

# The Tip of the Iceberg

## Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers and Their Children

---

*The Study Report on the Effect of the Coronavirus  
Pandemic on Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers,  
Their Families, and on Child Labour*



## THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG

### THE STUDY REPORT ON THE EFFECT OF CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC ON SEASONAL MIGRANT AGRICULTURAL WORKERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND ON CHILD LABOUR

#### Prepared by

Besim Can Zırh  
Nevin K    k  
Nilay Keskin Samancı  
 zɡ r  etinkaya  
Umut Kuru z m

#### Field Staff and Data Entry

Yeliz Pala [Team Leader]  
Derya Uysal  
G zde Polatkal  
Ey p G reke  
Hazan  cal  
İhsan İznebio lu  
İlke  zt rk  
Irmak Kocabay  
Nalan Yıldız  
Deniz Nur

#### Contributors

Buse Ceren Ota   
Cemre Yaşke eli  
Ertan Karabıyık  
Hazan  cal  
 zlem Zehir

This publication was prepared with the financial and technical support of UNICEF T rkiye Office. The content of this publication, including any opinions, are attributable solely to the Development Workshop. The content does not necessarily reflect the policies and opinions of UNICEF T rkiye Office.



Development Workshop Science Culture Training Research Implementation  
Production and Enterprise Cooperative  
 ankaya Mah.  sk p Cad. No: 16/14  ankaya - Ankara  
+90 (553) 211 38 97



# The Tip of the Iceberg

## Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers and Their Children

---

*The Study Report on the Effect of the Coronavirus  
Pandemic on Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers,  
Their Families, and on Child Labour*



# CONTENTS

<b>FOREWORD</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENT</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>ABBREVIATIONS</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>12</b>
Current State of the Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers and the Coronavirus Pandemic in Türkiye .....	15
Child Labour over the Course of the Coronavirus Pandemic.....	20
<b>PART 1: PURPOSE, METHOD, AND LIMITATIONS</b> .....	<b>22</b>
1.1. Purpose and Main Questions of the Survey .....	23
1.2. Method and Geographic Scope .....	24
1.3. Data Collection.....	27
1.4. Limitations and Solutions for Limitations .....	28
1.5. Ethical Considerations .....	30
<b>PART 2: STUDY FINDINGS</b> .....	<b>34</b>
2.1. Main Demographic Findings .....	35
2.2. Impact of Coronavirus Pandemic on Seasonal Agricultural Production .....	45
2.3. Economic Impact of Coronavirus Pandemic .....	53
2.4. Impact of Coronavirus Pandemic on Social Support Systems .....	74
2.5. Change in the Access of Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers' Children to Education and Their Continuity Caused by the Pandemic .....	79
2.6. Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Mental Health .....	101
2.7. Child Labour in Agricultural Production and Effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Child Labour .....	127

**PART 3: EVALUATION..... 140**

3.1. General Demographics and Financial Status of Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers During the Coronavirus Pandemic ..... 141

3.2. Access to Education and School Attendance for Children from Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Households During the Coronavirus Pandemic..... 142

3.3. The Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on the Mental Health of Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers and Their Children..... 143

3.4. Coronavirus Pandemic and Child Labour in Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Production ..... 145

**PART 4: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS..... 146**

4.1. Effective Use and Follow-up of Social Protection and Support Mechanisms..... 147

4.2. Labour Relations, Occupational Health and Safety In Times of Crisis and Outbreak ..... 149

4.3. Safety and Improvement of Living Conditions, and Environmental Protection..... 150

4.4. Delivery of Educational Services..... 151

4.5. Awareness-Raising and Briefing ..... 152

4.6. Building Organizational Capacity and Developing Local-Based Coordination Mechanisms..... 153

4.7. Cooperation with the Private Sector ..... 154

**CONCLUSION .....156**

**REFERENCES .....158**

**ANNEXES**

Annex 1: Interviews held as part of the field survey by tent settlements and provinces..... 164

Annex 2: Household Questionnaire..... 166

Annex 3: In-Depth Interviews..... 186

Annex 4: Child Focus Group ..... 193

Annex 5: Key Organization/Informant Interviews ..... 195

Annex 6: List of Key Informants Interviewed by Province ..... 198

# TABLES

<b>Table 1:</b> Types of employment for child labour in 2006, 2012, and 2019 (per thousand).14	
<b>Table 2:</b> Survey tools, number of respondents, location, and profile of respondents ..... 26	26
<b>Table 3:</b> Average age of household representatives by nationality and gender .....35	35
<b>Table 4:</b> Average and median age of household representatives by nationality and gender..... 36	36
<b>Table 5:</b> Household sizes.....38	38
<b>Table 6:</b> Educational status of household members aged 18 and above by gender .....41	41
<b>Table 7:</b> The average grades where the household members aged 18 and above drop out..... 42	42
<b>Table 8:</b> Respondents whose parents work as seasonal agricultural workers ..... 43	43
<b>Table 9:</b> Average time (months) spent in tents in a year. .... 44	44
<b>Table 10:</b> Working status of household representatives in 2019 and 2020 by gender .....45	45
<b>Table 11:</b> Working status of household members aged 18 and above in 2019 and 2020..... 46	46
<b>Table 12:</b> Services/contributions provided to households for the Coronavirus pandemic ..... 49	49
<b>Table 13:</b> Services/contributions provided in the working area/environment..... 50	50
<b>Table 14:</b> Households’ degree of concern about the spread of the virus in tent settlements ..... 50	50
<b>Table 15:</b> Distribution of needs stated by the households to be protected from the Coronavirus .....51	51
<b>Table 16:</b> Primary sources of concern for the households regarding the Coronavirus pandemic.....52	52
<b>Table 17:</b> Top three needs of the households since March 2020 .....52	52
<b>Table 18:</b> Receiving/not receiving regular aid in kind or cash support from an organization.....74	74
<b>Table 19:</b> Distribution of educational status of children aged 5-17 by gender 5-17 ..... 84	84
<b>Table 20:</b> Distribution of school age children who do not continue their education by gender ..... 84	84
<b>Table 21:</b> Reasons why children do not / cannot continue their education (percentage) .85	85
<b>Table 22:</b> Distribution of household members who help with the children’s classes..... 94	94
<b>Table 23:</b> Parents’ opinions on whether their children will be seasonal migrant agricultural workers .....97	97
<b>Table 24:</b> Causes behind the employment of children ..... 135	135
<b>Table 25:</b> State of children starting to work during the pandemic.....136	136

# CHARTS

---

<b>Chart 1:</b> Distribution of age groups of household members by gender .....	37
<b>Chart 2:</b> Educational status of household representatives by gender .....	40
<b>Chart 3:</b> Products, provinces, and districts worked in by month.....	47
<b>Chart 4:</b> Service provision and/or contribution to seasonal migrant agricultural worker households in their living areas after the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic .....	48
<b>Chart 5:</b> Change in income generated from seasonal agricultural labour amid the Coronavirus pandemic .....	54
<b>Chart 6:</b> Change in saving opportunities due to the Coronavirus pandemic.....	63
<b>Chart 7:</b> Indebtedness of seasonal migrant agricultural worker households .....	65
<b>Chart 8:</b> Change in indebtedness with the Coronavirus pandemic .....	66
<b>Chart 9:</b> People and organizations to borrow from when in need .....	68
<b>Chart 10:</b> Do you think you will be able to repay your debt in time? .....	71
<b>Chart 11:</b> The change in the household’s number of wages between February 2020 and August 2020.....	73
<b>Chart 12:</b> Households received/not received ₦1000 pandemic cash support provided by the Ministry of Family and Social Services.....	76
<b>Chart 13:</b> Having/not having problems accessing healthcare services [treatment, physical examination, checks, getting medicines, etc.] needed since 2020 March [percentage] .....	77
<b>Chart 14:</b> Distribution of educational status of household representatives by gender in comparison with the total number of respondents .....	82
<b>Chart 15:</b> Participation of the children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers who continued their education before the pandemic to distance education as of 2020 March [percentage] .....	87
<b>Chart 16:</b> Reasons why children were unable to participate in distance education [percentage].....	88
<b>Chart 17:</b> Teachers or any other school employees contacting/not contacting families or children during distance education by household [percentage] .....	92
<b>Chart 18:</b> Children who continue their education having/not having someone to help with their classes at home/tent [percentage] .....	93

<b>Chart 19:</b> Parents sending/not sending their children, who continue school currently, to school in the case that face-to-face education starts .....	98
<b>Chart 20:</b> Correlation between the years spent working in the job and the belief that it is valued (person) .....	103
<b>Chart 21:</b> Challenges they struggled to cope with amid the Coronavirus pandemic (person)...	111
<b>Chart 22:</b> Seasonal migrant agricultural workers’ most intensely felt emotions in response to the Coronavirus pandemic .....	113
<b>Chart 23:</b> Relationship between level of hope and the belief that the children will become agricultural workers in the future (percentage) .....	114
<b>Chart 24:</b> Strategies to cope with problems (person).....	117
<b>Chart 25:</b> Distribution of the interviewed children aged 11-17 by age and gender (person) .....	119
<b>Chart 26:</b> Distribution of daily routine by gender (person) .....	120
<b>Chart 27:</b> Things children did when they did not work (person) .....	122
<b>Chart 28:</b> Factors bothering the children (person) .....	123
<b>Chart 29:</b> Children’s fears (person).....	123
<b>Chart 30:</b> Situations children wish to change (person) .....	124
<b>Chart 31:</b> Children employed for agricultural production in 2019 and 2020 (percent) .....	128
<b>Chart 32:</b> Children aged 5 to 17 employed for agricultural production by age, gender, and nationality .....	129
<b>Chart 33:</b> Employment status of children who currently attend a school (percent) .....	130
<b>Chart 34:</b> Employment status of children who drop out of school (percent).....	131
<b>Chart 35:</b> Daily working hours for children in seasonal agricultural production (person) .....	132
<b>Chart 36:</b> Main challenges facing child workers (person).....	133
<b>Chart 37:</b> Views about what would happen if children do not work (person) .....	135

# FOREWORD

---

As one of the top emergencies in this century the coronavirus pandemic is still making its presence felt in 2021. Having originated in China back in December 2019, the virus has spread all over the world in a short span of time and turned into a pandemic. While the social and financial implications of the pandemic have quickly created shock waves through all aspects of life including work life and education in particular, its medium- and long-term effect on people's daily life is still yet to be seen.

A series of restrictions have been imposed to stop the spread of the coronavirus. Among the restrictions, there were closure of borders, in-country travel restrictions, and measures for people to "stay at home", mainstream working from home, remote learning, and a variety of quarantine measures. Given the fact that there has been a quick shift in production, labour force, and capital in the twenty first century, the restrictions have led to setbacks in the movement of goods, and challenges in the way food supply chains work. In-country and international mobility of the seasonal agricultural workers largely restricted within the first few months of the pandemic and alternative solutions and support measures are provided to address these restrictions.

Over the past 40 years, almost every country has needed seasonal migrant agricultural workers including international migrants and domestic nationals' migrants settled in those countries. To engage in agricultural production, seasonal migrant agricultural workers leave their usual residence for a certain period of time to settle somewhere else to work and return to their place of residence afterwards.

The seasonal migrant agricultural workers usually take their children with them whether they would work or not. Poor transportation, housing, and household means cause children to suffer more than adults when it comes to access to healthcare and basic services. They cannot attend school, fall behind their peers, and end up dropping out of school. Children work in agricultural lands or orchards to make a financial contribution to their parents and/or take care of their siblings, family members with disabilities, elderly family members, and do household chores.

The coronavirus pandemic has not affected all segments of the society in equal terms, hit disadvantageous and vulnerable groups harder. The pandemic has increased the expenses of seasonal migrant agricultural workers, decreased their income, restricted the access to education, and caused psychological problems.

This study was completed based on the voluntary support and cordial exchanges of seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children who struggled to work and survive under challenging circumstances back in September 2020 when the coronavirus pandemic was highly effective. We hope the findings and recommendations of this study will contribute to the relevant legislation and efforts that would support a better working and living environment for seasonal migratory agricultural workers and their children.

Development Workshop

*September 2022*

*Ankara*

# ACKNOWLEDGMENT

---

The Development Workshop has been cooperating with UNICEF Türkiye since 2017 as part of the Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour focused on combatting child labour in agricultural production. These partnerships produced various studies, training materials; contributed to advocacy efforts, and capacity building activities, and generated the situational analyses and developed provincial implementation programmes.

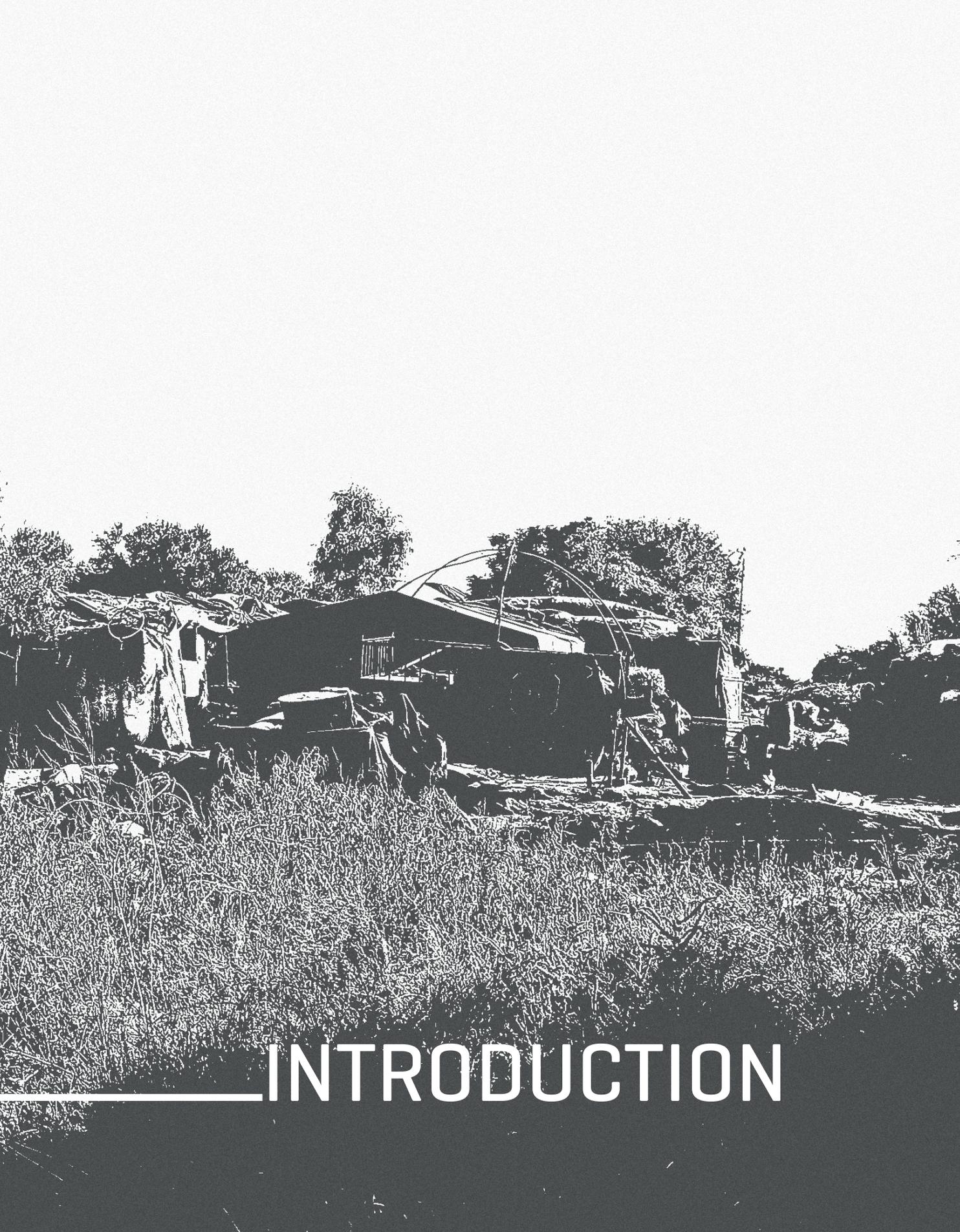
We would like to thank UNICEF Türkiye Office – especially to Melih Akın and Dilek Karagöz Küpeli - for the leadership in conducting the study and providing technical and financial assistance regarding the valuable partnership and DW experts, field staff, and programme team for their efforts over the course of the coronavirus pandemic.

We also would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the seasonal migrant agricultural workers for generously, cordially, and frankly sharing their views with us, and to their children who live under tough circumstances regardless of whether they work or not, and to the agricultural intermediaries, and all the public agencies, professional bodies, non-governmental organizations, private companies, and academics that deal with seasonal migrant agricultural workers for being there for us as they always do in every field survey of the Development Workshop.

As it is the case for any study, we wish this one to contribute to the improvement of the lives of children and their parents that have been more challenging during and after the coronavirus pandemic, and to the mitigation and elimination of child labour, and increased focus and efforts on this problem on communities and organizations.

# ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AFAD</b>	Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency
<b>CoHE</b>	Council of Higher Education
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>ECDPM</b>	European Centre for Development Policy Management
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
<b>FOLU</b>	Food and Land Use Coalition
<b>HRW</b>	Human Rights Watch
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>IPEC</b>	International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
<b>IRFC</b>	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
<b>METİP</b>	Project on Improvement of Work and Social Life of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers
<b>MoLSS</b>	Ministry of Labour and Social Security
<b>MoNE</b>	Ministry of National Education
<b>MSF</b>	Doctors Without Borders
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>OECD</b>	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>TURKSTAT</b>	Turkish Statistical Institute
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>USA</b>	United States of America
<b>WB</b>	World Bank
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization



# INTRODUCTION

Starting in China back in December 2019, the novel coronavirus pandemic has spread across the world turning into a global health crisis. The coronavirus has changed the flow of everything 'normal' and both production and consumption 'normals' have been interrupted in almost every field. After the World Health Organization (WHO) declared it a pandemic on March 11, 2020, many countries have mobilized their organizations in an effort to mitigate or respond to the damages caused by the pandemic.

The sustainability of agricultural production and the global food supply chain<sup>1</sup> has been on the agenda since the early weeks of the pandemic. As the coronavirus outbreak has gone global, the working conditions of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers, who serve as one of the main elements of the production network, have been affected significantly. The restrictions that affect the free movement of labour, agricultural goods, the social distancing practices, "stay home" calls or mandatory lockdowns including the suspension of school activities, have put farmers and employees whose business is all about earth in a tough spot and had adverse effects on their children.

Almost each and every country has taken actions and mobilized financial support for the various aspects of the supply chain such as production, processing, and shipment in an effort to protect their agricultural production from the adverse consequences of the pandemic, minimize the setbacks in the supply chain, and achieve food security. Most of the supports are relief packages that are directly offered for agricultural businesses and farmers. The question of *who works for the supply chain* ranging from farming to packaging, processing, shipment, and distribution in domestic/foreign markets has come up on the agenda like never before, and the importance of the migrant agricultural workers has been appreciated more for the sustainability of food security. To this end, the debates over the working and living conditions of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers was also brought up. Described by both the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)<sup>2</sup> and the International Labour Organization (ILO)<sup>3</sup> as *the most vulnerable labour force*, seasonal migrant agricultural workers are excluded in many cases from restrictions against the coronavirus pandemic and could not benefit largely from the support provided.

## Overall state of child labour in Türkiye

Agricultural production is a line of work where child labour is common in Türkiye. The involvement of children in agricultural production is not only a form of traditional cus-

<sup>1</sup> The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) describes this chain as a complicated network that involves many factors such as producers, consumers, agricultural and fishing inputs, processing and storage, shipment and marketing.

<sup>2</sup> FAO (2020), Social protection and COVID-19 response in rural areas. <http://www.fao.org/3/ca8561en/CA8561EN.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> ILO (2020), ILO Sectoral Brief: COVID-19 and the impact on agriculture and food security [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_dialogue/---sector/documents/briefingnote/wcms\\_742023.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_dialogue/---sector/documents/briefingnote/wcms_742023.pdf)

toms such as help to their household at the time of harvest. The cases of involvement in agricultural production starting from a very early age for children who travel with their parents should be viewed as *the worst form of child labour* in line with the national and international definitions.

The official figures concerning child labour in Türkiye have been published by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) on a regular basis since 1994. The four child labour surveys conducted in 1994, 2006, 2012, and 2019 are important to gain insight into the state of child labour in Türkiye.<sup>4</sup> The last three surveys show that the number of cases for child labour was 890,000 in 2006, rising to 893,000 in 2012, and declining to 720,000 in 2019. On the other hand, the share of agricultural and industrial sectors in child labour has declined whereas it has risen in the service sector, and children are now typically employed “based on salary or per diem” (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Types of employment for child labour in 2006, 2012, and 2019 (per thousand)

Type of Employment	Years		
	2006	2012	2019
On Salary or Per Diem	505	470	455
Self-employed	24	10	4
Unpaid domestic worker	362	413	261
Total	890	893	720

The Results of the 2019 Child Labour Survey were released on March 31, 2020.<sup>5</sup> The survey reveals that there are 720,000 working children aged 5 to 17, and 79.7% of them are aged from 15 to 17, and 15.9% of them are aged from 12 to 14, and 4.4% of them are aged from 5 to 11. The aforementioned figure does not include child labourer’s under international or temporary protection, and protection-seeking Syrians and other nationals living in Türkiye.<sup>6</sup> Given that child labour in the agricultural sector rose from 36.6 percent in 2006 to 44.8 percent in 2012 before falling to 30.8 percent in 2019, the effects of Syrian refugees

<sup>4</sup> TURKSTAT Child Labor Force Survey 2012 (April 2013). <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Cocuk-Isgucu-Anketi-Sonuclari-2012-13659>

<sup>5</sup> TURKSTAT Child Labor Force Survey 2019 <https://tuikweb.tuik.gov.tr/PreHaberBultenleri.do?id=33807>

<sup>6</sup> Since 2011, many Syrian refugees, mostly women and children, have migrated to Türkiye. It is known that the children of these refugees who are granted Temporary Protection Status also face the risk of child labor not only in agriculture but also in manufacturing and service sectors. This situation is pointed out in the Rapid Evaluation Reports of Child Labor in Footwear and Furniture Manufacturing in Türkiye, published by the Development Workshop Cooperative in 2019 (Development Workshop Cooperative, 2019a and 2019b). In addition, Syrian child workers working as seasonal migrant agricultural workers are mentioned in the report “Poverty, Migration and Child Labor The Socio-Economic Profile of Seasonal Agricultural Worker Households” published by the Development Workshop Cooperative in 2019 (Development Workshop Cooperative, 2019).

arriving in Türkiye on child labour should be carefully assessed.<sup>7</sup> Compared to the results of the survey in 2012, 70.6% of the child labourers are boys and 65.7% of them attend a school regardless of their gender. As for sectors, the service sector (45.5%) stands out among others and it is followed by agriculture (30.8%), and industrial (23.7%) businesses. The fact that 64.1% of the working children aged from 5 to 14 are employed in the agricultural sector is particularly relevant for this survey. The reasons behind the employment of children are listed as follows:

- "Contributing to economic activities of their household" (35.9%),
- "Learning how to do a job and acquire a profession" (34.4%),
- "Contributing to household income" (23.2%),
- "Meeting their own needs" (6.4%).

Given the fact child labour in agriculture rose from 36.6% in 2006 to 44.8% in 2012, and declined to 30.8% in 2019, the decline can be associated with the fact that the Syrian parents and their children have become more and more involved in agricultural production since 2011, or child labour has shifted to other sectors.

The results of the survey on child labour show that paid employment has grown into the main form of child labour in Türkiye. In 2012, self-employment in agriculture and other sectors and unpaid domestic work were common while paid employment was the dominant form in 2019. Another highly debated note, the exacerbated form of inequality in access to education may point to the fact that parents no longer have any hope that their investment in education would result in better employment opportunities.<sup>8</sup>

## **Current State of the Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers and the Coronavirus Pandemic in Türkiye**

### ***The current living and working conditions of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers***

There are three types of labour in agricultural production in Türkiye. (i) self-employed and unpaid domestic workers, (ii) local agricultural workers, and (iii) seasonal migrant agricultural workers. Unpaid domestic workers are family members who are involved in agricultural production in an agricultural field or an orchard of their family. A local agricultural worker is described as a person who is involved in vegetative production, animal husbandry, beekeeping, forestry or fishing production in more his/her town to generate income even if it is for one day and who does not do such a job on a regular basis. A local

<sup>7</sup> Yalçın, S. (2016) Syrian Child Workers in Türkiye, Turkish Policy Quarterly, C.15, No.3; Harunoğulları, M. (2016) Suriyeli Sığınmacı Çocuk İşçiler ve Sorunları: Kilis Örneği, Göç Dergisi, C.3, No.1, sayfa 29-63.

<sup>8</sup> Fişek Enstitüsü. "TÜİK Çocuk İşgücü Anketi 2019 Üzerine İlk Notlar", Erişim 1 Kasım 2020 <https://calismaortami.fisek.org.tr/icerik/tuik-cocuk-isgucu-anketi-2019-uzerine-ilk-notlar/>

agricultural worker is any person who leaves for work in the morning and returns to home on a regular basis after being done with agricultural labour. A seasonal migrant agricultural worker is any person who leaves his/her place of residence and travels to another settlement and lives there to do similar deeds. This report is focused on the seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children.

Rather associated with being a landowner or not based on the rural inequalities, seasonal migrant agricultural labour took on a new dimension starting from the 1990s, rather being linked to urban poverty over time. It has taken on a new dimension as the Syrian people, who have crossed into Türkiye since 2011 after fleeing the civil war in Syria. Apart from Syrians, among the main groups of foreign migrant workers in Türkiye are the Georgians working in tea and hazelnut harvest in the Eastern Black Sea Region, and the Azerbaijanis working in the weed mowing industry in the towns of Kars and Ardahan, and the Afghans working in animal care.<sup>9</sup>

Based on the surveys, half a million people a year are estimated to be on the road for labour-intensive agricultural production every year in modern-day Türkiye while the exact number is not known.<sup>10</sup> The seasonal agricultural migration involving all family members in most cases brings about employment in fields or orchards for every family member fit to work. To maximize their income, such families who intensively work for 6 to 8 months a year have their children at a certain age become part of labour. Therefore, the seasonal agricultural production is one of sectors where child labour is relatively common.

Based mostly in the East and Southeast Anatolia, especially in Sanliurfa, the seasonal migrant agricultural workers are employed for cultivation, sowing, plantation, weeding, trimming, pest control, irrigation, and harvest. They tend to work for a longer period in the southern towns including the Cukurova Region in particular (Adana, Mersin, Osmaniye, and Hatay) as agricultural production is ongoing throughout the year thanks to the favorable climatic conditions. This brings about the temporary settlements of makeshift tents where they stay for the most of the year. Among major products that seasonal migrant agricultural labour yields are hazelnut, tea, and vegetables in the Black Sea Region, and cotton, raw vegetables, tomato, and grape in the Aegean Region, and legumes, sugar beet, vegetables, cumin, poppy, onion, seeds, and fruits in the Central Anatolia, and citrus, cotton, and vegetables in the Mediterranean Region, and cotton, vegetables, legumes, and pistachio in the Southeastern Anatolia.

---

<sup>9</sup> Development Workshop Cooperative. (2016), *Poverty, Rivalry and Antagonism:: Report on the Current State of Foreign Migrant Workers in Seasonal Agricultural Production in Türkiye*, <https://www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Cocuk-Haklari/Raporlar/Poverty-Rivalry-and-Antagonism.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Development Workshop Cooperative. (2020), *Virus or Poverty? Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers and Their Children, and Vegetative Production*, <https://www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Cocuk-Haklari/Raporlar/Virus-or-Poverty.pdf>

The seasonal migrant agricultural labour is engaged by three main actors in Türkiye: Employers (field/orchard owners, traders, private companies, large-scale food and seed companies), agricultural intermediaries, and agricultural workers. Agricultural intermediaries are known as *elci* or *dayıbaşı* who organize seasonal agricultural labour and bring labour supply and demand together. The working procedures of such intermediaries are governed by the Regulation on Job Intermediation in Agriculture<sup>11</sup> and they shall obtain a certificate of agency to serve as an agricultural intermediary. However, it is a fact that many agricultural intermediaries do not currently hold a certificate. While agriculture was included as a line of work under the first Labour Law in 2003, most of the agricultural workers are not covered by the law as it applies to agricultural businesses that employ 51 or more employees.<sup>12</sup> With this being the case, the labour of almost all of the seasonal agricultural workers is informal and precarious. The fact that agency activities in agriculture are not adequately supervised and seasonal agricultural workers are deprived of their rights to employment to a large extent shifts both seasonal agricultural work and the network of relations woven around this work to an informal field.

As a precarious and informal line of work, the seasonal agricultural labour brings about many challenges in terms of working and living conditions. As part of seasonal migration joined by their household members, the workers usually travel in overcrowded minibuses.

Almost all of their workplaces lack decent and adequate recreational areas, dining halls, restrooms, wash basins, clean drinking and/or utility water. It is a fact that occupational health and safety measures are not adopted in line with the nature of the work. They work for 10 or 11 hours a day and seven days a week as long as there is work to do and weather conditions are favorable.

While the means of accommodation varies from one province to another, they usually stay in temporary tents they set up within their own means. They set up their tents near the field or the orchard that they work in or in an adjacent land. Roadsides and environs of irrigation canals are also where they set up their tents. Such areas pose a variety of risks for seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children in terms of their safety of life. In several provinces temporary public accommodations are provided for these workers, however the workers who can accommodate in such places are limited and the majority is accommodating in temporary tent settlements. In general, the places of accommodation where the seasonal migrant agricultural workers stay are inhumane and they bring about many social and healthcare problems. Their use of power is limited, and their access to clean water is a challenge, and lighting is inadequate for their safety. Their needs to use

---

<sup>11</sup> Official Gazette of Turkish Republic. Legislation for Agricultural Intermediaries. Date: 27.5.2010. Number:27593, <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2010/05/20100527-4.htm>

<sup>12</sup> Development Workshop Cooperative. (2018), Analysis of Legislative Gaps and Recommendations in the Context of Preventing Child Labor in Agriculture, [Analysis-of-Institutional-Gaps-and-Recommendations-in-the-Context-of-Preventing-Child-Labor-in-Agriculture.pdf](https://www.dgk.org.tr/Analiz-of-Legislative-Gaps-and-Recommendations-in-the-Context-of-Preventing-Child-Labor-in-Agriculture.pdf) (ka.org.tr)

a toilet and take a shower are met through makeshift structures that they set up on their own. Many studies have found that their waste is rarely collected, and disinfection services of environmental health are not provided, and they have no access to an adequate and functional wastewater system, and this poses a risk for both workers and public health.<sup>13</sup>

Child labour is one of the burning issues to be addressed as part of seasonal migrant agricultural work. As the right of children to education is violated as part of the seasonal migrant agricultural migration and they become vulnerable during migration, the Republic of Türkiye describes this form of child labour as one of the worst forms of child labour.<sup>14</sup> The minimum age of employment is designated as 18. . However, the extent of child labour in labour-intensive agricultural production gradually expands in line with the poverty of households. The lack of their full integration to education and financial challenges faced by the households pave the way for their children to be employed in fields and orchards. Such labour leaves children out of school, and hard work and long working hours deprive them of healthy physical development. Since the integration of migrant workers such as Syrian who are under temporary protection are even less favorable, the migrant families who are engaging in agriculture face the same vulnerabilities as the Turkish households.

To sum up, their living and working conditions make seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children vulnerable to financial shocks, outbreaks, and natural disasters.

### ***Seasonal migrant agricultural workers over the course of the coronavirus pandemic***

Türkiye began to impose restrictions in response to the coronavirus pandemic starting from March 2020 through the Scientific Committee established under the Pandemic Influenza National Readiness Plan drawn up in 2019, as well as the Presidential Office, the ministries, and local authorities. Drawn up by the Ministry of Interior throughout its course, the circulars have been instrumental in responding to the pandemic. Just like many other countries, Türkiye has come up with a unique response strategy. To this end, major steps were taken, starting from mid-March 2020. The Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and the Council of Higher Education (CoHE) announced that higher education and formal education were suspended as of March 16, 2020, and later decided to resume the academic term through remote learning.<sup>15</sup> Partial face-to-face education was imposed starting from September 2020 and it was followed by remote learning later on. The resolutions regarding education have varied by the number of cases across the country.

<sup>13</sup> Development Workshop Cooperative. (2018), Yoksulun Umudu Çocuk! Survey on Seasonal Agricultural Workers and Child Labour, Ankara <https://www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Cocuk-Haklari/Raporlar/Poverty-Migration-and-Child-Labor-The-Socio-Economic-Profile-of-Seasonal-Agricultural-Worker-Households.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Ministry of Labor and Social Security (2017), National Program Against Child Labor. [https://www.csqb.gov.tr/media/1322/cocukisciligimucadele\\_2017\\_2023\\_tr.pdf](https://www.csqb.gov.tr/media/1322/cocukisciligimucadele_2017_2023_tr.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> Diminished for certain grades in September 2020 when the survey was conducted, face-to-face education resumed for certain days of the week, and then all forms of education were declared to be delivered in a remote fashion from November 2020 to the fall term.

Actions were taken in three main fields to slow down and mitigate the effect of the spread of the pandemic. The first course of action was to *inform* people about their role to be protected from the outbreak, try to persuade them to stay home, and practice social distancing. The second course of action was the imposition of *restrictions on transportation and travel*. The third course of action was *financial* measures. In an effort to decelerate the outbreak, the operations of various businesses were suspended in March 2020, and then the tax and loan refunds were put off mitigating the impact of the financial contraction. In addition, some beneficiaries were provided with financial assistance worth TRY 1000, and a variety of relief campaigns were held to deliver support to those in need. Some cash assistance including a short-term payment for formal workers and employers, unpaid leave cash assistance, layoff ban, and normalization support for employers were also provided.

Starting from March 18, 2020, a “stay home” campaign was launched to slow down the spread of the outbreak across Türkiye. The Presidential Office issued an order to allow passengers to travel after 5 p.m. from one town to another upon a permit from a governor’s office on March 28, 2020. The coordination of the order was delegated to the Travel Permission Boards established within the governor’s and district governor’s offices. This restriction led to major uncertainties about how employees in some sectors are supposed to act. Seasonal migrant agricultural workers were among them and there was a debate about how they are supposed to travel in the early months of agricultural production and how vegetative production is to be sustained. For instance, the workers were told to get a permit from a Travel Permission Board to travel from one town to another while the authority mandated to deal with such procedures was delegated to the provincial/district Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry. As covered by media outlets, there were initial uncertainties about how to get a permit.

Based on the recommendations of the Ministry of Health and the Coronavirus Scientific Committee, the General Directorate of Provincial Administration of the Ministry of Interior issued a circular letter on April 3, 2020 regarding Coronavirus Restrictions and Seasonal Agricultural Workers to establish a Coordination Council for Seasonal Agricultural Workers in provinces.

A new set of resolutions adopted on June 1, 2020, to gradually get back to normal in Türkiye replaced most of the previous resolutions about restrictions and reorganized the social life through checks and circular letters based on social distancing and a wider use of masks. No new restriction or action was introduced from the date when this survey was conducted to September 2020.

## Child Labour over the Course of the Coronavirus Pandemic

The United Nations reports that 160 million children are subjected to child labour, demonstrating an increase of 9 million children due to the coronavirus pandemic globally. Without mitigation measures, the number of children in child labour could rise from 160 million in 2020 to 168.9 million by the end of 2022. The majority of these children work in agricultural production.<sup>16</sup>

By late April 2020 when a lockdown was imposed across the globe against the coronavirus pandemic, some discussions started to be brought up over the possible effects of the pandemic on child labour on the different parts of the globe. It was reported that the rate of unemployment has increased by 30 percent in India where 90% of the current labour force are informal workers, and the households have had no choice but to have their children into work unless the government provides assistance/support.<sup>17, 18</sup> Some warnings were made about the potential risk for the cases of child labour to increase in cacao production across the West African countries where the actions against child labour are common.<sup>19</sup> The results of the latest UNICEF – ILO report on Global Estimates 2020, Trends and the Way Forward were in line with these initial reports and child labour has risen in the sub-saharan Africa from 22,4 % to 23,9%.

In a report FAO underlines that it is important to remember that there are children under multiple categories with particular vulnerabilities to child labour, which is relevant to gain insight into the whole process. It is also highlighted that one should remember children who are disabled and members of domestic and/or minority households of farmers or migrant workers who own no land living in cases of emergency such as forced migration have special needs to be met. FAO reports that the children of migrant parents in such communities and the children aged 15 to 17 in rural areas constitute a larger population than others.<sup>20</sup>

The studies conducted to monitor the effect of extraordinary cases such as the coronavirus pandemic on child labour are important to be addressed. Based on the statements a dominant view takes hold about the fact that the restrictions against the pandemic

---

**16** UNICEF. "Child labour rises to 160 million – first increase in two decades". 9 June 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/child-labour-rises-160-million-first-increase-two-decades>

**17** CBGA. "COVID-19 Crisis Will Push Millions of Vulnerable Children Into Child Labour". 21 April 2020. <https://www.cbgaindia.org/blog/covid-19-crisis-will-push-millions-vulnerable-children-child-labour/>

**18** NDTV. "Rescue Child Workers Stranded In COVID-19 Lockdown: Kailash Satyarthi" 27 April 2020. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/coronavirus-india-rescue-child-workers-trapped-in-covid-19-lockdown-urges-kailash-satyarthi-2219261>

**19** Thomson Reuters Foundation. "West African countries on alert for child labor spike due to coronavirus" 30 April 2020. <https://news.trust.org/item/20200430132011-9aq7i>

**20** FAO. (2020), Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition: How can agricultural policies and strategies help to end child labour in agriculture? <http://www.fao.org/3/cb0644en/CB0644EN.pdf>

would exacerbate many adversities facing children especially in terms of child labour. For instance, a joint statement by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and ILO highlights the fact that the achievements made to prevent child labour across the world over the past twenty years face a major threat.<sup>21</sup> In a report, World Vision notes that the effect of the coronavirus pandemic on children will come to light over time, and estimates that 85 million children will face physical, emotional, and sexual violence across the globe. The report also found that 177 countries have suspended school activities and these actions have affected 73% of the students (1.5 billion children according to the Human Rights Watch's report) across the world<sup>22</sup>, and such actions intended to protect children have ironically made them vulnerable to many risks.<sup>23</sup> The warnings of ILO and UNICEF concerning child labour become even more relevant given the fact that the World Bank estimates the financial crisis and contraction caused by the coronavirus pandemic will force nearly 150 million people on the poverty threshold by the end of 2021.<sup>24</sup>

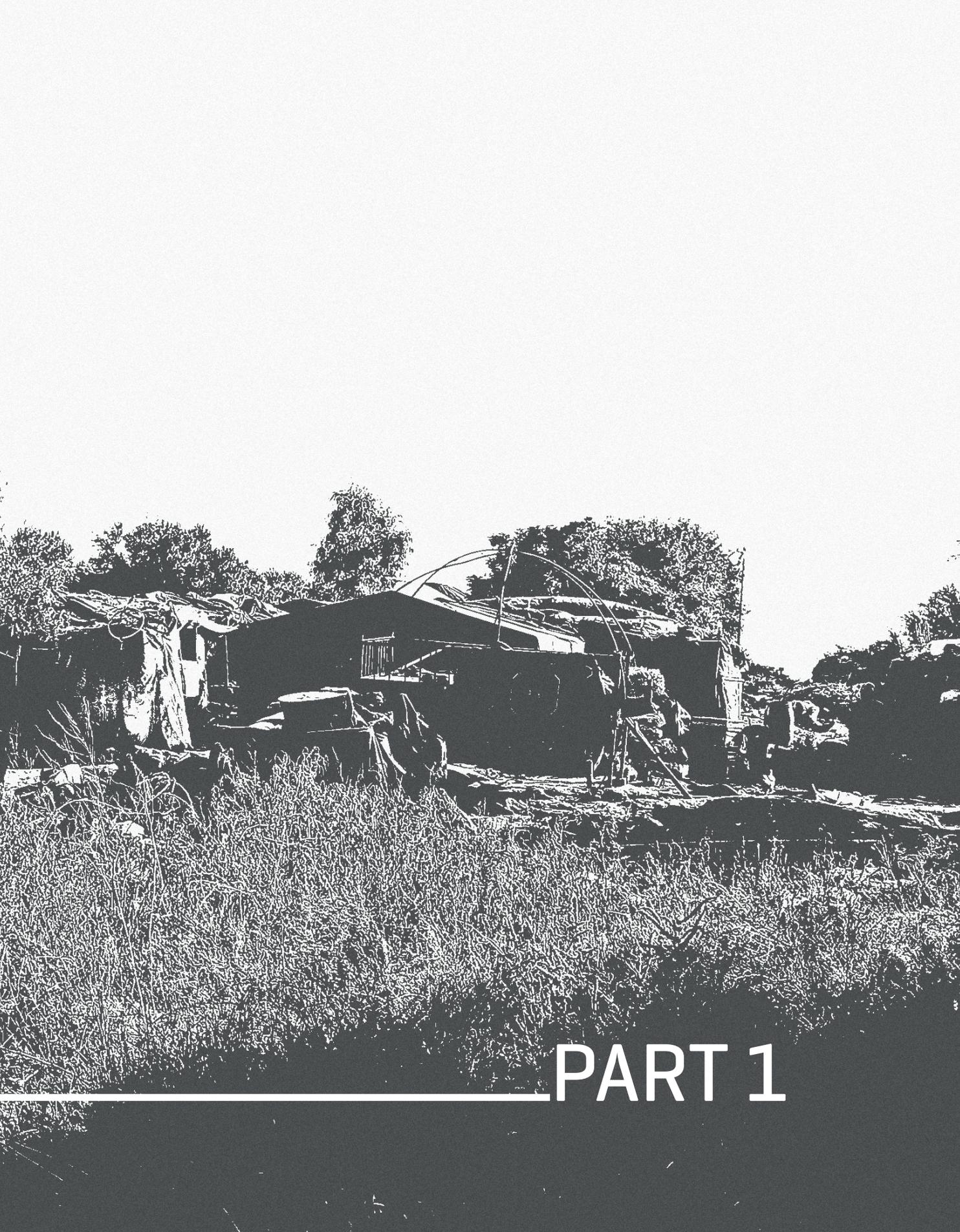
---

**21** UNICEF and ILO. (2020), COVID-19 and Child Labour: A time of crisis, a time to act. <https://data.unicef.org/resources/covid-19-and-child-labour-a-time-of-crisis-a-time-to-act/>

**22** HRW. "Why Covid-19 Choices Are Critical for Children". 24 April 2020. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/24/why-covid-19-choices-are-critical-children>

**23** World Vision. (2020), Covid-19 Aftershocks: A Perfect Storm: Millions More Children at Risk of Violence under Lockdown and into the 'New Normal' <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/covid-19-aftershocks-perfect-storm-millions-more-children-risk-violence-under-lockdown>

**24** The World Bank. "COVID-19 to Add as Many as 150 Million Extreme Poor by 2021" 7 October 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/10/07/covid-19-to-add-as-many-as-150-million-extreme-poor-by-2021#:~:text=The%20COVID%2D19%20pandemic%20is>



# PART 1

# PURPOSE, METHOD, AND LIMITATIONS

## 1.1. Purpose and Main Questions of the Study

The seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children have limited opportunities to access basic social services even under the “normal” circumstances. It is argued that this group is facing more challenges as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and their physical and psycho-social needs will further increase. The vulnerability (and resilience) of parents and their children to socio-economic challenges varies by their gender, age, level of income, and social norms. Establishing how a variety of newly arising poverty and risk factors have coincided with one another on the individual, household, and community level, and how they are perceived is important to develop social policies for vulnerable groups. To this end, this survey is intended to *establish how and to what extent the lives of seasonal migrant agricultural workers, their family members and children have been affected from the social (access to social life, protection, and access to assistance and services), economic (income instability, household debt), educational (access to education and attendance), and psycho-social (stress and anxiety) points of view.*

The following sub-questions are responded in line with the aforementioned purpose.

### **Main themes and sub-questions of the study**

Effect of the coronavirus pandemic on seasonal migrant agricultural labour	How has the seasonal migrant agricultural labour been affected by the pandemic?  How has the coronavirus pandemic affected the working conditions of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers?
Effect of the coronavirus pandemic on seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their family members	How has the coronavirus pandemic affected the seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their family members from the financial, social, and psycho-social points of view?  Do the potential effects of the coronavirus pandemic vary by gender, age, state of disability, ethnicity, poverty, social exclusion, discrimination, minority and/or social and economic status?

<p>Effect of the coronavirus pandemic on children and child labour as part of seasonal migrant agricultural labour</p>	<p>How has the coronavirus pandemic affected children and child labour as part of seasonal migrant agricultural labour?</p> <p>What is the state of access to basic services and education for the children of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers during the coronavirus pandemic given how common child labour is in seasonal migrant agricultural labour?</p> <p>How have the factors that are common in seasonal migrant agricultural labour especially during the coronavirus pandemic and cause child labour been affected given the correlation among livelihoods, poverty, and child labour, and how has the outlook of child labour changed in the process?</p>
<p>Action against child labour in seasonal migrant agricultural labour during the coronavirus pandemic</p>	<p>What local practices and policies are available to eliminate the social and financial concerns of the most vulnerable groups and respond to them?</p> <p>What actions should be taken to mitigate the potential adverse effects of the coronavirus pandemic on various vulnerable communities?</p> <p>How should one get involved in the process of establishing prioritized areas of response in coordination with non-governmental organizations, professional bodies, private sector, and public agencies?</p>

## 1.2. Method and Geographic Scope

The study was designed based on a mixed research method that combines qualitative and quantitative instruments and conducted in two main phases.

As part of *phase one* based on the desk reviews, the screening and monitoring activities on seasonal migrant agricultural labour in Türkiye and around the world starting from March 2020 was expanded and perpetuated with a view to focus on child labour. In the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, a communication platform was established to monitor the developments across Türkiye. The data collected as a result were used in a way to corroborate the desk review.

The general framework and methodological tools of the survey were developed based on the desk review and implemented in *phase two*. Official figures regarding seasonal migrant

agricultural workers and their family members in Türkiye are highly limited. Therefore, the households and temporary settlements of tents included in the study were designated based on the purposive sampling with the Development Workshop's 15-year field experience, and the budget and time frame of the study. Five data collection tools were used as part of phase two<sup>25</sup> (Table 2).

- a** *Face-to-face questionnaire:* The face-to-face questionnaire was focused on seasonal migrant agricultural workers who have children aged from 5 to 17 working and/or going to school and staying in temporary settlements of tents in the towns of Adana and Mersin. As part of the survey, a total of 219 household members including 159 Turkish and 60 Syrian people (who have turned 18 and have the capacity to provide information about their household) were interviewed from September 3 to 11, 2020. The questionnaire was conducted in a total of 26 temporary settlements of tents situated in the districts of Karatas, Yüregir, Seyhan, and Yumurtalik of Adana, and Tarsus of Mersin (Annex 2).
- b** *In-depth interviews A:* 57 in-depth interviews were held with 20 households staying in temporary settlements of tents including 4 Syrian households from September 7 to 11, 2020 in a way to include 4 different household members including a mother, a father, a boy and a girl aged 14 to 17 who took part in the face-to-face questionnaire. The interviews were held by academics in settlements of tents located in Karagöcer (Adana/Karatas), Köylüoğlu (Adana/Seyhan), Yeniköy (Adana/Yüregir), Yesilköy-Kaldırım (Adana/Yumurtalik), and Konaklar (Mersin/Tarsus) (Annex 3).
- c** *In-depth interviews B:* The desk review found that some seasonal migrant agricultural workers have not joined the seasonal agricultural labour force this year because of the coronavirus pandemic. Therefore, the households in questions were included in the survey as a control group. 20 people (13 women and 7 men) representing 15 households residing in the districts of Eyyübiye and Viransehir of Sanliurfa were interviewed from September 14 to 17, 2020.
- d** *Focus group meetings:* 4 focus group meetings were held from September 7 to 11, 2020 with children aged 8 to 17 staying in temporary settlements of tents in Adana and Mersin. The focus group meetings were attended by a total of 20 children (9 boys and 11 girls). The average age of the boys is 10.4 and the average age of the girls is 10.5. The focus group meetings were held by subject matter experts in settlements of tents located in Köylüoğlu (Adana/Seyhan), Yeniköy (Adana/Yüregir), Yesilköy-Kaldırım (Adana/Yumurtalik), and Konaklar (Mersin/Tarsus) (Annex 4).

---

<sup>25</sup> The breakdown of questionnaires, in-depth interviews, and focus group meetings conducted as a part of the survey is presented in Annex-1 by province, district, and settlement of tents.

- e *Key informant/organization interviews*: The interviewers were named based on the Network of Actors of Seasonal Migratory Agricultural Labour established by the Development Workshop in 2018 in Adana.<sup>26</sup> 25 key informant interviews were conducted by the academics of the survey from September to October 2020 (Annex 5 and 6).

