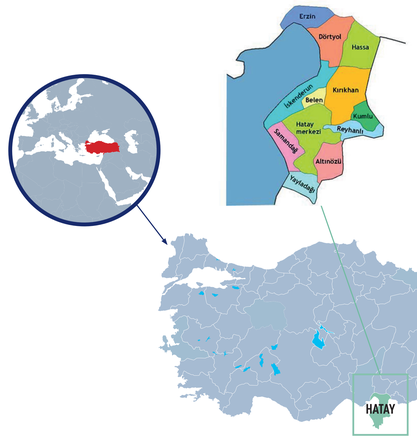
HISTORICAL PROCESS OF SEASONAL MIGRATORY AGRICULTURAL WORK IN HATAY PROVINCE



Development Workshop Archive, Hatay, Kırıkhan District, Aygır Gölü, 2020

Development Workshop Archive, Hatay, Kırıkhan District, Gültepe Neighborhood, 2020

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1940–1953

Article 1: For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.

Article 3: For the purposes of this Convention, the term *"the worst forms of child labour"* comprises: (a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; (b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances; (c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties; (d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

1952

The 1940s are the years when cotton farming was getting intensive with an increase in the number of seasonal migratory agricultural workers coming to Çukurova.

1953

UN General Assembly has adopted **Convention on the Rights of the Child.**

1978

Hatay Federation of Workers' Rights was established.

Hatay Samandağı Agricultural Workers' Union and Antakya Hatay Agricultural Workers Union were established.

1986

Aydınlık Daily, Article Series on Cotton Slaves; Babies Grow up in Cotton Fields
"We met workers from Yayloca village of Antakya while they were working in the field of Hamza Ali Özgören brothers on Adana-Seyhan highway. They were in total 135 people. With the exception of few, all are picking cotton. The majority of workers were women."

Social Integration of Agricultural Workers in Turkey
Murat Şeker
The study was conducted in Çukurova, the Amik Plain in Hatay province and in Amuda and Samandağ districts where family enterprises were dominant in agricultural production.

1990

State Statistical Institute announced the results of **Child Labourforce Survey.**

1994

Convention on the Rights of the Child was ratified by the Turkish Grand National Assembly with reservations.

1996

ILO **Convention No. 138 concerning the Minimum Age** was ratified by the Turkish Grand National Assembly.

1998

State Statistical Institute announced the results of **Child Labourforce Survey.**

1999

Time Bound Policy and Programme Framework for the Prevention of Child Labour which has been prepared with the contributions of various institutions and organisations within the scope of ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) is a road map for the elimination of child labour. Firstly, the worst forms of child labour in Turkey were identified. It was targeted to prevent the identified worst forms of child labour within a determined period of time with a holistic, participatory, multilateral and scheduled programme integrated with country's development plans.

2000

ILO **Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour** was ratified by the Turkish Grand National Assembly.

2001

Education of Children of Seasonal Agricultural Workers
Semsaddin Kocak
The research was done with seasonal agricultural workers their children at compulsory schooling ages, agriculture intermediaries, employers in Çukurova and education managers and governors in the district of Şanlıurfa, Gaziantep, Diyarbakır, Kahramanmaraş, Mardin, Siirt, Niğde, Adana, İçel and Hatay provinces.

2002

Amik Plain and Amik Lake: Impact of an Experience in Draining a Wetland
Vedat Çalışkan
Cotton agriculture on the Amik Plain started after 1940. This initiation of cotton agriculture accompanied by developments and investments in agriculture during the 1950s marked a new phase. It was a turning point for the region with implementations effective on societal and economic features of the region.

2003

Time Bound Policy and Programme Framework for the Prevention of Child Labour was published by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

2004

History of Trade Unions in Turkey
Kemal Sülker
Hatay Samandağı Agricultural Workers Union and Antakya Hatay Agricultural Workers Union were established in 1952, followed by establishment of Hatay Federation of Workers' Rights in 1953.

