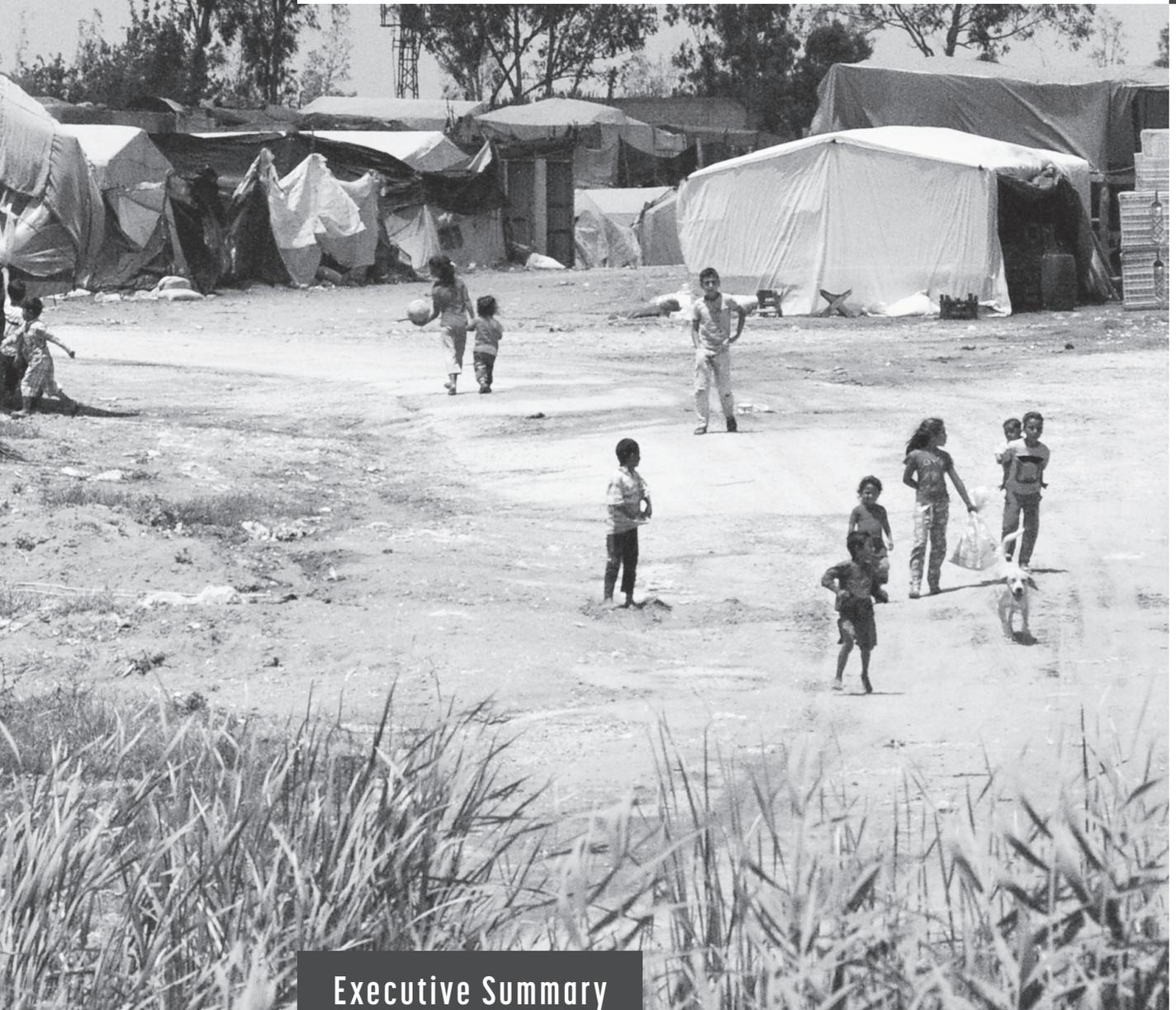


Project on Improving the Protection and Health Conditions of Syrians and Migrants in the South of Turkey