**Table 2.** Survey tools, number of respondents, location, and profile of respondents

Survey tool	Number of respondents	Location	Respondents
Questionnaires in person	219	Adana ve Mersin	Seasonal migrant agricultural workers staying in temporary settlements of tents
In-Depth Interview A	57	Adana ve Mersin	Parents, boys and girls aged 14 to 17 as household members.
In-Depth Interview B	20	Şanlıurfa	Household members who have opted not to work in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic.
Focus group meetings	20	Adana ve Mersin	Focus group meetings with boys and girls
Interviews with key informants and organizations	25	Adana, Mersin ve Şanlıurfa	Key informants and interviewers from organizations



<sup>26</sup> Development Workshop Cooperative. (2019), *Mevsimlik Tarımsal Üretimde Çocuk İşçiliği Mevcut Durum Raporu: Adana* <https://www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Cocuk-Haklari/Raporlar/MEVSIMLIK-TARIMSAL-URETIMDE-COCUK-ISCILIGI-MEVcut-DURUM-RAPORU.pdf>

This survey is structured under 6 interrelated main themes to gain insight into the state of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers before and after the coronavirus pandemic:

- 1 Demographics of the households,
- 2 Access to economic and social resources, support, and public services,
- 3 Changes in working and living conditions over the course of the coronavirus pandemic,
- 4 Experiences of seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children about the coronavirus pandemic with focus on their mental health,
- 5 Changes in access and attendance of children from households of seasonal migrant agricultural workers to education before and after the coronavirus pandemic,
- 6 Change in child labour due to coronavirus pandemic

In phase one, the face-to-face questionnaire was focused on temporary settlements of tents that host over 50 households including Syrian migrants in Adana and Mersin. The tent settlements were identified by utilizing the *Map of Current State for Temporary Settlements of Tents Accommodated by Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers in Adana*<sup>27</sup> and the on-site plan was organized based on the data collected from the map. No discrimination was made between the Turkish nationals and non-citizens in the designated temporary settlements of tents.

To offer a holistic perspective on the households interviewed, the target audience with whom a qualitative interview was held was named out of the households that took part in the face-to-face questionnaire.

Some key informants and organizations with experience about seasonal agricultural production in various realms such as academy, local administrations, professional bodies, and non-governmental organizations were also interviewed as part of the study. The relevant departments of the municipalities, non-governmental organizations, and organizations such as the chambers of agriculture should be viewed as a respondent of the study in terms of not only providing information but also developing policy recommendations based on the collected data.

### 1.3. Data Collection

The survey team conducted a pilot survey in Adana and Mersin back in August 2020. Then an orientation programme was held for the survey team and interviewers about the general framework of the study, tools to be used and their content, how to implement the tools,

---

<sup>27</sup> Development Workshop Cooperative. (2020), Current Situation Map of SAW's Tent Settlement Areas in The Adana Plain [Current-Situation-Map-of-SAW's-Tent-Settlement-Areas.pdf](https://www.ka.org.tr/Current-Situation-Map-of-SAW's-Tent-Settlement-Areas.pdf) (ka.org.tr)

how to code responses, potential cases that may face them and affect the field survey, and what to do in such cases, the schedule of the survey, and ethical principles. In addition, all field staff were informed by a specialist about individual actions they are to take against the coronavirus pandemic, and what they need to take into consideration. The in-depth interviews, focus group meetings, and key informant and organization interviews were conducted by the subject matter experts.

#### **1.4. Limitations and Solutions for Limitations**

As official figures regarding the number of seasonal migrant agricultural workers in Türkiye are limited, it is quite challenging to design an entirely representative and random sample. With this being the case, the survey sampling strategy was designed based on the purposive sampling in consideration of the length and budgetary means of the study. As the survey is focused on children, child labour, and education the households with a child aged 5 to 17 who goes to school and/or works were designated as a criterion to choose a sample. One of the main limitations to the purposive sampling is the poor capability to represent and generalize. To overcome this limitation, the study was conducted based on a mixed methodology that combines qualitative and quantitative data. Additionally, the geographic coverage and breakdown of the respondents were intended to be made inclusive as the survey was conducted in 26 temporary settlements of tents in Adana and Mersin. The results of the past surveys conducted by the Development Workshop and various organizations regarding the seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children were taken into consideration for analytical purposes. The qualitative data were analyzed by independent researchers to eliminate any subjective views and improve their validity, and the correlation among the analysts was checked.

The confidentiality of the respondents and data privacy in the data collection phase was respected, and the respondents were informed about the survey process and what their data would be used for, and their participation was based on voluntariness. The personal data of the respondents were not inquired in a way to expose them in an effort to collect qualitative and quantitative data as part of the survey, and their names were kept anonymous to present the results to avoid exposing their identity. When it was imperative to describe any specific case, the researchers paid special attention to keep their personal data confidential.

In consideration of the schedule, budget, and human resources limitations of the study and considering that the study was held during the COVID 19 pandemic, a quota was designated for the number of both quantitative and qualitative interviews, and the estimated quota was met during the study. .

The field surveys were conducted based on the recommendations set forth in the guideline of the Scientific Committee of the Ministry of Health on *Actions to be Taken to be Pro-*

*tected from COVID-19 in Provinces That Seasonal Agricultural Workers Travel to Work.* The persons interviewed in person were provided with a mask throughout the field survey. The field survey team underwent coronavirus antibody tests on a regular basis.

No survey could be conducted from September 3 to 17, 2020 in the temporary tent settlements located in Tuzla (Adana/Karatas) and Tabaklar (Adana/Karatas) where cases of coronavirus infection were reported. This brought about the need to pay visits to more settlements of tents and thus caused the geographic coverage to be expanded. This led to a limitation to the questionnaires and in-depth interviews expected to be conducted with the Syrian seasonal migrant agricultural workers.

As the survey coincided with the agricultural production high season, the household members were interviewed either during their breaks in the fields or at night. Two pollsters who are native in Arabic were included in the field team. The pollsters also served as an interpreter for the in-depth interviews with the Syrian households.

The fact that the interviewers and respondents wore a mask during the interviews and the interviews were held outdoors in line with social distancing largely limited the chance to have a close contact, which is important for face-to-face communication. Therefore, the respondents were thoroughly informed about why they need to wear a mask during the interviews.

In any unforeseen case in terms of the questions posed in various topics as part of the face-to-face questionnaire, the field survey team took extensive notes on blank spaces of the questionnaire form and analyzed them as an additional set of data. The questions on mental health were repeated and their contents were thoroughly explained from time to time to make sure that they are accurately understood.

The interviews conducted in Sanliurfa from September 14 to 17, 2020 with the households who could not join the seasonal agriculture labour force this year because of the coronavirus pandemic were completed in the houses of the workers. Five in-depth interviews, which were to be held in the neighborhoods of Eyyubiye in Sanliurfa, could not be completed because of the common cases of coronavirus. Two seasonal migrant agricultural households from this district were interviewed in depth as part of the field survey. Three in-depth interviews were completed in Viransehir, Sanliurfa.

A permit was granted by their parents for children to take part in the survey. Some short conversations were made with the children before the in-depth interviews, and they were informed about the purpose of the survey and they voluntarily took part in it. Some warm-up games and ice-breaking questions were used to help the children feel comfortable. The interview questions were drafted and posed in a concise fashion in line with their age. The questions were asked in an order that ranges from simple to complicated ones.

The interviews with key informants and organizations were held over the phone and online as part of the restrictions against the coronavirus pandemic.

## **1.5. Ethical Considerations**

The planning and implementation process of the research was carried out in accordance with the main ethical principles. Before the implementation phase, research methodology and the instruments were examined by the Koç University Ethical Board (ERB), and ethical approval was obtained on August 20, 2020. The ethical principles followed during process of collecting data from adults throughout the fieldwork are as follows:

- Universal elements of ethical considerations were used during research: informed consent, voluntary participation, do no harm, confidentiality, anonymity, only assess relevant components.
- Voluntary participation of respondents in the research was an essential principle to follow. The protection of the privacy of research participants was ensured. The personal information was noted as anonymous and an adequate level of confidentiality of the research data was ensured. Any type of misleading information, as well as the representation of primary data findings in a biased way, had been avoided.
- Any type of communication about the research was done with transparency and rules of accountability.
- Research participants (both survey and interviews) weren't subjected to harm in any ways whatsoever.
- Respect for the dignity of research participants was prioritized.
- The use of offensive, discriminatory, or other unacceptable languages had been avoided in the formulation of field research questions.
- Participants included both children and adults; worker families and their dependent kin in other residential locations. The research participants (seasonal agricultural workers) work during the daytime, including weekends and official holidays. Any interruption may cause loss of their wage/earnings. For this reason, the surveys and follow-up visits had been conducted after working hours to avoid doing any harm to them.

### ***1.5.1. Ethical considerations for children participants***

During the research, children have been seen as a subject of their rights based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, regardless of their age, ethnicity, gender, wealth or birthplace. The way they experience risk and the decisions they could make to improve

their situation was different compared to other sub-groups. Children become more vulnerable to poverty and marginalisation - in this context exacerbated by seasonal agricultural work and coronavirus pandemic - particularly when they continue to remain unheard and underrepresented. For this reason, one significant aspect of our study was incorporating the opinions and experiences of the children into our analysis as defined in the methodology part.

For children participants of the study, DW was responsible for ensuring the field team and the project expert team abide by the rules and principles, including but not limited to the ones listed below<sup>28</sup>;

- Do no harm. The design, content and duration of the study did not give any harm to children's physical, mental or emotional health in any way and any stage of the study.
- Receive informed consent of the child and underline that at any time of any communication children may decide to quit. While taking assent from the child, the information about the aim, procedure, content, and duration of the research was delivered to the child using a language that is clear, appropriate, and meaningful for the child's level of capacity. It was ensured that the child is informed that s/he is free to withdraw from the research at any stage and for any reason. For a child to be able to participate in a study, both informed consent from the families/legal guardian and assent from the children had been taken. If in any circumstance, a child volunteers to be a participant whereas the family/legal guardian does not give consent, then the child didn't accepted as a participant. If the family/legal guardian gives consent for the child to participate, whereas the child does not give assent, then the child didn't accepted as a participant.
- Respect the right to be heard. It was acknowledged that children have the right and competencies to state their opinions and contribute to studies as participants.
- Treat equally. All children were treated fairly and equitably regardless of their age, gender identity, national origin, physical appearance, physical or mental disability, and familial status; at all stages of the research at all circumstances.
- Respect privacy and confidentiality. Necessary attention was paid to protect personal data during the interviews conducted within the scope of the research. All information given by children during the research process were kept confidential according to the Turkish Personal Data Protection Law no. 6698. The information wasn't shared with anyone; parents, legal guardians, relatives, or teachers. The data

---

**28** As a primary source, the study titled "Ethical Research Involving Children" was used. <https://childethics.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/ERIC-compendium-Ethical-guidelines-review-section-only.pdf>

collected from the interviewees were archived anonymously and weren't shared with third parties. Due to confidentiality and ethical limitations of child interviews, the researcher agreed that if the interviewed child wants to be presented with his/her parents, the researcher didn't force the child to meet alone and respects them.

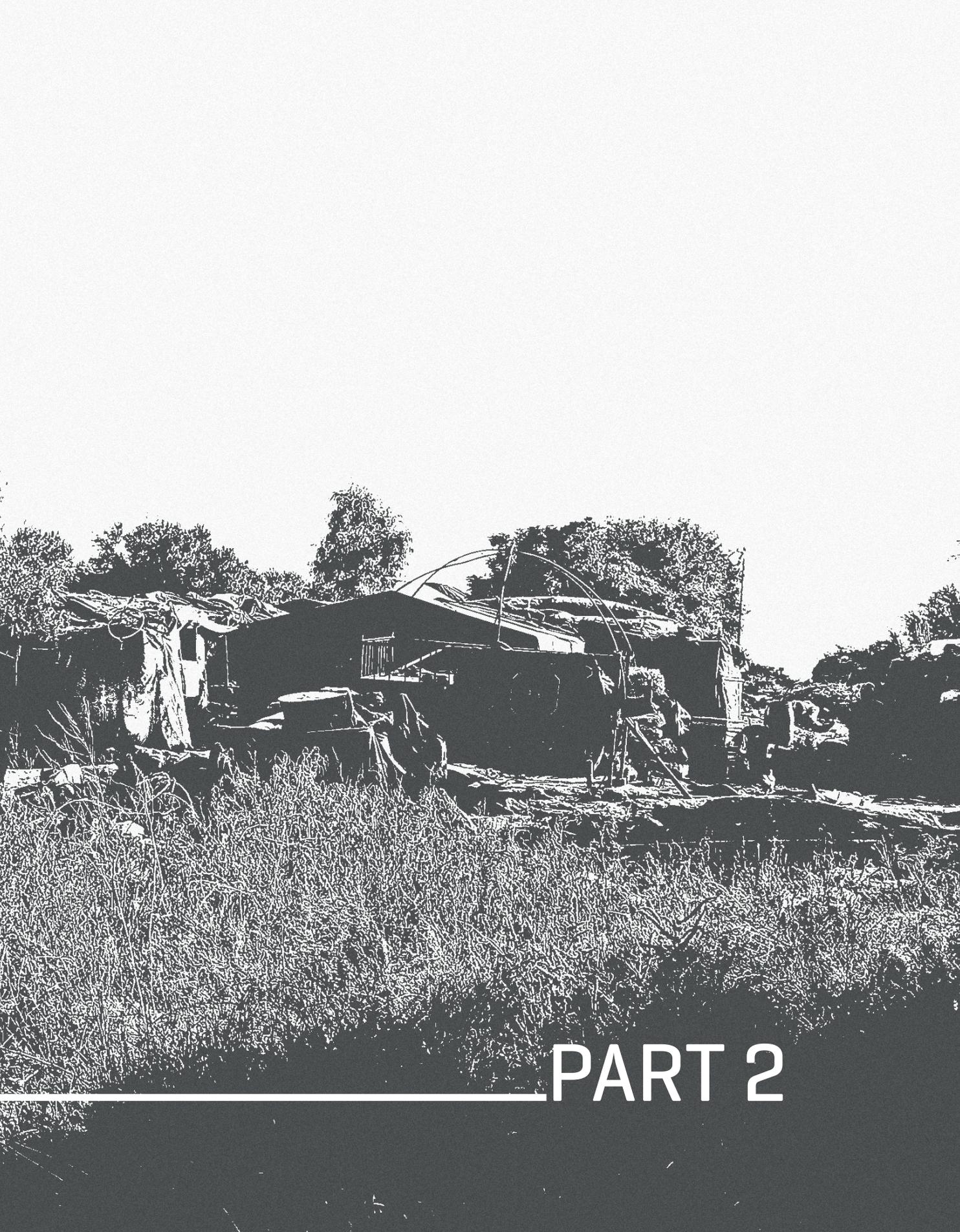
- Age and development of appropriate communication and content. The content and duration of the interviews and discussions with child participants were designed/adjusted according to the children's age, cognitive abilities, developmental needs, emotional state, current circumstances, and cultural background.
- Be impartial. During any type of communication with the child participants, the researcher made sure to monitor his/her body language, facial expressions, attitude, and behaviors to ensure that s/he didn't perform behaviors that may potentially give any positive or negative message regarding the answers that were provided by the child participants.
- Maintain children's confidence. In studies which were conducted with the children participants, an issue of power may arise. There is an imbalance of power in the context of the researcher and the participant, and the adult and the child. For example younger children may tend to accept what the researcher demands and to perform according to it, merely due to his/her perception of the researcher/adult that is in charge. To avoid such an issue, the researcher stated that the child can withdraw whenever s/he pleases for whatever reason; with a friendly attitude and an appropriate language.

### ***1.5.2. Human rights-based approach***

Understanding economic, cultural, and psycho-social conditions of one of the most marginalised groups of the population under coronavirus strain and providing recommendations for potential improvement areas necessitates a context-sensitive and relational approach. This approach should concern the relationship between diverse social structures (such as kinship, religion, ethnicity, gender, and age) and the social conditions they create and maintain in exploring the multiplication of risks and the current response gaps in designated field sites. In this manner, the context-sensitive and relational approach the researchers take into the topic requires both macro and micro-level approaches, respectively focusing on (i) structural and institutional risks, uncertainties, protection channels, barriers, and gaps (ii) individual-level experiences of discrimination, adversities, awareness, and insecurities related to protection and access to governmental and non-governmental services.

### ***1.5.3. Data protection and protection of identities***

- All documents and notes related to Qs, IDIs with adults and children, FGDs and KIs were retained by the Development Workshop.
- Hand written notes for IDIs, KIs and FGDs, once typed up, then handed to the Research Coordinator, and kept these until the final report has been approved. After the approval, they were destroyed. Notes and data collection tools will be deleted one year later, SPSS data of SQs will be held in the password protected external HDD and will be kept for five years.
- All interviews including QS were treated as confidential and anonymous. Interviewees were informed of such at the start of any meeting.
- Interviewees were informed that they will not be quoted or referred to by name in the report.
- Due to language of communication problems, voice recording equipment was used when it's necessary. Voice recordings were anonymised. After the transcription process, anonymised voice recordings were destroyed by The Research Coordinator.
- Findings and conclusions in the report were evidenced by referral to groups of individuals, not to individuals themselves.



# PART 2

# STUDY FINDINGS

## 2.1. Main Demographic Findings

### *Gender and age distribution of household representatives and members*

Within the scope of the study, face-to-face surveys were conducted with 219 household representatives in Adana and Mersin provinces, and the demographic data of 1561 people who live in these households were collected. According to the findings, 159 (72.7 percent) of these representatives are Turkish citizens and 60 (27.3 percent) are Syrians. 38.8 percent of the 219 household representatives are male, while 62.2 percent is female.<sup>29</sup> The average age of Turkish men is 42, that of Turkish women is 38, and the average age of all the Turkish respondents is 40. The average age of Syrian men is 41.5, that of Syrian women is 37, and the average age of all the Syrian respondents is 39.5 (Table 3).

**Table 3.** Average age of household representatives by nationality and gender

Nationality	Gender	Average age	Frequency
Turkish	Male	42.13	60
	Female	38.33	99
	Total	39.77	159
Syrian	Male	41.48	25
	Female	37.11	35
	Total	38.93	60
Total	Male	41.94	85
	Female	38.01	134
	Total	39.54	219

49.4 percent of the 1561 members of 219 households are men, while 50.6 percent are women. In terms of average age (Table 4), both Turkish and Syrian households have youthful populations. The average age of Turkish households is<sup>30</sup> 20.7, whereas that of Syrian households is 19.4. When the median age is considered<sup>31</sup>, the young population is seen

<sup>29</sup> The fieldwork of this study was usually carried out between 10 am and 7 pm. Because the adult male household members usually work on farms or gardens particularly until 5 pm, the respondents interviewed before this hour mostly consisted of those who do not work or stay at a temporary tent city for other reasons (health issues, child care, etc.) during the fieldwork hours. For this reason, female household representatives have a higher rate in gender distribution.

<sup>30</sup> Average age: is the result of dividing the total number of ages by the number of people in the group. It provides the information of what age is the closest one to the members of the group.

<sup>31</sup> Median age: is the result of subtracting the lesser number of the range from the greater number, then dividing the result by two, and then adding this result to the lesser number of the range. Demographically, the group of people under this age is considered the young population and the group of people above this age is considered the old population.

more clearly. The median age of Turkish households is 16, whereas that of Syrian households is 15.<sup>32</sup>

**Table 4.** Average and median age of household representatives by nationality and gender

Nationality	Gender	Average age	Median age	Frequency
Turkish households	Male	20.87	16	572
	Female	20.53	16	571
	Total	20.70	16	1143
Syrian households	Male	19.87	15	199
	Female	19.04	14	219
	Total	19.44	15	418
Total	Male	20.61	15	771
	Female	20.12	15	790
		20.36	15	1561

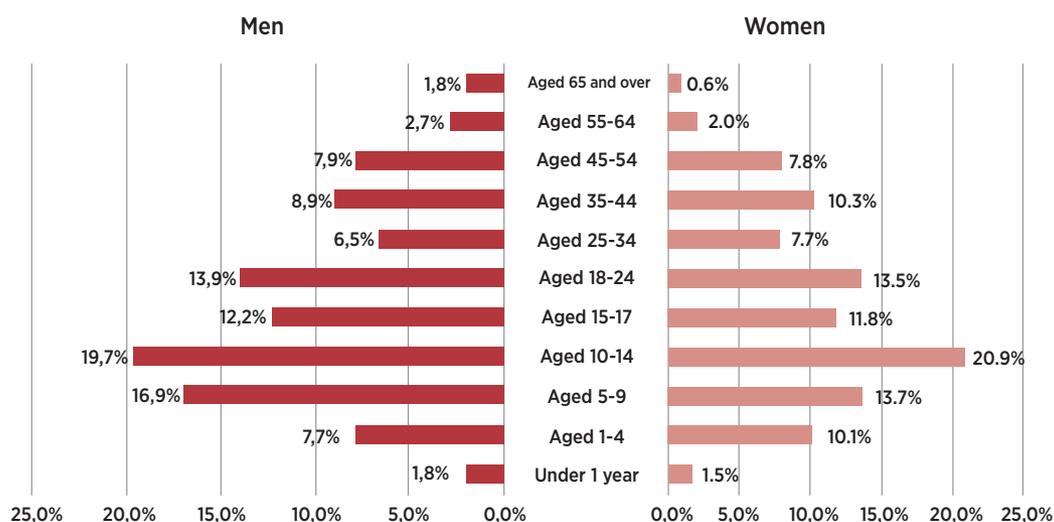
58 percent of the 1561 household members included in the study is made up of children between the age of 0-17. The age group of 10-14 years stands out in this group. This group consisting of lower secondary school age children makes up 20 percent of the total child population and 35 percent of the 0-17 age group. This finding is consistent with the results of previous studies conducted by Support the Life and Development Workshop.<sup>33 34</sup>

<sup>32</sup> According to the result of the address-based census conducted in Türkiye in 2019, the median age is 32.4, with that of women being 33.1 and that of men being 31.7.: <http://www.tuik.gov.tr/PreHaberBultenleri.do?id=33705>

<sup>33</sup> Support for Life (2014), Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Work 2014: Study Report <https://www.hayatadestek.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/mevsimlik-gezici-tarim-i%CC%87sciligi-2014-arastirma-raporu.pdf>

<sup>34</sup> Development Workshop Cooperative. (2019), Child as a Hope for the Poor: A Study on the Socioeconomic Profile of Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Worker Households and Child Labour, <https://www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Cocuk-Haklari/Raporlar/Poverty-Migration-and-Child-Labor-The-Socio-Economic-Profile-of-Seasonal-Agricultural-Worker-Households.pdf>

**Chart 1.** Distribution of age groups of household members by gender



*Birth places of household members and provinces that the households were settled in*

72.4 percent of Turkish household representatives were born in Sanliurfa.<sup>35</sup> Apart from it, the most commonly stated birth places include Kahramanmaras(11.3 percent), Adana (6.3 percent) and Sirnak (4.4 percent). As for the provinces that the Turkish households were settled in, Adana comes first with 52.8 percent and Sanliurfa second with 28.9 percent. 47.5 percent of 118 respondents (56 households) whose birthplace is Sanliurfa stated that they have settled in Adana. One of the reasons for this permanent migration is that the agricultural production is around all the year in Adana -and thus the larger number of job opportunities can be found there and in Mersin.<sup>36</sup>

The most common birth places in Syrian households are Al-Hasakah (31.7 percent) and Aleppo (25 percent). In terms of the most commonly settled provinces, Adana comes first for Syrian households. It was understood that 60 percent of 60 Syrian households that were interviewed came to Türkiye in 2014 and 2015. The earliest arrivals in Türkiye were in

<sup>35</sup> According to many studies conducted on seasonal migrant agricultural workers, Sanliurfa is the province that sends the largest number of agricultural workers to other provinces. Sanliurfa ranks first among the provinces that send agricultural workers according to a working report published in 2015 by the parliamentary research committee of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, which was formed to conduct a research on the Issues of Seasonal Agricultural Workers. (<https://www.tbmm.gov.tr/sirasayi/donem24/yil01/ss.716.pdf>).

<sup>36</sup> This mobility between Sanliurfa and Adana provinces was found out in a 2002 study conducted on child workers working in cotton harvest: ‘...a notable point is that the 69.1 percent of the household heads (Chart 5.2) were born in the Southeastern Anatolia Region, while 56.5 percent of them live in the region permanently. The primary reason behind this is that some of the households that migrated for agricultural work in the previous years did not move back to their city of origin and settled in the provinces where they were employed. This is most clearly seen in Sanliurfa. 20.1 percent of the household heads were born in Sanliurfa but 7.4 percent of these did not return to their hometown and settled in other provinces.’ (Page 75) ([https://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS\\_IPEC\\_PUB\\_5224](https://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_IPEC_PUB_5224))

2010, while the latest were in 2019. The majority of Syrian household members (83.3) have temporary protection registration. Only in 10 Syrian households there were members who stated that they did not have temporary protection registration.

### *Household size and structure*

According to the data from ‘Statistics on Family 2019’ provided by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat)<sup>37</sup> the average household consists of 3.35 people in Türkiye. Sırnak (6.11 people), Hakkâri (5.39 people), and Sanliurfa (5.38 people) are the three provinces with the highest average household size. Because no yearly data is published regarding how many people and households are engaged in migrant agricultural work in Türkiye, the average household sizes of migrant agricultural worker families can be tracked in various fieldwork conducted in the past years.<sup>38</sup> All the past fieldwork indicates that the average size of seasonal migrant agricultural worker households is above Türkiye average. Being consistent with similar previous studies, this study shows that the average size of both Turkish and Syrian households is 7 people. The smallest household consists of 2, while the largest consists of 14 people. The most commonly encountered households are those consisting of 6, 7 and 8 people (Table 5). When all the households are considered, the average number of children (0-17 age group) per household is 4.

**Table 5.** Household sizes

Number of household members	Number	Percentage
2	2	0.9
3	5	2.3
4	16	7.3
5	34	15.5
6	37	16.9
7	35	16.0
8	36	16.4
9	21	9.6

<sup>37</sup> TURKSTAT Statistics on Family, 2019 <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Statistics-on-Family-2019-33730>

<sup>38</sup> According to the 2002 Baseline Study on the Worst Form of Child Labour in Agriculture Sector (Children Working in Cotton Harvest in Karataş, Adana), the average household size is 8.7 people ([https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/informationresources/WCMS\\_IPEC\\_PUB\\_5224](https://www.ilo.org/ipecc/informationresources/WCMS_IPEC_PUB_5224) ). According to the 2019 study ‘Child as a Hope for the Poor: A Study on the Socioeconomic Profile of Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Worker Households and Child Labour’ conducted by the Development Workshop Cooperative (2019), average household size is 8.1 people for Syrian families and 8.8 people for Turkish families. (<https://www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Cocuk-Haklari/Raporlar/Poverty-Migration-and-Child-Labor-The-Socio-Economic-Profile-of-Seasonal-Agricultural-Worker-Households.pdf> ). According to a 2014 study conducted by the Support to Life, the average household size is 8 people (<https://www.hayatadestek.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/mevsimlik-gezici-tarim-isciligi-2014-arastirma-raporu.pdf>).

10	15	6.8
11	9	4.1
12	4	1.8
13	3	1.4
14	2	0.9
Total	219	100

Family types can be understood based on household sizes. In the classical approach, the family types are based on the relativity between household members. In this framework, the family type is divided in two main categories as *extended family* and *nuclear family*.<sup>39</sup> This study uses *household* as the unit of analysis and defines it as a structure that consists of people who live under the same roof, share the same food, and move together at the time of the study.<sup>40</sup>

According to the definitions given above, 157 of the households (71.7 percent) are in a *nuclear family* form that consists of parents and unmarried children. 26.8 percent of this kind of household are Syrian, while 73.2 are Turkish. The average number of children (0-17 age group) is 4.3 and 4.2 in Syrian and Turkish households, respectively. In 219 households, the rate of school age children (5-17 age group) is 47.5 percent.

#### *Marital statuses of household members*

90.4 percent of the interviewed representatives of 219 households are married. Among household members aged 18 and above, 70.8 percent is married, and 26 percent is single. The rate of single members is 75.7 percent in the 18-24 age group; 7 percent in the 25-34 age group; and zero percent in the 35-44 age group. The average age is 20 for single men and women, whereas the average age is 38 for married women and 42 for married men. During the study, it was stated that two girls under 18 are “married” and one girl under 18 “divorced”. The two “married” girls are 16, and the “divorced” girl is 17.

#### *Educational statuses of household representatives and members*

Because the educational statuses of the 219 households and their members will be addressed in more detail in the chapter on education within the context of the Coronavirus pandemic, only summarized findings are provided here. Almost half of the persons inter-

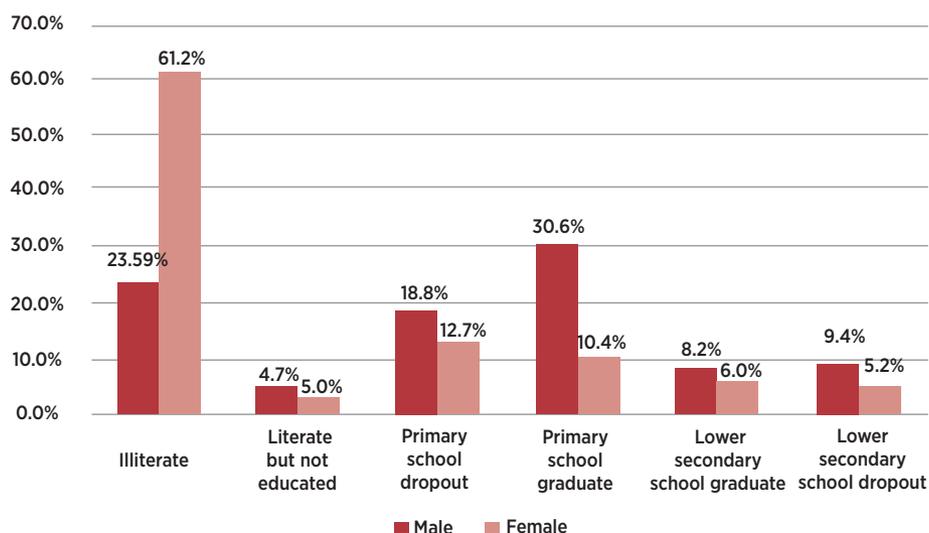
<sup>39</sup> The extended family is considered vertical when multiple generations live together including parents, married and unmarried children, and grandchildren; horizontal when various degrees of relatives are incorporated into the nuclear family; and joint when different nuclear families live together. Nuclear family is the type that includes only the parents and unmarried children. ([https://cdn-acikogretim.istanbul.edu.tr/auzecontent/19\\_20\\_Bahar/sosyolojiye\\_giris\\_2/2/index.html](https://cdn-acikogretim.istanbul.edu.tr/auzecontent/19_20_Bahar/sosyolojiye_giris_2/2/index.html) retrieved November 1, 2020)

<sup>40</sup> The ‘household’ definition used in the 2016 Family Structure Study conducted by the Turkish Statistical Institute applies for this study as well: ‘Household is a unit that includes one or more people, related or not related, who live in the same residence, meet their basic needs together and are engaged in household services and management.’ <https://tuikweb.tuik.gov.tr/PreHaberBultenleri.do?id=21869>

viewed as household representatives are illiterate (46.6 percent) (Chart 2)<sup>41</sup>. When the education status was analyzed based on gender, it was understood that the rate of illiteracy is higher among female household representatives (61.2 percent) in comparison to male representatives (23.5 percent).

The rate of primary school graduates among men is 30.6 percent, while this rate for women is 10.4 percent. The rate of both men and women who continued studying after primary school is very low. The average age of illiterate men is 47.5, while that of illiterate women is 41.5. The average age is 45 for primary school graduate men, and 33.5 for primary school graduate women. The average ages of lower secondary school graduates are 34 and 32 for men and women, respectively.

**Chart 2.** Educational status of household representatives by gender



### *Educational statuses of household member children<sup>42</sup>*

There are a total of 742 children aged from 5 to 17 (with 50.7 percent being boys and 49.3 percent being girls). Among these school age children, 46.7 percent attend primary, lower secondary and upper secondary school; 21.5 percent have already dropped out of school; and 21.6 have never been enrolled in school. 44 percent of the school aged children who have not been enrolled in school (160) belong to Turkish households, while 56 percent to Syrian households. Children who have not been enrolled in school are usually aged 5-9. Two of the primary reasons for this is that the children are enrolled in school at a later age

<sup>41</sup> The following respondents were not included in the graph: an upper secondary school dropout woman, an upper secondary school student man, an upper secondary school graduate man, a man with an associate degree, a university student woman, and a university student man.

<sup>42</sup> The educational statuses of the household member children belonging to the 0-4 age group were not included in the tables since they are not at compulsory education age.

and Syrian children have problems accessing school. The interviews with the households revealed that the Coronavirus pandemic may delay the school enrollment of especially children who will start primary school. Nearly half of children aged 5-9 (44.5 percent of 238 children) are primary school students. It was observed that the school dropout rate of children aged from 10 to 14 (317 children) started to increase (20.5 percent) in this age group. The rate of children in this age group who are defined as primary school students is 17.7 percent due to late school enrollment. The majority of children in the 10-14 age group (40.1 percent) attend lower secondary school. Nearly half of the children aged 15-17 (317 children) are 'school dropouts' (49.3 percent). The educational level with the highest dropout rate is lower secondary school (25.7 percent). Attendance to upper secondary school education in the 15-17 age group is very low (15 percent). Based on the interviews the educational statuses of children belonging to the Syrian households aged 5-17 are more disadvantaged compared to their Turkish peers.

#### *Educational statuses of household members aged 18 and above*

The total number of people aged 18 and above in the 219 households is 654 (49.2 percent male and 50.8 percent female). The age interval of those aged 18 and above is 18-24 (32.7). As seen in Table 6, the group aged 18 and above has the highest rate of illiteracy in general (35 percent). The illiteracy rate in both Turkish and Syrian households is higher in women than men. Besides, the illiteracy rate increases as with the age. For instance, the illiteracy rate is 10.3 percent for those aged 18-24, while this rate is 66.7 percent for those aged 55-64.

**Table 6.** Educational status of household members aged 18 and above by gender\*

Educational status	Male		Female		Total	
	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency
Illiterate	21.1	67	48.9	162	35.3	229
Literate only	5.0	16	3.6	12	4.3	28
Primary school dropout	17.7	56	13.3	44	15.4	100
Primary school graduate	21.5	68	10.6	35	15.9	103
Lower secondary school graduate	14.8	47	8.2	27	11.4	74
Lower secondary school dropout	10.7	34	10.6	35	10.6	69

Upper secondary school dropout	5.4	18	2.1	7	3.9	25
Upper secondary school student	1.9	6	0.6	2	1.2	8
Upper secondary school graduate	1.6	5	2.1	7	1.9	12
Total	100.0	317	100.0	331	100.0	648

*\*The following were not included in Table 6: A male associate program student, a male and a female university student, and two male university graduates.*

The school dropout rate for those aged 18 and above is 29.7 percent. In terms of the educational levels with the highest dropout rates, it is understood that primary school students drop out at 3rd grade, lower secondary school students drop out at 6th grade and upper secondary school students drop out at 9th grade the most (Table 7). The rate of primary, lower secondary and upper secondary school graduates is 29 percent.

**Table 7.** The average grades where the household members aged 18 and above drop out

The educational level dropped out from	Gender	The average grade dropped out from	Frequency
Primary school	Male	3.00	12
	Female	3.36	14
	Total	3.19	26
Lower secondary school	Male	7.07	15
	Female	6.36	25
	Total	6.63	40
Upper secondary school	Male	9.91	11
	Female	9.25	4
	Total	9.73	15

### *Seasonal migrant agricultural work practices of interviewed households*

On average the Turkish households work as seasonal migrant agricultural workers for 17 years. The answers given to this question vary between 1 and 50 years. The person who stated that they have been working as an agricultural worker for 50 years is aged 60. Only 11 of the 159 Turkish households (6.9 percent) interviewed have been working as agricultural workers just for a year. As for Syrian households, the average time of working as a seasonal migrant agricultural worker is 5.5 years. Only 18.3 of the Syrian household repre-

sentatives stated that their mother and/or father worked as seasonal migrant agricultural workers. Given that the 60 percent of the Syrian households arrived in Türkiye in 2014 and 2015, it can be said that the majority of these families started to work as seasonal agricultural workers during their migration period or from the first day of their arrival. The rate of the Turkish household representatives that stated that their parents work as seasonal agricultural workers as well is 73 percent (Table 8).

**Table 8.** Respondents whose parents work as seasonal agricultural workers

Respondents whose parents work as seasonal agricultural workers		Does your mother/father work or have they worked as seasonal migrant agricultural workers?		Total
		Yes	No	
Turkish	Frequency	116	43	159
	Distribution (percentage)	73	27	100
Syrian	Frequency	11	49	60
	Distribution (percentage)	18.3	81.7	100
Total	Frequency	127	92	219
	Distribution (percentage)	58	42	100

Only 12.8 percent of the interviewed household representatives stated that they work in jobs other than agricultural work. This rate drops down to 8.3 in Syrian households. The most common jobs worked in other than seasonal migrant agricultural work are construction and driver work. Representatives of only two households stated that their spouses used to work as factory workers but now they moved to Adana to work as seasonal migrant agricultural workers because they lost their factory jobs due to the pandemic. Therefore, it can be said that seasonal migrant agricultural work is sustained strongly.

The most common answer given to the question of “why the households work as seasonal migrant agricultural workers to make a living” is that there are no ‘other jobs’:

*‘Because we cannot find any other jobs, and this is the only job we can do with the family.’*

*‘There are no jobs for our children. We do not own land. We just have to; this is the only occupation for us. They will ask for rent if we move to the city.’*

*‘There are no other jobs, and we feel the most comfortable here.’*

*‘Poverty. We will starve if we do not work like this.’*

90 percent of the interviewed households stated that they find agricultural work through *agricultural intermediaries*, and 5 percent through *'friends, acquaintances, and relatives'*. In terms of the ways of finding jobs, there are no differences between Turkish and Syrian households.

Worker families and their children usually stay in temporary tent settlements in these provinces, and this situation causes many vulnerabilities.

Due to the fluctuations in labour demand year around, they migrate to other provinces at different times of the year and visit Sanliurfa, where they live permanently, for a couple of weeks a year for 'vacation'. An organization representative interviewed in Adana stated:

*'There are 59 temporary tent settlements and 1916 tents in the area we are responsible for. 15 thousand people live here but it is impossible to say who is a migrant and who is permanent. Those who come here from outside to work become incorporated into this community. Those who come from outside do not return and keep the tent here. Sometimes they leave someone here to keep the tent, go to Urfa, and then come back.'*

When the household representatives were asked about how many months a year they live in a tent, it was understood that 64.4 percent of the 219 households live in a tent the whole year, and the rest live in a tent for around 7.3 months a year (Table 9). 91 percent (55 households) of Syrian households stated that they live in tents the whole year. Therefore, although it is called *'seasonal'* and they stay in *'temporary'* tent settlements, the majority of the households interviewed in the region reside and work in these provinces, living in tents, during most of the year and *'as far as there are jobs'*.

**Table 9.** Average time (months) spent in tents in a year

Average time (months) spent in tent settlements in a year	Frequency	Percentage
1-6 months	27	12.4
7-11 months	51	23.2
12 months (always live in a tent)	141	64.4
Total	219	100

Lastly, as the age group increases, the rate of seasonal migrant agricultural workers decreases. Due to the youthful composition of the seasonal migrant agricultural worker households, the age group with the highest working rate is 18-24. The 39 percent of men and 41 percent of women belonging to this age group actively work in agricultural jobs. The average age is 20.2 for working men and 19.7 for working women in the 18-24 age

group. As for the household workers who do not work, the average age is 50.6 for men and 40.6 for women.

## 2.2. Impact of Coronavirus Pandemic on Seasonal Agricultural Production

### 2.2.1. Change in seasonal agricultural production working conditions

#### *Working status of the interviewed household representatives and household members as seasonal agricultural workers*

More than half of the household representatives worked as seasonal migrant agricultural workers in 2019 and 2020 (Table 10). The working rate is higher in men. When the findings from the two years are compared, it is observed that there is no change in the working rate of men, while 10 women, who used to work in seasonal migrant agricultural jobs in 2019 had quit work at the time of the study.

**Table 10.** Working status of household representatives in 2019 and 2020 by gender

Working status of seasonal migrant agricultural workers in 2019 and 2020		2019		Total	2020		Total
		Male	Female		Male	Female	
Yes	Frequency	71	92	163	71	82	153
	Percentage	83.5	68.7	74.4	83.5	61.2	69.9
No	Frequency	14	42	56	14	52	66
	Percentage	16.5	31.3	25.6	16.5	38.8	30.1
Total	Frequency	85	134	219	85	134	219
	Percentage	100	100	100	100	100	100

The most commonly encountered reasons why female household representatives do not work include domestic responsibilities, pregnancy, and giving birth recently (45.3 percent). The main reason for both male and female household representatives include various health problems, particularly a herniated disc (40.6 percent). 12.5 percent of the respondents stated that they do not work because they are *old*. The youngest female household representative who considers herself *old* is aged 50. The average age of women who stated that they do not work because they are *old* is 57. Regardless of gender, the average age is 61.5 for those who consider themselves old and thus do not work as seasonal migrant agricultural workers.

### *Working status of household members aged 18 and above*

The findings regarding the working status of household members in 2019 and 2020 do not differ (Table 11). Both male and female household members mostly worked as seasonal migrant agricultural workers in 2019 and 2020. The working rate of women saw a 2.5 percent drop between the last year and 2020 September, when this study was conducted. Among all household members, the rate of those who are aged 18 and above and who do not work as seasonal migrant agricultural workers is 21 percent. The main stated reason for not working includes various health problems (38.1 percent).

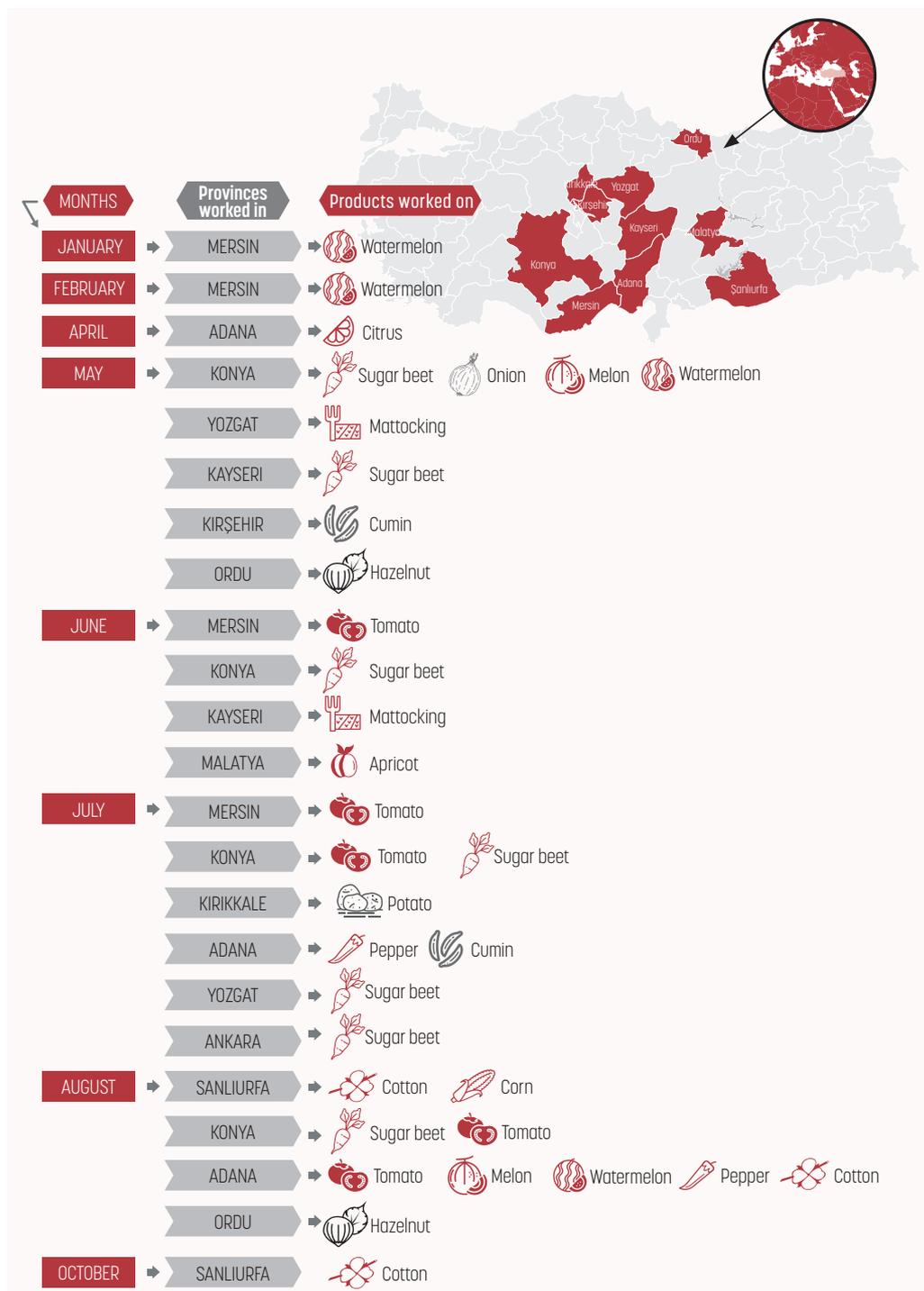
**Table 11.** Working status of household members aged 18 and above in 2019 and 2020

Working status of seasonal migrant agricultural workers in 2019 and 2020		2019		Total	2020		Total
		Male	Female		Male	Female	
Yes	Frequency	282	233	515	281	224	505
	Percentage	87.6	70	78.7	87.3	67.5	77
No	Frequency	40	99	139	41	108	149
	Percentage	12.4	29.8	21.3	12.7	32.5	22.8
Total	Frequency	322	282	654	322	332	654
	Percentage	100	100	100	100	100	100

### **2.2.2. Change in seasonal mobility depending on region and product**

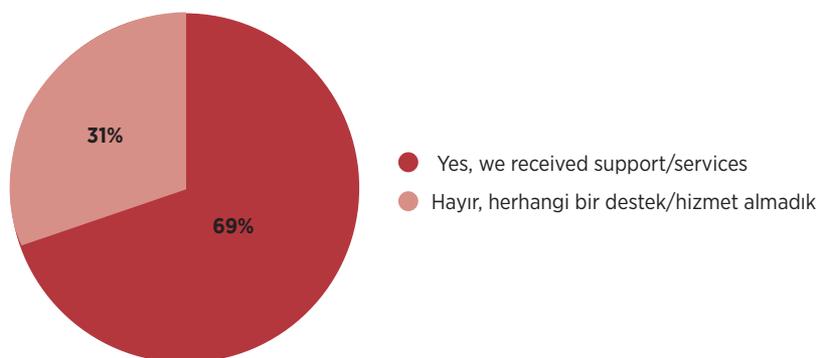
The yearly mobility of seasonal migrant agricultural workers was also analyzed in Adana and Mersin provinces where the field work of the study was conducted. According to the results, only 35 (15.9 percent) of the interviewed households stated that they moved to different provinces as well to work during the study period in 2020. A household might go to a province at different times to work for different products or for different kinds of work such as mattocking, planting, and harvesting. Apart from January and February, it is observed that the households continued to migrate to different provinces after the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic (Chart 3). These households work on products such as tomato, hazelnut, watermelon, citrus, beet, and potato in Adana, Mersin, Ankara, Kayseri, Kirikkale, Konya, Malatya, Ordu, Sanliurfa, and Yozgat provinces in a period between April and October.

**Chart 3.** Products, provinces, and districts worked in by month



After the spread of the Coronavirus across the country, a number of measures were taken to ensure the mobility of seasonal migrant agricultural workers. These included support to temporary tent settlements from public organizations and municipalities, various national and international NGOs. The households were asked about their experiences within this context. 69 percent (152 households) of the interviewed households stated that they benefited from various services provided amid the Coronavirus pandemic. (Chart 4). Yet it was stated that these services did not reach all the tent settlements and, even if they did, not all seasonal migrant agricultural worker households equally benefited from the services. According to the interviews with both the organizations and the households, there were many factors that played a role in this inequality, such as: the role of the agricultural intermediaries in accessing support and services, the distribution of temporary tent settlements in provinces, the household's proximity to the road in the tent settlement, and the way service providers organized their assistance and services related to measures on the pandemic.

**Chart 4.** Service provision and/or contribution to seasonal migrant agricultural worker households in their living areas after the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic



95 percent of the households (152 households) stating that they received some kind of assistance and that the service or contribution was only for one time. From the 273 different answers to the question of “*what the services included*”; the households mentioned that the hygiene kit support was the most commonly provided. (46.2 percent). Other services and contributions included personal protective equipment (22 percent), food support (20.9 percent), and information about the pandemic (9.2 percent) (Table 12).

