

Protection Monitoring Report

Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor
in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana and Mersin



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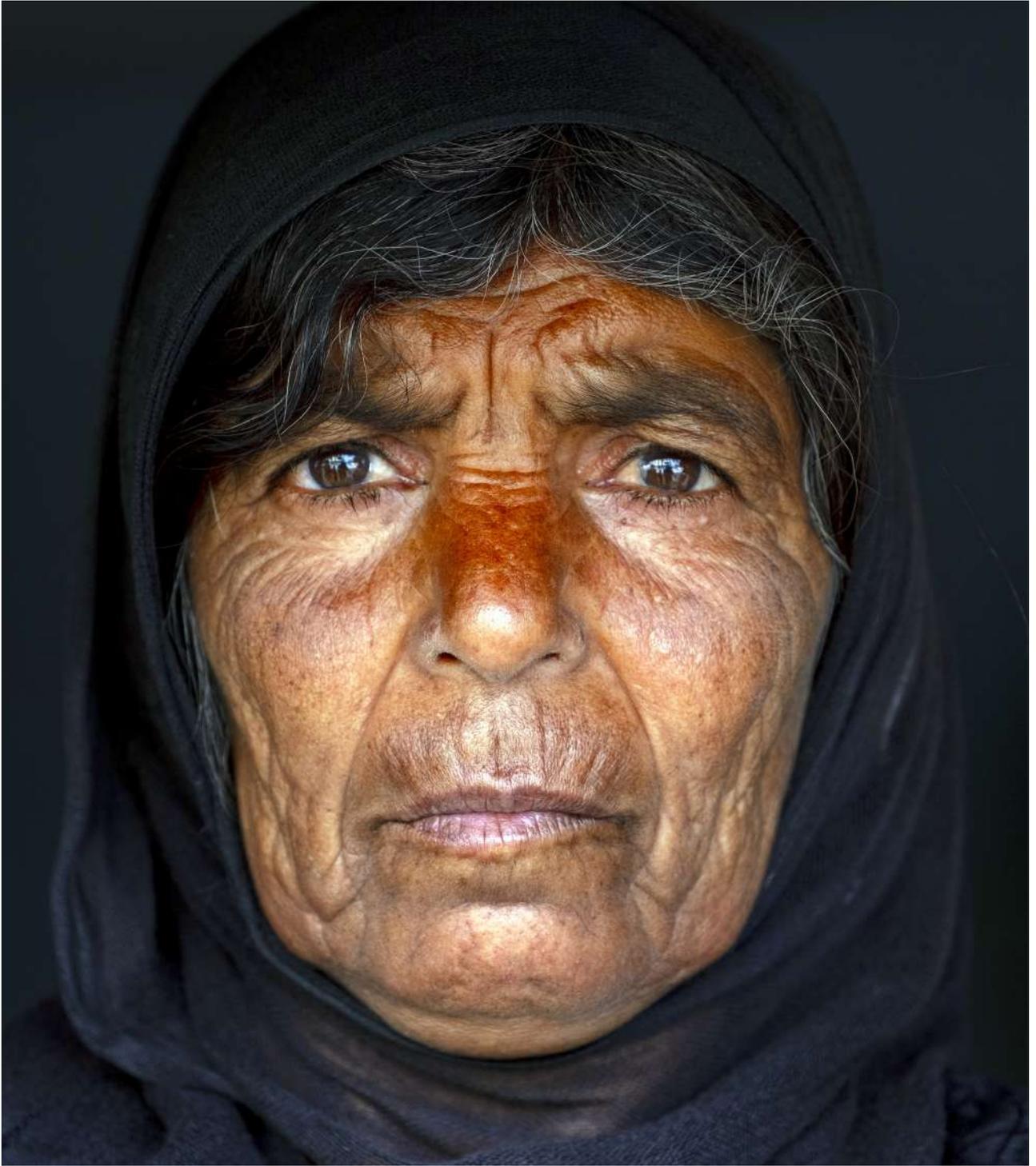
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1. Executive Summary

The current report is the second of two Protection Monitoring Reports to be produced under LINK II project by GOAL Turkey and it aims to present the results of protection monitoring activities to better comprehend the vulnerabilities and protection risks faced by Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor in all LINK II project locations. This document is intending to inform GOAL Turkey's future programming and to apprise future advocacy and sensitization strategies targeting duty bearers and service providers by presenting evidence-based, up-to-date, and contextualized information. It is also intending to inform relevant stakeholders and service providers as to whereabouts to Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor with up-to-date and evidence-based information and tools to encourage them to extend their services to Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor.

1.1 Methodology

The current study was conducted in all LINK II project locations, namely Gaziantep (districts of Nurdağı, İslahiye, and Araban), Adana (districts of Yüreğir, Karataş, Seyhan, Tuzla, and Yumurtalık), Şanlıurfa (districts of Ceylanpınar, Eyyübiye, Suruç, Haliliye, and Viranşehir), and Mersin (district of Tarsus). Participants were Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor and/or their family members. Qualitative research methods were used. Three different focus group interview guides for adults and children, key informant interview guide, and semi-structured in-depth interview guides were prepared and utilized. Data collection activities were carried out between 20th of May to 24th of June, 2021 at field and via phone in aforesaid locations. Focus group interviews and key informant interviews were conducted face-to-face, while structured in-depth interviews were conducted remotely. In addition, 17 key informant interviews were carried out with agricultural intermediaries, mukhtars, and representatives of I/NGOs.

Total of 69 focus group interviews with 492 participants were completed in project locations. 54 of these interviews were conducted with adults and 15 with children. Age and gender distributions are presented in the table below.

Table I. Age Group, Gender and Location Distribution of Focus Group Interview Participants

		Gaziantep	Sanliurfa	Adana	Mersin	Total
Adults	Male	34	40	35	30	139
	Female	79	61	72	21	233
Children	Male	13	8	28	7	56
	Female	20	10	29	5	64
Total		146	119	164	63	492

Semi-structured in-depth interviews were remotely conducted in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana and Mersin only with adults. Total of 206 interviews were completed.

Table II. Location and gender distributions of participants of semi-structured in-depth interviews

		Gaziantep	Sanliurfa	Adana	Mersin	Total
Adults	Male	32	28	40	28	128
	Female	20	23	9	26	78
Total		52	51	49	54	206

1.2 Key findings

- Vast majority of the interviewed Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor and their family members had their Temporary Protection Identity Document.
- Main issues related to registration and documentation were found to be (1) a substantial number of target group members had invalid identity documents due to residing in a province other than registered, and thus could not reach rights and services, (2) issues in address registration due to target group's high mobility, and ineligibility of some tent settlements as valid places of residence.
- It was commonly observed that the target group members are mostly unaware of the documentation procedures. During the field visits, the team came across with a lot of individuals whose social assistance were cut off and they had no idea why or how to solve the issue.
- Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor with high mobility status are usually having difficulties in continuously accessing social assistance due to not having a valid residence registration at all times.
- Semi-structured in-depth interviews have revealed that %45 of the respondents from Adana, %52 of the respondents in Mersin, %77 of the respondents from Gaziantep and %12 of the respondents from Şanlıurfa were migrating to other provinces for seasonal agricultural work for a few months or more. Without a valid Temporary Protection Identity Document due to residing in a different province than registered, these persons and their families are not able to access education, healthcare and social assistance services.

- In Şanlıurfa and Adana, it was reported by target group members and LINK II Staff that there were some people who were defrauding refugees by “selling” them appointments from PDMM offices, and addresses to receive social assistance.
- Registration and documentation issues of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor became more evident after the Coronavirus outbreak, due to limitedness of the services provided by relevant governmental institutions as part of Coronavirus preventive measures.
- Children out-of-school was found to be one of the major problems among Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor. %75 of the household were not sending their school-aged children to school at all, while %11 were sending some of their children to school, reportedly due to the distance between the tent settlements and the school buildings, peer bullying and violence at schools, language barrier, invalid identity documents, and/or financial constraints.
- It was commonly observed that most small residential zones had limited educational opportunities. For example, residents in a tent settlement in Yumurtalık, Adana have stated that the nearest village only had a primary school. Those children completed the primary school can no longer continue their education due to lack of educational facilities near their settlement.
- Incidents of peer bullying and discrimination at schools were reported by a substantial number of respondents, particularly in Adana (district of Karataş) and Gaziantep (district of Nurdağı).
- It was found that more than half of the children -who were attending school before the pandemic- in all provinces were not able to access the distance learning system, mainly due to lack of resources such as tablet and internet access.
- Three major issues related to access to healthcare services were (1) inability to access health services with an invalid/unverified identity document, (2) remoteness of the tent settlements from residential areas where the healthcare facilities in, and (3) language barrier as it was reported as a challenge by %21 of the respondents.
- During focus group interviews, a lot of participants have emphasized that not only it is hard for them to afford hospital visits, but it also means a day off from work and consequently one less per diem. Hence, most target group members living in remote regions do not prefer to apply to healthcare services unless there is an emergency.

- During semi-structured in-depth interviews, %21 of the respondents have mentioned language barrier as a challenge in accessing healthcare services. Especially in healthcare facilities in districts, translation assistance services are limited when compared to facilities in city centers. It was found that, to overcome this problem, target group members do usually prefer to apply to Migrant Health Centers which have limited capacity alongside of hospitals, get support from neighbors/friends, or hire someone to assist them.
- %90 of the respondents have reported that their children have been vaccinated, while the remaining had access issues due to invalid/unverified identity documents, lack of knowledge, and fear of illness during the pandemic.
- 6 respondents (%3) have reported that they had someone in their household with mental health problems. Only 1 of these individuals were receiving mental healthcare. When the respondents asked about their and the communities' perspectives on mental health issues, more than half have indicated that they have never encountered with such an issue and/or they have no idea about mental health problems. Less than %1 have stated that those with mental health issues should seek for psychological and/or psychiatric support.
- Only 6 respondents (%2.9) of semi-structured in-depth interviews have stated that they or a family member had been infected with Coronavirus. 4 of these individuals were able to access appropriate medical care for Coronavirus infection, however 1 participant has reported that they could not communicate with medical staff due to language barrier, and 1 participant had not applied to a healthcare institution at all. Among 206 interviewed target group members in semi-structured in-depth interviews, only 4 (%1.9) have reported that they or a family member have been vaccinated against Coronavirus.
- A quite frequent discourse among the target group regarding Coronavirus was "nothing would happen to us". There were a lot of respondents at all locations who jokingly remarked that Syrian refugees are already being punished by God, so the virus would not even deign to infect them.
- Almost none of the respondents have reported any legal issues. Most reported legal problems were related to (1) agricultural intermediaries not paying salaries, (2) fines due to driving without a valid driver's license, and (3) fines due to using network electricity illegally.
- %40 of the in-depth interview respondents have stated that they had never been provided with any assistance by an I/NGO before.



- There were few V-87 cases reported during focus group and semi-structured in-depth interviews. Both the respondents and LINK II Protection Legal Counsellors have stated that most of these individuals had signed “The Voluntary Repatriation Request Form” without acknowledging its inferences. They believed that they were only visiting Syria, and they would be able to come back to Turkey without any legal issues.
- As previous relevant studies have indicated, the current study has showed that the main challenge that the target group face in accessing non-governmental organizations is the remoteness of the tent settlements from urban centers where the majority of non-governmental organizations do work in. The problem seems to be aggravated due to very limited field activities of I/NGOs since the Coronavirus outbreak. Starting from March 2020, high majority of the non-governmental organizations had switched to homeworking, thus all outreach activities and most services provided had been interrupted.
- High majority of the respondents were only working in agricultural sector. %53.4 were found to be not migrating to another province at all. Focus group interviews, semi-structured in-depth interviews and key informant interviews have revealed that majority of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor are not engaging in regular income-generating activities, rather they do seasonal agricultural work irregularly, mostly from March to October. The respondents had asserted that the main handicaps for them to access more convenient livelihood opportunities were the lack of knowledge on any other profession, lack of education, and language barrier.
- %24 of the semi-structured in-depth interview respondents have stated that they are not able to afford rent, bills, and basic household needs at all times. Around half of these respondents have indicated that they usually borrow money from their neighbors/friends or agricultural intermediators.
- Working conditions were described as far from ideal. Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor are mostly working more than 10 hours a day under the sun.
- It was found that majority of the target group are living in unhealthy and unsecure conditions. %76 of the in-depth interview respondents were living in tents, %16 -mostly in Şanlıurfa- were living in houses. %13 had no regular access to safe and clean water, %20 had no regular access to electricity. None of the tent settlements had toilet infrastructure.
- The situation of LGBTIQ members of the target group is highly unknown.

- Majority have reported they had not witnessed or heard about any incident of domestic violence. Out of 206 in-depth interview respondents, only 3 have asserted that violence survivors should seek for help from law-enforcement and/or legal authorities, the remaining believed that these kinds of issues must remain private. One-third of the key informants, and LINK II Staff have reported that they come across with incidents of gender-based violence among the target group much often than the target group reported.
- Respondents of focus group interviews on gender issues in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Adana have reported that early forced marriages are still being practiced, but much less compared to the past. However, there have been reported incidents of early forced marriages among the community. In Adana, it was pointed out that if the parents do not have financial constraints, they usually encourage their children -especially girls- to get married at around the age of 15.
- Most respondents have mentioned that the age of marriage was usually lower than 18 in Syria, but now the practices are changing due to the community being aware of the legal consequences of early forced marriages and early pregnancies in Turkey. There were respondents who conveyed that to tackle possible legal consequences, religious marriages are often being practiced. Nonetheless, there had been some reported legal issues caused by early pregnancies.
- Risks against children were the most severe and common issues. Child labor was found to be the most prevalent protection risk against children at all locations. Starting approximately from the age of 12, majority of children are working as daily laborers in agricultural work. However, in agricultural works paying lump sum wages, younger children are working with their families. Early forced marriages are still being practiced among the target group, but reportedly much less compared to the past.
- Focus group interviews with the target group and LINK II Staff, semi-structured in-depth interviews, and key informant interviews have all showed children above the age of 10-to-12 are generally working with their families in agricultural sector. Particularly after the age of 14, almost all children -both boys and girls- are laborers in agricultural work.
- Majority of the tent settlements and agricultural fields were highly unsafe for children as they are usually located near main roads and/or water canals. Children -and adults- are also quite prone to pesticide intoxication and insect sting.

- Some incidents of discrimination and exclusion were reported by target group members at all locations. Most were perpetrated by the locals living in residential areas near the tent settlements and/or mukhtars. Incidents of peer bullying and violence at schools, and discriminative attitudes at governmental institutions were reported by nearly %10 of the respondents.
- Incidents of peer bullying at schools were reported by a lot of adults and children at all locations except in Şanlıurfa. In Şanlıurfa, school attendance rate was higher and almost all schooled children were quite happy with their school life. In other provinces, particularly in Adana, peer bullying was reported to be a major factor for children to drop out of school or not attend at all.
- Children and adults with disabilities have observed to usually be isolated at home, not able to receive regular and appropriate medical care. Regular health screenings, physiotherapy, medical devices, or special educational services are generally not accessible for target group members, mainly due to lack of knowledge/awareness and remoteness of the tent settlements.
- Elderly is usually dependent on their children or other close family members. Those who are healthy enough to do agricultural work are usually working to contribute the household. Those who are not are at home and isolated from the outer world.

2. List of Abbreviations

ASAM: Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants

EC DG NEAR: European Council Directorate-General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations

ECHO: European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

ESSN: Emergency Social Safety Net Programme

IPA: Individual Protection Assistance

I/NGO: International or Non-International Non-Governmental Organization

LGBTIQ: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Intersex, and Queer

METİP: Project for Improvement of the Working and Living Conditions of Seasonal Migratory Agricultural Workers

MHPSS: Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

MONE: Ministry of National Education

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

PDMM: Provincial Directorate of Migration Management

PDoNE: Provincial Directorate of National Education

PLC: Protection Legal Counsellor

SASF: Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation

SAW: Seasonal Agricultural Worker

TP: Temporary Protection

TPID: Temporary Protection Identity Document

TRC: Turkish Red Crescent

UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund

UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

WFP: World Food Programme

3. Introduction and Background

The current protection monitoring report aims to present protection risks encountered by Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor (SAWs) living in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana and Mersin. The main purpose of this document is to inform future programming and advocacy strategy of GOAL Turkey. A comprehensive desk review, thematic analyses of previous relevant studies, methodology and findings of current research will be presented in the onward sections. An advocacy strategy will also be delivered, deduced from the wide knowledge comprised in the current study.

The target group of this study is **Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor**. Seasonal agricultural work in Turkey is a widely discussed sociological and economical casus. Agricultural sector had been one of the historical denominators in Republic of Turkey, especially after 1950s during which a political and economic transformation took place. During this period, agricultural sector in Turkey had thrived with agricultural mechanization, incentive credits to farmers, and efforts to augment agricultural estates by -unequally- distributing state lands to locals. This eventually caused more demand on seasonal agricultural labor, and intra-regional migration particularly in Southeastern Anatolian Region due to limited opportunities of livelihoods and inequalities in land ownerships in the region (Heinrich Böll Stiftung Turkey, 2014) and seasonal agricultural production has been undertaken by the poorest (Development Workshop, 2016). Seasonal agricultural labor “is a cheap way of satisfying the demand for labor in agricultural production around the world, and Turkey is no exception to this” (Kavak, 2016). Kavak (2016) also uses the term adverse incorporation when discussing seasonal agricultural labor market, referring to a “condition of socioeconomic exclusion as the major source of poverty and marginalization”. With the entrance of Syrian refugees to labor market, there have been an increasing trend in the opposition among the poorest groups, discrimination, and human rights violations (Development Workshop, 2016) due to abundant presentment of low-cost labor, and worsened risks and vulnerabilities of individuals caused by awful living and working conditions. Syrian refugees are now dominating the seasonal agricultural labor market, especially in Adana plain, and Southeastern Region of Turkey. It was estimated in 2012 by Seasonal Labor Migration Network - MIGA that the number of seasonal agricultural workers in Turkey -including their family members- was around one-million. When the domination of Syrian refugees in the sector considered, it can be argued that hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees are laborers in seasonal agricultural work in Turkey but the approximate number is unknown due to informal employment and irregular working order.

3.1 Objectives

The main purpose of the current study is to better understand the protection risks and vulnerabilities faced by Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor at different target locations. To mitigate contextual changes, regular protection risk monitoring and comparison analysis will be carried out. The data collected will be disaggregated by location, age, gender, socioeconomic backgrounds, national and cultural identities, etc. The objective is to provide an overview of how protection issues are evolving over time, assessing potential changes and trends affecting different groups and locations.

This report intends to inform the future programming and to apprise future advocacy and sensitization strategies targeting duty bearers and service providers by presenting evidence-based, up-to-date, and contextualized information. The report will help to fill critical data gaps, to identify trends, and facilitate targeted advocacy, sensitization and awareness raising activities informed by evidence, as well as increased quality and breadth of information for sector stakeholders.