Executive Summary

Living at the Bottom

Dom Migrants from Syria On the Road amid Poverty and Discrimination Present Situation Analysis Report

Project Consultants

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Fertile Lands - Bitter Lives

Present Situation Analysis Report on Syrian Seasonal Migratory Agricultural Workers on the Adana Plain

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As of 2016, the civil war in Syria is five years old, and the number of Syrians taking refuge in Turkey has approached three million, according to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the statements of the Government of Turkey (UNHCR 2016).¹ Approximately 260,000 of these people are residing in the 26 temporary accommodation centres (camps) that have been set up in 10 provinces. The remaining 2,484,000 are scattered across Turkey's 81 provinces. The provinces hosting the most Syrians are Şanlıurfa, İstanbul, Hatay, Gaziantep and Adana, in that order.² Migrants from Syria are working intensively as agricultural labourers in the eastern and southern parts of Turkey, and are also employed outside agriculture in manufacturing, construction and service sectors. The entry of Syrians into the pool of migratory agricultural labour has led to competition among the poor, and an increase in discrimination and human rights infringements.³ Another vulnerable group who have taken refuge in Turkey and are engaged in seasonal agricultural labour are the Syrian Doms who, besides the difficulties generally encountered by migrants from Syria, are excluded and discriminated against by officials, the local population and other Syrian migrants on account of their ethnic origin and way of life, and who hardly benefit at all from humanitarian assistance.

Improving the living and working conditions of these fragile populations requires not only sustainable support but also policy changes and efforts to raise awareness through the dissemination of information and through advocacy work. To succeed in this, a present situation analysis needs to be undertaken that maps and profiles the migrant seasonal agricultural workers in Turkey and the Syrian Dom population and identifies their basic needs. On this basis, evidence-based advocacy needs to be conducted, and the basic needs of these populations have to be met. In particular, awareness has to be increased about existing mechanisms and services that protect their basic rights. Finally, programmes have to be organised to meet the specific needs of these groups and to ensure their harmonisation with society.

Between May and November 2016, as part of the **Improving the Protection and Health Conditions of Syrians and Migrants in the South of Turkey** project, the Development Workshop, with the financial support of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection-ECHO and the EU Humanitarian Assistance Fund, and in cooperation with the international non-government organisation GOAL, aimed to reduce the protection risks faced by vulnerable groups of migrants through an integrated approach incorporating research, advocacy and humanitarian assistance.

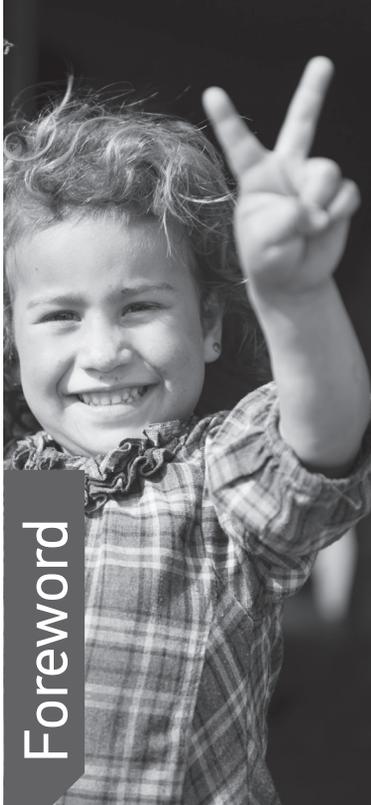
Syrian migrants who have settled in Turkey as a result of migration due to humanitarian reasons – forced migration – have joined agricultural production as a survival strategy and this has resulted in wages exhibiting a falling trend in areas where they have joined agricultural production. The report **Living at the Bottom: Dom Migrants from Syria on the Road amid Poverty and Discrimination – Present Situation Analysis Report** which includes a field study and observations on Doms from Syria who face the strongest discrimination and rights violations daily will be used as the most important means of evidence based advocacy and will make the meek voice of those living at the bottom heard. **The Fertile Lands, Lives Like Poison: Present Situation Report on Syrian Seasonal Migratory Agricultural Workers on the Adana Plain** depicts the present working and living conditions of Syrian agricultural workers in Adana Plain and offers in depth information about the situation of child labour and women among this particular group of migrants.