**Table 12.** Services/contributions provided to households for the Coronavirus pandemic

Services/contributions	Frequency	Percentage
Hygiene kit support	126	46.2
Food support (food package)	57	20.9
Personal protective equipment (mask, etc.)	60	22
Providing information about the Coronavirus pandemic (measures, methods of protection, etc.)	25	9.2
Other (educational materials, cash support, health control, etc.)	5	1.9
Total	273	100

96 of the 152 households (63.2 percent) who stated that they received any service or support said that they do not know/remember the service provider organization. According to the answers received from the 56 households who know the service provider, it was understood that the organizations included the Turkish Red Crescent (30.4 percent), national NGOs (associations, foundations, aid organizations, etc.) (19.6 percent), metropolitan municipalities (17.9 percent), and district municipalities (10.7 percent). The interviews revealed that the teams who deliver services and assistance went out in the field less often due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Therefore, the situation causes a special challenge for seasonal agricultural workers in terms of accessing services and assistance.

The households stated also that some other obstacles were encountered in accessing services and assistance. The most common problem was that the household members were not present in their settlement areas at the times when the services and assistance were delivered because they worked in agricultural fields. Some of the households stated that the support provided through agricultural intermediaries was not distributed fairly. Another problem mentioned in this respect was that the agricultural intermediaries only helped the households they work together with. Some of the interviewed households pointed out the situation with statements such as: *'the tent next to us received support because their agricultural intermediary is more effective'* or *'their agricultural intermediary brought support but ours could not'*. 10 percent of the respondents stated that they received protective materials against the Coronavirus pandemic. The most commonly provided material is masks with 42.5 percent. It is followed by gloves, hand sanitizer, water, and soap (Table 13).

**Table 13.** Services/contributions provided in the working area/environment

Services and contributions	Frequency	Percentage
Mask provided	17	42.5
Gloves provided	10	25
Hand sanitizer provided	5	12.5
Water and soap provided	4	10
A work organization was ensured in accordance with social distance	2	5
Regular temperature measurement was carried out	2	5
Total	40	100

Although the interviewed organization representatives stated that the tent settlements could be considered safer because they are away from cities and residential areas, 68.1 percent of the interviewed households stated that they are concerned about catching the Coronavirus (Table 14).

**Table 14.** Households' degree of concern about the spread of the virus in tent settlements

Degree of concern	Frequency	Percentage
Not at all concerned	29	13.2
Not concerned	29	13.2
Neither concerned nor unconcerned	12	5.5
Concerned	63	28.8
Very concerned	86	39.3
Total	219	100

On the other hand, 69.9 percent of the interviewed households stated that they know how to protect themselves from the Coronavirus. However, it is clear that having information on protection and being able to implement the measures should be considered two different cases. Some of the families stated that they know and try to implement the basic protection measures:

*'I stay away from people, wear a mask, and put my scarf on my mouth while working in the field.'*

*'Washing hands frequently, changing clothes, cleaning the house, wearing a mask, washing the children often.'*

Other families stated that although they know about the measures, it is not possible to implement these in their working and living areas:

*'Distance and mask. But we cannot implement these measures. Because we are all side by side even when we are filling water buckets and baking bread.'*

*'Hygiene is needed but hard to ensure here. There is no water in the field and no place to wash hands. Here in the field, we drink from the same cup as 20 people. It is easy to say on TV, they say we should use soap. Do you think there are soaps in the field? Who else would catch the Coronavirus if not us.?'*

*'Social distance is needed but not possible. We drink water from the same cup. We go to the field in the same vehicle as 30 people.'*

The interviewed households were asked multiple choice questions about what they need the most to be protected from the virus, and 526 answers were taken. The most stated needs were hygiene/cleaning products (34.2 percent) and gloves and masks (20.9 percent). Ten percent of the households stated that they need good nutrition, hand sanitizer, and housing that allows for social distancing (Table 15).

**Table 15.** Distribution of needs stated by the households to be protected from the Coronavirus

Needs to be protected from the Coronavirus	Frequency	Percentage
Information about the Coronavirus pandemic	19	3.6
Hygiene/ cleaning products	180	34.2
Gloves and mask	110	20.9
Hand sanitizer	50	9.5
Larger tents and housing that allows for social distancing	56	10.6
Good nutrition	50	9.5
Clean environment/ waste collection	16	3
Regular disinfection in accommodation areas against the Coronavirus	21	4
Access to water and improvement of shower facilities	22	4.2
Fuel support	2	0.4
Total	526	100

### 2.2.3. Change in future expectations

Sources of concern for the seasonal migrant agricultural workers about the Coronavirus pandemic as well as the effect of these concerns on the future expectation of the households were also included within the scope of the study. In this respect, 62.1 percent of the interviewed households stated that their primary concern about the Coronavirus pandemic is the health of the household members, while 22.8 named their primary concern as the loss of job/income. It was observed that the rate of concern about the children's access to education is very low with only 3.6 percent. Given the current conditions of these households who have no choice but to work during the pandemic, it is an expected result that their concern regarding the children's education comes after concerns about the household members' health and job loss (Table 16).

**Table 16.** Primary sources of concern for the households regarding the Coronavirus pandemic

Primary sources of concern for the households regarding the Coronavirus pandemic	Frequency	Percentage
Health of the family	136	62.1
Loss of income/job	50	22.8
Interrupted education / children staying out of school	8	3.6
Restriction of movement, isolation, quarantine, etc.	3	1.4
No concerns	17	7.8
Other	5	2.3
Total	219	100

When the households were asked about their primary needs during the pandemic, starting from March 2020, the most common answers were food support (30.1 percent), cash support (25.3 percent), and the continuity of their employment (17.3 percent). Access to hygiene products as a measure against the pandemic was the third most commonly stated need (18.6 percent). The needs regarding the children's education were mentioned by only eight (1.5 percent) households (Table 17).

**Table 17.** Top three needs of the households since March 2020

Top three needs of the households since March 2020	Frequency	Percentage
Continuous employment	93	17.3
Cash support	136	25.3
Food support	162	30.1

Hygiene products	100	18.6
Additional tent	3	0.6
Larger tent settlement area / additional tents	12	1.7
Improved access to healthcare services	16	3
Appropriate transportation means	4	0.7
Appropriate educational materials for children's education	8	1
Personal protective equipment	5	0.9
Other	2	0.4
Total	538	100

Within the scope of the study, the risk of catching the Coronavirus for the seasonal migrant agricultural workers living in the tent settlements visited was also tried to be assessed. During the interviews with the organizations, different actors stated that Syrian seasonal migrant agricultural workers cannot access adequate information about the pandemic, particularly due to language barrier. However, they also stated that Syrian seasonal migrant agricultural workers are naturally better protected from the disease because they stay in more isolated temporary tent settlements compared to Turkish seasonal migrant agricultural workers. Besides, similar statements were made by different households during the field work. It is considered that the workers usually being away from urban areas and crowded environments reduces the risk of infection. Only 27 of the interviewed households (12.3 percent) stated that they have people around, such as relatives and neighbors, who caught the disease. All of these households are Turkish.

### 2.3. Economic Effect of Coronavirus Pandemic

In this section, we discuss the findings about the changing economic conditions of seasonal migrant agricultural workers amid the pandemic and assess how this change has affected or created the risk of child labour in seasonal migrant agricultural work in practice.

The ongoing economic vulnerabilities of seasonal migrant agricultural worker households have increased, and their resilience has been broken amid the Coronavirus pandemic due to their reduced income, increased expenses in family budget, deepening burden of debt, restricted access to financial resources.

It was observed that the seasonal migrant agricultural worker households, whose economic vulnerabilities increased during the Coronavirus pandemic, started to make their children work at earlier ages and for longer hours in gardens, fields, and cities. This is because the schools were closed early, distant education without necessary support structures

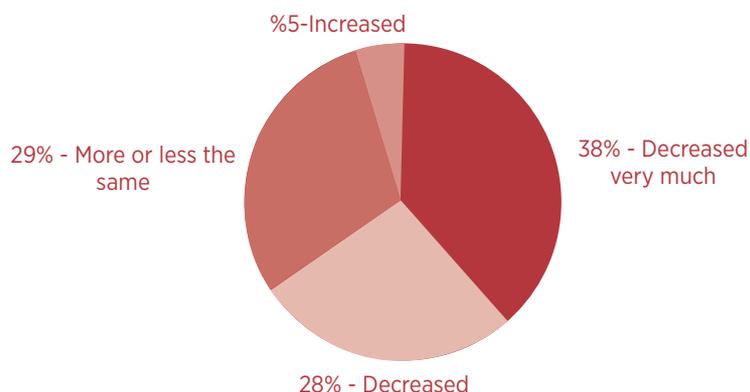
provided a vulnerable state where children could be engaged in economic activities. The social support mechanisms were limited, thus they attempted to increase labour supply and income of the household with the children.<sup>43</sup>

### 2.3.1. Change in income

It is foreseeable that some of the measures taken against the Coronavirus pandemic will negatively affect the incomes of seasonal migrant agricultural worker households and the production costs of farmers.<sup>44</sup> This section focuses on the change in income, while also holistically addressing what causes, combined with the reduced income amid the pandemic, led children to work in fields and gardens.

In this study, it was observed that the income of seasonal migrant agricultural worker households dropped generally in Adana and Mersin provinces during the period between March and September 2020 amid the pandemic. When the households were asked about the change in income generated from agricultural labour, 65 percent of the 219 household representatives stated that the income generated from agricultural labour has ‘*decreased*’ or ‘*decreased very much*’ amid the pandemic (Chart 5).

**Chart 5.** Change in income generated from seasonal agricultural labour amid the Coronavirus pandemic



The main reasons for the reduced income of seasonal migrant agricultural worker households include restrictions in transportation and working conditions, dismissals, not being

<sup>43</sup> It was observed that the rate of child labour can increase by 13 percent when the schools are closed compared to the period when the schools are open, even under normal conditions (<https://cocoainitiative.org/news-media-post/hazardous-child-labour-in-cote-divoires-cocoa-communities-during-covid-19/>).

<sup>44</sup> Development Workshop Cooperative, (2020), Virus or Poverty? Possible Impact of Coronavirus Pandemic on Plant Production and Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers and Their Children, p. 130. <https://www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Cocuk-Haklari/Raporlar/Virus-or-Poverty.pdf>

able to be engaged in seasonal agricultural work due to the fear of the virus, and the decrease in labour demand due to the decrease in the demand for agricultural products.

National and international studies show that parental unemployment caused by economic shocks and thus the loss of income led to child labour to provide temporary support.<sup>45</sup>

In order to say that the decrease in incomes directly increased the rate of child labour, we need to discuss under what conditions the income decreased as well. For instance, a study conducted in the United Republic of Tanzania shows that the households who have assets to pledge as security had access to loans during economic shocks, thereby preventing child labour.<sup>46</sup> In Bangladesh, access to loans helped households avoid child labour after sustaining economic losses caused by the floods.<sup>47</sup>

Within the scope of this study, the diversity of income sources of households was investigated first to understand the change in income sources. In this respect, it was understood that more than 85 percent of the 159 Turkish household representatives and more than 90 percent of the 60 Syrian household representatives are not engaged in any jobs other than seasonal migrant agricultural work. Only 23 Turkish household representatives stated that they work in other jobs in addition to seasonal migrant agricultural work. These jobs include construction works, transportation drivers, and blue-collar factory works.

It was understood that only 7 of the 219 household representatives are engaged in live-stock breeding, and they do it on a scale that could only feed the family, providing meat and dairy products.

Among the household representatives interviewed in the study, only 6.8 percent (15 households) engaged in agricultural production for themselves in addition to working as a seasonal migrant agricultural worker. 14 of these households are Turkish, whereas 1 is Syrian. Other than these, 2.7 percent (6 households) receive age pension, 5 percent (11 households) receive disability pension, and 1.8 percent (4 households) receive widows and orphans' pensions that contribute to total household income in addition to the income generated from seasonal migrant agricultural work. It was observed that 65 percent of Syrian households receive the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN)<sup>48</sup> assistance, also

<sup>45</sup> UNICEF and ILO. (2020), COVID-19 and Child Labour: A time of crisis, a time to act <https://data.unicef.org/resources/covid-19-and-child-labour-a-time-of-crisis-a-time-to-act/>

<sup>46</sup> Beegle, K, Dehejia, R. H., and Roberta Gatti. (2006) Child Labour and Agricultural Shocks, *Journal of Development Economics*.

<sup>47</sup> Eskander, A., and Dendir, S. (2011), *Weathering the Storms: Credit Receipt and Child Labour in the Aftermath of the Great Floods (1998) in Bangladesh*, *World Development*

<sup>48</sup> The Emergency Social Safety Net, ESSN for short, is the assistance provided to foreigners under international or temporary protection who live outside the refugee camps in Türkiye. The assistance is funded by the European Union. The assistance is delivered through the Kızılaykart. Kızılaykarts given to those who benefit from the ESSN have the European Union flag as well as the WFP logo on them. The support provided monthly to those who meet certain requirements was ₺120 per person in 2020 (<https://multeciler.org.tr/yabancilara-yonelik-sosyal-uyum-yardi-mi-programi-suy/> Date of access: 12 December 2020).

known as 'Kizilaykart'.<sup>49</sup> The rate of the households who have no other income than that of generated from seasonal migrant agricultural work is 10.5 percent (23 households). 13 of these are Turkish, while 10 are Syrian.

In conclusion, the income of seasonal migrant agricultural worker households is mainly generated from seasonal migrant agricultural work, and that their income dropped amid the Coronavirus pandemic.

In terms of income generated from seasonal migrant agricultural work, Syrian households were affected less than Turkish households by the pandemic. According to in-depth interviews conducted with some of the Syrian households, their income did not change, or it increased as the number of their working days increased. In the in-depth interviews conducted with the agricultural intermediaries, they stated that the reason for this is that the Syrian households accepted to work for relatively flexible wages and working conditions during the Coronavirus pandemic.<sup>50</sup> An agricultural intermediary described the situation, saying:

*'Syrian families work as the whole family including children. They hardly object to anything. They do not say no to lower wages and harder working conditions. They do not ask to borrow money. They do not gossip. Thus, it is easier to work with Syrians.'*

According to ILO's national labour force analysis, Syrian men used to earn 95 percent of the minimum wage, whereas Syrian women used to earn 77 percent of it before the Coronavirus pandemic in Türkiye.<sup>51</sup> The unofficial work arrangements and limited negotiating power caused migrants, particularly female migrants, to face the risks of dismissal or lowered wages during the crisis. According to the 2020 September data, the hunger threshold for a family of 4 was TRY 2.450<sup>52</sup>, and earning an income below this figure increases the chances that the children start to work at early ages.<sup>53</sup>

While this applies to all seasonal migrant agricultural workers, Syrian seasonal migrant agricultural workers were affected more since their working conditions became even more risky and insecure with the Coronavirus pandemic.

---

**49** According to the Syrians Barometer 2019, around 1.5 million Syrians under temporary protection (43 percent) benefit from ESSN, which is ₺120 per person monthly (Erdoğan 2020: 96).

**50** It is also possible to understand the situation from the stated expectations. The 219 interviewed seasonal migrant agricultural migrant households stated that their daily wage expectation does not exceed ₺110. There is a ₺10 difference between the expectations of Turkish and Syrian households. On an average, Syrian households expect ₺98.75, while Turkish households expect ₺109.15.

**51** Recommendations for Policy-makers and Stakeholders to protect the rights of refugees and others who were relocated during the COVID-19 pandemic, ILO, 2020, s3.

**52** September 2020 Hunger and Poverty Thresholds, Türk-İş, 2020.

**53** Caro, L.P. (2020), Syrian Refugees in the Turkish Labour Market, ILO, s.21.

Under the conditions that the labour supply is more than the demand amid the Coronavirus pandemic, the question of which workers will be employed depends not only on the wages but also the family relationships with the agricultural intermediaries. During the in-depth interviews, it was found out that the agricultural intermediaries usually choose their own relatives and fellow villagers as workers, in addition to Syrian households. In the in-depth interviews with agricultural intermediaries, they stated that this allows for more work flexibility, yet the family relationships cause them to favor relatives in choosing workers. From the in-depth interviews conducted with two households living next to each other in a tent settlement, with one having a family relationship with an agricultural intermediary and one not, it can be seen how the number of working days and thus the income might change depending on family relationships:

**The tent without a family relationship:**

*'My spouse works as a construction worker in Sirnak province, and my two daughters (aged 15 and 17) and I are working in the field. We have a lot of debt in Sirnak; our rent is ₺400. Because my spouse alone could not provide for us, we came here near his sister and set up a tent. Our daily wage is ₺70. We give ₺15 of it to the middleman (agricultural intermediary). We go to work two days a week maximum, sometimes we cannot go for the whole week. Last year we used to go to work at farms in Karatas and Kadiköy districts, and our children used to stay with our relatives and go to school in Sirnak. This year we had to make the children work. But I want to go back when the schools open.'*

**The tent with a close family relationship:**

*'After the schools closed early in Urfa province, we came here with our children (three girls aged 14, 17, 18 and a boy aged 16) near the agricultural intermediary in May. We make around ₺2.200 in a week in total, with 5 of us being paid ₺73 daily per person. Because the agricultural intermediary is our relative, we did not have difficulty finding jobs amid the pandemic and were able to work every day of the week, thankfully. We work a lot because we have to pay the money my spouse owes for buying a pickup truck.'*

During the field survey we also encountered families who lost their non-agricultural jobs due to the Coronavirus pandemic and now make a living from seasonal migrant agricultural work while staying in the temporary tent settlement located in the plain. These families, who used to make a living from working as construction workers, factory workers, or drivers, etc. in the past years, borrowed money to move from their province of residence to Adana and started to work in fields and gardens with their children to pay the money back. For example, an agricultural worker had to move from their province of residence to Karatas - Adana to stay with their spouse's relative who is an agricultural intermediary when they lost their regular job in 2020:

*'I used to work at a fishnet factory in Kepez, Antalya. amid the Coronavirus pandemic, they changed my job from cage making to fishnet wrapping, which is physically impossible for me to do. I told them that I could not do it, but they did not listen. Then I had to quit my job. I was unable to bear the workload. My elder daughter used to work at a wedding dress shop at the time. And she was told to stay at home for some time. So, we both became unemployed. We needed to pay rent. It was ₺700 a month. It is expensive to live in the city. All the prices went up. How could we get on? We decided to move to the tent settlement in the plain. We came to the plain in June this year. The agricultural intermediary is my spouse's relative. We took a ₺3000 loan from bank. And borrowed another ₺3000 from the agricultural intermediary. Now the three of us work. We will be relieved if we pay off our debt. We would like to return to Antalya if the job situation gets better there. My spouse does not want it though. She wants to buy a house here. The children are scared of centipedes in the tent. And we are scared of theft. They might break in using just a pocketknife. This tent would burn down immediately if it catches a flame. We do not feel safe. But we could not stay in the city under the current circumstances.'*

In the family, the eldest daughter who is aged 21 and the other two daughters aged 15 and 12 started to work in pepper picking as seasonal migrant agricultural workers for the first time in their lives.

Families who lost their jobs due to the economic problems arising amid the Coronavirus pandemic are trying to pull through this period by going back to seasonal migrant agricultural work through their family relationships. In other words, seasonal migrant agricultural work provides a temporary safe area for the household. The households describe the situation with statements such as: *'it is uncertain when the economy will recover, we will be safe here till then.'* International examples show that economic crises result in permanent sociological changes in vulnerable groups.<sup>54</sup>

Among the 159 Turkish household representatives interviewed within the scope of the study, 73 percent stated that their parents have worked or are working as seasonal migrant agricultural workers. This rate drops to 18 percent among the 60 Syrian household representatives interviewed. On an average, Turkish households have been working in seasonal agricultural jobs for 17 years and Syrian households for 5.5 years. It can be said that the interviewed Syrian households are not unfamiliar with agricultural work, and that they

---

<sup>54</sup> Millar, K.M. (2018), *Reclaiming the discarded: Life and Labour on Rio's garbage dump*, Durham: Duke University Press, s.3-4.

For example, an ethnographic research conducted in Jardim Gramacho, a large landfill located in the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, shows that around 2 thousand freelance workers called 'catadores' who collect recyclable material there keep escaping and going back to the landfill life because of not having any alternatives during the cycle of economic growth and crisis.

engaged in agricultural activities to meet their basic food needs in Syria.<sup>55</sup> The majority of household members are those who used to work in other jobs before the war in Syria but started to work as seasonal migrant agricultural workers after the forced migration. It should be emphasized that the majority of Syrian women did not work while living in Syria but started to work in the food and agricultural sector as temporary workers after migrating to Türkiye.<sup>56</sup>

It was observed that the children also work in fields and gardens with their parents and relatives. It was understood that the 56 percent of the 215 working boys work to *contribute to family finances*, while 25 percent work to *help the family pay off their debt*. Similarly, 52 percent of the 204 working girls work to *contribute to family finances*, while 24 percent work to *help the family pay off their debt*.

During an in-depth interview, a female worker in the Adana plain described the situation with the following words:

*'I have four daughters and three sons. Normally, my son Muhammed used to come work with me in the field. Now we have a huge debt, and since the schools are closed, we have to make the other children work as well.'*

Another female worker from a household living in Viransehir, Sanliurfa describes the place of child labour in family finances during the Coronavirus pandemic as follows:

*'It is impossible to survive during these hard times unless the children work in the field as well.'*

Two daughters (aged 10 and 12) of the same worker woman went from Viransehir to Sakarya with their grandmother to work in hazelnut picking. They supported family finances with the ₺2000 salary they earned each for working for a month. The 8-year-old son in the family stayed with his parents at home because he is too young. The two daughters aged 10 and 12 returned from Sakarya to Viransehir when the Support to Life Association offered a total of ₺3000 cash support for 3 months to the family on the condition that they do not send the girls to work. Not having any regular jobs and paying 4000 rent annually, the family stated that they had to go to work in cotton harvesting, taking their son with them, which became their source of income after the ending of the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education that was provided by means of the Programme Cooperation Agreement between UNICEF Türkiye and the Support to Life Association.

While usually children above the age of 12 work in seasonal agricultural production there can also be exceptions. For instance, a 7-year-old boy was encountered who works with

<sup>55</sup> According to the 2019 Syrians Barometer, around 68 percent of Syrians were house owners, 30 percent were land/field owners, and 25 percent were business owners before coming to Türkiye. Therefore, we can say that they belonged to the middle income group in their lives before migrating to Türkiye (Erdoğan 2020: 134).

<sup>56</sup> FAO. (2020), Syrian Refugee Resilience Plan 2020–2021, Roma, s.7.

his family in a pepper field near Karagöçer neighborhood of Karatas district.<sup>57</sup> The boy was given the job of carrying baskets due to his young age.<sup>58</sup> His sister who is one year older than him was picking peppers with her parents. The boy told us that he is so “strong” that he is able to carry a 25 kg basket and bring it back empty even before his sister fills her basket. It can be said that he sees working in the field as a game for now. His father explained the situation as follows:

*‘We were working in the field when I was a little child. Years passed. Now my children work in the field. My father grew old. I take care of him now. He rests all day. I will rest when my children grow up and start to take care of me. Then the children of my children will take care of their father. It goes like this. I wish it were different. But this is the life we know.’*

To sum up the income of the seasonal migrant agricultural worker households mainly comes from seasonal migrant agricultural work; their income dropped amid the Coronavirus pandemic in general; this drop can vary between Syrian and Turkish households and depending on family relationships; and the drop could not be compensated due to the lack of alternative job opportunities and sources of income. Some examples show how the seasonal migrant agricultural work as well as temporary tent settlement became a ‘temporary’ or ‘permanent-temporary’ resort for some families during an economic shock.<sup>59</sup> It was observed that child labour, which had already been part of household income in seasonal migrant agricultural worker households, is common and that the demand for child labour has increased with the drop in income. The next section relationally discusses other factors that are expected to increase the possibility of children working in fields and gardens starting from a younger age and more intensely with the Coronavirus pandemic.

### **2.3.2. Change in expenses**

This section discusses the change in expenses such as transportation, healthcare, food, hygiene, tobacco, and other consumables amid the Coronavirus pandemic, and it is un-

<sup>57</sup> The ages of children working in gardens vary depending on the product and the form of wage payment. For example, garden owners usually do not prefer child workers under the age of 13 in citrus harvesting in the Adana Plain because the payments are made daily per person. However, families might make children under 13 work in the field for the harvesting of products such as cotton because they are considered more suitable for a child to pick and the payment is made based on the kg of the collected product (lump-sum payment).

<sup>58</sup> According to the data collected from in-depth interviews, we can say that the use of child labour in fields is regardless of gender. However, it should be noted that girls additionally do more domestic work in tents in comparison with boys. A 2014 study conducted by Support to Life shows that girls’ labour is used more intensely because the domestic workload is distributed unevenly based on gender, although there is no gender-based inequality in the field (Hayata Destek 2014: 9). Thus, the ‘double shift’ of women which includes field work and domestic work starts from a very young age in seasonal migrant agricultural worker families (Hochschild 1989; Shelton 1992).

<sup>59</sup> Although seasonal migrant agricultural work and staying in tents became a safe area for the family during a negative economic shock, if the duration of this situation extends, it can turn into a permanent temporariness and the families can work in seasonal migrant agricultural work and stay in tents for a period longer than they planned.

derstood that the expenses increased as the income decreased, as emphasized in the previous section.

Because the interviewed household representatives have been living in the Adana Plain for a long time, it can be said that the Coronavirus pandemic had a limited effect on the transportation expenses of seasonal migrant agricultural worker households. However, although no increase was observed in transportation expenses during the working periods, seasonal migrant agricultural worker households were affected by the increased costs while moving to agricultural areas at the beginning of the pandemic. For instance, an agricultural intermediary from Sanliurfa who coordinates nearly 3 thousand workers stated that the transportation cost for a family of 7 was around ₺350-400 last year, whereas this figure can reach up to ₺500 this year.<sup>60</sup>

The health expenses also increased for some families amid the Coronavirus pandemic. According to the Sixth Month Assessment Report (2020) of the Covid-19 Monitoring Committee of the Turkish Medical Association, most of the state hospitals were declared pandemic hospitals with the Coronavirus pandemic, which caused postponement of procedures in other branches unless they involve a risk of death. This created challenges in service provision to risky groups such as elder patients, pregnant women, hematology/oncology patients, those with chronic illnesses (such as heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease, and COPD), and those who need operation; therefore, they had to go to private healthcare institutions. In this framework, pandemic-related expenses including masks, hygiene material, personal protective equipment, and medical materials were added to their regular expenses of treatment, medicine, etc. due to the pandemic.<sup>61</sup> More than half of the interviewed 219 household representatives either stated that their health expenses *increased* or *increased very much* in this period.

The major part of the change in health expenses include the costs of medicines and transportation to the hospital. Some of the households could not go to hospital to access free medicine during the pandemic, thereby having to buy the medicines from pharmacies paying the whole price, going into debt most of the time. Besides, the state not covering the costs of some medicines as well as the increased prices of imported medicines due to the recent exchange rate increases caused a dramatic increase in health expenses. It was observed that hygiene expenses also increased amid the Coronavirus pandemic. 85 percent of the households either stated that their hygiene expenses '*increased*' or '*increased very much*'. These expenses include items such as cologne, various detergents, and bleach.

---

<sup>60</sup> Development Workshop Cooperative, (2020), Virus or Poverty? Possible Effect of the Coronavirus pandemic on Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers and Their Children and Plant Production, p.63.

<sup>61</sup> Turkish Medical Association Monitoring Committee, Covid-19 Pandemic Sixth Month Assessment Report, 2020, p.80.

It was observed that the food expenses of 88 percent of the seasonal migrant agricultural households increased. According to the Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Work Study Report prepared in 2014, less than 9 percent of the seasonal migrant agricultural worker families can consume meat *once or more than once* a week.<sup>62</sup> It can be said that the situation is even worse in 2020. Almost all of the households stated that, due to the increased food prices, they are able to consume red meat once a year, and that happens only if the land-owner or agricultural intermediaries sacrifice an animal and distribute the meat for Eid al-Adha. They buy chicken from markets on an average of every 15 days. Compared to the year of 2019, food expenses of seasonal migrant agricultural worker households increased significantly in Adana and Mersin. The households mostly buy oil, sugar, flour, tea, rice, bulgur, and wheat. It was stated during the fieldwork that, in comparison to 2019, the price of 1 kg of tea increased from ₺60 to ₺90; 25 kg of flour from ₺50 to ₺90; 50 kg of sugar from ₺200 to ₺250; 5 liter of sunflower seed oil from ₺30 to ₺50. In an in-depth interview, a seasonal migrant agricultural worker family of 7 stated that their food costs for the last 4 months added up to ₺13.000, which was increased by fifty percent compared to last year.

More than half of the seasonal migrant agricultural households stated that they consume tobacco, and 80 percent of the users either stated that their tobacco expenses *increased* or *increased very much*. It was understood that the weekly tobacco cost of the interviewed households is around 35. The seasonal migrant agricultural workers stated that they cannot give up smoking due to 'stress' despite the drop in their income and the deepened poverty.

Very few households stated that they consume alcohol. Only 7 of the 219 interviewed households consume alcohol. One of these families is Syrian, while the rest are Turkish. It was understood during the in-depth interviews that the most prominent reasons for the rareness of alcohol use is its high cost as well as it being a personal choice.

### **2.3.3. Change in savings of seasonal migrant agricultural workers**

The study includes the assessment of the changing rates of savings made by the seasonal migrant agricultural workers and the conditions that forced the families to go into debt amid the Coronavirus pandemic when their income decreased, and expenses/costs increased. When asked whether they were able to make any savings during the Coronavirus pandemic, 14 percent of the 219 interviewed household representatives stated that they were able to make savings with the income they earned in 2019. The average rate of savings is around 13 percent, with the lowest being 5 percent and highest 30 percent.<sup>63</sup> The most commonly stated rate of savings is 10 percent. In short, it can be said that the

---

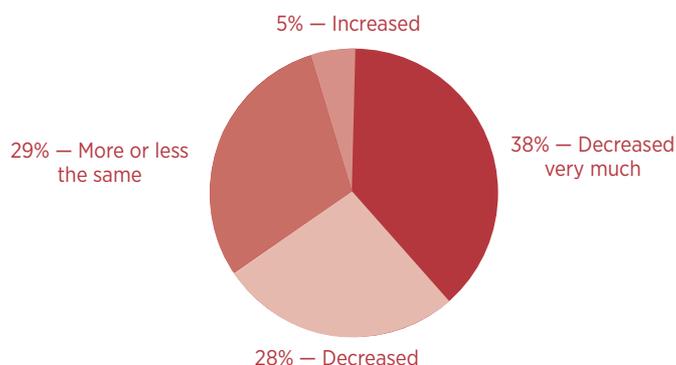
<sup>62</sup> Support to Life, (2014), Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Work 2014: Study Report, p.42.

<sup>63</sup> 'Saving' should be considered the amount of money that is separated from the total seasonal household income of seasonal migrant agricultural workers and saved to spend in the future.

seasonal migrant agricultural households were able to save 10 percent of their total seasonal income.

When asked about the change in saving opportunities after the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic, 66 percent of the families who make savings stated that their saving opportunities decreased (Chart 6). No difference between the Turkish and Syrian households was observed in terms of saving rates during the survey. However, it was understood in the in-depth interviews that Syrian families were able to continue saving amid the Coronavirus pandemic. In the in-depth interviews with the agricultural intermediaries, they stated that the reason for this was that Syrian families better met the labour demand in comparison to Turkish families during the Coronavirus pandemic, thereby generating more income compared to the previous year.

**Chart 6.** Change in saving opportunities due to the Coronavirus pandemic



In the in-depth interviews, they stated that the most common factors that lessened saving opportunities were the rising cost of living, decreased income made from agricultural work, and increased burden of debt. One of the reasons is that the debts of some families are gold-indexed, therefore they keep increasing due to the increasing gold prices. *Gold-indexed* borrowing is more popular especially between relatives because no one wants to lose money due to inflation. That way, the borrowing practice between relatives protect the money from inflation, while also preventing accusations of charging *interest*. It was observed during the study that the TRY equivalent of the debts of many families who had to borrow *gold* has increased due to the rapid rise seen in *gold* prices since May 2020. The seasonal migrant agricultural workers describe the situation with statements such as: ‘*Gold prices made us broke, we should have not borrowed gold. The debt is the same debt, but we were not able to work enough so we could not pay it off*’. Besides, it was observed that although the amount of gold kept at home does not change, its TRY equivalent increases, thereby causing an increase in the debt. For instance, one of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers describes the situation as follows:

*'They say stay at home! How can we? We consume 1 kg of sugar a day. We miss eating hearth bread. 10 liters of oil is not enough even for 10 days. I bought a field in Urfa, now I owe ₺20,000 to my relatives. I borrowed it as gold.'*

It was observed that the Turkish households turned to their current savings to cope with their decreased income and increased debt amid the pandemic, whereas the Syrian households had to put in more effort to make savings because they send money to their closed ones living in Syria. A seasonal migrant agricultural worker in Koyluoglu neighborhood described the situation as follows in an in-depth interview:

*'I send around ₺300 monthly to my parents so that they can pay for their medications. My daughter lives in Syria, and she has no income. I send around ₺150 a month to her. The last time I was able to send her money was the previous Eid al-Adha. I have to work and send money to my family even during the pandemic. Before, I used to contact a wealthy person in Syria to send the money. I was giving the money to their relatives in Türkiye in TRY. That person was paying it to my daughter, mother, and father in Syrian currency. Now I send money via PTT (Post and Telegraph Organization). They charge a commission of around 10 percent. We try to send money as we earn, even if it is a small amount. We have been working during the pandemic not only for ourselves but also for those we left behind.'*

#### **2.3.4. Change in indebtedness**

Seasonal migrant agricultural worker households turned to other resources to borrow money due to their decreased income, limited resources for saving, and because they had used their savings amid the pandemic. This section covers the debt resources, how they vary between Syrian and Turkish households, and the indebtedness of seasonal migrant agricultural workers.

Previous studies show that seasonal migrant agricultural workers frequently go into debt due to their unreported, unprotected and insecure employment and that they are trapped in a debt cycle.<sup>64</sup> According to their findings, they often go into debt to afford their basic needs or to cover unexpected expenses such as hospital costs caused by health problems.<sup>65</sup> In addition to these, the families are occasionally forced to go into debt because of cultural traditions such as *'blood money'*<sup>66</sup> and *'bridewealth.'*<sup>67</sup> For example, all the men

<sup>64</sup> Development Workshop Cooperative. (2019), *Child as a Hope for the Poor: A Study on the Socioeconomic Profile of Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Worker Households and Child Labour*, p.13, 32, 66-67.

<sup>65</sup> Support to Life. (2014), *Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Work 2014: Study Report*, p.8.

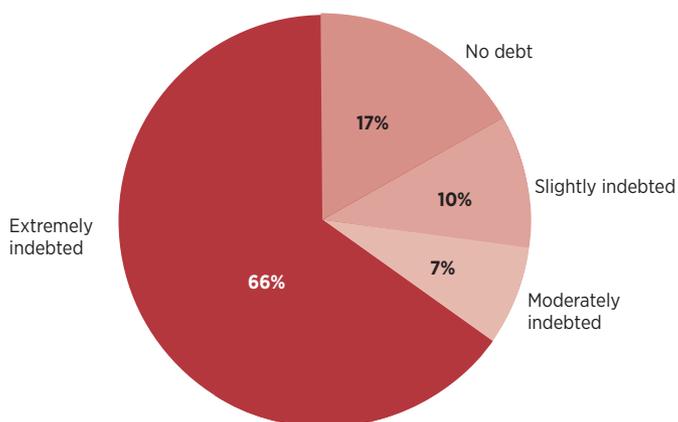
<sup>66</sup> Blood money; a colloquial phrase used for the financial compensation paid to the victim or the family of a victim in the cases of intentional or accidental killing or injuring.

<sup>67</sup> Bridewealth; payment made by a groom or his family to the family of the bride in order to ratify a marriage, which might be in money, property, or any other form.

who were interviewed stated that they paid bridewealth. While the amount of bridewealth varies, it can be said that it is not possible to afford with their current income. Families who do not have enough money usually go into debt to make the payment to the bride's family.

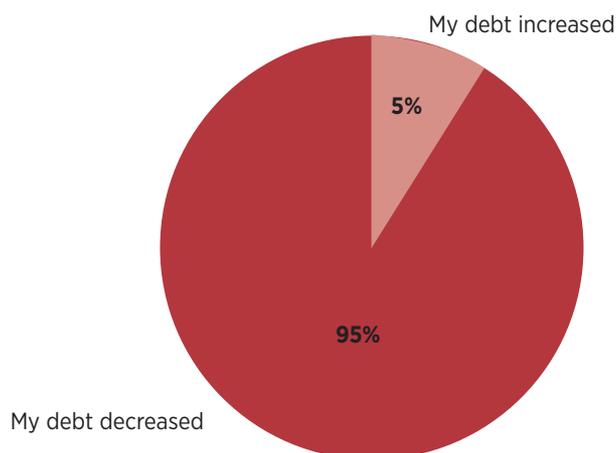
17 percent of the 219 seasonal migrant agricultural worker households have *no debt*, while 66 percent are extremely indebted. Among the 38 households who have *no debt*, half are Syrian and half are Turkish. 92 percent of the households who stated that they are in *a lot of debt* are Turkish, while 8 percent are Syrian (Chart 7).

**Chart 7.** Indebtedness of seasonal migrant agricultural worker households



57 percent (125 households) of the interviewed 219 households stated that their level of indebtedness changed with the Coronavirus pandemic, and 95 percent of these households stated that their debt increased (Chart 8). According to the answers given in in-depth interviews, the factors behind the increased indebtedness amid the Coronavirus pandemic include the decrease in income made from seasonal migrant agricultural work, increased cost of living, and used savings.

**Chart 8.** Change in indebtedness with the Coronavirus pandemic



The debt cycle usually begins with a loss of labour force in the household due to a disease, accident, or economic shock. It was observed that these households, who have already been chronically poor, go into even more debt as a result of unexpected negative shocks and they get stuck in a cycle of debt. In conclusion, it can be said that the conditions caused by the Coronavirus pandemic increased the indebtedness even more and made the families less resilient in the face of possible future negative shocks.

In case a household member becomes sick; children can take on the role of adults to compensate for the loss of income or labour force.<sup>68</sup> This is very commonly seen in households who lost the labour force due to chronic disease or accident during the Coronavirus pandemic. It was observed that accidents, chronic diseases, and economic shocks are frequently combined, and the insecure seasonal migrant agricultural work falls short on ensuring the household's resilience in the face of such shocks. Seasonal migrant agricultural worker households try to overcome temporary or permanent loss of labour force by going in more debt, if possible, or engaging the children in the household more in child labour. An agricultural worker describes the situation as follows:

*'We are working just to live from day to day. No one knows how our debt will be paid off. We cannot keep borrowing money because no one lends us money anymore since they know that we won't be able to pay back. We have no other choice than making the children work.'*

<sup>68</sup> ILO. (2020), Issue paper on COVID-19 and fundamental principles and rights at work, s.16. [https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/how-the-ilo-works/departments-and-offices/governance/fprw/WCMS\\_757247/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/how-the-ilo-works/departments-and-offices/governance/fprw/WCMS_757247/lang--en/index.htm)

Ahmet, the father of the family, injured his rib cage in a traffic accident last year. Now Ahmet is unable to work like he used to. Two people from the other party lost their lives because of the accident. After a verbal agreement made between the parties, Ahmet was obliged to pay the blood money, an amount of ₺200,000 in cash, to the other party. The families belonging to his tribe collected the money and the payment was made to the other party in a month. However, the family had to borrow money from friends and relatives for Ahmet's hospital costs. The family was living in a two-bedroom house with five children, one of them having an intellectual disability. They planned to send their son and two daughters (aged 15, 16, and 17) near their relatives to work. When Support to Life offered to pay the family ₺500 a month per child, provided that they are not sent to work in agricultural production, the family decided that the children would stay in their province of permanent residence, Viransehir, Sanliurfa. The family received ₺500 a month for each of 3 children in addition to cash support for the child with disability and used ₺700 of this money to pay off the loan they got from the bank. The family lived off the money they received from Support to Life, ₺2.200 a month, for three months. However, when the cash support ended and because they did not earn any income from seasonal agricultural work that summer, they had no other option than sending the children to the cotton harvest and going into more debt to spend the winter. The mother stated that they have a total debt of ₺40.000 and that she does not know how they can pay it off.

As a result of the lack of labour due to an accident or a chronic illness, occasionally some households are able to live with social assistance beyond chronic debt and do not need child labour. Fatma, an agricultural worker, describes the situation as follows:

*'They help us. We cannot survive if they do not. I go to work while also taking care of the children. It is just me. My husband is ill. I will go to work in cotton production, but I don't think they will employ me. It requires the physical strength of a man. When stuffing the cotton in sacks, you know... I am not strong enough, and the children are too young...'*

Fatma lives in a tiny room with her spouse and three children in Viransehir, Sanliurfa, and her relatives pay the rent which costs ₺5.000 a year. Her spouse's family convinced Fatma to marry their son when she was 14 with the promise that they would support her family as well. Her spouse has psoriasis and has to go to Gaziantep for treatment. Fatma has been working as a seasonal migrant agricultural worker since she was 9. Having worked in hazelnut harvesting for 40 days last year, Fatma says that she spent ₺1000 out of a total of ₺2400 she earned from the job and was able to return to her hometown with ₺1.400. She leaves her three children who are aged 2, 6, and 8 with her husband's mother when she goes to work in the field. Living on Fatma's salary, the family sold all the gold they received as wedding gifts and spent the cash for psoriasis medication, which is not covered by the state's social security, and then borrowed ₺40.000 again for the treatment of the disease.

It was observed that cultural traditions can increase indebtedness and damage the family's borrowing credibility; that the decreased labour demand and thus the decreased income force them to go into more debt, if still possible; and that they try to compensate for the loss of labour force in the household with child labour.

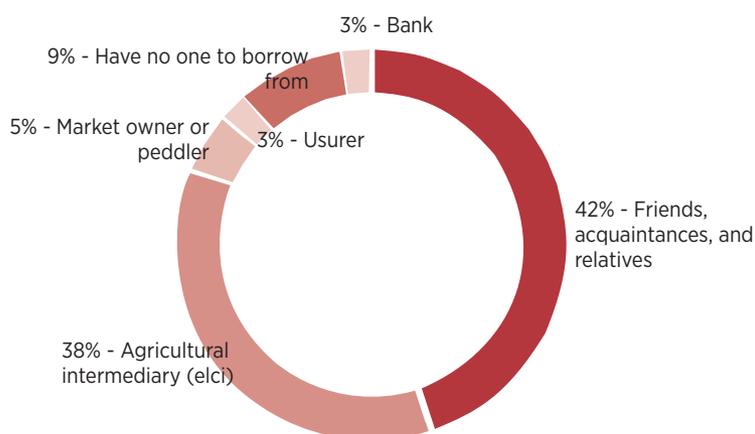
### 2.3.5. Change in accessing financial resources

This section discusses changes in seasonal migrant agricultural workers' access to financial resources in case of need.

According to the study, friends, acquaintances, and relatives come first in lending and borrowing. Almost half of the interviewed households stated that they can borrow from friends, acquaintances, and relatives. The primary reason shown is '*we favor each other*', '*it is easier to ask them*', '*we can pay back without interest*'. It was observed that the debt of 44 percent of the 121 households who owe to their neighbors and relatives increased amid the Coronavirus pandemic.

Among people from whom it is possible to borrow, the agricultural intermediaries come second with 38 percent (Chart 9). The primary reasons shown for that are the possibility to *pay back by working* and that it is easy for the agricultural intermediaries to lend money. The debt of 40 percent of the 102 households who owe to the agricultural intermediaries later in the season increased with the Coronavirus pandemic.

**Chart 9.** People and organizations to borrow from when in need



According to the report published by the Parliamentary Research Committee, which was formed to conduct research on the Issues of Seasonal Agricultural Workers, the employee's duty of loyalty to the employer, which is included in the labour law, applies to the agricultural intermediaries when it comes to seasonal migrant agricultural work. The expectation of loyalty is a result of agricultural workers' dependency. One of the reasons for

this dependency is that agricultural workers borrow from agricultural intermediaries at the times they cannot work to repay later. The workers live on cash advances they take from the agricultural intermediaries during the time they cannot work and thus have to work with the same agricultural intermediaries who lend them money in the next season when it is time to work.<sup>69</sup> However, in some cases the debt relationship continues even when the debt is repaid by working before the end of the season, which makes the worker the debtee.

It was understood during the in-depth interviews that the Syrian families are in the position of debtee more often in their codependent relationship with agricultural intermediaries, in comparison to Turkish families. In an in-depth interview made in the temporary tent settlement in Köyluoğlu, an agricultural worker describes their dependency where the intermediary owes them as follows:

*'If the agricultural intermediary repays their debt to me, I will repay my debt to the usurer so that I can go back to my home and olive trees in Syria.'*

The Syrian seasonal migrant agricultural worker Zeydan (43) used to live with their spouse Ne-cah (41), 12 children, and father Ali (75) and was engaged in livestock and olive trade in Aleppo under occupation of ISIS. They decided to flee to Türkiye in 2015 because they were scared of ISIS. Zeydan's father, Ali stayed in Aleppo by himself due to his age. Zeydan sold some of their livestock and spent a total of ₺15.000 to provide for their family in Türkiye. They walked 5-6 kilometers a night for 15-20 days before they reached the Turkish border. They waited under an olive tree for 7 days to pass the border. After passing the border, the family started to live in a tent and work in cotton harvesting. Eight months later they moved to a temporary tent settlement in the Adana plain. They have been working in fields and gardens with all family members who are able to work, including the youngest child aged 14, for around 4 years to make a living. The father, who was left behind with the money borrowed from a usurer with 20 percent interest, was married off by paying \$5000 bridewealth and spending an extra \$3000. Besides, they send around \$500 every two months to the father in Syria to live on. They stated that the household income did not change during the Coronavirus pandemic and that the agricultural intermediary owes them around ₺20.000 for 1.5 years of work.

A change in the relationship with banks was observed amid the Coronavirus pandemic. As part of the 'Economic Stability Shield Programme' and in cooperation with the Turkish state-owned public banks (Ziraat Bank, Vakıfbank and Halkbank), a 36-month 'Basic Need Support Loan' was offered to seasonal migrant agricultural worker households who had never got loan from the bank before, to which they can apply online or through a Short Message Service (SMS). It was stated that the loan varied between ₺3000 and ₺7000, and that the banks usually granted ₺3000 loan to the seasonal migrant agricultural workers who meet the requirements. The majority of the 37 households who received a loan from

<sup>69</sup> The Grand National Assembly of Türkiye. (2015). Report by the Parliamentary Research Committee Formed to Conduct Research on the Issues of Seasonal Agricultural Workers, p.87.

the bank during the Coronavirus pandemic received a loan with 0.49 percent interest rate for the first time.

Kadir (55), who received ₺5000 loan from the bank for the first time amid the Coronavirus pandemic to afford their rent, has been working as an agricultural worker for 33 years. The family went to Fatsa and Persembe districts of Ordu province to work at the end of April. They earned a total of ₺16.000, him, his spouse and their 4 children working together, and used ₺5000 out of their earnings for transportation and food costs. Having returned to their hometown with ₺11.000, the family plan to spend the winter with this money.

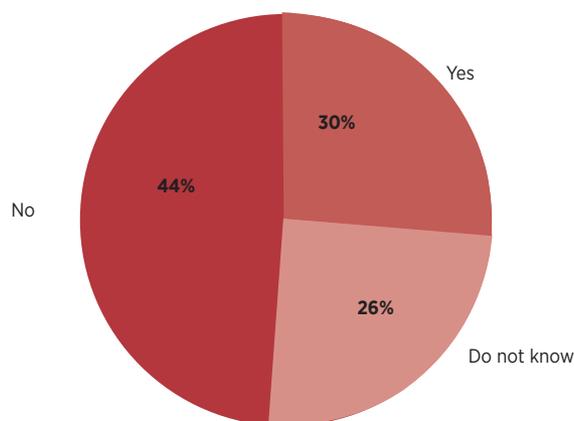
In the in-depth interviews, the households stated that they hesitated from receiving bank loans because of the repayment schedule with certain dates. It can be said that seasonal migrant agricultural worker households, who have no regular income, do not prefer borrowing from official institutions because they are not able to make regular payments. Besides, it was understood that the seasonal migrant agricultural worker households who wanted to receive bank loan were not able to get one before due to '*lack of regular income*', '*undocumented income*', '*bad credit score*', and '*being on the blacklist*'. The Basic Need Support Loan given amid the Coronavirus pandemic did not require a regular income, and the repayment period starting after 6 months enabled seasonal migrant agricultural worker households to access bank loans for the first time.

Another tool to access financial resources is borrowing from usurers called *interest takers* in the region. Only 6 of the interviewed households stated that they can borrow from a usurer. 22 households stated that they had *no one to borrow from* when asked from whom they could borrow. 14 of these households are Turkish, while 8 are Syrian. In-depth interviews show that Syrian seasonal migrant agricultural worker households have relatively limited access to financial resources compared to Turkish households, which lead them to borrow with higher interests when they are in need. However, it was also observed that mutual assistance and solidarity among Syrian seasonal migrant agricultural worker households continued during the Coronavirus pandemic as well. The pandemic caused Turkish seasonal migrant agricultural worker households to visit each other less and help each other less. In in-depth interviews, many Turkish seasonal migrant agricultural workers stated that when the frequency of socialization decreased during the pandemic, the mutual sympathy and support diminished as well.