Specific Objectives

- I. To identify protection risks encountered by Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor living in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana and Mersin
- II. To better understand the situation of vulnerable individuals by disaggregating the data for men and women, boys and girls, people with disabilities, elderly, etc.
- III. To present an analysis of protection risks, covering the period between September 2020 and July 2021, evaluating the findings of the current study in consideration of results of previous relevant studies, data collected via Individual Protection Assistance activities and GOAL Turkey's Needs Assessment Report
- IV. To propose suggestions on targeted advocacy, and on provision of activities to improve beneficiaries' ability to access rights and services and to resolve protection risks

3.2 Desk Review

3.2.1 Literature Research on Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor

To procure a solid secondary data for the current study, an extensive literature review was carried out. There is a vast amount of literature on seasonal agricultural workers in Turkey when compared to literature on Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities which was the focus of previous protection monitoring report. Thus, to be able to present the most current situation of the target group, those studies published in the last five years (2016-2021) and covering all or some of LINK II project locations (Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana and Mersin) were prioritized in this literature research. A recent study was conducted by **Development Workshop** in 2020, named *Unseen Lives on Migration Routes*, examining the current situation and primary needs of target groups including SAWs in Adana, and attempts to map out their whereabouts and routes. **Development Workshop** have also published two very current reports in 2020 named "*Virüs mü Yoksulluk mu?: Korona Virüs Salgınının Mevsimlik Tarım İşçileri ve Onların Çocukları ile Bitkisel Üretimde Olası Etkisi*" [*Virus or Poverty Impact of Coronavirus Outbreak on Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers and Their Children and on Crop Farming*], and *Mevsimlik Tarımsal Üretimde Çocuk İşçiliği: Mevcut Durum Raporu ve Uygulama Programı*. Another field research was conducted by TRC and **Mersin University** focusing on the situation of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor in Tarsus in 2019. **Support to Life** have contributed to the relevant literature using the data collected in 2014 from seasonal agricultural workers in 11 cities.

Researcher **Sinem Kavak** examined the effects of entry of Syrian migrants to agricultural sector in their paper in 2016. Another report from 2016 was prepared by **Development Workshop**, named *Fertile Lands Bitter Lives The Situation Analysis Report*. Two reports focusing on children of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor were also included in this literature research: *Syrian Child Agricultural Workers in Turkey: Children are the Only Hope of the Poor* by **Saniye Dedeoğlu and colleagues** in 2018, and '*Bir Yevmiye, Bir Yevmiyedir...': Tarım Aracıları ve Türkiye'de Tarımsal Üretimde Çocuk İşçiliği* by **Development Workshop** in 2019. Also, *Investigation of Occupational Accidents and Occupational Disease Situations of Seasonal Agricultural Workers* by Gönültaş and colleagues was utilized.

Table III. Methodologic Overview of Previous Relevant Studies

The Study	Group of Focus	Date	Location	Data Collection Methods	Sample Size
Unseen Lives on Migration Routes by Development Workshop	Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities and Syrian Seasonal Agricultural Workers	2020	Adana, Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa	Current Situation Assessment Form, in-depth interviews, focus group interviews, key informant interviews	20 current situation assessments, 20 in-depth interviews, 8 focus group interviews (solely with SAW), key informant interviews with 46 persons from 27 institutions
Tarsus Field Research by TRC Community Center and Mersin University Sociology Society	Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor	2019	Mersin	In-depth interviews	42 in-depth interviews
Syrian refugees in seasonal agricultural work: A case of adverse incorporation in Turkey by Sinem Kavak	Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor	2016	Adana, Şanlıurfa, Samsun, Afyon, İzmir, Konya, Aksaray, Kayseri, Düzce and Ordu	Household surveys, semi-structured in-depth interviews, focus group interviews	168 household surveys, 85 in-depth interviews
Seasonal Agricultural Work in Turkey: Survey Report by Support to Life	Seasonal Agricultural Workers	2014	Adana, Afyon, Düzce, İzmir, Konya, Aksaray, Ordu, Samsun, Şanlıurfa, Yozgat, Nevşehir	Household surveys, semi-structured in-depth interviews, focus group interviews	168 household surveys, 85 in-depth interviews
Virüs mü Yoksulluk mu? (Virus or Poverty?) by Development Workshop	Seasonal Agricultural Workers	2020	Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Düzce, Eskişehir, Hatay, İzmir, Konya, Malatya, Manisa, Mersin, Ordu, Giresun, İstanbul and Şanlıurfa	Desk review, key informant interviews, surveys, interviews with organizations	70 surveys with agricultural intermediators
Fertile Lands Bitter Lives: The Situation Analysis Report by Development Workshop	Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor	2016	Adana	Desk review, mapping, surveys, key informant interviews	250 surveys in 18 tent settlements
Mevsimlik Tarımsal Üretimde Çocuk İşçiliği: Mevcut Durum Raporu ve Uygulama Programı by Development Workshop	Children of Seasonal Agricultural Workers	2020	Adana	Surveys, observations	Interviews at 47 tent settlements
Syrian Child Agricultural Workers in Turkey: Children are the Only Hope of the Poor by Saniye Dedeoğlu, Sinem Sefa Bayraktar and Özgür Çetinkaya	Children of Seasonal Agricultural Workers	2019	None	Review Article	None
'Bir Yevmiye, Bir Yevmiyedir...': Tarım Araçları ve Türkiye'de Tarımsal Üretimde Çocuk İşçiliği	Children of Seasonal Agricultural Workers	2018	Adana, Şanlıurfa	In-depth interviews, surveys	Surveys with 141 agricultural intermediaries, in-depth interviews with 13 key informants and 8 agricultural intermediaries
Investigation of Occupational Accidents and Occupational Disease Situations of Seasonal Agricultural Workers by Tülin Gönültaş, Necdet Aytaç, Muhsin Akbaba	Seasonal Agricultural Workers	2018	Adana	Surveys	Surveys with 199 agricultural workers

4. Thematic Overview of Findings of Previous Studies

4.1 Living Conditions

All previous studies have shown that the living conditions of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor are not at all optimal. Grand National Assembly of Turkey's (TBMM) investigation report on the conditions of seasonal agricultural workers, poor living conditions were reported as one of the major problems of the target group (TBMM, 2015, as cited in Doğan et al., 2020). Vast majority of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor were found to be living in tent settlements located in far out areas. The tents are usually made up from nylon, fabric or canvas. In their field research in Tarsus, TRC Community Center and Mersin University Sociology Society have observed that only a minority of the tents had basic furniture. It was found in multiple studies that the tents are quite prone to adverse weather conditions such as strong winds, heavy rainfalls and floods.

Development Workshop (2020) have found that almost none of the settlers were paying rent on Adana Plain. Similarly, Development Workshop have found in their study in 2016 that %89,1 of the participants were not paying rent. It was found in most studies that those who pay rent are usually pay it through agricultural intermediaries (Development Workshop, 2020; GOAL Turkey, 2020). Almost all studies have pointed out that the tents were overcrowded. Development Workshop (2016) have reported that average household size in tent settlements was 5.6, and average space per person was 2.8 square meter. GOAL Turkey's Rapid Needs Assessment in 2020 have pointed out that there was a limited privacy for parents and children inside tents due to the lack of space and separate areas.

Support to Life have reported that %56 of the households had no access to electricity or any other source of energy in 2014. However, more recent studies have revealed that majority of the tent settlements had network electricity, usually extended from a nearby house or distributed to all tents from single subscription -generally in the name of the agricultural intermediary (Development Workshop, 2020; GOAL Turkey, 2020). Unregistered use of electricity was also found to be common. In their very up-to-date study named "Virus or Poverty?", Development Workshop have reported that only %11 of the interviewed agricultural intermediaries had stoves were being used for heating at tent settlements (TRC Community Center and Mersin University Sociology Society, 2019; Development Workshop, 2020). Main problem with heating was hardships in affording fuel (Development Workshop, 2020).

Access to safe and clean water was a critical issue reported by previous studies. Development Workshop (2020) have revealed that water was usually provided by tanks to tent settlements in Adana Plain.

Similarly, almost all previous studies have remarked the hardships in accessing safe and clean water in tent settlements located in various provinces. Clean water was generally being carried from a nearby water source or pumped from a well or canal. Almost none of the settlements had network water.

According to previous studies, lack of toilet infrastructure was another serious difficulty experienced by Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor. It was found that almost none of the tent settlements had toilet infrastructure except few settlements at which relevant facilities were introduced under the METIP project. However, Development Workshop (2020) have reported that these facilities were usually out of use. Toilets were usually made up of ditches and pieces of canvas through settlers' own means.

4.2. Access to Rights and Services



4.2.1. Access to Registration, Documentation, and Social Assistance

Recent and relevant studies have reported that, similar to other sub-groups of refugee population in Turkey, majority of the target group members had Temporary Protection Identity Document, verified or unverified (Development Workshop, 2020; GOAL Turkey, 2020). Main problems were found to be related to (1) residing in a different province than registered (GOAL Turkey, 2020) -and thus not being able to access services, and (2) ineligibility of tent settlements for address registration. It was found by multiple studies that unverified identity documents were a quite common issue. Around %35 of the respondents in Tarsus were registered in a different province (TRC Community Center and Mersin University Sociology Society, 2019), while the ratio was %40 in Development Workshop's study in Adana in 2016.



4.2.2. Access to Education

All previous studies have reported that not being able to access to education is a quite common and severe issue for children of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor. TRC Community Center and Mersin University Sociology Society (2019) have found that there were only two children attending primary school in three tent settlements in Tarsus, and no children attending middle or high school. Similarly, GOAL Turkey's Rapid Needs Assessment results have conveyed that there was only one family with children attending school in Mersin. Development Workshop (2020) in their recent study in Adana plain, have remarked that out of 4422 school-aged children (aged 6 to 18) in 39 tent settlements, only %0.03 of the children were attending school (146 to primary school, 3 to secondary school and 1 to high school). Main reasons presented by the respondents were remoteness of tent settlements from schools, and inability to afford transportation fees. Incidents of discrimination and bullying have also been mentioned.

4.2.3. Access to Healthcare Services

Previous studies have reported the very common issue of unverified identity documents among Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor. Without a valid Temporary Protection Identity Document, individuals are not able to access healthcare other than in emergency services. Development Workshop (2020) have reported that the respondents mentioned farness of healthcare facilities and language barrier as the main problems in accessing health services. It was also reported that the rate of basic vaccination among children was high when compared to Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities. TRC Community Center and Mersin University Sociology Society have remarked that the target group members in Tarsus were not applying to healthcare institutions unless there is an emergency.

In *“Mevsimlik Tarımsal Üretimde Çocuk İşçiliği: Mevcut Durum Raporu”* by Development Workshop (2020), three main health hazards in tent settlements were listed as (1) lack of regular access to safe and clean water, (2) lack of refuse collection services, and (3) presence of insects.

It was observed by multiple researchers that malnutrition is quite common in both adults and children of the target group. Due to financial constraints, it was remarked that most households are mostly living on only legumes and root vegetables. TRC Community Center and Mersin University Sociology Society (2019) have reported that children were often becoming ill due to poor nutrition. UNICEF reports that poor nutrition may potentially cause “poor brain development, weak learning, low immunity, increased infections and, in many cases, death.”



4.2.4. Access to Non-Governmental Organizations

In their recent report, Development Workshop (2020) had conducted key informant interviews with relevant actors including non-governmental organizations. It was reported in Mersin and Adana that activities such as information dissemination and hygiene kit distribution were carried out by non-governmental organizations in some tent settlements. However, out of 21 agricultural intermediaries, only 7 have stated that they had been provided with services by non-governmental organizations after Coronavirus outbreak.

However, this finding applies to both Turkish and Syrian agricultural workers. Remoteness of the tent settlements from city centers is reported to be the major handicap for Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor in accessing services by I/NGOs.


 **4.2.5. Access to Livelihoods**

Almost all previous reports have remarked the poor working conditions of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor. In “Fertile Lands Bitter Lives”, Development Workshop have highlighted that the majority of Syrian refugees are compelled to join informal labor market that yields lowest wages in order to earn a living. It can be argued that a substantial part of this group is in agricultural sector in which informal labor and bottom wage were already quite common. It was also emphasized by Development Workshop (2016) that the majority of Syrian refugees are working in low-income generating jobs in unsafe conditions for long hours without any benefits. For example, due to unsafe transportation methods from settlements to agricultural lands by tractors or overcrowded minibuses, deadly car accidents do often appear on the news. Kavak (2016) emphasizes that “the livelihood pressures experienced by the refugees, as well as their legal precarity, effectively force them to accept the adverse terms of the labor market”.

It was reported by multiple studies that Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor are working in almost all regions of Turkey, but particularly in Southeastern Anatolia, Adana plain, and Central Anatolia. GOAL Turkey (2020) have found that daily wages do vary among Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor according to location, between men and women, and children and adults in Mersin. However, there were other studies which reported the daily wages do not vary at some locations or at all (Development Workshop, 2020; Support to Life, 2014). Multiple studies have mentioned some agricultural intermediaries use tickets which substitute for one per diem payment. Previous studies have showed that there are two main payment methods in agricultural sector: (1) daily wage, and (2) lump sum payment (also known as kabala or götürü in the sector). It was concluded that in jobs that pay lump sum wage, men, women and children are all being paid the same, since what matters is only the number of units of agricultural product (Support to Life, 2014). Thus, it was remarked that child labor -particularly in early ages- is much more prevalent in these types of agricultural jobs. In works that pay daily wages, variances among the payment are much more common, and children start to work at around the age of 12 since most landowners are not allowing younger children to work. It was reported by Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor in multiple locations that they usually work more than 8 hours a day (GOAL Turkey, 2020; Development Workshop, 2020; Support to Life, 2014; Dedeoğlu et al., 2019).

Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor were found to be highly dependent on agricultural intermediators which causes even more exploitation of the target group.

TRC Community Center and Mersin University Sociology Society (2019) and Kavak (2016) have remarked that some interviewed Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor were not able to receive their merited wages and were in disagreement with their respective agricultural intermediary. Kavak (2016) elaborates by remarking that in these cases, intermediaries are often using the threat of deportation as a way to hinder any possibility of the agricultural worker to seek for legal assistance.

Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor are also exceedingly prone to occupational accidents and diseases. In their research article, Gönültaş and colleagues (2018) have found that, out of 199 respondents, 107 (53,8%) have reported that they had at least one occupational accident and/or illness. Most reported occupational accidents/diseases were, pesticide intoxication (55,1%), musculoskeletal injuries (48,5%), heat stroke (20,5%), and insect sting (17,7%). 18 respondents have also indicated that they had experienced incidents of falling, stab wounds, and traffic accidents. Among 34 participants who were below the age of 18, %44,1 have had at least one occupational accident and/or illnesses.

4.3. Protection Risks and Vulnerabilities



Gender Based Violence

Development Workshop (2020) have reported that among Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor, there had not been any reported incident of violence against women. Gender issues have not been really a focus point for previous studies on Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor, possibly due to quite heterogenous characteristics and experiences of the group. However, it can be argued that as previous studies have showed the living conditions and access issues of the target group, it is most probably a challenge for women to talk about violence, let alone seeking help.



Risks Against Children

Under the light of previous relevant studies, it can be argued that protection risks against children are the most severe and common risks for Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor and their families. As Kavak (2016) summarized, "children become active participants of seasonal migration, working in the fields, looking after their siblings, and not going to school".

The prevalence of child labor among these groups is critically high. Dedeoğlu and colleagues (2019) have remarked the existing high numbers in child labor in agricultural sector in Turkey before the Syrian Civil War and added that Syrian refugee population's entrance to agricultural labor force had aggravated the extensity of child labor in seasonal agricultural work.

Numerically, nearly half of the Syrian refugee population in Turkey are children (1.753.351 children out of 3.699.388 persons under Temporary Protection in Turkey according to the data updated on 12.08.2021). It was reported in 2014 that among seasonal agricultural workers and their families, %35 of the children aged 5-11, %78 of the children aged 12-15 and %85 of the children aged 16-18 were working in agricultural sector (Support to Life, 2014 as cited in Dedeoğlu et al., 2019). Development Workshop's studies in 2016 and 2018 have indicated that around one-third of the Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor were below the age of 18.

All previous studies have concluded that the majority of children of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor are out-of-school due to their high mobility status, remoteness of tent settlements, financial constraints, language barrier, and child labor. Peer bullying at school was also reported by several researches. Development Workshop (2020) have remarked that discrimination and violence perpetrated by teachers and other children are deterrent factors for families in sending their children to school. It was also argued that the target group does not consider the ages of 12-and-above as childhood as a contributing cultural characteristic in high prevalence of children out-of-school, child labor and early forced marriages. TRC Community Center and Mersin University Sociology Society (2019) have also mentioned incidents of peer bullying, violence, and remoteness of schools as main barriers in accessing education in Mersin.

Thirdly, majority of tent settlements were found to be highly unsafe for children. Development Workshop (2020) have remarked that the settlements are usually near the main roads and/or water canals. It was found that out of 39 settlements, 25 were near main roads and 22 were near water canals. It was also observed that children are often playing near areas with toilet waste, and open electric cables.

TRC Community Center and Mersin University Sociology Society (2019) have reported that early forced marriages are quite common among the target group in Mersin. It was also observed that children above the age of 14 are usually considered as a family member who should be bringing in money. It can be argued that at around the age of 14, children are either working and contributing to the household or married.

Social Discrimination and Exclusion

Development Workshop (2020) have remarked that the majority of the interviewed Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor had not reported any incident of social discrimination and exclusion due to very limited contact with other societal groups and governmental institutions.

It was also mentioned that relevant key informants had reported some incidents of discrimination at schools. TRC Community Center and Mersin University Sociology Society (2019) have found that the majority of the respondents have not reported any discriminatory attitudes.

However, as most studies have shown, Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor, when compared to local workers, are facing much more discrimination, racism, and poor working and living conditions. The issue is most probably being underreported by target group members as an attempt to avoid any possible conflict. Development Workshop (2020) have quoted a respondent in their report: “We do nothing to anybody... We remain silent. So that is why we do not get in trouble”.

Other protection risks and/or vulnerabilities

Previous relevant studies have been able to report very limited information about children and adults with disabilities, LGBTIQ, elderly and other vulnerable groups among Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor due to quite required need to focus on living and working conditions of the target group. It was reported by Support to Life (2016) that elderly is usually dependent on their close family members. It was also remarked that elderly is staying at home when family goes to the agricultural land and taking care of small children. Support to Life (2016) have also found that elderly care is usually the responsibility of women.

CSV 4.4 IPA Data

LINK II programme targets the most vulnerable and excluded refugees, specifically migrant seasonal agricultural workers, and members of nomadic/semi-nomadic groups such as Doms and Abdals, to reduce, remove or prevent protection risks, until lasting solutions are integrated into government systems, resulting in sustainable and equitable access to services for refugees.

LINK II identified, assessed, and is connecting those marginalized and vulnerable communities to state and non-state services in Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Adana, and Mersin, providing support in line with the southeast Interagency Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) and in close coordination with the Protection Cluster to ensure alignment with other actors.

GOAL LINK team was able to identify, assess, and partially support 3641 clients from four provinces (Gaziantep 28%, Sanliurfa 30%, Adana 28%, and Mersin 14%) between September 2020 to June 2021. The review of the data is presented in the Annex.




4.5. Rapid Needs Assessment Report of GOAL Turkey

GOAL Turkey has carried out a study in March 2020, to identify the needs of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor and Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic community members with vulnerabilities in the provinces of Mersin and Hatay (GOAL Turkey, 2020). The research was conducted with qualitative data collection tools, namely observation, focus group interviews and key informant interviews. Total of 12 key informant interviews and 11 focus group discussions (6 with Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor) were completed. This study is significant as to it was conducted immediately before the Coronavirus pandemic broke out. Thus, it can provide a great basis of comparison when inspecting the impacts of the pandemic over these communities.