This executive summary contains brief information about the present situation and basic deprivations of the migrant groups presented in detail in the two reports. The reports should be consulted for brief histories, definitions and detailed information on the legislation and profile of migrant groups. Proposed solutions have been given in the policy paper.

¹ <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=224>

² <http://english.enabbaladi.net/archives/2016/04/ankara-calculates-distribution-syrian-refugees-throughout-turkish-provinces/>

³ From the Present Situation Analysis Report on Foreign Workers in Seasonal Agricultural Production in Turkey (May, 2016) report of the Development Workshop.



Present Situation of Dom Migrants from Syria

- ▶ **Damage to Communal Life:** The Dom society in the Middle East consists of sub-tribes and these groups of between 5 and 15 families lead a communal life. Although they may appear to live in independent tents or houses, the traditions of solidarity, co-existence and sharing are still prevalent. This communal lifestyle protects an introverted community from external threats. In times of turmoil, such as during war or conflict, families and individuals who lack individual survival skills find themselves in a strange world. The division of groups opens wounds in the fabric of society and individuals who are forced to become a part of a system that is foreign to them in order to meet even basic needs such as employment, shelter and food have to face the associated risks and threats alone.
- ▶ **Camps: Places of Discrimination:** The Dom constantly emphasise that they cannot live in and do not want to live in temporary accommodation centres. Camps are uninhabitable for these communities due to ethnic, religious and political divisions, the restrictions they impose on the independence of communities which have historically been semi-nomadic, the tough controls at entry and exit, the isolation and the feeling of claustrophobia for a community that has always lived close to nature. Therefore the Dom tend to live in tent settlements they have set up themselves, in makeshift tents, or abandoned and ruined buildings. As they lack the means to rent accommodation, barely surviving through daily labour, the Dom often change location. As they face greater pressures in small towns, they prefer to migrate to large cities such as Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir, and to become inconspicuous in the crowd.
- ▶ **Registration and Non-Registration:** Dom communities have crossed the border into Turkey in two ways. The first is via border crossings. While initially records were not kept at the crossings, later records began to be kept. A Foreigner Identification Document, known as the “blue card”, was issued to the refugees enabling them to freely make use of hospital services until such time as they were given temporary migrant status. The scope of this document was later widened for the registration of Syrian migrants. The document is now known as the Temporary Protection Identification Document. All dealings with public organisations now require this document. In this way, approximately three million migrants who crossed the border without records have been registered. The second way in which Syrians have entered Turkey is via mined territory. Dom communities, Kurds without identification and those fleeing during attacks have generally had to enter Turkey via minefields. The reason why they have preferred this over entry through border crossings is that Dom communities want to have as little contact as possible with the state. They have many bitter experiences in their collective memory. Those who have crossed the border over mined land generally do not register unless they want to seek social assistance and healthcare services, and do not apply for documentation.

During the field study, it was observed that most Dom groups had Temporary Protection Identification Documents. The greatest handicap for these groups is the fact that the documents are only valid for use in the province in which they were issued. The Dom lead a migratory lifestyle and move around a lot. Under the circumstances, should they move to another province, they cannot benefit from services other than first-tier healthcare. This presents a special risk for women and babies. During vaccination periods, children need to remain in the province where they were registered. For women, pregnancies cannot be monitored and check-ups performed.

The Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM), which is responsible for the registration of Syrian migrants in Turkey, is unable to reach out to Dom communities, or cannot undertake their registration for various reasons: because they are a migratory people, for example, the muhtar (village foremen) may not give them the necessary documents, or they may regularly move from one province to another. Moreover, the institutions and persons responsible for registration tend to be reluctant to register them because of their prejudices. Members of the community have

stated that they tend to avoid the authorities because of unpermitted crossings over the border, lack of information or misinformation about the documentation process and the prejudiced approach of officials towards them.

