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# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN TÜRKİYE

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## Evaluation Report on Children Meeting Event in Polatlı

### Activity 1.6: Organizing an Awareness-Raising Event on Child Labour

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## INTRODUCTION

This report includes detailed information on the “Children Meeting” event organised with the participation of 142 children, 138 parents and 18 public officials on Friday, June 23, 2023, at Ankara/Polatlı Sarioba Mevsimlik Tarım İşçileri Settlement. Throughout the report, the activity will be mentioned as an “event”.

## ABOUT ÖZNE ÇOCUK PROJECT

“Technical Assistance for the Support for Children's Rights in Türkiye”, **Özne Çocuk Project** is implemented by the Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS) as the end beneficiary (EB) and the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MoLSS) as the co-beneficiary. The project's lead agency is the Directorate for European Union Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DEUA), and the contracting authority is the Central Finance and Contracts Unit (CFCU). The project is funded by the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance 2014-2020 (IPA II).

## RATIONALE

Child labour, seen in almost every region of the world from past to present, is one of the problems that negatively affect children physically, mentally, socially and morally. In the National Program on the Elimination of Child Labour prepared by the MoLSS, the worst forms of child labour are defined as child labour in heavy and hazardous work in industry, on the street and in seasonal mobile and temporary agriculture. On the other hand, according to TURKSTAT (Turkish Statistical Institute) 2019 data, 45.5% of economically active children in the 5-17 age group work in the service sector, 30.8% in the agricultural sector and 23.7% in the industrial sector.

Child labour in seasonal agriculture is present in all regions, especially in the Black Sea region during the tea and hazelnut harvest periods and in the Çukurova region during the summer months. Many families from South-eastern Anatolia go to these regions as seasonal workers. In addition, available information shows that an increasing number of refugee children are exposed to the worst forms of child labour, including in seasonal agriculture.

Seasonal agricultural labour migration occurs under unfavourable conditions for all family members, whether children or adults. Children have diverse and special needs, especially during their developmental period. Children's lack of access to their fundamental rights during this period causes long-term damage throughout their lives. Seasonal agricultural migration occurs under poor housing, education, health, protection and nutrition conditions. Children migrating with their families are also severely affected by these unfavourable conditions. In sum, children's fundamental rights, such as survival, development, education, health and play, are rarely realised. Seasonal agriculture mainly affects children, depriving them of adequate education, health, leisure and fundamental freedoms and violating their rights. The planned event aims to raise public awareness





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on issues related to child labour in provinces where seasonal agricultural work is intensive and children have to work with their families during the harvest period.

In this framework, as part of awareness-raising activities and in light of **the Advocacy Plan and Awareness Raising Strategy under Activity 1.2**, a one-day awareness-raising event with the MoLSS is planned. This event aims to raise awareness of the negative impacts of child labour in all sectors, including agriculture, and to bring together relevant stakeholders (representatives of central agencies, local authorities, civil society organisations and employers) to lay the foundation for new collaborations. It is envisioned that the potential participants of the event will be "difference makers" as they will further advance the knowledge of society on the harmful effects with the awareness gained as a result of this event.

## PLANNING OF THE EVENT

Under the ToR, the project team and experts started preparation for the event in March 2023. The information note containing detailed information on the date and location of the event, participant profile, draft event agenda and activity plan, logistical arrangements, promotional materials, etc., was submitted to the Beneficiary on 25.05.2022. (Please see Annex-1 for the revised version of the event information note according to the comments of the Beneficiary).

In addition, many meetings were held with the Beneficiary's officials to discuss the event's organisation and the process. As a result of these meetings, organising the event on June 23, 2023, was found appropriate at Polatlı Sarioba Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Settlement (METİP). Simultaneously with the meetings with the Beneficiary, the event organisation process was initiated. As a result of the meetings with the MoLSS representatives, it was decided to carry out the event in cooperation with the *Pikolo* Association, which is actively working in the METİP area.

### Logistical Arrangements

#### Place of the Event

The event was organised with the participation of families and their children living in Polatlı Sarioba Seasonal Agricultural Workers Settlement in Polatlı, Ankara. By organising the event in the METİP area, children and their families were easily accessible.





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## Event Date and Time

The event was held on 23 June 2023 between 12.30 pm and 6.00 pm within the scope of the 12 June International Day for the Elimination of Child Labour.

## Participant Management

One hundred forty-two children (75 boys and 67 girls) participated in the event. The age range of the children varied between 5-12 years old. (Please see Annex-2 for Participant Lists.) Experts from Pikolo Association visited the field the day before the event and informed the families about the content and agenda of the event. Through these meetings, children were prevented from being taken to the field on the day of the event, and their participation was ensured. In addition, the necessary arrangements were made throughout the *dayıbaşı* in the field to ensure that the participation of the families was essential and that they could participate in the awareness session. Families were brought to the field on time and participated in the session.