2005

Turkish Statistical Institute announced the results of **Child Labourforce Survey.**

2006

Course of Urbanization in Hatay (1940-2009) and Spatial Distribution
Bayram Çetin
The study examines urbanization and spatial distribution of the urbanization process in Hatay between 1940 and 2009. It is found that while urbanization in Antakya and Samandağ districts proceeded with immigration from nearby rural areas, urbanization in Kırıkhan, Reyhanlı, İskenderun and Dörtyol districts was marked by migration from Eastern and South-eastern Anatolia regions. The need for labour in cotton agriculture in particular drew seasonal and permanent migration from Eastern and South-eastern Anatolia regions besides people coming in from the Kuseyr plateau and neighbouring provinces. As migration continued there emerged new units of settlements on the plain while some settlements like Kırıkhan and Reyhanlı grew larger to turn into agro-cities.

2007

2008

2009

Circular No.2010/6 on Improving the Social Lives of Seasonal Agricultural Workers published by the Office of the Prime Ministry.

2010

Project for Improving the Social Lives of Seasonal Migratory Agricultural Workers (METİP) was launched by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

2011

Circular dated 20.04.2016 and No.2011/25 on **Education of Children of Seasonal Agricultural Workers** was published.

2012

Circular No.2012/20 on Prevention of Child Labour was published.

Turkish Statistical Institute announced the results of **Child Labourforce Survey.**

2013

Five Border Towns and Change in Labour Markets: 2011-2014
Kavret Lordoğlu
The study presented in the Turkish Migration Conference seeks to explore how a migration movement covering a specific region affects labour markets in that region. In five provinces; Hatay, Kilis, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Mardin, 36 in-depth interviews were conducted with opinion leaders and representatives of NGOs in April 2015. Syrians employed in agricultural work in Hatay involve in various agricultural activities including hoeing, sowing, seasonal work and harvest. There are Syrian workers in all districts of Hatay, however, the numbers are highest in Reyhanlı district due to its proximity to Cilvegözü border.

Observations Based on a Field Study in Antakya: Syrian Refugee Child Workers
Nihat Kireçdağ
A field survey was carried out in Antakya with random sampling and by using semi-structured questionnaire to display the position of Syrian refugee children in the labour market. The study examines the risks and problems that these children face in their work. It is observed that interviewed children work mostly in garment and shoe stores, textile workshops, tea houses, in phone repair works, barbershops and in industry and agriculture sectors where working conditions are heavy and hazardous.

A vehicle carrying agricultural workers rollover: 6 dead, 39 injured. Minibus carrying workers went off the road at Narlıca junction on Antakya-Reyhanlı highway. Governorate of Hatay declared that there were 6 casualties and 39 people were injured, majority of whom were Syrians.

Prof. Dr. Bülent Gülçubuk from Agricultural Economics Department of Ankara University Faculty of Agriculture who conducted a research in the region covering Adana, Mersin and Hatay provinces said, according to unofficial figures, there are over 1 million migratory agricultural workers in Turkey experiencing difficult circumstances in provinces they move to for work.

The objective of the **Dörtyol Citrus Fruit is in Safe Hands Social Support Project** implemented in cooperation with Governorate of Dörtyol, District Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry and Union of Citrus Fruit Producers of Dörtyol and supported by DOĞAKA Agency is to train and raise awareness of workers engaged in citrus fruit production activities. With the project, 50 trainees will be delivered 88 hours of training in citrus fruit work and each trainee will be paid 20 TRY a day. Also, at the end of training all trainees will be given pruning and agricultural pesticide equipment worth 1000 TRY.

Spinach harvest started in Reyhanlı district of Hatay. Agricultural workers including Syrians who are living in rented, earn 25 TRY daily.

Analyses on Problems of Seasonal Agricultural Workers in Reyhanlı District
Ahmet Akay, Resat Sezen, Ali Selçuk Birücü
Agricultural workers start to come to Reyhanlı district with the start of hoeing and harvesting towards the end of February. First arrivals are from the vicinity of the district for some daily works. Workers from Şanlıurfa arrive just before the start of parsley harvest. They are followed by others for onion, potato, wheat and cotton harvest. The study examines social, economic and housing conditions of worker families.