► **Lack of Decent Shelter:** Dom families generally prefer to inhabit those neighbourhoods where Dom communities in Turkey are already settled, in empty houses, stores or cabins, in ruined and preferably abandoned buildings. If the space is owned, the owners generally ask for a monthly rent of TRY250-400. Yet these homes do not generally have separate toilets or kitchens and seldom have more than one room. As they cannot pay the bills, their power and water is cut off. These needs are sometimes met by willing neighbours. Water is sometimes procured from nearby parks or mosques. Very few of the families taking part in the field study said that they had been able to meet their heating needs last winter through the coal and fuel aid provided by municipalities. They generally make use of fuel derived from refuse or given to them by their neighbours. In the spaces which are used as the kitchen in these dwellings, there are generally one pot and a few spoons and plates; h gas stoves and other necessary kitchen appliances are almost non-existent. Those that do have these items were either given them by their neighbours or found discarded ones.

Dom families are generally very large. Though the siblings may be married, they are all part of the same household. Married couples stay with elderly parents and single siblings. Many migrants outside the camps live in unhealthy tents. The tents which the Dom migrants inhabit are in disrepair, are very inadequate in terms of hygiene and health, and have no toilets or baths. It has been observed that between five and ten people inhabit one tent. The hygiene conditions and unmet healthcare needs of those living in tents present a great risk of contagious disease. In the winter, the migrants' needs for warm clothes, blankets and heaters go unmet. The faces of the young children, who constantly live in the open, are covered in scars.

► **Poor Health and Hygiene Conditions:** During the interviews, mention was often made of problems with disabilities and respiration, cases of leishmaniasis were observed and the risk of contagious disease was seen to be high. The communities were also observed not to be able to take advantage of many healthcare services due to lack of information. In some cases, healthcare services do not reach these communities at all. In many tent settlements there were Dom who were unregistered, who did not have a Temporary Protection Identification Document and who therefore could not access healthcare services. There was also a high proportion of persons who did not have access to healthcare because they were living in a province other than the one in which their Temporary Protection Identification Document was issued, for work or other reasons. One of the most important problems of the Dom is access to food. While they cannot find enough food for three meals a day, they also share the food they can get with others. Emotional disorders have been observed in children who are malnourished and who live in unhealthy conditions. Delayed development, stunting, tooth and eye disorders and some digestive tract disorders were also reported in children, again related to malnutrition.

Sores were observed on the bodies of babies and children due to inadequate attention. Some newborns were not vaccinated and the level of awareness of mothers was often low. Persons without Temporary Protection Identification Documents, or living in provinces other than those in which they are registered, are asked to pay for the full cost of treatment. Due to their financial circumstances, the Dom are also unable to take their medicines regularly. It was reported that the elderly and the disabled do not have access to preventive healthcare services. The illnesses of many migrants who are mentally disabled or under mental health risks were said to have advanced due to a total lack of healthcare services.

The Dom have no hygiene materials other than warm water, soap and plastic hand basins for washing and bathing. As baths become impossible for days and even weeks during hard winter conditions, the children's hair is shaved very short. This is also a precaution against lice. Another reason why the hair of girls is cut very short is to prevent young girls who have to work from being sexually molested by men.

- ▶ **Obstacles to the Education of Children:** The education of Syrian migrant children in Turkey is seen as the most fundamental of their problems. This is compounded by issues in urgent need of attention such as the citizenship of the approximately 250,000 children who have been born in Turkey and remain "stateless". Children who cannot receive an education are sent to work in the street, workshops or fields so that they will learn a profession or contribute to the survival of their families. This has led to the issue of Syrian migrant child labour in Turkey. In Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana and Mersin, Syrian child workers are employed in knitting workshops, textiles, dried fruit processing plants, shoemaker's workshops, garages and agricultural work, and in selling paper tissues and water in the streets. Evidence of this has been taken from reports in the national and international press.

In almost all of the interviews carried out as part of the field study, it was seen that none of the Dom children had access to education. The main reasons are the fact that the children are members of a community that regularly changes location, and the prejudices against their communities. Families think that their children will be discriminated against at school by both local children and by the children of other Syrian groups on account of their Dom identity.

