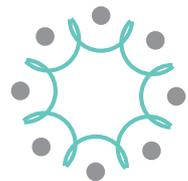




INTERVENTION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN (6-14 AGE GROUP) AFFECTED BY SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL MIGRATION

MODEL ACTION PLAN FOR CHILDREN WORKING IN COTTON CULTIVATION IN TURKEY





DEVELOPMENT
WORKSHOP

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**Intervention Program for Children (6-14 Age Group) Affected by Seasonal Agricultural Migration
Model Action Plan for Children Working in Cotton Cultivation in Turkey**

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Foreword

Since the start of the 2000's, the Development Workshop has been conducting research, preparatory activities and developing action plans concerned with child labour, especially in the area of seasonal and migratory agricultural labour, considered as one of the worst forms of child labour. Baseline Research concerning Child Labour in the Adana District of Karataş was conducted in 2002 by the founders of the Development Workshop and supported by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). In 2004, an action plan was designed to bring forth recommendations for solutions to the unfavourable conditions found as a result of this study. Following this 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. With the technical and financial support of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Turkey, a baseline study was undertaken in 2011-2012 under the Interventions Program for Children (6-14 age group) Affected by Seasonal Agricultural Migration concerning the children working in the harvesting of cotton in the province of Şanlıurfa. The Model Action Plan for Child Labour in the Cultivation of Cotton in Turkey was developed based on the findings of this research, other studies concerning the production of cotton and the outputs of the meeting conducted in Şanlıurfa for the development of the product based model action plan on 21 May 2012 and was sent to provinces cultivating cotton with the aim of receiving contributions to local action plans.

This Model Action Plan consists of three sections: The first section includes general information about the cultivation of cotton; the second section gives the main findings concerning child labour in cotton cultivation; the third section includes local level activities foreseen to prevent child labour in cotton cultivation. The model action plan has been prepared to provide a basis for detailed activities to be developed in the provinces or districts for the prevention of child labour in cotton cultivation. Priorities and preferences should be identified at the local level and activities should be implemented based on these. We wish to express our gratitude to the children, families, representatives of state institutions, civil society and professional organisations, the Governorship of Şanlıurfa, representatives of the General Directorate of Basic Education of the Ministry of National Education, the Şanlıurfa Provincial Directorate of Education, representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, the experts and staff of the Development Workshop for their contributions to the development and preparation of this Action Plan and to the Embassy of the Netherlands in Turkey for their technical and financial support in carrying out the research for the development of this plan. It is hoped that the Model Action Plan can contribute to the elimination of child labour in the production of cotton.

A stylized, light gray graphic of a cotton plant branch with several leaves and round cotton bolls, positioned on the left side of the page.

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Introduction

The Development Workshop has been conducting activities in the field of child labour within the scope of seasonal and migratory agricultural labour since 2002, by implementing programs and projects that include research, planning and implementation activities. The Interventions Program for Children (6-14 age group) Affected by Seasonal Agricultural Migration is a social development and human rights project under the Human Rights Program of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Turkey.

Within the scope of the Project, the main outputs include (a) baseline field study; (b) model action plans for product-based interventions; (c) a policy paper for central level state institutions, private sector and non-governmental organisations and (d) visual materials which display child labour in seasonal and migratory vegetable production for awareness and advocacy; all of which present the working and educational connection in relation to the product range (hazelnut, sugar beet, cotton and low tunnel greenhouse vegetable cultivation) among children (6-14 age group) who are of the compulsory education age and are participating in the vegetable production sector as part of the seasonal and migratory labour force.

A model action plan was developed for the seasonal and migratory child labourers working in the cultivation of cotton. The model action plan is designed to be a basis for action plans which may be developed at the provincial and district level in regions where cotton is produced.

As it is known, working in seasonal and migratory production has been defined as one of the worst forms of child labour for children under the age of 18 in the scope of the ILO Convention 182, the Convention Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, undersigned by Turkey which ensures that Turkey is committed to eradicating this form of labour by the year 2015. Children working as seasonal and migratory labourers in cotton cultivation fall under this scope.



About Cotton

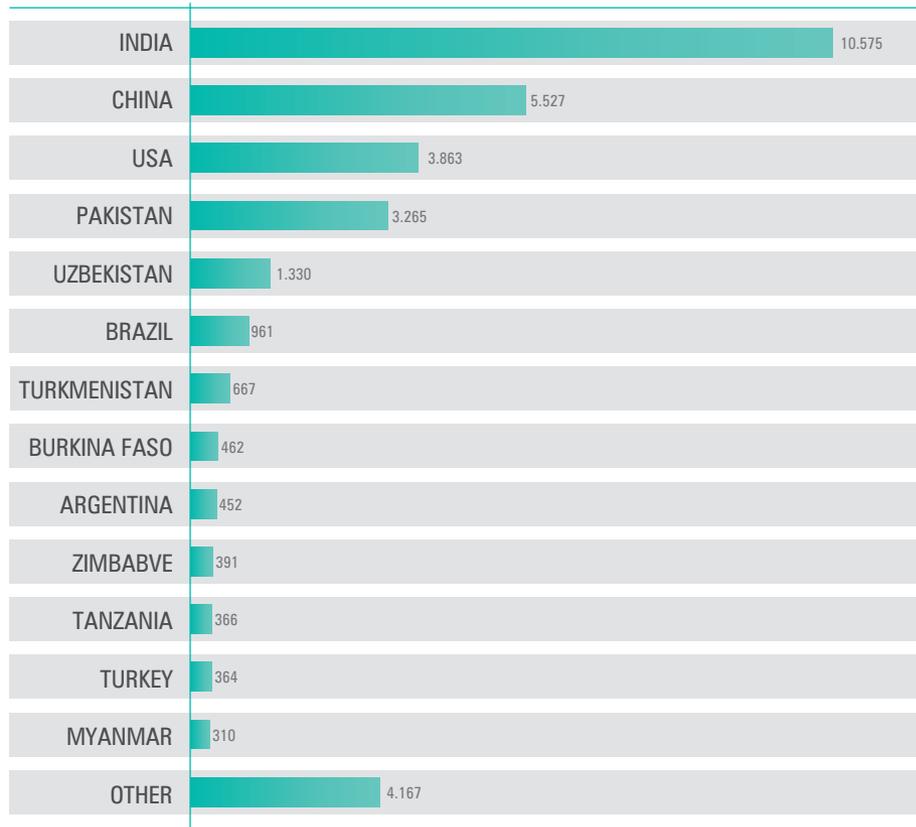
Cotton is an important crop which not only has historical importance but which also has an important role to play in the economy of the producing country in terms of employment and added value. ¹ To produce cotton requires a long period of activity spread throughout the year. The soil is prepared for sowing in March and work continues until the end of September-November, when the crops are ready for harvesting. The need for manual labour in the cultivation stage has reduced over the years. In Turkey, the labour of hundreds of thousands of people is utilised for the processes of hoeing and harvesting. It is common for children of the 6-14 age group to participate in the cultivation of cotton with their families and relatives in the scope of seasonal and migratory labour. The period for hoeing of the cotton field starts close to the end of the school year and cotton harvesting begins during the time of the start of the school year. As a result, children participating in the harvesting of cotton are not only distanced from school and their education, but their health is adversely affected by the unhealthy working conditions.

