=3>

<sup>18</sup> Ministry of Labour and Social Security, General Directorate of Labour, Department of Child Labour (2008). Time-Bound Policies and Program Framework for Child Labour (Çocuk İşçiliğinin Önlenmesi için Zamana Bağlı Politika ve Program Çerçevesi), Ankara, p. 28.

<sup>19</sup> 2010/6 (27531)

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Policies, Ministry of Health issued instructions to ease the process and improving access to public services and fundamental rights. Nevertheless, the law and practice does not usually match and all these efforts remain on paper. In 2014, a Parliamentary Investigation Commission was established and after field visits, review of reports and consultation meetings with all relevant stakeholders whom DW was one of them, Commission members prepared a recommendation report. However, as it was shared right before the Turkish General Elections and then new government could not be formed, it did not enter to the agenda of MPs and so we do not yet see any changes with regards to the laws required to improve the living and working conditions of seasonal agricultural workers and change the lives of the children.

### **SOME FACTS: NUMBERS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES<sup>20</sup>**

Turkey's vast geography with favourable conditions of 4 seasons provides various range of agricultural products to be cultivated. From east to west, north to south, and even in the midlands, vegetative production sector consists a big portion of economic activity. Though harvesting with machinery rapidly replaces the need for man power, still many products and fields/gardens request manual-labour-intensive activity. Hazelnut, apricot, tea leaves, sugar beet are some of these valuable goods. For most of these products, the time of the harvest is determined according to the temperature and rainfall, and it takes a period of time (30-40 days for hazelnut, up to 2 months for sugar beet, 45-50 days for apricot, 50 days for cotton, 3 times 7-10 days for tea).<sup>21</sup>

In the agriculture sector vegetative cultivation, 4 typology of seasonal, temporary workers come to scene;

- \* Family members; working on their plantation or assisting their relatives/neighbours/friends harvesting their fields/gardens nearby,
- \* Local seasonal, temporary workers; working in the fields/gardens nearby or within same province/district/village for a daily fee,
- \* Seasonal, migratory, temporary workers; migrate to another province/region for agricultural work with their families/relatives/friends or other workers,<sup>22</sup>
- \* Nomads; nomadic people/families/groups migrate constantly between provinces/regions

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<sup>20</sup> Apart from official sources like TÜİK, MoLSS and ILO Turkey, most of the facts and figures taken from KA Dergi (KA Journal) 1st Edition published in January 2015, which is a compilation and summary of findings of Development Workshop Cooperative's baseline studies, field researches and desktop studies listed at the end of this article as resources.

<sup>21</sup> Development Workshop Cooperative, 2013, Monitoring Seasonal Migratory Agricultural Labour Current Situation Map.

<sup>22</sup> Zeynep Şimşek, 2012, Resarch on Identification of Needs of Seasonal Agricultural Workers and their Families (Mevsimlik Tarım İşçilerinin ve Ailelerinin İhtiyaçlarının Belirlenmesi Araştırması), Harran University-UNFPA Turkey.

Oğuz Karadeniz, 2013, Social-Economic Status and Social Security of Seasonal Agricultural Workers (Mevsimlik Tarım İşçilerinin Sosyo-Ekonomik Durumları ve Sosyal Güvenliği).

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Majority of seasonal migrant workers find employment for specific months or seasons through individuals, who act as intermediaries to match agricultural temporary labour supply with demand. Firstly, intermediaries meet with employers (the field or garden owners) to identify labour needs, discuss the wage rates and collect advance payments. Then, they contact with workers, set their route and arrange the journey to their destinations. Throughout the employment period, they are also responsible for supervising the labourers.

Once the seasonal work finishes, migrant workers return back to their towns and mostly engage in low-skilled urban jobs or become unemployed for the rest of the year. Thus, they can never be considered as fully employed and having a regular income.

As this is also a migration phenomenon, adults/parents take their children and even elderly relatives living in their household with them when migrating to another province for a period of time. Moreover, since majority of them are people living under poverty line, without enough education and so who are unskilled workers, with crowded families, they cannot afford to leave their kids behind, and worst of all, needed their children's labour as another source of household income or do the domestic chores or take care of new-borns or toddlers while rest of the family members working on the field. As a result, this creates thousands of child workers, late enrolled or drop-out students, and children doing housework or taking care of babies or elders.

