



# Harvesting the Future:

## Scaling Remediation Efforts for Seasonal Migrant Agriculture Workers in Turkey

Project Update  
August 2019 to February 2020



### PROJECT LAUNCH

In August 2019, the Fair Labor Association (FLA) launched an 18-month project titled Harvesting the Future. Turkey's Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services (MoFLSS), a project partner, hosted the kick-off in Ankara offices in July with 21 representatives from project partners in attendance.

The purposed of the meeting was to reach a collective understanding about the project and seek support from the government of Turkey to execute project activities on the ground. The MoFLSS committed its support and alerted the local directorates about the project.

### PROJECT LOCATIONS

The FLA conducted project activities including training, data collection, and stakeholder engagement in 17 locations.



### PROJECT ACTIVITIES

#### I. Supply Chain Mapping

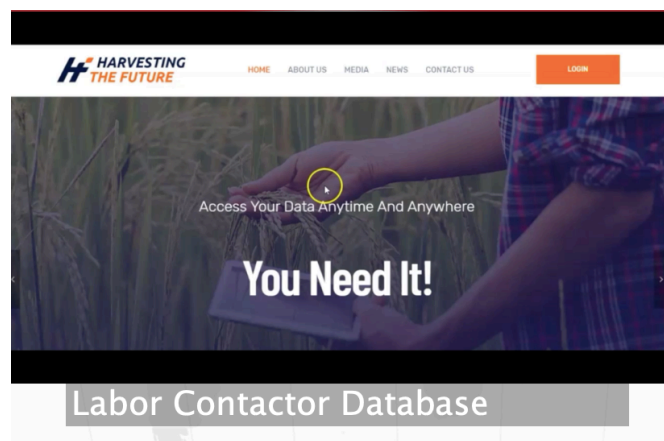
The FLA hosted face-to-face workshops and online coaching and advisory sessions for 20 participating suppliers. To date, 50 percent of the suppliers have completed supply chain mapping using tools and

guidance provided by the FLA and submitted information about their supply chains.

#### II. Data Collection and Labor Contractor Database

From mid-August to mid-September, FLA and its local partner, Pikolo, undertook field visits during the peak harvest season to capture worker information. Team members visited regional governors of three provinces and local directorates of MoFLSS and the Ministry of Agriculture and collected data for four commodities (hazelnut, pistachio, potato, and raisin) in 14 districts located in seven provinces (Düzce, Sakarya, Ordu, Gaziantep, Konya, Karaman, Manisa), covering 36 villages.

Data represent information from 140 farmers, 52 labor intermediaries, and 115 workers active in the supply chains of 14 suppliers supplying to six project participating companies. With the help of the suppliers, 130 labor intermediaries were mapped covering 1200 workers. During November, the data was cleaned, sorted, and stored in an online labor contractor database, which was developed for the project.



#### III. Capacity Building

In December 2020, the FLA facilitated two train-the-trainer sessions, "Elimination of Child Labor in

*Agriculture Supply Chains*” and “*Working with Agriculture Intermediaries*” in partnership with UNICEF and the Development Workshop. Forty participants from 15 suppliers and 3 companies attended the workshops.

In January 2020, FLA and Pikolo held three training sessions for 80 labor intermediaries that provide workers to 10 suppliers (*details in the table below*). A tangible outcome of the workshops: 53 labor intermediaries, who previously operated without a legal permit, registered with ISKUR – the MoFLSS branch responsible for the registration of labor intermediaries.

	MANİSA	ŞANLIURFA	DIYARBAKIR	TOTAL
<b>Date</b>	24.01.2020	28.01.2020	30.01.2020	3 Sessions
<b>Participants</b>	9	39	32	80
<b>Certification</b>	7	19	27	53 (54 were eligible)



In February, FLA hosted a training session in Konya that covered decent work principles, communication with target groups, child labor, and education and social welfare for 27 staff members of one company participating in the project.



#### IV. Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement especially with public authorities is a cornerstone of the project. On January 23, 2020, the FLA organized a roundtable meeting for local government representatives in Manisa. Nineteen representatives from 10 public services (e.g. education, health, investment, labor bureau, municipality, security,

etc.) participated in a discussion on service provision to seasonal migrant workers in the region. The head of the labor department from Ankara chaired the meeting. Some project partners also participated. Following the roundtable, the team visited a seasonal migrant worker camp in Beyoba.



The FLA organized another roundtable meeting to discuss service provision and camp establishments. The February 18 roundtable included 30 public authorities in Konya and was chaired by the head of the Ankara labor department. Representatives from several participating companies and suppliers attended.

The roundtables highlighted specific interventions local government officials can implement for seasonal migratory labor. Such discussions are common in the hazelnut sector, but they were welcomed as new topics of conversation in areas harvesting other agriculture commodities using a seasonal labor force.



The FLA promoted Harvesting the Future in January at the Sivil Düşün National Forum on Business and Human Rights in Ankara. The last stakeholder activity, before the COVID-19 outbreak, was a February workshop on child labor in Paris for the members of the Sustainable Spices Initiative. The focus was using a multi-stakeholder approach to tackling issues in agriculture supply chains.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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