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This document is based on the findings of a field study conducted jointly by FAO and the Ankara University Development Studies Application and Research Centre (AKÇAM) in 2020. The objective was to identify key challenges faced by seasonal agricultural workers from Syrian and host communities and to develop solutions that can contribute to building resilience against economic shocks and social instabilities, while ensuring that members of these groups fully enjoy fundamental rights including education, health, and decent working and living conditions. The findings are based on (804 administered) surveys, (43) focus group meetings and (114) stakeholder interviews conducted in 11 provinces (destination provinces: Adana, Ankara, Gaziantep, Hatay, Izmir, Kahramanmaraş, Konya, Mersin; source provinces: Kilis, Mardin and Şanlıurfa). All figures in tables reflect the sample size, not the entire population.

The terms "Syrian refugees", "Syrians" and "Syrian under Temporary Protection (SuTP)" are used interchangeably throughout the document to refer Syrian citizens in Türkiye as defined under Law No. 6458.

Cover photograph: © FAO

I. Seasonal agricultural workers from the SuTP community (SSAW)

Profile

Migration history

The influx of Syrian citizens to Türkiye started in 2011 with the bulk of migration taking place between 2013 and 2015. This trend also holds for seasonal agricultural workers from Syrian communities, 67 percent of whom arrived in Türkiye in this period. Cities such as Aleppo, Idlib, Al Hasakah, Manbij and Deir ez-Zor were the main origin of seasonal agricultural workers from the SuTP community (SSAW), while provinces in South and South-East Anatolia were the main destinations. Survey results show that Şanlıurfa, Hatay and Adana host nearly 60 percent of SSAW. Ankara, especially the Polatli district, hosts a significant share of SSAW.



Table 1. Year of arrival of SSAW in Türkiye

Year	Number	Share (%)
Before 2012	20	5.1
2012	47	11.9
2013	95	24.1
2014	89	22.5
2015	80	20.3
2016	26	6.6
After 2016	38	9.6
Total	395	100.0

Source: Gülçubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO, Auhtor's own elaboration.

Table 2. Place of settlement after arriving in Türkiye (2020)

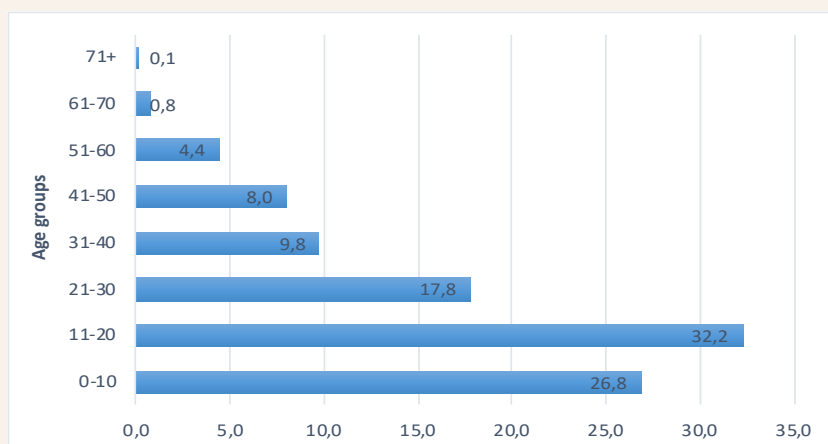
Province	Number	Share (%)
Sanliurfa	118	30.6
Hatay	61	15.8
Adana	42	10.9
Kilis	25	6.5
Mersin	23	6.0
Ankara	20	5.2
Mardin	16	4.2
Gaziantep	13	3.4
Other	67	17.4
Total	385	100.0

Source: Gülçubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO, Auhtor's own elaboration.

Demographic characteristics

The demographic structure of SSAW tilts towards very young age groups, with 59 percent aged under 20 years old. Slightly less than 1 percent are aged over 60 years. The average age is approximately 20 years.

Figure 1. Age distribution of SSAW



Generally, SSAW live in large households with an average of 6.4 people per household. Only 16 percent of households have fewer than four members, while households with ten or more members representing 15 percent of all SSAW households.

Table 3. Household size

Household size	Number	Share (%)
3 or fewer	65	16.3
4	41	10.3
5	55	13.8
6	49	12.3
7	59	14.8
8	43	10.8
9	25	6.3
10 or more	61	15.3
Total	398	100

Source: Gülçubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO.
Source: Auhtor's own elaboration.