- ▶ **Relations with the Local Community and Exclusion:** The Dom population is concentrated in the provinces of Hatay, Kilis, Osmaniye, Adana, Mersin, Gaziantep, Kahramanmaraş, Şanlıurfa, Adıyaman, Mardin, Batman, Diyarbakir, Izmir, Kayseri and Konya. The presence of Doms has been identified in other provinces such as İstanbul, Ankara, Antalya, Denizli, Bursa, Kocaeli, Van, Şırnak, Elazığ, Malatya, Nevşehir, Aksaray, Sivas and Kırkkale. These communities live as migrants in tents, in tents or rented accommodation in poor neighbourhoods and Roma or Dom neighbourhoods in cities, in unregistered tent sites they have themselves established, and in abandoned and semi-demolished houses in urban transformation zones in cities.

Where the Dom inhabit areas populated by people of the same identity, problems are at a minimum. Occasional marriages between groups and joint business ventures have been observed, and many households are seen to undertake seasonal work together. Problems are more frequent with the local population who are not Gypsies and the security forces. The local population living close to groups living in tents are especially opposed to the presence of these people. Upon their complaints, the municipal police, the police or the gendarmerie request that the Doms move their tents elsewhere. If they do not comply, they destroy their tents and warn them to leave the area. In border villages and towns community members and security personnel frequently spoke of Doms being taken to the border and extradited.

- ▶ **Circular on Beggars: "We Don't Want Them Either!":** Dom migrants are often described in the Turkish press as "Syrian beggars" or "Syrian Gypsies". This has made the already-difficult living conditions of this group even tougher. Media reports which suggest that the situation of Dom migrants is a consequence of their own preferences heighten the social exclusion and discrimination which they face.

The recommendation of the DGMM dated July 25th 2014 and the Circular No. 46 of the General Directorate of Security, which is known to the public as the "Circular on Syrian Beggars" state that:

"Those among Syrian foreigners who have become involved in crime or have otherwise disturbed public order or pose a risk to public safety, and those who continue to beg, live on the street etc. despite warnings ... should be escorted to accommodation centres by security personnel."

Governors of many provinces have instructed security forces to implement the circular strictly. All Syrian migrants living in the street and in tents have been given two options: to settle in camps or

to rent accommodation. Otherwise they were told to return to Syria otherwise. In some provinces and districts, children collecting aid in the street have been sent to camps without their families being notified. Those who did not want to go to camps were displaced and some groups have had to return to their war-torn country. Many examples of the Dom being picked up off the streets and being sent to camps, and of those facing this injustice being unable to make their voices heard, have been encountered in press reports and in field study interviews. During the field study, many cases were cited in which security forces had taken members of Dom households, especially women and children, to camps against their will, and these people had had to stay in camps for months.

- ▶ **Dom Women; Discrimination First by Identity, Then by Sex:** After migration, women have come to shoulder the burden of household survival in place of men who cannot find work. Especially those women who have lost their spouses in the war have begun to work to ensure the survival of their children and households. In sectors with heavy working conditions, women have replaced men as workers. Agricultural labour, seasonal agricultural work, day work and domestic work have become fields of employment for migrant women. In face-to-face interviews held during the field study it was found that the wages of woman workers is around 30-40 per cent lower than that of men. Because the wages paid to women and children are lower than those paid to men, women have been observed to be more widely employed than men, in agriculture in particular.

The prejudiced approach of the local population towards women is reflected in the daily lives of migrant women. Migrant women face exploitation both in the street and while doing daily shopping. They state that some local women see them as rivals, instead of acting in solidarity. The negative social perception of Syrian women is compounded for Dom women due to their ethnic origins and identity. Press reports of “Syrian Gypsies” and “Syrian beggars” are often accompanied by images of women. Women who have to collect aid in the street are open to all forms of exploitation, sexual violence and abuse. Cases of girls collecting aid in the street being sexually assaulted have been identified by women’s organisations and taken to court.