Although the Basic Need Support Loan increased the access to financial resources in response to the increased need for borrowing amid the Coronavirus pandemic, it should be remembered that the seasonal migrant agricultural worker households usually used these loans to pay off their debt and that the repayment period of the bank loans had not started yet when the interviews were conducted in 2020 September. How much stress the loan repayment period, which will start near the end of 2020, will cause the households who keep paying off one debt with another within a cycle of debt should be the subject

of another study. However, 44 percent of the 181 households that are in debt stated during the interviews that they will continue borrowing as long as the pandemic continues.

**Chart 10.** Do you think you will be able to repay your debt in time?



86 percent of these households are Turkish, while 14 percent are Syrian. 26 percent of the Syrian households and 20 percent of the Turkish households that are in debt stated that they do not consider borrowing more in the upcoming months.

This data probably shows that there is little possibility for the households to pay off their debts in the short run with their current income expectation. Some of the interviewed households stated that they will not have the resources when the payment time comes and that they will continue going in debt to pay their debts. The flexible and insecure working conditions amplify indebtedness. Debt or loan is connected with the access of those who work with a future income expectation to job opportunities. However, the expectation may not be met due to increased uncertainties in labour demand and market flexibility. Although consumer credit is considered a coping tool for fluctuations in income, it usually ends up being a debt trap.<sup>70</sup> Wishing to escape the trap, the workers accept to work in more insecure jobs with lower wages, longer periods, and even later payments, and the whole process becomes a stress factor for the family.

It was observed that savings were used up and debts were paid off with new debts due to the decreased income and increased expenses. Besides, the financial expectations, which will be covered in the next section, were lowered and it became impossible for these households to make future plans. Under these economic conditions, the seasonal migrant agricultural worker households turned to positive coping mechanisms such as using the

<sup>70</sup> Karaçimen, E. (2015), *Interlinkages between credit, debt and the labour market: evidence from Türkiye*, Cambridge Journal of Economics, s.176.

eroded social support networks as well as negative coping mechanisms such as increasing their labour supply with child labour.

### **2.3.6. Economic expectations and plans**

In the in-depth interviews, the households stated that they were unable to make financial plans due to irregular wage payments and employment fluctuations. The seasonal migrant agricultural worker households state that they can repay their ever-increasing debts only by means of regular income and therefore their hopes for the future are mostly based on finding a secure job instead of working in fields or gardens. For instance, an agricultural worker interviewed in Viransehir, Sanliurfa stated that they need to find jobs in a ginning factory to be opened soon to work in shifts with their spouse to pay off their debt.

When his father died, İbrahim left school and started to work in the field at a young age. His spouse, Ayfer also left school and married İbrahim when she was 16. İbrahim used to work and support his family until he had a traffic accident in 2017 which left him unable to use some parts of his body. They had to pay ₺18.000 for the psychological treatment he received. They went to work in hazelnut harvesting for 40 days in 2019. 8-year-old İdris and 13-year-old Mehmet also worked in the field to contribute to family finances. They returned to Viransehir at the end of the season with ₺14.000 and spent the winter with that money. The family includes 6 children with the oldest being 13 and the youngest being 6. Their 11-year-old son Baran needs constant care because of his disability. Baran, who had to leave primary school at 2nd grade, needs to go to the hospital in Ankara every 3 months. The family stayed in Viransehir this year due to the pandemic, fearing that Baran's illness might get worse. The family received ₺3000 bank loan this year because they ran out of savings and had no income from agricultural work. They spent the summer on ₺550 disability support they receive for Baran and ₺500 a month cash support given by an NGO on the condition that Mehmet and İdris do not work. After the cash support ended, having no savings, they planned to go to work in cotton harvesting with İdris and Mehmet before the winter comes. İbrahim and Ayfer hope to start to work double shifts at a new factory to be opened to pay off their debt, which has nearly reached a total of ₺13.000-14.000 due to their decreased income and increased living costs.

The in-depth interviews indicate imprecise financial calculations. The father, who is considered the head of the household, usually keeps a notebook for the settlement with the agricultural intermediary at the end of the product-based season. One part of the notebook is for recording the number of working days and their respective daily payments for the relevant month. Another part is for recording the household's debt to the market as well as the cash paid by the agricultural intermediary in hand. The market gives the household their receipts as a debt record, but the receipts do not clearly show the individual costs of the items bought. The wages are calculated by using wage cards that the agricultural intermediary gives to the worker, but the worker cannot receive the full amount of money for their work as a result of losing some of these cards. It was observed that the calcu-

lation and settlement cannot be completed for around 8 to 10 months and the exchange becomes imprecise, but this is considered a natural aspect of the job and is normalized.

Some households were encountered where all the calculations and plans are trusted with the agricultural intermediaries if they are relatives. It was also observed that in some cases the household that is either the debtor or the debtee and the agricultural intermediaries do not settle accounts at the end of the season and postpone it to the next season. The situation can be read through the seasonal migrant agricultural worker Ismail's account book.

The seasonal migrant agricultural worker Ismail keeps a weekly record of the household's wages in his account book. The account settlement is made based on this account book and the records kept by the agricultural intermediary in November every year. The notebook shows that the household is supposed to receive a total of 44 daily wages for February; 63 for March; 73 for April; 69 for May; 36 for June; 93 for July; and 84 for August 2020 (Chart 11). The family consisting of 8 members lives in a tent together, and two girls aged 13 and 14 and a boy aged 15 work as well. The household earned a total of 462 wages, which makes ₪34.650, and has a total debt of ₪16.707 including cash advances received from the agricultural intermediary and the money owed to the market. The agricultural intermediary recorded the household's debt, which includes the total cost of the family's needs provided by the agricultural intermediary during the year, and this amount will be deducted from the total amount of the household's earned wages in November.

**Chart 11.** The change in the household's number of wages between February 2020 and August 2020



In this case, the family, who were not able to have much cash in hand and directly provide for their needs throughout the year, expects to receive a total of around ₪13.000-14.000 in cash after the deduction. However, it is possible that the family will not receive the money in 2020 November and the payment will be postponed to the next season. The worker Ismail describes the situation saying, '*many wages, no money*'. The household receives some of the total amount they earned by 2020 November, and they start the next season as the debtee for the rest. This process is agreed on by the agricultural intermediaries and the household head, who is too dependent on the intermediaries to negotiate over the

conditions. In conclusion, the households live a life where they can only provide for their daily needs and have limited financial expectations and plans within a continuous debtee and debtor relationship. Under these conditions, Ismail expects his 9-year-old son to start to work in order to compensate for the loss in household income before his eldest daughter gets married.

Considering the findings summarized above in general, it is understood that the income and expenditure calculations of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers in Adana and Mersin provinces became imprecise amid the Coronavirus pandemic; that they cannot form any future expectations and plans while living in a cycle of debt; that they are only able to meet their minimum daily needs; and that they try to cope with the economic shock caused by the Coronavirus pandemic by going into more debt, if available, and/or using the labour in the household more intensely.

## 2.4. The Effects of Coronavirus Pandemic on Social Support Systems

### 2.4.1. Access to social security and support services

When the access of the seasonal migrant agricultural worker households to social security and support services was assessed, no significant difference was identified in accessing the services, comparing the periods before and after the pandemic.

54 percent (118 people) of the interviewed household representatives stated that they do not receive any regular support in kind or cash support from an organization (Table 18).

**Table 18.** Receiving/not receiving regular support in kind or cash support from an organization

Receives support in kind or cash support	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	118	53.9
No	101	46.1
Total	219	100

Half of the Turkish household representatives who stated that they receive support (79 households) mean '*child support*', conditional cash transfer for education, and healthcare support. In addition to these most common social assistance programmes, it was understood that 11 households receive '*disability*' pension, 6 receive '*age*' pension, and 4 receive '*widows and orphans*' pension. Only one household receives '*retirement*' income. It was observed that no changes occurred in these incomes amid the Coronavirus pandemic.

It was understood that 76.5 percent of the 159 Turkish households (121 households) have general health insurance provided by the state, whereas 20 percent (32 households) are

not registered in any type of social security system. Only three households stated that they have SSI insurance and three households stated that they have members who have voluntary agricultural insurance.

65 percent of the interviewed Syrian households (39 households) stated that they have Kizilaykart<sup>71</sup>. There are Syrian households who receive support in kind such as flour as well as those who receive the conditional cash support for education because its scope was expanded in 2017. Syrian households regard Kizilaykart as a very important social support system. Some of the Syrian households stated, '*We would starve without Kizilaykart*'.

Syrian households that have Kizilaykart stated that there has been an 18.3 percent '*increase*' in support payments during the Coronavirus pandemic. The reason for this increase is probably because some of the Syrian households received additional payment in 2020 June and July.

The rate of the households receiving healthcare support and/or conditional cash support for education for their children is 37.9 percent (83 households). The households (72 percent) stated that the amount of support they received stayed almost the same after the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic. 24 percent of the households, however, stated that the support decreased recently. The households who stated that the support decreased with the Coronavirus pandemic do not have any idea about the reasons why.

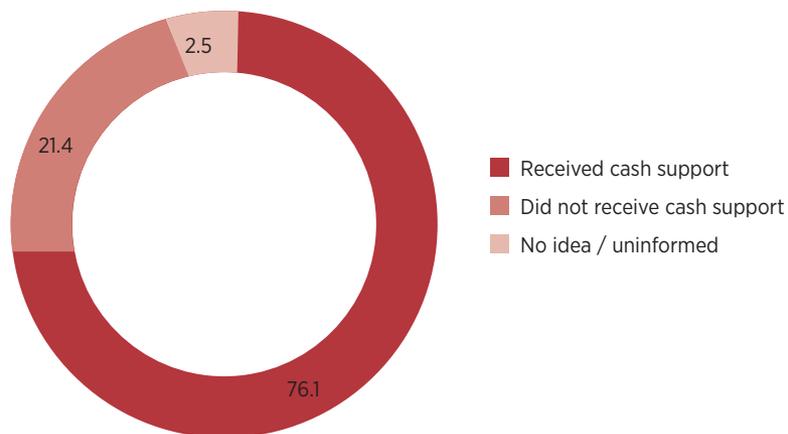
53.9 percent of the households (118 households) stated that they receive regular support. 12 out of the 79 Turkish households that receive regular support stated that some delays occurred and sometimes the amount decreased with the pandemic. Only 2 out of the 39 Syrian households who have Kizilaykart stated that they had problems accessing support during the pandemic. In addition, Kizilaykarts of some households were cancelled due to change of residence.

Besides, it was observed that the majority of the Turkish households (76.1 percent) received ₺1000 cash support as part of the 'Pandemic Social Support Programme' carried out by the Ministry of Family and Social Services (Chart 12).

---

<sup>71</sup> The Emergency Social Safety Net support programme (ESSN) is called Kizilaykart by many beneficiaries.

**Chart 12.** Households received/not received ₦1000 pandemic cash support provided by the Ministry of Family and Social Services

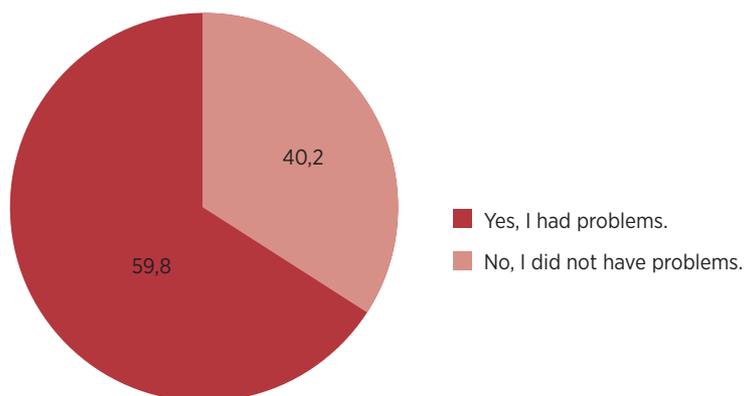


#### ***2.4.2. Change in access to services of healthcare systems***

As part of the study, the change that possibly occurred in seasonal migrant agricultural worker households' access to healthcare systems and relevant services with the Coronavirus pandemic were also investigated. It was understood that they had problems accessing healthcare services due to the measures imposed in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. Besides, it was observed that the households who do not have the financial resources to compensate for any losses of the labour force mostly preferred to delay medical care they needed due to their concern of bringing the virus to their living environment.

When the interviewed household representatives were asked whether they or any other household members had any problems accessing healthcare services they needed (treatment, physical examination, checks, getting medicines, etc.) since 2020 March, it was understood that 60 percent of the 219 households (131 households) had no problems (Chart 13).

**Chart 13.** Having/not having problems accessing healthcare services (treatment, physical examination, checks, getting medicines, etc.) needed since 2020 March (percentage)



The main reason why it was stated that no problems were encountered in accessing health-care services during the Coronavirus pandemic is that the seasonal migrant agricultural worker households had not been receiving such services very frequently under normal conditions either or that they do not have adequate information about the services. On the other hand, considering the general distribution of the answers given to this question, it was observed that the households that have access to the services for being involved in some kind of social support mechanism did not adequately receive certain services, particularly healthcare services, either due to the quarantine measures. Some statements describing their access to healthcare services during the Coronavirus pandemic are given below.

*'We have difficulty finding transportation. We could not go to the hospital because of the pandemic.'*

*'We were not able to get an appointment, so we went to the emergency ward, but you cannot see the relevant doctor in that case.'*

*'My daughter has a cyst in her cheek, but she cannot have an operation. The doctor delays the operation due to the Coronavirus pandemic.'*

*'I do not have money to buy medicines. The doctor tells me not to visit unless I am in a bad situation.'*

*'We could not get the children vaccinated. A medical team used to come here for vaccination. We cannot bring the children to the hospital because we are scared.'*

*'We are scared of the virus; we could not go when my child's arm was broken.'*

*'I have a health problem, but I cannot visit the doctor because I fear that I might bring the virus to the tent.'*

Two main reasons stand out when the statements about access to healthcare services are analyzed: The first one is the measures imposed in response to the pandemic and the second one is delaying medical care due to the fear of bringing the virus to the living area. On the other hand, the rate of the households whose medical expenses increased with the Coronavirus pandemic is 50 percent. It can be said that one of the reasons for this increase was because the households who cannot use public healthcare centers and/or buy medicines at a discounted price had to turn to private healthcare institutions. Besides, some of the interviewed households stated that another challenge is the increased transportation costs.

Support and assistance are very important for the access of seasonal migrant agricultural worker households to services such as health and education when there is no or inadequate regular income.

Organizations were also interviewed about the access of seasonal migrant agricultural worker households to social support resources. According to the interviews, local administrations, NGOs, and UN organizations carried out various activities to increase the households' access to services. 152 out of the 219 interviewed households (69.4 percent) stated that they received some support/service during the pandemic. However, the seasonal migrant agricultural worker households had limited access to various resources amid the Coronavirus pandemic despite all the efforts due to the failure to provide regular support and services.

It was understood from the interviews with organizations as well as the field observations that the organizations took steps to provide additional financial resources for seasonal migrant agricultural workers and increase their access to various services during the Coronavirus pandemic. For instance, the Adana Provincial Coordination Office of the Project for Improvement of the Working and Living Conditions of Seasonal Migratory Agricultural Workers (METIP) distributed five thousand aid kits to the seasonal migrant agricultural workers who live in temporary tent settlements in the Adana plain with the support of organizations such as the Red Crescent and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Besides, the organization provided disinfection services to temporary tent settlement areas for 3 months.

The Red Crescent teams distributed hygiene kits and baby kits and carried out activities to inform people about the pandemic, both in Turkish and Arabic, in Mersin. It was also stated that updated information was provided through WhatsApp groups with the help of volunteers. In the interview conducted with the Mersin Municipality, they stated that they identified the basic needs and hygiene material needs of individuals and households and that they distributed aid according to these needs with the help of NGOs. Besides, it was understood that the Provincial Directorate of Health as well as the Department of Agricultural Services of the municipality carried out screenings for Coronavirus. In the interviews

conducted with the organizations, it was understood that the most commonly provided services in temporary tent settlement areas include distributing hygiene kits and providing information about the pandemic.

The representatives of the interviewed organization stated that they faced some challenges in identifying those in need and providing support/assistance in the field. For instance, they stated that the main challenges are the population in need being widely distributed in a large area in Mersin province and the uncertainties concerning residential registration. Another challenge is that the NGOs focusing on temporary asylum seekers and those under international protection had to discriminate between Turkish citizens and non-citizens while distributing support allocated to these groups in temporary tent settlement areas. It was stated that this situation caused various problems during aid distribution.

On the other hand, they stated that a household has to meet certain demographic criteria to be identified as a beneficiary, but some families do not have adequate information about it and thus they cannot access support and assistance. Talking about their experiences in the field, a humanitarian worker stated that the seasonal migrant agricultural workers who live in temporary tent settlements do not have adequate updated information about the developments. An NGO worker stated that the seasonal migrant agricultural workers living in temporary tent settlements usually do not get information about the developments in the center under normal conditions as well. The worker added that those who do not speak Turkish had additional challenges in accessing information during the pandemic and that they tried to provide important information by means of the videos they made both in Turkish and Arabic through WhatsApp groups.

According to the interviews with organizations, the seasonal migrant agricultural workers living in temporary tent settlements had difficulty accessing healthcare services because there have been problems accessing Migrant Health Centers and primary healthcare services due to quarantine measures and these people do not go to hospitals located in the city center. Besides, it was observed that the public institutions have challenges reaching seasonal migrant agricultural workers because their working hours overlap with the time, which is all day, that the seasonal migrant agricultural workers work in fields/gardens. In addition, the measures taken in response to the Coronavirus pandemic prevented the organizations working in the field from carrying out their activities as planned.

## **2.5. Change in the Access of Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers' Children to Education and Their Continuity Caused by the Pandemic**

Children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers among the most disadvantaged groups, considering the working and living conditions. One of the most common challenges met in seasonal migrant agricultural work is participation and continuity in education. The pandemic made it much harder to continue studying for this group, who already have many

disadvantages in participating and/or continuing education. This situation is considered to be one of the most prominent factors that will cause an increase in child labour in the long run. Nearly 2 billion students across the globe (92 percent of the total number of students at all levels from preschool education to higher education) were kept off school when schools were closed in many countries as of mid-March 2020.<sup>72</sup>

When face-to-face education was interrupted, education managers and schools turned to technology-based solutions to reshape educational services. Video conferences, live classes, and other online learning tools have become common tools for teachers across the globe to reach and keep in contact with the students. The countries with inadequate technological infrastructure preferred national TV channels and radio broadcasts as the first choice to deliver educational materials to students.<sup>73</sup>

Although countries across the globe implemented national strategies to ensure the access of especially disadvantaged students to education, it is a fact that the pandemic shook economic balances and created situations that increase vulnerabilities (disruption in food supply chains, stopped production in some areas, decrease in household income due to unemployment/dismissal, limited public spending because the resources are allocated to public health expenditure, etc.). Schools fully or partially suspending face-to-face education as part of the pandemic measures raises concerns about the possibility of millions of children around the globe being kept off school and forced into child labour<sup>74</sup> and the possibility of the pandemic causing a global rise in child labour in the upcoming years after the progress that has been made for 20 years.

From this point of view, in this study, we investigated the participation in education and access to educational services of children from seasonal migrant agricultural workers households during the Coronavirus pandemic and the change in their wishes and expectations in terms of participating in education.

### ***2.5.1. Participation to education of adult and child members of seasonal migrant agricultural worker households according to age and gender and the change occurred due to the Coronavirus pandemic***

Seasonal migrant agricultural worker households, including all the members, usually move from their province of residence to other residential areas where there are seasonal agricultural jobs, mostly in March and April. On an average, the duration of their stay is 5 to 8

---

<sup>72</sup> UNESCO. (2020), COVID-19 Educational Disruption and Response.

<sup>73</sup> Development Workshop Cooperative. (2020), 'Distance Education Practices and Education Policies Implemented by Countries Across the Globe due to Covid-19' *Dunya-Genelinde-Covid-19-Sebebiyle-Ulkelerin-Uyguladigi-Uzaktan-Egitim-Calismalari-ve-Egitim-Politikalari.pdf*

<sup>74</sup> UNICEF and ILO. (2020), COVID-19 and Child Labour: A time of crisis, a time to act <https://data.unicef.org/resources/covid-19-and-child-labour-a-time-of-crisis-a-time-to-act/>, s:8-9.

months, and they usually return to their hometown in November. However, some households spend almost the whole year in temporary tent settlements in provinces where agricultural production is continuous such as Adana, Mersin and Hatay. Children who are involved in this migration process of agricultural work every year leave the school before the end of the school year and return after the beginning of the school year. It is clear that the education of children is disrupted most of the time and that many children, especially girls, face challenges participating and/or continuing education due to that style of living and working. The findings of this study are consistent with the dynamics of the current living and working conditions of seasonal migrant agricultural workers. While the educational level that the adult members of the households can participate in education is either primary school or lower secondary school, they often leave school at upper secondary school level or lower secondary school level. Similar to the findings of previous studies, it was observed that the rate of participation and continuity of women in education is lower than that of men. It is observed that the households living in poverty try to increase their income or cope with financial troubles by going into more debt or including the children in the labour force of the household. Therefore, it is notable that the children started to work in fields or gardens instead of attending distance education when the face-to-face education was suspended. In comparison with the previous findings, it was observed that the rate of the school age children between the ages of 5 and 9 who do not continue attending school or have never been enrolled in school is higher.

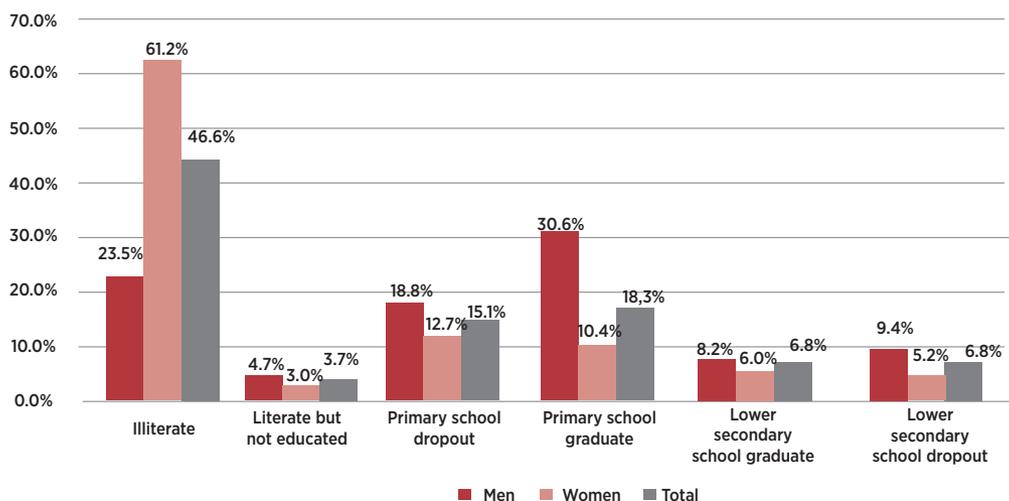
#### *Educational status of household representatives and members*

The educational level data of 1561 people were collected, including the 219 interviewed household representatives and their family members in Adana and Mersin provinces. It was understood that nearly half of the household representatives (46 percent, 102 people) are illiterate. 61 percent of women (82 women) are illiterate, which is higher than that the rate of men. Only 18 percent of the respondents (40 people) graduated from primary school and 6.8 percent graduated from lower secondary school (Chart 14). Among all respondents, there was only one person who graduated from upper secondary school, one person from college, and one person from university.

In-depth interviews were conducted with 20 adult members, 13 women and 7 men, from 15 households that were not able to go to work in a seasonal migrant agricultural job due to the Coronavirus pandemic and stayed in their province of residence, Sanliurfa. According to the interviews, 9 out of the 13 women have never attended school, only three of them graduated from primary school, and one of them left primary school at 4th grade.

It was understood that four of all the interviewed men have never attended school, two of them graduated from lower secondary school, and one of them graduated primary school.

**Chart 14.** Distribution of educational status of household representatives by gender in comparison with the total number of respondents



According to these findings, the members of the seasonal migrant agricultural worker households usually participated in education at primary and lower secondary school levels, and women fall behind men in terms of participation in education (Chart 14). When the age groups and their continuity in education are analyzed, it is observed that the individuals who participated in formal education after 1997, when the compulsory education period was increased to 8 years, either graduated from primary school or left it at later grades. This finding can be interpreted as that the 8-year compulsory education had positive effects on these household groups.

According to the study findings concerning the educational status and dropout rate of adult members of the households, 11 percent of adult members of the seasonal migrant agricultural worker households (171 people) left primary school and 9 percent (141 people) left lower secondary school. There was only one person attending upper secondary school and only one attending university.

It was understood that the most common reasons why the women could not continue their studies are the lack of financial resources and gender-based discrimination. The lack of financial resources force girls to contribute to family finances, and the gender-based factors include the common idea that girls should not study and early marriages.

*'School was not even a thing in our household then. We never even talked about it. We were too poor to do so.'*

*'In the village, they said, 'It is shameful for a girl to go to school, why would you do that?'*

In the in-depth interviews conducted with adult seasonal migrant agricultural worker men, all the adult men except one Syrian worker stated that they went to school. Around 80 percent of men graduated from primary school and the rest graduated from lower secondary school. According to their statements, the most common two reasons why the men left school were *lack of financial resources* and *safety*. Besides, apart from poverty, the households faced challenges accessing education because, for instance, there were no schools in their region.

*'Poverty is like hereditary for us; my father was poor when I was at primary school age. I left school and started working in fields to support him. Now my children are going through the same.'*

According to the findings from the interviews conducted with the household representatives, the number of school age children in a household varies between 4 and 6. The majority of the group of children aged 5 to 9 are preschool and primary school students. The rate of boys continuing their primary education is slightly higher than that of girls among all the children in this age group who continue their education.

The rate of school age children aged 5 to 9 who do not attend school is 45.4 percent (108 people). 40.8 percent of these are boys, while 50.9 percent are girls. According to data obtained from the survey, 62 out of the 108 children live in Turkish households, while 46 of them live in Syrian households. This finding seems to be inconsistent with the usual overall tendency of seasonal migrant agricultural worker households as well as that of Türkiye. The interviewed households stated that the most prominent reason for this is the Coronavirus pandemic. At the time of the study, the ongoing uncertainties concerning the restart of face-to-face education and the worries of the households about the pandemic caused the concerns about particularly the children aged 5-6 who would start preschool or primary school in the 2020-2021 school year to remain. It is considered that this situation has resulted in delayed enrollment or decreased rates of participation in education. The findings from the in-depth interviews support this conclusion.

It was observed that only around 47 percent of children aged 5-17 (primary/lower secondary and upper secondary school students) continue their education, whereas those who left primary/lower secondary and upper secondary school makes up 21 percent of all the children. Besides, the rate of school age children (aged 5-17) who have never started/attended school is 21 percent. As part of the study, the distribution of school age children (aged 5-17) who have never started/attended school was examined by gender and school level (Table 19). When the gender distribution of school age children (children/youth aged 10-14 and 15-17) was examined, it was observed that the number of girls who left school is higher than that of boys in both age groups (Table 20).

**Table 19.** Distribution of educational status of children aged 5-17 by gender

Distribution of educational status of children aged 5-17 by gender	Boys (number)	Girls (number)	Total (number)	Total (percentage)
Not at school age	2	5	7	0.9
Preschool	10	4	14	1.9
Attends school (primary/lower secondary and upper secondary school)	188	158	346	46.6
Left school (primary/lower secondary and upper secondary school)	76	84	160	21.6
Graduated from school (primary/lower secondary and upper secondary school)	26	28	54	7.3
At school age but does not go to school	73	87	160	21.6
Other	1	0	1	0.1
Total	376	366	742	100

**Table 20.** Distribution of school age children who do not continue their education by gender

Age group of school age children who do not continue education		Boys	Girls	Total
Children aged 5-9 who do not continue their education	Frequency	53	55	108
	Gender (percentage)	49.1	50.9	100
Children aged 10-14 who do not continue their education	Frequency	11	20	31
	Gender (percentage)	35.5	64.5	100
Children aged 15-17 who do not continue their education	Frequency	9	12	21
	Gender (percentage)	42.9	57.1	100

The reasons why children who are at the age to participate in formal education drop out of school were examined separately for girls and boys. The main reason why the children drop out of school is *low household income* regardless of their nationality and gender. This is the most common reason for both Turkish and Syrian children. The second most common reason why Turkish girls and boys are out of school is *school costs* (25.7 percent and 20.7 percent, respectively), while the second most common reason why Syrian boys

are out of school is *transportation challenges* (19 percent). The second most common reason for Syrian girls is *social exclusion* (15.7 percent). The third most commonly stated reason for Turkish children being cut off from school is that *their families think they are not interested in school and education*, whereas it is *social exclusion* for Syrian boys (17.5 percent) and *school transportation challenges* as well as *being burdened with domestic work* for Syrian girls.

**Table 21.** Reasons why children do not / cannot continue their education (percentage)

Reasons why children do not / cannot continue their education	Turkish boys	Turkish girls	Syrian boys	Syrian girls
Having to work / contribute to family finances due to low household income	41.9	36	36.5	33.7
Not being able to meet school costs due to low household income	25.7	20.7	15.9	10.8
Having to perform domestic work (taking care of younger siblings or elders, cooking, etc.)		6.3		12
School transportation challenges	3.8	7.2	19.0	12
School absence due to their family working in seasonal migrant agricultural jobs	6.7	7.2	11.1	9.6
Social exclusion (based on ethnicity, poverty, etc.)	2.9	2.7	17.5	15.7
Gender-related reasons (not allowing girls to study, etc.)		9		
Lack of interest in school/education	15.2	9.9		4.8
Other	4	0.9		1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The main reason why children of both Turkish and Syrian seasonal migrant agricultural workers cannot continue their education is *'poverty and lack of resources'* regardless of gender. Apart from poverty, *school transportation problems* and *social exclusion* are critical reasons for Syrian children. Although poverty and having to contribute to family finances stand out as reasons here, this finding also indicates a failure to integrate Syrian children into the education system. The in-depth interviews conducted with the Syrian households show that their children cannot participate in education because those who used to go to school in Syria were not able to continue their education in Türkiye and those

who were born in Türkiye were not able to start school due to problems related to identity documentation, health problems, and the lack of financial resources.

*'Two of my school age children both have brittle bone disease. One of them was already not able to attend school due to their treatment, and we could not send the other one this year due to the virus. I receive disability support for both of them, but its amount decreased this year. I do not know why... We took out ₺5000 loan from the bank. Then we borrowed money to pay off the loan...'*

### **2.5.2. Access of children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers to education and the change seen during the Coronavirus pandemic**

The study shows that the majority of children in the households (around 70 percent) used to continue their education before the pandemic. Children who continued their education before the pandemic faced challenges such as changing schools due to the seasonal migration, peer bullying, or academic failure. Only 11 percent of the children who continued their education before the pandemic were able to participate in distance education, whereas 29.8 percent had to start to work due to the hardships caused by the pandemic.

69.4 percent of the households (152 households) interviewed in Adana and Mersin provinces and 73 percent of the households (11 households) interviewed in Sanliurfa province stated that their children continued their education before the pandemic. It was observed that girls and boys gave different answers to the question of *"what kind of challenges they experience in their education"* during the in-depth interviews conducted with the children who continue their education in Adana and Mersin provinces. The most common challenges stated by the girls were *peer bullying* (37.5 percent) and having *little interest and motivation* to continue their education (37.5 percent). Two of the interviewed girls (sisters from the same household) stated that they did not experience any challenges before and that the challenges started with the Coronavirus pandemic:

*'We experienced no challenges in Sirnak. We used to attend school regularly. The challenges started with the pandemic.'*

The main reason why the children are not motivated to continue their education is *'challenges experienced because of changing schools due to seasonal migration'* for girls and *'exams'* for boys.

*'There are different things in the two provinces. We have one school here and one there.'*

Findings from both the household interviews and in-depth interviews show that the children have very little motivation to go to school. This is an important factor increasing the rate of absence and dropouts in the long term.

The children who participated in focus group meetings (16 people) were also asked about the challenges they had in their education. The findings show that they experience challenges such as peer bullying, school transportation problems, safety problems at school (their belongings being lost/stolen), and communication problems with their teachers.

*'Some friends treat us badly, they make fun of me, they impersonate me.'*

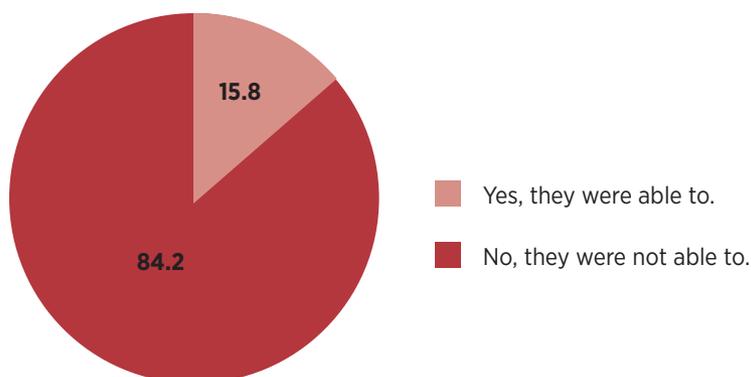
The children were asked about *'how they cope with the challenges'* during the in-depth interviews. Half of the girls stated that they cannot cope, and the other half stated that they cope with the help of their teachers. While boys were hesitant to answer this question, one of the boys stated:

*'I try my best. A child over there (pointing at the tent settlement on the other side of the canal) entered a science upper secondary school. Everything is possible if we try.'*

In the focus group meetings, one third of both girls and boys stated that their first strategy to cope with challenges is to ask their friends' help, pointing out the importance of peer support.

In the interviews conducted with the household representatives in Adana and Mersin provinces, only 15.8 percent of the 152 households whose children continued their education before the pandemic stated that the children are able to participate in distance education amid the Coronavirus pandemic (Chart 15).

**Chart 15.** Participation of the children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers who continued their education before the pandemic to distance education as of 2020 March (percentage)

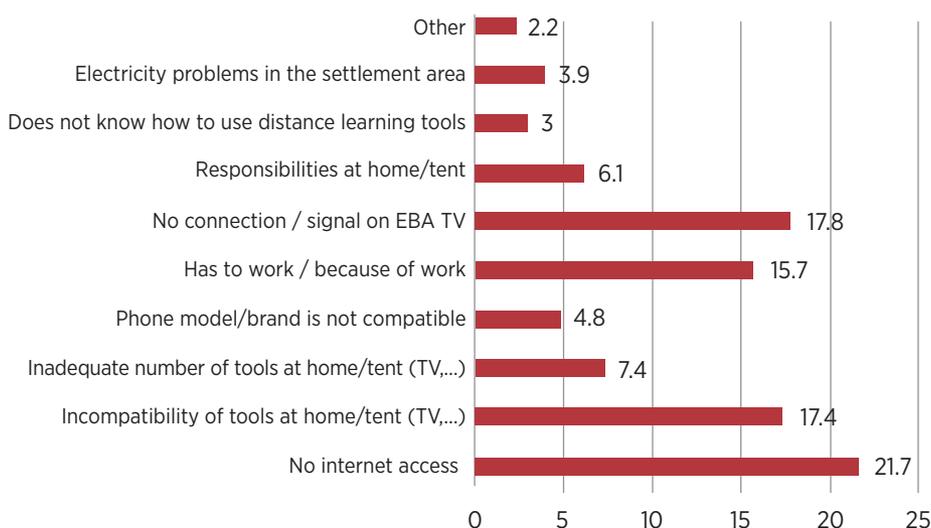


The parents whose children were able to participate in distance education during the pandemic were asked what technological tools and what distance education platforms their children used the most. The TV ranked first among the tools with 60 percent and EBA

(Education Informatics Network) TV<sup>75</sup> ranked first among the platforms with 69 percent. The use of smart phones and the internet-based EBA digital education platform is very rare. Many of the children accessed distance learning using only the television because the household has only one smartphone, which is used by the father.

Among the reasons why the children were not able to access distance learning, the most common one was not having internet access (21.7 percent); the second most common one was not being able to set up / connect to EBA TV despite having a TV in the tent (17.8 percent); and the third most common one was not having the technological tools (television, tablet, computer, etc.) needed to access distance learning (17.4 percent). 29.8 percent of the children who used to attend school before the Coronavirus pandemic had to start working and thus dropped out of school due to the challenges caused by the pandemic (Chart 16). According to the findings from the in-depth interviews, it is hard to say that the children who were able to access distance education went through an effective learning process with the lessons.

**Chart 16.** Reasons why children were unable to participate in distance education (percentage)



The question of *how the Coronavirus pandemic affected children's education* was asked during the in-depth interviews conducted with the parents in Adana and Mersin provinces, and most of the parents (80 percent) stated that their children were not able to continue their education due to the pandemic.

<sup>75</sup> TRT EBA TV is the general name given to 3 channels called TRT EBA TV Primary School, TRT EBA TV Lower Secondary School, and TRT EBA TV Upper Secondary School which launched a test broadcast on 19-20 March 2020 and started airing on 23 March 2020 by partnership of the Turkish Radio and Television Corporation and the Ministry of National Education, with the aim of creating a distance learning platform for students to participate in education after the closure of primary and secondary education schools that took place on 10 March 2020 when the first Coronavirus case was detected in Türkiye ([https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/TRT\\_EBA\\_TV](https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/TRT_EBA_TV)).

*'Our children's education was already poor, and we are the ones to blame. They have to stay here because of us.'*

Among the two households whose children were able to participate in distance learning, one stated that the children's academic achievement has been reduced and the other stated that the children's social interactions has been reduced. It was observed that among the households whose children were able to participate in distance education, the children of only one household were able to participate in lessons effectively and the rest were able to participate partially or occasionally due to technical reasons.

As for the Syrian households, they did not answer the questions about distance education because their children were already not able to continue their education before the Coronavirus pandemic. The most common reasons why Syrian children cannot continue their education are that they had to leave their country due to the war, lack of resources, not being able to be enrolled in school because of not having identity documents after arriving in Türkiye, as well as social challenges that cause them to drop out of school after being enrolled such as peer bullying, language barrier, and othering.

*'For them to be able to study; there needs to be a school, we need to have money to cover school costs, and they need clean clothes so that they are not scorned by their friends.'*

When the parents were asked about the effect of the pandemic on the children's education in Sanliurfa province, almost all of them stated that they think that their children fell behind in school due to the lack of financial and technical resources.

*'They were not able to participate in distance education. No internet. They fell behind their studies.'*

*'No school since the virus came.'*

*'The children have been at home for 3 months; I fear that they even forget how to read and write.'*

*'There is a TV at home, black and white. And half of the screen is blank.'*

The households in Adana and Mersin provinces were asked about *what their children need to participate in distance education*. Among the most common answers were the lack of technical tools (computer, phone, television, tablet, etc.) with 43 percent and the lack of access to infrastructure services (the internet, network, electricity, etc.) with 18 percent. In addition to these, they mentioned other challenges such as not being informed adequately and not having a study space for children.

As for the answers given by the households in Sanliurfa province to the question of *what their children need to participate in distance education*, the most common answers were the internet (58 percent), computer (25 percent), and other tools (phone, tablet, TV, etc.).

*'They cannot use someone else's phone all the time. The child needs their own phone, cellular subscription, and internet.'*

*'We have a tablet but no internet.'*

During the in-depth interviews with both the households and the children, one of the most commonly stated needs to participate in distance education was television. This was because of the common belief that the distance education system is limited to EBA TV. It was understood that the children of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers have relatively little expectations related to live EBA classes and internet-based real time distance education applications that are known to be more effective.

*'All the children tried to watch but it didn't work out. They even fought over whose turn it was. One says, 'it's my turn', another says 'no, it's mine'. There are 3 children after all. Who will watch?'*

*'They used to go to school five days a week from 9am to 2pm. Here they are able to watch it just for an hour a day. How would it work out with only an hour?'*

As part of the interviews with organizations, representatives from Adana, Mersin and Sanliurfa Provincial Directorates of National Education were interviewed. It was found out that the Ministry of National Education has been collecting immediate data from relevant institutions and teachers, using online data collecting tools, and conducting assessments particularly for disadvantaged and vulnerable communities since the beginning of the pandemic. The Ministry started preparations to increase access to education by establishing EBA Support Points (mobile and fixed) as of 2020 September in order to compensate for the lack of technical tools.

In the in-depth interviews conducted with children, nearly half of the girls and the boys stated that they were not able to attend school when the face-to-face education was suspended due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Besides, one fifth of the girls stated that they do not have access to distance education; one child stated that they had already started skipping school before the pandemic; and one complained about missing so many classes because they cannot participate in distance education. One child stated that they tried to watch the classes on TV for a week in the beginning, but they could not continue distance education because they work in the field.

*'I watched it on TV for a week. Then I had to quit because I go to work.'*

Some of the boys stated that they do not find distance education helpful, that it is not like face-to-face education and that they are not able to ask questions.

*'For example, my sibling is watching TV now but cannot ask questions when they don't understand. This is no good.'*

*'Most of the students do not understand lessons in distance education. Not having the person in front of you, it doesn't work as in the classroom. For example, if I do not understand something, I cannot ask the teacher. At that point the class is over for me, just a waste of time.'*

*'We were affected by the pandemic; the schools were closed. We fell behind classes so much. We watched them on TV but didn't understand. I didn't understand some of the classes at all. Schools were closed and we could not study. We fell behind. We had hardships; the schools are closed to us.'*

*'We used to go to school easily before, but now we don't know if we will be able to. I was happy at school, now we cannot study, we get bored.'*

The in-depth interviews show that the children who used to continue their education were off school or lost contact with their teachers during the implementation of distance education. Almost all of the interviewed girls stated that they were unable to participate in distance education.

*'We were unable to participate in classes. All four of us are studying, so we were not all able to attend classes. We gave priority to the one preparing for the Upper Secondary School Entrance Exam. Sometimes we all watched their classes. We were unable to understand the subject in 20 minutes anyway.'*

Only one of the girls stated that they often watched the classes on TV, but it was very challenging not being able to ask questions to the teachers. The girls stated that the reason for being unable to participate in distance education was not having a TV or having only one TV in the tent, so it was never their turn to watch. One child stated that the reason is because they do not have a space to study and also have to work, and another stated that they do not even know what distance education is.

*'The teachers didn't call and say anything. We need a quiet environment to continue distance education. 'I need a life where I do not work.' In fact, even if I didn't work, I could not study as long as I am in the tent. I would go to another room if it was a house. It is very noisy here.'*

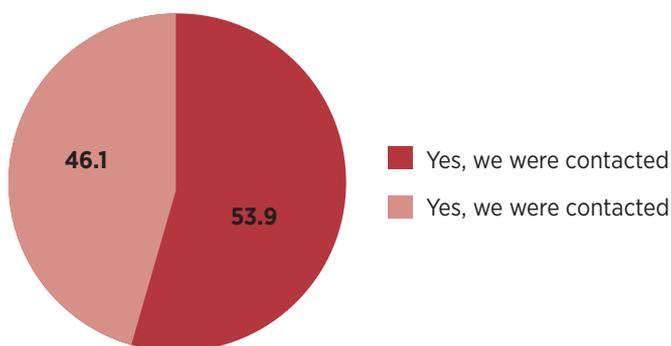
Two of the boys stated that they were never able to participate in distance education, while the rest stated they were able to even though it was partially. The children who stated that they participated partially said that they watched the classes at the beginning but

then quit watching because they were not able to understand the lessons. One of them stated that they were only able to watch the classes on their father's phone, only when the father is not at work. A child stated that they watched live classes in March and April 2020, and afterwards on EBA TV.

As understood from the children's statements, the distance education, which started after the formal education was suspended due to the pandemic, failed to be inclusive. It results in large learning gaps between children due to the factors such as content, accessibility, and time. It fails to support children adequately in continuing their education and learning effectively. Other notable factors cutting off the children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers from education include not having a parent or an adult to help with their classes at home as well as their further interrupted communication with their teachers, which had already been limited, by the suspension of formal education due to the pandemic.

152 out of the 219 households whose representatives participated in the survey stated that their children continued their education. 53.9 percent of these households (82 households) stated that teachers and/or administrators got in contact with them during the pandemic, while 46.1 percent (70) stated that they did not (Chart 17). In the in-depth interviews, half of the girls and boys continuing their education stated that they were unable to communicate with their teachers amid the pandemic.

**Chart 17.** Teachers or any other school employees contacting/not contacting families or children during distance education by household (percentage)



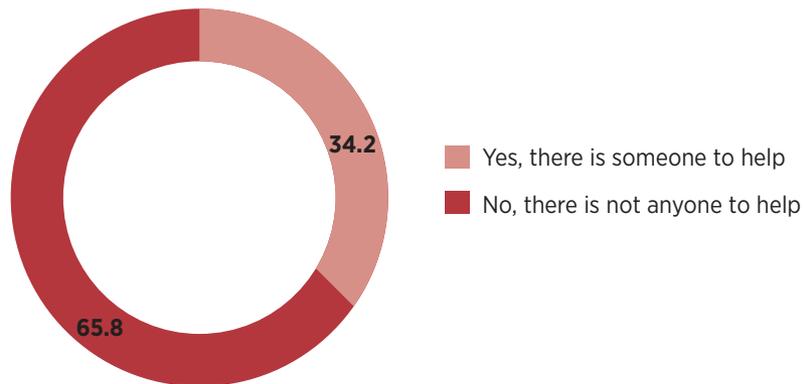
It was understood from the in-depth interviews that nearly half of the children lost contact with their teachers. It was observed that the communication of the children, who stated that they were able to communicate with their teachers amid the pandemic, was mostly limited to one-way transmission of information from teacher to student through WhatsApp groups. All of the Turkish children who participated in focus group meetings stated that they never talked to or communicated with their teachers after 2020 March.

*'I didn't even have my teachers' numbers. How could I reach them even if I wanted to ask something? I guess they didn't have our phone numbers either. They did not call.'*

*'I'm not going to lie, their teachers called and told us what we should do for the children. I leave for work at 5am and return in the evening. I have to keep my phone with me, I cannot leave it with the children. After a while, I stopped answering their calls. Because we are not able to do what the teachers say. I know that I am doing wrong, I am the one to blame.'*

According to the survey findings, among the households who include children at the age of attending formal education, there is no one helping children with their classes in 45.7 percent of them (100 households) and there is someone to help only in 23.7 percent of them (52 households) (Chart 18).

**Chart 18.** Children who continue their education having/not having someone to help with their lessons at home/tent (percentage)



In the households having someone to help the children with their lessons, the helper is the sister most of the time with a rate of 56.3 percent (36 people). Other helpers include brothers with 18.8 percent (12 people), mothers with 12.5 percent (8 people), and fathers with the lowest rate of 9.4 percent (6 people) (Table 22).

**Table 22.** Distribution of household members who help with the children's lessons

Household members who help with the children's lessons	Number	Percentage
Father	6	9,4
Mother	8	12,5
Brother	12	18,8
Sister	36	56,3
Relatives	2	3,1
Total	64	100,0

It can be said that not having someone to help with their classes at home can negatively affect the children's interest and motivation in school and thus break the education continuity of those who do not have a meaningful connection with their teachers or school administrators during the distance learning process.

### ***2.5.3. Wishes and expectations of seasonal migrant agricultural workers for their children's continuity in education and the change occurred in their wishes and expectations due the Coronavirus pandemic***

The study findings show that the majority of adult seasonal migrant agricultural workers hope to escape the cycle of seasonal migrant agricultural work and have a better life, which would only be possible if they had a chance to continue their education. These adults think that it is also important for their children to continue their education, however, the children are more likely to work and contribute to the family finances instead of continuing their studies due to the lack of financial resources. At the same time, it was observed that the wishes and expectations about the children's education are different for girls and boys. Gender-related social norms stand out as a barrier to girls' education continuity. It is estimated that the seasonal migrant agricultural worker parents' wishes and expectations about their children's continuity in education will be diminished gradually, which will result in cutting the children off from school, due to a combination of decreased household income caused by the pandemic and the worries related to the pandemic. Adopting holistic policies to combat the poverty that the seasonal migrant agricultural worker households live in will influence the families to stop using child labour for income, thereby contributing greatly to the fight against child labour.

The Coronavirus pandemic has deepened the challenges such as being unable to access education, being absent from school, and staying out of school due to the seasonal migrant agricultural worker households' poverty and lack of resources to allocate to education. It is expected that the issues of discontinuity in education and cutting children off from school will remain due to the pandemic and prolonged distance learning.