Skills

The ability to speak the language of the host country is an important skill for migrants and refugees, and one which catalyses social and economic harmonization. However, the majority of SSAW lack this skill. Survey results demonstrate that 72 percent of SSAW can speak very little Turkish or none at all. This rate is higher among the young.

Table 4. Level of Turkish language skills (self-reported)

Level of language skills	Number	Share (%)
Very good	38	9.6
Intermediate	74	18.7
Very little	96	24.2
Not at all	188	47.5
Total	396	100

Source: Gülçubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO.
Source: Auhtor's own elaboration.

The education level of SSAW is very low: approximately one-third are illiterate and 16 percent are literate but have not completed any formal education. The share of SSAW who have completed lower primary and upper primary education is 24 percent and 17 percent, respectively. Only 9 percent have completed secondary or a higher level of education.



Table 5. Educational status

Level of education	Number	Share (%)
Illiterate	465	34.9
Literate	209	15.7
Lower primary	317	23.8
Upper primary	229	17.2
Secondary and higher	114	8.5
Total	1 334	100

Source: Gülçubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO, Auhtor's own elaboration.

Income sources

An overwhelming majority (86.6 percent) of SSAW families reported that they have no regular income, and hence rely on seasonal and temporary jobs. Seasonal agricultural work is the main income source for 90.8 percent of interviewed families followed by stock breeding (3.6 percent) and crop farming (2.8 percent).

Table 6. Primary source of income

Income sources	Number	Share (%)
Seasonal agricultural employment	355	90.8
Animal stock breeding	14	3.6
Crop farming	11	2.8
Social assistance	2	0.5
Other	9	2.3
Total	391	100.0

Source: Gülçubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO, Auhtor's own elaboration.

Some 55 percent of SSAW reported that they receive some form of social assistance. The most common type of social assistance is Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), also known as the Kizilay Card, which benefits 36 percent of the households. This proportion is much lower than the 49 percent beneficiary-to-total population ratio of all Syrian refugees³. This gap between access rates is due mainly to the high mobility of SSAW, absence of information and lack of permanent address.

³ There were 1.95 million ESSN and CESSN beneficiaries as of November 2022. SuTPs are assumed to make up 90 percent of this number.



Table 7. Distribution of SSAW by social assistance reception status

Social assistance types	Number	Share (%)
No social assistance	172	44.7
Some form of social assistance	213	55.3
- ESSN	137	35.6
- In-kind (food)	39	10.1
- Other	37	9.6
Total	385	100.0

Source: Gülcubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO.
Source: Author's own elaboration.

The discussions in the focus group also support these findings. In Mardin, for example, one participant stated that his income from seasonal agricultural employment constituted approximately 60 percent of his annual income (around TL 12 000), while the remaining 40 percent came from the Kizilay Card. A female SSAW in Mersin reported that 55 percent of her income came from daily wages. Similarly, participants in a male focus group meeting in Mersin stated that 80 percent of their total income comes from seasonal agricultural employment and 20 percent from the Red Crescent Card. Meanwhile, some focus group participants in İzmir, Konya and Mersin stated that their income came entirely from seasonal agricultural work.

Major problems

Both the survey result and focus group discussions demonstrate that unemployment, low wages and housing conditions are the main problems faced by SSAW. When asked about important challenges, 24.7 percent reported unemployment, 19.5 percent reported low wages and 15.3 percent reported housing conditions, followed by a lack of communication with the host population and the unhealthy environment in which they live. When asked about the second-most important problem they faced, the same points were raised but in a different order: low wages (30.3 percent), unemployment (11.3 percent) and housing conditions (8.5 percent) were the most frequently reported problems.

The interviewees were also asked whether their living conditions had improved over the last five years. In response, 37.1 reported that their living conditions had worsened, while 24.4 percent stated that there had been some improvement.



Other problems raised by the interviewees were unfavourable working conditions, inability to speak Turkish, and challenges related to children's continuing access to school. Some older SSAW stated that they are homesick and miss their country.

Living conditions

Housing

Approximately half of seasonal agricultural workers live in makeshift tents, with 22 percent living in brick dwellings. Overall, 70.4 percent described their accommodation condition as average or worse. Many stated that the tent areas do not meet safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation requirements, an issue that particularly affects women and children. Some temporary camps also lack a bath and toilet, and where these are available their condition is often unsanitary. However, there are also examples of adequate infrastructure. In a focus group in Mardin, participants stated that their housing is provided by their employer and that they have access to drinking water, electricity and sanitation facilities.

