



► NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2025

This newsletter contains information about the activities carried out between September-December 2025, covering the 4-month period of "An Integrated Model for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Seasonal Agriculture in Hazelnut Harvesting in Türkiye" project.

CAOBISCO

► CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Impact Assessment Study Validation Workshop

Within the framework of more than ten years of public-private sector cooperation between the Association of Chocolate, Biscuit and Confectionery Industries of Europe (CAOBISCO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) Office for Türkiye, an impact assessment study of the project aims to present sustainable policy recommendations to combat child labour in seasonal hazelnut agriculture, as well as to highlight the project's impacts over the past decade, achievements between 2013-2023, challenges encountered, and emerging opportunities.

A draft report prepared by the ILO, based on field findings and data obtained from interviews with stakeholder institutions and organizations, was shared with contributing institutions. A validation workshop was held on 7 November 2025 to allow institutional representatives to review and validate the findings. The workshop enabled both the verification of institutional inputs and the clarification of previously ambiguous areas through expert insights from participants.



ILO-CAOBISCO Coordination Meeting

The CAOBISCO-ILO Coordination Meeting, held on 2 December 2025, reviewed the progress achieved throughout 2025, the findings of the impact assessment study, and sustainability planning. It was highlighted that the project's impact assessment is nearing completion, capacity-building activities are ongoing, and Türkiye's achievement of becoming an Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder Country status represents a significant milestone.

The meeting underscored the project's contributions to strengthening national policies and institutional mechanisms, particularly through the updated 2024 circulars addressing child labour in seasonal agriculture. The meeting concluded by emphasizing the importance of strengthening national implementation mechanisms, sustaining collaboration, and adopting evidence-based approaches to address the structural drivers of child labour, including poverty, migration, and climate change.



2025 Steering Committee Meeting Held

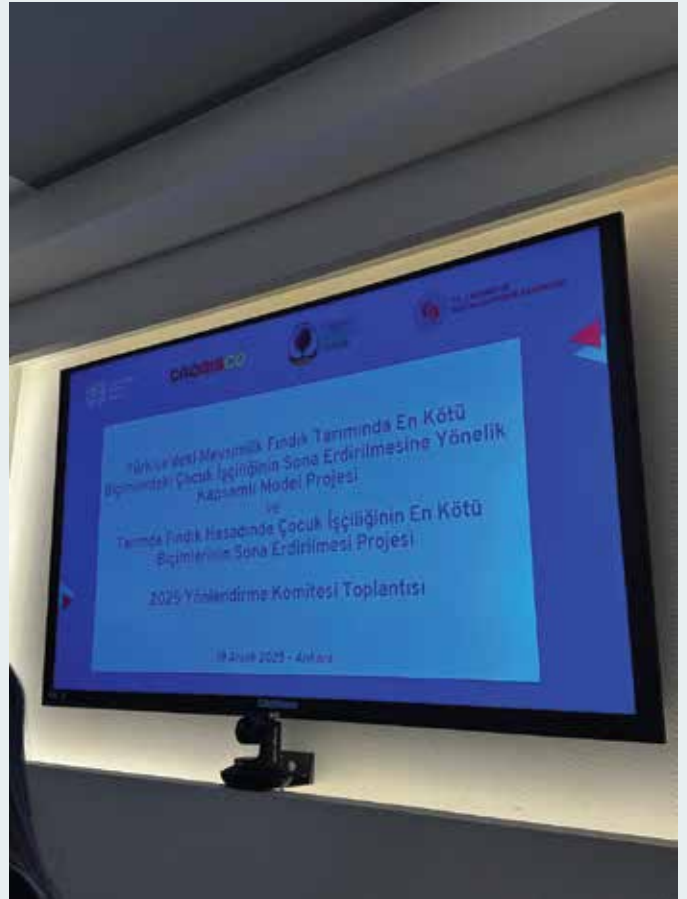
The joint Steering Committee Meeting of the projects “An Integrated Model for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Seasonal Agriculture in Hazelnut Harvesting in Türkiye” and “Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour in Seasonal Agriculture in Hazelnut Harvesting in Türkiye” was held on 19 December 2025 at the ILO Türkiye Office.

The hybrid-format meeting was organized to review the results achieved in 2025 and to discuss priorities and activity plans for 2026, with participation from relevant public institutions, social partners, and donor organizations. Approximately 25 participants attended, including ILO Türkiye Office Director Yasser Hassan, senior ILO officials, project teams, and high-level representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MoLSS) and the Ministry of National Education (MoNE), as well as other relevant institutions. Representatives from TÜRK-İŞ, HAK-İŞ, and DİSK, the Istanbul Exporters’ Associations, and donor organizations CAOBISCO and Ferrero also contributed to the meeting.