Research shows that the harvest of cotton lasts an average of 50 days and one labourer is able to harvest 10 decares (1 hectare) of cotton during this period. It is thought that 364,000 labourers harvested on 364,000 hectares of cotton in 2010 in an average of 50 days. If it assumed that 10% of the cotton harvest of 2010 was conducted with machinery, approximately 320,000 labourers worked in the harvest of cotton during this year's season. The percentage of labourers who were seasonal and migratory and the ratio of children aged 6-14 among them is not known. It is also not known what the numbers of families and children are in the hoeing process and other agricultural activities..

¹ http://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amerikan_%C4%B0%C3%A7_Sava%C5%9F%C4%B1

Production of Cotton in the World

Figure 1: Cotton Cultivation Areas in the World (Thous. Hectare, 2010 Projection)²



Cotton is cultivated on an average of 33 million hectares of land worldwide. With close to 10 million hectares, India is the largest grower of cotton (27% share). India is followed by China, USA, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Brazil and Turkmenistan. Turkey was ranked 12th in the world during the 2009/2010 season in terms of areas of planted.

² Ministry of Industry and Trade, General Directorate of Organisation (No Date), Year 2010 Cotton Report, Ankara,

Production of Cotton in Turkey

Map 1: Distribution of Cotton Cultivation Areas According to Province (Decare-2010)

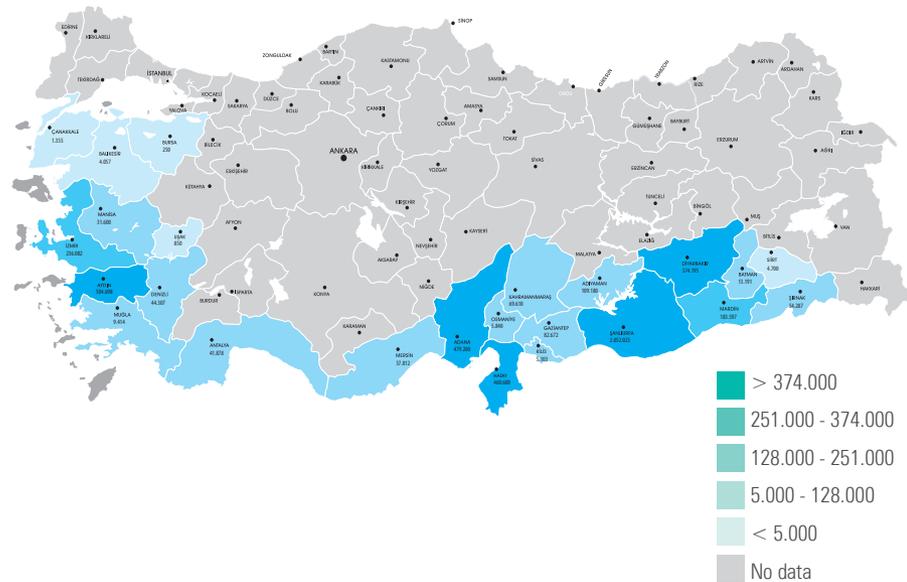
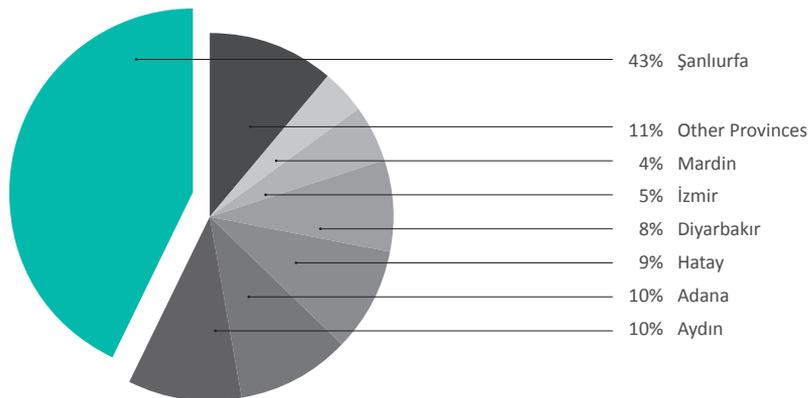


Figure 2: Distribution of Cotton Cultivation Areas (2010-%)³



In Turkey, cotton is cultivated in the South-eastern Anatolian Region, the Aegean Region, in the region of Çukurova and a small percentage in the province of Antalya. 50% of the cotton fibre production is conducted in the South-eastern Region, 28% in the Aegean Region, 21% in the region of Çukurova and 1% in Antalya.⁴

³ TURKSTAT, 2012

⁴ Ministry of Industry and Trade, General Directorate of Organisation (No Date), Year 2010 Cotton Report, Ankara p. 6

In the last 10 years, the production of cotton has rapidly decreased in the Aegean region. For example, while there were 67,000 cotton producers in 2000, this figure dropped to 12,000 in 2009. In addition, close to 90% of the cotton is harvested by machinery.

Table 1: Number of Cotton Producers in the Aegean Region (persons)⁵

	izmir	Aydin	Manisa	Denizli	Mugla	Balikesir	Çanakkale	Total
2000 / 2001	18.804	23.257	11.724	4.951	5.961	1.765	1.045	67.507
2008 / 2009	3.755	6.548	419	965	724	147	87	12.645

In parallel to the decrease of cotton cultivation in Turkey in recent years, there has been a reduction in the production of quality cotton in the Aegean region. In the early 2000's, the cotton production was 300,000 tonnes in the Aegean region, which was reduced to only 75,000 tonnes in the 2009/2010 season.

The decrease in production clearly shows the drop in the number of producers making use of the support provided for cotton production. There has been a trend towards other products with more mechanization instead of the production of cotton.⁶ Other factors affecting the decrease or increase of areas where cotton is cultivated is the local and global price of cotton. For example, although it is not officially confirmed yet, it is presumed that plantation areas shall increase in 2011 as the price of unseeded cotton was high in 2010.