Key Findings

- It was found in the study that there are thousands of refugees engaged in seasonal agricultural work in remote areas of Mersin and Hatay, far from basic service providers and with limited means and capacity to reach them.
- The challenges posed by language barriers were frequently highlighted, with non-Turkish speakers seen to be at a disadvantage when interacting with government bodies and service providers. The absence of translation services in hospitals was mentioned as a deterrent for workers who may otherwise seek medical assistance. This was also listed as a reason for seasonal migrant agricultural workers choosing to attend the primary healthcare centres located within their own neighbourhoods.
- Exploitation was found to be one of the most significant protection risks faced by seasonal migrant agricultural workers. Families are heavily dependent on intermediaries in almost every aspect of their lives, from accessing health services and livelihood opportunities, to securing power and water supplies.
- Low school enrolment and attendance was found to have multiple and varied causes of financial difficulties faced by families in meeting their children's school expenses, peer bullying incidents at schools, poor transportation options for children travelling to school. In addition, children often supplement the family income through their own labour.
- The basic infrastructure needs of communities were repeatedly found to be unmet. Residents of settlement sites either have no or very limited access to essential infrastructure such as electricity, water, sanitation, toilets or bathing and washing facilities. The sites are inadequately lit at night and refuse-collection and pest prevention is irregular and inadequate.

- There is a noted absence of I/NGO activity in the assessed areas. In both Hatay and Mersin, interviewees were unable to name any I/NGOs or their related hotline numbers.
- There is no active organization for persons with disabilities, and in Hatay there is only one vehicle for physically impaired passengers.
- No mental health and psychosocial support services are provided after the departure of UOSSM, despite the continuing need.
- Although Mersin hosts one of the highest numbers of agricultural seasonal refugee workers living in tents under severe conditions, there is no Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Bureau within the Governorate structure, as in Adana and Hatay.
- There are no I/NGOs to speak of in Tarsus, with most located in Akdeniz district, around 40 to 75 minutes' drive away from the tent settlements. This absence of dedicated humanitarian programming explains the persistently unmet protection needs, including education, health, legal aid and basic assistance, at each tent visited in Tarsus and Akdeniz districts, and in many other corners of Mersin and Hatay provinces.

4.6. Covid-19 Impact Survey of GOAL Turkey

GOAL Turkey have carried out a study in May 2021 to investigate the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on LINK's target group, namely Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities, and Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor in LINK locations of Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana and Mersin. The survey was conducted via phone by GOAL's Protection Staff with the aim of understanding the lasting impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic, and particularly the immediate consequences of the 17-day lockdown implemented in Turkey between 29 April - 17 May 2021.

Table IV. Age, Gender and Location Distribution of COVID-19 Impact Survey Respondents

Location	Number of Respondents			Total
	Male	Female	Non-Conforming	
Gaziantep	24	15	0	39
Şanlıurfa	33	28	1	62
Adana	36	14	0	50
Mersin	23	24	0	47
Total	116	81	1	198

Key Findings of COVID-19 Impact Survey

95 of 198 respondents were receiving ESSN. Only 2 (%0.01) had regular income, 39 (%19) had no income at all, while remaining respondents were working in daily jobs of agricultural work, peddling and waste collecting. %65 of the participants had stated that they have knowledge about the symptoms of Coronavirus, while 38 respondents (%19) had indicated that they have no information whatsoever regarding the symptoms of Coronavirus. %71 of the participants were aware of the Coronavirus measures taken. Around %35 of the respondents were not able to fully receive relevant information in their language. %94 of the respondents have reported that they take measure(s) against Coronavirus by using a medical mask (%72), washing hands frequently (%48), using disinfectants (%47) and not going out at all (%0.08). Some were not practicing any of the preventive methods against Coronavirus, mainly because of financial constraints and lack of knowledge. 35 respondents (%18) had no access to clean water. 50 participants (%25) had no access to toilet infrastructure. Out of 70 children attending to school before the pandemic, only 7 (%10) were able to access distance learning system.

Regarding the 17-day lockdown, more than half of the respondents had learnt about it from neighbors and friends (%51), and remaining from social media, television, and humanitarian organizations. Only 3 respondents were reached by a humanitarian organization to be assisted. Around half of the respondents (%51) have stated that they were not prepared for the lockdown mainly due to lack of income, job loss, and having no time to go and buy necessities. Majority of the respondents (%82) have experienced loss of income, while %62 of them have lost regular access to food items.

Food and hygiene materials were not affordable for %91 of the participants. 32 of the respondents (%16) could not reach healthcare services during the lockdown because they were afraid of penalties, or closest healthcare service provider was remote.

89 respondents (%44) with at least one elderly family member in their household have stated that they were psychologically and negatively affected by the lockdown due to staying at home. 7 respondents were fined during the lockdown for violating the curfew. 6 of these participants were aware of the sanctions.

Out of 70 children attending to school before the pandemic, only 7 (%10) were able to access distance learning system.

Findings related Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor

96 of the 198 respondents were Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor or their family members.

Table V. Age, Gender and Location Distribution of COVID-19 Impact Survey Respondents (Seasonal Agricultural Workers)

Location	Number of Respondents		Total
	Male	Female	
Gaziantep	9	4	13
Şanlıurfa	14	9	23
Adana	28	5	33
Mersin	17	10	27
Total	68	28	96

Average household size was 6.06. 39 of the respondents (%41) were receiving social assistance. %66 of the respondents had stated that they are aware of the symptoms of Coronavirus while %69 were informed about the preventative measures against Coronavirus. %70 of the participants were able to access relevant information in their language while %20 were not able to do so at all. Main sources of information were social media and TV. Only 13 respondents (%13) had mentioned I/NGOs as a source of information and 9 respondents had reported that they were informed by a governmental institution. Most reported preventive measures against Coronavirus were wearing a mask (%69), using disinfectant (%51), frequently washing hands (%49), not going out unless necessary (%40), and maintaining social distance (%36,5). Only 10 respondents have stated that staying home had negatively affected their communication among family members. Most of them have thought that it was because they were less able to tolerate each other due to stress induced by the pandemic and staying home.

Majority of the respondents have been informed about the 17-day curfew by social media (%52) or neighbors and friends (%54). Only 7 participants (%7.3) were informed by a non-governmental organization, and 2 (%2.1) by governmental institutions. 48 respondents (%50) have stated that they were not properly prepared for the curfew at all, and 27 respondents (%28) have reported that they were only partially prepared. Most of the participants have further explained by stating that they had no financial resources to get prepared for a 17-day curfew and on top of it they were not able to work during the curfew.

The curfew caused discontinuance of household income for %70 of the respondents while %10 have stated their household income were partially decreased. %32 of the respondents had difficulties in continuously affording food for their household, while %%30 of the respondents' ability to afford food had been partially affected. When asked to elaborate on reasons of their limited access to food items, most of these participants have mentioned financial constraints and remoteness of tent settlements. %81 of the respondents have stated that their ability to access healthcare services were not affected by the curfew. The remaining were affected due to cancelled appointments and fear of illness. Majority of the respondents have reported that children and elderly individuals in their household were not significantly affected by the curfew. %24 of the participants had no regular access to safe and clean water, while %58 were not able to afford cleaning materials such as detergents and soap. Out of 96 respondents, only 2 had been fined during the lockdown even though they knew about the sanctions.

Only 6 respondents (%6) have reported that their children were fully or partially able to access distance learning system. %46 of the participants had school-aged children but they were either not registered to school at all or not able to access distance learning system due to lack of resources such as internet access or tablet.

4.7. IA Protection Sector Rapid Needs Assessment Analysis Reports (Rounds I, II, and III)

The Inter-Agency Coordination Unit of Turkey have conducted rapid needs assessment studies mainly to develop a better understanding of the protection and humanitarian situation in Turkey, particularly after the Coronavirus pandemic. The data was collected in three rounds via partners. The preliminary findings of the studies were published in June 2020, September 2020, and February 2021. This extensive study can be of capital importance since it provides a ground for this study to compare the situation of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor and their families with the general refugee population in Turkey.

Round III have showed that the levels of information on rights and services remain high, as corroborated in previous rounds. Access to essential services seem to be deteriorating slightly over a period of time. The main barriers to accessing services are related to COVID-19 impact on reduced operational capacity of service providers and changes in service delivery. As in previous rounds, health services and service providers remained the hardest to reach, with inactivation of insurances (for IP applicants) increasing significantly as a barrier to access. The levels of continued access to education remained similar to findings in Round 2.

However, it is noted that compared to Round 1, children's continued participation in education is seemingly worsening. The working status of a large majority has changed negatively, as in previous rounds. It is noted that the prospects of finding jobs have been decreasing steadily since the First Round. Linked to previous rounds, socio-economic indicators are also showing a decrease over time. During 3rd round and compared to previous rounds, it is observed that those who are not able to cover their monthly expenses at all have increased significantly, whereas those who were able to partially cover their expenses has decreased. Additionally, in Round 3, inability to pay utility bills became one of the most predominant factors of school dropouts, corroborating the findings of previous rounds that socio-economic deterioration of households will have direct impact on children's continued access to education. Lastly, one third of the refugee population still relies on humanitarian assistance as their only source of income. Protection and community level concerns remain alarming, however unchanged compared to the previous round.

5. Methodology

5.1. Research Method and Sampling Strategy

Descriptive field research methods and a mixed research approach were used in the current study. The target group of this study is Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor, both adults and children, living in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana and Mersin. Same as the previous protection monitoring report, sampling procedure included combining three non-probability sampling methods of purposeful sampling, snowball sampling and convenience sampling. Purposeful sampling involves detecting individuals or groups that are particularly insightful regarding the study's topics of interest, while convenience sampling is useful when there is already a pool of respondents at hand to gather information from (Cresswell & Clark, 2011). Snowball sampling is applicable when the target group members are hard to reach and there are available community members who can facilitate the recruitment of the participants (Ghaljaie et al., 2017).

5.2. Data Sources

Primary data source of the current research is the data acquired via qualitative data collection tools, namely focus group interviews, semi-structured in-depth interviews, and key informant interviews. As secondary data sources: (1) a comprehensive desk research and literature review was produced, including thematic analysis of previous studies on SAWs living in Turkey; (2) Development Workshop's review of the LINK I data was utilized, and the data collected through LINK II Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) activities were analysed; (3) and GOAL Turkey's Rapid Needs Assessment Report conducted in Mersin and Hatay in March 2020 was reviewed.

The secondary data sources will be used as “baseline” in trend analysis. Additionally, Inter-Agency Protection Sector Rapid Needs Assessment Reports will provide a basis of comparison to better understand the situation of SAWs at regard of general refugee population in Turkey.

Primary Data Sources	Secondary Data Sources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Semi-structured in-depth interviews with adult community members ■ Focus group interviews on the topics of “General Discussion and the Impact of COVID-19”, “Gender and Early Forced Marriages” with adult community members ■ Focus group interviews on their general status with children community members ■ Focus group interviews with LINK II staff at Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Adana ■ Key informant interviews conducted in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana and Mersin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Desk research and literature review on Syrian Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic communities in Turkey ■ Development Workshop’s review on LINK I data ■ Analysis of data collected through LINK II IPA activities ■ GOAL Turkey’s Rapid Needs Assessment Report conducted in Mersin and Hatay in March 2020

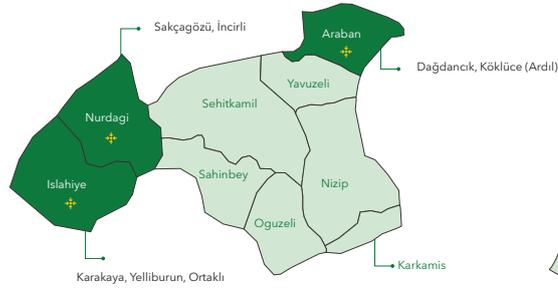
5.3. Data Collection

Data collection activities were conducted between 20th of May to 24th of June 2021. Qualitative data collection tools of (1) focus group interviews, (2) semi-structured in-depth interviews, and (3) key informant interviews were used when collecting data. All data collection activities were performed face-to-face or via phone during working hours (08:00-17:00) which is also the time most agricultural workers are working at the field. However, the field team have observed that there were most of the time few individuals who skipped work that day, or their family members in tent settlements. All respondents of the study were Syrians.

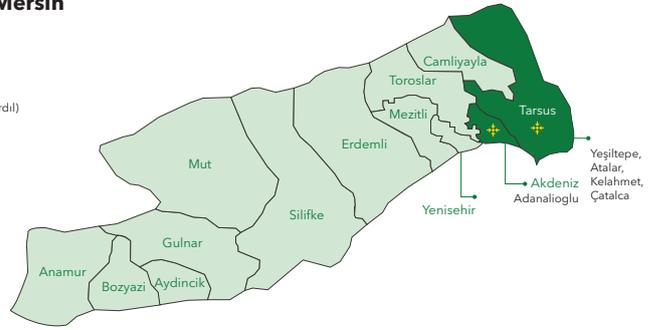
Focus group interviews were carried out by field team, face-to-face at each location. There were three different focus group interview guides prepared: (1) General Discussion for Adults (including impacts of COVID-19), (2) General Discussion for Children, and (3) Gender and Early Forced Marriage. The participants were selected via purposeful and snowball sampling methods. Most of the time, the field team visited tent settlements of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor, and spontaneously invited three-to-eight individuals to participate in a focus group interview. Some few focus group interviews were arranged beforehand, by informing a community member about the study and asking them to reach few more people to participate in the interviews on a voluntary basis.

Visited Neighbourhoods for Focus Group Interviews

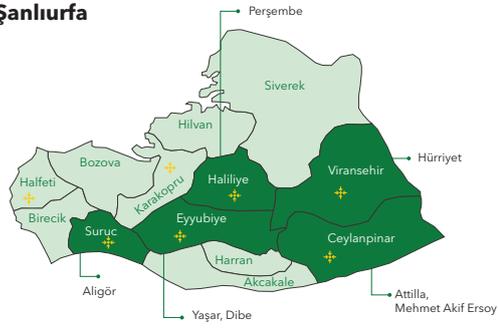
Gaziantep



Mersin



Şanlıurfa



Adana



Table VI. Age Group, Gender and Location Distribution of Focus Group Interview Participants

Age Groups	6-12	13-17	18-25	26-40	41-60	60+	TOTAL
Adana	56	1	33	49	20	5	164
Female	29	0	25	34	12	1	101
Male	27	1	8	15	8	4	63
Gaziantep	23	10	27	34	44	8	146
Female	14	6	16	28	30	5	99
Male	9	4	11	6	14	3	47
Mersin	11	1	24	17	9	1	63
Female	5	0	17	10	3	0	35
Male	6	1	7	7	6	1	28
Şanlıurfa	16	2	10	55	22	14	119
Female	10	0	7	37	9	8	71
Male	6	2	3	18	13	6	48
TOTAL	106	14	94	155	95	28	492

Semi-structured in-depth interviews were remotely conducted by dedicated staff at each location via Kobo Toolbox. Call lists for each location were prepared by Deputy Program Managers and/or Individual Protection Assistance Team Leaders, from LINK I and LINK II dataset, consisting of persons known as SAWs and individuals from neighbourhoods/settlements in which the target group population live. Identificatory information of participants were not asked during the interviews.

Table VII. Age Group, Gender and Location Distribution of In-Depth Interview Participants

	Gaziantep		Sanliurfa		Adana		Mersin		TOT
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
18-25	12	2	1	5	17	3	13	15	68
26-40	6	10	15	13	22	6	12	5	89
41-60	13	7	10	5	1	-	2	6	44
60+	1	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	5
Total	32	20	28	23	40	9	28	26	206

Key informant interviews were carried out by Deputy Program Managers, Social Services Officer and Assistant, Protection Team Leaders and Statutory Services Officers in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana and Mersin.

Table VIII. Age Group, Gender and Location Distribution of In-Depth Interview Participants

Organization	Location	Title
Welthungerhilfe	Gaziantep	Project Officer
None	Gaziantep	Agricultural Intermediator
None	Gaziantep	Agricultural Intermediator
None	Adana	Agricultural Intermediator
Ministry of Interior	Adana	Mukhtar
Support to Life	Adana	Protection Team Leader
UNFPA	Adana	Adana and Mersin Field Associate

Organization	Location	Title
Ministry of Interior	Adana	Mukhtar
Technical Education Foundation	Adana	Chair
Ministry of Interior	Adana	Mukhtar
None	Mersin	Agricultural Intermediator
Turkish Red Crescent	Mersin	Social Worker
Maya Education Culture Research Assistance and Solidarity Association	Mersin	Project Worker
Concern Worldwide	Şanlıurfa	Protection Team Leader
Şanlıurfa Municipality	Şanlıurfa	Chief of Migration Section
Ministry of Interior	Şanlıurfa	Mukhtar
Support to Life	Şanlıurfa	Team Leader

Additionally, a total of four focus group interviews were conducted with LINK II Staff in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana and Mersin with an attempt to understand the current status and vulnerabilities of the target group from frontline protection case workers who have been responding to protection risks/vulnerabilities and access issues of the target group at field level. They have comprehensive knowledge about the situation since they are working directly in touch with beneficiaries and variety of service providers including governmental institutions, non-governmental institutions and local actors.

Table IX. Gender and Location Distribution of Focus Group Interview w/ Staff Participants

	Gaziantep		Sanliurfa		Adana		Mersin	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Deputy Program Manager		1		1	1			
Protection Team Leader				1		1	1	
Protection Worker	2	1	2	2	2	3	1	2
Protection Legal Counsellor		1				1		
Protection Outreach Worker		1		1		1		
Psychologist	1			1		1		
Community Access Officer/Assistant								
Statutory Officer						1		
Child Corner Worker				1				
Translator	1				1			1
Receptionist		1				1		
Intern		2	1	2				

5.4 Limitations

As a qualitative study, the current protection monitoring report has some inherent limitations. First and foremost, the active participation of the researchers -as employees of a humanitarian organization- during the data gathering process may affect respondent's answers. Another methodological limitation is that the researchers' individual skills may influence the entry and evaluation of data. Focus group interviews were usually handled by one researcher and a translator. Additionally, semi-structured in-depth interviews and key informant interviews were conducted by different persons at different locations. Consequently, the entirety of the data can consist of some irregularities due to variances of interviewing styles and skills of the facilitators.

Another important limitation of the current study is on account of the very target group of the study. Seasonal agricultural work has an everchanging pattern across seasons and locations. This report mainly utilizes the primary data collected in May-June 2021 at specific provinces. Thus, current results should be evaluated as a partial and limited representation of the situation of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor in Turkey.

Furthermore, it was observed during the data analysis phase that participation of individuals from certain age groups to data collection activities had been particularly limited. It was marked that adolescent members of the target group (aged 13 to 17), and elderly (aged 60 and more) had participated in focus group interviews much less than other age groups. Also, percentage of elderly individuals participated in semi-structured in-depth interviews was lower than the remaining.

6. Findings and Trend Analysis

6.1. Access to Rights and Services



6.1.1. Access to Registration, Documentation and Social Assistance

Focus group interviews and semi-structured in-depth interviews have revealed that vast majority of the focus group and in-depth interview respondents had their Temporary Protection Identity Document in all provinces. Nonetheless, as it was remarked in previous studies, a substantial number of target group members had unverified/invalid identity documents due to residing in another province than registered. As a highly mobile group, Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor are changing locations throughout the year mainly to find job opportunities in agricultural sector. However, it was also observed that a significant number of SAWs -particularly in Şanlıurfa and Adana- are only moving locally or not migrating at all. In-depth interviews have revealed that %53 of the respondents were not migrating to other provinces for agricultural work. Even so, among these individuals who are less mobile than others, there were families who had unverified/invalid identity documents due to not being able to transfer their registration to the province they were living after moving in.

A critical issue related to documentation was found to be related to address registration. It was observed that there were more than few tent settlements which were legitimized as a valid place of residence -especially in Adana. However, for those living in tent settlements which were not validated, obtaining a residential document is still a serious issue. Most of these families were observed to find their own solution by registering to a residence somewhere else -usually in urban centres- to be able to access social assistance. For those who change provinces throughout the year, it is particularly a challenge to have a valid residence documentation at all times.