In the in-depth interviews conducted with adult women in Adana and Mersin provinces, two-thirds of the women stated that they do not remember anything about school or have no memories from school. As for the Sanliurfa province, only 4 out of the 13 interviewed women stated that they have positive memories from school such as playing with their friends and being good and disciplined. This is an expected result considering that nearly half of the adult women never went to school as understood from the face-to-face interviews conducted with the household representatives in Adana, Mersin and Sanliurfa provinces. Despite this, the majority of the interviewed women stated that their life would be more or less but definitely different if they continued school. As for the reasons why, they believe that, 4 out of the 10 interviewed women stated, *'I would have a better life if I continued my education'*; 2 of them stated, *'I wouldn't have to depend on anyone'*; 2 of them stated, *'I would have an occupation'*; and one of them stated, *'I would have the power to help others'*.

*'I don't know how to read and write. I feel trapped. Yes, the trap is not visible, but it shackles you. If I studied, I would be able to go to any public office. I would learn about my rights. When you are illiterate, what you can learn is limited to whatever someone tells you. Only if there were a women's school here, for instance, I could learn how to read and write, that's all I want.'*

On the other hand, three-fourths of the adult women stated that *'they want their children to go to school in any case'*, even though the rate of their children's school attendance dropped due to poverty and the pandemic.

*'If my child goes to school, they will have a better life than mine. I want that. What mother wouldn't want that?'*

Half of the teachers interviewed in Adana and Mersin provinces as part of the interviews conducted with key persons and organizations stated that the parents are unwilling for or have no expectations from their children's continuity in education. However, the other half stated that the parents are eager for their children's education, but the children are unable to continue their education under the current circumstances.

*'I teach preschool in a 10 square meter trailer... the children and the parents are very eager, they want to continue with primary school, but unfortunately there is no school around here for the children to attend... There are at least 400-500 children in this area... but they cannot go to school because of the distance and transportation challenges...'*

While two tenths of women stated that they do not want their children to study because of their difficult circumstances, one tenths of women stated that it would not matter even if they wanted to because their children do not want to continue their education.

*'I should not want my son to go to school, he has to work. Otherwise, we cannot survive the next day. He and his father work. We have no other household income.'*

According to the findings from the interviews conducted with the household representatives, adult men have a higher rate of continuing education than women, but they also have a high rate of dropping out. In parallel with this finding, the adult men have more memories from school compared to women. When asked about *what they remember about school*, the majority of the adult men mentioned positive memories related to friendship, fun, good education, discipline, and respect. Some of the adult men stated that they have negative memories mostly due to poverty and othering.

In contrast with Adana and Mersin provinces, the majority of adult men interviewed in Sanliurfa mentioned bad memories that include othering and harsh teacher discipline.

*'I was always different from other children... I was always behind...'*

For the question of *what would be different in their lives if they continued school*, nearly half of the adult men stated that they believe they would have a better life but most of these were unable to give a concrete example of what would be different and how. Some of the adult men stated that it would not make any difference because they would have to work all the time even if they studied. Only one adult man stated that he does not *'believe in education'* and another stated that *'studying was never an option for him'*.

When asked about their general thoughts on their children's education, six tenths of the adult men remained silent or avoided expressing their opinions. It is thought provoking that a woman from a household quietly approached to the interviewer while they were leaving the household and said, *'I actually want my children to study but their father does not agree. And I do not have the power to oppose him.'*

When the findings and field observations are considered together, it is understood that the male parents mostly want their children to work. One fourth of the adult men who expressed their frank opinion stated that they want their children to work. However, there are also adult men who want their children to study and have an occupation because they worry about the uncertainties and what the future might bring.

*'I wanted them to study. The one who studied used to go to Urfa and the one who did not used to stay here with me, working with me. Now I will go as well, there are no jobs here...13-year-olds are working. Machines will perform this job, there will be no agricultural jobs for them, they will suffer a lot if they do not study.'*

During the in-depth interviews conducted in Sanliurfa, 73 percent of the interviewed households (11 people) stated that their children used to continue school until today and

the rest stated that some of their children did. When asked about their thoughts on their children’s education, 82 percent of the women (11 people) stated that they want their children to study. While some of these people set forth conditions such as their financial situation and the children’s motivation to study (37 percent), the general opinion was that the children should study.

*‘I would give my life for my children to study.’*

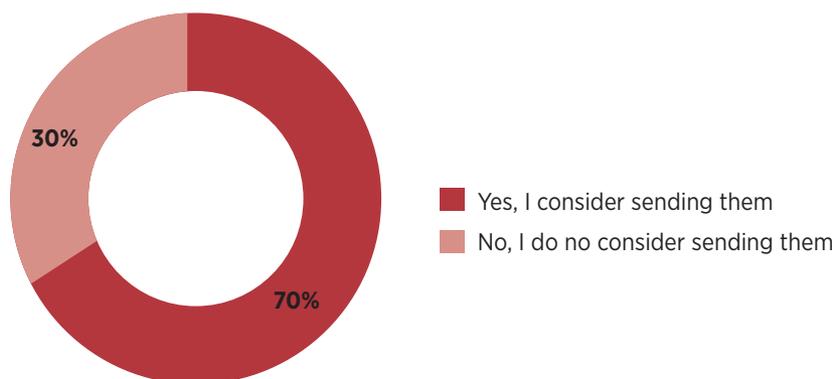
In order to find out what expectations the parents have for their children’s future, adult male and female household representatives were asked whether they think that their children will be seasonal migrant agricultural workers in the future. 70.3 percent of the 219 interviewed households (154 households) think that their children will be seasonal migrant agricultural workers (Table 23).

**Table 23.** Parents’ opinions on whether their children will be seasonal migrant agricultural workers

Parents’ opinions on whether their children will be seasonal migrant agricultural workers	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	154	70.3
No	39	17.8
I do not know	26	11.9
Total	219	100

One third of the households interviewed stated that they think that the children will not be agricultural workers if they continue their education. Most of them stated that they think that the girls will not need to work if they marry. Some Syrian households stated that their children are unable to study in Türkiye due to identity document problems and poverty and thus they have to work, and that they will be able to study only when they return to their country and in that case, they will not have to be agricultural workers. The change in the wishes and expectations of seasonal migrant agricultural workers about their children’s participation in education amid the Coronavirus pandemic was also investigated. According to the interviews conducted with the household representatives in Adana and Mersin provinces, 48.4 percent of the households whose children used to continue school before the pandemic (106 households) stated that they will send their children to school when the face-to-face education starts. However, 21 percent (46 households) do not consider sending their children to school (Chart 19).

**Chart 19.** Parents sending/not sending their children, who continue school currently, to school in the case that face-to-face education starts



When asked about what the children would need to continue studying when face-to-face education starts, one third of the women (11 people) stated that they need permanent settlement, and three tenths of them stated that they need measures against the virus.

*'We would return to Urfa right after. They will go to the school that they were enrolled in.'*

While one fifth of them stated their need for financial support, one person said that they *'will send them as long as there is face-to-face education'*, and one person said that they *'will not send them in any case'*. It was observed that the Syrian women avoided answering this question.

When asked about what the children would need to continue studying when face-to-face education starts, the adult men (10) mentioned their need for financial support.

*'We need both moral and material support very much. We lost most of our stuff when the flood hit here last year.'*

The most frequently stated needs following material support include relief from the worries caused by the pandemic and solution for the problems caused by othering/bullying.

*'We want to send them when the school opens. They will start first grade. But we have worries. Other than the virus; the children are treated badly at school.'*

7 of the women interviewed in Sanliurfa stated that they need some conditions such as the implementation of necessary measures (mask and social distance) and support for the fear of the pandemic. However, they also stated that they will send their children to school when face-to-face education starts, even if the pandemic is not over by then. Two people stated that they will not send their children to school before the pandemic is over.

*'I will not send them as long as the pandemic is here. It is better for them not to study than die. Look, if the virus enters this households, we won't be able to survive. Within this poverty, how would we deal with the disease?'*

*'They are unable to catch up as long as it is distance education, but if they say that schools are opening and the pandemic is over, then we will send them. '*

Half of the men stated that (4 people) they will send their children to school as they used to before if the schools open and face-to-face education starts.

*'If distance education remains, we will take the children with us to cotton harvesting; but if they say the children can go to school then we will send them and not go to work.'*

The rest stated that they will need financial support to send their children when face-to-face education begins.

As for the reasons why, some parents do not want to send their children to school, it is observed that they have major worries about the pandemic. They think that the treatment may not be available to them if they are infected or they are worried about bringing the virus to the tent. Bringing the virus to the tent does not only threaten the seasonal migrant agricultural workers' health. It is also a major financial threat because the household members will not be able to work for at least 14 days. The parents frankly stated that they do not want to risk their children or themselves unless the school administration and/or the state provides necessary protective equipment (mask, gloves, disinfectant).

*'We are scared of the virus. Either the state will take measures, support us and relieve our distress or we will not send them.'*

For the question of *'Are your children going to continue school after the Coronavirus pandemic?'*, six tenths of the men (16 people) stated that they want their children to continue their studies. However, half of these people pointed out the challenges regarding the situation such as their children needing special education, their children not wanting to go to school, their financial conditions, problems related to transportation, and not having a space to study in the tent.

*'In addition to their trauma, we found out that my child also has some sort of learning disability. They could have continued school if we received support, but they cannot continue under these circumstances.'*

*'I wanted the children to continue their studies here as well, but we were unable to enroll them due to the transportation / school bus problem.'*

It was observed that one fourth of the adult men avoided giving a clear answer to the question about their children's continuity in education, while one tenth of them had no intention of making an effort for their children's education for various reasons.

*'The principal of the Yenice Lower Secondary School tried hard to convince me. He told me to do my best for my children to continue their education. I did not, I take all the blame.'*

*'We do not send girls to school after the age of 14.'*

When asked the question 'Are your children going to continue school after the Coronavirus pandemic?' provided that the conditions are met, half of the adult women (18 people) answered 'yes, definitely'.

*'We definitely want them to continue. They will have a clean life if they study. I mean both being literally clean and having quality people around. They do whatever they see in their environment. They learn smoking and swearing in the field.'*

Nearly half of the women mentioned various challenges and avoided giving a clear answer. Two of these women were Syrian, and they talked about challenges such as lack of financial resources and othering/bullying. Other reasons for the negative attitude towards education include poverty, not having a permanent settlement, worries about the pandemic, the decision of the family/father, and gender-related reasons.

The statements of women who expressed their worries about the consequences if the schools do not open and face-to-face education does not begin are notable:

*'When it is distance learning, they further drift away from school and even forget about the school. I think they have already forgotten what they learned. They might drop out if schools do not go back to normal.'*

The mothers think that their children are at risk of leaving school due to 'being unable to adapt to distance learning' and 'having difficult living conditions'. In general, it is observed that the mothers want their children to continue their education in any case more than the fathers. Especially the women who have daughters frequently make the statement, 'I do not want them to be like me, I want them to stand on their own legs'.

*'My dream was to become a nurse. Now, I would like my daughter to become one very much. If these children study, their attitude, behavior and even clothing will be different. Now, for example, they see someone smoking in the field and learn that. They hear someone swearing and learn that.'*

The study findings show that the Coronavirus pandemic has deepened the challenges faced by the seasonal migrant agricultural workers' children such as being unable to access education, non-attendance, and being cut off from school due to the poverty and lack of resources to allocate to education. The interviews conducted in Adana and Mersin provinces as well as in Sanliurfa province, where the households were not migrant workers (the majority of these families receive support as part of the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education), show that the school attendance rates of the majority of children decreased with the Coronavirus pandemic. These children are not able to effectively participate in distance education due to the living conditions in temporary tent settlements or the lack of television, computer, or internet access.

It is estimated that the pandemic and the prolonged distance education causing the children not to continue their education or to be cut off from school will result in major issues over the next few years and become one of the most prominent factors that increase child labour.

## 2.6. The Effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Mental Health

It is observed that the Coronavirus pandemic causes fear, anxiety, and stress for high risk groups as well as the general population as it continues to spread around the world. The main psychological effect of the pandemic on mental health, that has been identified so far, includes increased rates of stress and anxiety. Besides, the World Health Organization estimates an increase in the rates of isolation, depression, the use of harmful substances such as alcohol and drugs, and self-harm or suicidal behavior due to the new measures and their effects, especially quarantine and its effects on many people's usual activities, routines, and livelihoods.<sup>76</sup>

Outbreaks, emergencies, and crises that affect countries in all aspects including economic, social, psychological, etc. should be assessed and studied especially in terms of communities that struggle with deep poverty such as seasonal migrant agricultural workers. Mental health of seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their families, who have to live in permanent poverty with insecure working conditions, is hard to address and needs thorough assessment. In this respect, there is a limited number of studies conducted around the world regarding the mental health of seasonal migrant agricultural workers. As for Türkiye, there are very few studies focusing on the mental health of agricultural workers. Agricultural work involves a lot of occupational health risks and is described as a particularly '*stressful occupation*'.<sup>77</sup> Agricultural labour is linked to various physical and mental health risks due to the hard work carried out under challenging conditions. The mental health studies conducted with agricultural worker communities have defined several

<sup>76</sup> <https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-emergencies/coronavirus-covid-19/publications-and-technical-guidance/noncommunicable-diseases/mental-health-and-covid-19>

<sup>77</sup> Gregoire, A. (2002), The mental health of farmers. *Occupational Medicine*, Vol. 52, Issue 8, 471-476

common risk factors that potentially affect the mental health of agricultural workers and their families: indebtedness, climate crisis, drought, working too much, policy formulation, problems related to isolation, role conflict, time pressure, and poor accommodation conditions.<sup>78</sup> The epidemiologic<sup>79</sup> studies worldwide show that there is an inverse relationship between mental illness and social class. It was determined that psychiatric disorders are more common among people in lower social classes.<sup>80</sup> Children's mental health disorders are caused by combination genetic and environmental factors. Studies indicate that the devastating impact of low income, disruptive demographic factors, and poor external support generate the stress and life crises that put children at risk and may precipitate psychiatric disorders in childhood.

Many studies show that poor children are disadvantaged and face more challenges compared to their peers with higher socioeconomic status in terms of health, cognitive development, social development, etc.<sup>81</sup> Besides, the psychosocial needs of seasonal agricultural workers, who already face challenges accessing mental health services in their everyday life, fall even further behind in crisis situations such as outbreaks. In addition, it is important to investigate the mechanisms to provide access to services and the Coronavirus pandemic together, considering the widespread poverty, low wages, and adverse living and working conditions.

### **2.6.1. General psychosocial risk factors**

This section evaluates the findings obtained from the surveys and in-depth interviews conducted with the aim of assessing general psychosocial risks and understanding the current situation. The purpose of including this part in the study is to separate the non-pandemic psychosocial risks faced by seasonal migrant agricultural workers in general from the psychosocial risks they faced due to the pandemic. With the in-depth interviews, which focus on quantitative data, it was aimed at identifying the psychosocial risk factors that may affect a person's everyday life in general, as well as the psychosocial risks that may arise due to the person's working environment and conditions, challenges regarding their living area, social life and relationships, and physical and mental health.

In the face-to-face surveys conducted with 219 household representatives, 65.8 percent (144 people) stated that seasonal migrant agricultural work which is their source of livelihood *is not valued*, 29.3 percent (64 people) stated that it *is valued*, and 5 percent

---

**78** McGregor M.J., Willock, J., Deary, I. (1995), Farmer stress. *Farm Management*, Vol. 9, No.2, 57-65.

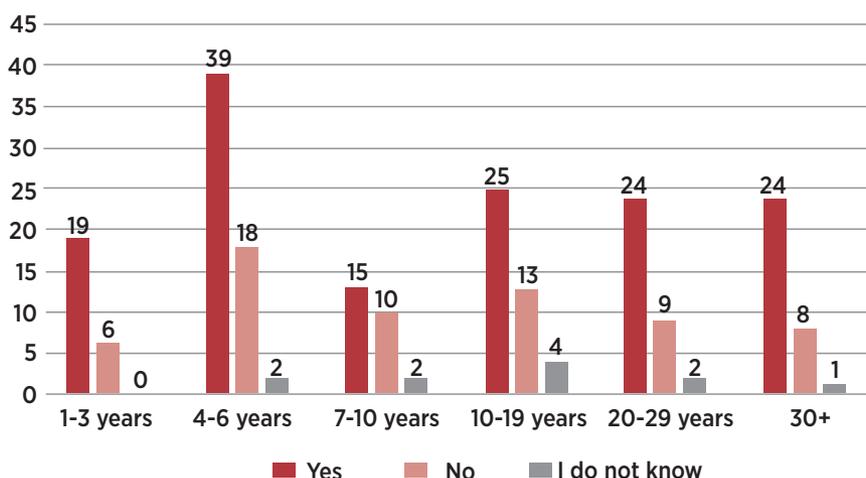
**79** Epidemiology is the study of the distribution, frequency and determinants of health-related states and events in specified populations.

**80** YLobley, M., Johnson, G., Reed, M., Winter, M., and Little, J. (2004), *Rural Stress Review: Final Report*. Centre for Rural Policy Research, University of Exeter

**81** Brooks-Gunn and Duncan. (1997); McLoyd (1998); Young, Linver and Brooks-Gunn. (2002), cited from. Orme and Cain, 2006:1

(11 people) stated that they have no idea on this matter. In this respect, there is no difference of opinion between Turkish and Syrian households. The correlation between their opinion on whether their job is valued and the years they have been working as a seasonal migrant agricultural worker was examined as well. In terms of the rates of those who think that their job is valued, people who have been doing the job for 4-6 years had the highest rate with 27.1 (39 people), whereas people who have been doing it for 7-10 years had the lowest rate with 9 percent (13 people) (Chart 20). The person's belief that their job is valued represents the respect and appreciation they receive from others during and after performing the job.

**Chart 20.** Correlation between the years spent working in the job and the belief that it is valued (person)



As an addition to this question, the seasonal migrant agricultural workers were asked about the most frequently experienced challenges while doing their job, which was also asked during in-depth interviews as part of the study. The stated challenges include physical working conditions (14 people), workload (12 people), financial/economic situation (3 people), relationships with other workers in the workplace and/or the field/garden owner's relationship with the agricultural workers (3 people), imbalance of effort-reward-appreciation —indifference to performance (3), and problems related to their personal life (6 people). The imbalance of effort-reward-appreciation shows itself in the workers' belief that their job is not valued.<sup>82</sup> According to the findings of the survey, the seasonal migrant agricultural workers mostly believe that their job is not valued. As for the challenges, men mostly mentioned '*physical working conditions*', whereas women mostly mentioned the '*workload*'. This can be explained by the fact that women

<sup>82</sup> Karasek, R. (1979), Job demands, job decision latitude, and mental strain: Implication for job redesign. *Admin Sci Quart.* 1979; 24: 285-308

perform domestic work in addition to their time in agricultural fields and gardens. An example for the challenges related to *'relationships in the workplace'* and *'indifference to performance'* could be the seasonal migrant agricultural workers being annoyed when they are told to work faster by the field/garden owner or the agricultural intermediary or the agricultural overseer, who is the assistant of the agricultural intermediary.

The challenges related to personal life were grouped in two: *'imbalance of work-personal life'* and *'effects of the living conditions on people'*. Three women agricultural workers stated that they constantly worry about the children at home while working in the field, which is considered within the scope of the *'imbalance of work-personal life'*. One of the statements was: *'It is hard for the children to stay in the tent in heat. They go near the canal and near the bridge. My mind is always with them when I go to the field.'*

In addition to the psychosocial risks posed by working conditions, the psychosocial risks posed by living conditions were also investigated. 82.7 percent of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers (181 people) stated that they live in unhygienic conditions. When asked about the most important needs of their households, the third most common answer with 18.6 percent was *'hygiene material'*, which is evidence that these households live in unhygienic conditions. Another general psychosocial risk assessment question was *'the biggest challenge in their living area'*, asked during the in-depth interviews that were conducted in parallel with the interviews with household representatives. The most common answers given by the seasonal migrant agricultural workers include: *'problems related to the living space such as hygiene and heat'* (21 people), *'difficulty accessing basic needs such as electricity and water'* (5 people), *'financial problems'* (7 people), *'child care'* (5 people), and *'social exclusion'* (1 person, Syrian). Four agricultural workers stated that *'all of the aforementioned are their problems'* in their living area. The Syrian agricultural worker who stated that they experience social exclusion said that they consider moving, while a Turkish agricultural worker stated that Syrian refugees make Turkish citizens' living conditions worse. This is an issue that can be revisited with a focus on the polarization within the seasonal migrant agricultural worker community. The same Turkish agricultural worker complained that their jobs are given to the Syrian refugees while answering another question.

The findings of this study regarding the general psychosocial risks are consistent with those of relevant previous studies. According to the results of the studies which investigated the challenges faced by seasonal migrant agricultural workers in their living environment in Türkiye in 2011 and 2014; around 89 percent of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers cannot access clean drinking water in the field, 74 percent have no access to hand-washing facilities, 93 percent have no access to soap, and 79 percent have no toilet access. These findings are consistent with the findings of this study.<sup>83</sup> Regarding the environmental risks, the same

---

**83** Simsek, Z. (2011), *Need Assessment of Seasonal Farmworkers and Their Families* [Turkish]. Harran University and United Nation Population Fund., Sanliurfa: Elif Matbaası; Yavuz, H., Simsek, Z., Akbaba, M. (2014), *Health-risk behaviors in agriculture and related factors, Southeastern Anatolian Region of Türkiye*. *J Agromedicine*, 19(4): 364-72.

studies show that 80 percent of the workers do not have access to food storage facilities while working in the field/garden, 66.1 percent have no access to changing rooms to change their clothes, 37.2 have no access to raised beds to be protected from dangerous animals, 64.9 live in unchecked and unsound structures (87.9 of which are near high-tension power lines), 96 percent do not use earplugs to prevent noise, 78.8 percent do not use equipment to prevent dust, and 86.3 percent of the fields do not have guard band or guard fence along irrigation and drainage canals.<sup>84</sup>

House organization and personal time activities were also examined as another psychosocial risk assessment measure. According to the results, 65.4 percent of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers (114 people) stated that they never have free time for themselves. While describing their typical day in the in-depth interviews, 34.2 percent of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers only talked about doing housework, 14.2 percent only talked about farm work, 22.8 percent talked about their routines including both housework and farm work, and 25.7 percent stated that they had no specific farm work or housework routine. As for the gender distribution of these activities, 83 percent of the people who talked about housework are women. All the men who talked about their housework routines emphasized that they take care of children at home because they are unable to go to work due to health problems. All of those who talked only about farm work routine are men. All the agricultural workers who have both housework and farm work routines are women. It should be considered that doing unpaid household work while also working in the field, in other words, working a 'second shift', can pose psychosocial risks.<sup>85</sup> The agricultural workers who do not have a specific farm work or housework routine consists of a woman and eight men. The male respondents stated that they go to work when there is work and do nothing special if there is no work, whereas the female respondents stated that they do housework when there is no work.

In addition, '*a person's relationship with the community and social support mechanisms*' were examined as another psychosocial risk assessment measure. 67.6 percent of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers (148 people) stated that they do not feel part of the community, 26 percent (57 people) stated that they feel part of the community, and 6.4 percent (14 people) stated that they have no opinion on this matter. When this data is analyzed in terms of the distribution of nationality, it is understood that 70 percent of the Syrian seasonal migrant agricultural workers do not feel part of the community and 67 percent of the Turkish seasonal migrant agricultural workers do not feel part of the community. The expression of 'the community' mentioned in the survey question during the study was perceived by the people as a micro environment/tent area. In the in-depth interviews, their friendship and neighbor relationships were asked to support the subject. 45.5 percent of the workers stated that they are happy with their neighbors/friends and have a social life, 8.5 percent stated that

---

<sup>84</sup> Yavuz, H., Simsek, Z., Akbaba, M. (2014), Health-risk behaviors in agriculture and related factors, Southeastern Anatolian Region of Türkiye. *J Agromedicine*, 19(4): 364-72.

<sup>85</sup> ILO. (2016), *Stress at the Workplace: A Common Challenge*, Translation: N\_HumaN, 2020

they used to have friendship and neighbor relationships before but do not have such a communication now due to the pandemic, 11.4 percent stated that they do not have a regular social life but have relationships with their neighbors on a minimum level, and 22.8 percent stated that they do not have a social life. One of the Syrian agricultural workers who stated that 'they do not have a social life' said, '*We are the Syrians here, we do not talk to the Turkish much.*' Another member of the same household stated that they do not see anyone in Türkiye. A Turkish agricultural worker who live in a tent settlement with Syrian refugees replied that they have no social interaction and added: '*No neighbor relationships here, we do not visit anyone, we are scared of the Syrians.*' This indicates a polarization or a potential polarization in the region. The lack of communication and contact between different groups can exacerbate negative attitudes and bias against each other.

Lastly, the general situation concerning mood and psychological and physical health was examined as a psychosocial risk assessment measure. 75.8 percent of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers stated that *they feel tense and/or angry* in general.

Having multiple psychosocial risk sources and inadequate coping mechanisms can cause people to be in a bad mood constantly. As indicated in the economy and education sections of the study, seasonal migrant agricultural workers had already been facing challenges including financial problems, issues regarding living and working environment, irregular employment, severe working conditions, and heavy workload; and the Coronavirus pandemic exacerbated these challenges and added new problems and worries related to the children's continuity in education.

In the in-depth interviews, the agricultural workers and their families were asked whether they have any physical or mental health problems. According to the answers, seven people have pain; three have stomach problems; two have diabetes; one has liver and lung problems; six have cardiovascular problems; three have injuries, wounds, herniated disc, and kidney disease; one have problems related to pregnancy; and seven have no health problems. Among three people who stated that they have mental stress /psychological health problems, two stated that they have anger management problems and one stated that they feel severely depressed and sad in addition to having physical health problems.

A study conducted in Türkiye in 2012 lists the factors affecting agricultural workers' health as follows: low socioeconomic status; workplaces being too hot or too cold (because the work is performed outside most of the time); using old machines under unsafe conditions; heavy workload; long working hours; poisoning; parasitic infection caused by direct contact with poisonous animals, insects, and plants; allergies; diseases caused by the use of chemical or biological products; and unhealthy working and living conditions.<sup>86</sup>

---

**86** Simsek, Z., Yıldırımkaaya, G., Erçetin, G., et al. (2012), Health indicators of seasonal farmworkers and need assessment. Presented at the 15th National Public Health Congress; Health Reforms, Bursa, Türkiye; 2-6 October 2012.

### **2.6.2. Psychosocial Effects of the Coronavirus pandemic**

An overall assessment on the experiences of seasonal migrant agricultural workers amid the Coronavirus pandemic shows that 68.5 percent of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers think that there are many uncertainties caused by the Coronavirus pandemic and 7.3 percent have no opinion on the matter. The fact that there are agricultural workers who do not think that there are many uncertainties is consistent with the statement, *'we did not have a life before the pandemic either'*, heard during the in-depth interviews. The face-to-face interviews show that the seasonal migrant agricultural workers experience feelings of fear and social isolation while also being worried about financial problems and changes in working conditions amid the Coronavirus pandemic. The agricultural workers who experience social isolation have behaviors such as being unable to go outside, not having any social relationships, and/or limiting their social life. The change in working conditions include employment loss and uncertainties about employment/shift/working days. One of the Syrian workers stated that they cannot return to Syria due to the pandemic. As for physical and mental changes, the statements included insomnia, constant feelings of anxiety and helplessness, and feeling sad.

The functioning of psychosocial support mechanisms during the pandemic was also investigated. 51.6 percent of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers stated that they were not able to spend enough time with their family and friends during the time, 24.2 percent stated that they were able to spend enough time with their family/friends, and 7.3 stated that they do not have an opinion on the matter. When the data is analyzed in terms of the distribution of nationality, it is understood that 63.7 percent of the Turkish agricultural workers answered 'yes' and 76.7 percent of the Syrian agricultural workers answered 'no' when asked whether they were able to spend enough time with family/friends during the pandemic. The agricultural workers were also asked about how they feel in terms of socialization at this time. 14.2 percent stated that they are scared to socialize due to the pandemic, 5.2 stated that they feel anxious, and 20 percent stated that they feel uncomfortable/bad. The agricultural workers who complained about isolation and lack of social interaction during the in-depth interviews stated that they feel lonely (5 people), excluded (5 people), and restricted (8 people). On the other hand, the rate of those who stated that no change occurred due to the pandemic is 32 percent. These people stated that they did not have a social life before the pandemic either. Some of the workers also stated that no changes occurred in their psychological and emotional state or daily routines. Social life was the most frequently mentioned area of life in terms of unchanged things. The observations and the interview details of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers who think that no change occurred in their social lives show that these people were not socializing before the Coronavirus pandemic either, that they have too many responsibilities inside and outside the home (childcare, working hours, etc.), and that especially the Syrian agricultural workers have communication problems due to language barrier and experience social exclusion.

It is estimated that physical and economic changes occurring at the times of disasters, crises, and emergencies such as the Coronavirus pandemic contribute to social solidarity and unity.<sup>87</sup> The seasonal migrant agricultural workers' tendency to show solidarity during the Coronavirus pandemic was investigated. 35.6 percent of the agricultural workers (78 people) stated that there was a boost in solidarity, 50.7 percent (111 people) stated that there was no boost in solidarity, and 13.7 percent (30 people) stated that they had no opinion on the matter. The spirit of solidarity during emergencies and crises is one of the most commonly addressed subjects by researchers who work in this field. However, no data has been published so far on seasonal migrant agricultural workers' tendency to show solidarity. Therefore, providing an understanding of seasonal migrant agricultural workers' perspective of solidarity during such emergencies will offer guidance to future research.

The information transmission during the Coronavirus pandemic as well as the agricultural workers' sources of information and attitude towards the pandemic were investigated. 47.9 percent of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers (105 people) stated that the information provided regarding the Coronavirus pandemic was inadequate, 43.4 percent (95 people) stated that the information was adequate, and 8.7 percent (19 people) stated that they have no opinion on the matter. 48.4 percent of the same people (106 people) stated that they try to avoid news about the Coronavirus pandemic as far as possible, 48.9 percent (107 people) stated that they follow the news about the Coronavirus pandemic, and 2.7 percent (6 people) stated that they have no opinion on the matter. 76.7 percent of the agricultural workers stated that the pandemic measures are not excessive, 16.4 percent (36 people) stated that the pandemic measures are excessive, and 6.8 percent (15 people) stated that they have no opinion on the matter.

In the study, the relationship between finding the measures excessive and having a closed one diagnosed with the Coronavirus was investigated. According to the results, 88.9 percent of the agricultural workers who have a closed one diagnosed with the Coronavirus do not find the measures excessive. Also, 82.6 percent of the agricultural workers stated that they think that taking measures against the pandemic is right, while 13.7 percent stated that taking measures is not right. In the in-depth interviews conducted as part of the study, the agricultural workers were asked their opinion on the changes occurring at this time. 8.5 percent of the workers answered '*neutral/do not know*', while 11.4 percent stated that they were not affected by the changes that occurred during the pandemic. Half of the workers who stated that they were not affected by the changes also stated that they believe the virus will not reach their living area, while the other half emphasized that everything is as much difficult as it was before. 20 percent of the agricultural workers expressed their worries about their own health or someone else's health, while also stating that there is nothing they can do about it. In addition, the rate of agricultural workers who worry

---

<sup>87</sup> Arru, M., Negre, E., Rosenthal-Sabroux, C. (2018), Population behaviors in crisis situations-a study of behavioral factors in the PPI ineos emergency response exercise. Proceedings of the 51st Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences, Waikoloa Village

about the possible effect of the changes on their children's future is 11.4 percent. The most frequently stated challenge is *'having difficulty coping with the situation'*. An agricultural worker stated, *'We shouldn't have faced these many problems, even with the virus. They should have helped more.'* Pointing out the financial changes occurring at this time, the agricultural workers stated that it will be impossible for them to survive if the situation remains the same. Some of the agricultural workers stated that the changes occurred during the pandemic are positive because the number of workers in their household increased with the pandemic. However, it was understood that one of these people thought that the 'changes' refer to the restrictions and measures imposed during the pandemic: *'Some of the changes worked out well, actually. People comply with social distancing. I do not think everything will be the same as before.'*

Lastly, the seasonal migrant agricultural workers were asked about how their children were affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. Some of them emphasized that their children are bored and sad and they experience negative emotions more often now, while some of them stated that their children are not aware of anything. The households who are worried that the Coronavirus pandemic negatively affected their children's education think that the pandemic *ended* their children's educational life. However, only 3.6 percent of the households expressed their worries about their children's education while talking about their primary concerns about the effect of the Coronavirus pandemic on themselves and their families. An agricultural worker said, *'The children might not have a future, it is an act of God, we accept God's will, but we are worried.'* Some of the agricultural workers whose children started to work during the pandemic stated that the children are not aware of the pandemic because they are working. The agricultural workers who stated that *nothing changed* in their children's lives also think that nothing changed in their own lives. For instance, an agricultural worker stated in an in-depth interview, *'The children did not have a life before either.'* Besides, all of the interviewed Syrian agricultural workers stated that nothing changed for the children or that the children are not aware of the situation. An agricultural worker stated in the interview, *'Nothing will happen to us or our children'*. It was observed that the children of the families who stated that *'nothing changed for the children'* had already been cut off from the school and started working at an early age. A sense of intense hopelessness was felt throughout the interviews.

### **2.6.3. Stress Responses to the Coronavirus pandemic**

The stress that the pandemic caused seasonal migrant agricultural workers as well as its physical, emotional and psychological effects were investigated. 62.6 percent of the workers (137 people) stated that they think that their mental health worsened during the time and 5 percent (11 people) stated that they do not have an opinion on the matter. 52.5 percent of the agricultural workers (11 people) stated that they experienced sleeping problems such as taking longer time to fall asleep, waking up frequently, shortened sleeping

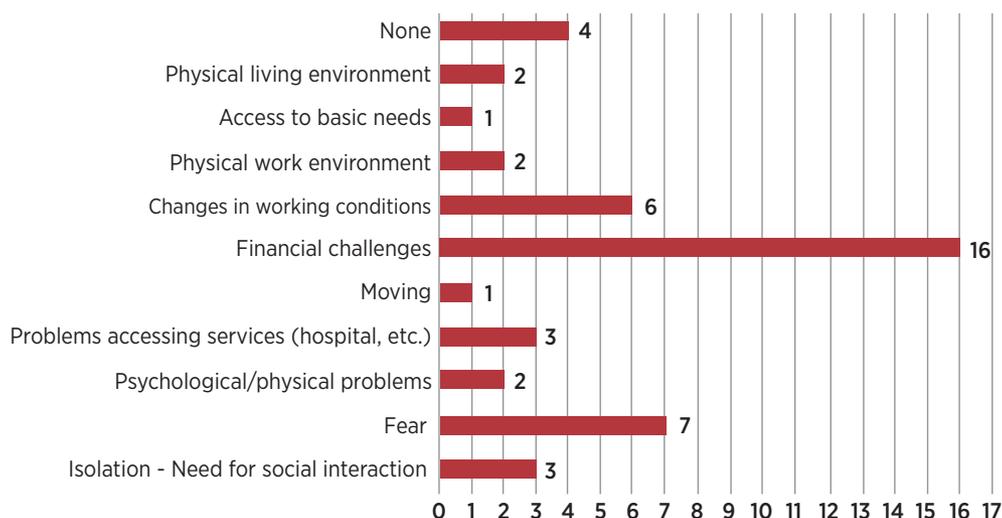
hours, and poor sleep quality. 45 percent (99 people) stated that they did not have such problems, while 2.3 percent (5 people) stated that they do not have an opinion on the matter. As for the distribution by nationality, 69.8 percent of the Turkish agricultural workers answered, 'yes' to the question of whether their mental health worsened during the time, while 53.3 percent of the Syrian agricultural workers answered 'no' to the question of whether they had sleep problems, 63.5 percent of the Turkish agricultural workers answered 'yes', while 70 percent of the Syrian agricultural workers answered 'no'. In addition, 83.6 percent of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers (183 people) stated that they were physically exhausted during this time, while 15.5 percent (34 people) stated that they were not.

As for the causes of stress affecting the seasonal migrant agricultural workers during the Coronavirus pandemic, the most common challenges that they struggled to cope with include financial challenges such as the '*high cost of living*' and '*inadequate income*' (45.7 percent). Another important situation observed is the '*change in working conditions*'. In this respect, the agricultural workers spoke of employment uncertainty and increased workload. Besides, some of the workers stated that they struggled due to isolation/need for social interaction as well as challenges in accessing services, which were caused by the new rules and regulations imposed in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. Stating that they struggled to cope with the fear during the Coronavirus pandemic, some of the agricultural workers pointed out the fear of being infected, while others emphasized that their fears were increased in general. This finding regarding the psychological/physical challenges is consistent with the findings of this study about the psychosocial risk factors. Another study that investigated the psychosocial risks in agricultural work in 2012 reported that the environmental factors such as severe working conditions, social isolation, and exclusion increase the tendency to develop physical and mental disorders in seasonal migrant agricultural workers, which is also consistent with the new findings.<sup>88</sup> It was observed that the stated sources of stress in the working environment are also related to fear. This is because the inadequate measures at the workplace triggers the fear of being infected in workers. Pointing out their problem accessing water, an agricultural worker also emphasized that their physical living environment affects them negatively. 11.4 percent of the agricultural workers stated that they do not experience any challenges. In addition to these, it should be noted that the equity of access to resources must be investigated to better understand the situation since the Syrian workers particularly emphasized the problems concerning physical living conditions and access to services. Besides, another Syrian agricultural worker stated that their life had already been difficult before the pandemic, saying, '*The pandemic added on new difficulties*'. Chart 21 shows the challenges that the agricultural workers struggled to cope with amid the Coronavirus pandemic, according to the findings from the in-depth interviews.

---

<sup>88</sup> Simsek, Z., (2012), Psychosocial issues and the protection of agricultural workers in: Agricultural Health and Safety Symposium, Şanlıurfa, April 6-7, 2012. Şanlıurfa: Harran University; s. 77-80.

**Chart 21.** Challenges they struggled to cope with amid the Coronavirus pandemic (person)



When asked about the changes occurred in themselves amid the Coronavirus pandemic, 47 percent of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers (103 people) stated that the pandemic changed their idea about the things that are important to them; 42.9 percent (94 people) stated that they did not experience any changes; and 10 percent (22 people) stated that they do not have an opinion on the matter. In addition to this data, the most common answer given to the question of *'what kind of changes they experienced in this time'* asked during the in-depth interviews was *'financial challenges'*. They often stated that their expenses increased during the pandemic and their income is inadequate to meet their needs. In addition to the changes related to finances, changes in working conditions are observed including unemployment and employment uncertainty. Another change that the seasonal migrant agricultural workers frequently stated was the *'exacerbated emotional/psychological problems'*. They stated that they experienced fear, anxiety, and stress more intensely in this time than before. The most common emotional problems include fears and worries about being infected and/or health conditions of a family member. One of the most frequent statements made during the in-depth interviews was *'We are scared, we will die if it continues'*. The main causes of this fear include the belief that the virus would spread around very quickly if someone is infected because the tents are very close to each other and that their routine would be disrupted if a family member catches the disease, as well as the mothers' worries about taking care of their little children and the fathers' worries about unemployment and loss of income. Among the changes experienced during this time, changes in social life stand out as well. The effects of the changes in social life include the increased family conflict/tension and the decreased social interaction/isolation. For example, a woman seasonal migrant agricultural worker stated during an in-depth interview, *'The visits stopped, going outside was restricted. We started to have fights at home.'*

It was observed that the following complaints were combined in the answers given by the seasonal migrant agricultural workers to the question of what changes the pandemic brought into their lives: *'changes in social life'*, *'reduced social interaction'*, *'inability to use public services'*, and *'disruption in daily routine/living'*. The agricultural workers and their families, who were unable to use public services due to the pandemic measures, complained about not being able to access hospitals as much as before the pandemic, while also experiencing an intense fear. They stated that they also hesitate to go to the hospital when they have any other health problems due to their fear of being infected.

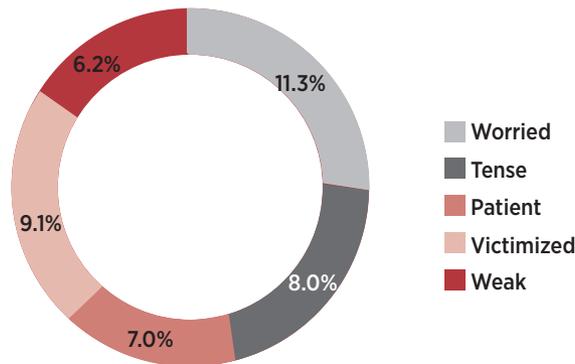
In the in-depth interviews, the agricultural workers were asked about the changes occurred in their physical and mental health during the pandemic. 16 workers emphasized having changes in their mental health, 3 workers emphasized having changes in their physical health (one of these 3 people spoke of both their physical and mental health), and the rest of them (15 workers) stated that they experienced no changes. The majority of those who stated that they experienced no changes said that *'either way they would not be able to go to the doctor if anything happened'*, while others stated that *'they cannot associate their problems with the Coronavirus pandemic in particular because they already had these problems before the pandemic.'* As for the physical changes, two agricultural workers complained about having headache and vertigo, while another complained that their herniated disc is getting worse. It is possible that the complaints about headache and vertigo are psychosomatic.

When the changes that the Coronavirus pandemic caused in the seasonal migrant agricultural workers' mental health are considered, two main topics stand out: *'increased stress and tension'* and *'increased worry and fear'*.

It was observed that the topic of *'increased stress and tension'* is usually related to finances, while *'increased worry and fear'* is related to health and infection. Because the workers who think that they experienced no changes also believe that they would have problems accessing healthcare services even if a health problem came up, a sense of intense hopelessness and despair was felt throughout the interviews.

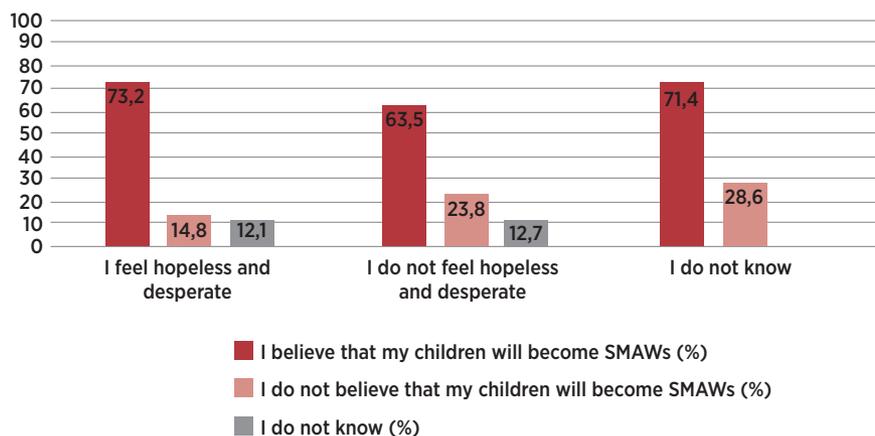
Every household representative, who participated in the survey conducted to understand the emotional effect of the Coronavirus pandemic, was asked to choose and mark 5 emotions or situations that they felt most intensely out of 24 positive and negative emotions given in the survey form in consideration of the pandemic. Chart 22 shows the most common answers among the 1017 answers given by the seasonal migrant agricultural workers about their emotional responses to the pandemic and the emotions they experienced.

**Chart 22.** Seasonal migrant agricultural workers’ most intensely felt emotions in response to the Coronavirus pandemic



Although ‘patience’ seems like a positive feeling among the others, it was observed in the in-depth interviews that it is usually accompanied by submissive behavior and feelings of hopelessness. Besides, in the interviews with the household representatives, 68 percent of the agricultural workers stated that they feel hopeless and desperate, while 3.2 percent stated that they have no opinion on the matter. In parallel with the feelings of despair noticed during the interviews; 73.2 percent of the agricultural workers who feel hopeless and desperate believe that their children will become seasonal migrant agricultural workers as well in the future (Chart 23). This data indicates an implied concern that the seasonal migrant agricultural workers have for their children’s future, while also providing a source for possible future studies on how their belief that their children will become agricultural workers affects their mental health.

**Chart 23.** Relationship between level of hope and the belief that the children will become agricultural workers in the future (percentage)



When the distribution of data is examined by nationality, it is seen that 75.5 percent of the Turkish agricultural workers answered ‘yes’ to the question of whether they feel hopeless and desperate, while 50 percent of the Syrian agricultural workers answered ‘yes’ to the question.

As for the distribution of data related to feelings by nationality, it is seen that the Turkish agricultural workers experience *insomnia, strain, loss of appetite, and lack of control* and feel *victimized, unvalued, lonely, weak, angry, and annoyed* more often than the Syrian agricultural workers. On the other hand, it is observed that the Syrian agricultural workers feel *worried, safe, interested, inadequate, patient, strong, and hopeful* more often than the Turkish agricultural workers. The greatest difference between Turkish and Syrian workers in terms of the data related to feelings is that the Syrians feel ‘worried’, while the Turkish citizens feel ‘victimized’.

When the distribution of most common feelings is examined by gender, it is understood that both Syrian and Turkish woman agricultural workers feel *worried, lonely, weak, unvalued, without control, and safe* more often than male agricultural workers. As for the male agricultural workers, they experience *insomnia, strain, loss of appetite, and loss of interest* and feel *inadequate, victimized, and annoyed* more often. According to the data obtained from in-depth interviews regarding how they felt during the Coronavirus pandemic, in parallel with the relevant quantitative data of agricultural workers and families, the most commonly stated feeling is ‘worry’ (32 people), while 3 people stated that no changes occurred in their feelings at this time. One out of these three people experienced a traumatic event (losing their spouse to suicide) before the pandemic. The other two who stated that they did not experience any changes in their feelings are the members of the same household, and they answered no to the question ‘*is there anything that makes you*

*feel uncomfortable?*'. The same people stated that no changes occurred in their lives in general and that they live the same life as before the Coronavirus pandemic. As for the agricultural workers who stated that they feel fear in general, there are two main reasons for their fears which are finances and worries about someone around them getting infected. For the agricultural workers who stated that they feel stressed, the same two sources are observed (finances and health). Financial worries and problems stand out for those who stated that they feel 'angry'.

According to the levels of worry in seasonal migrant agricultural workers regarding the Coronavirus pandemic, 87.7 percent (192) stated that they worry about their family's health. 79 percent of these people (173) stated that they are also worried about work, 16.9 percent (37 people) stated that they are not worried about work, and 4.1 percent (9 people) stated that they have no opinion on the matter. 80.4 percent of the agricultural workers (176 people) stated that not having employment security makes them feel restless in this time, 16.4 percent (36) people stated that they do not feel restless in this respect, and 3.2 percent (7 people) stated that they have no opinion on the matter. When asked about their main worries about how the pandemic might affect their families and themselves, 62.1 percent of the agricultural workers (136 people) mentioned their family's health and 22.7 percent (50 people) mentioned loss of job/income. In addition, 44.7 percent of the agricultural workers (98 people) stated that they are constantly alert to the risk of infection, whereas 50.7 percent (111 people) stated that they are not constantly alert to the risk of infection.

When the seasonal migrant agricultural workers were asked about the psychosocial challenges specific to the Coronavirus pandemic that they experience, the most commonly given answer was restlessness, caused by '*worries over health*' and/or the '*Coronavirus*'. The agricultural workers who feel restless due to these reasons usually spoke of their worries related to their family/children. Besides, the '*worries about the future/uncertainty*' and the '*living conditions changed by the pandemic*' are two common reasons stated by both Turkish and Syrian families. In general, the following themes were usually combined in the answers: '*issues/changes/possible changes regarding employment/work/working conditions*', '*financial conditions*', and '*worries about the future/uncertainty*'.

In addition, it should be noted that a Syrian agricultural worker who feels restless due to financial conditions emphasized that they were unable to receive their wages in full amid the Coronavirus pandemic, while a Turkish agricultural worker who feels restless due to financial conditions stated that they became unemployed because the jobs were given to Syrian workers.

It was observed that the feeling of 'hopelessness' was dominant in the agricultural workers who showed psychological/emotional factors as the reason for their restlessness. Those who answered '*helplessness/lack of resources*' frequently made statements indicating their 'learned helplessness' such as: '*This life is excruciating for us, we are helpless against*

*the disease*, *'We do not have anybody*', and *'I do not have anything*'. The agricultural workers who answered that they did not feel restless stated that no changes occurred in their lives due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

#### **2.6.4. Coping strategies during the Coronavirus pandemic**

The interviews with household representatives as well as the in-depth interviews included the questions of how the seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their families adapted to the changing conditions and coped with psychosocial stressors during the pandemic to understand their coping strategies.