A majority of SSAW households have access to electricity and drinking water (90 percent and 84 percent, respectively). However, this rate is comparatively low considering that access to these basic services is almost universal in Türkiye. The regularity of these services is more worrisome. Only 67 percent and 73 percent of interviewees stated that they have regular access to electricity and water respectively.

Table 8. Access to electricity and water

		Electricity	Water
Availability	Yes	90.3	83.7
	No	9.7	16.3
Regularity	Always	66.6	72.7
	Frequently	27	15.6
	Sometimes/rarely	6.4	11.7

Source: Gülçubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO, Auhtor's own elaboration.

Access to health and education services

It is well-documented that both the access and satisfaction levels of Syrian refugees with health services are high. The survey and focus group meeting findings support this finding. The results revealed that SSAW generally do not experience any problems in accessing health services. The only exception is the inability to benefit from health services (excluding emergency health care) when not in the city where they were registered. However, this phenomenon does not manifest itself in satisfaction levels, with 73 percent of SSAW reporting that they are satisfied or very satisfied with the health services they receive, while only 8 percent reported being dissatisfied

or very dissatisfied with these services. Furthermore, 89.9 percent of interviewees reported that they are able to obtain the necessary medicines to treat family members with health problems. Interestingly, few SSAW stated that they had used another person's identity card to obtain health care.

Table 9. Level of satisfaction with health and education services

	Health	Education
Very satisfied	4.6	2.4
Satisfied	68.7	34.5
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	18.3	41.2
Dissatisfied	6.2	16.4
Very dissatisfied	2.2	5.5
Total	100	100

Source: Gülcüyük, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO.
Source: Author's own elaboration.

It is widely accepted that both the children of SSAW and Syrian refugees have lower school enrolment rates. According to the survey results, 48.3 percent of children aged between 6 and 15 do not attend school. However, this rate varies between cities with the level of non-attendance ranging as follows: 70.8 percent for Mardin, 69.0 percent in Hatay, 64.4 percent in Şanlıurfa, 62.5 percent in Kahramanmaraş, 56.3 percent in Gaziantep, 52.4 percent in Kilis and 51.7 percent in Adana.

This situation is reflected in the satisfaction level with education (see Table 9). Approximately 37 percent of respondents stated that they are satisfied (or very satisfied) with the education service their children receive, while 22 percent voiced their dissatisfaction. A significant share, 41 percent, reported that they are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the available education services. The main reasons supplied as to why children do not attend school are working with their parents in agriculture (48.8 percent) and lack of transportation and long distances to school (16.7 percent). Language, difficulties with adaptation and lack of a school in the vicinity are other reasons.

Nutrition



Agricultural work in crop fields enables Syrian seasonal workers to consume vegetables such as tomato, pepper and aubergine. However, this is not the case for meat and dairy consumption due to the much higher prices of the products. Otherwise, access to food markets and bazaars can pose a problem due to the long distances from accommodation. One female participant in a female focus group in Mardin gave more details: “There is no market or bazaar in the village, so people go to Kızıltepe for shopping. Food prices are too high and food can be only be bought when we have money.” Another issue related to adequate nutrition for poor mothers and children: “Children cannot feed well while the mother is pregnant due to economic reasons. The first months [after birth] are also unsatisfactory in terms of nutrition, due to the lack of sufficient milk. Special assistance is needed in this area”.

Working conditions

Friends and relatives (57 percent) and agricultural intermediaries (26 percent) are the main channels through which SSAW found jobs. Very few SSAW used formal job search channels including the Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR). Nearly all SSAW work without a work permit exemption, with only 3.3 percent reporting having an exemption.

Table 10. Employment search channels

Employment channels	Number	Share (%)
Friends and relatives	217	57.1
Individual efforts	53	13.9
Agricultural intermediaries	100	26.3
ISKUR, Red Crescent and relevant public authorities	4	1.1
Other	6	1.6
Total	380	100

Source: Gülcubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. “Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey”. Ankara, FAO, Auhtor's own elaboration.

When asked how many months per year they work in seasonal agriculture, 7.1 percent of interviewees reported working one month or less, 12.5 percent worked two to three months, 11.7 worked four months and 68.7 percent worked five months or more. During this period they engage in seasonal agriculture, working 4.4 days per week on average, although many stated that they are willing to work higher hours if given the opportunity. A considerable share of SSAW (18 percent) worked six or seven days per week implying a lack of or only limited days off.