It was commonly observed that the target group members are mostly unaware of the documentation procedures. During the field visits, the team came across with a lot of individuals whose social assistance were cut off and they had no idea why or how to solve the issue.

The problem was -most of the time- that relevant authorized governmental institutions such as Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation (SASF-SYDV) or the Directorate of Civil Registration and Nationality make random household visits to addresses to check the validity of the residence registration, and declare it off if they could not find registered residents at that address after checking that certain address two or three times and/or asking the neighbours and mukhtars about the residents. If the residence registration was found to be practically invalid, any social assistance being provided gets cancelled. Thus, Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor with high mobility status are usually having difficulties in continuously accessing social assistance due to not having a valid residence registration at all times.

Another major problem with documentation was found to be the inability of the target group in accessing rights and services with an unverified identity document due to residing in another province than registered. Semi-structured in-depth interviews have revealed that %45 of the respondents from Adana, %52 of the respondents in Mersin, %77 of the respondents from Gaziantep and %12 of the respondents from Şanlıurfa were migrating to other provinces for seasonal agricultural work for a few months or more. Without a valid Temporary Protection Identity Document due to residing in a different province than registered, these persons and their families are not able to access education, healthcare and social assistance services. It was also found that among those who change provinces throughout the year, only %46 were applying for a travel permit. However, LINK II Staff have asserted that this percentage might be an overestimation.

%42 of the semi-structured in-depth interview respondents were receiving social assistance. During focus group interviews, it was observed that majority of the eligible households -with valid residence documentation- were also receiving social assistance. It can be argued that the major issue affecting the target group's ability to access social assistance is the challenges in continuously having a valid identity and residence documents.

In Şanlıurfa and Adana, it was reported by target group members and LINK II Staff that there were some people who were defrauding refugees by "selling" them appointments from PDMM offices. Particularly in Şanlıurfa, this issue was so critical that a lot of respondents have stated they are not at all able to get appointments themselves and have to contact these persons to be able to make appointments. When probed, it was learned that these persons -who are not associated with PDMM whatsoever- are getting all the appointments from PDMM website every day, and then selling them for at least 100 Turkish Liras. Apparently, contact information of these individuals are disseminated through information channels of refugees.

Another similar issue about address registration was mentioned in Adana by LINK II Staff. It was mentioned that there are individuals who sell addresses to target group members. Reportedly, the persons offer help to target group members and accompany them to relevant institutions to register them to an uninhabited address that they had arranged beforehand. In exchange for the accompaniment and “the address”, they demand around 1000-1500 Turkish Liras from the target group members. Thinking that they will compensate much more than this amount with the social assistance they will receive after registration to an address, target group members meet the demand. However, after a few months, addresses are being used again with different target group members with the same defrauding method.

Key informant interviews in all provinces have stated that the main problem of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor is related to address registration due to most tent settlements not being recognized as valid places of residence by governmental authorities. In Mersin, thanks to TRC’s efforts and collaboration of district governships, tent settlements were registered as valid places of residence. However, the problems seem to be persevering for target group members in other provinces. Key informants have laid stress on the access issues of target group members, particularly to social assistance, due to not having an address registration. It has been also emphasized that the high mobility of seasonal agricultural workers causes hardships for relevant organizations to reach the target group. Some respondents have reported that registration and documentation issues of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor became more evident after the Coronavirus outbreak, due to limitedness of the services provided by relevant governmental institutions as part of Coronavirus preventive measures.

LINK II Protection Legal Counsellors have laid stress on the lack of awareness on the Agricultural Laborer Registration Documents issued by the Turkish Employment Organization (İŞKUR). This document allows agricultural workers to be exempt from work permit, simplifies the procedures to obtain Travel Permit, and enables the individuals to access rights and services in the province in which they are working. The document is valid for 90 days, however it can be renewed. As useful as it does sound, considering the extreme lack of awareness and knowledge, and the existing hardships in accessing governmental organizations of the target group, there is still an overt need to disseminate information among Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor and also more flexible requirements on documentation procedures. In line with previous studies and LINK II IPA Data, all but few target group members have Temporary Protection Identity Documents, verified or not. As LINK II IPA Data have showed that %11 of the beneficiaries had unverified identity documents, and previous related studies have emphasized, main problem related to registration and documentation is the prevalence of unverified identity documents which impedes target group’s ability to access rights and services.

6.1.2. Access to Education

In line with the previous relevant studies, the current research has found that out-of-school children is one of the most critical and common issue among Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor. Semi-structured in-depth interviews have showed that %75 of households are not sending their school-aged children to school at all, while %11 were sending some of their school-aged children to school. When asked to elaborate on the reasons, majority of the families have mentioned the distance between the tent settlement and the school buildings, peer bullying at school, language barrier, invalid identity documents and/or financial constraints. Most tent settlements are more remote than walking distance to the nearest residential area. Most families are neither able to afford school bus service nor let their children walk to school which is highly insecure. For those who live in tent settlements much closer to residential areas, problems of peer bullying at school and language barrier were the most mentioned issues.

It was reported in focus group interviews that those living in rented accommodation in Şanlıurfa, and those living in tent settlements near residential areas such as villages, precinct or districts, were mostly sending their children to school. However, it was commonly observed that most small residential zones had limited educational opportunities. For example, residents in a tent settlement in Yumurtalık, Adana have stated that the nearest village only had a primary school. Those children completed the primary school can no longer continue their education due to lack of educational facilities near their settlement.

Focus group interviews with children have also showed that most school-aged children are not attending school at all provinces except Şanlıurfa. In Şanlıurfa, due to Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor are usually living in houses close to urban centres, majority of children have reported that they are regularly attending school. In addition, all children in Şanlıurfa have reported that their friends and teachers are quite nice towards them, and school is a pleasant place to be.

Incidents of peer bullying and discrimination at schools were reported by a substantial number of respondents, particularly in Adana (district of Karataş) and Gaziantep (district of Nurdağı). Children in Gaziantep, during focus group interviews, have remarked that there had been incidents of quarrels between Turkish and Syrian children at school, and teachers had beaten Syrian children to solve the issue.

After the Coronavirus outbreak started in March 2020, Ministry of Education has started to implement a nationwide distance learning system (EBA) through

TV channels and internet. EBA TV channels were broadcasting a limited content for specific classes. Thus, in order to fully access EBA, one must have a smartphone, tablet, or computer with internet connection. The current study has found that more than half of the children -who were attending school before the pandemic- in all provinces were not able to access the distance learning system, mainly due to lack of resources such as tablet and internet access. It was reported by target group members in multiple tent settlements in Adana that STL had temporarily distributed tablets to children to facilitate the access to distance learning system in turns at each location for around four weeks. High majority of these children were not able to access EBA except for when they had the tablets thanks to STL's efforts.

Child labor, which will be discussed in detail in the third chapter of the result section, is also a major issue related to the children out-of-school. Focus group interviews with the target group and LINK II Staff, semi-structured in-depth interviews, and key informant interviews have all showed children above the age of 10-to-12 are generally working with their families in agricultural sector. Particularly after the age of 14, almost all children -both boys and girls- are laborers in agricultural work.

Key informant interviews with governmental and humanitarian actors have conveyed that the target groups' access to education is extremely limited. They have pointed out that educational facilities are usually far away from tent settlements, and there is mostly no school service. It was argued by multiple key informants that with Coronavirus outbreak, they expect an increasing trend in -already highly problematic- children out-of-school, child labor, and early forced marriages. One of the key informants in Adana have reported that the schools around were underemployed, thus there had been interruptions in educational services provided even before the pandemic.

In comparison with the findings of previous studies, it can be argued that children out-of-school is still a quite severe problem among the target group. As in-depth interviews have showed that in %86 of the households, none or some of the school-aged children were attending school. Particularly after the Coronavirus pandemic, those minority who were attending school had not been able to continue their education through distance learning system due to lack of resources. As both key informants and LINK II Staff have also asserted, an increasing trend in child labor and early forced marriages are to be expected due to even more low participation to school among children of SAWs.

6.1.3. Access to Healthcare Services

The current study has found three major issues regarding the ability to access



healthcare services of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor. First and foremost, those with invalid/unverified identity documents are not able to access healthcare except first-tier emergency services. Almost %50 of the interviewed respondents have stated that they migrate to other provinces to find job opportunities in agricultural sector throughout the year. Consequently, due to being situated in another province than registered, these individuals and their family members cannot access healthcare services while they are working in other provinces. Secondly, majority of the tent settlements of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor are in remote regions near farming areas. Thus, in order to visit healthcare facilities, target group members have to spend much more time and money than those living close to urban centers. During focus group interviews, a lot of participants have emphasized that not only it is hard for them to afford hospital visits, but it also means a day off from work and consequently one less per diem. Hence, most target group members living in remote regions do not prefer to apply to healthcare services unless there is an emergency. When they really need to access healthcare, it was reported that they either call an ambulance or take a taxi or rental car to healthcare facilities. Thirdly, during semi-structured in-depth interviews, %21 of the respondents have mentioned language barrier as a challenge in accessing healthcare services. Especially in healthcare facilities in districts, translation assistance services are limited when compared to facilities in city centers. It was found that, to overcome this problem, target group members do usually prefer to apply to Migrant Health Centers which have limited capacity alongside of hospitals, get support from neighbors/friends or hire someone to assist them. It was also remarked that majority of the target group members do take support from their Turkish-speaking children or their respective agricultural intermediary when they need to take appointments from healthcare institutions via 182 Hotline. Some respondents have mentioned that they had to pay around 60 Turkish liras for translation assistance to third persons who have been providing unofficial translation services.

Key informant interviews have indicated a similar situation. Majority of the key informants from all provinces have remarked the remoteness of the tent settlements as the major challenge of target group members in accessing healthcare services. On top of it, it was also pointed out that measures against Coronavirus pandemic have worsened this challenge for the target group. Key informants have stated that there are a substantial number of target group members with invalid/unverified identity documents who are not able to access healthcare services.

%86 of the respondents -who have had health issues- of semi-structured in-depth interviews have reported that they had applied for healthcare services and had been provided with medical care.

The remaining have faced language barrier and/or have thought that the medical care was not appropriate or useful. 42 respondents (%20) had a family member with a chronic/critical illness. %80 of these individuals were reported to be able to access continuous and appropriate medical care regarding their illness. The remaining were having difficulties due to lack of resources to access healthcare services, inability to afford medicine, and language barrier.

%90 of the respondents have reported that their children have been vaccinated, while the remaining had access issues due to invalid/unverified identity documents, lack of knowledge, and fear of illness during the pandemic.

Among 64 women who are pregnant or gave birth recently, 55 (%85) have reported they have access to regular prenatal medical care. The remaining had access issues due to distance to healthcare institutions, invalid/unverified identity documents, limitedness of medical appointments due to Coronavirus measures, and lack of knowledge.

6 respondents (%3) have reported that they had someone in their household with mental health problems. Only 1 of these individuals were receiving mental healthcare. When the respondents asked about their and the communities' perspectives on mental health issues, more than half have indicated that they have never encountered with such an issue and/or they have no idea about mental health problems. Less than %1 have stated that those with mental health issues should seek for psychological and/or psychiatric support. There were few respondents who emphasized that they would support individuals having difficulties with their mental health.

During the field visits for focus group interviews, no case of Coronavirus infection was reported at all, while only 6 respondents (%2.9) of semi-structured in-depth interviews have stated that they or a family member had been infected with Coronavirus. 4 of these individuals were able to access appropriate medical care for Coronavirus infection, however 1 participant has reported that they could not communicate with medical staff due to language barrier, and 1 participant had not applied to a healthcare institution at all. Among 206 interviewed target group members in semi-structured in-depth interviews, only 4 (%1.9) have reported that they or a family member have been vaccinated against Coronavirus. Among 492 individuals participated in focus group interviews in four provinces, only 1 participant have stated that they had been vaccinated. It was observed that there was a serious lack of knowledge around this issue among target group members. When probed in focus group interviews, majority of the respondents have argued that no one ever called or visited them for vaccination, however calling in or visiting are not being implemented by relevant authorities anyway. A quite frequent discourse among the target group regarding Coronavirus was "nothing would happen to us". There were a lot of respondents at all locations who jokingly remarked that Syrian refugees are already being punished by God, so the virus would not even deign to infect them.

As the current study shows, problems in accessing healthcare services do seem to persist for Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor and their family members. Major challenges in accessing health services were reported as inability to access healthcare without a valid TPID, the remoteness of tent settlements from residential areas, and language barrier. Basic vaccination of children, and accessing pre-natal medical care were found to be more prevalent among the target group, when compared to previous studies such as STL's research in 2016 which had found that almost half of children were not vaccinated. Coronavirus pandemic have adversely affected the target group's ability to access healthcare services due to limitedness of services provided, and fear of illness.

6.1.4. Access to Legal Aid

During focus group interviews and semi-structured in-depth interviews, almost none of the respondents have reported any legal issues. Most reported legal issues during semi-structured in-depth interviews were (1) agricultural intermediaries not paying salaries, (2) fines due to driving without a valid driver's license, and (3) fines due to using network electricity illegally. Majority of these individuals who had reported legal issues, were clueless on how to seek legal aid.

GOAL Turkey's Rapid Needs Assessment study had reported that in Mersin exploitation was a serious protection risk faced by SAWs. It was pointed out -also by other previous studies- that there were incidents of intermediaries not paying salaries or only paying it partially. The current research has found a few similar cases of exploitation. It was also found that none of these individuals did seek for legal aid, mainly due to lack of knowledge and awareness, and fear of deportation and/or unemployment.

When asked about any experience with legal statuses of V-87 and Ç-114, vast majority have stated that had never experienced or heard about any relevant issue. There were few V-87 cases reported during focus group and semi-structured in-depth interviews. Both the respondents and LINK II Protection Legal Counsellors have stated that most of these individuals had signed "The Voluntary Repatriation Request Form" without acknowledging its inferences. They believed that they were only visiting Syria, and they would be able to come back to Turkey without any legal issues. Only some few were aware of the legal consequences of voluntary repatriation, but they had very compelling reasons such as passing of a parent in Syria. LINK II Protection Legal Counsellors have explained that the Article 53 of The Law on Foreigners and International Protection No.6458) clearly indicates that the person should be thoroughly informed about the implications of voluntary repatriation in a

manner that is apprehensible for the individual. However, it was reported that that is mostly not the case. For example, a female respondent in Tuzla/Adana have narrated that the officials just handed her the papers and wanted her to sign without any explanation. She thought it was just a procedure to cross the border and signed the papers. Later she found out that she had signed The Voluntary Repatriation Request Form. Due to her not being a legal resident in Turkey, she was having difficulties in obtaining an identity document for her new-born child at the time of the interview.

The team have encountered a quite shocking legal case in Islahiye/Gaziantep. A 12-year-old boy was walking on the country road in Nurdağı/Gaziantep where his family was doing seasonal agricultural work and got hit by a car which was at a speed quite exceeding the legal limit. The parents are claiming that the driver had left the scene right after the accident and went to the police. Allegedly, the driver had used prevarication to absolve himself of the incident. The father then applied to police and had signed some papers he did not understand at all. At the time of the interview, the boy was severely and irreversibly disabled, the driver was not found guilty, and there was reportedly no on-going court case.

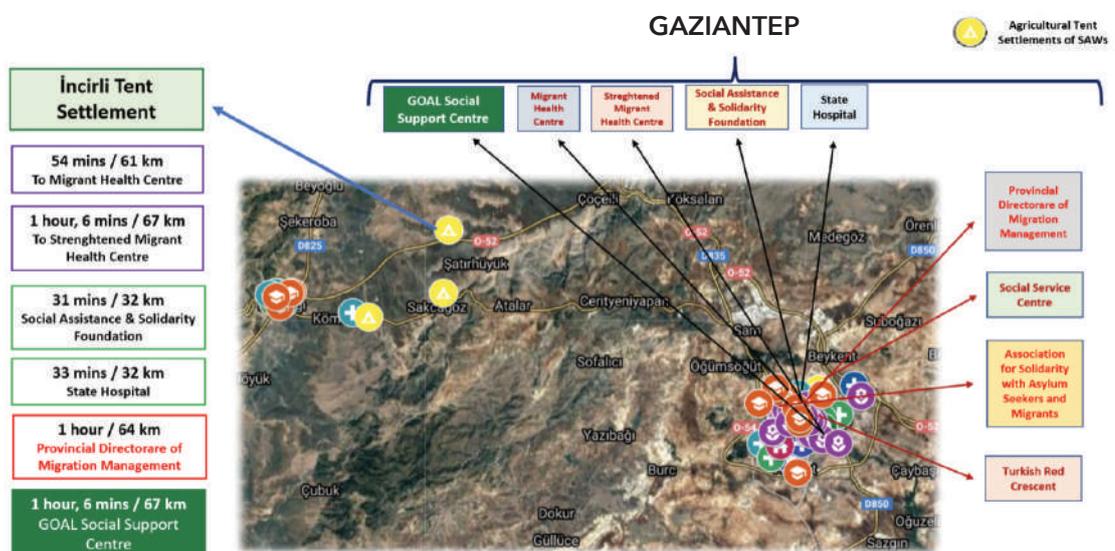


6.1.5. Access to Non-Governmental Organizations

It was found in semi-structured in-depth interviews that around %40 of the respondents have stated they have never been provided with any service by an I/NGO before. The remaining have mostly mentioned GOAL and Turkish Red Crescent. CARE International, UNICEF, Watan and ASAM were also referred. The services provided were mostly rent assistance, hygiene kits, newborn kits and food items. Around half of the respondents from Gaziantep, Adana and Şanlıurfa have stated that they had not been provided with any service by non-governmental organizations. More than half of the respondents from Mersin have reported that they had been provided with services, mainly by GOAL. It was also observed that a substantial number of respondents from all locations -particularly from Gaziantep and Adana- have explained that they have heard of and/or they have been enregistered by various non-governmental organizations, and despite this they have not been provided with any service.

It may be of importance to emphasize that majority of the participants have only mentioned financial or in-kind assistance they had or had not received, when asked of services provided by non-governmental organizations. Only few respondents have remarked that they had been provided with accompaniment to access healthcare services. Thus, it can be argued that the majority of the respondents have regarded financial or in-kind assistance as the only “noteworthy” type of service provision.

Key informants have reported that GOAL, Turkish Red Crescent, Support to Life, UNFPA, WFP, and Maya Foundation as the organizations that work with the target group. Major challenge of the target group in accessing services provided by non-governmental organization was emphasized to be the remoteness of the tent settlements from central areas at which I/NGOs are densely present. A key informant from Adana have stated that majority of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor are not familiar with and do not trust non-governmental organizations, instead they recognize them as transient visitors who distributes kits from time to time. Two relevant examples showing the remoteness of the tent settlements from urban areas in Tarsus/Mersin and İncirli/Gaziantep are presented below.



As previous relevant studies have indicated, the current study has showed that the main challenge that the target group face in accessing non-governmental organizations is the remoteness of the tent settlements from urban centers where the majority of non-governmental organizations do work in. The problem seems to be aggravated due to very limited field activities of I/NGOs since the Coronavirus outbreak. Starting from March 2020, high majority of the non-governmental organizations had switched to homeworking, thus all outreach activities and most services provided had been interrupted. Even most organizations had implemented remote outreach activities and have recently started to operate again, it can be argued that there is a huge information gap regarding protection risks and vulnerabilities affecting adults and children which had emerged during the Coronavirus outbreak.