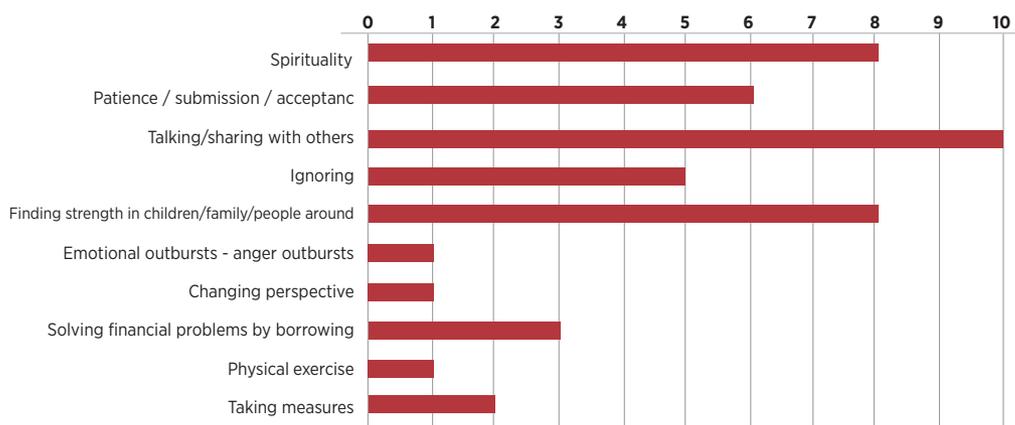
To the questions about their coping strategies during the Coronavirus pandemic, 13.7 percent of the household representatives (30 people) answered that they engage in activities that they like in order to relieve, while 10.5 percent answered that they do not have an opinion on the matter. In addition, 39.3 percent (86 people) stated that their harmful habits such as smoking and drinking alcohol escalated, whereas 21.5 percent stated that their harmful habits did not escalate. According to the distribution of answers to this question by nationality, 74 percent of the Turkish agricultural workers answered 'yes' to the question *'Did your harmful habits escalate in this time?'*, while 63.6 percent of the Syrian agricultural workers answered 'no'. 42 percent of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers stated that they became a withdrawn person in this time, 49.8 percent stated that they did not become withdrawn, and 8.2 percent stated that they do not have an opinion about it. The seasonal migrant agricultural workers were asked during the in-depth interviews about the things that improved their mood when they felt bad amid the pandemic in order to understand the coping strategies they used for pandemic-specific problems. The answers include social interaction (17.1 percent), taking measures against the pandemic (14.2 percent), physical activities (11.4 percent), working (8.5 percent), spirituality (20 percent), crying/opening up (5.7 percent), and smoking (2.8 percent). 5.7 percent of the agricultural workers stated that they ignored the problems as a coping mechanism, while 17.1 percent stated that nothing helped them when they felt bad.

The seasonal migrant agricultural workers were asked whom they usually turn to when they need help to cope with their problems in the in-depth interviews. The answers include 'spirituality' (6 people), 'family' (11 people), 'relatives' (4 people), 'agricultural overseer/ agricultural intermediary/colleagues' (10 people), 'friends/social circle' (1 person), and 'public institutions' (1 person). Only one of the agricultural workers answered, 'I do not ask for help'. 'Spirituality', mentioned as a coping strategy, refers to religion, spirituality, taking refuge in God, and leaving it to God. For example, someone stated, *'God gives me patience, I pray'*.

In the in-depth interviews where the agricultural workers were asked about their coping strategies in general; the majority of the workers answered *'talking/sharing with others'* (10 people), while other common answers include *'finding strength in children/family/people*

around’ (8 people), ‘patience/submission/acceptance’ (6 people), and ‘spirituality’ (6 people). A person who stated that they find strength in their family said, ‘I love my spouse very much, I put up with everything for them. I do not want them to be harmed. I cope with the problems by keeping my family together’. The agricultural workers whose answer was spirituality stated that they pray to God when they encounter problems and do not rebel against God even if the problems remain because they believe that it is God’s will. Some of the agricultural workers stated that they burst with anger while trying to cope with a problem, whereas some of them stated that they have a constructive attitude as in the following statement: ‘It depends on the problem. If it is financial, then I borrow. I mean I usually behave constructively; I try not to dwell on problems’ (Chart 24).

**Chart 24.** Strategies to cope with problems (person)



According to the results of the in-depth interviews, there is no change in the seasonal migrant agricultural workers’ coping behaviors and habits, comparing before and after the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic. However, it should be said that a relatively hopeless attitude was observed while speaking about the Coronavirus pandemic in terms of coping strategies. The seasonal migrant agricultural workers’ need for professional help for their mental health during the Coronavirus pandemic was investigated. 25.1 percent of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers stated that they need to see a mental health professional at this time, 68 percent stated that they do not need to see a mental health professional, and 6.8 percent stated that they do not have an opinion on the matter. The agricultural workers who answered ‘no’ to this question frequently stated ‘there is no solution’ in the in-depth interviews. Another commonly stated reason was the fear of ‘stigma’. The agricultural workers who answered ‘yes’ to the question stated that it is ‘impossible’ to access the services even though they need. Those who stated that it is ‘impossible’ to access the services said that the reason is they do not have the financial resources and their issues cannot be solved.

### **2.6.5. The Coronavirus pandemic and access to mental healthcare**

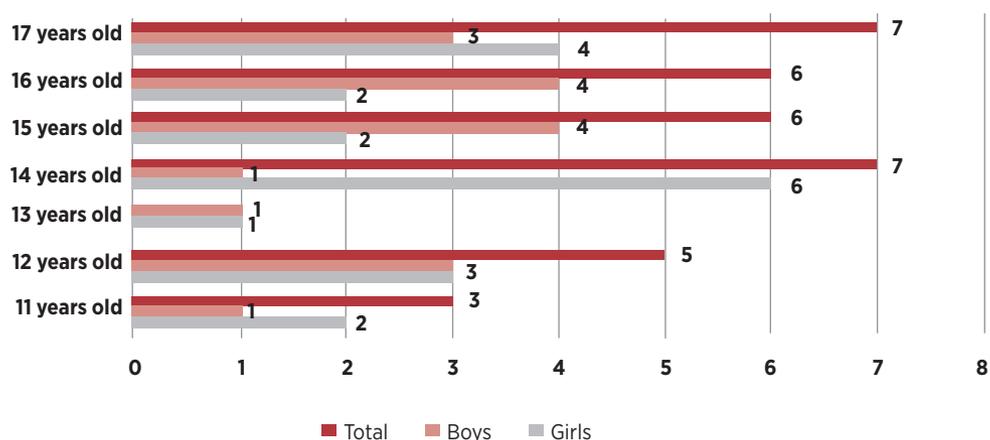
Access of seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their families to mental healthcare services during the Coronavirus pandemic was investigated. 3.7 percent of the agricultural workers (8 people) stated that they saw a healthcare professional at the time, while 96.3 percent (211 people) stated that they did not see a healthcare professional. In the in-depth interviews, all respondents answered 'no' to the question of whether they saw a healthcare professional during the Coronavirus pandemic. Answering 'no' to the question in the in-depth interviews, a Syrian agricultural worker said '*Am I crazy?*', which is an example of the fear of stigma observed during the interviews.

Information and thoughts of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their families about accessing mental healthcare services were investigated. 26 percent of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers (57 people) stated that they know from where/whom they can receive support, whereas 74 percent (162 people) stated that they do not know from where/whom they can receive support. 18.7 percent of the agricultural workers (41 people) stated that they would be able to access healthcare services easily, 64.8 percent (142 people) stated that they would not be able to access healthcare services easily, and 16.4 percent (36 people) stated that they do not have an opinion on the matter. When asked where they would seek help in order to use healthcare services in the in-depth interviews, 21 people directly answered 'I do not know', 11 people answered 'yes', and 3 people stated they would seek advice from the agricultural intermediaries or turn to spirituality or tobacco smoking habits.

### **2.6.6. Living conditions of children in seasonal migrant agricultural worker households**

Seasonal migration of agricultural workers affects the children who migrate with their families in terms of their physical, cognitive and emotional development. In addition to these, the children can be forced to work in agricultural jobs with their families and cut off from school due to the migration or suffer injuries resulting from accidents. This situation causes them to face many challenges such as poor living conditions, undernourishment, and safety issues. This section examines the change in living conditions and the access to social services for children in seasonal migrant agricultural worker households during the Coronavirus pandemic, who had already been dealing with the risks and problems mentioned above. To this end, a total of 35 children (16 boys and 19 girls) aged 11 to 17 were interviewed (Chart 25). The average age of the interviewed girls is 14.3, while that of the boys is 16.

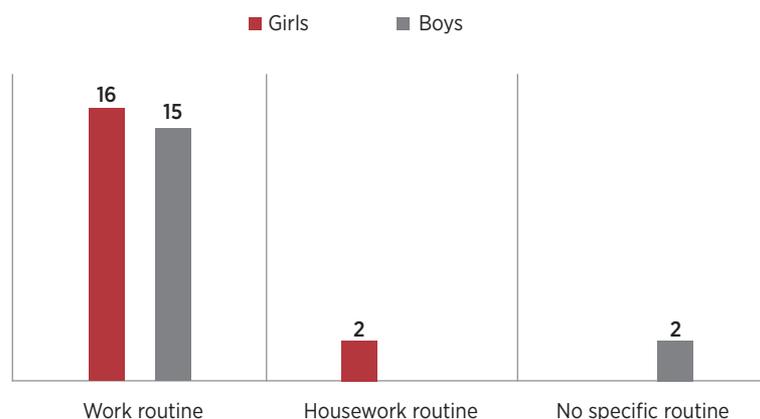
**Chart 25.** Distribution of the interviewed children aged 11-17 by age and gender (person)



### *Children's daily routines*

Daily routines of the children were investigated, and they were asked about how they usually spend their day as in the interviews with the seasonal migrant agricultural workers. In this respect, they frequently mentioned housework and field/garden/livestock work routines. While talking about their typical day, they stated that they started to wake up very early to go to work after schools closed. For their time after work, girls stated that they help with housework and boys stated that they engage in activities such as playing games and spending time on the phone. 33 out of the 35 children stated that they regularly work in agricultural jobs, while the other two stated that they occasionally work in agricultural jobs. 26 of these children talked about having a regular work routine, 7 of them about going to fields and gardens when there are jobs, and 2 of them only about having a housework routine. Some of the statements made by the children while talking about their agricultural work routine were: *'It is good when there is no job'*, *'we get tired'*, and *'we don't have a good time'* (Chart 26). It was observed that the statements about daily routines mainly focus on working. Besides, while some children have been working in livestock breeding, field and garden jobs from young ages, others are responsible for taking care of their siblings while other members of the family work.

**Chart 26.** Distribution of daily routine by gender (person)



### *Children's thoughts on their living areas*

When the interviewed children were asked whether they are happy with the place they live in and what they are not happy about, 8 children stated that they are happy because of their social relationships. 27 children stated that they are unhappy about their living conditions. The majority of the children who stated that they are unhappy with the place said that they are unhappy with the tent life and its physical conditions, the schools being closed, and going to work; while some stated that everything is very difficult and that they experience emotional challenges. Two Syrian children stated that life here is not good for them and that they want to return to Syria: *'I would like to go back to Syria. We have a lot of expenses; I'd rather stay home. We don't have a home anyway.'*

### *Children's needs*

The most common needs of the children include school and educational needs (8 people), financial needs (7 people), and change in working conditions (4 people). Besides, 2 children stated that they need electronic devices such as smartphones, while 13 children stated that nobody can help them and/or they do not need help. One child stated that they need help to solve the problems in their personal life. A child who stated that they do not need anyone said, *'I do not need anyone. I need to work because our household expenses increased'*.

As part of the study, 'leisure time' of children was investigated, which is an important part of their intellectual and mental development. To this end, the children were asked about the activities they engage in when they return to the tent settlement from the field/garden. After going through their personal care after returning from the field/garden such as showering and eating, they stated that they help with housework (12 children), rest (12 children), play games on a smartphone (5 children), spend time with their friends or out-

side the tent (7 children). All the children who stated that they help with housework after farm work are girls. Besides, a total of 6 children with 2 of them being Syrian boys stated that they do not have any friends, 2 children stated that they do not have any friends but they spend time with their siblings/relatives, and 27 children stated that they have friends. Among the 27 children who stated that they have friends, 4 of them stated that they have friends only in the field, one of them stated that they have friends but cannot see them now because of the migration, one of them stated that they have friends but are unable to spend much time with them, and the remaining 21 stated that they are able to spend time, talk and play with their friends, though not always.

All of the interviewed children stated that they work in gardens or fields with their family. One of the children stated that they used to work last year but now they only do housework, while another child stated that they just started to work 3 days ago. When asked about what age they started working to understand the beginning of their housework and farm work routines, it was observed that the age they started working ranges between 10 and 13 years. Only 3 out of the 35 children stated that they started working at the ages of 15-16. 22 children stated that they used to work before the Coronavirus pandemic as well, while 7 children stated that they started working amid the pandemic.

When the children were asked to describe their working days in general, they mostly talked about the challenges of work environment and conditions, undernourishment, the exhaustion caused by intense work pressure, and staying out of school. This finding is consistent with the risk factors of child labour defined in the Child Labour and Child Protection Standards in Emergencies Handbook<sup>89</sup>, including income poverty and the lack of access to basic services, education, food security, or humane work.

### *Challenges amid the Coronavirus pandemic*

The children were asked about what they needed the most during the Coronavirus pandemic. The answers include a clean environment and cleaning products, social distance in the tent or field, basic needs such as water and food, having rest and leisure time, health-care, money, returning to pre-pandemic living conditions, the internet, and reopening of schools. A child stated in an interview, *'nothing is needed in the tent, but the trash outside the tent should be removed'*, which provides important information about the living environment of the seasonal migrant agricultural worker households.

The children were asked about the things that changed during the Coronavirus pandemic. 12 children stated that nothing changed, 4 emphasized that they started working, 9 talked about the effects of the schools closing, 6 stated that their social interaction was reduced,

---

<sup>89</sup> Child Protection Working Group (2017). Inter-Agency Toolkit: Supporting the protection needs of child labourers in emergencies, <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/inter-agency-toolkit-supporting-protection-needs-child-labourers-emergencies>

3 stated that their fears intensified, and 5 stated that they faced financial challenges due to employment uncertainty and increased expenses.

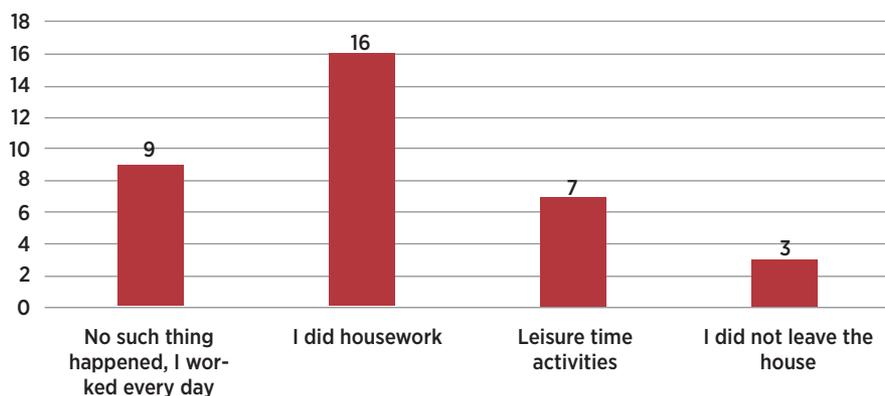
*'Finances, money is a big challenge. We work and spend what we earned. There is nothing else.'*

*'The job changed, expenses increased, everything got more expensive, jobs decreased.'*

26 children stated that they could not work some days, while 9 stated that they worked every day amid the Coronavirus pandemic. The majority of children who stated that they did not work some days stated that there were not many interruptions, while some of them emphasized that there were interruptions due to decreased jobs and restrictions imposed due to the pandemic.

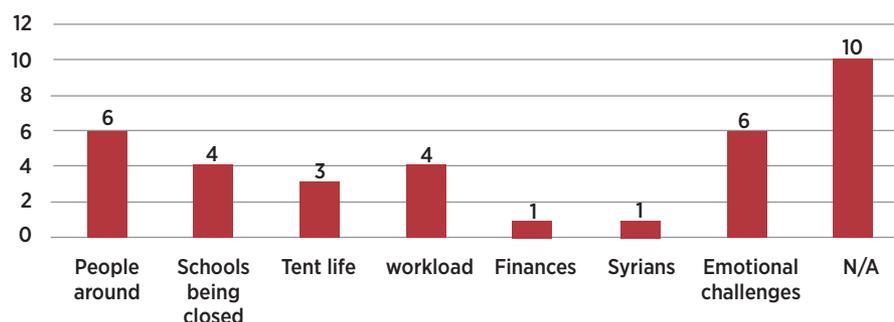
The children were asked about what they did on the days when they did not work during the pandemic. 9 children stated that they worked every day, 16 stated that they performed housework, 7 stated that they engaged in leisure time activities such as going out, fishing, cycling, and playing games, and 3 stated that they never left home (Chart 27). All the children who answered 'housework' to the question are girls (19 people).

**Chart 27.** Things children did when they did not work (person)



The children were asked about the things that bothered them during the Coronavirus pandemic in order to understand the stress factors. 6 children answered, 'people around', 4 answered 'schools being closed', 3 answered 'the tent life itself', 4 answered 'workload and intensity', 1 answered 'financial problems', 1 answered 'Syrian refugees', 6 answered 'emotional challenges', and 10 answered 'nothing' (Chart 28). The emotional challenges stated include feelings of uncertainty about the future, fear of losing a closed one, and hopelessness.

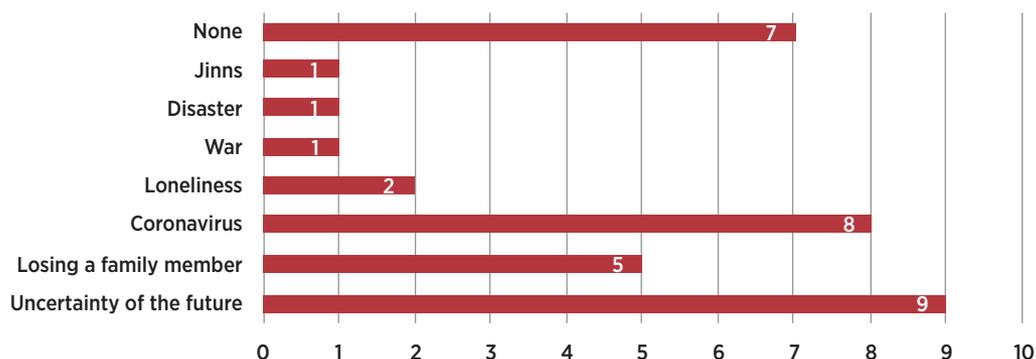
**Chart 28.** Factors bothering the children (person)



### Children's fears

The children were asked about the things they fear at this time. 9 children answered, 'the future and the possibility that the life may continue this way', 5 answered 'losing a family member', 8 answered 'getting infected', 2 answered 'being left alone', 1 answered 'war', 1 answered 'disaster' (flood), 1 answered 'jinn's', and 7 answered 'nothing' (Chart 29). The child who stated that they fear war is Syrian. A child who stated that they fear the future and the possibility that life may continue this way said, 'I am afraid that I might have to leave school because of the virus'.

**Chart 29.** Children's fears (person)



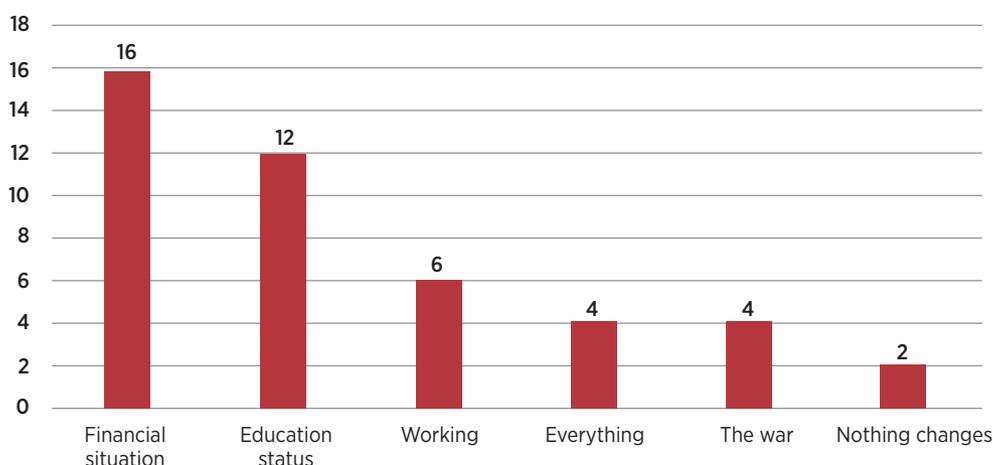
### Children's perspective on living conditions

The children were asked about what changes they wish to occur in their lives to understand their general perspective on their living conditions. Notably the most frequently given answer was 'a change in their financial situation'. Besides, 12 children stated that they could go to school, 6 stated that they wish their working conditions were different, 4 stated that they wish everything was different (Chart 30). 4 Syrian children stated that

they want the war to be over so that they can return to Syria, while 2 children gave non-committal answers saying that nothing would change anyway. The children who did not want to talk about the changes they wish to occur because they believe that nothing will change made statements such as *'There is nothing to do, nothing to change, it will go like this'*, which is an indication of their hopelessness in general. The children mostly stated that they would like to change their current way of life. There are no children who answered *'I wouldn't change a thing'*. The following statement made by a child describes the current situation in general:

*'I wish I could go to school and not be here. My brothers have a hard job, I wish they had better jobs, I wish my sister had a house, I wish my mom's feet got better, I wish my dad's lower back got better. All the children here always work.'*

**Chart 30.** Situations children wish to change (person)



### *Children's relationships with their friends*

The children were asked whether their relationships with their friends changed after the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic. 21 children stated that their relationships changed, while 14 stated that their relationships did not change. The 21 children who stated that it changed said that they could meet with their friends less often due to the pandemic and that they do not see each other as they used to since the schools are closed. 6 out of 14 children who answered no to the question stated that no change happened because they did not have a social circle before either, while 8 of them stated that no change happened because they did not follow the pandemic measures.

Fatma is an 11-year-old girl who moved to Adana to work with her family. She started to work in a melon field last summer. She stated that she started to do housework and take care of her siblings while her older siblings work with the beginning of the pandemic this year. When asked about her daily routine, she answered:

*'When I wake up, I pack away the beds, sweep in front of the tent, wash the dishes, and I tidy up if my mom goes to work. I go to sleep at 10-11 pm.'*

She stated that she did not go to the field amid the pandemic because the agricultural intermediary did not let her work due to her age. When asked about what changed in her life during the pandemic, she answered:

*'I am so scared. It is full of trash around; we cannot survive if we get the disease.'*

For the question about her friends, she said:

*'I have friends, we play ball games and tag. We have fights but they are not real fights.'*

Fatma stated that she keeps distance from and avoids close contact with her friends while playing because of her family's warnings. To the question of what she would like to change in her life, she answered

*'I wish I could go to school and not be here. My brothers have a hard job, I wish they had better jobs, I wish my sister had a house, I wish my mom's feet got better, I wish my dad's lower back got better. All the children here always work, but other children enjoy themselves.'*

While talking about her fears, she said:

*'I am so scared of snakes, I am scared of dogs, and I am scared of being unable to go to school.'*

About distance education, Fatma stated:

*'They said follow the lessons on EBA, but we didn't know how. I could not find a way to do so. We do not have school this year. I love the school and the classes.'*

To the question of what she needs to continue school, she answered:

*'I would be able to watch EBA if I were in Urfa because I do not do any work there, I just sit. If the school opens, I will go but I don't know how I can continue with distance learning. I would try if I had a computer; I couldn't do it on the phone. I want to finish school. I want to become a teacher or a translator. Then I could have a good life. My grandma is alone, I would help her. I would go see my relatives all the time.'*

### *Pre-pandemic and pandemic periods through children's eyes*

The children were asked whether they feel safe while working in the field/garden, comparing the pre-pandemic period and the present. 22 children stated that they do not feel safe, 8 stated that they feel safe, and 5 stated that they do not see any difference between then and now. The children who do not feel safe during this time mostly emphasized the lack of hygiene and distancing rules at the workplace, while those who answered yes stated that they do not think about the Coronavirus pandemic. A child expressed their worries about the working conditions for both before and during the pandemic period with the following statement: *'I am scared of getting sick. There are agricultural pesticides in the irrigation areas. We are scared that the pesticides will poison us.'*

The children's sources of news about the Coronavirus pandemic were investigated. 24 children answered 'television', 11 children 'social media and the internet', 2 children 'my family', 4 children 'my social circle', and 4 children stated that they do not follow the news. The Syrian children who stated that they follow the news through their social circle actually referred to the mosque-goers.

### *Children's general health and the mental health of people around them*

When asked about their general health status amid the pandemic, 19 children stated that they are healthy, 5 stated that they do not know, and 11 stated that they are not healthy. According to the statements of these 11 children, 5 have physical pain, 1 has stomach problems, and the remaining 5 do not feel psychologically healthy and experience mental challenges.

The children were asked about their thoughts on the mental health of people around them during the pandemic period. 19 children stated that people became more tense and angry and that they do not feel fine, 8 stated that people are fine, 3 stated that they do not have an opinion on the matter, 2 stated that there is no difference between then and now, and 3 stated that people are in denial of the virus, do not take any measures and do not care.

*'People are in a strange psychological state, one moment they are sane and the next they are insane, they are unstable.'*

The children were asked about whom they turn to when they need help in order to understand their coping mechanisms. 19 children answered 'family', 7 answered 'friends', 2 answered 'spirituality', and 3 answered 'agricultural intermediaries'. 6 children stated that they do not ask help from anyone. Some of the children gave answers that can fall under multiple themes. Therefore, it can be said that children ask help from their families on personal matters and from agricultural intermediaries on financial matters.

The children were asked about the things that improved their mood when they felt bad amid the pandemic. 14 children answered, 'solitude and silence', 9 answered 'sharing', 7 answered 'getting distracted with other activities', 2 answered 'playing games', 2 answered 'crying', 1 answered 'working', and 1 answered 'nothing'. In addition, a Syrian child stated that the war changed their whole life and interrupted their education, and that the thing that could make them feel better is to be able to continue their education in their native language in Türkiye. The most common coping strategy among the children is '*staying in silence*'.

Ayşe, a 15-year-old Syrian girl, fled the war and settled in Türkiye with her family when she was 10. She stated that she left school after coming to Türkiye and started to work in fields at the age of 12. She described her job, saying, 'I pick eggplants. I work from morning till evening. I do not look around. I just do my job and return to the tent.' Then she added, 'I wake up at 4am every morning and go to work and come back to the tent at 4-5pm. I work around 10-12 hours a day. Orange picking is the most challenging one for me, but I am used to it now'. She stated that she earns ₺65 a day, which is taken by her family. As for the question about the changes brought by the Coronavirus pandemic, she answered 'The job changed, expenses increased, everything got more expensive, and jobs decreased'. She stated that she helps with housework and looks after her younger siblings after returning to the tent, and that it poses a problem when the pandemic prevents her from going to work. To the question of what would happen if she did not work, she answered 'I wouldn't get the money, it would be difficult'. When asked about the changes she would like to happen in her life, work, and family, she answered: 'I would like to go back to Syria. We have a lot of expenses; I'd rather stay home. We don't have a home anyway.' She emphasized that she does not feel safe amid the pandemic and that she is scared of losing her job. While talking about her fears in detail, she said, 'I fear for my family, I fear that I might not be able to return to my country'

When the children were asked whether they have received any mental healthcare services, only one of them stated that that received help for '*sibling jealousy*'. While the remaining 34 stated that they did not receive any help, some of their answers included statements such as '*I am not crazy*', which indicates a fear of stigma.

## **2.7. Child Labour in Agricultural Production and Effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Child Labour**

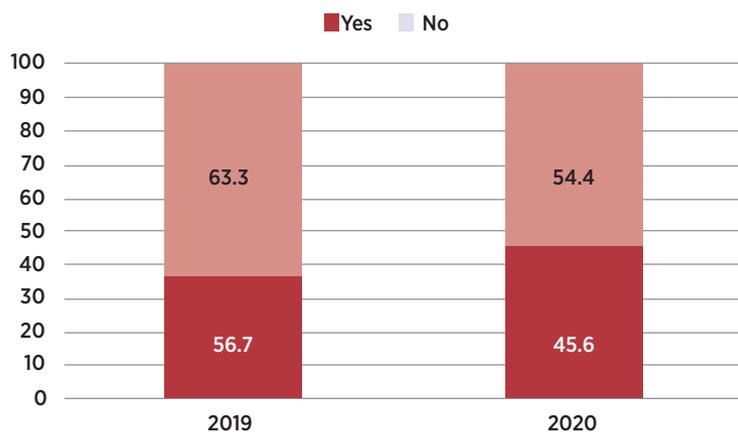
As the income of seasonal migrant agricultural workers declines, almost all of them have more debts to shoulder, and most of them are indebted to their relatives, agricultural intermediaries, markets, and banks on grounds of marriage, infirmity, food/hygiene shopping, and loan etc. In addition to the declining level of income caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the suspension of face-to-face education starting from March 2020, and the limited access of children in households to remote learning have forced parents to resort

to child labour. 29.8 percent of the children who attended a school before the advent of the pandemic could not attend one because they had to work on grounds of challenges that the pandemic has brought about. The following parts of the report offer an analysis over the employment status of children aged 5 to 17 in agriculture, causes that force them to work, and the changes during the coronavirus pandemic.

**2.7.1. Employment status of children aged 5 to 17 and changes during the coronavirus pandemic**

The employment status of children in 2020 was reviewed in comparison to the year 2019 as part of the interviews with the household members. In 2019, 36.7 percent of all children aged 5 to 17 (272 children) was employed for seasonal agricultural labour while the rate rose to 45.6 percent (338 children) in September 2020 when the survey was conducted. (Chart 31).

**Chart 31.** Children employed for agricultural production in 2019 and 2020 (percentage)



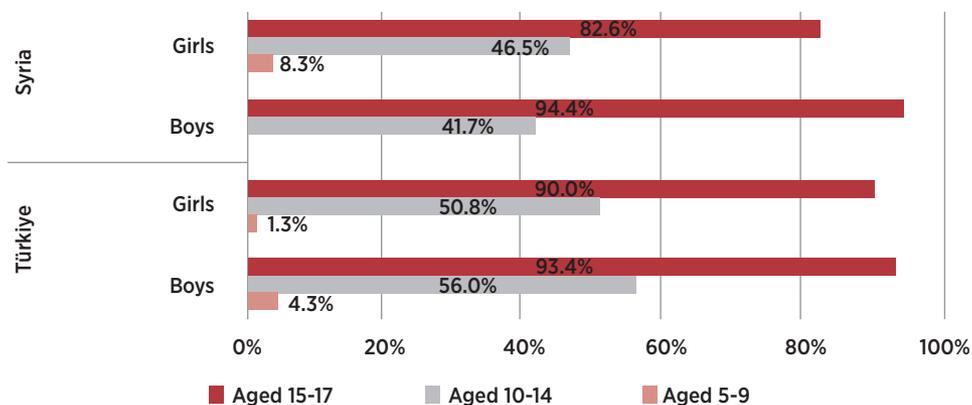
32.4% of the households interviewed (71 households) reported that their children have started working upon the advent of the coronavirus pandemic. The introduction of remote learning, and lack of adequate infrastructure for remote learning in tent settlements, has caused children being idle. As children have nothing else to do and they have nobody to take care of them, children who continue their education were brought also to the fields and orchards to work. The interviews with the organizations and key information also corroborate the field results. For instance, an NGO representative interviewed shared some observations as follows:

*“Initially, there was a rumor that children are not infected by the virus. The schools were already closed. They go: Why would they stay idly at home or fight each other while they can work in a field? [The coronavirus pandemic] has caused a rise in child labour”.*

Another public official interviewed in Mersin reported that the Syrian families run into debt, marry off their children at a young age, and increasingly have them work, and even have them employed in the service industry in major cities such as Istanbul and Ankara relying on their social networks consisting of Syrian households when they have no access to assistance and support.

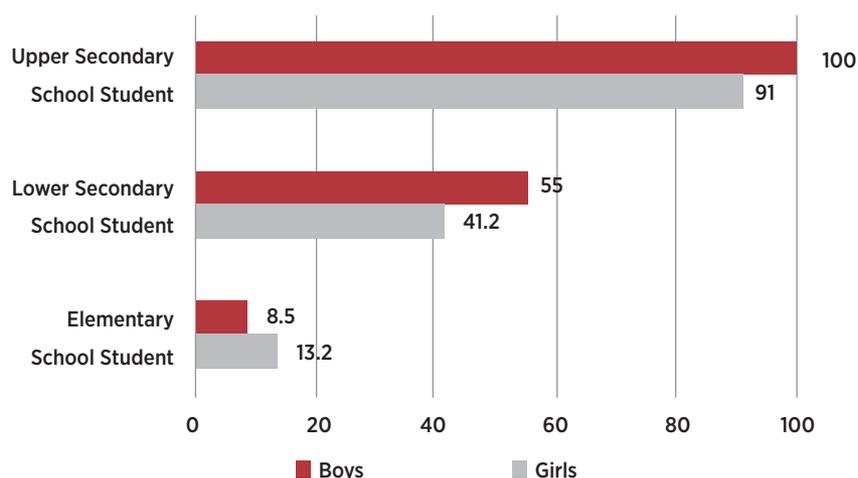
Children from 15 to 17 age make up the largest population of children employed in agricultural production (Chart 32). Nearly 90% of them serve as seasonal migrant agricultural workers in Turkish and Syrian households. At this point, there is no difference between girls and boys. Given the fact that nearly half of the children aged 15 to 17 do not attend a school; it is safe to say that employment is the sole option for them. With this being the case, children aged 15 to 17 are viewed as employable, and parents give up on the education of their children because of their lack of hope about their children having a better job through education.

**Chart 32.** Children aged 5 to 17 employed for agricultural production by age, gender, and nationality



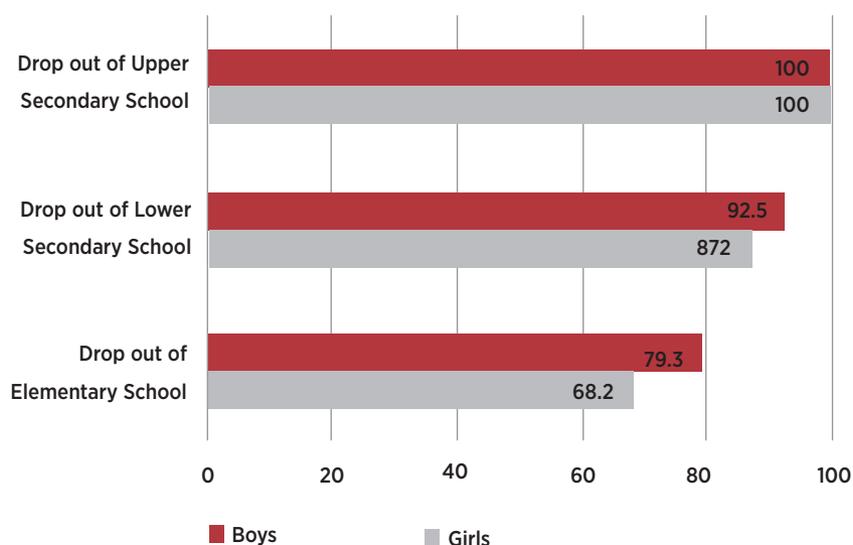
Of the children aged 5 to 17, 35.2% of them who attend a school also serve as a seasonal migrant agricultural worker. While the employment rate is low among elementary school students, the dropout and employment rates tend to rise as their level of education goes higher (Chart 33)

**Chart 33.** Employment status of children who currently attend a school (percentage)



Of children who attend a school, elementary school students are the one who were involved in the survey the least (Chart 34). However, the girls in the households interviewed work slightly more than the boys among the elementary school students (13.2 % and 8.5% respectively). The high rate of employment among secondary education school students tends to be a norm among upper secondary school students. Regardless of attending a school, they work as seasonal migrant agricultural workers in fields and orchards as they get older. Age is the main decisive factor for participation in the labour force. Of the children aged 5 to 17, 35.2% of them who attend a school also serve as a seasonal migrant agricultural worker.

**Chart 34.** Employment status of children who drop out of school (percentage)

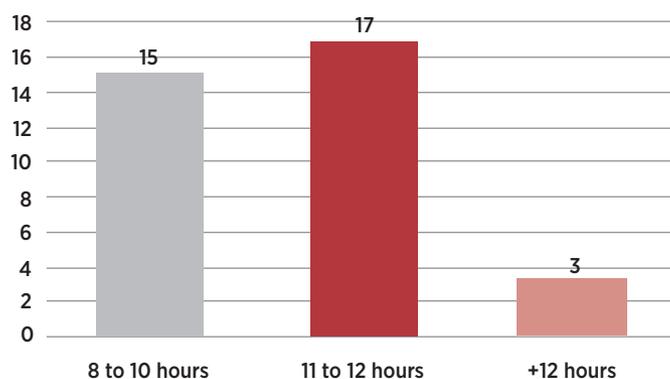


To reversely check the employment status of their children, the households interviewed were asked why their children aged 5 to 17 do not work if that is the case. Some of the households interviewed reported that their children under the age of 12 or 13 do not work on grounds of *being too weak* or *being not allowed to work by an agricultural intermediary and/or a field/orchard owner*. 24 out of 34 households responding to the survey (71%) reported that children are not allowed to work while five households said the employment of children would have a negative impact on their health, and three households reported that they stay in their tents to take care of their younger siblings. Only one household reported that their daughter performs extremely well in school and thus she is not allowed to work.

In addition to seasonal migration, employment of children in seasonal agricultural work for a fee leads to major risks for their education, development, and health. The study is also intended to put forth the working conditions of children serving as seasonal agricultural workers and their views about labour.

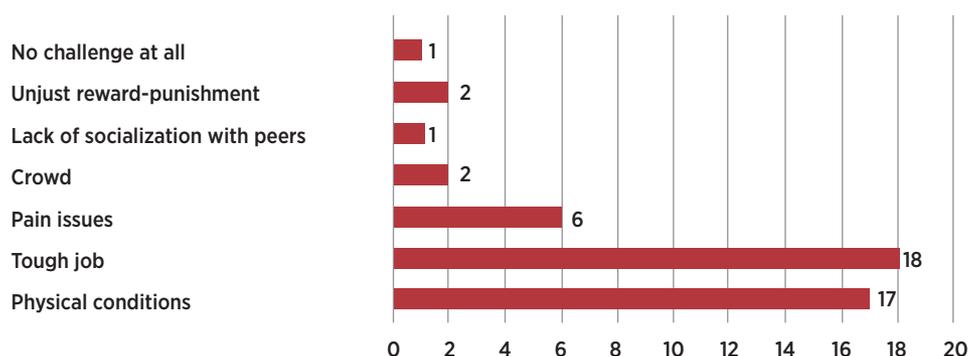
The children interviewed as part of the study were initially asked about their daily working hours. The working hours of children serving as seasonal agricultural workers range from 8 to 14 hours (Chart 35).

**Chart 35.** Daily working hours for children in seasonal agricultural works (person)



The study is also intended to put forth the challenges facing the children in their work environment (Chart 36). The main challenges faced by children are working under the scorching sun and the jobs they have to do. The epidemiological studies suggest that sunlight is the top environmental factor for cutaneous melanoma, other types of skin cancer and some skin disorders. 17 children interviewed mentioned hot weather as a challenge while 18 children reported that working in a field is a job too difficult for them to handle. The same children reported that they also suffer from pain, have no communication with their peers, have to get up early, and face punishment as a group when someone else fails to deliver a batch on time. Only one child reported no challenge while another child said that life in general is challenging. One of the children interviewed said: *“Orange harvest is very challenging from time to time. Others are challenging, too. When I first started working, it was more challenging. Now I am used to it.”* This is important in terms of offering an insight into what children experience.

**Chart 36.** Main challenges facing child workers (person)



Two of the children interviewed reported that they initially struggled at work, and now they are used to the working conditions while 16 children referred to their work routines with the following description: *“We get up at 4 in the morning, go to work, and come back home, and help others with domestic chores.”* Two out of four children who reported that the survey has been good for them are Syrian boys. One of the children who reported that it has felt good said: *“There is nothing to do here and we are getting bored.”*

When asked about whether they can take a break from work to find out if they have enough time to rest and have their meals in the workplace, 17 children said they take a couple of short breaks a day and a long one for lunch while 8 children reported that they take a ten-minute break for a couple of times a day, and 4 children said they take a break for lunch only while 1 child (employed for animal husbandry) said he/she takes a break for lunch for a couple of hours.

When asked about how they have their lunch while they work, most of the children said they make their lunch at home and have it in the land/orchard, and do so all together while some children reported that they have whatever their agricultural intermediaries offers, and they also make lunch at home from time to time or have lunch provided by their agricultural intermediaries or overseer.

The survey also analyzed child labour and financial return for labour. When asked about their daily fee, most of the children interviewed reported that they make TRY 70 to 80 a day while three children reportedly makes less than TRY 70 and five children make more than TRY 80, and five children do not know what they make a day.

When asked about if they are satisfied with where they live and what they are not satisfied with, eight children reported that they are satisfied with their relations with their social circle while 27 children reported dissatisfaction. The children dissatisfied with where they live reported that they are dissatisfied with the life in tents and physical conditions, closure of schools, and going to work while some children reported emotional challenges and said

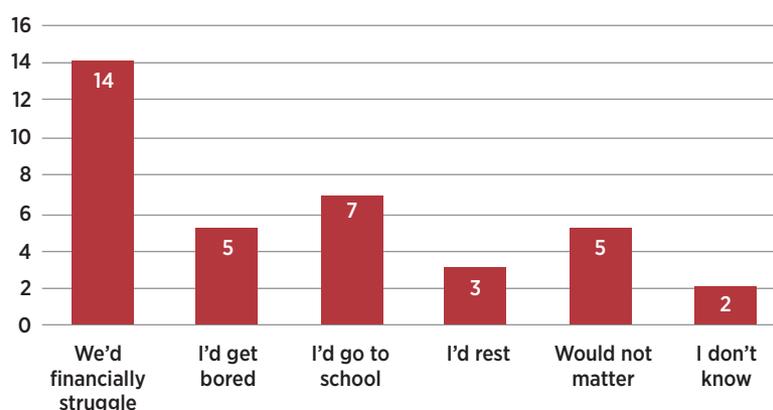
everything is too difficult. Two Syrian children said: *“I’d like to return to Syria. Expenses are too much. I’d like to live in a house. We don’t even have a house.”* stating that there is no good life for them here and they would like to return to Syria.

Among the things that children typically need are school and educational needs (8 persons), financial needs (7 persons), and changes in their working conditions (4 persons). In addition, some children need electronic devices such as smartphones (2 children), and some others said nobody else can help them and/or they do not need any help (13 children). One of the children reported a need for help to overcome the challenges concerning private life while another child reported no need for help from others: *“I do not need help from anybody. I need to work as my family’s expenses have increased.”*

When asked if they feel safe or not in the workplace, 13 children said yes while 17 of them said no, and five children reportedly feel safe in certain cases. The children who said yes reported that they feel safe as they are acquainted with others in the workplace while the children who said sometimes reported that they feel safe when their parents/friends/familiar faces are around. The challenging working conditions of those who say no to this question highlight the fact that they do not feel safe about not being infected while some of the girls feel uncomfortable because of the risk of harassment while working in the agricultural lands/orchards.

When asked about what would happen if they did not work, some children (14 children) said they would financially struggle and not working is not an option as they have to do it to survive, and some reported that they would be extremely bored since there is nothing else to do (5 children) while 7 children said they could go to school, and 3 children said they could get rest, and 5 children reported it would not make much difference while 2 children said they would not know what to do (Chart 37). One of the children who started working after the advent of the pandemic said: *“I am not pleased with going to work when the weather is too hot. Back in the village, my father was the only one working. Here, more people work and make money. So, I am happy.”* This is a testament to the fact that both adults and children share financial concerns even though they are not pleased with their working conditions.

**Chart 37.** Views about what would happen if children do not work (person)



### 2.7.2. Causes behind the employment of children and their future expectations

The causes that force children to work as seasonal migrant agricultural workers were analyzed in line with the data collected from the survey results and the in-depth interviews. The primary and secondary causes behind the employment of children are *contribution to family budget* and *helping pay debts of parents* (Table 24).

**Table 24.** Causes behind the employment of children

Causes behind the employment of children	Frequency	Percent
Contribution to family budget	120	55.8
Helping pay debts of parents	54	25
Covering school expenses	11	5.1
Non-attendance	9	4.2
Free time in summer breaks	8	3.7
Being accompanied while working	8	3.7
Their own willingness to work	5	2.3
Total	215	100

Contribution to the family budget is 99.2 percent among boys (120 households), 96.4 percent among girls (107 households) while helping pay debts of parents is as common as 44.6 percent (54 households) among boys and 45 percent (50 households) among girls. 84 of all answers in total point to the need of children to work for money make up. As emphasized in the part where the results of the survey on access to education are presented,

the fact that both girls and boys work because of low family income and therefore do not pursue education (65 percent) is in line with the aforementioned result.

The results of the interviews with the household representatives and the in-depth interviews also show that the most important factor that causes the children of the seasonal migrant agricultural households to drop out of school and work, is *the lack of financial means*. While the lack of financial means does not leave any other choice but to work to contribute to the family budget, it causes children who are willing to pursue education to work in the short term as their parents cannot afford to cover their educational expenses.

In addition, the social exclusion of children from Turkish and especially Syrian households at school is striking, causing their for non-attendance in the short term and dropping out of school in the medium term. Additionally, safety problems related to the living places cause them to take their children with them to lands and orchards, and children who spend time with adults as they work, end up working with them over time. The results point to the barriers to the participation of school-age children in education, and the efforts to eliminate those barriers will provide guidance about the prevention of child labour.

The children who could not receive enough support for home courses from their parents as part of the remote learning and could not contact their school and teachers in the meantime will resort to child labour, coupled with the growing poverty during the pandemic, and there will be a bigger risk for child labour to become permanent once their willingness and motivation about education declines.

*“The more I work, the less I want to go to school.”*

In a way to corroborate the aforementioned argument, children in 71 out of 219 households (32.4 percent) had to start working for the first time during the pandemic (Table 25). As it is the case with results from the interviews with the household representatives, one third of the children interviewed in depth reported that they had to start working in seasonal agricultural production for the first time this year. This is a testament to the importance of school attendance in prevention of child labour, and to the fact that children who start working this year will end up dropping out of school in the long run unless support mechanisms are developed to boost their school attendance.

**Table 25.** State of children starting to work during the pandemic

State of children starting to work during the pandemic (percent)	Frequency	Percent
Yes	71	32.4
No	148	67.6
Total	219	100

The interviews with the teachers who work in Adana and Mersin and have children in their class working as seasonal migrant workers corroborate the aforementioned results. All of the teachers interviewed reported that they have almost no contact with the children of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers in their class, and nearly 50 percent of the students enrolled before the pandemic began to be absent from the school between late February 2020 and early March 2020, and there is only one student at most who follows the live courses after the advent of the pandemic, and others are no longer part of the WhatsApp groups, being out of touch.

The seasonal migrant agricultural households also have children who do not work, and 61.7 percent of the households reported that *their children aged 5 to 17 are not allowed by their agricultural intermediaries and/or land owners to work as they are minors*. Two variables stand out in cases where children do not work: The first and the most common one is the inefficient work done by minors and the second one is the fact that employers or agricultural intermediaries avoid hiring minors in line with the laws on child labour or they think that it is wrong to hire minors.

The views of a representative interviewed show that child labour can come in various forms and all of them should be addressed as part of vulnerabilities facing the children of seasonal migrant agricultural households:

*“Childcare in addition to child labour and marriage: Every family member goes to work. A seven-year-old child stays at home and takes care of her three-year-old sibling. A child is raised by another child. This may lead to other risks.”*

Based on the two aforementioned figures, one can conclude that the lack of access to education is an inevitable factor for their labour, even though the main reason behind their employment is financial. On the other hand, an insight into why the parents need any income to be generated by their children is relevant to establish responses and potential support. For instance, one of the households reported that their two children work to put together the money needed for the dowry of their older brother to get married. The household member interviewed told the interviewer the following after being asked about it:

*“Children make money out of gleaning and save it<sup>90</sup> to cover their school needs. Harvest of corn for instance. Girls start doing domestic chores when they turn 10. We cannot have her go to school. We had to work when we came to Adana. There is nobody to take care of our children. So, they have to drop out of upper secondary school.”*

---

<sup>90</sup> Gleaning: Gleaning is the harvest of any produce that is not harvested from an already harvested orchard or field. Children reap the unharvested produce in their name to sell it or cover their needs.

As part of the study, the expectations of the parents about their children were also found out and they were asked *if they think their children will serve as a seasonal agricultural worker in the future*. 70.3% of the households (154 households) reported that they think their children will serve as agricultural workers in the future. 17.8 percent of the parents think that their children will not work as a seasonal agricultural worker in the future while 11 percent of them *do not know* if they will or not. The situation is similar among the Syrian households when it comes to the expectations of the children about the future. Almost 70 percent of them think that their children will serve as agricultural workers in the future.