⁵ Ministry of Industry and Trade, General Directorate of Organisation, (no date), Year 2010 Cotton Report, Ankara, p. 6

⁶ Ministry of Industry and Trade, General Directorate of Organisation, (no date), Year 2010 Cotton Report, Ankara, p. 7

Cotton Production in Şanlıurfa

According to 2010 data of the Provincial Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Şanlıurfa has 187,462 hectares of cotton cultivation areas, making up for 44.5% of the total cotton cultivation area in Turkey.⁷

Table 2: Number of Farmers producing cotton and cotton cultivation areas in Şanlıurfa (2010)⁸

District	No. Producer/Farmer	Cotton Cultivation Area (ha)	Distribution (%)
Akçakale	3.845	27.052	14,43
Birecik	85	150	0,08
Bozova	1.570	8.086	4,31
Ceylanpınar	1.871	7.900	4,21
Harran	3.629	28.200	15,04
Hilvan	1.145	9.000	4,80
Merkez	5.553	44.997	24,00
Siverek	1.974	35.000	18,67
Suruç	536	2.000	1,07
Viranşehir	3.260	25.077	13,38
TOPLAM	23.468	187.462	100,00

One quarter of the cotton cultivation areas are in the central district of Şanlıurfa and the remaining areas are located in the districts of Akçakale and Harran. Of the total plantation areas, 19% is in the district of Siverek and 15% in districts of Suruç, Ceylanpınar, Hilvan, Bozova and Birecik. Of the persons cultivating cotton, 73% are land owners, 15% are leasers and 12% are crop sharers. Of the areas on which cotton is cultivated, 27% is on plantations of 1-50 decares, 21% is on 51-200 decares, and 28% is on 201 decares or more.⁹

Harvesting of Cotton

The start of the cotton harvesting season in Turkey varies according to climate conditions, date of sowing and irrigation conditions. In the Aegean region and in the province of Antalya, manual harvesting of cotton begins from 15 September and continues until November. 90% of the harvest in the Aegean region is automated and therefore the cotton harvest ends towards the end of October. In the Çukurova region, the harvest begins at the start of

7 Briefing note, Şanlıurfa Provincial Directorate of Food, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, 2011.

8 Sema Başbağ et al. (2011): Project for Developing an Inventory of the Cotton Sector in Provinces of Diyarbakır and Şanlıurfa, Karacadağ Development Agency, Dicle University, Şanlıurfa, p. 26.

9 Sema Başbağ et al. (2011): Project for Developing an Inventory of the Cotton Sector in Provinces of Diyarbakır and Şanlıurfa, Karacadağ Development Agency, Dicle University, Şanlıurfa, p. 28.

September and continues until the end of November. While in the South-eastern Anatolian Region, the harvest begins in September and continues until the start of November.¹⁰ The amount of cotton harvested depends on the amount of crops sowed and the rate of manual harvesting. Weather conditions determine the duration of the harvesting season. In the 2011 season, cotton harvesting activities were completed at the end of November in Şanlıurfa.

In Turkey, the cotton harvest is conducted in general by the labourers going through the field in 2-3 rounds. In the first round, the cotton harvested is of the highest quality. Cotton harvesting labourers come to the fields at the beginning of the harvesting season and harvest the cotton at the unit prices identified by the provinces. One labourer can harvest 70-80kg of cotton per day on average. The labourers come to the fields with their families and their children also participate in the harvesting activities.¹¹

Fee rates of the cotton harvest are identified in two ways: (a) by multiplying each kilogram of the daily harvested cotton amount with the harvesting cost and (b) by providing 30% of the cotton product in exchange for the labour of all family members in the cultivation process (preparing the soil, sowing seeds, hoeing, irrigation, spraying of pesticides and harvesting) with the method generally observed in Şanlıurfa and regions known as “shovelers”. This method determines the total income gained for the cotton labourer based on the cotton prices.¹²

In 2012, the area of cotton plantations was on 364,000 hectares. As has been stated above, it is thought that approximately a 320,000 labour force worked in the harvest of cotton in the 2010 season. Almost 170,000 of these labourers are in Şanlıurfa. A portion of the labourers working in the cotton harvest work only in the cotton harvest and a portion come to the harvest of cotton after working the sugarbeet harvest or harvesting of other products.

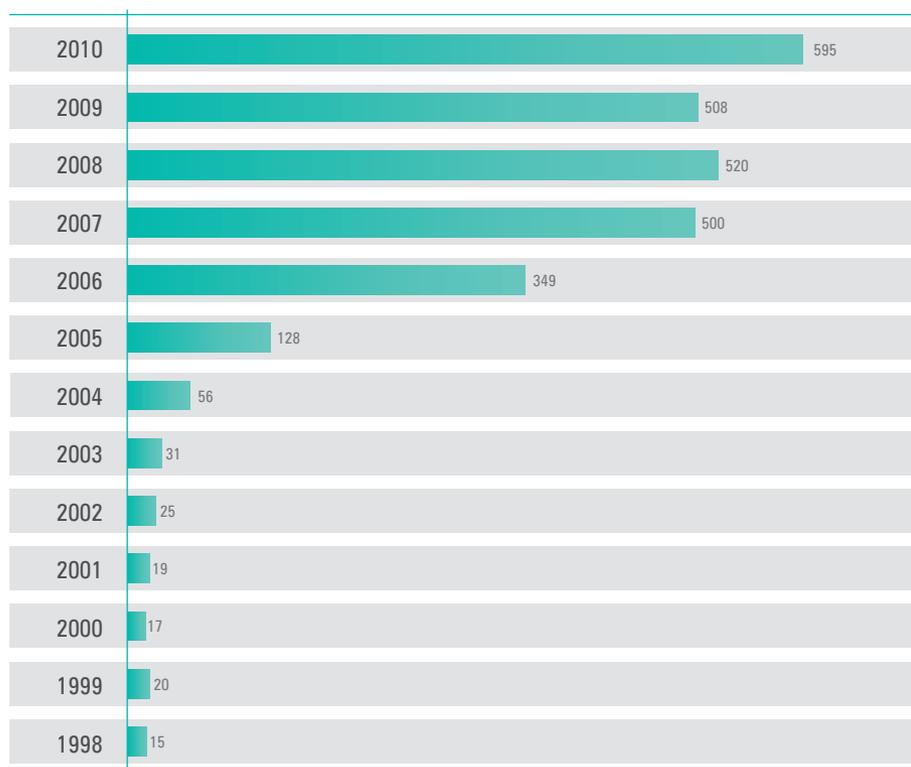
The automated cotton harvest began in the USA almost 60 years ago. In developed countries, harvesting of cotton is completely automated and a portion of the harvest is conducted by machinery in Middle Asian countries. Increasing input costs, lack of government support, not having enough labourers to harvest the cotton during the harvesting season and increasing labourer costs are all factors which make automated harvesting a necessity.