The flood in Kaplıcalar location of Erzin District of Hatay also affected workers coming from Georgia and Syria. 36 Georgians and over 100 Syrians working in citrus fruit orchards were transferred to safer places in Erzin and Dörtyol districts when hotels and lodgements they live in, were overflooded. It is stated that tents will be provided to the ones who cannot make an effort.

The Public Health Directorate of Hatay, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Harran University jointly implement a programme for seasonal agricultural workers. To evaluate activities carried out under the programme team of UNFPA Migration School Project visited seasonal agricultural workers staying in Kumlu, Kırıkhan and Erzin districts of Hatay to make on-site assessments on their working conditions, living environments and family life.

District Directorate of Health and Community Health Centre teams visited agricultural workers engaged in tangerine harvest in Yeşilköy neighbourhood of Dörtyol district and distributed aşure dessert.

Public Health Directorate of Hatay **2014 Service Delivery Plan for Improvement of Health of Seasonal Agricultural Workers** contains activities to provide regular and sufficient health services to workers and their families living in temporary settlements in Dörtyol, Erzin, Hassa, Kırıkhan, Kumlu and Reyhanlı districts. In 2014 medical screenings covered 329 infants, 254 children, 204 women in the age group of 15-49 years, 48 pregnant women and 15 women recently gave birth. Immunizations covered 325 infants, 220 children, 15 pregnant women and 86 women aged 15 to 49.

Students from İlk Adım Pre-School in Dörtyol district of Hatay distributed clothes to the children of seasonal agricultural worker families which were being collected by a donation campaign in the school. The distribution was organized by the District Directorate of Health and the school in the container area located in Yeşil Neighbourhood by the Director of Health, school principal, teachers and students distributed clothes to children.

Alive Stories: What Makes Cotton is the Sweat of Workers
Muzaffer Azacı

2014

With **Metropolitan Municipality Law No.6360** services regarding seasonal agricultural workers were put under the responsibility of Metropolitan Municipalities.

2015

Report of Parliamentary Investigating Commission for the Identification of Measures to be Taken Regarding Problems of Seasonal Agricultural Workers was published.

The District Governorate of Dörtyol organized a meeting to discuss improvement of working and living conditions of seasonal agricultural workers coming to Dörtyol with the start of harvesting season. District Gendarmerie Command, Director of District Security, Metropolitan Municipality of Hatay Coordinator for Dörtyol, Erzin and Payas districts, sergeants of citrus fruit workers, local headmen and presidents of local chambers. The District Governor says, *"We reviewed our measures for keeping children in seasonal agricultural work areas in education. We want agricultural workers to prefer staying in houses rather than in tents. Our local headmen have important roles in this respect."*

Child Labour Information Building Seminar was held on 15 June 2017 as organized jointly by DOGAKA and Union of Chamber of Merchants and Craftsmen of Hatay.

150-300 citizens from Şanlıurfa and some Syrian families with 30 members who came to Hatay to work in carrot harvest, live in tents in Çataltepe neighbourhood of Kırıkhan district. Syrians involved in seasonal works during spring and summer, and then continue working in constructions at city centres in other seasons.

Erzin Community Health Centre continues immunization activities covering infants and children of Syrian seasonal agricultural workers.

Syrian Refugees Engaged in Agricultural Activities: Case of Altınözü (Hatay)
Selma Akay Ertürk
The research presents a geographical assessment related to Syrian refugees who had fled Syria and settled in Hatay with the outbreak of civil war in their country in 2011 and presently working in olive production. It also examines social, cultural, economic and spatial impacts of this forced migration on Hatay province. It is possible to say that Syrian refugees fill a gap in the labour force in olive agriculture and play an important role in sustaining the production.

Seasonal agricultural workers from Eastern and South-eastern Anatolia work under extreme heat in Hatay to earn their bread. Mehmet Gökkıran from Şanlıurfa picking onion in a field on the Amik Plain says, *"We will starve if we donot work here. Coming to the field early in the morning and leaving late in the evening we earn 45 TRY a day. Market price of onion is low this year and this affects us badly. Here about 300 workers keep food on the table for their families with this work. We work in onion fields during summer and in citrus fruit orchards during winter when it is cold."*

According to **Turkish Statistical Institute's 2015 Agricultural Enterprise Labourforce Wage Statistics** daily wage of seasonal female agricultural workers became 46 TRY, increasing by 13.3 percent, and male workers' daily wage became 59 TRY with an increase by 9.6 percent. In agricultural enterprises the highest daily wage paid to seasonal agricultural workers is 63 TRY for women in Ordu and 83 TRY for men in Konya. The lowest wage was identified in Hatay as 31 TRY for women and 40 TRY for men.