The households were also asked an open-ended question: “What conditions are needed or what does it take for your children not to serve as an agricultural worker in the future?” 189 responses were received. 38 Turkish and 22 Syrian households reported that education is the requisite for their children not to work as a seasonal agricultural worker. On the other hand, 25 Turkish and 2 Syrian households reported that their children may not end up being a seasonal migrant agricultural worker if adequate financial resources are provided while 26 Turkish households said that it would take a regular and non-precarious job for them not to be a seasonal agricultural worker in the future. One of the households said they need to make *at least a minimum wage* and this is relevant in terms of understanding the living conditions of seasonal migrant agricultural workers. Some of the answers point to the aforementioned conditions as a prerequisite to participation of children in education. 24 Turkish and 13 Syrian households reported that their children would not serve as a seasonal migrant agricultural worker if they have *a profession* to practice. One can conclude that there is a correlation among having an income for a household, school attendance of children, and practice of a profession.

The Syrian households reported that their children have fewer opportunities to do another job in Türkiye while nine households said that their children may have another option, if the war in Syria ends and they get back home. Five Turkish and seven Syrian households reported that they have no expectation about the future of their children as they said: *“Nothing will ever change. They have no other choice.”* Three households reported that their children would not have any other choice unless they go out of temporary settlements of tents while four Turkish households said *a good marriage* is the only option for their daughter.

A subject-matter academic interviewed as part of the survey stated that one can draw up a general framework for answers by the seasonal migrant agricultural workers:

*“It is a fact that education, which was already a remote possibility for them, has become even remoter upon the advent of the pandemic. As they work for a very low fee under extremely challenging circumstances, they live in a vicious cycle of poverty. Once child labour is eliminated, it is impossible for them to make ends meet. It is not possible to separate it from their circumstances.”*

Another official interviewed in Adana reported that the problem is how common poverty is, pointing to poverty being a vicious cycle for seasonal migrant agricultural workers:

*“The cycle goes on for a century: It is a form of culture handed down from the father to the son. Their lifestyle hardly breaks the mold. This should be viewed as a state of poverty.”*

*“Child labour is always on the forefront. Since there is no production based on machinery. Half of the production<sup>91</sup> is piecework. The earlier they finish what they do, the more likely they will land another job. I have letters from kids. I ask them: What was the best thing about this year? What made you happy the most? They say: “My father said we would make more money this year. I work so hard so that we can go back home. This system puts more emphasis on child labour in my opinion.”*

An official interviewed reported that education is a keyway out to get out of the vicious cycle, and the idea to have children go to school is not opposed while they struggle to have access to education. On the other hand, a representative from a chamber of agriculture said that the parents are the key factor:

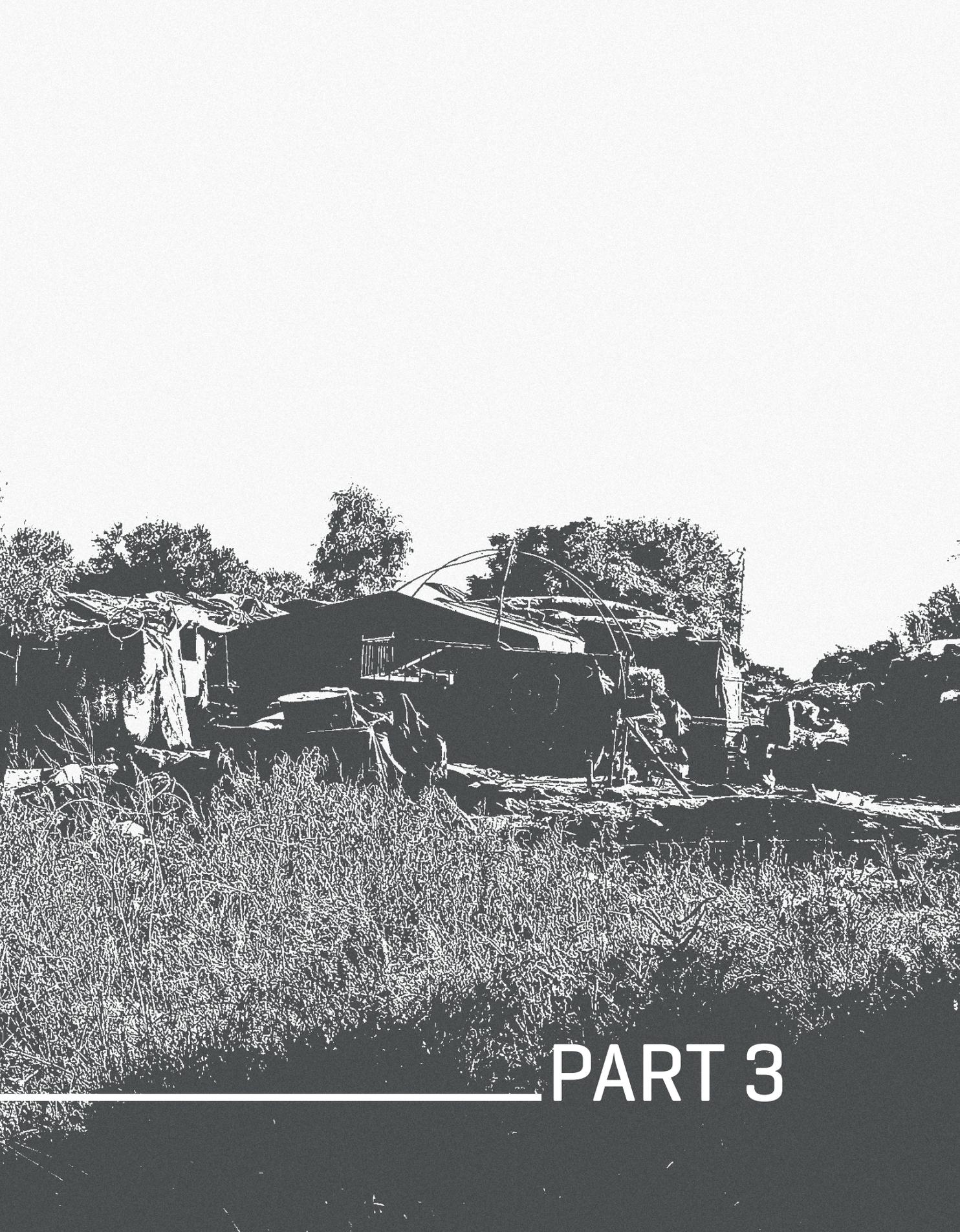
*“The income generated through child labour goes to parents and they do not see any point in having their children go to school. It is important for parents to see a point in it. The law cannot be forcefully implemented. All children old enough to do a job get a full payment. This is a major income for parents.”*

An official interviewed reported that education is a keyway out to get out of the vicious cycle, and the idea to have children go to school is not opposed while they struggle to have access to education. On the other hand, a representative from a chamber of agriculture said that the parents are the key factor:

*“The income generated through child labour goes to parents and they do not see any point in having their children go to school. It is important for parents to see a point in it. The law cannot be forcefully implemented. All children old enough to do a job get a full payment. This is a major income for parents.”*

---

<sup>91</sup> Piecework: Any work for which the fee or the payment is designated in bulk.



---

# PART 3

## EVALUATION

---

### **3.1. General Demographics and Financial Status of Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers During the Coronavirus Pandemic**

The income of seasonal migrant agricultural workers has declined over the course of the coronavirus pandemic, and the families residing in temporary settlements of tents could not seek alternative means of income during this period of time. The expenses, dwindling income, and soaring prices have begun to play a larger role in their budget, and the seasonal migrant agricultural workers have initially resorted to their savings if any and then become indebted to the extent possible. Loans from banks that many seasonal migrant agricultural workers have been granted for the first time in their life provide a new means of financial access compared to the past and subsidize some of their losses. Apart from banks, the seasonal migrant agricultural workers borrow from their friends and relatives in gold, and the TRY equivalence of their debts in hold multiplied compared to the past. The deepening debt burden and the limited availability of financial resources, the financial vulnerability of seasonal migrant agricultural workers inherited have further increased during the coronavirus pandemic, and the results show that their resilience has taken a hit. Their declining income, limitations on access to income-generating jobs, increasing financial debts, and the rising inflation rate have significantly raised household expenses. This has increased the risk for them to cover their increasing expenses through child labour and caused a rise in cases of child labour.

The main consequence of the coronavirus pandemic is the exacerbation of the challenges that the seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children have faced for years, and the exposure of their vulnerability. For example, the lack of access to clean water and toilet equipment in tent settlements, which are known as ‘temporary’ whereas some households reside throughout the year, have become a vital hygiene problem with the coronavirus epidemic. The regular accommodation of seasonal migrant agricultural workers in such settlements leads to particular challenges in access to many services such as education and healthcare in addition to hygiene problems and exacerbates already-existing gender inequalities. The extent of such problems that people are inured to under normal circumstances has been further exposed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Another major problem caused by the coronavirus pandemic is the limited access of households to information and social assistance. The results of the study point to the fact that most of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers have benefited from services/support during the coronavirus pandemic while it is striking that they are for one time only. In addition, the various dynamics of the settlements that come in different sizes lead to peculiar inequalities in terms of access to social services and support. For instance, the residents of the tents situated closer to the roads have easier access to assistance deliv-

ered during the pandemic and thus the households with tents situated on the edges of the settlements struggle to have access to them. On the other hand, the access of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers to various services has been limited as various public agencies and NGOs ceased their field operations for a while because of the lockdown or adopted changes to limit their working hours. As pointed out by the challenges facing Syrian households who do not speak English in access to information, it is safe to argue that differences in ethnicity and language have caused a particular inequality in agricultural production since 2011, independently of the coronavirus pandemic. Various organizations have tried to eliminate the problem through dissemination of contents in Arabic through Syrian volunteers on Facebook and WhatsApp groups.

The challenges to deliver the services that the municipalities have tried to offer during the coronavirus pandemic and the support provided by the international organizations or various NGOs have clearly shown how imperative it is for local coordination mechanisms to work more effectively to eliminate the problems concerning the working and living conditions of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers. On the other hand, the workplaces and living areas of seasonal migrant agricultural workers are not equipped with a social solidarity mechanism other than their own family, and the agricultural intermediaries play a key and unique role in establishing relations with the outside world of these households, which are also socially isolated under the normal circumstances, and therefore they can be vulnerable to potential abuses.

### **3.2. Access to Education and School Attendance for Children from Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Households During the Coronavirus Pandemic**

As established by the study, the barriers to access to education and school attendance are as follows (based on the mobility of seasonal agricultural worker families); academic failure, lack of financial sources, employment for contribution to family budget, transportation and social problems (exclusion, bullying etc.), particularly for girls domestic responsibilities and sibling care. The coronavirus pandemic has further exacerbated the vulnerabilities of children from households of seasonal agricultural workers about the access to education and school attendance, and such barriers bring about the risk for dropping out of school and getting engaged in child labour in the long term.

The results of the study show that many children who attended school before the pandemic are no longer part of the school because of the newly-rising needs and the remote learning mode adopted in Türkiye. The overall dynamics (electricity and internet infrastructure problems etc.) of the temporary settlements of tents accommodated by the households are not adequate to meet the basic requirements of remote learning such as a television, a computer, and a smartphone. It is also evident that the remote learning

experience of the children is mainly limited to the EBA TV and is not adequate for them to learn in a meaningful way. This system is mostly disregarding the needs of vulnerable groups such as seasonal migrant agricultural workers for social and emotional support in times of emergency and crisis, and does not provide them with the needed academic support. In-depth interviews held as part of the study point to the need to support girls and boys in social and emotional aspects. The statements of the children suggest that “success stories” and “role models” that provide peer support for vulnerable groups with similar dynamics are important to boost their motivation for education. Facing challenges in access to education and attendance because of the extreme poverty and seasonal migration dynamics, children tend to be more absent from school as they get older, and they start dropping out starting from the upper secondary school. The role to be played by local actors is important to secure their school attendance and prevent them from dropping out of school. That is why agricultural intermediaries should be empowered and systematic structures to cooperate with teachers in locations close to the settlements of seasonal migrant agricultural workers should be established.

In addition, the parents interviewed as part of the study are uneasy and reluctant to let their children go to school during the course of the coronavirus pandemic. When coupled with the lack of healthcare coverage along with their financial difficulties and accommodation in tents, the risk of infection from their school to their tents becomes quite relevant for families with no alternative other than “*working*” in deprivation and poverty. Since they do not have the financial means to tolerate the loss of labour force that may be caused by a potential case, they do not have any plans to let their children go to school even if schools resume face-to-face education.

Due to the growing poverty as a result of the coronavirus pandemic the household will be in need to add their children into their labour force, and the total exclusion of children with no access to education from schools and the challenges on extended remote learning process are going to be the main problems for the next few years. This is estimated to increase the number of out-of-school children and cases of child labour.

### **3.3. The Effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic on the Mental Health of Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers and Their Children**

The mental health aspect of the study is intended to gain insight into the psycho-social factors, psycho-social effect of the pandemic on agricultural workers, their stress responses to the pandemic, and coping mechanisms for stress, and establish their needs and current state in terms of access to mental health services in particular during the course of the pandemic. The shortage of academic and social studies shows how imperative it is to conduct further research and studies to understand the mental health status of agricultural workers and their children during the course of the pandemic.

The qualitative and quantitative results of the study corroborate the arguments in the literature that the effect of the pandemic on the mental health of seasonal migrant agricultural workers is a consequence of the interaction among the social, financial, and environmental factors. The main factors of stress facing the agricultural workers during the pandemic are financial challenges, changes in working conditions, fear of infection, and challenges of access to services. The children of agricultural workers have concerns about their future, as well as school attendance provided that the pandemic remains in effect.

The factors of stress caused by the pandemic regarding the working conditions of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers are reported to be increased workload, lack of hygiene in the workplace, job uncertainty, and fear of unemployment. Inadequate safety and hygiene measures taken in their workplace, and the challenging physical working conditions, tough jobs, and job uncertainty are also factors of stress for the children of the agricultural workers employed in fields/orchards.

One fourth of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers who responded to the survey reported their need to see a mental health specialist during the coronavirus pandemic, and the fact that only 3.7 percent of them has had access to mental health services during the pandemic can be associated with the fear of stigmatization, the society's perspective on mental problems, lack of knowledge on mental services, and lack of an inclusive law on mental health services. This also applies to the children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers. *Patience* stands out for adult seasonal migrant agricultural workers for coping with problems while *silence* is the dominant act among children. Both adults and children suffer from more emotional/psychological difficulties caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

*Despair* is one of the common feelings among adult and child seasonal migrant agricultural workers. The correlation between the despair of seasonal migrant agricultural workers involved in the study and their view that their children will end up being a seasonal agricultural worker in the future is something to be analyzed in further studies.

It is clearly reiterated that agricultural intermediaries play a crucial role in providing adequate health and safety conditions for agricultural workers. Further studies should be conducted to establish the working conditions of agricultural workers and agricultural intermediaries and psycho-social risks that they face. Existing financial difficulties and new ones caused by the coronavirus pandemic, problems regarding quarantine in tent settlements, the sense that the labour of agricultural workers is not appreciated, and that they do not feel that they are part of the society, and challenges in access to services are some of the major outcomes of this survey.

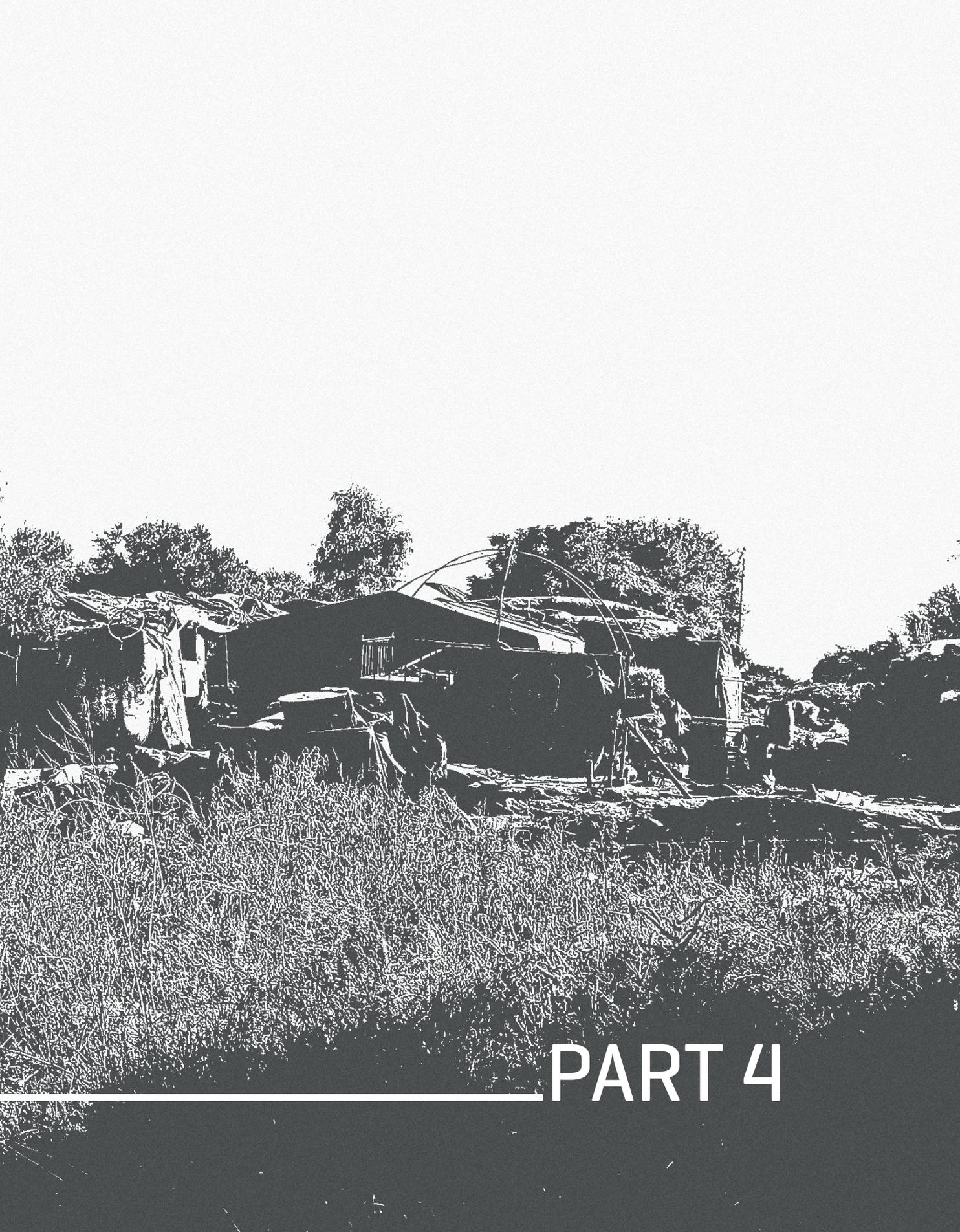
### **3.4. Coronavirus Pandemic and Child Labour in Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Production**

When the financial challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the early closure of schools, introduction of remote learning, and restricted access to social security mechanisms are compared to the results in 2019, one can conclude that children now start working in agricultural lands and orchards at a greater rate and at an earlier age.

Since economic vulnerability and resilience of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers have been eroded by the coronavirus pandemic, it is estimated that the share of child labour in family income will increase as the dependancy on child labour will rise, and the number of children employed for income-generating economic activities will increase. The children will work for longer hours, and the age of employment will decrease the cases of absence from and drop out of school will be multiplied and become permanent unless the households are prevented from ending up poorer. In addition, the results of the study point to gender norms (the view that girls should be not allowed to pursue education, and early marriage etc.) about girls. The gender norms and biases bring about risks for girls to drop out of school and get married at a young age in years to come in addition to the risk for child labour.

The children interviewed displayed maturity beyond their age and level of development. This has to do with working at a young age, domestic responsibilities, and their parents expectations. .

Independently of the coronavirus pandemic, the fact that both children and adults as seasonal migrant agricultural workers have the same working conditions causes their challenges and their coping mechanisms to be similar. “Remaining silent” is not a reaction that is in line with the age and development of any healthy child. This reaction applies to cases where a child faces a trauma. From this point of view, the adverse consequences of early maturity should definitely be analyzed. Just like it is the case for adults, children are also vulnerable to risks in the workplace whereas one should remember that they are affected by risks more as they continue to physically grow, and psychological difficulties tend to have a permanent effect on them. It is important to make sure that psycho-social programmes and field surveys on children are designed based on their needs and provide options for them when necessary.



# PART 4

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

---

This study is intended to gain insight into how the coronavirus pandemic has affected the seasonal migrant agricultural workers, their family members, and children from the financial, social, educational, and psycho-social perspectives with focus on child labour, and offer social policy recommendations, and establish the main areas of response. The recommendations offered to this effect are addressed under seven titles.

### **4.1. Effective Use and Follow-up of Social Protection and Support Mechanisms**

Seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their families have been provided with different support from a variety of organizations and agencies during the coronavirus pandemic in addition to the regular social assistance delivered to them. Others are typically for one time only, with no regular and coordinated effort to deliver them. While it has been established that there is no problem in access to the former type of support, some households are not well-informed about how to seek social assistance. On the other hand, conditional support of education and healthcare for children have become the most common social support mechanism. To this end,

- The databases developed to accurately keep records of seasonal migrant agricultural workers should be efficiently updated and utilized. The databases should enable to provide regular cash assistance through public organizations in an effort to mitigate the effect of the crisis and the pandemic.
- In addition to actions to mitigate poverty through assistance to the parents of children employed in seasonal agricultural production or at risk for child labour, educational costs of children should be taken into consideration, and in-kind and in-cash assistance should be diversified and improved, and an emphasis should be placed on actions against child labour.
- It is important to increase conditional cash mechanisms for education through the use of national and local resources as they are intended to help children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers keep pursuing education. Monitoring and impact analysis mechanisms should be concurrently developed to safeguard the use of conditional assistance for the school attendance of children. As part of monitoring actions, the Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers Monitoring Councils, which were established in provinces and districts under the Circular Letter No. 27531 published in 2010, should play a more influential role. Local capacity building should be prioritized to enable the Council to effectively contact the agricultural intermediaries and teachers in the schools near the tent settlements, and focus on the breakdown of age, gender, and

household poverty as part of monitoring efforts, and make sure that the children are enrolled back in the school wherever they migrate to on a seasonal basis, and that they attend their school.

- The seasonal migrant agricultural labour is a way of work and life that is handed down from one generation to another at a young age where alternative job opportunities and social mobility are restricted along with a hefty debt. How the seasonal migrant agricultural workers, who break the mold achieve vertical mobility within the same generation or from one generation to another should be inquired based on age, gender, and extent of poverty in their household, and the established means of mobility should be promoted for children and young seasonal migrant agricultural workers as a role model.
- Temporary support mechanisms such as conditional and unconditional cash assistance should be diversified and improved as a response to the downward social mobility that results in the employment of children as seasonal migrant agricultural workers have to return to agricultural labour and temporary tent settlements in times of crisis such as the coronavirus pandemic.
- Social assistance is provided by the district governor's offices in the form of food packages or cash assistance on a regular basis for families living in tent settlements, with priority attached to those whose children attend a school. The sustainability of such assistance is crucial. That is why governor's offices, district governor's offices or other local authorities can hire or assign permanent staff to create a budget for them and smoothly run monitoring operations. Additionally, the number of children and the demographic aspects in temporary tent settlements should be monitored regularly, the designated staff can develop and implement projects in order to benefit from METIP support. Agricultural intermediaries should be assisted to play a role in application procedures so that families can be a beneficiary of in-kind assistance provided by the Social Assistance and Solidarity Associations.
- The expenses of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers have increased while their income has not seen a similar rise during the coronavirus pandemic. Therefore, local and national advocacy actions should be taken especially by non-governmental organizations to establish higher fees / salaries for seasonal migratory workers in an effort to increase their income. To mitigate the expenses of households such as transportation, housing, healthcare, and food, a variety of in-kind and cash assistance should be delivered as a priority.
- Being a migrant particularly poses a barrier to the delivery of some social assistance to the agricultural workers. Actions of advocacy should be taken to deliver social support and assistance with a diverse and easy set of options based on the mobility of the seasonal agricultural workers, and public and non-governmental organizations (NGO), and

international agencies should join their forces to introduce mechanisms that fit for the nature of agricultural labour.

#### **4.2. Labour Relations, Occupational Health and Safety in Times of Crisis and Outbreak**

Most of the labour force in agricultural production is informal and not safeguarded by the labour law. In addition, occupational health and safety practices are out of the question. Therefore, informal workers of agricultural productions are not eligible to fully exercise labour rights. The crisis and the outbreak make a further adverse effect on the working conditions. To this end,

- The risks and hazards concerning the occupational health and safety of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers who do precarious jobs under poor conditions and live in temporary tents should be analyzed, and their working and living conditions should be improved accordingly, and in-cash and in-kind assistance should be provided based on the results of the analysis, and the delivery of necessary services should be ensured.
- The psycho-social risks that seasonal agricultural workers face should be addressed as part of occupational health and safety. Additionally, analyses and situational assessment reports should be drawn up about them, and public advocacy actions should be taken accordingly.
- Adopted in 2001 and put into effect in 2003, ILO's Convention No. 184 on Safety and Health in Agriculture introduces important provisions for agricultural workers. Under the article 21 of the Convention that Türkiye has yet to ratify, agricultural workers shall be legally safeguarded against occupational accidents and diseases, and the ministries and the parliaments shall take actions to incorporate them into the insurance or social security regime to be protected from occupational risks and accidents.
- The agricultural intermediaries play a key role when the seasonal migrant agricultural workers face problems in their daily and professional life. The ministries in particular, professional bodies, private companies, and NGOs working on the matter should organize capacity building training courses and workshops to improve the capacities (communication, stress management, psychological first aid etc.) of the agricultural intermediaries.
- The agricultural intermediaries should play an active role for agricultural workers to use adequate and safe vehicles for intercity or intracity travel. In addition, the employers should take responsibility for the safe transportation of agricultural workers in consideration of the standards set for the transportation vehicles and modes of transportation in times of outbreak, natural disaster, and similar emergency and crisis, and governor's offices and district governor's offices should perform regular checks on them.

### 4.3. Safety and Improvement of Living Conditions, and Environmental Protection

The seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children mostly stay in tents made of nylon or plastic canvas situated near a field/orchard or an irrigation canal and set up by their own means. In addition, there are temporary means of accommodations provided by the public organizations. They are not fit for everyone including children in particular. As a result of the coronavirus pandemic the inadequacy and physical incapacities of such tent settlement became more evident. In this frame:

- In consideration of climate and agricultural production conditions regarding the temporary settlements of tents, the public and private sectors, and professional bodies should jointly develop settlement models that offer all services through inclusive methods and set living standards that benefit human dignity.
- An advocacy action should be taken with the technical and financial involvement of the private sector to increase the public funds allocated to improve the infrastructure of where people live in times of emergency and crisis such as the coronavirus pandemic, and secure their perimeter, and provide them with power, and adequate, sustainable, and clean water supply. Such efforts should be focused on local-based planning with a participatory aspect rather than a uniform model.
- The public and international relief organizations should be provided with options to make additional tents and offer a variety of educational instruments for the school attendance of the children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers in tent settlements, and initiatives should be taken to improve their contributions to the tent settlements.
- The gender aspect should be taken into account as part of responding to the sanitary needs of the households, and support mechanisms should be developed to meet the special needs of women and girls in particular for sanitary menstrual pads.
- Service models should be developed to provide childcare services in temporary tent settlements while the parents work in fields or orchards. To this end, the employment of persons to deliver care services to children living in tent settlements should be prioritized.
- Communal areas with means of infrastructure such as power and internet access should be developed to respond to the needs for the delivery of services in temporary tent settlements. The design of such areas should be in such a way to make use of solar energy, and non-governmental organizations and the private sectors should be helped to offer assistance for such actions. Agricultural intermediaries or opinion leaders should be involved in the process to represent the residents of tent settlements to make them sustainable, and cooperation should be struck with agencies and non-governmental

organizations such as the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation affiliated to district governor's offices to be held responsible for the settlements.

- The plastic materials made of chemicals that the seasonal migrant agricultural workers use to carry water or to heat and cook on a daily basis should be recycled as an income-generating modality for them, and thus the households should be protected from toxic industrial chemicals and skin diseases that may be caused by contact with them, and from any poisonous gas.
- The governor's offices in provinces should take actions for ambient lighting, traffic safety including signs and speed bump construction, and perform checks on entry and exit points of the tent settlements in an effort to provide secure living conditions to all the people in temporary tent settlements, especially children.
- Municipalities, provincial/district directorates of health, and district governor's offices should take action to regularly collect domestic waste from the temporary tent settlements and sanitize them as a response to the coronavirus pandemic, and the settlements should be provided with basic services just like regular neighborhoods are.

#### **4.4. Delivery of Educational Services**

The seasonal migrant agricultural workers had major challenges to deal with about the enrollment, attendance, and high-quality education of their children even prior to the advent of the coronavirus pandemic. It is evident that the coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated them and caused their children to be out of school more often. To ensure that educational services can be provided adequately for the children from seasonal agricultural worker households:

- Actions should be taken to build spaces for pre-school education in the temporary tent settlements, and the legislation should be amended to appoint teachers for them.
- The 2-km limit set forth under the Regulation of the Ministry of National Education on Access to Education Through Transportation, restricts the access to school of children in many tent settlements. Many children stay out of coverage and struggle with transportation problems. The 2-km limit should be removed from the regulation, and the Ministry of National Education should develop strategies to eliminate the transportation problem so that school-age children attend their school, and legislative action should be taken as a priority to put local collaborations into effect.
- Introduced as a response of the coronavirus pandemic, the remote learning has not been effectively accessible for the children who attend a school in the temporary tent settlements because of infrastructural incapacities and lack of financial means. The provision of instruments for such children to keep up with remote learning will not be

enough to compensate for their loss in education. The course subjects that the children have fallen behind during the coronavirus pandemic should be established, and the children should be readapted to face-to-face education. In addition to academic assistance, children should also be provided with guidance services to respond to their socio-emotional<sup>92</sup> needs that are already worsened by the pandemic. Educational contents should be developed to facilitate the delivery and availability of such services, and models should be developed to support children in both academic and socio-emotional aspects through school-based holistic policies. To this end, agricultural intermediaries, local non-governmental organizations, and teachers should be encouraged to take an active part in the process, and monitoring/support mechanisms should be introduced in a way to involve a variety of actors.

- Actions should be taken to benefit from previously closed schools because of lack of students in rural areas, for the children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers.
- Free Wi-Fi and educational instruments (computer, tablet PC, TV etc.) should be provided for tent settlements to children to join the remote learning and the settlements with no electricity should be equipped with mobile power plants, and children should be provided with desks and chairs to study. To this end, local authorities, directorates of national education, and the private sector should join their forces.
- Counseling services should be prioritized for the involvement of children in education. Regular contact platforms among teachers, students, and their parents, and children should be established where parents and children can receive guidance.

#### **4.5. Awareness-Raising and Briefing**

The results of the study show that the Turkish seasonal migrant agricultural workers and especially Syrian migrant workers are not informed enough about their social rights and they are unable to exercise them. The study also suggests that the parents do not make any effort to enroll their children again in the province/district that they migrate to as a seasonal migrant agricultural worker or they do not do so because of their lack of knowledge, and that this is a factor that affects the school attendance of their children. To this end,

- The parents of the children who are employed or at risk for being employed in seasonal agricultural production should be informed about working children, and their awareness should be raised by the chambers of agriculture and private companies to boost the action against child labour.

---

<sup>92</sup> Puerta, María Laura Sánchez, Alexandria Valerio, and Marcela Gutiérrez Bernal. "Definitions: What Are Socio-Emotional Skills?" In *Taking Stock of Programs to Develop Socioemotional Skills: A Systematic Review of Program Evidence*, 15–23. The World Bank, 2016. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1596/978-1-4648-0872-2\\_ch3](http://dx.doi.org/10.1596/978-1-4648-0872-2_ch3).

- Various actors that play a role in the agricultural production supply chains should be more thoroughly informed about the applicable legislation to raise their awareness about child labour. At this point, the relations of agricultural intermediaries with agricultural workers and employers should be put to effective use.
- The seasonal migrant agricultural workers face uncertainty about computation of their income and expenditure and follow-up of their debts, and delegate even simple financial calculations to someone else. A training module should be rolled out to enable seasonal migrant agricultural workers to make simple financial calculations, find out about methods to safeguard their savings, and follow up the return for their labour and their debts, and non-governmental organizations should be assisted to put the module into effect.
- The fact that girls are held responsible for domestic chores and sibling care or married off at a young age, and boys start working at an early age, which causes them to drop out of school, results from the housing and working conditions of their households, and they are viewed as a strategy to cope with poverty. To change such norms, cooperation should be struck with the respective NGOs, public agencies, and local authorities, and briefing and awareness-raising activities should be organized, and support programmes should be developed and adopted to reinforce behavioral changes. Programmes should be developed in a way to involve undergraduates and clubs of undergraduates from the respective departments of universities as part of briefing and awareness-raising activities. Briefing and cooperation activities should be organized for academics to come up with projects for seasonal migrant agricultural households as part of the Courses on Community Services within the body of Schools of Education.
- Raising awareness about the working and living conditions of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers is important to alter the prejudices about them. Such awareness-raising campaigns should be construed as a means to empower seasonal migrant agricultural workers. Educational contents should be developed about social exclusion; teachers and school administrators should be provided with training.

#### **4.6. Building Organizational Capacity and Developing Local-Based Coordination Mechanisms**

Many organizations and agencies have statutory roles and responsibilities concerning seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children. In addition, there are non-governmental organizations that provide rights-based or assistance-based services on a voluntary basis. For services to be delivered in this respect,

- e-METIP database should be improved to document the mobility of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children and provide them with decent and cost-effective services.

- To quickly establish the needs arising during any emergency case such as the coronavirus pandemic an online platform should be established that will involve agricultural intermediaries, chambers of agriculture, associations and foundations, professional bodies, heads of neighborhoods, gendarmerie forces, directorates of national education, and healthcare and social service organizations and agencies.
- Action plans with clear deliverables to strengthen local and national organizations (municipalities, MoNE, MoLSS, professional bodies, NGOs, private sector etc.) mandated to take action against child labour in seasonal agricultural production should be prioritized. Digital platforms should be launched to improve the cooperation among the respective organizations and agencies to capitalize on digital transformation opportunities over the course of the coronavirus pandemic.
- Standard 12 on Child Labour in Emergency, which is one of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, is a standard that all parties must adopt and work to improve when it comes to humanitarian relief actions. That is why all the domestic and international humanitarian relief organizations based in Türkiye should consider this standard as a means of preparation, response, improvement, and damage reduction in times of emergency, and establish working groups for it. Through preventive actions, all children should be protected from the worst forms of child labour that is likely to be related with the humanitarian crisis or exacerbate with the crisis. For empowerment purposes, coordination among various actors such as chambers of agriculture, farmers, NGOs and municipalities becomes more and more relevant. Farmers, who are major actors of seasonal agricultural production and chambers of agriculture, which represent them, should be assisted to take an active part in the process, and best practices should be promoted for people at large.
- In an effort to minimize the impact of regular or irregular natural disasters, emergencies, and crises such as the coronavirus pandemic, the action plans of the AFAD in particular, the Turkish Red Crescent, municipalities, governor's and district governor's offices on n

#### **4.7. Cooperation with the Private Sector**

Cooperation with private sectors actors covers field and orchard owners, chambers of agriculture, agricultural intermediaries and their associations, companies that market products, chambers of commerce and industry and trade, companies that process and launch finished products, and their professional bodies that are involved in the supply chain ranging from land and orchard production, to the launch of finished products in markets. The wages, living and working conditions of seasonal migrant agricultural workers should be improved especially as part of actions against child labour, and a safe environment should be established for children, and cooperation should be formed with the private sector as part of a series of activities for young people to acquire a profession. To this end,

- Public agencies and private companies should play an active role in the establishment of living standards of seasonal migrant agricultural workers and provision of adequate accommodation based on those standards. The private sector actors should be assisted to offer and make widely available settlement and housing models.
- The chambers of agriculture and export companies should inform land and orchard owners to provide transportation services under the conditions set by the law for lands and orchards with agricultural production, and close cooperation should be struck with the gendarmerie and police forces for effective oversight to mitigate the number of accidents and injuries and eliminate them in the long run.
- All private sector actors including chambers of agriculture should be mobilized to build and make widely available water closets with water and soap across lands and orchards for women and men.
- Cost analyses should be conducted to prevent child labour and to make monitoring and oversight mechanisms widely available as part of the supply chain, and to ensure fairly cost sharing among actors.
- Initiatives should be taken regarding a variety of agricultural products and lands to help the private sector contribute to the provision of transportation, lunch, and educational materials for children, and the private sector should play an active role to do so.
- Actions should be taken for the vocational training of the children aged 15 to 18 of the seasonal migrant agricultural families. Knowledge and skills should be established for children to provide a qualified labour force needed especially in agriculture, and a vocational training programme should be developed with focus on those children along with the introduction of pilot practices where the private sector leads the way.
- All activities of the private sector during the coronavirus pandemic period should be carried out according to pandemic-focused measures, in this context; advocacy studies should be carried out to provide protective equipment, hygiene materials, distribute masks, and ensure the practice of social distance.
- The cooperation of the private sector with agricultural intermediaries should be promoted as they are a major actor for the prevention of child labour in agricultural production, and capacity building actions should be taken to set professional standards for agricultural intermediaries.

## CONCLUSION

---

As it is the case around the world, the coronavirus pandemic has the potential to have medium- and long-term adverse effects on the well-being of parents and their children in Türkiye. The risks caused by the outbreak for the children who live in poverty and deprivation, have limited access to basic services, and are part of vulnerable communities have increased, and they are likely to increase in the medium and long term. The seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children are one of the highest-risk communities when it comes to job security, food security, hygiene, healthcare, education, and access to public services, and the outbreak has exacerbated the risks for them.

The coronavirus pandemic has made the working, housing, and living conditions of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children more challenging, and the access of the children to education and social protection mechanisms has been further limited, with an increase in the expenses and indebtedness of the households, and a decline in their income. The ever-growing challenges increase the risk for the children of many households to take part in agricultural labour, and younger and younger people now start to work, and their working conditions are getting worse.

The longer the schools remain closed, the less likely children become to acquire learning and life skills to make a smooth transition to adulthood. As the risk for child marriage and child labour grows for children who drop out of school, their livelihood capacity will diminish.<sup>93</sup>

Actions should be taken to assist employees and agricultural land/orchard owners to keep the vegetative production sustainable as part of seasonal agriculture in an effort to eliminate multi-dimensional vulnerabilities that have arisen or exacerbated upon the advent of the pandemic.

In an effort to minimize the effect of the pandemic on the seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children, actions should be taken to provide them with social assistance such as direct income support, and make sure that their children have access to food security, school attendance, and a healthy living and learning environment when they do or do not take part in seasonal vegetative production and protect them from any form of abuse and exploitation. The socio-economic empowerment of families should be a component of each programme intended to take an action against child labour.

---

<sup>93</sup> UN (2020) Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Children, [https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/160420\\_Covid\\_Children\\_Policy\\_Brief.pdf](https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/160420_Covid_Children_Policy_Brief.pdf)

The oversight mechanisms should be reinforced as part of structural changes to eliminate child labour in seasonal agricultural production in the long term, and actions should be taken to strengthen the bond with child protection and social protection systems when any case of child labour in seasonal migrant agriculture production is identified.

The strengths of the current systems and the legislative framework should be the focus in every aspect for the short-, medium-, and long-term programmes, and actions should be taken to reinforce the current systems rather than trying to develop new systems, and establish child-focused, gender-sensitive, sustainable and participatory implementation frameworks for times of disaster and emergency.

## REFERENCES

---

- Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. (2020), Technical Note: Protection of Children during the Coronavirus Pandemic.  
[https://www.unicef.org/media/65991/file/Technical%20note:%20Protection%20of%20child-ren%20during%20the%20coronavirus%20disease%202019%20\(COVID-19\)%20pandemic.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/media/65991/file/Technical%20note:%20Protection%20of%20child-ren%20during%20the%20coronavirus%20disease%202019%20(COVID-19)%20pandemic.pdf)
- Arru. M., Negre, E., Rosenthal-Sabroux, C. (2018), Population behaviors in crisis situations-a study of behavioral factors in the PPI in eos emergency response exercise. Proceedings of the 51st Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences, Waikoloa Village
- Beegle, K, Dehejia, R. H., and Roberta Gatti. (2006) Child Labour and Agricultural Shocks, Journal of Development Economics.
- Bureau of International Labour Affairs. (2019), Child Labour and Forced Labour Reports: Ecuador. <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/resources/reports/child-labour/ecuador>
- Caro, L.P. (2020), Syrian Refugees in the Turkish Labour Market, ILO
- CBGA. "COVID-19 Crisis Will Push Millions of Vulnerable Children Into Child Labour". 21 April 2020. <https://www.cbgaindia.org/blog/covid-19-crisis-will-push-millions-vulnerable-child-ren-child-labour>
- Child Protection Working Group (2017). Inter-Agency Toolkit: Supporting the protection needs of child labourers in emergencies,  
<https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/inter-agency-toolkit-supporting-protection-needs-child-labourers-emergencies>
- Culp, K. and Umbarger, M. (2004), Seasonal and Migrant Agricultural Workers: A Neglected Work Force, Workplace Health & Safety, 52:9, 383-390  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/216507990405200906>
- Development Workshop Cooperative (2019a), Child Labour in Footwear Manufacturing in Türkiye Rapid Assessment Report Child-Labor-in-Footwear-Manufacturing.pdf (ka.org.tr)
- Development Workshop Cooperative (2019b), Child Labour in Furniture Manufacturing in Türkiye Rapid Assessment Report Child-Labor-in-Furniture-Manufacturing.pdf (ka.org.tr)
- Development Workshop Cooperative, (2020), Virus or Poverty Impact of Coronavirus Outbreak on Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers and Their Children and on Crop Farming <https://www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Cocuk-Haklari/Raporlar/Virus-or-Poverty.pdf>
- Development Workshop Cooperative. (2018), "A child's work makes a day's wage..." Agricultural Intermediaries and Child Labour in Agricultural Production in Türkiye Agricultural-Intermediaries-and-Child-Labor-in-Agricultural-Production-in-Türkiye.pdf (ka.org.tr)
- Development Workshop Cooperative. (2019), Poverty, Migration and Child Labour: The Socio-Economic Profile Of Seasonal Agricultural Worker Households Poverty-Migration-and-Child-Labor-The-Socio-Economic-Profile-of-Seasonal-Agricultural-Worker-Households.pdf (ka.org.tr)

Development Workshop Cooperative. (2016), The Report on the Present Situation of Foreign Migrant Workers in Seasonal Agricultural Production in Türkiye: Poverty, Rivalry and Antagonism Poverty-Migration-and-Child-Labor-The-Socio-Economic-Profile-of-Seasonal-Agricultural-Worker-Households.pdf (ka.org.tr)

Development Workshop Cooperative. (2020), Current Situation Map of SAW's Tent Settlement Areas in The Adana Plain Current-Situation-Map-of-SAW's-Tent-Settlement-Areas.pdf (ka.org.tr)

Development Workshop Cooperative. (2019), Mevsimlik Tarımsal Üretimde Çocuk İşçiliği Mevcut Durum Raporu: Adana <https://www.ka.org.tr/dosyalar/file/Yayinlar/Cocuk-Haklari/Raporlar/MEVSIMLIK-TARIMSAL-URETIMDE-COCUK-ISCILIGI-MEVCUT-DURUM-RAPORU.pdf>

Development Workshop Cooperative. (2020), 'Distance Education Practices and Education Policies Implemented by Countries Across the Globe due to Covid-19' Dünya-Genelinde-Covid-19-Sebebiyle-Ulkelerin-Uyguladigi-Uzaktan-Egitim-Calismalari-ve-Egitim-Politikalari.pdf

ECLT Foundation. (2020), The Impact of COVID-19 on Child Labour in Agriculture. <https://www.eclt.org/en/news/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-child-labour-in-agriculture>

Eskander, A., and Dendir, S. (2011), Weathering the Storms: Credit Receipt and Child Labour in the Aftermath of the Great Floods (1998) in Bangladesh, World Development

Food and Agriculture Organization of The United Nations (FAO). (2020), Social protection and COVID-19 response in rural areas. <http://www.fao.org/3/ca8561en/CA8561EN.pdf>

FAO. (2020) Migrant workers and the COVID-19 pandemic <http://www.fao.org/3/ca8559en/CA8559EN.pdf>, first access on 7 September, 2020.

FAO. (2020), Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition: How can agricultural policies and strategies help to end child labour in agriculture? <http://www.fao.org/3/cb0644en/CB0644EN.pdf>

FAO. (2020), Impact of COVID-19 on informal workers <http://www.fao.org/3/ca8560en/CA8560EN.pdf>,

FAO. (2020), Syrian Refugee Resilience Plan 2020–2021, Roma

Gabriel, R. (2020), When Diaspora meets Pandemic <https://northernnotes.leeds.ac.uk/when-diaspora-meets-pandemic/>

Global Business Coalition for Education. (2014), Ebola Emergency: Creating Safe Schools and Preventing a Long-term Crisis <https://gbc-education.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/EbolaEducationReport1232014.pdf>

Gülcan, M. G. (2004), Eğitim Hakkı ve Okula Devam Edemeyen Çocuklar, Eğitimde Yeni Ufuklar Sempozyumu II, Türk Eğitim Derneği (TED), 3-4 Aralık 2004, Ankara.

Gregoire, A. (2002), "The mental health of farmers". Occupational Medicine, Vol. 52, Issue 8, 471–476

Hague, G., Thiara, R.K., and Atuki Turner. (2011), Bride-price and its links to domestic violence and poverty in Uganda: A participatory action research study, Women Studies International Forum

Harunoğulları, M. (2016), Suriyeli Sığınmacı Çocuk İşçiler ve Sorunları: Kilis Örneği, Göç Dergisi, C.3, No.1, sayfa 29-63.

Hayata Destek Derneği. (2014), Mevsimlik Gezici Tarım İşçiliği 2014: Araştırma Raporu <https://www.hayatadestek.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/mevsimlik-gezici-tarim-i%C-C%87sciligi-2014-arastirma-raporu.pdf>

Human Rights Watch. (2020), COVID-19 and Children's Rights. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/COVID-19%20and%20Children%E2%80%99s%20Rights.pdf>

Idris, I., Oosterhoff, P. and Pocock, N. (2020), Child Labour in South Asia: Assessing effectiveness of interventions. London: Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office <https://www.gov.uk/research-for-development-outputs/child-labour-in-south-asia-assessing-the-effectiveness-of-interventions-rapid-evidence-assessment>

International Labour Organization (ILO). (2017), ILO Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers. Results and Methodology Executive Summary [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms\\_652029.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_652029.pdf)

ILO. (2016), İş yerinde Stres: Ortak Bir Zorluk, Çeviri: N\_HumaN, 2020

ILO. (2020), ILO Sectoral Brief: COVID-19 and the impact on agriculture and food security [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_dialogue/---sector/documents/briefingnote/wcms\\_742023.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_dialogue/---sector/documents/briefingnote/wcms_742023.pdf)

ILO. (2020), Issue paper on COVID-19 and fundamental principles and rights at work, s.16. [https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/how-the-ilo-works/departments-and-offices/governance/fprw/WCMS\\_757247/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/how-the-ilo-works/departments-and-offices/governance/fprw/WCMS_757247/lang--en/index.htm)

ILO. (2020), Seasonal Migrant Workers' Schemes: Rethinking Fundamental Principles and Mechanisms in light of COVID-19. [https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/publications/WCMS\\_745481/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/labour-migration/publications/WCMS_745481/lang--en/index.htm)

International Cocoa Initiative. (2020), Hazardous Child Labour in Côte d'Ivoire's Cocoa Communities during COVID-19 [https://cocoainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ICI\\_rapid-analysis-covid-impact-child-labour-identification\\_1July2020-2.pdf](https://cocoainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ICI_rapid-analysis-covid-impact-child-labour-identification_1July2020-2.pdf)

International Cocoa Initiative. (2020), The Effects of Income Changes on Child Labour: A review of Evidence from Smallholder Agriculture [https://cocoainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ICI\\_Lit\\_Review\\_Income\\_Child-Labour.pdf](https://cocoainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/ICI_Lit_Review_Income_Child-Labour.pdf)

Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation. (2020), A Study on Impact of Lockdown and Economic Disruption on Poor Rural Households with Special Reference to Children. <https://counterviewfiles.files.wordpress.com/2020/07/impact-of-lockdown-on-poor-rural-households-with-special-reference-to-children.pdf>

Fişek Enstitüsü. "TÜİK Çocuk İşgücü Anketi 2019 Üzerine İlk Notlar", Erişim 1 Kasım 2020 <https://calismaortami.fisek.org.tr/icerik/tuik-cocuk-ismucu-anketi-2019-uzerine-ilk-notlar/>

Karaçimen, E. (2015), Interlinkages between credit, debt and the labour market: evidence from Türkiye, Cambridge Journal of Economics

Karasek, R. (1979), Job demands, job decision latitude, and mental strain: Implication for job redesign. Admin Sci Quart. 1979; 24: 285-308

Kulaksız, Y. (2014), Yoksulluk Bağlamında Çocuk İşgücü. ÇSGB Çalışma Dünyası Dergisi / Cilt: 2 / Sayı: 3 / Eylül - Aralık 2014 / Sayfa: 91-111. <http://www.calismadunyasi.gov.tr/pdf/sayi5/files/assets/common/downloads/sayi5.pdf>

Lobley, M., Johnson, G., Reed, M., Winter, M., and Little, J. (2004), Rural Stress Review: Final Report. Centre for Rural Policy Research, University of Exeter

Martin, L.P. (2016), Migrant Workers in Commercial Agriculture. [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms\\_538710.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms_538710.pdf)

McGregor M.J., Willock, J., Deary, I. (1995), "Farmer stress". Farm Management, Vol. 9, No.2, Summer 1995

Millar, K.M. (2018), Reclaiming the discarded: Life and Labour on Rio's garbage dump, Durham: Duke University Press

Ministry of Labor and Social Security (2017), National Program Against Child Labor. [https://www.csgeb.gov.tr/media/1322/cocukisciligimucadele\\_2017\\_2023\\_tr.pdf](https://www.csgeb.gov.tr/media/1322/cocukisciligimucadele_2017_2023_tr.pdf)

NDTV. "Rescue Child Workers Stranded In COVID-19 Lockdown: Kailash Satyarthi" 27 April 2020. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/coronavirus-india-rescue-child-workers-trapped-in-covid-19-lockdown-urges-kailash-satyarthi-2219261>

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). (2020), Coronavirus (COVID-19): Joint actions to win the war <https://www.oecd.org/about/secretary-general/Coronavirus-COVID-19-Joint-actions-to-win-the-war.pdf>

Official Gazette of Turkish Republic. Legislation for Agricultural Intermediaries. Date: 27.5.2010. Number:27593, <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2010/05/20100527-4.htm>

Öztürk, A. (2020) 'Persons in the Event of Disasters to the Covid-19 Outbreak', <https://www.asil.org/insights/volume/24/issue/6/covid-19-just-disastrous-or-disaster-itself-applying-ilc-articles>

Plan International UK. (2020), Implications of the Covid-19 Crisis on Girls and Young Women. <https://plan-uk.org/file/plan-uk-coronavirus-policy-briefingpdf/download?token=THR6Efm9>

Plan International. (2020), Girls in deprived communities in Lebanon have been left struggling for food and basic necessities such as sanitary pads as the COVID-19 pandemic unravels in the country <https://plan-international.org/news/2020-04-28-covid-19-girls-lebanon-left-struggling>,

Puerta, Maria Laura Sánchez, Alexandria Valerio, and Marcela Gutiérrez Bernal. "Definitions: What Are Socio-Emotional Skills?" In Taking Stock of Programs to Develop Socio-emotional Skills: A Systematic Review of Program Evidence, 15–23. The World Bank, 2016. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1596/978-1-4648-0872-2\\_ch3](http://dx.doi.org/10.1596/978-1-4648-0872-2_ch3)

Rohwerder, B. (2014), Impact and implications of the Ebola crisis

Sassen, S. (2004), *Guests and Aliens*. New York: The New Press, s. ix.