- ▶ **Employment and Unemployment:** Many traditional Dom occupations such as folk dentistry, performing music, peddling, iron and tin smithing, sieve and basket making, rifle repairing, saddle and harness making, and hunting wild birds are not viable forms of income today. This means a narrower field of employment for the Dom. Many communities have shifted to the more modern extensions of these occupations or to different occupations altogether. Most Doms interviewed for the study declared their occupations as waste/refuse collectors, seasonal agricultural labourers, porters, field and garden maintenance workers and construction workers. In groups whose traditional occupations are performing music and folk dentistry, unemployment runs very high. These communities rely on collecting aid for survival. When they are found out to be Gypsies, they are generally not given jobs and if they have already been employed they are laid off. Those working as seasonal agricultural labourers are given jobs out of necessity due to the shortage of work or a late harvest (i.e. a shorter period for gathering the crop).

The Regulation on Work Permits for Foreigners Under Temporary Protection Status, which regulates the entry of foreign migrants under temporary protection into the labour force, was published and became effective in January 2016. During the field study, no Doms were encountered who were employed under the provisions of the circular or who were even aware of the circular and related legislation.

- ▶ **Lack of Access to Public Services:** Almost all the Dom migrants interviewed stated that they had had difficulty in accessing public services such as education, healthcare and social aid. They were observed to have little knowledge of the basic rights granted to migrants and they stated that they had not received any support from public institutions in this regard. They have difficulty in accessing public services because they do not speak Turkish. The Dom have a very low level of information regarding regulations and practices for migrants and migration. Lack of information on residence, registration, foreigner identification documents and work permits for foreigners is common. Information centres for migrants do not have outreach to these communities.

Present Situation of Syrian Seasonal Migratory Agricultural Workers Living on the Adana Plain

With Syrian migrants becoming the main actors of agricultural labour on the Adana Plain, there has been a significant change to seasonal migrant agricultural labour in Turkey. Agricultural production, which used to be carried out by workers arriving in Adana from other provinces of Turkey is now being carried out by migrant workers from Syria who live in Adana almost throughout the year. This has resulted in former provinces which supplied labour for seasonal agricultural production, such as Şanlıurfa, Mardin and Adıyaman no longer sending out that many labourers to Adana. Thus agricultural production in Adana has been significantly affected by the outcomes of international migration flows and global migration movements have increased the supply of cheap labour for agricultural production in Adana.

- ▶ **The Low Wages of the New Agricultural Workers of Turkey:** In 2016, Syrian migrant workers on the Adana Plain were paid an average daily wage of TRY 38 (USD 13). This is the net pay of the worker once the commission of the agricultural intermediary has been accounted for. However, most labourers do not always get their cash payments, as their costs such as supplies purchased from agricultural intermediaries, rent, power and water are cut from their pay. Furthermore, payment time is postponed for long periods and landowners only pay their workers after they have sold off the produce and been paid for it. This could mean a postponement of pay for up to four months. In return for pay, workers are expected to meet daily thresholds. On the Adana Plain, Syrian workers are paid according to *kabala* or *götürü* methods. Workers are generally engaged with a single job as a family or team. For example, ten people from the same family or a team of 35 might work on the same job. In the citrus harvest, a team of 30-35 people are paid their daily wage in exchange for picking enough fruit to fill up the hold of truck in a day. In the pepper harvest, each worker is paid a day's wage for collecting 11 bags of peppers.
- ▶ **Agricultural Intermediaries:** Agricultural intermediaries, who play a vital role in organising seasonal agricultural production are a widely used historical institution for the continuation of agricultural output in large agricultural regions such as Adana and function like a jobs agency. Other than their role of mediation in bringing together workers with employers, agricultural intermediaries also fulfil many functions to ensure that workers reside close to fields of production, that they are transported to work and that they can meet their food and other needs. In return for their services, intermediaries get 10 percent of the gross daily wages fixed for labourers. They are also said to take a cut from the net pay received by the workers. Agricultural intermediaries are generally depicted as people who reproduce a relationship of exploiting labour in seasonal agricultural production and ensure the dependency of the workers on them through desperation in a relationship of patronage. Given the high proportion of the commission they receive and the cuts they take from workers' pay for providing supplies and transport, this claim may well be true.
- ▶ **Child Labour:** Child labour is common among the group examined for the study. 53 per cent of those living at the tent site were under 17 years of age and 49 per cent of boys and 50 per cent of girls under 17 worked as agricultural labourers. Among Syrian migrants there is a perception that only the young can do agricultural work, as adults are too "old and ill" to do such work. The prevalence of child labour is not just due to this perception, but also in order to increase household income by having many members, including children work. In crowded families, child labour becomes an opportunity for increasing household income. Furthermore, the perception that agricultural labour is a job for the young among Syrian families can result in very young children working in the fields. Interviews have also revealed that agricultural intermediaries who find work for very young children think that they are helping poor families. The employment of children

