



International
Labour
Organization



FERRERO
FARMING
VALUES



REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR
AND SOCIAL SECURITY

ANNUAL BULLETIN

Key Highlights of 2025 Project Implementation

This annual bulletin provides an overview of activities implemented across the project provinces throughout 2025 under the "Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Seasonal Agriculture in Hazelnut Harvesting in Türkiye" project.



PROJECT DETAILS

PROJECT NAME	Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour in Seasonal Agriculture in Hazelnut Harvesting in Türkiye
IMPLEMENTING INSTITUTIONS	International Labour Organization (ILO), in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Directorate General of Labour
SUPPORTING PARTNER	Ferrero International SA and its Ferrero Farming Values Program
PROJECT DURATION	March 2024 – March 2027
PROJECT PROVINCES	Ordu, Samsun, Sakarya, Düzce, Zonguldak, Trabzon, Şanlıurfa, Adıyaman and Diyarbakır

Implementation Highlights

Field Visits Before the Harvest Season

In February 2025, a visit was carried out in Şanlıurfa jointly with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS), including visits to schools and the Provincial Directorate of National Education, to discuss challenges related to access to schooling and the educational performance of children of seasonal agricultural workers and to identify areas for improvement. In June and July 2025, field coordination visits were carried out in Sakarya, Düzce, Zonguldak, Samsun, Ordu and Trabzon, including meetings with Governorates, District Governorates, Provincial Directorates of National Education, and Provincial Directorates of the Turkish Employment Agency to brief authorities on planned harvest-season interventions. The visits also addressed emerging priorities such as occupational safety and health, skills development, green and digital transitions, and local labour market vulnerabilities.



Photos: ILO Office for Türkiye • 2025

Photos of ILO delegation engaged in preparatory visits in Samsun, Sakarya and Şanlıurfa respectively

Field Visits During the Harvest Season

During the 2025 harvest season, several ILO field monitoring visits, a joint field visit with Ferrero, and a multi-stakeholder field visit were conducted in the provinces receiving seasonal agricultural migration. In August 2025, the ILO carried out monitoring missions across Ordu, Samsun, Sakarya, Zonguldak and Düzce to follow up on the delivery of education and support services at field level. In addition, joint ILO-Ferrero visit to Ordu and Samsun in August 2025 focused on reviewing implementation progress of the project and engaging with the Implementing Partner and beneficiaries. Alongside these visits, in August 2025, a Multi-Stakeholder Field Visit was conducted together with Ferrero, Caobisco and the MoLSS, including courtesy visits to provincial governors and municipal authorities, coordination meetings, and field visits to METIP areas, Social Support Centres and renovated worker accommodations. This was followed by an international mission with the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in September 2025, which reviewed provincial coordination mechanisms, living and working conditions of seasonal agricultural workers, and private sector due diligence practices, while strengthening policy dialogue on child labour elimination, decent work and responsible business conduct.



Photos: ILO Office for Türkiye • 2025

Photos from the Multi-Stakeholder Field Visit

In 2025...

10

Social Support Centres established

Düzce Zonguldak Samsun Ordu



Education Support for Children

1,544

children identified

1,500

children referred to educational activities

1,500

children benefited from nutritional support

1,311

children benefited from transportation services

1,390

children received clothing kits

1,422

children provided with education and stationary kits

1,078

children benefited from social, cultural, sports & arts activities

202

children benefited from ILO's SCREAM activities



Consultancy for Agricultural Intermediaries, Orchard Owners and Village Heads

117

AGRICULTURAL INTERMEDIARIES

received counselling support during the hazelnut harvest season on the negative aspects of child labour in seasonal agriculture, as well as on their legal and operational obligations & training

64

ORCHARD OWNERS

received counselling on the hazards of child labour in seasonal agriculture, relevant legislation, occupational safety and health in agriculture, and the roles and responsibilities of different actors in preventing child labour

31

VILLAGE HEADS



Family Counselling & Training

377 families

received general family counselling

8 families

received general family, OSH and gender training



In-Depth Monitoring

217 children

monitored after harvest period, guided to relevant institutions and courses to further develop their skills and interests



Photo: 451 Derece • Ordu, 2025

A photo of children in the classroom



A photo of students participating in a museum visit



Photos: Pikolo Association • 2025

A photo of children participating in a kite-flying activity

In their own words...