10 <http://www.tekstilmuhendisi.net/pamuk-hasat-zamani/>

11 <http://mkatextile.com/pamukta-makineli-hasat-ve-turkiyedeki-durum.php>

12 ‘In the research region, the shareholders are known as “30-percenters” in reference to the share they receive from the product or “shovelers” due to the kind of work which they do. (...) Large enterprises sometimes use those persons who are experienced through generations called “proxies” who act on behalf of the landowners to lease out to “30-percenters” which may be more than one leaser or who may receive more than 30% of the shares.’ (Yaşar Aktaş, 2000). Vegetation protection section of the Şanlıurfa Provincial Directorate of Agriculture, Assessment of Integrated Sample Cotton Farmers Activities conducted in the district of Harran. Harran University, Şanlıurfa. p. 18. www.yasaraktas.com/wp-content/uploads/timpocem.doc

Figure 3: Number of Machines Used in the Harvest of Cotton (1998-2010)¹³



In 1998, the number of cotton harvesting machines in Turkey was 15. This number rapidly increased since 2005 and has reached 595 in 2010. This number will continue to increase and automation will eventually replace manual labour in harvesting of cotton. It is expected that adult and child labour in harvesting of cotton will reduce in the coming 10 years.

The majority of cotton harvesting in the Aegean Region is conducted by machinery. Automated harvesting has also begun in the Çukurova region and the province of Şanlıurfa in which it is slowly becoming more common. The only way to compete with the unseeded cotton prices in the global market is to reduce the harvest costs. This is because other inputs are almost the same everywhere. In the Aegean region, the cost of manual harvest of cotton is 28 Turkish cents per kilogram, while the cost of automated harvesting is 10-12 Turkish cents per kilogram.

Cotton is a product which has a wide range of uses and is a common product worldwide. Child labour is common in countries, except in developed Western countries, producing cotton, especially in Middle and North African countries, the Middle East, Turkey, Middle and East Asian countries and India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

13 TURKSTAT, http://tuik.gov.tr/PrelstatistikTablo.do?istab_id=304

The Government support provided to cotton, the input costs of cotton cultivation and the price of unseeded cotton of the previous year is influential in the size of the cotton cultivation areas. These are the reasons why annual fluctuations are seen in production areas. It is possible to state that levels of production and cultivation areas for cotton will increase if national producers of cotton are protected against global prices. In addition, automated cotton harvest has increased rapidly to guard against rising labourer costs and the affects of rain on the quality of cotton. It is expected that adult and child labour shall decrease each year in this area. But it is not known in which areas or where the seasonal and migratory labourers and their families will work if they cannot work in the harvesting of cotton.

Children Working in the Harvest of Cotton in Uzbekistan¹⁴

Uzbekistan is ranked second in the world for export of cotton. One third of the population of Uzbekistan works in cotton cultivation and harvesting. Hundreds of thousands of children are forced to work in the harvest of cotton instead of going to school to meet the quotas identified by the Government. Schools are closed down in the distant rural regions where cotton is cultivated and children are forced to harvest cotton. Children work under the sun for 10 hours a day and do not have access to clean drinking water. Although Uzbekistan has recently signed the ILO Convention No. 182 to prevent the worst kind of child labour, they are yet to be implemented.

Many NGOs in Europe have organized campaigns to boycott the cotton of Uzbekistan by attempting to stop purchases and have tried to prevent the sales of textile and garment products made of Uzbek cotton. One of the organizations supporting these campaigns is the Environmental Justice Foundation (www.ejfoundation.org.uk). The organization has prepared reports concerning the cotton of Uzbekistan and has developed visual materials for the campaign. Many companies in Europe have agreed not to use Uzbek cotton and textile companies have announced that they will not be selling products which are manufactured from Uzbek cotton.¹⁵

¹⁴ <http://news.change.org/stories/uzbek-cotton-the-fabric-of-slavery>

¹⁵ <http://www.ekotrent.com/haber/20080115/Tescodan-Ozbek-pamuguna-boykot.php>



Children Working in Cotton Harvesting

Recent History of Children Working in the Harvest of Cotton

Of countries where cotton is cultivated, it is harvested with machinery in USA, Australia and Israel. Also in Argentina and Greece the majority of the harvest is automated. 20-30% of cotton in middle Asian countries is harvested with machinery and the remaining cotton is harvested manually. In countries such as Middle Africa, Egypt, Pakistan and China, the majority of the crops are harvested manually.

Anatolia has a long history of cotton cultivation. Development of cotton cultivation began in the 11th century in the Seljuk Turks era. In the Ottoman Era, the cultivation of cotton became widespread, spanning to the Middle East and the Balkans. Cotton seeds from Egypt were distributed to the public free of charge and cultivation became popular in the Aegean and Çukurova regions. With the establishment of the Republic, cotton cultivation rapidly increased and institutional regulations were developed. Investments were made for the development of the textile industry and a research institute and stations were established for the development of cotton.¹⁶

Until the 1950's, cultivation of cotton was mainly an agricultural activity of villagers in the cotton plantation regions. From the 1950's, as the production increased, the local labour force became insufficient and seasonal and migratory labour came to be utilised in the production process of cotton. The Çukurova and Menderes Plains were the regions where cotton was most commonly cultivated until the 1980's. From 1985, with the launch of the South-eastern Anatolian Project (GAP Project), the centre of cotton cultivation became the South-eastern Anatolian Region with especially the provinces of Şanlıurfa and Diyarbakır. 43% of the total cotton cultivation areas in Turkey are located in Şanlıurfa.

Although human resources and labour were largely required for cotton cultivation, the recent developments in new agricultural technologies including planting, irrigation and use of Chemical pesticides have gradually reduced the need for human labour. However, the

¹⁶ Oktay Gençer ve ark. (tarih yok); Türkiye'de Pamuk Üretimi ve Sorunları, http://www.zmo.org.tr/resimler/ekler/8d437661d952917_ek.pdf?tipi=14&sube

use of human labour is still important for the harvesting process. Although automation is being increasingly used for harvesting activities in the last 10 years, it is still not known how much of the harvest is done by machines. It is difficult to make estimation about the amount of automated harvesting with observations, number of machines and newspaper articles. What is known for sure is that automated cotton harvesting increases each year.