is generally rationalised through excuses such as “They were very poor, I gave them work, they worked for their bread.” Agricultural intermediaries who employ children act on the grounds that they are supporting the household budget and are helping the child to grow up as an experienced agricultural labourer.

► **The Heavy Burden of Migrant Women:** 49 per cent of members of the households covered by the study were women. The prevalence of early marriage and illiteracy among women is noticeable. 23.7 per cent of women between the ages of 15-17 were married. An important finding of the survey is that girls are married off after the age of 15 and that early marriages are widespread among migrants. Child marriages may be seen as the outcome of a traditional rural social structure. The proportion of married individuals between the ages of 18-21 is 50 per cent. The average age of illiterate women, who form about half of the female population was 29. That women cannot access educational services in Syria and in Turkey is an outcome of the status given to women by traditional gender roles and shows that in rural Syria, women did not have access to education.

40.5 per cent of women living in tent sites participated in seasonal agricultural work. The non-working female population (59.5 per cent) have different reasons for not working, though re-production activities such as cleaning, child care, cooking and bread baking and water fetching are the most widespread. As the most widespread reason for women not working was given as child care, the survey included a question on who in the household takes on child care responsibilities. The question about who takes care of the children while the families work was answered as “an adult of the household” by 76.6 per cent of households with children. Child care falls disproportionately to women (with 96.2 per cent) in the domestic division of labour. Washing laundry and dishes, cooking, bread making, cleaning and taking care of the elderly are generally jobs carried out by women.

That women engage in production activities without lowering their share of re-productive burden increases their working hours. It must be emphasised that the work load of women who live in tents and participate in agricultural production is very heavy. These women who do not have running water, adequate kitchen and bathroom facilities and equipment and are devoid of the benefits of electricity find activities for the reproduction of their families, such as cooking and bread baking, washing dishes and laundry, giving care to their children and ensuring their sanitary needs to be very time consuming and tiring activities as washing needs to be done by carried water, which is warmed up by collected firewood. The burden of these activities falls disproportionately on the shoulders of women and girls.

► **Shelter and Living Conditions:** Shelter sites for seasonal migrant agricultural workers are usually picked from among locations that are distant to settlements, out of side and by fields. The isolation is used to separate the living quarters of the local population and migrant/temporary workers. As they are others who need to be kept out of sight and thought to not exist while they are not working, their isolated settlements are usually tent sites. The isolated living areas of seasonal agricultural workers rest on the same causes and have the same consequences for local and Syrian migrant workers.

Most Syrian migrants who resided at tent sites covered by the study stayed in tents they had built themselves out of sheets of plastic. Tents built out of plastic sheets is the most commonly observed form of shelter. 10.2 per cent of the population live in cloth tents. In Adana’s warm climate

the variations in temperature between the summer heat and the winter cold in plastic tents makes for inhuman conditions in itself, even when other negative factors are overlooked. To insulate them against the heat, plastic sheet tents are often covered with dry branches and reeds.