Yasser Hassan, Director, ILO Office for Türkiye

One of ILO's roles is supporting its member States in realizing fundamental principles and rights at work including combatting child labour as enshrined in the ILO's fundamental conventions on child labour namely, [Convention No.138 on Minimum Age](#), and [Convention No.182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour](#), which Türkiye is a ratifying country.

Türkiye's partnership with ILO for combating child labour goes back to 1992 when the country became a party of ILO's IPEC programme (International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour).

The sound legal frameworks and the good policies contributed to many achievements and accomplishments. Looking ahead, I see the new targets to be reached, which appear in the [National Employment Strategy \(2025-2028\)](#) and the [12th National Development Plan \(2024-2028\)](#) which I believe will contribute to shaping the new Action Plan programme on the elimination of child labour. The ILO will continue providing support to its tripartite constituents in Türkiye.

Our partnership with Ferrero, which started in 2020, plays an important role in bringing together efforts of the public & private sectors behind the national agenda of Türkiye.



Photo: 451 Derece • Ankara, 2025

Suat Dede, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Labour and Social Security

As the Ministry, particularly through the Directorate General of Labour, we have been carrying out intensive work to combat child labour since the 1990s, and our most important partner in this field is the ILO. We have implemented numerous projects over the years, and this project we have implemented jointly has provided us with very significant contributions. Based on the experience gained through this project, we believe that similar successful results can also be achieved in other sectors and fields.



Photo: 451 Derece • Ankara, 2025

To date, we have prepared and implemented three circulars on seasonal agricultural workers. The first circular was issued in 2010. Then, the second circular was prepared in 2017, drawing on lessons learned from field implementation. By 2024, we prepared and began implementing a much more comprehensive circular, which clearly sets out the responsibilities of public institutions and organizations regarding all services to be provided to seasonal agricultural workers and their children. The field experience and feedback obtained through the projects implemented jointly with the ILO have made a substantial contribution to the preparation of this circular.

İsmail Zerey, Ordu Provincial President, HAK-İŞ Trade Union Confederation

We fully support all efforts aimed at preventing child labour, ensuring decent working conditions, and protecting labour. We believe that the partnerships established in this field represent a major gain for the future of our society. As HAK-İŞ Ordu Provincial Presidency, we will continue to contribute to every effort that ensures our children remain in education and have a safe future.

In their own words...

Mukaddes Akdağ, Student

My name is Mukaddes. There are ten children in our family, seven girls and three boys. I live in Şanlıurfa. We left Şanlıurfa in the middle of the month of Ramadan. We first went to Adana, then to Konya, and after that to Bursa. In Konya, we picked sugar beets. In Adana, we picked cucumbers. In Bursa, we picked potatoes. After that, we came Samsun. My family is harvesting hazelnuts here.

I like my lessons at school here. We go outside and have fun. For example, when we do music activities, we play games, laugh, and enjoy ourselves. It is the same when we do painting activities. If there were no school, we would be harvesting hazelnuts.



Photo: 451 Derece • 2025

Ferhat Bedük, Student

We have been coming Zonguldak for nine years. We came directly from Silopi, Şırnak. We travelled 1,500 kilometres to get here and it took a full day. I have three older sisters. One of them is married, and two of them are here. I also have one older brother. They are adults and work in the fields.

