



ELIMINATING THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR IN TURKISH SEASONAL HARVESTING

Turkey is the world's largest producer of hazelnuts, accounting for 75 per cent of global production. The nature of seasonal agricultural work exposes families to all types of risks, to which children are the most vulnerable. For economic and social reasons, children of adult seasonal workers usually accompany their parents from place to place and engage in work that is unsuitable for their age. Socio-economic factors such as poverty, the low education level of families, the reliance of families on their children's income and the cultural acceptance of child labour as a tool for contributing to the household income – all of these factors exacerbate the incidence of child labour in

seasonal agriculture work. Turkey has made remarkable progress in combating child labour by enacting appropriate legislation and putting in place a policy and programmes that attack the root causes of the problem in line with the ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). Although on the decline, child labour is still a problem – particularly in seasonal agriculture including hazelnuts harvesting. During peak work periods, children do not go to school regularly, fall behind in their classes, and are unable to make up for this absence when they return to school.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Partners:

The Association of Chocolate, Biscuits and Confectionery Industries of Europe (CAOBISCO)

Beneficiary country:
Turkey

Timeframe:
2013 – present

Budget:
USD 260,756

THE RESPONSE

The partnership between CAOBISCO and the ILO contributes to the elimination of the worst forms of child labour (WFCL) in seasonal agriculture, in line with the Government's strategy drawn up on the basis of the National Time-Bound Policy for the elimination of WFCL by 2015.

The partnership is based on a strategic intervention model specific to the context of hazelnut plantations, which also aims to contribute to a sustainable action plan to combat child labour in seasonal agriculture throughout Turkey.

The partnership aims to achieve three targeted outputs:

- To enhance the capacity of local institutions in planning, managing, coordinating, monitoring and implementing activities for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in seasonal hazelnut harvesting;
- To develop withdrawal and prevention mechanisms for child labourers and at-risk children by providing direct support;
- To raise the awareness of families, employers, intermediaries, public and private sectors, civil society and the media of the issue of child labour in seasonal hazelnut harvesting.

RESULTS

During the first phase of the project in 2013, activities were carried out to try and withdraw the targeted children from work, and to prevent them from working – accompanied by protective measures – with a view to eliminating the WFCL. This required education, guidance, counselling and rehabilitation services, together with monitoring activities, which took place during this initial period.

The outcomes of the 2012 harvest season were reviewed by means of a rapid assessment study, and local-level steering committees were established. The communication activities focused on reporting and lessons learned to ensure the sustainability of the model, while discussing possibilities of replicating it for other agricultural products and areas.





“We are particularly pleased to work in this public-private partnership in Turkey and have been very encouraged by the response from all actors in the supply chain to work together towards a common goal of the elimination of the worst forms of child labour in hazelnuts.”

Sabine NAFZIGER
Secretary General
of CAOBISCO

The quantitative information on the project outcomes for the 2013 harvest season is as follows:

- 330 families who work as seasonal harvesters were reached; 192 were provided with individual counselling, and the rest benefited from group counselling and training sessions;
- 381 children (6-15 years) were reached, and 252 of them (132 girls and 120 boys) were withdrawn or prevented from work through the provision of educational services; the rest benefited from other services;
- 22 rural intermediaries were reached and provided with counselling and training;
- 104 hazelnut garden/plantation owners were interviewed and provided with individual counselling and training sessions. In addition, three large hazelnut suppliers and manufacturing companies, as well as eight wholesalers, were reached. The aim was to increase producers' awareness of the child labour problem in seasonal agriculture in hazelnut harvesting in Turkey.

The second phase of the partnership in 2014 focused on: enhancing national ownership for the sustainability of the model; and making a contribution to a sustainable action plan against child labour – not only in hazelnuts, but in seasonal agriculture throughout Turkey. The second-year activities also set out to obtain a greater and better involvement of civil society organizations and the private sector in the project, alongside continuous efforts to strengthen national and local capacities to combat child labour in seasonal agriculture.



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BENEFITS OF PARTNERING

The project demonstrates how multinational companies, working in partnership with ILO constituents, can achieve sustainable progress in eliminating child labour in their supply chains and support the withdrawal of children from – or their protection against – child labour in a given target area.