Table 11. Number of months in seasonal agricultural employment per year



Number of months	Number	Share (%)
1 or fewer	28	7.1
2-3	49	12.5
4	46	11.7
5 and more	270	68.7
Total	393	100.0

Source: Gülçubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO. Source: Auhtor's own elaboration.

Table 12. Number of work days per week

Number of days	Number	Share (%)
3 or fewer	77	19.3
4	136	34.2
5	113	28.4
6	19	4.8
7	53	13.3
Total	398	100.0

Source: Gülçubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO. Source: Auhtor's own elaboration.

It is well documented that SSAW work long hours, generally from sunrise until their daily task is finished. According to the survey results, 11 percent and 36 percent of SSAW work 7 or 8 hours per day, respectively. However, a significant majority work more than 10 hours (53 percent).

Table 12. Number of work days per week

Number of hours worked	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
7 or less	11.2	10.3	10.9
8-9	35.4	37.4	36.0
10	26.0	29.9	27.1
11 or more	27.4	22.4	26.0
Total	100	100	100

Source: Gülçubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO. Source: Auhtor's own elaboration.

SSAW perform different tasks during their work. The most common are sowing-planting (33.5 percent), soil preparation (28 percent), weeding-hoeing (17.1 percent) and harvesting (11.3 percent).

Table 14. Major farming tasks conducted by SSAW

Farming tasks	Number	Share (%)
Sowing-planting	133	33.5
Soil preparation	111	28.0
Weeding	68	17.1
Harvesting	45	11.3
Pruning	17	4.3

Irrigation	10	2.5
Other	13	3.3
Total	397	100

Source: Gülçubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO, Auhtor's own elaboration.

The frequency of payment for work varies among SSAW, with 40.8 percent reporting being paid on a seasonal basis, 22.3 percent being paid daily, 17.3 percent being paid monthly and 12.5 percent receiving a weekly payment. In addition, 40.7 percent of SSAW stated that deductions were made from their wages, generally by intermediaries, in some cases to cover the cost of meals and accommodation⁴.

Table 15. Frequency of payment

Payment intervals	Number	Share (%)
Daily	87	22.2
Weekly	49	12.5
Monthly	68	17.3
Seasonally	160	40.8
Other	28	7.1
Total	392	100.0

Source: Gülçubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO, Auhtor's own elaboration.

II. Seasonal agricultural workers from host communities (HSAW)

Profile

Seasonal agricultural employment is a form of temporary work encountered mostly in the harvesting of labour-intensive crops and their farming. It is also transferred from generation to generation in Türkiye among certain rural communities. A significant share of seasonal agricultural workers from host communities (HSAW) reported that their parents were also seasonal agricultural workers. However, many are not happy with their job, with 60 percent reporting that they would like to exit the family profession.

Demographic characteristics

The average age of agricultural workers surveyed was 34.7 implying a relatively young population. The average ages of female and male workers are 31.6 and 36.9, respectively. Out of surveyed HSAW, 12.1 percent are aged 15–20 years old, 50.5 percent are between 21 and 40 years old, 33.2 percent are between 41 and 60 years old, and the remaining 5.2 percent are older than 60 years. The majority of older HSAW (over 60 years) are men while women represent a higher share among the younger age groups.

⁴SSAW usually bring their own meals to their place of work. Of those interviewed, 83.9 percent reported that they bring their own meals, while 15.8 percent consume the meals supplied by the intermediaries.

HSAW are probably the poorest and most disadvantaged group in Türkiye, living in large families with the average household size being 7.6 persons, more than double the average household size in Türkiye. The data show that only 29 percent of the families of agricultural workers have five or less members, 56.4 percent have six to ten members and 14.6 percent have more than ten. Accordingly, these families have to work and earn more than the average worker to make a living. Only a small proportion of these families do not bring children or elderly/disabled members to their place of work. Indeed, the average number of family members located in places of work was found to be as high as 5.7, even larger than the average household size in Türkiye.

Table 16. Household size among HSAW

Household size	Share (%)
5 or fewer	29.0
6 to 10	56.4
11 or more	14.6
Total	100

Source: Gülçubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO, Author's own elaboration.