Enjoying crop versatility due to its climate, Hatay province is also popular for its parsley production. Indeed, the province has a share of 40 percent in Turkey's total parsley production. As a fine source of income for farmers, parsley is harvested by seasonal agricultural workers coming from Eastern and South-eastern Anatolia regions. Traveling to parsley fields early in morning, each worker earns 40 TRY a day.

Seasonal agricultural workers from Eastern and South-eastern Anatolia regions who are in Hatay for carrot harvest have to work in muddy fields in spite of cold and rain. Among these workers in Kırıkhan district of Hatay, there are also Syrians who either stay in tent settlements located near the fields or in rented houses.

2016

With **Labour Law No. 6715 dated 20th May 2016** private employment agencies were given the authority of temporary employment relationship. These agencies would provide workers to employers temporarily within the conditions determined by law.

Circular dated 21.03.2016 and No.2016/5 on **Access to Education of Children of Seasonal Agricultural Workers and Semi-Nomadic Families** was brought into force by the Ministry of National Education General Directorate of Primary Education.

2018 was announced as **Year of Combating Against Child Labour** with Presidential Circular.

National Programme to Eliminate Child Labour (2017-2023) was brought on force by Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

Circular No.2017/6 on Improving the Social Lives of Seasonal Migratory Agricultural Workers published by the Office of the Prime Ministry.

2017

Red pepper harvest continues in Reyhanlı district of Hatay when temperature is 36 degrees Celsius. Among workers, there are those working to earn money for courses to take high school and university admittance exams. Among them Fatma Kızar says *"I am working hard to take that university admittance exam again. I am working for 35 TRY a day in this pepper field to continue my education and become a special education teacher. I will take private courses with the money I earn and use the rest as pocket money."*

Representatives of the Erzin Seasonal Agricultural Workers Assistance and Solidarity Association established by intermediaries visited the Governor of Erzin.

One died and 26 injured in an accident where a minibus carrying citrus fruit workers collided with a truck loaded with iron in Erzin district of Hatay.

Orange-Coloured Carrot Harvest in Kırıkhan, Labourforce Needs and Cost of Harvest
Selçuk Uğurluay
In this study, orange-coloured carrot was selected as an experimental material to determine labour force capacities used in harvesting activities. While following harvest activities, no child worker (under age 15) was observed. All enterprise owners employed harvest workers on daily wage. Intermediaries' fee is 5-7 % of a worker's daily wage. Since manual harvesting of orange-coloured carrot is quite tiresome, workers are mostly selected from younger and stronger ones.

Turkish Red Crescent Hatay Community Centre conducted case studies covering seasonal migratory agricultural workers under the Protection Programme.

Support to Life Association draw attention to the issue of child labour in a media campaign organized on the occasion of April 23rd National Sovereignty and Children's Day. The association shared pictures drawn by agricultural workers or refugee children from Adana, Hatay, Şanlıurfa, Diyarbakır, Mardin and İstanbul in its social media accounts. In awareness building campaign #23Hayal23Gerçek, association invites everyone to take action with the slogan *"It is the right of all children to live their childhood."*

Supporting Decent Work for Syrians under Temporary Protection in Turkey: Needs Analysis for Capacity Building of Worker and Employer Organizations
Seyhan Erdoğdu
It is a needs analysis for building capacity of worker and employer organizations with the overall purpose of supporting decent work for Syrian refugees. To collect qualitative data, 50 interviews were conducted 126 of which were at province level between May and June 2017. Interviews were conducted in Ankara, Bursa, Adana, Gaziantep, Hatay, Mersin and Şanlıurfa.