A shuttle comes in the morning and picks us up. Then we come to school and have breakfast. After that, we go to our classrooms. The teachers teach lessons. This school is very nice, and the teachers are very nice too. It is nicer than home. We have fun here. We play table tennis. We do paintings. In table tennis, we have tournaments. The teachers said we will also have football tournaments. When I go back from here, I will miss the time I spent with my friends and my teachers.



Photo: 451 Derece • 2025

Zeynep Köçer, Student

My name is Zeynep and I am thirteen years old. I spend six months in my hometown and six months away.

In most of the places we go, I cannot attend school. I can only go to school in Ordu. At school, they teach me about children's rights through sports activities. They also give me lessons so that I do not fall behind in my studies. I can improve my reading and writing skills, and this makes me very happy. I have been attending school here for two years. I have wonderful teachers. If there were no school, I would fall behind in my lessons and would not have met such wonderful teachers.



Photo: 451 Derece • 2025

In their own words...

Mehmet Kavak, Teacher

We believe this project allows students to access opportunities they might never have in their own regions. Even in just one month, we can identify what kind of talents a student has, what they are passionate about, and what they succeed in. We communicate with their principals and teachers back home. Maybe one day that child would go on to study at a fine arts faculty. They may become an art teacher or a music teacher. Seeing even the smallest spark and moving toward it can change a student's life, their family's life, and their future.



Photo: 451 Derece • 2025

Recep Yavan, Garden Owner

Previously, families and their children who came here were suffering in the unhygienic field conditions. After this project, children are picked up from their tents in the mornings and taken to school. They are provided with meals during the day. They receive proper care and attention there.

Meanwhile, parents are able to work more comfortably in the fields. They no longer worry about their children. As employers, we are also at ease. In the past, families would suddenly receive news like, "Your child fell," or "Your child went into a pond or river," and they would have to rush off immediately. Now, such situations don't happen anymore. Workers are comfortable, garden owners are comfortable. Everyone is happy.



Photo: 451 Derece • 2025

Ceylan Curun, Seasonal Agricultural Worker, Parent

We live in Şanlıurfa. I have two children: one son and one daughter. We have been working as seasonal agricultural workers for about 15 years. We came here for hazelnut harvesting. We will work for two months here and then leave.

Previously, there were no schools. We were constantly worried about the children, wondering what they were doing while we were working. Now, we don't have question marks in our minds anymore.

My children used to have difficulty communicating with others. But once they started going to school and seeing other children, they began to integrate more. They started socializing.



Photo: 451 Derece • 2025

In-Depth Monitoring

An interview was conducted with a child who was identified at field during the harvest season and whose permanent residence is in Şanlıurfa. Within the scope of in-depth monitoring activities, the child was referred to courses at the Karaköprü Youth Centre in Şanlıurfa while continuing his formal education outside the harvest season, and his situation has been closely monitored following the harvest period. Reflections from the child, his father, and his teachers are presented below.

Muhammet Emir Modanlı, 13 Years Old, Student, Şanlıurfa

My name is Muhammet Emir Modanlı, and I am the older child in a family with two children. I have a younger sibling, Miraç, who is twelve years old. We have both been attending courses for the past two years.

I really enjoy spending time here. I participate in many different courses. Before, I used to spend a lot of time in our neighbourhood with my sibling and friends, but during the winter we could not spend time outside much. Now, even in winter, I am able to do activities. My family is happy that my sibling and I attend courses together, and they support us in many ways. I also apply what I learn here at school. That is why going to school has become more enjoyable for me. I feel happier.



Photo: Pikolo Association • Şanlıurfa 2025

A photo of children participating in sports activities

Muhammet Emir Modanlı's Father

The children have been attending courses since last year, and this has contributed greatly to their school performance. The courses have provided strong educational support. In addition, the children are able to release their energy in a positive way. Instead of being exposed to risks outside, they are safe while participating in these courses. This year in particular, sports activities have increased, and I believe they are very beneficial for the children's development.