Skills

Although the education level among HSAW is higher than SSAW, on average, it remains very low. Approximately one-third of women and one-fifth of men are illiterate corresponding to 28 percent of the total HSAW population. Some 15 percent are literate but do not have a formal degree, a share that is higher among the female population than the male. Lower primary and upper primary completion rates are 31 percent and 18 percent, respectively, with higher rates among males, although the trend reverses for completion of secondary or higher education, with rates higher among women (10 percent) compared to men (7 percent). This gap may be a result of the higher prevalence of child labour among boys implying that boys may leave secondary education to work and contribute to household income. Furthermore, out of the 49 workers in the 15–20 age group, only 13 were attending school.

Table 17. Educational status among HSAW

Level of education	Total		Female		Male	
	Number	Share (%)	Number	Share (%)	Number	Share (%)
Illiterate	107	28.0	70	33.8	37	21.1
Literate	56	14.7	35	16.9	21	12.0
Lower primary	118	30.9	59	28.5	59	33.7



Upper primary	69	18.1	23	11.1	46	26.3
Secondary and higher	32	8.4	20	9.7	12	6.9
Total	382	100.0	207	100.0	175	100.0

Source: Gülçubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO, Auhtor's own elaboration.

Very few of the HSAW surveyed had undergone any agricultural training, while an overwhelming majority learned farming techniques from their families. Only 11.6 percent of HSAW reported receiving some kind of agricultural training of varying lengths (i.e. in beekeeping, pruning, strawberry cultivation, agricultural medication, machine operation, etc.), but 45.6 percent expressed an interest.

Income sources

An overwhelming majority (91.6 percent) of HSAW households reported having no regular income, and were reliant on seasonal and temporary jobs. The main regular income source (for the remaining 8.4 percent) was non-seasonal employment in agriculture in provinces such as Adana, Hatay and Mersin.

Among families with no regular income, 30.2 percent have one family member in seasonal employment, 34.6 percent have two members, 12.7 percent have three members, 4.3 percent have four members and the remaining 18.2 percent have five or more members. The interviewees emphasized that the number of working family members has increased in recent years to compensate for the purchasing power loss caused by high inflation. This trend implies a potential increase in child labour among HSAW in the future.

Table 18. Number of family members employed in seasonal agriculture

	Number	Share (%)
1	112	30.2
2	128	34.6
3	47	12.7
4	16	4.3
5 or more	67	18.2
Total	370	100

Source: Gülçubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO, Auhtor's own elaboration.

The main income source for the interviewees was seasonal agricultural employment (97.3 percent) implying that mostly those who have no other livelihood opportunity are engaged in seasonal agriculture. Some 6.7 percent of families reported having secondary sources of income other than agricultural work, including retirement pensions, disability benefits, and wages from other types of employment such as driving, agricultural mediation, domestic cleaning and so on.

The reported income level from seasonal agricultural employment is low. For instance, 67.3 percent of agricultural workers stated that their annual household income is under TL 20 000, while 26.3 percent earn between TL 20 001 and TL 40 000, and 6.4 percent earn more than TL 40 000 annually. The amount of annual income varied depending on the number of working family members.

In addition, 14.9 percent of HSAW stated that they have their own land, averaging 19.6 decares. However, most of this land is not irrigated and cannot meet the livelihood needs of a family. Some 4.2 percent reported that they also engaged in crop farming mostly on rented lands. Crops grown included cereals, vegetables, cotton, nuts, fruits and others. The average size of the rented land is 17 decares.

Likewise, 36 workers (8.9 percent) among those interviewed were also engaged in stock breeding. Of these workers, five had between one and three cattle, five engaged in beekeeping, seven keep small ruminants (less than 30 sheep and goats), eight raised poultry, and 11 had cattle, sheep and goats. Six out of 36 agricultural workers reported selling some of their produce (milk, yoghurt and cheese) and using the rest for their home consumption.

Major problems

Similar to SSAW, unemployment, low wages and housing conditions are the main problems facing HSAW communities. In the survey, HSAW were asked to rank their most important challenges: 36 percent gave unemployment as their primary problem, followed by wages (24 percent) and unfavourable housing conditions (14 percent). Wages, housing conditions and unhealthy environment for children were frequently ranked as the second major problem.