The findings of Development Workshop which has been observing, collecting and analysing data regarding the working and living as well as migration conditions of seasonal agricultural workers, show the worrying truth on how even basic human rights of these people are violated and unfulfilled;

- \* **Unsafe journey;** preparation for the migration to another province/region starts with dropping of the school for children, buying or mending tents and equipment for man, packing cloths, bedding, food (mostly dry food like rice, flour, sugar, tea, oil, lentils that do not go bad rapidly) for woman. Then, comes the long journey in an overcrowded vehicle (truck, bus, minibus) carrying big, heavy bags and sometimes standing on their feet. Often they are killed or injured in traffic accidents on the way, and so their journey finishes before it begins.
- \* **Crowded households;** all members of the family and sometimes even of another family are living in the same place. This place is mostly one room tent, or rarely a roof, house. The average number of persons living in one room is 8 persons. Children and adults are sleeping at the same space, which increases sexual abuse risk to a very high level.
- \* **Tents as shelters;** Only few (only %2 or less) stay in houses or rooftops, majority living in nylon, reed, canvas or tarpaulin tents with no infrastructure facilities nearby such as water, electricity, waste water and sanitary facilities. More than half of the children can only bathe once a week. Poor, primitive, and even hazardous living conditions make it easy to catch simply preventive diseases, suffer from malnutrition, insufficient sleep/rest,

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be affected from weather conditions (such as sunstroke, heavy rain, storm, stroke of lightning), be sting by scorpion, poisonous bugs, beaten by snake or rats, and even be injured by falling into water canals, river nearby or into a pit. Also this makes them vulnerable to various forms of crime; kidnapping, trafficking and abusing children, sexually assaulting women, robbing valuable goods or even equipment.

- \* **No education, health, social security;** fundamental public services do not reach to this isolated and temporary areas. Though, most of the primary school age children are enrolled to schools in their provinces, half of them are lately enrolled (at age of 8-9 instead of 6) and/or have non-attendance of over 20 days. In line with the harvesting period, they leave their provinces behind, so their schools at the end of March (schools close on mid-June in Turkey) and return back on late-November (schools open on mid-September), which means attending only 6 months of 9 full months education period. They face social adaptation and inclusion problems and learning difficulties because of poor living conditions, language barriers and cultural differences. Pre-school enrolment is very low, since families cannot effort the fees and do not have transportation means. Thus, most of the time, toddlers and babies are taken to the field by their mothers who work or are attended by their older siblings or elder relatives in the living area, while the adults are away. Meanwhile, drop out youth became unskilled labourers and this creates generations' long seasonal agricultural work passing from father to son.

Health is the other untouched area; only ¼ of children have their vaccinations regularly, pregnant woman do not go to health centres for check-ups or receive supplements during pregnancy period, children suffer from developmental disorders and/or growth deficiencies due to single product diets (no hot food, vegetables or fruits or animal products) and no regular check-ups to be diagnosed and treated, using the medications they bring with them or going to a pharmacy to purchase is the commonly used method of treatment. Since most of them work without contracts, unregistered and irregular, they are not included to the social security system that comprises health insurance and pension rights. They are obliged to cover their own health expenses, and because of that they prefer not to go to doctor when they are sick.

- \* **Not a decent work;** workers' knowledge on the lump-sum wage or daily fee is quite limited and vague. Mostly they do not know who the decision-maker is and when it is decided. Intermediaries and garden owners/employers have the information but since there is no signed contract that states the fee range, workers think that public authorities declare the fees. Intermediaries pay the fees and try to solve any kind of dispute in that regards. Children on the other hand work to support their families. Though intermediaries or employers do not want to employ them, families forced, and even begged them to allow, since they rely on such additional wage. Since the working conditions are harsh and not appropriate for children, they are vulnerable to work accidents and their physical growth and cognitive development is affected adversely.

Working typically lasts more than 10 hours with few (3 times in a day including lunch), very short breaks (1 hour for lunch 15 minutes for other breaks). Workers wake up in the

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middle of the night (around 5 a.m.) to get ready and/or travel to the field/garden, and return to their settlements in the evening (around 8 p.m.). Babies or toddlers who are taken to the field with their mothers and children who work as well, shall fit to this schedule. During a harvesting period, families mostly do not take a leave of absence or use vacation time. They continue to work without stops.