There are three regions in Turkey in which cotton cultivation is most concentrated: Aegean Region (Izmir, Aydın), the Çukurova Plain in the Mediterranean Region (Adana and Hatay) and the South-eastern Anatolian Region (Şanlıurfa and Diyarbakır). Of these regions, it is in the Aegean Region where the majority of cotton is harvested by machinery. Automated harvest is also widespread in the Çukurova region but considerably lower in the South-eastern Anatolian Region. This situation effects the seasonal labour force migration for the cotton harvest. The seasonal and migratory labourers going to the Aegean Region until recently are now working in the South-eastern Anatolian Region since the decrease of cotton cultivation areas and increase of automated harvesting in the Aegean region. Similar reasons are behind the reduction of labourers migrating to the Çukurova region for the cotton cultivation.

As the earnings from the cotton harvest for the labourers depends on the amount of cotton harvested, all members of the family work. In addition, the '30-percenters' or 'shovelers' model implemented in Şanlıurfa is based on the system where all family members are working. Thus, it is possible to see child labourers in places where cotton is harvested manually.

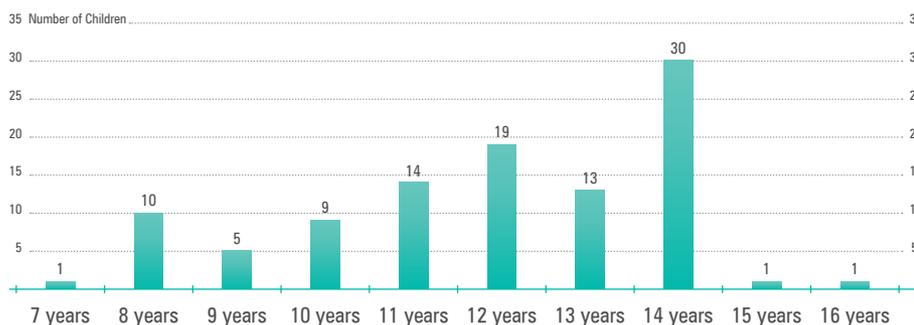
Labourers working in cotton cultivation can be divided into three typologies:

- (a) Families who are hoeing and harvesting their own plantations and families assisting their neighbours. All members of these families are participating in the cotton hoeing and harvesting processes. Producers of comparably smaller plantations are completing the hoeing and harvest activities in a relatively short time.
- (b) Labourers who are participating in the hoeing and harvest activities of the cotton plantations owned by others in their village, district or province. This labour force is generally organized by the land owners or agricultural intermediaries in the region. The majority of the labourers go to their own homes in the evening. These labourers can be individuals or can work together with their family members.
- (c) Labourers coming to the cotton cultivation areas with their family, generally from the Eastern or South-eastern provinces, to participate in the hoeing of cotton and participate in this harvest after they have participated in the harvest of sugarbeet or other products.

Field Research Results for Children Working in the Cotton Harvest

During 18-23 October 2011, the research team of the Development Workshop conducted a field research in Şanlıurfa by questionnaire, focus group interviews with 103 girls and boys between the ages of 6-16 and members of their households also holding institutional meetings with parties involved in the cotton harvest. Due to the timing of the research, an evaluation of child labour in the maintenance period of the cotton production processes was not conducted. The main data and findings of this research are given below.

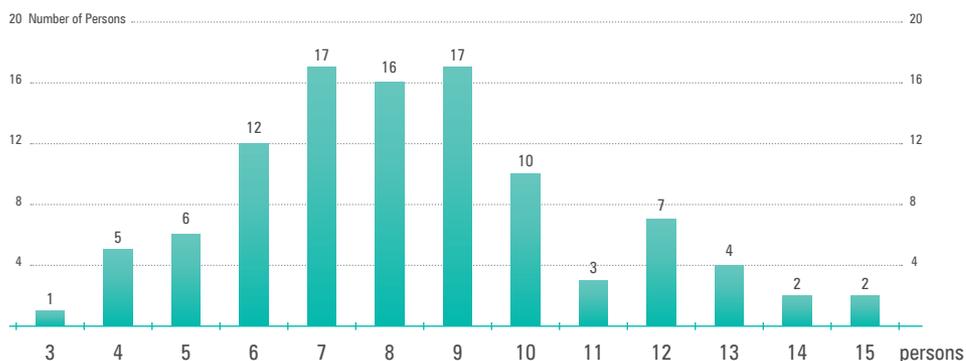
Figure 4: Age Distribution of Children Participating in the Survey (Total 103 Children)



Main Findings and Problems

Demographic Structure: The average number of household members of children participating in the research was 8.4. The usual place of residence of the children is in central areas and villages within these districts. All of the children are registered at the civil registry. It was found that one of the children was promised to be married.

Figure 5: Distribution of Members of Household (including the child's own self (%))

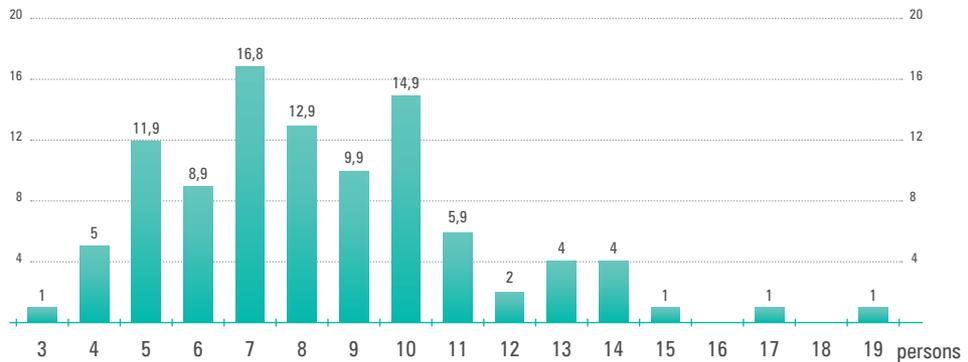


The mother tongue of 18.4% of children was Turkish and Kurdish for 59.2% and Arabic for 21.4%. All of the children were able to speak Turkish. 81.3% of children could speak Kurdish and 32% could speak Arabic. The majority of children could speak two languages and a portion could speak three languages.

Shelter and Living Conditions: Upon investigation of the sheltering conditions of child labourers working in the harvesting of cotton, it was found that 41% were living in nylon or reed tents, 41% were living in canvas or tarpaulin tents and 11.7% were living in houses or rooftops. Of the children participating in the research, only 2% were living in housing areas provided by the Governorship.

The cotton harvest labourers in Şanlıurfa are among the two typologies for shelter/housing: (a) the “30-percenters” or “shovelers” live in tents or small garden house of the land owners and are generally not living as a family household or (b) are living with their families in groups or in ‘tent cities’ or in housing areas established by the Governorship in the scope of METIP. Shelter or housing which is not established by the Governorship has limited infrastructure facilities such as water, electricity, waste water and sanitary facilities.