Photo: Pikolo Association • Şanlıurfa 2025

A photo of children participating in sports activities

Reflections from Muhammet's Teachers

Muhammet is one of the students who has demonstrated the most active participation in the course programmes. He is currently attending basketball, robotics coding, karate, and badminton courses. According to feedback from his teachers, Muhammet is described as highly adaptable, communicative, intelligent, and eager to learn.

His basketball coach describes him as follows: "Muhammet is a very active child and physically strong for his age." Meanwhile, his badminton coach highlighted his potential to participate in tournaments, stating: "Many students attend here, and from time to time we identify children we can prepare for tournaments. Muhammet is one of them."

Awareness Raising Events

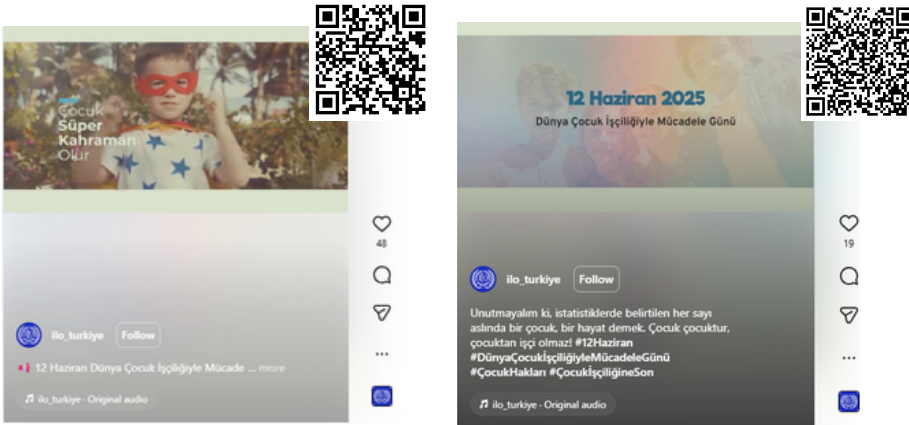
12 June World Day Against Child Labour

- ▶ ILO's official campaign material for 12 June 2025 was translated into Turkish, and both digital and printed posters were produced.
- ▶ Atakule Tower, one of capital city Ankara's landmark structures, was illuminated in ILO blue to mark the World Day Against Child Labour and the official ILO 2025 WDACL visual message was displayed on the curved outdoor screen throughout the day.
- ▶ Posters including the ILO's 2025 WDACL message in Turkish were displayed on billboards and, where available, digital screens in the following provinces of Türkiye: Ankara, İstanbul, Sakarya, Zonguldak, Samsun, Ordu, Trabzon, Giresun, Diyarbakır, Şanlıurfa, and Adıyaman.
- ▶ Social media posts were published on ILO Office for Türkiye's Instagram account:

Post 1 is available at: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DKzNGG1sFIT/>

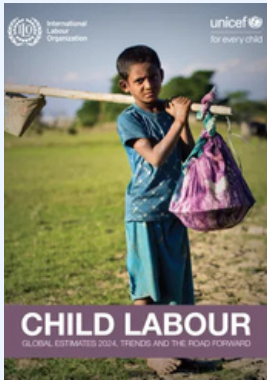
Post 2 is available at: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DKzsmInuWnc/>

Scan the QR codes to watch!



- ▶ ILO-UNICEF 2024 Global Estimates of Child Labour Report was translated into Turkish and designed.

ILO-UNICEF 2024 Global Estimates of Child Labour Report Key Highlights



- Since 2000, child labour has almost halved, **from 246 million to 138 million**, yet current rates remain too slow, and the world has fallen short of reaching the 2025 global elimination target.
- **54 million** of these children are in hazardous work.
- Agriculture remains the largest sector for child labour, accounting for **61 per cent** of all cases.
- What is needed now is a dramatic scaling up of action to turn the global commitment to end child labour into a lasting reality.
- Innovative **public-private partnerships** could inject new investments into child-focused programmes.