Information about the event was provided to various public institutions by the Beneficiary. In addition, details of the event were shared with the relevant public institutions through Polatlı Municipality and Polatlı Governorship.

## Transportation and Accommodation

Since only children living in the METİP area participated in the event, no transportation or accommodation arrangements were made. Public personnel participating in the event provided transportation to the event area with their vehicles.

## Professional Photographer

A professional photographer was hired throughout the event. The photographs from the event area were printed and shared with the children during the activities and shared on social media afterwards. Children's privacy was respected during the photo shoots, and verbal consent was obtained from both the children and their parents before the photo shoot.

## Music

Throughout the event, music was played for children in the playgrounds and on the stage through the sound system in the area.





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## Cleaning and Waste Management

Before the event, Polatlı Municipality was contacted, and the school garden and the event area next to the school building were cleaned. In addition, a cleaning company was hired to clean the inside of the school building. Thus, the hygiene of children's playgrounds was ensured during and after the event. Thanks to the trash bins placed in the activity area, the waste generated during the activity was collected.

## Promotional Materials

Children participating in the event were given a backpack containing a t-shirt, hat, notebook and crayon set. When selecting promotional materials, it was considered to choose durable materials that children can use in their daily lives. The selected materials were designed in accordance with visibility rules and submitted for approval.

<i>Type of Materials</i>	<i>Number of Produced Materials</i>
<i>Fabric bags</i>	175
<i>T-shirts</i>	175
<i>Notebooks</i>	175
<i>Hats</i>	175
<i>Crayons</i>	175

## Catering Management

Food stands were set up in the event area. Each child and adult participant was offered a pack containing sandwiches, fruit juice and wafers. In addition, popcorn was served at the stand in the event area before the theatre performance. Due to the hot weather and children playing active games, water was distributed at different points throughout the day.

## Medical Insurance

The healthcare team become ready throughout the event. Special attention was paid to security measures in the playgrounds to ensure the safety of children.



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## Visibility of the Event

- **Before the Event**

No public announcement was made since the event was held in a specified area and targeted only children and their families living in METİP areas. Before the event, informative content about the event was shared on the project's social media accounts.

- **During the Event**

Social media posts were shared on the project's social media accounts during the event. In addition, flags were used in the event area following the visibility rules. Visibility rules were followed in the particular stage background designed for the event.

All promotional materials were produced following the logos of the relevant institutions and complied with visibility rules.

- **After the Event**

After the event, details were shared on the project's social media accounts.

## Agenda and Operation

The event was organised to include healthy outdoor activities that allowed children to be children and enjoy their childhood. During the event (from 12.30 to 6.00 pm), children could participate in the activities in the area as they wished and benefit from the catering.

The agenda is as follows:

Time	Event	Details
12:30 - 13:00	Opening Speeches and Event Presentation	
13:00 - 13:45	Session for Stakeholders	Session on Child Labour from the Child Development and Education Perspective (40 min.)
13:00 - 13:15	Popcorn service	Juice and popcorn will be served to all children before the theatre play.



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13:15 - 14:00	Theatre Show	"Elsa's Adventures"
14:00 - 16:00	Festival Games	Hygiene Workshop, Child Rights Stand Face Painting Stand; Pinwheel workshop will be held at the same time.
16:00	Catering of Snacks	
16:15 - 17:00	Hacivat Karagöz Shadow Play	
16:30 - 17:15	Session for Families	Session on Effective Communication with Children (40 min.)
Throughout The Event	Music Broadcast, Photo Shoot	

Workshops and activities in the event are as follows:

### 1) Hygiene Workshop

In this workshop, a black pepper water and soap activity was carried out to explain the importance of hand washing to children. The children had a pleasant and productive time at the hand-washing point. The importance of cleanliness was emphasised by considering the environmental conditions. At the same time, it was pointed out that our hands are the most contaminated organ in our daily lives. A "police-criminal" game was announced, and children who wanted to participate were asked to raise their hands. Children expressed that they wanted to participate in the game. In the fiction of the game, the criminal was the germs on our hands, and the police were the water and soap. After the sampling, it was seen that children were also involved in the game and experienced the happiness of learning by living. It was seen that children stated such as, "Teacher, I liked it very much! Can I do it again?". After reaching the goal of hand washing, the process at the point was completed successfully.





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## 2) Painting Workshop

In this workshop, children were encouraged to express their feelings through painting. Accompanied by a facilitator, an area where children could paint was provided and children painted freely. At the painting point, children talked about their dreams and then were asked to paint them. Children who wanted to share their feelings showed their drawings to their groupmates and talked about their dreams. In the painting activity, children tried to describe their dreams mainly with concepts such as bird, house, sky, nurse, doctor and teacher. The teachers asked guiding questions such as "Why did you draw this picture? What did you want to tell with this picture? What does this colour mean?" both during and after the painting process was completed, and positive feedback was received from the children about their inner worlds.