Table 19. Main problems faced by HSAW

	Primary	Secondary
Unemployment	36.2	8.3
Wages	24.1	40.6
- Low wages	15.6	26.9
- Delays in payments	8.4	13.7
Housing	14.4	21.7
- Poor condition	11.2	13.2
- Insufficient drinking water supply	1.7	4.1
- Insufficient power supply	1.5	4.4
Unhealthy environment for children	10.4	10.6
Absence of schools and daily care centres	7.9	9.0
Health services	3.7	3.6
Other	3.2	6.2
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Gülçubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO, Author's own elaboration.

When asked whether their living condition had improved in the last five years, only 13 percent reported an improvement, 25 percent reported no change and a majority (62 percent) stated that conditions had worsened. This perception may be a result of the rising prevalence of SSAW, which has increased competition for available employment and decreased the job opportunities and wages of HSAW.

Living conditions

Housing

The majority of HSAW live in primitive tents in unfavourable environmental conditions. According to the survey results, 51.7 percent of families live in tents in open spaces, 21.8 percent in briquette dwellings and 17.6 percent in tents set up near the crop fields where they work. The location of the tents is determined by landholders and intermediaries. The tents are made of cloth and covered by nylon to prevent water leakage. HSAW pay for electricity from the local network as well as for drinking water which can generally be accessed from fountains near the dwellings. In some places, inhabitants use water carried by mobile water tanks.

The location and living conditions of these dwellings do not meet health and hygiene standards, negatively affecting women and children in particular. Some dwellings lack a bath or toilet with those available failing to meet minimum standards. As such, HSAW are not satisfied with their housing conditions, with 31 percent characterizing their housing conditions as extremely unfavourable and 41 percent as unfavourable. Dissatisfaction levels are even higher among women with 86 percent characterizing conditions as extremely unfavourable.

Health and education services

The satisfaction level among HSAW is higher for health services compared to education services: 50 percent reported being very satisfied or satisfied with health services compared to 38 percent for education. Meanwhile, 26 percent and 42 percent conveyed dissatisfaction with health and education services, respectively.

Table 20. Satisfaction levels with health and education services

Satisfaction levels	Health services (%)	Education services (%)
Very satisfied	3.2	3.7
Satisfied	46.6	33.9
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22.9	21.5
Dissatisfied	17.0	25.6
Very dissatisfied	9.2	16.1

Source: Gülçubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO, Auhtor's own elaboration.

Regarding the health status of HSAW, the survey revealed that 41.6 percent of families have at least one family member with a chronic illness mostly associated with agricultural work. Furthermore, 14.6 percent of families have one or more members with disabilities who are likely to require special home care and social and health services.

The education of children of HSAW is a key issue. Among households with a child of school age (6–15 years), 66.4 percent reported that their children attend school, while 33.6 percent stated that their children were not enrolled. The rate was the same for boys and girls.

The high mobility of HSAW is a major factor that affects school attendance level and the adaptation of children to the new environment. Children begin the school year in one province, then move to another province where they need to enrol in another school. At a focus group discussion in Kilis, one parent stated that they had arrived at the end of April and stayed until the end of October, sending their children to school first in Kilis and then in Şanlıurfa. A second issue is that children may not be able to attend school regularly since they live in rural areas. When interviewed about this issue, children said that it was hard for them to “adapt”, as moving between different schools prevented them from following their courses properly, and in some cases, they could not go to school since they need to help their families with household chores or work. Remoteness from school is another issue that hampers educational access. In some cases, children need to walk long distances to reach the closest public transportation route which poses many risks, especially for girls and disabled and younger students.

Childcare presents a major challenge to HSAW. The absence of childcare facilities poses a risk for children especially when family members must go to work in the fields and leave children behind. In many cases, children accompany their parents to their workplace where they remain unattended and vulnerable to child labour and many other risks. Among families with small children, 27.7 percent stated that there is nobody to take care of their children when they leave for work, while 33.1 percent acknowledged either sharing the task of childcare among themselves or hiring a person to take care of all the children. In 30.7 percent of families, elder children (aged 7–15) often take care of younger siblings, while in 8.5 percent of families, elderly and disabled family members take care of children.



Working conditions

HSAW communities have an average age of 34.7 years and engage in agricultural activities for 23 years, implying that they start working at the age of 11–12 years. However, many are not happy with their occupation. For instance, 69.1 percent of interviewees stated that they do not want to continue working as a seasonal agricultural worker. The main reasons cited are unfavourable working conditions and lack of social security (60.9 and 6.6 percent of those who expressed unwillingness to continue working). Those who are willing highlighted the lack of other employment opportunities as the main reason why they need to continue to work in seasonal agriculture. This implies that the motivational factor keeping them in seasonal agricultural employment is desperation rather than willingness.