Hatay Province Settlement Geography -II (Settlement Types, Distribution and Dwellings)
Doçent Eylül Karagel
The study focuses on human beings' struggle to survive in their living spaces and on the main theme of similarities and differences between spaces affected by this struggle. Regarding this main theme, the study seeks to bring to light the potentials of and roles assumed by geographical units in the region from the smallest to the largest settlement unit. Images of the tents where migratory seasonal agricultural workers who come to Reyhanlı and Kumlu districts of Hatay for harvest of agricultural products, stay, were shared.

2018

Turkish Red Crescent Hatay Community Centre conducted fieldwork within the scope of Livelihood Programme to identify problems and needs of seasonal migratory agricultural workers.

Turkish Statistical Institute announced **2019 Agricultural Enterprise Labourforce Wage Statistics**. The lowest daily payment in agriculture was identified in Hatay: for male agricultural workers is 61 TRY and 50 TRY for female workers. An agricultural worker in Çanakkale earns 133% higher than a worker in Hatay.

Mayor of Kırıkhan Ayhan Yavuz and Director of National Education Cahit Ayazhan distributed balloons, cake and Turkish flag to the children of seasonal agricultural workers staying in tents in Kırıkhan district on the occasion of April 23 National Sovereignty and Children's day.

Hatay Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry teams visit seasonal agricultural workers who come to Hatay for work to screen their body temperatures and provide information about the rules to be followed regarding coronavirus measures.

Permission for out-of-province agricultural activities such as hoeing, fertilization, pruning, sowing, harvesting, medication is in line with seasonal/regional characteristics and agricultural cycle and this permission may be granted on the condition that relevant Provincial and District Directorates of Agriculture and Forestry confirm that. Seasonal agricultural workers can travel with their families correspondingly the circular.

Turkish Red Crescent distributed hygiene kits, masks, and balloons, flags and painting materials to seasonal migratory agriculture workers and their children in the Reşadan neighbourhood in Reyhanlı district of Hatay.

Health check-up of seasonal workers arriving in Reyhanlı district for coronavirus were being done. The District Directorate of Health of Reyhanlı teams and the District Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry visited agricultural workers who were working in the recently started onion harvest. It is stated that teams will continue their health examinations of seasonal agricultural workers.

Tents of seasonal agricultural workers in Reyhanlı district were disinfected by Municipality of Reyhanlı teams.

Rapid Assessment on the Impact of Coronavirus Outbreak on Seasonal Migratory Agricultural Workers and their Children and on Crop Farming conducted by the Development Workshop in March-April 2020 with the support of ILO Turkey Office focused on the current situation of seasonal agricultural workers and those involved in migratory processes, how the process may evolve and ways of overcoming bottlenecks.

Hatay Assistance Association (HAYATD) delivered food supplies and toys to 100 worker families living in tents located nearby the fields in Kırıkhan district. The association will also be distributing mattresses, blankets and winter clothes before winter comes.

2019

Child Labour Prevention Units were established in 81 provinces with First 100 Days Action Plan of the Presidency. The reports prepared by these units composed of Provincial Directorate of Labour and Employment Agency, Provincial Directorate of Social Security, Provincial Directorate of Family, Labour and Social Services, would be examined by the Board of Child Labour Prevention.

Ministry of Interior has sent **Circular on Summer Season Measures** to 81 Governorates. According to the Circular, in the regions where agricultural activities were executed, agricultural vehicles, tractor, harvester and other agriculture vehicles would not be allowed to moving in traffic inappropriately. Traffic controls would be increased between migration-receiving and migration-sending locations in order to ensure safe journey for agricultural workers. Intercity journey with the road vehicles carrying seasonal agricultural workers would not be allowed between 24:00 p.m and 6:00 a.m.

Turkish Statistical Institute announced the results of **Child Labourforce Survey.**

Development Workshop Archive, Hatay, Kırıkhan District, İncirli Neighborhood 2020

DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP
+90 (541) 457 31 90 info@ka.org.tr www.ka.org.tr /kalkinmatolyesi /kalkinmatolyesi
/kalkinmatolyesi Çankaya Mah. Uşakçı Cad. No: 16/14 Çankaya - Ankara/Türkiye