Tent sites also have unhealthy living conditions with limited and unhygienic sanitation. Study findings reveal that the average tent size is 15.8 square metres and that the average number of people living in a tent of this size is 5.6. Of those households which stated they live in a single tent, the average number of children is around three. In other words, there is 2.8 square metres of space per individual in these tents. Tents generally contain a small kitchen area and a small area to store household items. This makes the amount of space available to each person even smaller. All members of the family living in the same small area, especially adults and children living and sleeping in the same area leads to cases of negligence and abuse. That family members do not have their own private spaces has a negative impact on the lives of both adults and children.

In terms of household items, 35 per cent of tents have TVs and 30 per cent have satellite dishes. Mobile phones are very important for migrants and around 60 per cent of households have mobile phones. This shows the importance of communications for migrants. Households usually produce their tents themselves (68 per cent) and the proportion of those who have manufactured tents (16 per cent) is very low. The ramshackle shanty houses (*gecekondü*) built by those migrating from rural areas to towns within Turkey on empty plots, which have left a mark on Turkey's history of urbanisation, are now being replaced in significance by tents pitched by migrant agricultural workers in empty sites in rural areas. This may be described as the *gecekondü*-isation, tent-isation of rural areas.

In terms of supplies, households generally have bread/dough, tea, vegetable oil, sugar, rice and vegetables. They have little of legumes which may be stored dry. Very few have reported having onions, potatoes and coffee, the latter of which is consumed traditionally even by the poorest Syrians. Storage conditions and high prices lead to very few households owning protein rich foods and fresh fruit.

► **Education and Health:** The attitude of families towards child labour plays an important role in Syrian migrants' access to education, while the distance to schools of the tent sites they inhabit is one of the main barriers. In addition, the educational opportunities offered to Syrian migrants and the rate of schoolisation are very low. Almost all children covered by the study were outside the school system.

Of households with school aged children (60.5 per cent of the total) 97 per cent did not have children attending school. The most important reasons for this were given as economic reasons by 52 per cent, distance to schools by 25 per cent, legal obstacles by 11 per cent, children's unwillingness to go to school by 5.6 per cent and other reasons, also by 5.6 per cent. Under "other reasons" language issues and officials unwilling to help direct children to school were cited.

The education status of Syrian migrants before coming to Turkey was very low. For both sexes, the illiterate form the largest groups when the population is broken down in terms of education level. There is no significant difference between the female and male members of households in terms of education level. In general terms, household members have not attended education beyond primary school. War and migration have been important determinants of the level of education of some age groups.

When asked whether they experience health problems due to seasonal agricultural work, 68.8 per cent of households of Syrian seasonal migrant agricultural labourers who live and work in poor conditions fully exposed to the elements have replied affirmatively. Sunstroke is the top problem afflicting workers. It is followed by the flu, pest and insect stings, diarrhoea, food poisoning, back and waist pains. Almost all of these health risks are due to the impact of poor living and working conditions on workers. While a significant number of problems listed, such as sunstroke and pest stings are health issues arising while at work, having to constantly bend over while working, exposure to the elements for long periods of time, contact with fertiliser and chemicals indicate that professional ailments will emerge in many individuals in the future. The main reason why such ailments are not more often reported is that agricultural workers consist of the young.

Project on Improving the Protection and Health Conditions of Syrians and Migrants in the South of Turkey implemented by Development Workshop between May and November 2016 with the financial support of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) and in cooperation with international non-governmental organisation GOAL Global, has targeted to reduce the protection risks of vulnerable migrant groups using an integrated approach of information dissemination, advocacy and humanitarian aid.

Activities has been implemented within the 3 components of the Project that has the main goal of mitigating the protection risks of migrant populations through research and advocacy, information dissemination, and distribution of non-food items;

1. Information Management / Situational Analysis

Presenting evidence based policy recommendations for mapping of where and which agricultural commodities irregular migrants engaged in, understanding their conditions and addressing and mitigating protection risks.

2. Information Dissemination via Networks

Supporting and facilitating Access and use of available services by Syrian migrants through providing information about fundamental rights, responsibilities and services.

3. Distribution of Non-Food Items

Distribution of non-food items including hygiene and protection kits to target population in order to provide fundamental needs.

Improving the Health and Protection of Vulnerable Syrian and Marginalized Migrant in Southern Turkey Project



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