The daily farming tasks undertaken by seasonal agricultural workers generally differ by sex. While women undertake tasks such as hoeing, weeding, sowing-planting and harvesting, men are engaged in fertilizing, irrigation, hoeing and harvesting.

The survey results reveal that HSAW are highly mobile. Some 41.8 percent reported that the province where they were interviewed was the second (in addition to their province of origin) where they engaged in seasonal agriculture. The same proportion was 24.3 percent, 16.6 percent and 17.3 percent for those who moved three, four, and five and more times, respectively.

The transportation of seasonal agricultural workers both between provinces and from residential areas to work represents another major problem. Many HSAW who participated in focus groups stated that they have to travel long distances in unsafe and overcrowded vehicles including uncovered trucks. Similarly, transportation from tent camps to crop fields is undertaken by overcrowded minibuses or tractors, which are susceptible to accidents. Many host community HSAW expressed having difficulty in finding seasonal jobs and explained that they need to work long hours due to the presence of competing Syrian workers, while coping with the accompanying fall in daily wages. Accordingly, the average duration of seasonal agricultural work is 4.8 months per year and during these 4.8 months they work 5.2 days a week on average. However, 48 percent of HSAW work six or seven days a week.



Table 21. Number of months in seasonal agricultural employment per year

Number of months	Number	Share (%)
Less than 1	92	22.8
1-3	96	23.8
4-6	86	21.3
7-9	57	14.1
10-11	42	10.4
12	31	7.7
Total	404	100.0

Source: Gülçubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO, Auhtor's own elaboration.

Table 22. Number of work days per week

Number of days	Number	Share (%)
3 or less	48	11.9
4	78	19.3
5	82	20.3
6	74	18.3
7	122	30.2
Total	404	100.0

Source: Gülçubuk, Bülent & Turan, Feryal. 2021. "Assessment of Social Protection and Employability for Syrian Refugee and Host Communities in Agricultural Structure of Turkey". Ankara, FAO, Auhtor's own elaboration.

HSAW highlighted a variety of problems related to wages including deductions, irregularity of payments and the amount. Some 65.4 percent of HSAW reported that intermediaries were charging 5–10 percent commission on workers' wages, which is illegal. In addition, 25.1 percent of agricultural workers mentioned continuous problems regarding the timing and form of payment. Among HSAW, 15 percent are paid daily, 13 percent weekly, 23 percent monthly, 26 percent seasonally and 23 percent in "different ways" such as shopping cards. For example, one agricultural intermediary in Adana distributes shopping cards of some local markets to workers as a part of their wages. One female interviewee from Kahramanmaraş explained that "When wage payments are delayed there is no authority to whom we can apply. Because we have no contract, we have to rely on the conscience of our employer".

The wage levels of HSAW vary in accordance with a variety of factors including the type of crops, duration of work, location, employer and agricultural intermediaries. For example, the daily wage for working with citrus fruits in Adana province is TL 79–98, while tomato harvesting in Konya province pays TL 45–65. Another important point stressed by almost all HSAW is the recent fall in real wages by 20–50 percent upon the arrival of Syrians and other immigrant workers.



Furthermore, the focus group discussions showed that even though the “Wage Setting Commissions” in each province set minimum wages, this decision is rarely taken into account and workers generally receive less than this amount. Regarding the level and change in daily wages, a female participant from Şanlıurfa stated that “The daily rate last year was TL 45; today, it is TL 50, but the situation is getting worse because of the higher cost of living. It has gotten worse since the Syrian crisis began, because of the competition with Syrian seasonal agricultural workers”. Regarding work safety and health problems, illness in particular is a key challenge in seasonal agricultural employment. The lack of social security coverage leaves some workers without the right to use sick leave with pay. Only 7.5 percent of agricultural workers stated that they could take leave in the event of illness. In case of a sudden health problem, workers need to travel to hospital by their own means. Only in the event of a serious workplace accident, do intermediaries take workers to the hospitals. A few participants related work-related accidents in the focus groups, one female participant in a Şanlıurfa stating that a friend has lost her fingers while sowing cotton. Other risks include traffic accidents while travelling to and from working fields. In addition, seasonal agricultural workers complained about chronic pain caused by working long hours bent over and lifting heavy weights.





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