Figure 6: Distribution of Persons per Household Living in Tents or Other Places of Accommodation (%)



The percentage of persons living in a tent or small garden house together with 7 persons is 17% and 10% for those working with 10 people. All members of the family are living in same place.

Those stating that they have only one room in the tent, roof or house are 89%. The average number of persons living in one room is 8 persons. Those stating that they had clean drinking water in their place of housing were 86%. 3% stated that they have a waste water system. One of the most important problems of the living areas expressed was the lack of a waste water system.

Working Conditions: The cotton harvest starts in the middle of September and lasts until the end of November. The harvests duration is 50 days on average and is conducted without a break. The average working day is 11.3 hours for the children working in the cotton field. The percentage of those saying that they also conduct other jobs is 36%. Further, 8.7% of children participating in the research have stated that they participate in the chemical spraying activities.

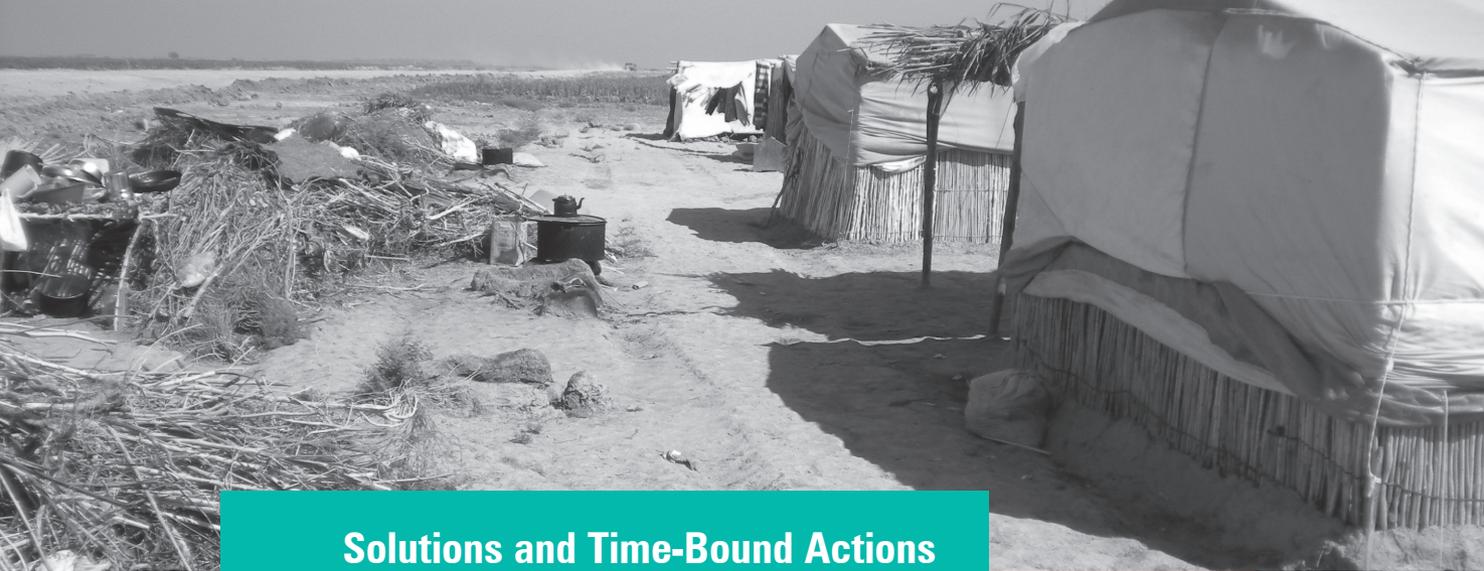
10% of the children participating in the questionnaire stated that they had accidents during the seasonal and migratory agricultural labour activities. Some accidents were falling beneath the large sacks being carried, slipping when harvesting cotton and falling over and such similar accidents.

Children do not only harvest cotton. They also carry out tasks such as looking after siblings, looking after their belongings, preparing meals and doing household cleaning chores.

Education: It was found that 99% of the children participating in the cotton harvest are enrolled in school. Of the children participating in the questionnaire, only 14% has not attended pre-school education. When this figure is compared with the participation rates in pre-school education in Şanlıurfa, the rate is one fifth. Of the children in the primary education age group, 38% are enrolled in primary school, where 21% of these children were enrolled at age 8 or 9. The remaining children were enrolled at age 10 and older. There is a problem of late enrolment in primary education for these children.

Of the children participating in the questionnaire, only 18% of children stated that they attended school in the previous school year. Of the remaining, 17% had not attended for less than 20 days, 20% had not attended between 21-40 days, and 25% had not attended for more than 61 days. 85% of the children stated that the reason for their non-attendance was seasonal agricultural labour.

Health: 7% of children working in the cotton harvest stated that they had a health problem which affected their daily life. 40% of the children complained of back pains. Of these children, 6.8% informed that they had never been vaccinated, 71% had irregular vaccinations and 21% stated that they had had their vaccinations done regularly. All the children stated that they ate 3 meals a day and 50% informed that they slept 8 hours a day, while 25% slept 9 hours a day.



Solutions and Time-Bound Actions

Questions Requiring Responses in the Development of the Local Action Plan

1. What is the number of children working in the harvesting of cotton? How can the number of children be identified? What are the needs of these children?
2. In the case that child labour is eradicated, what can be done to compensate for the income loss previously earned through child labour which is important for these families/households working as the seasonal agricultural and migratory labour force? What can be recommended to the central level? Can these losses be met directly in cash or in kind? What are the measures which can be taken to reduce the expenses of these families?
3. If child labour is eradicated, what can be done at the central and local level to meet the labour force requirements in place of child labourers? How can new labour opportunities be created?
4. How will responsibilities be shared at the local level to prevent child labour? How will the sharing of responsibilities, coordination and cooperation be ensured by the responsible organisations?
5. Which models are required for the improvement of housing and shelter conditions for labourers working in cotton cultivation? What kind of contributions can be made by plantation owners/employers in this scope?
6. How will automated harvest instead of using human resources progress? How will the labour force made available due to automated harvesting be used?
7. Which education and skills development activities will be implemented in accordance with their ages and development when they are not a part of the child labour force? Who and which organisations will implement this program?

8. In the case where child labour is eliminated, how will cotton cultivation be affected and what can be done to reduce the adverse affects at the local level? What are alternative solutions? Can activities be conducted to support automated harvest? If yes, how?
9. What can cotton processing companies and companies manufacturing textile and clothing from cotton do to contribute to the eradication of child labour in cotton harvesting? What can their technical and financial contributions be in the scope of social responsibility?
10. What can be done to ensure dignified national and international standards in education, healthy living, work health and safety conditions for child labourers and children affected by the conditions of seasonal agricultural migration?
11. What are some preventative activities which can be implemented for children under the legal age for labour? With which organizations can these activities be implemented?
12. What kind of precautions should the provincial and district administrators take to ensure that working children who migrate to other places in the scope of seasonal agricultural labour can continue their education?
13. To what degree should the lifestyle culture and housing preferences of labourers be taken into consideration at the local level in regards to solutions to be implemented?