6.1.6 Access to Livelihoods

It was found that the majority of semi-structured in-depth and focus group interview respondents were only working in agricultural sector. %79 of the semi-structured in-depth interview respondents have stated that the only source of income of their household is seasonal agricultural work. Around 10 respondents of semi-structured in-depth interviews have stated that they work in construction sector and waste-collection in winter months during which there is no agricultural work. %53.4 of the respondents were not migrating to another province at all, seeking for agricultural work opportunities only in the province they are living in. There were substantial number of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor in Gaziantep, Adana, and Mersin whose permanent residence is in Şanlıurfa. Among those who migrate, it was reported by many respondents that the families with small children are not usually migrating out of the province as a family, instead the husband temporarily leaves to seek agricultural work opportunities in other provinces.

Semi-structured in-depth interviews have showed that the average number of family members working in agricultural sector was 1.73. Average number individuals working in agricultural sector was 0.55 for female family members, 1.86 for male family members, and 0.45 for those below the age of 18. The forms of agricultural work segregated according to respondent's sex are presented in table below.

Type of Agricultural Work	Males and Boys	%	Females and Girls	%
Harvesting	69	33.5	65	31,55
Cleaning	71	34.47	53	25.73
Plantation	46	22.33	47	22.82
Preparation and Sorting	49	23.79	38	18.45

Type of Agricultural Work	Males and Boys	%	Females and Girls	%
General Maintenance	47	22.82	24	11.65
Watering	33	16.02	13	6.31
Engraftment and Pruning	20	9.71	9	4.37
Disinfestation	27	13.11	8	3.88
Fertilization	28	13.59	8	3.88
Not working	7	3.4	20	9.71

An interesting finding was identified regarding the daily wages of interviewees. All respondents, without an exception, of focus group interviews at all provinces have reported that men, women, and children are earning the same amount of daily wage from agricultural work. However, respondents of semi-structured in-depth interviews have remarked that women and children are earning much less than men. Average daily wage for men was reported to be 60.28 Turkish Liras, while it was 29.4 TL for women and 12.21 TL for children. To speculate about the possible reasons for this discrepancy between reported daily wages, it is highly possible that the respondents of semi-structured in-depth interviews were much more comfortable because the data was being collected via phone and without demanding any identificatory information at all. Also, during some focus group interviews, agricultural intermediators or their family members were present in the tent which may have caused target group members to report daily wages more optimistically than it is.

Majority of the target group members were doing agricultural work in Syria before the war. Though, majority of the respondents were working in their own land. They described their working conditions in Syria much better than now, since they were working less and earning more. Majority of the respondents of focus group and semi-structured in-depth interviews have stated that multiple family members should be continuously working in order for them to earn enough living for the household. Focus group interviews, semi-structured in-depth interviews and key informant interviews have revealed that majority of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor are not engaging in regular income-generating activities, rather they do seasonal agricultural work irregularly, mostly from March to October. The respondents had asserted that the main handicaps for them to access more convenient livelihood opportunities were the lack of knowledge on any other profession, lack of education, and language barrier. Almost all participants were remonstrant about their working conditions. It was reported that they -including children- usually work more than 10 hours a day.

For those laborers who work in agricultural lands beside their tent settlements, it is possible to take a proper break from work. However, for the remaining, a workday means a whole day under the sun at the back of beyond. In one of the focus group interviews in Gaziantep, a male respondent has tried to explain how hard the job is by casually challenging the researchers to just stay under the sun the whole day without doing any work, and he offered his daily wage in return. Access to clean and refreshing water during work was also a reported issue. Most respondents have reported that the water usually comes in water trucks, soiled and warm.

%24 of the semi-structured in-depth interview respondents have stated that they are not able to afford rent, bills, and basic household needs at all times. Around half of these respondents have indicated that they usually borrow money from their neighbors/friends or agricultural intermediators. Majority of the respondents have remarked that they were able to afford enough food for the household, however they could only afford inadequately nutritious and cheap food items such as bread and root vegetables.

6.1.7. Shelter and WASH

Semi-structured in-depth interviews have showed that average household size was 5.7, which is in line with the findings of Development Workshop's study in 2020. %85 of the participants had children, and the average number of children per household was 3.84. As it was reported by previous studies, the current research has showed that majority of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor are living in tent settlements and in poor living conditions. %76 of the semi-structured in-depth interview respondents have reported that they are living in tents, while %16 have stated that they are living in houses. Almost all target group members in Şanlıurfa were living in rented accommodation or adobe houses. It is important to add that the current study was conducted only in some of the locations in Şanlıurfa which are LINK II project districts, namely Haliliye, Eyyübiye, Viranşehir, Suruç, and Ceylanpınar. Interviewed target group members in Şanlıurfa were either living in city or district centres and traveling to agricultural land for daily work. It was learned that in the district of Harran in Şanlıurfa, there were tent settlements of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor, though the district was not visited due to not being a LINK II project location.

Semi-structured in-depth interviews have indicated that %13 of the household had no regular access to safe and clean water, and %20 had no regular access to electricity. It was found that none of the tent settlements had toilet infrastructure. Almost all settlers have found their own solutions by digging a pit, enclosing it with nylon or fabric, and close the pit down when it is not usable anymore due to excess refuse.

It was learned that each pit was being used by 1-to-5 tents. Focus group and semi-structured in-depth interviews have showed that all respondents living in tent settlements and houses in Adana, Şanlıurfa, Gaziantep and Mersin were using heating stoves during winter. Majority have reported that they are having serious difficulties in affording appropriate fuel, instead they use waste materials, clothes and carpet as fuel.

Key informants have reported that living conditions in tent settlements are unhealthy and unsecure. Problems of insect infestation, lack of access to safe water and toilet infrastructure, and lack of refuse collection were remarked to be the main issues. A key informant in Adana have informed that illegal electricity usage is quite common in tent settlements. Most key informants also have emphasized the over crowdedness of the tents and lack of privacy for both adults and children.

6.2. Protection Risks and Vulnerabilities

6.2.1. Gender-Based Violence

Vast majority of the respondents of focus group and semi-structured in-depth interviews have reported that they have not witnessed or heard about any incident of domestic violence. Around half of these respondents have added that these kinds of issues must remain private and should only be solved by family elders if needed. Only 3 participants (%0.01) have asserted that violence survivors should seek for help from law-enforcement and/or legal authorities. There were a lot of respondents who had emphasized that they, as seasonal agricultural workers, already feel too exhausted when the shift ends to expend energy to fight with each other at home. Some respondents in Adana have indicated that there had been some incidents of domestic violence with which gendarmerie had interfered in, and since then most men around there are afraid to engage in violence. One of the participants have admitted that she sometimes threatens her husband with calling law enforcement units when they fight. Key informant interviews have showed that around one-third of the key informants from all provinces have stated that they came across with incidents of gender-based violence among the target group. Key informants from non-governmental organizations in Adana have pointed out that relevant institutions could be having difficulties in identifying gender-based violence cases due to lack of privacy in tent settlements during the interviews. It was also mentioned that target group members may not have enough information and awareness to distinguish violence from traditional forms of communication.

It was remarked that gender-based violence incidents are probably being underreported due to relatively conservative cultural values of most target group members. LINK II IPA Data have showed that out of 2400 beneficiaries, only 41 (%0.02) gender-based violence cases have been identified.



Respondents of focus group interviews on gender issues in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Adana have reported that early forced marriages are still being practiced, but much less compared to the past. However, there have been reported incidents of early forced marriages among the community. In Adana, it was pointed out that if the parents do not have financial constraints, they usually encourage their children -especially girls- to get married at around the age of 15. Most respondents have mentioned that the age of marriage was usually lower than 18 in Syria, but now the practices are changing due to the community being aware of the legal consequences of early forced marriages and early pregnancies in Turkey. There were respondents who conveyed that to tackle possible legal consequences, religious marriages are often being practiced. Nonetheless, there had been some reported legal issues caused by early pregnancies.

When gender-related issues were inquired about, majority of the respondents have mostly referred to traditional gender roles. It has been reported that housework and childcare are commonly women's responsibilities even in families where both men and women are working in agriculture. Respondents of a mixed focus group interview in Şanlıurfa have argued that men and women should be equals but they are not in reality, and women should be more esteemed. It was also pointed out that value of women increases as they grow old. During a focus group interview in Tuzla-Adana with only women, it was stated that their and Turkish culture are not alike and according to their culture, men are superior. When asked about whether girls and boys should be equal or not, the participants had difficulties in understanding the term of equality as a rights-based concept. When probed, they have stated that they care for and love their children the same but could not say that girls and boys have equal opportunities and prospect on future. It was pointed out that girls, at some point, get married and leave the family home, so they may have less importance for the family in some ways. A striking statement was made by a respondent in Adana about their 15-year-old girl: "There had been some candidates, but we do not want her to get married because we need the money she earns from agricultural work".

In sum, gender-based violence, early forced marriages and gender-based discriminative attitudes seems to be quite common among the interviewed respondents from all provinces. However, it is important to recognize the heterogeneity of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor in terms of gender-related issues. There were a lot of respondents with a much more broad-minded approach on the gender issues, while there were also a lot of interviewees with a quite religious and conservative point of view. Alongside of these differences among target group members, it was observed that there is a common need for awareness-raising activities on aforementioned issues.


 **6.2.2. Risks against Children**

The current study has found that protection risks against children are quite critical and common among Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor living in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Adana and Mersin.

The protection risks of child labor, children out-of-school, early forced marriages, and severe lack of secure and child-friendly spaces in tent settlements were observed. Protection risks of children out-of-school and early forced marriage have been discussed above in relevant sections.

Child Labor

Child labor was found to be the most prevalent risk against children among the target group. Focus group interviews have showed that children are usually start to work at around the age of 8 by performing light duties while helping their parents in agricultural work with lump sum payments. Starting approximately from the age of 12, majority of children are working as daily laborers in agricultural work.

Some respondents in focus group interviews with children have reported that they both attend the school and go to work. Some key informants have argued that children are now much more vulnerable with the effect of Coronavirus on -already low- school attendance which will possibly cause an increasing trend in child labor and early forced marriages.

High-Risk Environment

Another major protection risk among the target group was found to be the issues related to safety and security in tent settlements. Most settlements are on the roadside and none of the settlements have any safety fence or barriers separating the road from the settlement. In Islahiye/Gaziantep, the data collection team have encountered a very rough case of which a 14-year-old boy with severe physical and mental disabilities caused by critical head trauma that had occurred after a road accident two years ago.

In Adana, many incidents of nearly-drowning were reported in tent settlements near water canals. In a tent settlement in Seyhan-Adana, during the focus group interview one of the participants started to show the researchers a video of a deceased child adrift in the canal. When asked, it was learned that two small children were recently drowned in the water canal while playing outside. Key informants in Adana and LINK II Staff have also remarked the issue and reported that incidents of drowning or near-drowning of children are being encountered too often.



A tent settlement in Kuruayşe Neighborhood in Seyhan/Adana, where two small children were recently drowned

Another important safety risk that children are exposed to is that families are often leave their children at tents when they go to work, particularly when there are older children who can look after the smaller children. Leaving children's care to other children creates great risks of hazards at home and around the tent settlement. In focus group interviews with children, most children at all provinces have mentioned that they do housework when they are not working. As the key informants also emphasized, if the family have only small children, they usually are taking their small children with them to the field, and this is quite unhealthy for children. Another important protection risk against children was the lack of privacy inside tents. Some key informants in Adana have emphasized that children are being exposed to their parents' private life from far too close.

Almost none of the children living in tent settlements had toys or other items that would appropriately support their physical and cognitive development. Smaller children were found to be mostly playing in dust and dirt, while older children were either working at the field or looking after for their siblings. Children, working or not, are also found to be quite prone environmental hazards such as pesticides, insects, and exposure to sun.

Protection risks against children are the most severe and common risks for Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor and their families. Previous studies have also showed a similar situation of critically vulnerable children of the target group at various locations. These children are still almost completely out of school, isolated from the outer world, and open to multiple severe protection risks of child labor, early forced marriages, and unsafe environment with various hazards.

After the Coronavirus outbreak, the situation has clearly worsened due to children's severe inability to access remote education and increased financial difficulties of the families which will most probably cause an increasing trend in child labor. Especially with the very limited presence of humanitarian actors in the field since the Coronavirus outbreak, there is a very urgent need for identification and assessment of children with protection risks among SAWs.

“ I want to go to hospital but I can not. If I go, children would be alone here and they may go near the canal. ”

Female, 20 years old, Kuruayse/Seyhan/Adana

6.2.3. Social Discrimination and Exclusion

Majority of the focus group and in-depth interview respondents have reported that they had not been denied of rights, resources, opportunities and/or essential services at governmental institutions. Some have reported that they had been discriminated against in healthcare facilities and PDMMs. When probed, these individuals have described that, officers had treated them badly, yelled at them, or -in respondents' opinion- malpracticed just because they are Syrian. During focus group and semi-structured in-depth interviews, a substantial number of respondents have reported incidents of social discrimination and exclusion. There were some key informants who have reported that there is discrimination against Syrian refugees in tent settlements, particularly in settlements in which both Turkish citizens and refugees live. It was also mentioned by LINK II Staff that in-kind assistance in mixed tent settlements is a particular challenge due to Turkish Agricultural Workers usually do reprimand the humanitarian workers for only assisting refugees. A key informant in Adana who is a Mukthar, have stated that residents of the tent settlement had requested for his assistance in address registration, however he declined because the locals of the village would side against him.

Incidents of peer bullying at schools were reported by a lot of adults and children at all locations except in Şanlıurfa. In Şanlıurfa, school attendance rate was higher and almost all schooled children were quite happy with their school life. In other provinces, particularly in Adana, peer bullying was reported to be a major factor for children to drop out of school or not attend at all.

Hostility towards target group members by locals and mukhtars of nearby villages was reported in multiple locations. A very recent example was experienced by Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor living near Bahçe village of Karataş-Adana. During the field visit to Bebeli which is a nearby village to Bahçe, it was learned that a tent settlement in Bahçe was recently forcibly disbanded by an intervention led by the mukhtar of the Bahçe village. Reportedly, the mukhtar was already behaving quite badly to the residents of the tent settlement, particularly to children. It was reported that he had intentionally intimidated children multiple times by yelling at them and driving his car towards them while honking. After threatening the settlers and demanding them to leave for a long time, the mukhtar had mobilized the locals and the gendarmerie, and demolished the settlement. After the incident, some of the former settlers of Bahçe tent settlement have taken refuge in Bebeli tent settlement, and some had reportedly left the region. The case was also mentioned by LINK II Staff in Adana, adding that some locals of the village were carrying guns that day when they demolished the tent settlement. It was reported that the locals had only calmed down after a “Turkish friend” of a Syrian settler interceded for the settlers with the locals.

“ Locals want us to leave. They say that we have no right to occupy this land. We only need a peaceful place to stay. I can manage the rest. ”

Female, 50 years old, Kirmizidag/Karatas/Adana

6.2.4. Other Protection Risks and/or Vulnerabilities

6.2.4.1 Adults and Children with Disabilities

Semi-structured in-depth interviews have showed that %10 of the interviewed target group members had a family member with disability. Half of these individuals had physical/orthopaedical disabilities, 5 had neurological/developmental disabilities, 3 had visual disabilities and 3 had hearing disabilities. Children and adults with disabilities have observed to usually be isolated at home, not able to receive regular and appropriate medical care. Regular health screenings, physiotherapy, medical devices, or special educational services are generally not accessible for target group members, mainly due to lack of knowledge/awareness and remoteness of the tent settlements.

Key informants have remarked that obtaining a medical report regarding the disability status is one of the major challenges for children and adults with disabilities among Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor. One key informant in Adana have remarked that individuals are only able to get appointment from healthcare providers months later. Particularly after Coronavirus pandemic, this situation has worsened due to limitedness of the services provided by healthcare institutions. Around half of the adults and children with disabilities had no medical reports and not receiving proper care.

6.2.4.2. Elderly

Among Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor, elderly is usually dependent on their children or other close family members. Those who are healthy enough to do agricultural work are usually working to contribute the household. Those who are not are at home and isolated from the outer world. During focus group interviews, it was reported that those without any family member to take care of them are compulsorily working in agriculture or waste collection in order to be able to make a living.

“ *An elderly couple live here. The wife is 60 years old and a cardiac patient. But they have to work to earn a living.* ”

Female, 30 years old, Zeynepi/Yumurtalik/Adana

6.2.4.3. LGBTI+

Primary data of the current research could not indicate any result regarding the LGBTIQ members of the target group since it is a highly sensitive issue. It was not found appropriate by the researcher to ask questions about gender identities or sexual orientation to target group members because it would most probably cause disturbance among the interviewees. LINK II Staff have reported that LGBTIQ members of the target group are highly invisible, and it is extremely hard for humanitarian actors to identify these individuals. One of the key informants in Adana have stated that there have been LGBTIQ beneficiaries from the target group. It was remarked that these beneficiaries are being referred to non-governmental institutions with relevant specialty in working with LGBTIQ community.

6.3. Situation of General Refugee Population in Comparison with Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor

To add on the findings of the current study, it may be enlightening to compare the situation of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor to the general refugee population in Turkey. It was found in the Inter Agency Protection Sector Needs Assessment Rounds that the situation of general refugee population was deteriorating due to Coronavirus pandemic. In terms of access to registration/documentation, ability to meet basic needs, and decrease in the ability to access healthcare services after the Coronavirus pandemic, Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor did not significantly differ from the general refugee population in Turkey. However, there seems to be a significant variation between these groups in terms of access to education, living conditions, and protection risks against children.

According to the I-A's results, among families with children, %51 stated all their children were registered and school-going, whereas %37 stated none of their children participated in education prior to the pandemic. Overall, %79 of respondents with children stated that their children were able to continue education via remote learning. When compared to the general refugee population, schooling among children of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor is significantly and critically lower. Only %14 of the interviewed families have stated that their children were regularly attending school. There is also a huge difference among these groups in terms of children accessing distance learning systems. Almost none of the children among the target group had been able to access distance learning system due to lack of resources. It was noted that 3% of the general refugee population families had reported that their children were working. By comparison, among children of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor, child labor is so common that it is quite exceptional to encounter a child aged over 12 not working in agriculture.

Living conditions have also found to be significantly different among groups. I-A have not reported any critical issue with regular access to safe and clean water, electricity, toilet infrastructure, or any major environmental safety risks among general refugee population. However, these issues are greatly apparent for Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor.

In terms of protection risks, I-A Protection Sector has reported that the most prevalent protection concerns for the general refugee population were observations of increased stress within their communities (38%) and conflict amongst household members (13%), while 2% reported conflict with local communities. For Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor and their families, mostly encounter with the protection risks were child labor, early forced marriages, non-schooled children, lack of knowledge/awareness of their rights and provided services, inability to access governmental services due to not having a valid TPID and remoteness of the settlements, and quite poor living conditions.

7. Dissemination Strategy

The current report will be utilized as a source of evidence-based information for various purposes. First and foremost, this protection monitoring report is aiming to inform and feed other project activities under LINK II. Findings will be put to use in sensitization and mobilization efforts targeting duty bearers and service providers (Result 3 - Activity 4 of LINK II Project) to work with Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor in all project locations. It will also serve as a secondary data source in developing thematic guidelines on to inform public and humanitarian actors from various sectors regarding targeting, including, and outreaching to nomadic/semi nomadic groups (Result 3 - Activity 5 of LINK II Project). Additionally, the report will be utilized as a tool to familiarize LINK interns from different educational backgrounds with the areas of operation, operational context, and the target groups. Secondly, the findings of the current report will be divided into sectoral categories to disseminate relevant information to public and humanitarian entities regarding their area of focus and expertise, thus ensuring that the information dissemination efforts are specific and targeted.