In her presentation, Senior Project Coordinator Ayşegül Özbek Kansu outlined progress achieved by both projects in 2025, challenges encountered during implementation, lessons learned, and planned activities for 2026, with particular emphasis on sustainability and alignment with national policy frameworks. Discussions focused on progress and remaining needs in the final year of phase 5 of the CAOBISCO-funded project and phase 2 of the Ferrero-funded project.

Participants emphasized that child labour in seasonal agriculture is driven by structural factors such as poverty, informal employment, seasonal migration, and climate change, highlighting the need for a multi-stakeholder and holistic approach.

Key topics included strengthening social protection mechanisms, ensuring uninterrupted access to education, expanding vocational training opportunities for youth, reinforcing child protection mechanisms, and improving reliable data, monitoring systems, and inter-institutional coordination. Human rights due diligence, responsible business conduct, and alignment with EU regulations were also discussed.



Training for Teachers in Şanlıurfa

A teacher training programme aimed at strengthening children's access to education was held on 26 December by ILO Office for Türkiye through the implementing partner Pikolo Association, with participation from teachers working in schools with high enrolment of children from seasonal agricultural worker families in Şanlıurfa.

ILO Senior Project Coordinator Ayşegül Özbek Kansu presented the ILO's approach to combating child labour and ongoing ILO initiatives. Prof. Dr. Murat Gürkan Gülcan also provided information on the Presidential Circular No. 2024/5, Ministry of National Education (MoNE) Circular No. 2024/52, and non-formal education modules issued by the Directorate General of Lifelong Learning of MoNE. Pikolo Association's Monitoring and Evaluation team shared information on project scope and M&E activities. Prof. Dr. Murat Gürkan Gülcan also provided information on the Presidential Circular No. 2024/5, Ministry of National Education (MoNE) Circular No. 2024/52, and non-formal education modules issued by the Directorate General of Lifelong Learning of MoNE. Teachers reported that they actively use the new MoNE modules to open courses for children who are at risk of or already affected by child labour. They explained that they conduct household visits and follow up with families by phone in order to encourage participation in these courses and to maintain engagement with beneficiaries.



Capacity Development Activities on Due Diligence are Launching

Within the scope of project activities, training workshops will be delivered by the ILO Türkiye Office to approximately 300 participants, including hazelnut companies, exporters' associations, chambers of agriculture, central and local government institutions, social partners, and other relevant stakeholders. Four workshops are planned for 2026. And the content of the training series has been prepared by an ILO external collaborator with thematic expertise and will be delivered to beneficiaries in their respective provinces.

► DIRECT INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES

Field Visits Conducted in Şanlıurfa

An ILO delegation consisting of Senior Project Coordinator Ayşegül Özbek Kansu and Monitoring and Evaluation Expert Burcu Kabil carried out a comprehensive field visit in Şanlıurfa. Following their contributions to trainings for teachers and agricultural labour intermediaries, the delegation visited Şanlıurfa Karaköprü Youth Center, where children referred in various educational and social activities. During the visit, small group discussions were held with the children to better understand their experiences and perspectives. Moreover, a coordination meeting was held with the implementing partner's project and field team to review ongoing and planned activities. Discussions focused on the planning of winter activities, the use of newly developed Ministry of National Education (MoNE) modules, the implementation of family training programs, and the organization of vocational training. Updates were also provided on kit distribution to beneficiaries as well as in-depth monitoring.



Training for Agricultural Labour Intermediaries in Şanlıurfa

On 24 December 2025, a training program for agricultural labour intermediaries was conducted in Şanlıurfa by ILO Office for Türkiye through the implementing partner Pikolo Association.

The program opened with remarks by Ayşegül Özbek Kansu, ILO Senior Project Coordinator; Turan Türk, Labour Expert, Ministry of Labour and Social Security and Onur Torun, Secretary General of Pikolo Association.



During the training, implementing partner's consultant Prof. Dr. Murat Gülcan shared consultations and solution proposals regarding sectoral challenges. OSH Expert Ertan Uzunçakmak presented occupational health and safety practices in agriculture, while Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) representative Ayşegül Özdemir provided information on the legal obligations of agricultural labour intermediaries.

The training aimed to increase awareness among intermediaries and strengthen efforts to combat child labour in seasonal agriculture. The certification process for agricultural labour intermediaries will be supported by the ILO with facilitation of implementing partner Certification applications for agricultural labour intermediaries have been submitted to İŞKUR, with results expected by early January 2026.