Main Strategies and Approaches for Preventing Child Labour in Cotton Production

1. As it is illegal for any child below the age of 15 to work according to national and international legislation, children of this age group working in cotton cultivation must be prevented. This must be clearly explained to plantation owners, agricultural intermediaries and the labour force participating in seasonal agricultural migration.
2. Children between the ages 16-17 working in cotton cultivation should be gradually eliminated by 2015. Vocational education and training, especially skills training opportunities in areas of employment should be developed for these young people.
3. Local, regional and central level solutions should be developed to find a suitable replacement for child labour in cotton cultivation. Adult labour force should be guided to these areas at the national level or incentives for automated agricultural activities should be supported. Further, legal regulations should be developed aimed to take advantage of international labour force.
4. Product manufacturers using cotton should participate in social responsibility projects to ensure solutions to problems and funding should be found for programs and projects. Social responsibility funds should be established for model projects at the central and local level in this scope. In addition, active participation should be sought in monitoring of child labour by the private sector.

5. The design and implementation projects and impact studies processes in the scope of Improving the Working and Social Life of Seasonal and Migratory Agricultural Labourers Project (METIP) should be participatory and should include local and national non-governmental organisations; these organisations should be provided with the opportunity to implement projects.
6. Defined standards should be established for accommodation facilities provided by plantation owners or in tent camp areas in relation to living conditions of the seasonal and migratory agricultural labourers of cotton cultivation. Clean and continuous drinking water and utility water, waste water systems and humane accommodation conditions should be provided, especially including health services.
7. A hotline should be made available for the seasonal agricultural labourers so they can be informed of their rights and complaints which provide advisory services concerning the working conditions, fees and shelter of labourers.
8. Education and life skills programs for young children of the seasonal and migratory agricultural labourers should be implemented. Local staff should be trained for this.
9. Cooperation should be ensured with national and international private sector, volunteers and professional associations with the aim of developing local level service models. International experience should be transferred to Turkey.
10. Local civil society, professional organisations and the media should be actively involved in public awareness and sensitivity to the topic. The local and mainstream media should especially have a role in the monitoring of child labour.
11. A new local social policy should be developed in regards to meeting a portion of the loss of income of families if child labour is eradicated. These labourers should be included in the social security system to ensure they receive medical and retirement benefits.



Local Action Plan Development and Implementation: Recommended Method

Step 1: Registration of labourers participating in the seasonal and migratory agriculture should be conducted with the aim of identifying the needs of the labourers and provision of services.

Step 2: A quick and simple analysis should be conducted concerning the current situation of seasonal agricultural and migratory labour and especially the situation of child labour in cotton cultivation in the province or district. Planning should be based upon this analysis.

Step 3: Based on the analysis, the main problems should be identified with the participation of all stakeholders involved in cotton cultivation; these problems should be grouped and listed in order of priority of importance.

Step 4: A capacity assessment of the institutions/organisations who participate in the planning, implementation and monitoring processes should be carried out and their roles and responsibilities should be identified and allocated.

Step 5: Problem based solutions should be developed together with all stakeholders within the province or district.

Step 6: Responsible persons and institutions/organisations should be identified for proposing solutions. A budget and other recourses should be allocated for the actions and recommendations for concrete solutions should be measurable.

Step 7: Implementation should be monitored and reports should be prepared.

Step 8: A working group should be established to monitor and evaluate the action plan.

Local Policies and Actions

Meeting for Cotton Cultivation Labour Rates and Working Conditions

Activity	Responsible Party	Period	Output
Providing information about regulations such as national legislation and international agreements concerning child labour in cotton cultivation in a meeting attended by related parties where the wages and working conditions of seasonal and migratory labourers are identified.	Governorship Provincial Labour & Employment Agency Directorate	March July	Legislation Dossier, Meeting attendance list
Ensuring decisions taken in the meeting concerning child labourers in cotton cultivation compliant to national legislations, commitments and international agreements and conventions.	Chambers of Agriculture		Meeting Decisions
Inspection by civil society and professional organisations to ensure the working conditions and wages are implemented accordingly as identified and decided in the meeting. Conducting a participatory evaluation meeting at the end of the cotton harvest.	Valilik Sivil Meslek Kuruluşları	Kasım	Sivil Meslek Kuruluşları Raporları Değerlendirme Toplantısı.

Awareness Raising and Individual Capacity Development

Activity	Responsible Party	Period	Output
Providing training to cotton producers to increase awareness of child labour in cotton cultivation.	Chamber of Agriculture Provincial Labour & Employment Agency Directorate	Continuous	Training documents and meeting dossier
Providing training to agricultural intermediaries to ensure raised sensitivity for children working in cotton cultivation.	Labour & Employment Agency Directorate		
Hanging posters in certain regions in the province and district during the hoeing and harvest seasons to increase public awareness.	Municipality NGOs Chamber of Agriculture	March - June September - November	Posters
Attending programs on local television channels, radio and newspapers with regard to child labour in seasonal agricultural sector with the aim of increasing awareness and providing information.	Universities NGOs Chamber of Agriculture	August - November	Programs Newspaper Articles

Inspection of Child Labour in Cotton Cultivation

Activity	Responsible Party	Period	Output
Ensuring the monitoring and inspection of children working in the cotton fields. Recording the monitoring results by using the e-School module.	NGOs Professional Associations	March - June September - November	Inspection reports Monitoring modules
Reporting the activities conducted during the cotton cultivation season and for these reports to be sent to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security. In addition to share the reports with local and central level education and health organisations.	Provincial Labour & Employment Agency Directorate	December	Register and reports of activities conducted
Developing inspection mechanism at the local level and conducting piloting	Labour & Employment Agency Directorate Universities	Continuous	Piloting project

Provision of Services

Education

Activity	Responsible Party	Period	Output
Implementing community based pre-school education programs for the 0-5 age group children of families participating in cotton cultivation and who live in camps and/or in regions of high labourer populations.	Public Education Centres Provincial/District Directors of Education	March - June September - November	Training programs Monitoring cards
Implementation of primary education support programs with the aim of catch-up education for children 6-14 age group.	Provincial Labour & Employment Agency Directorate		Training programs
Provision of vocational and skills training opportunities for youth 15-17 age group.			Training programs
Ensuring participation of children of 6-14 age group to participate in education with the bussing system.		September - November	e-School records
Identifying families with children of the 0-17 age group requiring special needs education and informing them of their rights and educational opportunities; providing guidance to special needs education opportunities after ensuring the acquirement of medical reports/certificates.	Provincial/District Directors of Education	March - June September - November	Enrolment reports