8. Conclusion and Recommendations

In the light of current findings, and with valuable experience gained through LINK I and LINK II projects, GOAL Turkey's future programming has a critical importance in linking refugees engaged in seasonal agricultural labor to governmental and non-governmental services, as well as in identifying and assessing vulnerable members of the community.

Relevant public institutions and humanitarian actors at field should be familiarized more with the status and needs of refugee seasonal agricultural workers. Efforts to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among governmental and humanitarian actors are also crucial to ensure gaps in services are minimized. Additionally, inclusion of asylum seekers/refugees from nomadic and semi-nomadic communities should be promoted by EC DG NEAR, Key Donors and UN organizations, including the UNHCR. Alongside of those vulnerabilities and protection risks that require tailored individual protection assistance, the community members at all project locations have reported common problems of quite limited ability to access rights and services, poor living and working conditions, lack of awareness/knowledge about services and rights, and severe protection risks against children -particularly child labor.

Since 2010, State of Turkey has passed circulars, regulations and laws which directly affect the rights, obligations and living conditions of SAWs. The most recent and comprehensive of those is Prime Ministry Circular No.2017/6 on Seasonal Agricultural Workers.

The circular consists of 36 articles, but it covers not only labour rights of SAWs but also basic rights, shelter conditions, access to education of the children, combating against child labor, access to health services of general SAW population and the women in particular. Taken into consideration that there is not a particular ministerial body responsible for SAWs, the circular constitutes a cooperation mechanism between many different governmental institutions in province level; including governorates, Provincial Directorate of National Education, Provincial Directorate of Health, Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Services, Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry, Provincial Directorate of Labour and Social Security, İŞKUR, Ministry of Interior Affairs, civil society organizations and etc.

In each province the Governorates are expected to draft an annual action plan which aims to develop living conditions of SAWs and include a need assessment of the SAWs living in that province. The Governorates are obliged to found Bureau for SAW in every province, which is responsible for drafting action plans, need assessments, implementation, and monitoring of the action plan. The initial responsibility of the Bureau for SAW is to establish temporary settlement centres which is coherent for realizing the aim of the circular indicated in its article 1:

"In the areas receiving a big number of seasonal agricultural workers, city governorates shall provide safe, low-cost, esthetical, and functional temporary residential areas with prefabricated, concrete, or steel framed buildings with electricity, water and canalization infrastructure and with communal areas to be used for educational and social activity purposes. These residential areas shall be built in line with the climate conditionals shall provide the workers with their basic needs."

The circular not only aims to develop shelter conditions of SAWs but also water and electricity services in those placets, providing drinking, utility water and environmental health services, proper health care, supporting people to access already granted social services for them, educational services, religious services, safe and secure transportation services between temporary settlements and workplaces.

The circular established a solid system in order to combat against child labour and children's access to mandatory education. Moreover, another circular of Ministry of National Education (MoNE) dated 21.03.2016 No. 2016/5 simultaneously removes many legal obstacles schooling of SAWs' children. The MoNE circular defines the terms of Seasonal Agricultural Workers and Nomadic/Semi-nomadic people and allows their children to register any school located where they move without a certificate of residence. Moreover, it also obliges the Governorates to find a monitoring board, organize support courses and establish mobile schools in some circumstances for those children. The Prime Ministry circular aka METIP circular also recalls MoNE's circular and orders establishment of a building for educational and social activities in temporary settlements.

Although the circular envisions a provincial based planning, it has been implemented as nation-wide projects. The first project called “Mevsimlik Gezici Tarım İşçilerinin Çalışma ve Yaşam Koşullarının İyileştirilmesi - 1. Projesi (METİP 1) was implemented between 2010 and 2013. No.2010/6 on Improvement Working and Living Conditions of Seasonal Agricultural Workers. METİP 1 was implemented in 38 provinces and the total budget allocated was 96 million TRY.

METİP 2 on the other hand is the second phase and it was implemented between 2017 and 2020. METİP 2’s legal basis was the current Prime Ministry Circular No.2017/6. An online system called e-METİP was found in order to identification of SAWs in provincial. Additionally, 17 temporary settlements were established. The total budget of the project was 50.499.742 TRY.

In short, it can be induced that although the projects of METİP-1 and METİP-2 had a budget of almost 147 million Turkish liras in total, severely poor living and working conditions of seasonal agricultural workers are still abiding. Moreover, lack of dedicated and staff for METİP in public institutions, had negatively affected the usage of this limited budget. It is observed that schools’ boards in Mersin avoided to implement MoNE’s circular to register children without resident certificate since some school managers were investigated as they illegally registered some children as they are SAWs’ children to their schools although their parents do not subsist on agricultural work. Additionally, due to constant movement of SAWs, their children might need special educational services however there is a certain lack of budget and capacity in Provincial Directorate of National Education. Mobil schools were not established in every province, and even there are some established concrete structures, no staff dedicated for those places according to our observations.

Further to that, Coronavirus pandemic and measures have negatively affected the community members in accessing governmental services and livelihood opportunities. Almost all families have reported increased difficulties in affording basic needs. Prevailing financial constraints of the target group still seem to be a huge problem. There is a need for a collaborative and multi-sectoral effort of governmental and non-governmental entities to extend the livelihood opportunities, social assistance, and cash/in-kind assistance for refugees engaged in seasonal agricultural labor. There is a need for key donors and respective UN agencies to discuss and explore opportunities to develop and fund different social assistance modalities for those who are terribly vulnerable but do not meet the eligibility criteria due procedural / documentation requirements. Through advocacy with UN Development agencies, shock-sensitive, responsive, and remedial social protection systems should be promoted through provision of cash-based interventions for these groups who are very fragile to disasters and pandemics. It had appeared that elderly individuals, persons with disabilities, and LGBTIQ identities among the target group are much more invisible than the rest.



There is a need for service provision specifically targeting these invisible members of the community to be able to better identify those individuals and increasing their capacity on accessing their rights and services. It is also critical to utilize community-based support mechanisms and information channels to enhance community members' ability to access rights and services to achieve durable solutions.

Given the protracted refugee context in Turkey and the fact that the vast majority of refugees live in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas, key donors, UN Development Agencies, DG NEAR and DG ECHO should explore the possibility to develop comprehensive and contextual tools to measure resilience of the most vulnerable refugee populations to better inform and influence program and policy development to promote resilience and self-efficacy of vulnerable community members and households.

Funding diversification shall be sought by humanitarian actors and encouraged by donors for provision of holistic support in response to multi-layered vulnerabilities refugee communities.

Multiyear protection integrated livelihood programming tailored to the social characteristics of targeted refugee communities would contribute to self-efficacy of them in the medium to long term.

Province and district level advocacy activities are needed to enhance local response mechanisms of governmental and non-governmental actors. As the current study have found, the target group are having severe difficulties in accessing services and rights provided by governmental and humanitarian actors, mainly due to remoteness of living areas from urban centers, and lack of knowledge/awareness. While strengthening coordination and collaboration among actors, it is also crucial to disseminate evidence-based information regarding the issues of the target group among sectors.

Respective donors shall engage with the UN development actors they fund, to ensure their coordination with I/NGOs and humanitarian service providers to promote complementary protection and social protection activities at field level and vice versa. Below table elaborates on specific recommendations that can help or at least contribute to addressing problem areas and identified protection risks and gaps.

Green written ones are for GOAL to sustain and for other humanitarian stakeholders to start with or sustain the delivery of services given in the respective recommendation; whilst the **ones written in blue** are for GOAL to start with provision of services / delivery of activities given in the respective recommendation.


 **Registration and Documentation****Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps**

- Main issues related to registration and documentation were found to be (1) a substantial number of target group members had invalid identity documents due to residing in a province other than registered, and thus could not reach rights and services, (2) issues in address registration due to target group's high mobility, and ineligibility of some tent settlements as valid places of residence.
- A substantial number of target group members are having difficulties in regularly accessing social assistance due to not having a valid identity document and/or address registration at all times.
- Semi-structured in-depth interviews have revealed that %45 of the respondents from Adana, %52 of the respondents in Mersin, %77 of the respondents from Gaziantep and %12 of the respondents from Şanlıurfa were migrating to other provinces for seasonal agricultural work for a few months or more. Without a valid Temporary Protection Identity Document due to residing in a different province than registered, these persons and their families are not able to access education, healthcare, and social assistance services.
- Registration and documentation issues of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor became more evident after the Coronavirus outbreak, due to limitedness of the services provided by relevant governmental institutions as part of Coronavirus preventive measures.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

- Conduct awareness raising activities regarding registration procedures and required documentation and implicit risks associated with not having valid documentation and/or residing in a province other than the registered one such as deportation.
- Provide facilitative support to promote access to registration, including transportation, appointment taking, translation, and accompaniment.
- Increase outreach activities to identify individuals with special needs among those residing in a different province than they are registered and provide facilitative support and advocate for their registration with PDMM to transfer to enable them to access services.
- Advocate with TRC and IFRC as to address registration issue of those refugees engaged into seasonal agricultural labour to promote their access to social assistance.

- Cooperate with I/NGOs to increase outreach activities to better identify community members with registration and documentation issues.
- Provide relevant governmental institutions (PDMMs, Registry Offices, SASFs) with evidence-based information regarding gaps in registration and documentation services.
- Advocate with UNFPA to address issues related to access to health for those who do not have valid documentation and/or residing in a province other than the registered one.



Access to Livelihoods

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- Majority of Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor are not engaging in regular income-generating activities, rather they do seasonal agricultural work irregularly, mostly from March to October. The respondents had asserted that the main handicaps for them to access more convenient livelihood opportunities were the lack of knowledge on any other profession, lack of education, and language barrier.
- Working conditions were described as far from ideal. Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor are mostly working more than 10 hours a day under the sun, without fresh water, and prone to occupational accidents/illnesses.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

- Explore and map the opportunities of vocational training to refer aspirant community members in all provinces.
- Reintroduce GOAL's livelihood service map to all protection workers to promote access to employment opportunities for the eligible individuals.
- Put effort in linking men and women to Turkish language courses provided by governmental and non-governmental actors to increase their chances of employability.
- Advocate with organizations with resources to target refugees engaged into seasonal agricultural labour and provide cash or in-kind assistance until economic impacts of coronavirus pandemic is curved.



Access to Education

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- %75 of the households were not sending their school-aged children to school at all, while %11 were sending some of their children to school, reportedly due to the distance between the tent settlements and the school buildings, peer bullying and violence at schools, language barrier, invalid identity documents, and/or financial constraints.
- It was commonly observed that most small residential zones had limited educational opportunities.
- Incidents of peer bullying and discrimination at schools were reported by a substantial number of respondents, particularly in Adana (district of Karataş) and Gaziantep (district of Nurdağı).
- More than half of the children -who were attending school before the pandemic- in all provinces were not able to access the distance learning system, mainly due to lack of resources such as tablet and internet access.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

- Support and advocate for families who are having troubles in school registration.
- Disseminate elaborative information to parents about short and long-term consequences of non-schooling under Awareness Raising activities and community events.
- Advocate with respective donors to explore the possibility to provide school-aged children with school kits / materials to prevent school dropouts.
- Directly target school-aged children in awareness raising activities conducted by staff with relevant expertise or training.
- Incorporate the respective provisions articulated in the circular regarding children of seasonal agricultural workers and nomadic - semi/nomadic refugees' access to education that indicates that those children can be enrolled at school without residence registration and at any time of the school year, into Awareness Raising sessions.
- Collaborate with educational institutions to improve the capacities of school administrators and teachers to create a more inclusive environment at schools.
- Avoid the generalisations as to reasons behind school dropouts for all children but rather employ a child centred approach in understanding the unique reasons; and provide assistance respectively.

- Advocate with donors to promote environment building efforts by ensuring that existing METIP structures are funded sufficiently and are functioning properly to address educational needs of children in the given neighbourhood.
- Advocate with provincial directorate of national education (PDoNE) to explore the possibility of providing summer school programs / weekend courses to children who have shown irregular school attendance and therefore fell behind in their classes.
- Advocate with donors and municipalities to explore the possibility of providing free transportation service to children who are not able to attend school due to lack of transportation or due to their inability to afford transportation services.
- Expand advocacy and sensitization activities to target teachers on the issues and needs of refugee children taking part in seasonal agricultural labour.

Avoid pre-conceived opinions as to children's expectations from and perceptions of education at project planning stage and develop tailored services to promote their access to education and to prevent their school dropouts.

Access to Healthcare

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- Three major issues related to access to healthcare services were (1) inability to access health services with an invalid/unverified identity document, (2) remoteness of the tent settlements from residential areas where the healthcare facilities in, and (3) language barrier.
- During focus group interviews, a lot of participants have emphasized that not only it is hard for them to afford hospital visits, but it also means a day off from work and consequently one less per diem. Hence, most target group members living in remote regions do not prefer to apply to healthcare services unless there is an emergency.
- %21 of the respondents have mentioned language barrier as a challenge in accessing healthcare services. Especially in healthcare facilities in districts, translation assistance services are limited when compared to facilities in city centers. It was found that, to overcome this problem, target group members do usually prefer to apply to Migrant Health Centers which have limited capacity alongside of hospitals, get support from neighbors/friends, or hire someone to assist them.



Photo: GOAL/2021

- %90 of the respondents has reported that their children have been vaccinated, while the remaining had access issues due to invalid/unverified identity documents, lack of knowledge, and fear of illness during the pandemic.
- Very few respondents (%3) have reported that they had someone in their household with mental health problems. Only 1 of these individuals were receiving mental healthcare. When the respondents asked about their and the communities' perspectives on mental health issues, more than half have indicated that they have never encountered with such an issue and/or they have no idea about mental health problems. Less than %1 have stated that those with mental health issues should seek for psychological and/or psychiatric support.
- Only 6 respondents (%2.9) of semi-structured in-depth interviews have stated that they or a family member had been infected with Coronavirus. Among 206 interviewed target group members in semi-structured in-depth interviews, only 4 (%1.9) have reported that they or a family member have been vaccinated against Coronavirus.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

- Increase outreach activities to identify individuals with health needs among those residing in a different province than they are registered and provide facilitative support and advocate for their registration with PDMM to transfer their registration to enable them to access healthcare services.
- Conduct awareness raising activities regarding access to healthcare services.
- Encourage respective humanitarian actors operating under health sector to promote importance of pre-natal health services for women through awareness raising activities and information, education, and communication materials.
- Encourage respective humanitarian actors operating under health sector to promote importance of regular medical examinations for children through awareness raising activities and information, education, and communication materials.
- Conduct basic psychoeducation activities to encourage and to support access of nomadic / semi-nomadic refugees to mental health care service providers.
- Advocate with respective donors to explore the possibility to fund mobile health units in coordination with the Ministry of Health in underserved urban and peri-urban areas (as in rural areas) to reach those with health issues.

- Locally seek for collaboration opportunities with healthcare service providers to conduct outreach activities to provide basic health screenings, especially for those in tent settlements.
- Strengthen referral pathways for specialized MHPSS services.
- In order to increase knowledge and awareness on Mental Health Problems and promote help seeking behaviours, intensify psychosocial support and psychoeducation activities for both children and adults within agricultural areas.
- Increase awareness raising activities on Covid-19 pandemic with the aim of encouraging help seeking behaviour for those infected positive; together with information on how to access vaccination.
- Explore the possibility of cooperation with nutrition programs to provide parents with information and awareness raising on children's developmental needs in order to promote a preventive and protective environment in the face of external and internal difficulties in accessing to health care services.

Access to Legal Aid

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- Almost none of the respondents have reported any legal issues. Most reported legal problems were related to (1) agricultural intermediaries not paying salaries, (2) fines due to driving without a valid driver's license, and (3) fines due to using network electricity illegally.
- There were few V-87 cases reported during focus group and semi-structured in-depth interviews. Both the respondents and LINK II Protection Legal Counsellors have stated that most of these individuals had signed "The Voluntary Repatriation Request Form" without acknowledging its inferences. They believed that they were only visiting Syria, and they would be able to come back to Turkey without any legal issues.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

- Conduct awareness raising activities regarding legal aid and importantly on legal aid mechanisms and roles of different actors involved in legal aid in Turkey to increase nomadic / semi-nomadic refugees' competence in accessing to legal aid.
- Advocate for and continue to provide legal counselling for beneficiaries in need to promote their access to legal aid.

- Disseminate up-to-date information regarding Coronavirus measures, through mass messages, both voice messages and in written.
- Coordinate with local actors and bar associations to facilitate access to legal assistance, and to raise awareness regarding the legal issues among the community.
- Intensify awareness raising activities on frequently encountered restriction codes, such as V87, in order to increase informed decision making for beneficiaries and prevent denial of resources and rights.



Access to Social Assistance

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- It was commonly observed that the target group members are mostly unaware of the documentation procedures. During the field visits, the team came across with a lot of individuals whose social assistance were cut off and they had no idea why or how to solve the issue.
- Refugees Engaged in Seasonal Agricultural Labor with high mobility status are usually having difficulties in continuously accessing social assistance due to not having a valid residence registration at all times.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

- Conduct awareness raising activities regarding available social assistances, eligibility criteria, application procedures and application documents.
- Advocate with TRC and IFRC as to address registration issue of nomadic / semi-nomadic refugees to promote their access to social assistance.
- Strengthen the coordination and referral pathways with governmental (i.e., SASF, SSCs) and non-governmental organizations for those who are not eligible for ESSN but needs critical basic needs support.
- Mobilize local actors to identify those who are eligible for social assistance but not receiving it.
- Advocate with IFRC for finetuning the conditions of ESSN to the characteristics (i.e., mobility, household size, etc.) of refugee seasonal agricultural workers.


 Shelter and WASH

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- It was found that majority of the target group are living in unhealthy and unsecure conditions. %76 of the in-depth interview respondents were living in tents, %16 -mostly in Şanlıurfa- were living in houses. %13 had no regular access to safe and clean water, %20 had no regular access to electricity. None of the tent settlements had toilet infrastructure.
- All respondents living in tent settlements and houses in Adana, Şanlıurfa, Gaziantep and Mersin were using heating stoves during winter. Majority have reported that they are having serious difficulties in affording appropriate fuel, instead they use waste materials, clothes, and carpet as fuel.
- Key informants have reported that living conditions in tent settlements are unhealthy and unsecure. Problems of insect infestation, lack of access to safe water and toilet infrastructure, and lack of refuse collection were remarked to be the main issues.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

- Explore possibilities and advocate for designated tent settlement areas in all provinces with necessary infrastructure and residence permit.
- Collaborate with local government in identifying and addressing issues with infrastructure in tent settlements. Necessary improvements should include but are not limited to:
 - levelling the ground under the tents,
 - introducing safe ways to solve their problem of heating and providing toilets that guarantee basic privacy and hygiene needs.
 - necessary infrastructural improvements shall also include accessibility and capacity wise improvements of METIP buildings which are found to be separated by fences and barbed wires from where agricultural workers live.
- Explore the possibility to distribute hygiene kits to large number of households or to all households in pre-identified and assessed neighbourhoods.
- Explore the possibility of cooperating with food security and agriculture (FSA) actors and respective local governmental authorities to provide awareness raising sessions on safe water storage, safe pesticide usage, waste management and first aid.

Access to Non-Governmental Organization

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- %40 of the in-depth interview respondents has stated that they had never been provided with any assistance by an I/NGO before.
- As previous relevant studies have indicated, the current study has showed that the main challenge that the target group face in accessing non-governmental organizations is the remoteness of the tent settlements from urban centers where the majority of non-governmental organizations do work in. The problem seems to be aggravated due to very limited field activities of I/NGOs since the Coronavirus outbreak. Starting from March 2020, high majority of the non-governmental organizations had switched to homeworking, thus all outreach activities and most services provided had been interrupted.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

- Advocate with other NGOs to increase their outreach activities to underserved urban and peri-urban areas to target refugees engaged in seasonal agricultural labour.
- Provide information (current situation and needs analysis report, maps) to other NGOs to equip them with the knowledge on the whereabouts of nomadic/semi-nomadic refugee communities.
- Equip location-based community advisory communities with specific knowledge on available services to promote refugee seasonal agricultural workers help seeking behaviour.
- Disseminate information about the status of the target group through coordination meetings.
- Advocate for increase in multi-sectoral non-governmental service provision in all districts and provinces.