Safety and health at work is another ignored element. Standards and rules are not implemented properly and also mostly inadequate. Moreover, inspections and/or monitoring is weak. Trainings on prevention for work accidents or on emergency aid are not being given to workers and even field/garden owners. In most of the fields or gardens there are no emergency kits, protective tools, equipment and cloths. Adults and children work for long hours under sun and sometimes rain. They conduct the harvest with their own daily clothing and when they sweat, they continue without changing their sweaty clothing for the rest of the day, which makes it easy to catch cold and get sick. For instance, majority of children working in hazelnut harvesting of children were frequently having colds, had a high frequency of headaches, experienced dizziness and have back pain.

### **A COOPERATIVE IN THE WORLD OF SOCIAL POLICY**

Story of the Development Workshop starts with a study on child labour in cotton harvesting. Back in 2002, two years before the birth of the cooperative, a group of enthusiastic young people meet up with development experts, who were about to start a field research as a part of International Labour Organisation (ILO)'s project on worst forms of child labour. That was "Baseline Research concerning Child Labour in Cotton Harvesting in the Adana District of Karataş". An action plan was developed in 2004 based on this research. Shocked by the disturbing reality, they could not leave it behind, but rather wanted to be a part of the solution. As a result, Development Workshop Cooperative was founded and started its journey of conducting research, preparatory activities and developing action plans concerned with child labour, especially in the area of seasonal and migratory agricultural labour. Though, combat against child labour and advocating for decent working and living conditions for seasonal agricultural labourers and their families including children has not been the sole program area of Development Workshop, it has been always considered as the "locomotive" programme, which has always been the top priority area considering other themes of social development such rural development with social innovations, education for all, gender empowerment, aging etc.

Following the 2004 action plan, the "Study of the Living Conditions of 0-6 Aged Children of the Seasonal Agricultural Labour Force of families participating in seasonal agricultural labour migration and their life conditions" was completed between 2009-2011. Following, "the Interventions Program for Children (6-14 age group) Affected by Seasonal Agricultural Migration" was a social development and human rights project supported under the Human Rights Programme of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Turkey. Within the scope of this Project implemented between 2011 and 2012, the main outputs included (a) fundamental

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field study; (b) model action plans for product-based interventions; (c) a policy paper for central level state institutions, the private sector and non-governmental organisations and (d) visual materials which display child labour in seasonal and migratory vegetative production for the purpose of awareness and advocacy; all of which present the working and education connection in relation with the product range (hazelnut, sugar beet, cotton and undercover vegetables) among children (6-14 age group) who are of the compulsory education age and are participating in the vegetative production sector as part of the seasonal and migratory labour force. In 2013, DW participated in ILO Turkey's "Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Seasonal Commercial Agriculture in Hazelnut Harvesting in Ordu" Project as association partner. In that regards, a needs assessment was done and accordingly a training programme and essential materials were designed. Again in 2013, the "Baseline Research of Seasonal Migratory Labourers and Children in Western Blacksea Provinces for the Harvest of Hazelnuts" was conducted with financial support of Ferrero. The report was published and widely disseminated in mid-2014 under the title "Actors of Hazelnut Harvest – Fındık Hasadının Oyuncuları", which provided in depth analysis and evidences that supports DW's fundamental approach; an integrated advocacy method within the scope of products and geography.

Now, DW implements two projects under the Human Rights Programme of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Turkey;

- \* "International Seasonal Agricultural Migration in Turkey" Project launched in June 2015, aims to render the deprivation and discrimination immigrant seasonal agricultural labourers face every day visible in order to build a sustainable, participatory, democratic and transparent social development that respects and protects human rights of all habitants of Turkey. It also targets to stimulate action with evidence-based advocacy and result-oriented policy tools to prevent violation of immigrants' basic human rights and improve their living and working conditions. The project will end in June 2016.
- \* "Action-based collaborative approach to investigating child labour issues in the upstream cotton supply chain in Turkey" Project commenced in October 2015 in partnership with Fair Labor Association (FLA), is a part of the action plan for improving sustainability in the Dutch textile and clothing sector. With this project, it is aimed to build a systematic approach to supply chain mapping with cotton supply chain actors who can then continue to use the mapping tools independently and implement an action plan that will be jointly developed with local stakeholders.

As a cooperative operating as a social enterprise and acting as a civil society organisation, DW's combat against child labour in seasonal agricultural work will not decelerate but rather intensify. Guided by the cooperative principles; participative process for transformative solutions for the good of all, and using mixed methods to advocate for this cause, DW believes and observes that cooperatives are practical tools to bring the issue to the attention of decision and policy makers while informing and raising awareness of communities and public in wider arena. Moreover, with their solidarity base and locally initiated solutions, cooperatives may generate more sustainable and feasible answers.