Simsek Z. (2011), *Need Assessment of Seasonal Farmworkers and Their Families* [Turkish]. Harran University and United Nation Population Fund. Sanliurfa: Elif Matbaası

Simsek, Z., Yıldırımkaaya, G., Erçetin, G., et al. (2012), Health indicators of seasonal farmworkers and need assessment. Presented at the 15th National Public Health Congress; Health Reforms, Bursa, Türkiye; 2–6 October 2012.

Simsek. Z., (2012), Psychosocial issues and the protection of agricultural workers in: Agricultural Health and Safety Symposium, Sanliurfa, April 6–7, 2012. Sanliurfa: Harran University; s. 77–80.

Sirkeci, I. (2020), Editorial: Remittances during the Covid-19 Pandemic. *Remittances Review*, 5(1), 1-2.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). (2020), Latin America and the Caribbean and the COVID-19 pandemic: Economic and social effects. <https://reliefweb.int/report/antigua-and-barbuda/latin-america-and-caribbean-and-covid-19-pandemic-economic-and-social>

The European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM). (2020), The impact of COVID-19 on remittances for development in Africa. Discussion Paper No.269 <https://ecdpm.org/wp-content/uploads/Impact-COVID-19-remittances-development-Africa-EC-DPM-discussion-paper-269-May-2020.pdf>

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), (2009), Policy on Migration <https://www.ifrc.org/Global/Governance/Policies/migration-policy-en.pdf>

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and ILO. (2020), COVID-19 and Child Labour: A time of crisis, a time to act <https://data.unicef.org/resources/covid-19-and-child-labour-a-time-of-crisis-a-time-to-act/>

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). "Child labour rises to 160 million – first increase in two decades". 9 June 2021. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/child-labour-rises-160-million-first-increase-two-decades>

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). (2015), UNDP Africa policy note: confronting the gender impact of Ebola virus disease in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/RBA%20Policy%20Note%20Vol%202%20No%201%202015\\_Gender.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/RBA%20Policy%20Note%20Vol%202%20No%201%202015_Gender.pdf)

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). (2020), The role of the Global Compact on Refugees in the international response to the COVID-19 pandemic <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/76319>

The World Bank."COVID-19 to Add as Many as 150 Million Extreme Poor by 2021" 7 October 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/10/07/covid-19-to-add-as-many-as-150-million-extreme-poor-by-2021#:~:text=The%20COVID%2D19%20pandemic%20is>

Thomson Reuters Foundation. "West African countries on alert for child labor spike due to coronavirus" 30 April 2020. <https://news.trust.org/item/20200430132011-9aq7i>

TURKSTAT Child Labor Force Survey 2012 (April 2013). <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Cocuk-Isgucu-Anketi-Sonuclari-2012-13659>

TURKSTAT Child Labor Force Survey 2019 <https://tuikweb.tuik.gov.tr/PreHaberBultenleri.do?id=33807>

TURKSTAT Statistics on Family, 2019 <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Statistics-on-Family-2019-33730>

Turkish Medical Association Monitoring Committee. (2020) Covid-19 Pandemic Sixth Month Assessment Report [https://www.ttb.org.tr/yayin\\_goster.php?Guid=42ee49a2-fb2d-11ea-abf2-539a0e741e38](https://www.ttb.org.tr/yayin_goster.php?Guid=42ee49a2-fb2d-11ea-abf2-539a0e741e38)

Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi. (2015), Mevsimlik Tarım İşçilerinin Sorunlarının Araştırılarak Alınması Gereken Önlemlerin Belirlenmesi Amacıyla Kurulan Meclis Araştırması Komisyonu Raporu

World Vision. (2020), Covid-19 Aftershocks: A Perfect Storm: Millions More Children at Risk of Violence under Lockdown and into the 'New Normal' <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/covid-19-aftershocks-perfect-storm-millions-more-children-risk-violence-under-lockdown>

Yalçın, S. (2016), Syrian Child Workers in Türkiye, Turkish Policy Quarterly, C.15, No.3

Yavuz, H., Simsek, Z., Akbaba, M. (2014), Health-risk behaviors in agriculture and related factors, southeastern Anatolian region of Türkiye. J Agromedicine, 19(4): 364-72.

# ANNEXES

## Annex 1: Interviews held as part of the field survey by tent settlements and provinces

PROVINCE	DISTRICT	Tent Settlement	Number of Tents	Nationality		Total
				TR	SRY	
ADANA	Seyhan	Kayışlı-Çaputçu	40	10	2	12
		Köylüoğlu	30	11	2	13
		Mürseloğlu	37	6	2	8
		Toplam		27	6	33
	Karataş	Karagöçer	250	18	5	23
		Bahçe	167	4	4	8
		Damlapınar	39	8	3	11
		Toplam		30	12	42
	Yüreğir	Çağırkanlı		3	4	7
		Çağırkanlı 2		9	0	9
		Sazak	32	1	1	2
		Doğankent		9	1	10
		Yeniköy		5	2	7
		Esenler	24	0	3	3
		Kütüklü	24	12	0	12
		Denizkuyusu	44	4	4	8
		Toplam		43	15	58
	Yumurtalık	Kaldırım	15	10	1	11
		Yeşilköy	27	11	4	15
		Kırmızıdam	60	4	2	6
		Şeyhganım		3	0	3
		Toplam		28	7	35
	MERSİN	Tarsus	Yaramış		1	1
Agzidelik				7	1	8
Baharlı				1	1	2
Çöplü				4	0	4
Kargılı				5	6	11
Çiçekli				1	0	1
Konaklar				6	6	12
Tarsus	Atalar		6	5	11	
	Toplam		31	20	51	
GRAND TOTAL				159	60	219

### Focus Group and In-Depth Interviews by Province, District, and Tent Settlement

PROVINCE	DISTRICT	REGION	NATIONALITY		FOCUS GROUP
			IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW		
			TR	SRY	
ADANA	KARATAŞ	KARAGÖÇER	15	0	-
	SEYHAN	KÖYLÜOĞLU	7	3	1
	YÜREĞİR	YENİKÖY	10	5	1
	YUMURTALIK	YEŞİLKÖY-KALDIRIM	16	0	1
MERSİN	TARSUS	KONAKLAR	9	6	1(SYR)
ŞANLIURFA	VİRANŞEHİR	MERKEZ	20	0	-
TOTAL			82	14	4

## Annex 2: Household Questionnaire

The Effect of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers, Their Families, and on Child Labour

### HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE

Hello, my name is ..... I am from the Development Workshop. The Development Workshop is a non-profit cooperative founded to add to Türkiye's social and economic development. This survey is conducted to establish how the coronavirus pandemic has affected the seasonal migrant agricultural workers and their children from the financial, social, educational, and mental health points of view.

Your answers to this questionnaire shall remain confidential and not disclosed to any third party. Your answers to this questionnaire shall be used by a research team for research purposes only. No link shall be forged between your personal details and your answers. The participation in this survey is entirely voluntary. There shall be no in-cash or in-kind payment for participation in this survey. You are free to conclude the questionnaire at any time. In addition, your participation in the survey by sharing your knowledge, experiences, and views will contribute to the provision of a better life for children in Türkiye, and the alleviation of poverty and deprivation. The interview takes nearly 45 minutes.

**Do you agree to take part in the interview?**

**YES**

**NO**

If you have any questions or any matter of concern during or after the conduct of the interviews, please feel free to call the Development Workshop (+90 541 457 31 90).

PROVINCE	DISTRICT	Tent Settlement/ Village/ Neighborhood	QUESTIONNAIRE NO.	Turkish National Migrant Please state your nationality: _____
----------	----------	--	----------------------	---

<b>INTERVIEW DETAILS</b>	
DATE (day/month/year)	___ / ___ / 2020
INTERVIEWER FIRST & LAST NAME	

## 1. PART: Household Demographics

1.1 How many people are there in your household?								
HH NO	KINSHIP	GENDER	AGE	MARITAL STATUS	EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND	Does he/she serve as a SMAW? (Ask those aged 5 and above)	Why if no for the year 2020?	
	01 Himself/Herself 02 Spouse 03 Son 04 Daughter 05 Sibling 06 Mother 07 Father 08 Spouse's mother 09 Spouse's father 10 Daughter-in-law 11 Son-in-law 12 Grandmother/grandfather 13 Grandchild 14 Second spouse 15 Relative 98 Other	01 MAN 02 WOMAN		03 SINGLE (Never married) 02 MARRIED 03 WIDOW 04 DIVORCED 05 SEPARATED 06 LIVING TOGETHER 07 NO IDEA 98 OTHER	01 Not School-Age 02 Illiterate 03 Literate Only 04 Pre-School 05 Drop Out Of Elementary School 06 Elementary School Graduate 07 Primary School Student 08 Drop Out Of Primary School 09 Primary School Graduate 10 Upper Secondary School Graduate 11 Drop Out Of Upper Secondary School 12 Drop Out Of Upper Secondary School 13 Upper Secondary School Student 14 Upper Secondary School Graduate 15 Vocational Upper Secondary School Student 16 Vocational Upper Secondary School Graduate 17 Undergraduate 18 College Graduate 96 School-Age But Not Attending 97 No Idea 98 Other NOTE: Please note the GRADE of the students who attend a school NOTE: Please note the grade when they dropped out of school in case of any drop-out	YEAR 2019 01 YES 02 NO YEAR 2020 01 YES 02 NO (Interviewer: If they worked as part of agricultural production even for one day within the last six months)	01 Student 02 Elderly 03 Disabled 04 Child 05 Have a medical problem 06 Seeking another job/unemployed 07 Doing another job 08 Housewife 09 Pregnant 10 Does not wish to work 98 Other	
No	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9
01	Himself/Herself							
02								

**1. Place of Birth**

1. (...) Province..... 2. (...) District.....

**2. Place of Residence**

1. (...) Province..... 2. (...) District.....



To be asked for migrant households 3. Since when have you been living in Türkiye?

Since ..... (in year; e.g. since 2011)



To be asked for migrant households 4. Is there any household member who does not hold temporary ID card that starts with 99?

1. (...) Yes (Fill it out by following the household number on the household table

Who does not have it? ( )

2. (...) No

**5. How many months a year do you spend in a tent/temporary settlement?**

1. (...) We live in a tent/container house for 12 months

2. (...) We live in a tent for ..... months

98 Other. Please state.

**2. Part: SEASONAL MIGRANT AGRICULTURAL LABOUR AND CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

**6. How long has your household serving as a seasonal migrant agricultural worker for?**

\_\_\_\_\_ years (Interviewer: Please state it in months if it is less than one year)

**7. Has your mother/father ever served as a seasonal migrant agricultural worker?**

1. (...) Yes 2. (...) No

**8. Do you have any other job(s) than seasonal migrant agricultural work?**

1. (...) Yes 2. (...) No (Proceed to Question 10)

**9. If yes, what kind of a job is it?**

.....

**10. What is the main reason why you serve as a seasonal migrant agricultural worker?**

.....

**11. What is the most common way of landing seasonal migrant agricultural jobs?** (Interviewer: One single answer)

1. (...) Through an agricultural intermediary
2. (...) Through contact with field/orchard owners
3. (...) Through spouse, friends and neighbors
4. (...) We seek jobs with my relatives
5. (...) Field/orchard owners contact us
98. (...) Other \_\_\_\_\_

### **3. PART: IMPACT of the CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

#### **3.1. Part: Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Labour**

**12. Did you relocate as a seasonal migrant agricultural worker in 2020?**

1. (...) Yes
2. (...) No (Proceed to Question 14)

**13. If yes, when, where, and for what job?** (E.g. For onion harvest in Polatli, Ankara)

When .....

Where .....

Type of job .....

**14. Have you received any service or contribution where you live as a response to the coronavirus pandemic after its advent?**

- 1.(...) Yes
2. (...) No (Proceed to Question 18)

**15. If yes, what kind of service/contribution?** (Interviewer: Could be multiple choices. Alternatives won't be read out loud)

1. (...) Information about the coronavirus pandemic (restrictions, ways of protection etc.)
2. (...) Cleaning and hygiene kits
3. (...) Food assistance (food package
4. (...) Cash assistance (monetary support)
5. (...) Vehicle service (intercity)
6. (...) Provision of transportation vehicles to go to fields/orchards

7. (...) Contribution to transportation expenses (intercity)
8. (...) Additional tent
9. (...) A better/larger tent
10. (...) Housing (accommodation)
11. (...) Reorganization of the tent settlement based on social practicing
12. (...) Toilet/bathroom
13. (...) Medical check
14. (...) Personal protective equipment (mask etc.)
15. (...) Educational materials
16. (...) Fuel support
98. (...) Other \_\_\_\_\_

**16. Organizations that offered the service** (Interviewer: Could be multiple choices. Alternatives won't be read out loud)

- 1 (...) Head Office of Neighborhood
- 2 (...) District Municipality
- 3 (...) Metropolitan Municipality
- 4 (...) Field/orchard owner
- 5 (...) Tradespersons
- 6 (...) Companies
- 7 (...) Chambers of agriculture
- 8 (...) Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation (Loyalty Support Groups)
- 9 (...) Healthcare organizations
- 10 (...) Civil administrations (governor's office, district governor's office)
- 11 (...) Law enforcement (Gendarmerie, police)
- 12 (...) National non-governmental organizations (associations, foundations, charities etc.)
- 13 (...) By an agricultural intermediary
- 14 (...) UN bodies

15 (...) International non-governmental organizations

16 (...) Turkish Red Crescent

17 (...) I don't know

98. (...) Other \_\_\_\_\_

**17. If you have received any in-kind/in-cash assistance (such as for food, hygiene, and cash that can be granted on a continuous basis), do you keep receiving it on a regular basis?** (Regular: periodically. E.g. weekly, biweekly, monthly etc.)

1 (...) Yes, we keep receiving it

2 (...) No, it was for one time only and/or once in a while

**18. What have you been provided with as part of your employment in a field/an orchard during the coronavirus pandemic?** (Interviewer: Could be multiple choices. Alternatives won't be read out loud)

1 (...) Nothing

2 (...) Masks

3 (...) Gloves

4 (...) Hand sanitizer

5 (...) Water and soap

6 (...) Verbal/written briefing about the coronavirus pandemic

7 (...) Means of transportation based on social distancing (additional shuttles)

8 (...) Working mode based on social distancing

9 (...) Regular checks of body heat

10 (...) Tests

98. (...) Other \_\_\_\_\_

**19. How worried are you as a seasonal migrant agricultural worker about the infection of your tent by the coronavirus?**

1 I'm not worried at all	2 I'm not worried	3 I am neither worried nor unworried	4 I'm worried	5 I'm highly worried

**20. Do you know how to protect yourself from the coronavirus pandemic?**

1 (...) Yes

2 (...) No

3 (...) Partially

**21. What do you know if yes or partially?**

---

**22. What are your and your family's 3 main needs to avoid being infected by the coronavirus?** (Interviewer: Alternatives won't be read out loud)

- 1 (...) Information about the coronavirus
- 2 (...) Hygiene/cleaning supplies
- 3 (...) Gloves and masks
- 4 (...) Hand sanitizer
- 5 (...) Housing based on social practicing
- 6 (...) A larger/better tent
- 7 (...) Good food
- 8 (...) Environmental cleaning/garbage pickup
- 9 (...) Environmental disinfection around the settlement as a response to the coronavirus pandemic
- 10 (...) Regular access to a bathroom
- 11 (...) Regular access to water in the settlement
- 12 (...) Regular access to water in the workplace
- 13 (...) Fuel support
98. (...) Other \_\_\_\_\_

**23. What are you concerned about the most concerning the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on you and your family?** (Interviewer: One single answer only)

- 1 (...) Well-being of my family
- 2 (...) Loss of income/job
- 3 (...) Suspension of school activities for children
- 4 (...) Separation of children from their school
- 5 (...) Limited mobility/isolation/quarantine etc.
- 97 (...) We are not concerned
98. (...) Other \_\_\_\_\_

**24. What are the 3 main needs of your household over the course of the coronavirus pandemic (starting from March 2020)?** (Interviewer: Alternatives won't be read out loud)

- 1 (...) A regular job
- 2 (...) Cash assistance
- 3 (...) Food assistance
- 4 (...) Hygiene supplies
- 5 (...) An additional tent
- 6 (...) A larger tent settlement
- 7 (...) Better access to healthcare services
- 8 (...) Adequate means of transportation
- 9 (...) Adequate educational materials for children
- 10 (...) Personal protective equipment
- 11 (...) Information about the coronavirus pandemic
- 12 (...) Fuel support
- 98. (...) Other \_\_\_\_\_

**25. Has any of your close contacts (such as relatives and neighbors) been infected by the coronavirus?**

- 1 (...) Yes
- 2 (...) No
- 98 (...) I don't know/I have no idea

**3.2 Part:** Effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Income, Expenses, and Savings

**26. Has your total household income been affected by the coronavirus pandemic starting from March 2020?**

Items of Income	Yes 1 / No 2	1 Vastly declined	2 Declined	3 Remained almost the same	4 Increased	4 Vastly increased
Income generated through seasonal migrant agricultural labour						
Rent income (rental fees from properties such as residence, land, shop etc.)						
Kizilaykart/ ESSN (For migrants)						
Pension						
Amount of bank loans						
Debts owed to relatives and neighbors						
Debts owed to agricultural intermediary agricultural intermediaries						
Child support relief (conditional cash transfer for education/ conditional healthcare aid)						

Income from subsistence agricultural produce						
Income from subsistence animal-based produce						
Disability income						
Pension income						
98. (...) Other						



Ask the Turkish nationals only

**27. Have you received cash relief worth TRY 1000 provided by the government?**

1. (...) Yes                      2. (...) No                      3. (...) I don't know about that/I have no idea

**28. Has your total household expense been affected by the coronavirus pandemic starting from March 2020?**

Items of Expenses	1 Vastly declined	2 Declined	3 Remained same	4 Increased	5 Vastly increased	97 I don't know/I have no idea
Food expenses						
Transportation expenses						
Communications expenses						
Medical expenses						
Hygiene expenses						
Tobacco expenses if any						
Alcohol expenses if any						

Educational expenses if any						
98. (...) Other						

**29. Did you manage to make any savings (saving money) on your household income last year?**

1. (...) Yes      2. (...) No (Proceed to Question 33)

**30. What percent of it did you manage to save if any?**

\_\_\_\_\_ percent

**31. Has it (savings) changed because of the coronavirus pandemic?**

1. (...) Yes      2. (...) No (Proceed to Question 33)

**32. If yes, to what extent?**

1. (...) My savings has declined (Please state why: .....)
2. (...) My savings has increased (Please state why: .....)

**33. How indebted do you think your household is?**

(1: I am not indebted at all; 5: I am indebted a lot.)

1 I'm not indebted at all	2	3	4	5 I'm indebted a lot

**34. Has your indebtedness changed because of the coronavirus pandemic?**

- 1 (...) Yes      2 (...) No (Proceed to Question 36)

**35. If yes, to what extent?**

1. (...) I have less debt now      (Please state why: .....)
2. (...) I have more debt now      (Please state why: .....

**36. Who would you borrow from if you ever need to?**

1. (...) From a bank (Please state why: .....)
2. (...) From my spouse, friends or relatives (Please state why: .....)

3. (...) From an agricultural intermediary (Please state why: .....)

4. (...) I have nobody to borrow from.

98. (...) Other \_\_\_\_\_

**37. Do you have plans to run into more debt in the following months?**

1 (...) Yes      2 (...) No      3 (...) I don't know/I'm not sure

**38. How comfortable do you feel borrowing from/seeking an advance payment from an agricultural intermediary?**

1 Very uncomfortable	2 Uncomfortable	3 Neither comfortable nor uncomfortable	4 Comfortable	5 Very comfortable

**39. Do you think you can pay your due debts on time?**

1 (...) Yes      2 (...) No      3 (...) I don't know/I'm not sure

**40. What is your current per diem? Interviewer: This is to be asked for those on per diem only**

..... In TRY (net daily sum)

98 I don't know/I have no idea

**41. How much should your per diem be?**

..... TRY

**3.4. PART: Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Social Support Mechanisms**

**42. Have you or any of your household members registered for social security?**

Interviewer: One single answer only

1. (...) Unregistered

2. (...) Optional insurance (Artisans & Self-Employed Insurance, Farmer's Insurance, Agricultural Insurance)

3. (...) Universal health coverage paid by the state (green card)

4. (...) Universal health coverage paid by oneself

98. (...) Other      (Please state)

**43. Have you or any of your household members faced any problem to have access to healthcare services that you need since March 2020 compared to the past?**

1. (...) Yes                      2. (...) No (Proceed to Question 45)

**44. If yes, what kind of a problem is it?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**45. Do you receive any in-kind or in-cash assistance/aid from any organization on a regular basis?**

1. (...) Yes                      2. (...) No (Proceed to Question 48 for migrants and to Question 49 for others)

**46. If yes, what kind of assistance/aid do you receive?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**47. Has there been any delay in the delivery of social aids that you receive on a regular basis since March 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic?**

- 1 (...) Yes                      2 (...) No

 **To be asked for migrant households 48. If you are a beneficiary of Kizilaykart (ESSN), have you ever had any problem about it starting from March 2020?**

- 1 (...) Yes                      2 (...) No

**48.1. If yes, what kind of a problem is it?**

\_\_\_\_\_

### **3.5. PART: Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Education**

Interviewer: The following questions are to be asked if they have any child who is school-age and yet does not attend a school/is not enrolled. Check the table of demographics for such children.

**49. What are the reasons why your children do not attend a school or are not enrolled in a school?**

Interviewer: This question shall be asked individually for girls and boys. Do not read out loud the options. Mark based on their answers.

	49.1 Girls	49.2 Boys
1 (...) Having to work because of the low family income/contribution to family income		
2 (...) Failure to cover school expenses because of the low family income		

3 (....) Having to do domestic chores (sibling care, elderly care, cooking etc.)		
4 (....) Problems regarding access to school		
5 (....) Absence from school because of family serving as a migrant agricultural worker		
6 (....) Social exclusion (ethnicity, poverty, etc.)		
7 (....) To acquire a profession		
8 (....) Gender issues (not allowing girls to pursue education etc.)		
9 (....) Reluctance of children about school/education		
10 (....) My child is not medically fit (special needs, disability, chronic disorders etc.) to go to school		
11 (....) I don't think education would be useful for them		
12 (....) Maltreatment toward their children by school administration or teachers		
13 (....) Maltreatment toward their children by other students		
14 (....) I don't think it is necessary for them to attend as they fail in school		
98. (...) Other _____		

**If the parents have a child who attends a school, proceed to the QUESTION 50.**

**If the parents do not have a child who attends a school, proceed to the QUESTION 63.**

**50. What are the instruments and/or materials that you use for educational purposes wherever you live?**

Interviewer: Could be multiple answers

1 (....) Headphone/Microphone

2 (....) Smart phone

3 (....) Computer

4 (....) Television

5 (....) Printed materials (books, magazines etc.)

98. (...) Other (Please state)

\_\_\_\_\_

**51. Is there anyone to help your children living at home/in a tent about their courses?**

- 1 (...) Yes                                      2 (...) No (Proceed to Question 53)

**52. If yes, who helps your children about their courses?** Interviewer: Could be multiple answers

- 1 (...) Father  
2 (...) Mother  
3 (...) Brothers  
4 (...) Sisters  
5 (...) Grandmother/Grandfather  
6 (...) Neighbors  
7 (...) Relatives  
98. (...) Other \_\_\_\_\_

**53. Have your children managed to follow the courses since March 2020 when the coronavirus pandemic was declared?**

- 1 (...) Yes                                      2 (...) No (Proceed to Question 58)



**Question 53 if yes,**

**54. Which of the following have they used to follow their remote courses?**

Interviewer: Could be multiple answers

- 1 (...) EBA TV  
2 (...) EBA digital education platform (web-based)  
98. (...) Other \_\_\_\_\_

**55 Which of the following devices have they used to follow their remote courses?** Interviewer: Could be multiple answers

- 1 (...) TV  
2 (...) Tablet PC  
3 (...) Computer  
4 (...) Smart phone  
98. (...) Other \_\_\_\_\_

**56. How much time on average do your children spend a day for remote courses (curricular and extra-curricular activities in total)?**

..... hours/ day    99 I don't know/ I have no idea

**57. What challenges have you faced as part of remote learning?**

**Question 53 if no.**

**58. What are the reasons why your children could not follow remote courses?** (One can mark multiple choices. The choices won't be read out loud)

- 1 (...) No internet access
- 2 (...) Limited internet access/data cap
- 3 (...) No adequate device at home/in the tent (TV, computer, tablet PC etc.)
- 4 (...) Not enough devices (TV, computer, tablet PC, etc.) available at home/in the tent
- 5 (...) The model/brand of the phone is not fit for it
- 6 (...) Technical problems (password and connection problems etc.)
- 7 (...) Having to work/working
- 8 (...) No signal for EBA TV
- 9 (...) Lack of time as children assume domestic/in-tent responsibilities
- 10 (...) Prefers not to follow it up as it is not based on grades
- 11 (...) Don't know how to use remote learning tools
- 12 (...) Remote learning tools are not fit for their special needs
- 98. (...) Other \_\_\_\_\_

**59. Has any of the teachers and/or school administrators from the school that your children attend contacted you since the start of the remote learning?**

- 1 (...) Yes
- 2 (...) No (Proceed to Question 61)

**60. If yes, how and what for?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**61. If face-to-face education resumes while the coronavirus pandemic is still in effect, would you consider letting your children who currently attend a school keep going to their school?**

- 1 (...) Yes (Proceed to Question 63)
- 2 (...) No

**62. If no, why not?**

---

**3.6. PART: Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Children and Child Labour**

INTERVIEWER: If there is no child aged 5 to 17 in a household, ask the questions 64/65 and 66 and then proceed to the question 68.

**63. What is the reason why any of your children works if any?**

INTERVIEWER: Could be multiple answers. The following reasons won't be read out loud.

Reasons behind their employment	63.1 Boys	63.2 Girls
1 (...) Contribution to family budget		
2 (...) Helping pay debts of parents		
3 (...) Acquire a profession/improve a skill		
4 (...) Covering school expenses		
5 (...) Absence from school		
6 (...) Free time in summer breaks		
7 (...) Being accompanied while working		
8 (...) Their own willingness to work		
98 Other		

**64. If they have any children aged 5 to 17 who do not work, why do not they?**

---

**65. Do you think your children will serve as a seasonal agricultural worker in the future?**

1 (...) Yes                      2 (...) No (Proceed to Question 68)

**66. What conditions are needed or what does it take for your children not to serve as an agricultural worker in the future?**

---

**67. Has any of your children started working during the course of the coronavirus pandemic?**

1 (...) Yes                      2 (...) No

### 3.7. PART: Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on the Mental Health of Seasonal Agricultural Workers

Interviewer: The following statements shall be read out loud and the answers shall be yes/nor or I don't know.

68. Statements about mental health	Yes	No	I don't know
1 I think what I do (agricultural labour) is appreciated.			
2 I have to work under non-hygienic conditions.			
3 I do not have any spare time for myself.			
4 In general, I feel tense and/or agitated.			
5 I don't feel like I'm part of the society (local community).			
6 There is too much uncertainty about the coronavirus pandemic.			
7 I could not spend enough time with my family and friends during the coronavirus pandemic.			
8 I think little information has been provided about the virus during the pandemic.			
9 I think the restrictions against the coronavirus pandemic are exaggerated.			
10 I try to distance myself from the reports of coronavirus pandemic as much as I can.			
11 Social solidarity has improved during the course of the coronavirus pandemic.			
12 I think imposing restrictions against the pandemic is the right move.			
13 My workload has increased compared to the past because of the coronavirus pandemic.			
14 I have been mentally exhausted during the coronavirus pandemic.			
15 The pandemic has changed my views about life.			
16 I have had concerns about my professional life during the coronavirus pandemic.			
17 Having no job security during the coronavirus pandemic makes me even more anxious.			
18 I have had concerns about the health of my family during the coronavirus pandemic.			
19 I think my mental health has gotten worse during the coronavirus pandemic.			
20 I have felt desperate and hopeless during the coronavirus pandemic.			

21 I have had some sleep disorders (falling asleep late, waking up intermittently, shorter period of sleep, lack of sleep quality etc.) during the coronavirus pandemic			
22 I have been physically exhausted during the coronavirus pandemic.			
23 I am always on the alert for any potential transmission of the virus.			
24 During the coronavirus pandemic, I have been busy with things that feel good to me.			
25 My bad habits such as smoking and use of alcohol have increased during the coronavirus pandemic.			
26 I have been introverted during the coronavirus pandemic.			
27 Nothing in my life has changed during the coronavirus pandemic.			
28 I have needed to see a mental health specialist (psychologist, psychiatrist etc.) during the coronavirus pandemic.			
29 I have seen a mental health specialist (psychologist, psychiatrist etc.) during the coronavirus pandemic.			
30 I know where/who to seek help/services from for mental health.			
31 I have easy access to mental health services.			

**69. Will you please choose 5 of the following emotions or states that you've experienced the most during the coronavirus pandemic?**

Worried	Solitary	Safe	Sleepless
Nervous	Inappetent	Reluctant	Patient
Happy	Strong	Victimized	Alone
Out of control	Caring	Incapable	Enthusiast
Worthless	Powerless	Absent-minded	Senseless
Angry	Hopeful	Puzzled	Uncomfortable

**INTERVIEW ENDS HERE.**

**PLEASE THANK THE RESPONDENT FOR TAKING PART IN THE SURVEY.**

**A1. Was the respondent alone during the interview?**

1.(...) Yes      2 (...) No

**A2. Please fill out the following table.**

*TO BE FILLED OUT BY THE RESEARCH TEAM*

	<b>Very satisfactory</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>I have no idea.</b>	<b>Not satisfactory</b>	<b>Not satisfactory at all</b>
Candor of the respondent					
Percentage of responding to questions					
Interview environment					

	<b>First/Last Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Interviewer			
Team leader			
Data entry officer			

## Annex 3: In-Depth Interviews

In-Depth Interview Form for Adults/Education		
HOUSEHOLD NO.		
DATE:		
TENT SETTLEMENT:		
RESPONDENT NO:		
STATE:	Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Migrant in a Tent <input type="checkbox"/> Settled in a Tent <input type="checkbox"/>

### Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Education

#### Reasons behind why adult seasonal migrant agricultural workers drop out of school and their expectations from education

How long did you go to school for? At what age did you drop out of school? What caused you to drop out of school and start working? What challenges did you face during the course of your education? What do you remember about the school? If you had the chance to resume your education, what would change in your life?

#### School attendance of children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers and changes in attendance during the coronavirus pandemic

Do you have any children? Do they attend their school? How has the coronavirus pandemic affected the education of your children? What are the differences between this year and last year in terms of the education of your children?

#### Access of children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers to education during the coronavirus pandemic

How has/have he/she/they been informed about the remote learning? What devices has/have he/she/they used to keep up with the remote learning? What challenges have they faced using remote learning devices? How long has/have he/she/they kept up with it for? What do/does he/she/they need to keep up with the remote learning? What challenges has/have he/she/they faced about the remote learning?

#### Changes in wishes and expectations of children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers about education

Would you like your child to keep attending the school? What would it take for him/her to keep attending it? If he/she keeps attending his/her school, what do you think will change about the future of your child? Will he/she/they attend a school in the new school year? What does/do he/she/they need to be able to attend one?

Economic Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic		
HOUSEHOLD NO.		
DATE:		
TENT SETTLEMENT:		
RESPONDENT NO:		
STATE:	Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Migrant in a Tent <input type="checkbox"/>
		Settled in a Tent <input type="checkbox"/>

**PART 1: WHAT TYPE OF POVERTY HAS THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC CAUSED FOR THE HOUSEHOLD?**

1. Mental disorders/physical illness
2. Loss of family members (death, separation, divorce, missing household members)
3. Exposure to external and environmental shocks (flood, torrent etc.) What are identifiable risks?
4. Access to adequate housing, transportation, sanitary, water, power, and garbage collection services. How many people do live in one tent? How close is the tent to a main road? Do mobile phones have a signal there? Transportation
5. Access to assistance from neighborhood and relatives Any friends and relatives around?
6. Who is an agricultural intermediary? Is he/she supportive? Does he/she help with any domestic problem?
7. School attendance and access of children Where is their school? How do they go to their school? How about teachers? Are they supportive? Do they have access to any teacher over the phone?
8. Presence of child labour (Type of job and how long they work for)

**PART II: IMPACT of the COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WORK**

**9. Changes in working conditions**

Has there been any change in working conditions caused by the coronavirus pandemic? Has there been any change in the length of office hours and wages? Has there been any change in terms of age/gender as part of your agricultural labour because of the pandemic compared to the past?

**10. Changes in living and housing conditions**

How has the coronavirus pandemic affected your housing conditions in tents compared to the past? Has there been any change in the number of people living in a tent? Has there been any change in following the hygiene rules? Has there been any assistance provided by any public agency, municipality, or governor's office?

### **PART III: IMPACT of the COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON INCOME, EXPENSES, AND SAVINGS**

#### **11. Changes in sources of income**

Has there been any change in your income during the coronavirus pandemic? Has your income from agricultural labour changed? How have you been able to cope with it? Do you also work for animal husbandry? Have you shifted your focus on alternative jobs?

#### **12. Changes in expenses**

Has there been any change in your expenses during the coronavirus pandemic? What items of expenses have been different because of the coronavirus pandemic? Have you felt the price hikes during the coronavirus pandemic as you try to meet your needs? How have the changes (if any) affected the family?

#### **13. Changes in savings**

Are you able to save some money every month? Has this changed because of the coronavirus pandemic? Has the coronavirus pandemic caused you to spend your savings?

### **PART IV: IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON INDEBTEDNESS, FINANCIAL STATE, AND FUTURE FINANCIAL PLANS**

#### **14. Changes in indebtedness**

Has the coronavirus pandemic made your family run into more debt? What conditions and needs have forced you to borrow from others? Have you had any difficulty in paying your debts on time during the coronavirus pandemic?

#### **15. Changes in access to financial resources**

When you need to borrow from others, who do you usually seek help from? Do you find it easy to borrow from others? Has the coronavirus pandemic changed it? Have you received any loan from a bank during the coronavirus pandemic?

#### **16. Changes in debt management future plans**

Do you think you will need to borrow more in the near future? If yes, what are the reasons behind it? Do you think you can pay your debt? How would you cope with it if your income cannot cover your expenses?

<b>Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Mental Health</b>		
HOUSEHOLD NO.		
DATE:		
TENT SETTLEMENT:		
RESPONDENT NO:		
STATE:	Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Migrant in a Tent <input type="checkbox"/>
		Settled in a Tent <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DEMOGRAPHICS</b>		
AGE:		
GENDER:		

**PART 1: General psycho-social risk factors for seasonal migrant agricultural workers**

1. Could you please describe a day in your life?
2. What challenges you the most about your job?
3. Who do you seek help from when you need any?
4. Have you ever sought help for psychological problems? If yes, can you please elaborate a little bit more?
5. What is the main challenge about living here?
6. What are your relations with friends/neighbors like?
7. What is the division of labour at home like? Who does what?
8. Do you have any mental or physical problem?

**PART II: Psycho-social effects of the coronavirus pandemic**

1. What has been the coronavirus pandemic been like for you? What have you gone through?
2. Have you faced anything difficult to cope with during the pandemic?
3. What have children gone through during the pandemic? What have they experienced?
4. What changes have you gone through?
5. What do you think about those changes?
6. How have you felt about yourself from the social point of view during the pandemic?

**PART III: Stress responses to the coronavirus pandemic**

1. What physical and mental changes have you gone through during the pandemic?
2. How have you felt during the pandemic?
3. Is there anything that makes you disquiet?

**PART IV: Psycho-social coping strategies against the coronavirus pandemic**

1. How do you cope with your problems?
2. What have you done whenever you feel stressed out during the pandemic and what has felt good?
3. Do you know where/who to seek help/services from for mental health?

**PART IV: Access to mental health services during the coronavirus pandemic**

1. Have you ever needed to see a mental health specialist (psychologist, psychiatrist etc.) during the coronavirus pandemic?
2. Have you seen a mental health specialist (psychologist, psychiatrist etc.) during the coronavirus pandemic?
3. Do you know where/who to seek help/services from for mental health?

In-Depth Interview Form for Children Aged 14 to 17		
HOUSEHOLD NO.		
DATE:		
TENT SETTLEMENT:		
RESPONDENT NO:		
STATE:	Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Migrant in a Tent <input type="checkbox"/>
		Settled in a Tent <input type="checkbox"/>
AGE:		
GENDER:		

**GENERAL QUESTIONS:**

1. How do you spend a day in your life?
2. Do you go to work? Where do you work?
3. Since when have you been working?
4. Could you describe a day when you work?
5. How long do you work for?
6. What is the main challenge you face in the workplace?
7. Do you take a break while working?
8. How do you have your meals while working?
9. How much do you make?
10. What do you do after you are done with work in a field/workplace?
11. Have you worked during the coronavirus pandemic?
12. What has changed in your life during the coronavirus pandemic?
13. How do you follow the news about the coronavirus pandemic?
14. Have you ever missed a day at work during the coronavirus pandemic?
15. What did you do when you did not go to work?
16. What would happen if you did not work?

**PART 5: Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Education**

**Reasons behind why the children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers drop out of school and their expectations from education**

Do/Did you go to a school? How long did you attend a school and when did you drop out? What caused you to drop of out of school and start working? What challenges did you face during the course of your education? What do you remember about the school? If you had the chance to resume your education, what would change in your life?

For children who have not dropped out of school:

**School enrollment/attendance of children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers and changes during the coronavirus pandemic**

What are the challenges you face at school and about access to your school? How do you cope with those challenges? How has the coronavirus pandemic affected your education? What are the differences between this year and last year in terms of your education?

**Access of children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers to education during the coronavirus pandemic**

Have you managed to contact your teacher/s during the coronavirus pandemic? Have you been able to keep up with the remote learning? What devices have helped you keep up with it? How long have you kept up with it for? What do you need to keep up with the remote learning? What challenges have you faced about the remote learning?

**Changes in wishes and expectations of children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers about education**

Will you attend a school in the new school year? What do you need to be able to attend one? What do you think would change for you if you keep attending your school?

**PART 6: Psycho-Social Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic**

1. Do you have any friends? What do you do with your friends?
2. Has anything changed about your friendship with others during the coronavirus pandemic?
3. How are you doing where you live? What are you satisfied and dissatisfied with?
4. What makes you uncomfortable?
5. Do you feel safe in the workplace?
6. Have you felt safe working during the coronavirus pandemic?
7. Do you think you are healthy?
8. What would you like to change about your life, your family, and your work?
9. What have you needed the most during the coronavirus pandemic?
10. What is the psychological state of the people around you like?
11. What do you need help about?
12. Who do you seek help from when you need it?
13. Have you ever sought help from a psychologist/psychiatrist for your mental health?
14. Do you have any fears?
15. What do you do when you feel bad? What makes you feel good?

## Annex 4: Child Focus Group

HOUSEHOLD NO.
DATE:
TENT SETTLEMENT:
RESPONDENT NO:
STATE:    Local <input type="checkbox"/> Migrant in a Tent <input type="checkbox"/> Settled in a Tent <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DEMOGRAPHICS</b>
<b>BY AGE:</b>
<b>BY GENDER:</b>

### PART 1: INTRODUCTION QUESTIONS

1. What is coronavirus pandemic? What do you think happened?
2. What was life like before the coronavirus pandemic? What has changed since the advent of the coronavirus pandemic?

### PART II: TRANSITION QUESTIONS

1. What do you do? How do you spend your time?
2. What does your family do for a living?
3. What challenges did you face last year when you worked in the fields or somewhere else?
4. What challenges have you faced this year?
5. What is the first word that comes to your mind about school? (quickly)
6. Do you go to a school?
  - If no, why not? What do you need to be able to attend a school?
  - If yes, what are the challenges you face in school? How do you cope with those challenges?
7. How has the coronavirus pandemic affected your education? What are the differences between this year and last year in terms of your education?
  - If there are any children who normally attend a school and yet could not because of the pandemic, have you been able to contact your teachers during the pandemic? Have you been able to contact your teachers during the pandemic?
  - Have you been able to keep up with the remote learning? Why if no? What do you need to be able to keep up with the remote learning? If yes, what devices have you used for remote learning? How long have you kept up with it for? What do you need to keep up with the remote learning? What challenges have you faced about the remote learning?

8. How has the coronavirus pandemic affected your working conditions?
9. What has your family gone through?
10. What is the difference between last year and this year for you from the psychological point of view?

**PART IV: SURVEY QUESTIONS**

1. How do you cope with the challenges?
2. What do you plan/imagine to do up graduation from your future/current school? Why?
3. What can change about your future life if you can keep attending a school (or if you could)?
4. What do you do when you feel bad? Who do you plan to seek help from?

**PART IV: CONCLUDING QUESTION**

1. What would you like to say as your final remarks? Is there anything you would like to add?

## Annex 5: Key Organization/Informant Interviews

### Survey on the Analysis of the Potential Effect of the Coronavirus Pandemic on the Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers and Child Labour

#### INTERVIEW FORM

Interviewer : \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / 2020

Respondent : \_\_\_\_\_

Person/organization interviewed : \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details:

Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail : \_\_\_\_\_

Mail address : \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the overall state of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers within the jurisdiction of your organization? (A total figure, profiles of workers as a family, accommodation and transportation means, access to certain services)
2. How do you think this overall state will affect/has affected (a) the economic state (income), (b) participation in social life and access to services, and emergence of new needs, (c) participation of children in labour force/education (improvement/decline) and (d) socio-psychological state during the coronavirus pandemic?
3. Have producers (agricultural intermediary agricultural intermediaries , farmers, companies) within your jurisdiction had any special request as a response to the coronavirus pandemic?
4. Have seasonal migrant agricultural workers within your jurisdiction had any special request as a response to the coronavirus pandemic?
5. What actions have you taken as a response within your jurisdiction? (Pre-season preparation and briefing, practices during the season, views about the practices, views about what needs to be done by the end of the season).
6. What can/should public agencies, companies, non-governmental organizations, and chambers of agriculture do about the problems you have established?
7. How do you think the restrictions that you listed have affected/will affect the production costs, labour expenses, and (a) the economic state (income), (b) participation in social life and access to services, and emergence of new needs, (c) participation of children in labour force/education (improvement/decline) and (d) socio-psychological state of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers?

8. How do you think seasonal migrant agricultural workers within your jurisdiction will be affected by the coronavirus pandemic?
9. How do you think the children of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers within your jurisdiction will be affected by the coronavirus pandemic?
10. What monitoring/prevention actions are/should be taken about the participation of children in seasonal agricultural production within your jurisdiction?
11. What type of assistance is/should be provided about the access of children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers to education within your jurisdiction?
12. Has your organization offered any psycho-social assistance during the coronavirus pandemic? Could you please elaborate if you have?

Education:

1. Could you please talk about the participation of children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers in education? What is their attendance rate like? (May ask for the pre-pandemic statistics if any)
2. How has the coronavirus pandemic affected the educational pursuit /school attendance and drop-out) of the children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers and what effects will it have on them? Have you taken any action to follow it up? Do you have any suggestion to change the current state?
3. How has the coronavirus pandemic affected the access of the children of the seasonal migrant agricultural workers to education (in terms of the remote learning)?
4. Have you taken any action about the access of children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers to education during the coronavirus pandemic? Could you please elaborate if you have?

**Overall Assessment / Table of Reminders**

[An respondent may not be opinionated/informed/experienced about each and every subject.]

[Mark the box in this case.]

<b>Practice</b>	<b>How They Are Affected</b>	<b>Organization/Action Taken</b>
Intercity transportation		
Travel Permit (collection of requests from producers and other actions)		
Transportation from accommodation spots to orchards		
Accommodation (space allocation, tent provision, and infrastructure for the tent settlement)		
Hygiene in the work environment (clean water supply and so on)		
Food aid in the work environment (lunch)		
Food aid in the living environment		
Mask supply, sanitizer		
Information about the outbreak		
Follow-up for child labour		
Access of children of seasonal migrant agricultural workers to education		
Other		

**Thank you for your participation.**

**Can we contact you once again if we need to clarify anything about this interview?**

**Yes (\_\_\_\_) / No (\_\_\_\_)**

## Annex 6: List of Key Informants Interviewed by Province

PROVINCE	Organization	Organization/Person	Date of Interview
Mersin	TRC Community Center in Mersin	Non-Governmental Organization	09.09.2020
Mersin	Mersin Metropolitan Municipality	Local Administration	09.09.2020
Mersin	Mersin University	Academic	09.09.2020
Mersin	Support to Life	Non-Governmental Organization	10.09.2020
Mersin	TRC Community Center in Mersin - Protection Programme	Non-Governmental Organization	10.09.2020
Adana	Eğitim-Sen Adana	Trade Union	10.09.2020
İstanbul	Bilgi University	Academic	10.09.2020
İstanbul	Bilgi University	Academic	10.09.2020
Mersin	TRC Community Center in Mersin - PSS	Non-Governmental Organization	11.09.2020
Mersin	TRC Community Center in Mersin - PSS	Non-Governmental Organization	11.09.2020
Mersin	Eğitim-Sen Mersin	Trade Union	11.09.2020
Adana	Çukurova University	Academic	14.09.2020
Adana	Directorate of Migration and Cohesion Center of the Metropolitan Municipality	Local Administration	15.09.2020
Adana	METİP Coordination	Public Agency	15.09.2020
Adana	Seyhan Chamber of Agriculture	Professional Body	15.09.2020
Mersin	Tarsus Chamber of Agriculture	Professional Body	15.09.2020
Mersin	Tarsus Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation	Public Agency	16.09.2020
Adana	Yüreğir Chamber of Agriculture	Professional Body	16.09.2020
Sanliurfa	Support to Life	Non-Governmental Organization	25.09.2020
Adana	Provincial Directorate of National Education	Public Agency	11.09.2020
Sanliurfa	School Principal	Public Agency	23.09.2020
Adana	Pre-School Teacher	Public Agency	10.09.2020
Adana	Elementary school teacher	Public Agency	10.09.2020
Sanliurfa	Elementary school teacher	Public Agency	19.09.2010
Sanliurfa	Elementary school teacher	Public Agency	24.09.2020