Gender-Based Violence

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- Majority have reported they had not witnessed or heard about any incident of domestic violence. Out of 206 in-depth interview respondents, only 3 have asserted that violence survivors should seek for help from law-enforcement and/or legal authorities, the remaining believed that these kinds of issues must remain private. One-third of the key informants, and LINK II Staff have reported that they come across with incidents of gender-based violence among the target group much often than the target group reported.

- Conduct awareness raising activities regarding gender-based violence.
- Develop specific and short-termed training programs about gender-related issues for voluntary men and women and utilize these key community members to disseminate key messages among the target group.
- Equip location-based community advisory communities with specific knowledge on gender-based violence, its forms, legal rights, and available service providers to sensitize refugee seasonal agricultural workers and promote their help seeking behaviours.
- Engage in cooperation and working group meetings on child protection and disseminate evidence-based information regarding gender-based violence among target group.

Risks Against Children

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- Risks against children were the most severe and common issues. Child labor was found to be the most prevalent protection risk against children at all locations. Starting approximately from the age of 12, majority of children are working as daily laborers in agricultural work. However, in agricultural works paying lump sum wages, younger children are working with their families. Early forced marriages are still being practiced among the target group, but reportedly much less compared to the past.
- Focus group interviews with the target group and LINK II Staff, semi-structured in-depth interviews, and key informant interviews have all showed children above the age of 10-to-12 are generally working with their families in agricultural sector. Particularly after the age of 14, almost all children -both boys and girls- are laborers in agricultural work.
- Majority of the tent settlements and agricultural fields were highly unsafe for children as they are usually located near main roads and/or water canals. Children -and adults- are also quite prone to pesticide intoxication and insect sting.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

- Identify the status and needs of child laborers at all project locations and enter them to child labour problem log created by UNICEF to contribute to evidence based advocacy efforts.
- Provide counselling for parents and caregivers on the consequences of child labour on children and legal framework, through awareness raising activities and information, education, and communication materials.

- Identify the status and needs of child laborers at all project locations and enter them to child labour problem log created by UNICEF to contribute to evidence based advocacy efforts.
- Provide counselling for parents and caregivers on the consequences of child labour on children and legal framework, through awareness raising activities and information, education, and communication materials.
- Promote access to education by introducing conditional cash transfer to families (through awareness raising activities and information, education, and communication materials) and by supporting their application to it.
- Engage in cooperation and working group meetings on child protection and disseminate evidence-based information regarding child-related vulnerabilities among target group.
- Promote families' access to social services, livelihood opportunities and complementary services to help them avoid child labour as a negative coping mechanism.
- Identify children at risk of worst forms of child labour and provide enhanced protection services through direct protection support and referrals.
- Equip location-based community advisory communities with specific knowledge on child labour, its impacts on children, and legal framework to sensitize nomadic / semi-nomadic refugee communities.
- In collaboration with CP actors and CP Working Group, Advocate for standardized and categorised data collection under Individual Protection Assistance and Case Management activities regarding child protection cases in order to better inform evidence-based advocacy activities.

Early Forced Marriages

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- Respondents of focus group interviews on gender issues in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Adana have reported that early forced marriages are still being practiced, but much less compared to the past. However, there have been reported incidents of early forced marriages among the community. In Adana, it was pointed out that if the parents do not have financial constraints, they usually encourage their children -especially girls- to get married at around the age of 15.

- Most respondents have mentioned that the age of marriage was usually lower than 18 in Syria, but now the practices are changing due to the community being aware of the legal consequences of early forced marriages and early pregnancies in Turkey. There were respondents who conveyed that to tackle possible legal consequences, religious marriages are often being practiced. Nonetheless, there had been some reported legal issues caused by early pregnancies.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

- Conduct awareness raising activities regarding early forced marriages.
- Continuously deliver key messages on the adverse effects of early marriages on the well-being and future social economic opportunities of children.
- Target parents and caregivers with various awareness raising programmes focusing on healthy communication with children, as well as psychological and physical harms of early marriages and early pregnancies.
- Design awareness-raising activities and interventions targeting school-aged children and adolescents at risk of early marriages.
- Equip location-based community advisory communities with specific knowledge on early marriages, its impacts on children, and legal framework to sensitize nomadic / semi-nomadic refugee communities.
- Engage in cooperation and working group meetings on child protection and disseminate evidence-based information regarding child-related vulnerabilities among target group.



Social Discrimination and Exclusion

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

- Some incidents of discrimination and exclusion were reported by target group members at all locations. Most were perpetrated by the locals living in residential areas near the tent settlements and/or mukhtars. Incidents of peer bullying and violence at schools, and discriminative attitudes at governmental institutions were reported by nearly %10 of the respondents.
- Incidents of peer bullying at schools were reported by a lot of adults and children at all locations except in Şanlıurfa. In Şanlıurfa, school attendance rate was higher and almost all schooled children were quite happy with their school life. In other provinces, particularly in Adana, peer bullying was reported to be a major factor for children to drop out of school or not attend at all.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

- Engage with mukhtars, locals, community leaders, and agricultural mediators in tent settlements (çavuş) about issues regarding discrimination and exclusion.
- Capacitate community members with knowledge on their rights and legal remedies.
- Engage with other I/NGOs that target both host and refugee communities and provide them with information on the whereabouts of refugees engaged in seasonal agricultural labour; to encourage them to include these communities in their social cohesion activities and/or community events.
- Target schools through sports, arts, pss, social cohesion and educational activities to make the school environment attractive for students and to tackle with discrimination and peer bullying.
- Explore opportunities to establish study places and playgrounds to minimize the risk for children when they play and to increase their motivation for education with early childhood programs and programs to support them at school.

Elderly

Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps

Elderly is usually dependent on their children or other close family members. Those who are healthy enough to do agricultural work are usually working to contribute the household. Those who are not are at home and isolated from the outer world.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

In service provision and outreach activities, specifically target elderly members of the community whose access to rights and services are more constricted.

Target elderly members of the community with psychoeducation and psychosocial support activities which would also provide an opportunity to identify those with specific needs to access social and healthcare services.


 **LGBTI+****Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps**

- The situation of LGBTIQ members of the target group is highly unknown.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

- Promote a LGBTI+ friendly environment in Social Support Centres (of GOAL) by increasing the visibility of key messages.

 **Children and Adults with Disabilities****Problem Areas / Identified Protection Risks & Gaps**

- Children and adults with disabilities have observed to usually be isolated at home, not able to receive regular and appropriate medical care. Regular health screenings, physiotherapy, medical devices, or special educational services are generally not accessible for target group members, mainly due to lack of knowledge/awareness and remoteness of the tent settlements.

Advocacy Needs & Recommendations

- In service provision and outreach activities, specifically target disabled members of the community whose access to rights and services are more constricted.
- Advocate with respective donors to explore the possibility to fund provision of special education for children with special needs in coordination with ministry of Education.
- Ensure participation of disabled individuals in awareness raising and psychoeducation activities.
- Create and disseminate specific messages (through mass messages, both voice and in written) on how to obtain medical report, access to Counselling and Research Centers (Rehberlik Araştırma Merkezi-RAM) and available facilitative supports.
- Collaborate with local Counselling and Research Centers (Rehberlik Araştırma Merkezi-RAM) to better identify and assess children with disabilities among the target group.
- Collaborate with other relevant actors to develop programmes focusing on capacity and skill-building activities for disabled adults and children.

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10. Annexes

10.1. LINK II IPA Data Review (Between 01-09-2020 and 01-07-2021)

Introduction

LINK II programme targets the most vulnerable and excluded refugees, specifically migrant seasonal agricultural workers, and members of nomadic/semi-nomadic groups such as Doms and Abdals, to reduce, remove or prevent protection risks, until lasting solutions are integrated into government systems, resulting in sustainable and equitable access to services for refugees.

LINK II identified, assessed, and is connecting those marginalized and vulnerable communities to state and non-state services in Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Adana, and Mersin, providing support in line with the southeast Interagency Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) and in close coordination with the Protection Cluster to ensure alignment with other actors.

Demographic Information

GOAL LINK team was able to identify, assess, and partially support 3641 clients from four provinces (Gaziantep 28%, Sanliurfa 30%, Adana 28%, and Mersin 14%).

56% of targeted clients were females while 44% were males and the average Household (HH) size was about six family members.

Age group '18-49' constitutes the majority with 51% because such group is mostly representing heads of households, breadwinners who are the ones usually seeking assistance/support to satisfy their families' protection concerns. Women and girls have lower percentage in 2 age groups out of 4 that are '0-4' and '5-17' but adults groups include more female, which indicates their limited ability to meet basic needs and constrained capacity to cope with risks that can negatively affect the achievement of those needs. 2% of the adult population between 18-49 constituted by individuals that does not match masculine or feminine gender norms.

More details are illustrated in Figures 1,2.

26% of female clients are married and 6% of them are widow.

¹ Turkey: Inter-Agency Protection Sector Needs Assessment Analysis Round 1 - June 2020, <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/78531>

² Turkey: Inter-Agency Protection Sector Needs Assessment Analysis Round 2 - September 2020, <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/83595>

³ Turkey: Inter-Agency Protection Sector Needs Assessment Analysis Round 3 - January 2021, <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/86731>

Figure I: Groups disaggregated by gender

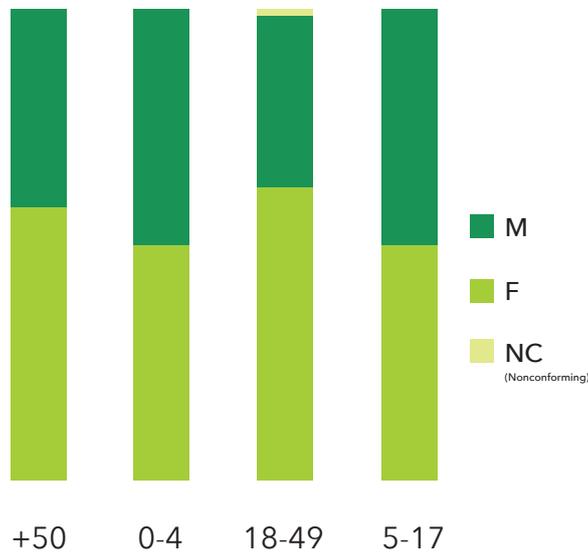
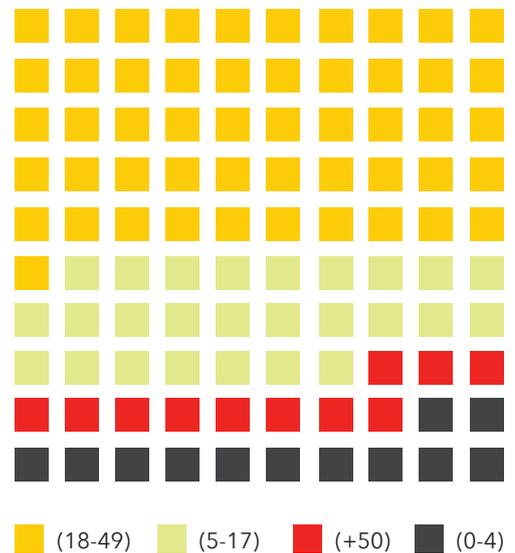
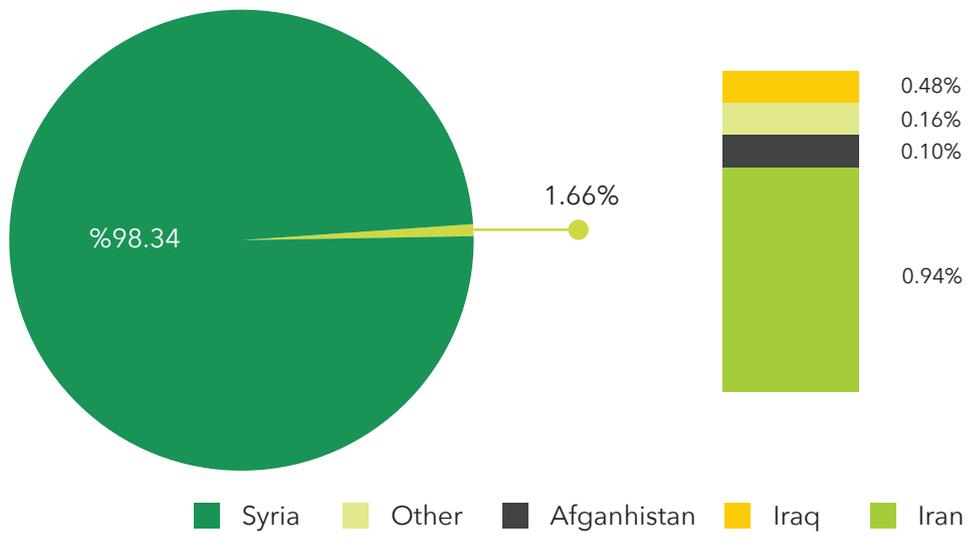


Figure II: % of Age groups



Based on the demographics of the LINK areas of operation, it is anticipated that beneficiaries would primarily be from Syria but will also include other nationalities such as Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran. In this context, Syrian nationality was the most frequented nationality with 98.4%, as represented in Figure 3. As LINK activities exclusively targeted Syrian refugees from the Dom, Abdal and other semi-nomadic communities and migrant seasonal agricultural workers in Adana, Mersin, Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa, this result is acceptable.

Figure III: % of Client Nationality



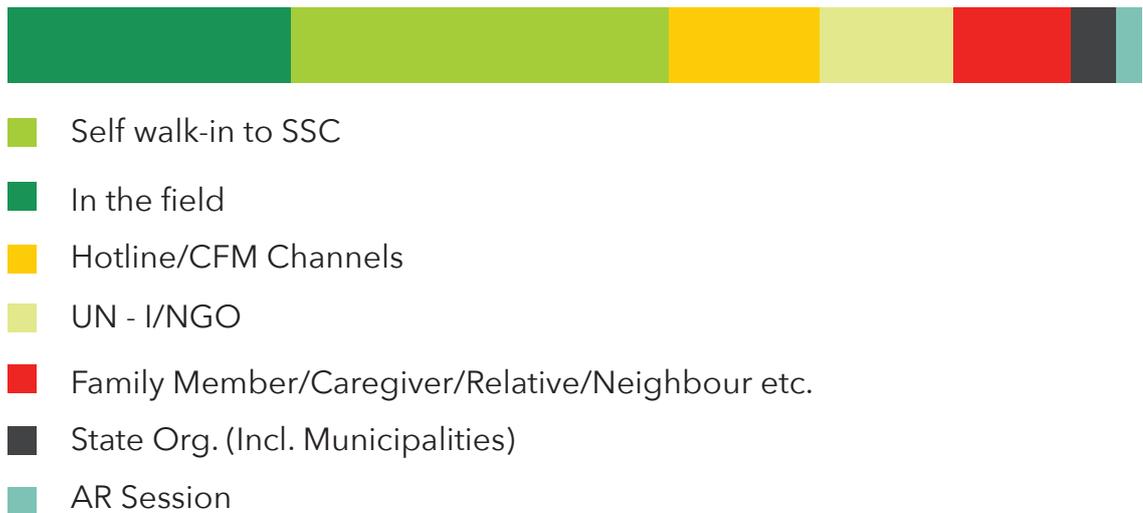
Intake Modality

More than 75% of IPA clients were identified by three main mechanisms as following:

- Majority (35%) of IPA clients were identified by self-referral.
- 25% were identified through field activities.
- 17% were referred through Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) and hotline channels.

The highest rate is self-referral that promotes one of the key aims of LINK Social Support Centres which is to facilitate mutual trust between LINK Program staff and targeted communities and create easy access walk-in platforms for confidential self-referrals concerning protection incidents.

Other intake modality rate was 22% including external referrals and awareness raising sessions as stated in Figure4.



Disability

3% of the total LINK clients were persons with disability (PWD) who are particularly exposed to targeted violence, exploitation, and abuse, including sexual and gender-based violence. Women and girls with disabilities are more likely to experience gender-based violence than women and children without disabilities. They also often suffer from multiple forms of discrimination. Therefore, their empowerment and protection should be given particular attention.

As other details are demonstrated in Figure 5, the highest rate of disabled clients were in Gaziantep with 5% of the total clients in the province, followed by Şanlıurfa with 4%.

The lower rate of PWDs in other locations does not stem from a smaller number of persons with disabilities in Adana and Mersin but remote agricultural areas may be assessed as a barrier in front of their access to service providers. Since these persons are expected to be amongst the most vulnerable, particular effort is made to link these PWDs to GOAL SSCs through outreach teams, hotline and referrals from (I)NGOs, local authorities and UN agencies and other protection activities.

Shelter Type

Trained GOAL protection workers rapidly assessed the quality of the housing, evaluating the standards of construction, hygiene, and winterisation. The results show that almost half of beneficiaries (42%) were living in detached houses, while 30% were living in apartment flats.

LINK targets two main groups (agricultural seasonal workers and nomadic/ semi-nomadic refugees) in terms of nomadic status.

21% living in tents, on earth or concrete ground. are from remote locations with harsh living conditions and deprived of accessing basic needs and services provided.

They have very limited or no access to clean drinking and household-use water and toilets. Garbage is not collected regularly in tent settlements, dumped in vacant lots or canals; Since regular disinfection is not done, insect and pest problems are experienced in living areas.

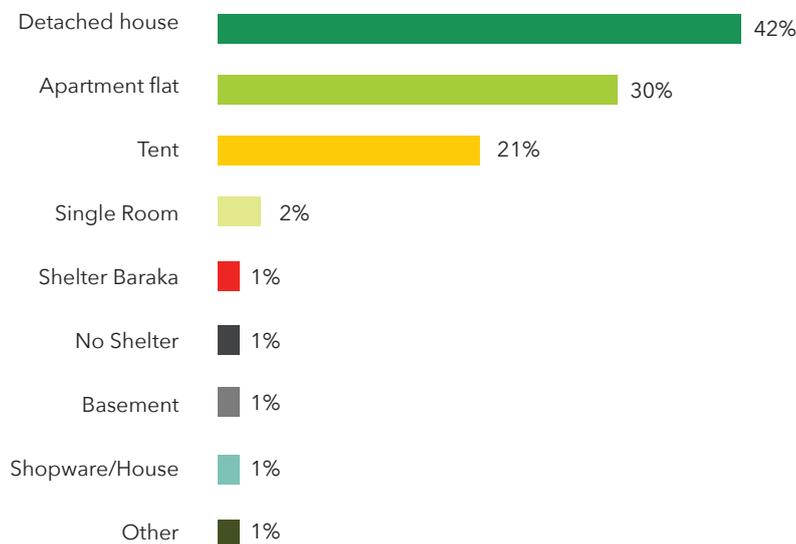
GOAL made direct payments for IPA cases to the landlords for critical/emergency rental support in case of safe temporary shelter needs for individuals with critical/urgent protection concerns (e.g. for eviction cases, GBV survivors or accommodation costs in the cities where clients have officially been referred for health and other formal services).

For the ones with shelter repairment or WASH- related needs, service map is used and referrals are made to other service providers.