Health

Activity	Responsible Party	Period	Output
Conducting general health checks of the seasonal agricultural labourers.	Provincial Directorate of Health	Continuous	Health check results
Completing the vaccinations of children who have never been vaccinated or have not completed their vaccinations.			List of children with vaccinations
Ensuring hygienic conditions in the tent camp areas, conducting garbage collection services regularly, ensuring the employer provides similar services to households outside the camping areas.	Provincial Directorate of Health Municipalities	Continuous	Inspection reports
Identifying children with special education needs and informing the provincial/district education and health directorates. Ensuring the provision of health and education services.	Provincial Directorate of Education Provincial Directorate of Health	Continuous	Health check results
Providing incentives and support for family doctors to provide health services to seasonal agricultural labourers.	Governorship Provincial Directorate of Health	Continuous	Seasonal and migratory labourers continuously receiving services
Ensuring plantation/field owners provide first aid kits in the field and to ensure agricultural intermediaries or assistants to receive first aid training.	Governorship Provincial Directorate of Health Chamber of Agriculture	Continuous	First Aid Kit Trained agricultural intermediary or assistant
Ensuring the on-site monitoring of pregnant women.	Provincial Directorate of Health	Continuous	Monitoring cards
Providing health services in the evenings and weekends.			-

Nutrition

Activity	Responsible Party	Period	Output
Providing training on matters of healthy, sufficient and balanced diet for seasonal and migratory agricultural labourers and their children and provision of food products and micronutrient supplements such as vitamins, iron, etc.	Public Education Centres Directorate of Social Aid & Solidarity Municipalities	March - June	Training programs List of distribution of food products
Ensuring breakfast is provided to the labourers at the housing areas established by public institutions.	Governorship Directorate of Social Aid & Solidarity Chamber of Agriculture	September - November	Breakfast distribution list
Regular provision of dinner for the labourers by means of establishment of dining hall in tent/camp sites.	Governorship Chamber of Agriculture	March - June September - November	Meal distribution list

Social Aid

Activity	Responsible Party	Period	Output
Development of programs in which seasonal and migratory agricultural labourers can take advantage of social aid in their provinces.	Governorships / District Governorships Municipalities	Continuous	Developed new models
Development of new social aid models for seasonal agricultural labourers.	Üniversiteler Sivil Toplum Kuruluşları	Continuous	

Role of Professional Associations, Academia and NGOs

Labour Force Research

Activity	Responsible Party	Period	Output
Conducting research at the local level on the percentage of child labour in cotton cultivation labour and how the sector will be affected in the case of elimination of the child labour force.	Universities Research Centres Development Agencies	Continuous	Research reports
Conducting research concerning development of solutions for replacement of the labour force.			
Conducting research concerning wide spreading of cotton harvest automation and the change in the labour force in cases of automation in agriculture.			
Conducting activities to guide the excess labour force to qualified work as a result of using automation in harvesting.	Labour & Employment Agency Directorate Professional Associations	Continuous	Research reports and education programs

Developing Capacity of Service Provision

Activity	Responsible Party	Period	Output
Developing the institutional capacity of chambers of agriculture concerning the prevention and inspection of child labour in cotton cultivation	Ministry of Labour & Social Security Provincial Labour & Employment Agency Directorate	Continuous	Capacity development materials
Developing institutional capacity of public servants, civil society, professional organisations and local media in the provinces regarding prevention of child labour and its inspection in provinces where cotton is cultivated.			

Civil Monitoring and Inspection Opportunities

Activity	Responsible Party	Period	Output
Development of local level civil monitoring and inspection models.	Chambers of Agriculture Education Unions	Continuous	Civil monitoring reports
Conducting civil monitoring activities.	NGOs Vocational Associations	March - June September - November	Civil monitoring reports

Cotton Producing, Marketing and Processing Companies

Re-Structuring of the Labour Force Demand

Activity	Responsible Party	Period	Output
Conducting activities to develop solutions how the labour force supply can be met in the case that child labour is eradicated from cotton cultivation.	Provincial Labour & Employment Agency Directorate	Continuous	Labour force analysis and alternative programs
Planning of a suitable labour force replacement for child labourers in cotton cultivation and taking measures for the encouragement of unemployed youth in the 19-25 age groups.	Provincial Labour & Employment Agency Directorate Chambers of Agriculture	Continuous	Incentives
Developing local level encouragement models for increasing automation and increasing the number of harvesting cotton with machinery.	Chambers of Agriculture Directorate of Food, Agriculture & Husbandry	Continuous	Visibility materials Reports

Work Health and Safety

Activity	Responsible Party	Period	Output
Developing and implementing current and new standards for work health and safety for all those involved in cultivation of cotton.	Ministry of Labour & Social Security	Continuous	Set of standards
Training to be provided to plantation owners, agricultural intermediaries and labourers on the work health and safety of persons working in cultivation of cotton.	Provincial Labour & Employment Agency Directorate Chamber of Agriculture	March - June July - September	Training set and Training programs
Provision of work safety materials for those working in cotton cultivation.	Provincial/District Chambers of Agriculture	March - June September - November	Photographs Distribution list of work safety materials
Destroying packaging of chemical products used for spraying in cotton by incineration.	Chamber of Agriculture Provincial Directorate of Health Directorate of Food, Agriculture & Husbandry	Continuous	Record of destroyed packaging of chemical products



Conclusion

The cotton produced in Turkey only meets half of the needs of the country. Cotton and its intermediate products are an important input product and means of employment for the textile and garment sector. As the first link in the supply chain of the textile and garment industry, cotton cultivation bears the important problem of child labour. Economic development should be realized in the scope of a social state and social rights. It is known that cotton is an important sector for the development of Turkey. It is for such reasons that consumers who are sensitive to social state and rights have the tendency to stop consuming products which make use of child labour. Thus, calls for boycott are made in Europe against forced child labour in the harvest of cotton in Uzbekistan and to prohibit the import of cotton from this country.

This situation should be brought to the attention of producers, traders and exporters of cotton and processors of products whose raw product is cotton. Further, child labour is one of the most important barriers to societal development. It must not be forgotten that children who have received an education are the most important capital for the development of the future of a nation. Ensuring the developmental rights, including education and health for children working in cotton cultivation as seasonal and migratory labourers is the foundational necessity to being a social state. New opportunities should be created for these children where they do not work in fields but have the chance to develop and to look to the future with hope.





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