

THE INVISIBLE WORK FORCE OF MINOR MIGRANTS: THE CASE OF SYRIAN CHILDREN IN TURKEY

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Introduction

- * Why Syrian Working Children?
- * Child Labour in Turkey
- * Current Situation of Syrian Migrants

Geographic Areas of Fieldwork



Scope of Subject and Research Method

- * Purpose of Research,
- * Research Area, Scope and Constraints
- * Research Method
- * Total 57 families (22 in Istanbul, 7 in Mardin and 28 in Sanliurfa)
- * Number of Children Included Under the Scope Research

Cities where the Syrian migrant population is more numerous

No	City	Number of Syrian Migrants	Their % of local population
1	Istanbul	537.084	3.63
2	Sanliurfa	462.077	23.81
3	Hatay	456.761	29.37
4	Gaziantep	349.039	17.68
5	Mersin	191.263	10.78
6	Adana	170.362	7.74
7	Bursa	134.490	4.64
8	Kilis	131.931	100.74
9	Kahramanmaras	99.168	8.91
10	Mardin	90.647	11.38

Source:http://www.goc.gov.tr/icerik3/gecici-koruma_363_378_4713 14 December 2017.

Registered Number of Syrian Migrant Children in Turkey

Age	Male	Female	Total
0-4	264.371	246.530	510.901
5-9	239.747	225.181	464.928
10-14	182.235	166.028	348.263
15-18	161.721	130.070	291.791
Gn. Total	848.074	767.809	1.615.883

Source: http://www.goc.gov.tr/icerik3/gecici-koruma_363_378_4713 14 December 2017

Number of Families and Children Included Under the Scope of the Research

- * Total 57 families (22 in Istanbul, 7 in Mardin and 28 in Sanliurfa)
- * Number of Children Reached Under the Scope Research

Istanbul		Mardin		Sanliurfa		Total	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
43	40	13	9	19	41	75	90

Working Situation of Interviewed Children (in Three Cities)

City	Number of Children				Number of Working Children			
	Male	Female	Total	%	Male	Female	Total	%
Istanbul	43	40	83	50,3	17	7	24	38,7
Mardin	13	9	22	13,3	4	5	9	14,5
Sanliurfa	19	41	60	36,4	23	6	29	46,8
Gn.Total	75	90	165	100	44	18	62	100

Reasons Obliging Syrian Children to Work

- * Difficult Economic Conditions of Families
- * Adult Family Members Cannot Find Work
- * There Are No Adult Individuals in the Family or Male Head of Family Has Died
- * Most of Adult Have No Profession
- * Or They Do not Find Jobs According to Their Profession

The Educational Situation of Syrian Children, Since April 2017

- * Number of School-Aged Syrian Children (As Defined by Turkish Law on Compulsory Education) : 1.010.000
- * Number of Syrian Children Enrolled in School : 612.000
- * Number of Syrian Children Who Have Not Been Enrolled in School : More Than 400.000
- * Considering Those Children Not Included in Survey, It Is Estimated That There Are at Least 700-800 Thousand Syrian Children Not in School.

Source: Erdoğan M. (2017), Suriyeliler Barometresi: Suriyelilerle Uyum İçerisinde Yaşamının Çerçevesi, Değerlendirme ve Politika Önerileri, HÜGO.

Working conditions of Syrian Children



- * At the Same Workplace They do More Than One Job
- * Children Are Insulted and Ill-treated by Employers

Working Areas of Syrian Children



- * They Are Enrolled Mainly in Textile
- * But Also in All Other Sectors Where they Work as Menials

Working Hours of Syrian Children



- * Their Working Hours Are Too Long
- * They Are payed Very Low Salary Relative to Number of Working Hours

They Do a Very Painfull Job Comparing to Their Age



- * Physically Demanding Jobs Unsuitable For Their Age
- * Physical Harm and Exhaustion Caused by Employment Visible on Their Hands

In Conclusion

- * Syrian Children Participate Widely In All Sectors of Job Market
- * Bad Effects of This Participation on Children:
 - * a- It Affects Their Physical and Personal Development
 - * b- They live a Childhood Deprived of Fundamental Rights Like The Right to Health and Education

In The Near Future

- * A limited Number of Syrian Children Will Be Able to Continue Their Studies up to University Level
- * Syrians Will Remain in Turkey and As Adults, Syrian Children Will Continue to Participate in the Labor Market_
- * Continued Participation by Syrians in Labor Market Likely to Increase Conflict Between Syrian and Local Workers

I- What to Do?

- * The Right of Asylum, if Not Citizenship, Should Be Granted to Syrian Migrants.
- * The Regulations Concerning Child Labor Must Be Applied for Syrian Children Too.
- * Providing Them With More Means For Going to School
- * Assistance to Syrian Families Should Be Converted From Charity Basis to Rights Basis.

II- What to Do?

- * We Think It Necessary and Essential For These People and Their Children Not to be Stateless, and at the Same Time Wishing a Common World For Those People Who Share Common Life With Others

Not Least, Last Word

- * We Must Help the Children, Wherever They Come From, Not For Compassion or Indulgence But Because They Are Our Future, Whatever Our Nationality Be...



**Thank You For Your
Patience**