Year-End Evaluations with the Implementing Partner

During a meeting held at the Şanlıurfa Social Support Centre with Pikolo Association, the ILO delegation reviewed activities conducted throughout the year, discussed field challenges, and identified priorities for the upcoming period.

The importance of strengthening cooperation with Public Education Centers for the field-level implementation of MoNE modules was emphasized, with a call for full system integration by the upcoming summer.

The meeting also addressed referrals, teacher trainings, and educational counselling, emphasizing the need to move beyond advisory approaches and achieve measurable outcomes, particularly for youth aged 15 and above.



Regular Monitoring Activities

Within the framework of the project combating the worst forms of child labour in seasonal hazelnut harvesting, the ILO Office for Türkiye and implementing partner Pikolo Association maintain contact with seasonal migrant agricultural worker families and their children outside the harvest season, systematically monitoring school attendance.

Post-harvest, families and schools of all children who benefited from summer activities are contacted by phone to monitor school attendance. Children at risk of dropping out or who have dropped out are followed through school visits, family visits, and regular monitoring mechanisms. Monitoring includes follow-up visits, well-being assessments, average attendance rates, referrals to basic services, and long-term follow-up across different periods of the year.

During phone calls, children's locations are verified and attendance assessed. For children with irregular or low attendance, school and family visits are conducted, and tailored actions, such as school cooperation, counselling, and material support, are implemented once the causes of absenteeism are identified.

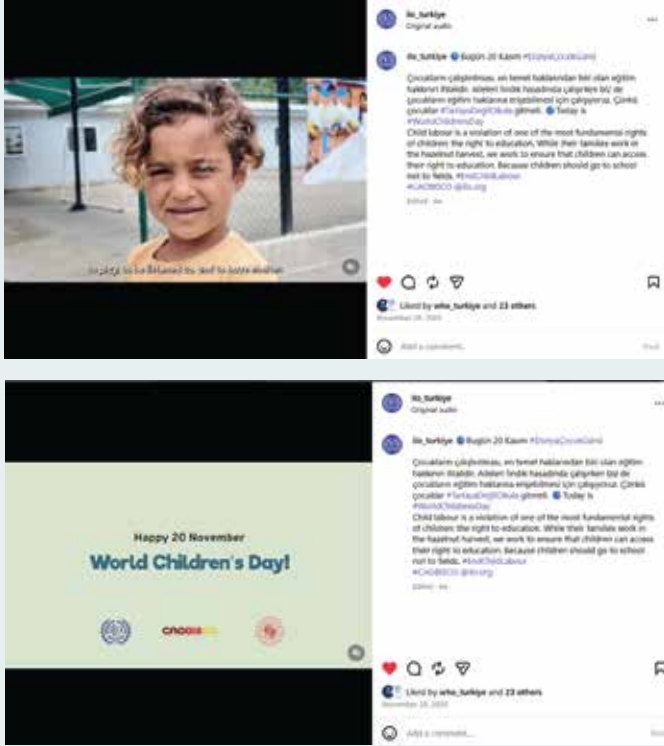
During this period, 448 out of 550 targeted children were monitored. Among those contacted, 112 children were identified as having irregular attendance or having dropped out of school, and necessary interventions were implemented in December. Additionally, children identified by Social Support Centre teachers as having specific skills were referred to relevant institutions and courses to support their development. Girls and boys benefit equally from project activities, with specific incentives provided to encourage girls' participation.



► AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES

20 November – World Children’s Day

Recognizing that child labour constitutes a violation of children’s fundamental right to education, the ILO Türkiye Office continues its efforts to ensure children’s access to education. On the occasion of 20 November World Children’s Day, social media messages were prepared and shared within the scope of the project to raise public awareness.



Participation in the Turkmenistan Cotton Harvest Observation Mission

Under the coordination of the ILO Headquarters Fundamentals Branch, bi-weekly observation missions were conducted during the cotton harvest season in Turkmenistan from August to November. For the September period, Child Labour Officer Ala Yılmazsoy participated on behalf of the ILO Türkiye Office, while Project Assistant Ceren Berkkan participated during the October period.

The mission aimed to visit harvest areas, collect information from workers, and conduct interviews and observations to assess working conditions, identify decent work violations, and detect indicators of forced labour and child labour.

► MEDYA İZLENİMLERİ

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<https://www.ilo.org/tr/resource/haberler/teachers-t%C3%BCrkiye-empowered-support-children%E2%80%99s-access-education>

<https://www.ilo.org/tr/resource/haberler/training-agricultural-intermediaries-strengthens-combat-against-child>







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