

BACKGROUND

Turkey's place in the international migration system has begun to dramatically change in the early 1990's, from a migrant sending to a migrants receiving country. Within its geographical region Turkey emerged as a popular destination for labour migration, as its large informal sector offers different opportunities for irregular migrants¹ to stay for a while than travel further to other countries or return to their home countries. Agriculture is one of the leading sectors employing migrant workers. Migrant workers are primarily involved in mowing grass and livestock breeding in the eastern cities of Turkey such as Kars, Ardahan, and Iğdir, meanwhile in the Black sea, Eastern and South Eastern Anatolia, Aegean and Central Anatolia regions, migrants work in grazing animals, harvesting vegetative products like hazel nut, tea, cotton, apricot, sugar beet, citrus fruits, grapes and vegetables as seasonal agricultural workers. The pool of irregular immigrants working in seasonal agricultural work in Turkey also increased due to the outgrowing number of Syrian refugees fleeing from the Syrian civil war.

The problematic areas;

- a. There is paucity of scientific data collection, analysis, reports and in-depth studies of the situation of irregular immigrants working in agriculture sector.
- b. There is no comprehensive study on the violation of rights regarding living and working conditions of irregular immigrant labourers involved in seasonal agricultural work.
- c. There is no mapping exercise that identifies in which are as immigrant labourers work.
- d. There is neither any study that addresses educational, health, employment, living conditions etc. of the displaced/refugee or immigrant children involved in seasonal agricultural work which is one of the worst forms of child labour, nor is there a framework policy on the violation and enforcement of children's rights.
- e. It has been observed that immigrant families' living and working conditions are worse than Turkish workers involved in the seasonal agricultural production and they also live below the poverty line. This situation can be presented as an example of the "rivalry of the poorest". However, it is not known how the competition between Turkish and 'foreign' workers affect the production processes, social life and relationships within and between communities.

INTERNATIONAL SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL MIGRATION IN TURKEY

June 2015-May 2016

Haziran 2015-Mayıs 2016



SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL
MIGRATION PROGRAM



MAIN GOALS and OUTPUTS

The project 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.

PROJECT RESULTS, OUTCOMES and ACTIVITIES

Result 1 Publish the Lessons-Learned Paper on interventions and practices that are already in effect or started to implement by national and international bodies, the situation analysis and mapping of the living and working conditions of irregular immigrants working in Turkey's agricultural production.

Field study: In-depth and focus group interviews in at least five provinces (1. Ordu-Giresun, 2. Trabzon-Rize, 3. Ardahan-Kars, 4. Adana-Mersin-Gaziantep-Şanlıurfa, 5. Malatya-Ankara) spanning different geographies and product groups (hazelnut, tea, grass, vegetable, cotton, apricot, citrus harvesting) with provincial representatives of central government institutions, academics, civil society and provincial representatives of professionals organisations, international organisations, and garden/field owners and agricultural intermediaries, immigrant seasonal agricultural workers.

Result 2 Prepare the policy paper with participatory methods and advocate to make the subject publicly more visible.

Validation meeting: Conducting a one-day meeting in Ankara to present the findings and draft policy paper with the participation of two national and two international key-note speakers and at least 50 participants that have roles and responsibilities related to the field. This stage will involve the dissemination of press release and announcement of the field study.

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- 1 The majority of immigrant workers in Turkish labour market work without a work permit and has irregular status. Irregular migrants working in the Turkish labour market comes from two sources. One is those migrant workers who enter into Turkey through using legal channels such as upholding touristic visas but do not hold work permit. The second is the immigrants like Syrians who are granted with a temporary asylum status, but do not have legal permits to work. Therefore, the term "irregular foreign immigrant worker/irregular immigrant worker/migrant worker" is used to define all foreign nationals involved in seasonal agricultural work without legal permit.

Development Workshop

Science Culture Training Research Implementation Production and Enterprise Cooperative

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