Figure V: Location-based disability



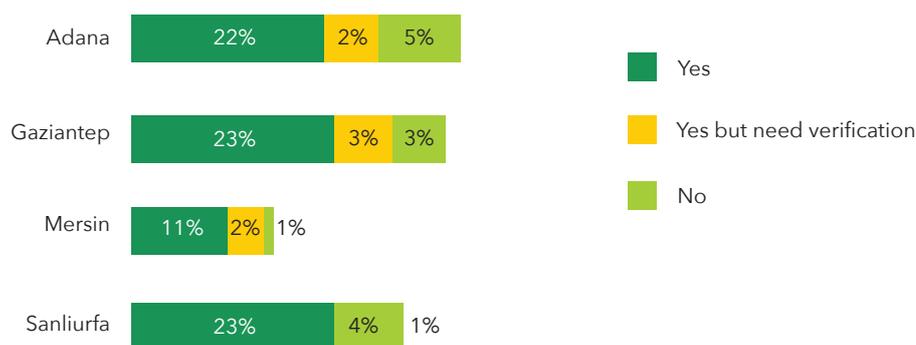
Figure VIII: % of Shelter types



Temporary Protection Status

79% of all clients were holding verified TP/ID, while 11% their TP/ID need to be verified. 10% did not have TP/ID at all which indicates that refugee families in Turkey continue to be joined by new arrivals who still face issues with DGMM registration and since most of the unregistered population (5%) comes from Adana province where most of the agricultural seasonal workers live in, it would not be wrong to say that these workers have more limited access to and/ or knowledge about governmental services and legal requirements. For these reasons, 22% of clients with a valid ID at the settlement are being assisted by continued fast-tracking of DGMM registration for families or individuals with specific health or protection concerns, allowing them to quickly access available services and advocacy is being conducted to ensure this practice continues in PDMMs across all areas of operation. Figure 7 clarify such percentage distributions per provinces.

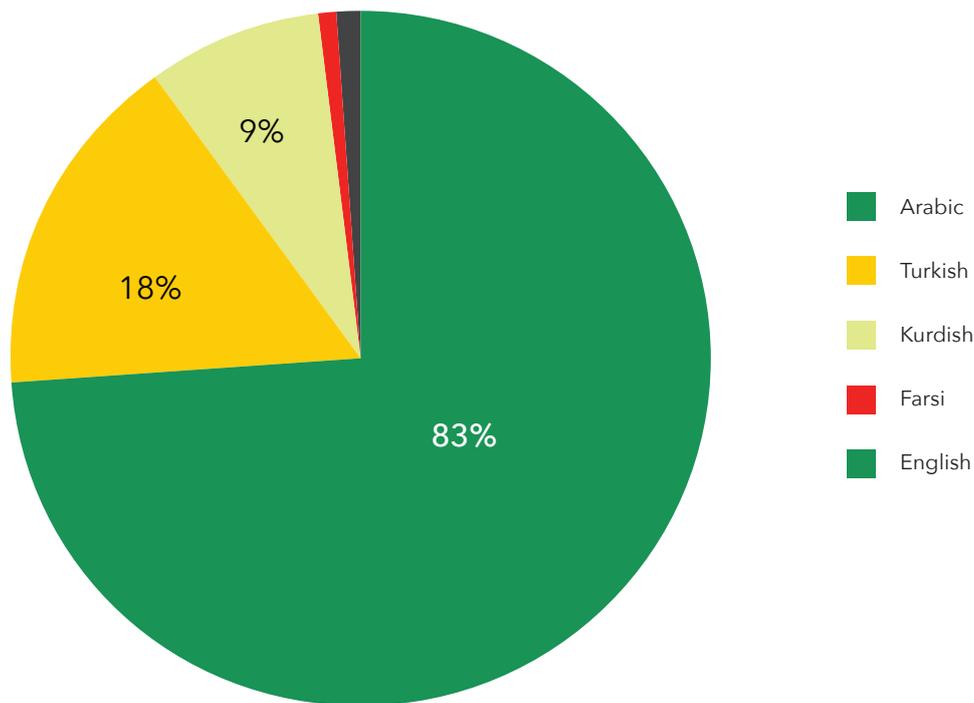
Figure VII: TPID Status



Language Competencies

Arabic language was the primary language used by IPA clients with 83%, due to the fact most clients' nationality was Syrian (98%), followed by Turkish with 18% as shown in Figure 8. In a high literacy context like Turkey, Turkish language skills are a key competency to escape vulnerability and access economic opportunities. In any case, the more important language skills to decrease vulnerability and enhance the prospects of integration (accessing public services, DGMM registration and Nüfus [Population Department] registration) are Turkish.

Figure VIII: % of Client Language



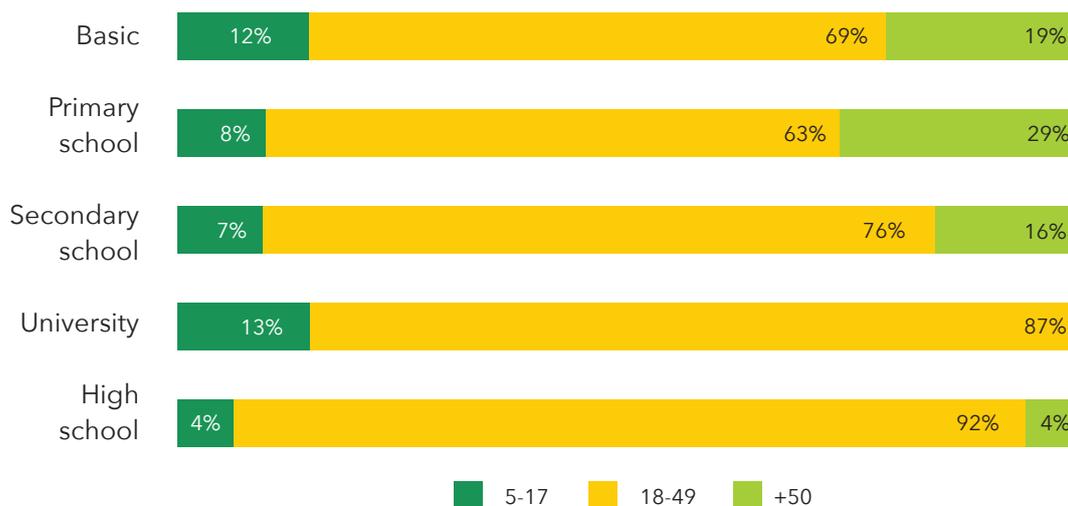
Although one of LINK targeted groups (nomadic/ semi-nomadic community members) are mostly able to speak Turkish, not being able to speak host community's language bring many protection-related needs to those 94% of clients benefiting from GOAL's IPA services including written and verbal translation and accompaniment.

Education Level

As demonstrated in Figure 9, among all LINK II beneficiaries who have already graduated from or continue their education at primary school, only 29 % of them are at between 5-17 which is school age group. The rate decreases from primary to high school for these children by 25 %. This data indicates that some children, have access to education (many of them not) but after secondary school, they either get married or participate in labour market so that they do not attend school.

During COVID-19, the system of distance learning set up by the Ministry of Education was found to be applicable to only a small minority of the target groups' members. Many were found to have no information on how it is implemented, and lack of access to the required devices.

Figure IV: % of Education level per age

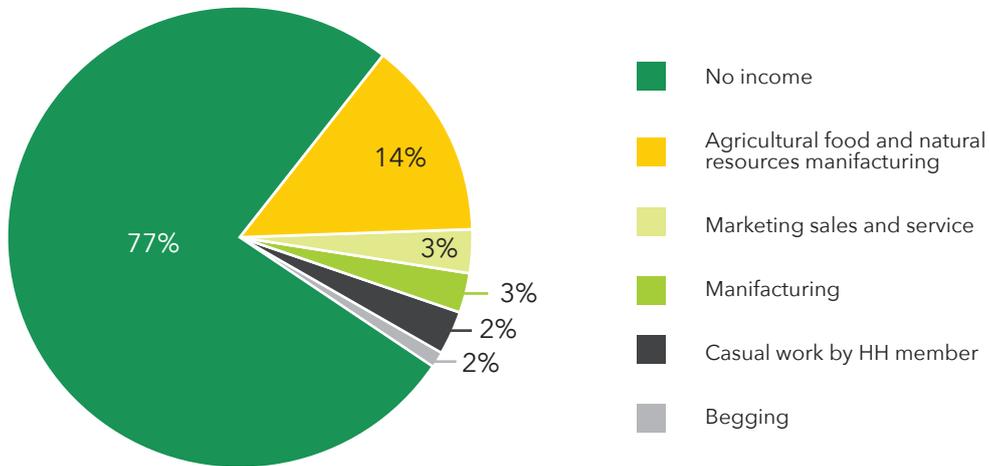


Primary Income Source

While income is necessary, but not sufficient, to escape vulnerability, in terms of income sources, 77% of LINK clients reported having even no primary income source.

As most refugees have been residing in Turkey for an extended period, they have been able to find basic livelihood opportunities and generate their own income. The issue is that the labour income they can generate is still too low and does not provide enough resources to meet basic needs and escape from poverty.

Figure X: % Primary income source

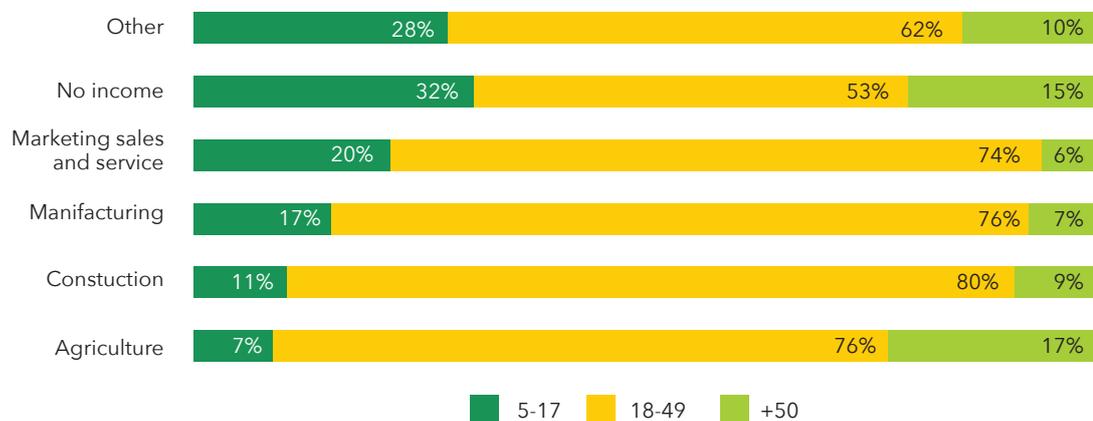


COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions must be considered at this point when sluggish economic activity brought about unemployment, declining wages, and, hence, loss of income.

The economic impact of COVID-19 has significant bearing on vulnerable groups including refugees, migrants, IDPs and host communities due to the loss of income, restricted movement, reduced access to markets, inflation, and a spike in prices.

All participants work in the informal sector of irregular income generating activities, meaning their income has been severely hit by restrictions imposed, and creating difficulty in meeting daily basic needs.

Figure XI: Primary income source per age groups



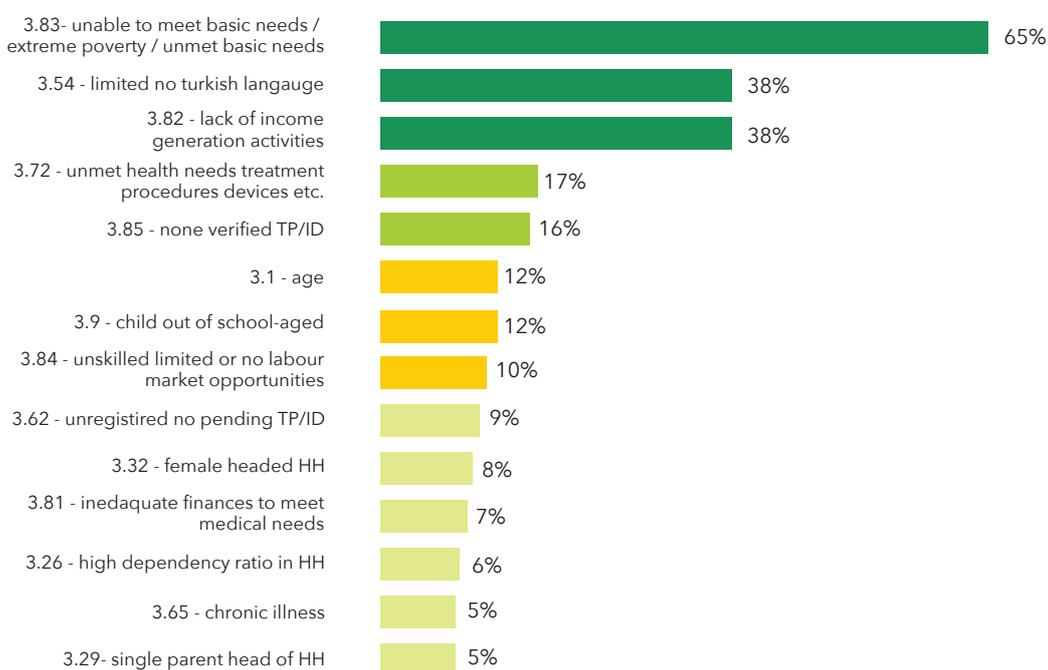
Agriculture is one of the three most dangerous sectors in terms of work-related fatalities, non-fatal accidents, and occupational diseases (by International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)). As given in Figure 11, it can be mentioned that children are at labour market. 20% of all breadwinners at marketing, sales and service sector are children between 5 and 17. Children also work in agricultural fields, and they constitute 17% of all clients. Poverty is the main cause of child labour in agriculture, together with limited access to quality education, inadequate agricultural technology and access to adult labour, high hazards and risks, and traditional attitudes towards children's participation in agricultural activities.

Types of Vulnerabilities

At least 38% of LINK IPA clients in all 4 areas of operations reported financial problems due to lack of income generation activities and extreme poverty especially after COVID-19 pandemic and 65% is unable to meet their basic needs. The disaggregation of vulnerabilities by gender demonstrates that 68% of women have much more limited access to labour market opportunities than men.

Income is an important part of the story, but there are dimensions of being vulnerable that go well beyond income. For refugee populations, access to legal status and capacity to cope with trauma are two dimensions that cannot be captured by just focusing on income. In this context, lack of Turkish language skills and verified TPIDs are the two most encountered vulnerabilities among LINK IPA clients in addition to others linked to age, gender, or medical condition.

Figure XIV: % of Vulnerabilities



It may be deduced that agricultural workers have very limited contact with people from host community because limited/ no Turkish language skills have significant rate both in Adana (26%) and Mersin (17%) where agricultural workers live in remote areas with very limited access to social environments, vocational and language courses. On the other hand, clients live in Gaziantep are mostly from targeted nomadic/ semi-nomadic groups who are able to speak Turkish and only 7% of the beneficiaries have the vulnerability of limited or no Turkish language skills in this operational area.

Living in remote areas with financial issues also affected refugees' access to health services in general but more in Adana by 15% of rate with unmet health needs.

12% of children between the ages of 5-17 are reported as out-of-school with the highest rate in Mersin where there are high number of refugees living in tents and working as seasonal agricultural workers. In these areas, within emergency livelihoods coping strategies, one of the most commonly used coping action is child labour by withdrawing them from schools to work either at agricultural fields or houses/ tents to assist household chores.

Other vulnerability types (around 39%) consist of vulnerability categories including chronic illness, physical disability, lactating, speech impairment, malnutrition, child parent, mental illness, child head household etc.

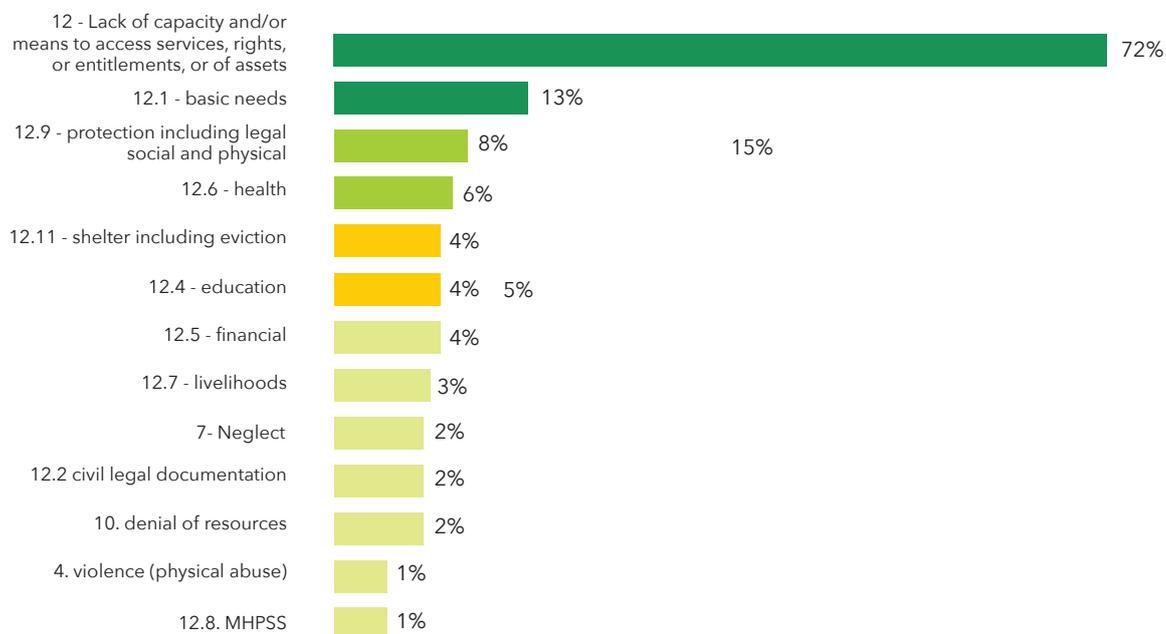
Risk Types

Lack of capacity and/or means to access services rights or entitlements was the mostly encountered risk type among IPA clients with 72%, followed by its sub-categories demonstrated in the Figure 13.

When disaggregated by gender, there are few significant differences between the risks that women and girls encountered more than the men and boys. For instance, women and girls particularly in Gaziantep expose to the risk of eviction more than others, and they are more deprived of livelihoods opportunities.

In all project locations, particularly in Adana, risks in access to civil/ legal documentation is reported and GOAL Protection Workers and Legal Counsellors provided legal counselling services that include but are not limited to enabling access to civil and criminal legal aid through the Bar Associations, court and security enforcement authorities, supporting refugees to complete any legal documentation, including the pre-requisites for the ESN, CTE and other formal social assistance schemes, resettlement, registration and obtaining ID under the provisions of the temporary or international protection regulations, family tracing and reunification, Turkish citizenship, disability certificates, civil registration (birth, marriage, divorce, death).

Figure XV: % of Risk types



In Turkey, it is unlikely that the COVID 19 pandemic is contained and as such we can anticipate extended period of limited freedom of movement which further contributes to the global slowdown that is already under way. The health system is also unlikely to be able to cope, and access to appropriate health services by the most vulnerable will be more difficult. As an implication, most of the clients in different locations like Adana (20%) and Mersin (13%), particularly the age groups between 0-4 (22%) had serious challenges in accessing health services with their caregivers and GOAL assisted them by taking appointment, accompanying to very urgent cases, transportation to hospital and facilitating disability health report receiving procedures.

Other risk types with 8% of share such as family separation, violence physical abuse, intimidation, self-harm, verbal harassment, adolescent pregnancy etc. consist of many risk types grouped together because each one of them is equal or less than 1%.



Photo: GOAL Turkey, Adana/2021