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### 3) Child Rights Stand

Children prepared colourful banners with hand paints. The posters prepared by the children were exhibited in the school building. Artistic works were made with acrylic paint on 2 pieces of American cloth with approximate dimensions of 2.5\*1.5 meters. In the content of the artistic performance, themes such as "I am a child, and I have rights" and "the right to education, shelter, health, life, play and protection" were emphasised. In addition to these themes, children reinforced the content of the activity with colours and symbols by doing the best drawings and paintings they could do with their talents. In the artistic practice, the children painted the areas in the way they wanted while learning about technical issues such as the use of the brush, the application of paint and the use of appropriate colours.



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#### 4) Theatre Show

“The Adventures of Elsa and the Bear” was performed by a professional children's theatre. The play was performed interactively with the participation of children.

#### 5) Hacivat Karagöz Shadow Play

At the end of the event, a *Hacivat-Karagöz* shadow play was performed with the children's participation. The narrator also shared information on the history of shadow plays.

#### 6) Balloon Blowing Activity

Balloons in the shapes they wanted (heart, dog, hat, etc.) were prepared and distributed to the children.



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## 7) Face Painting Point



Masks of different designs were drawn on children's faces at the face painting point. This face-painting activity was carried out with the children. In this activity, shapes such as fish, cats, dogs, rabbits, butterflies, ladybugs and superheroes were drawn on children's faces. This activity entertained the children and contributed to the improvement of their imagination.

## 8) Session for Stakeholders

In training, child labour and the physiological and psychological harms of child labour on children were mentioned. National and international legislation and the role of education in combating child labour were also discussed. Information was exchanged on what national and international actors can do on the issue.

After the training, representatives of the MoLSS, the district director of *İŞKUR* and child labour monitoring units, district municipality representatives and district health officials presented their institutional perspectives on the issue and emphasised the importance of cooperation.





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In the feedback received after the training, the importance of institution representatives coming together with the target group was emphasised. Since the training program took place during the working hours of seasonal agricultural workers, the absence of families in the field was reported as a disadvantage. Public representatives stated that it would be healthier to have a session where the target group and institutional representatives could be together.

## 9) Session for Families

The training was conducted in a conversational atmosphere by giving examples of the experiences of the trainers in the field on child labour and the childhoods of the family members. In the training, the topics of "Child-Child Labor, Communication-Family Communication, Social and Economic Supports, Impact of Disasters on Children" were addressed.

While providing information to families under the heading of children and child labour, an interactive way was applied in the form of questions and answers. Families were given examples from their own childhood and family life. The trainer aimed to raise awareness by talking about the cycle of poverty in response to the families' feedback, such as "Life is costly. We wouldn't take the children to work if we didn't have to."

While talking about communication and how communication within the family needs to be, the families stated that they agreed with the points mentioned by the trainer. Regarding social assistance, some families stated that they applied to the necessary public institutions but complained that no support was provided.

Moreover, during the training, another trainer took care of the children outside the training area, which greatly supported the healthy completion of the training process. The training was planned considering the most convenient time for families, but some of the participants wanted to send their spouse or child to the training because they were tired.

When some female participants were invited to the training area, they saw too many male participants. They did not want to enter the training area and expressed their embarrassment. As a result of the increase in the number of female participants and the insistence of the trainers, they agreed to participate in the training. It was observed that women were not very involved in the training and displayed a passive attitude. They were not comfortable around male participants and could not express their views comfortably while talking about women and violence against women. During the interactive training, women did not take the floor at all and only listened to the session.



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## GENERAL OVERVIEW



The second children's meeting event organised within the scope of the *Özne Çocuk* Project was successfully completed in the organisational process. Many participants verbally expressed their happiness and appreciation to the organisation team on site.

By organising the event in the living place of families and children, everyone in the area participated. For the impact of the event to be sustainable, the work in the field must be sustained. *Pikolo* Association has been actively working in the area for many years. For this reason, it will be helpful to be in contact with the *Pikolo* Association within the scope of relevant project activities during the process.





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## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Some sustainability recommendations that would be useful to consider in other activities to be organised during the project process are as follows:

- For the event to have a more sustainable impact on the lives and training of children, a permanent investment in the training building (e.g. smart board, outdoor screen system for cartoons and similar screenings, etc.) may be made instead of promotional materials.
- Concerts may be organised for children.
- The number of activities may be increased, and the event may be organised as a full-day event.
- Sessions may be organised where families and public institutions can come together. This collaboration will provide more sustainable solutions.
- It was observed that the participation of public institution personnel in the event could have been higher. To increase this participation, a more comprehensive invitation and announcement process may be carried out in the following years.

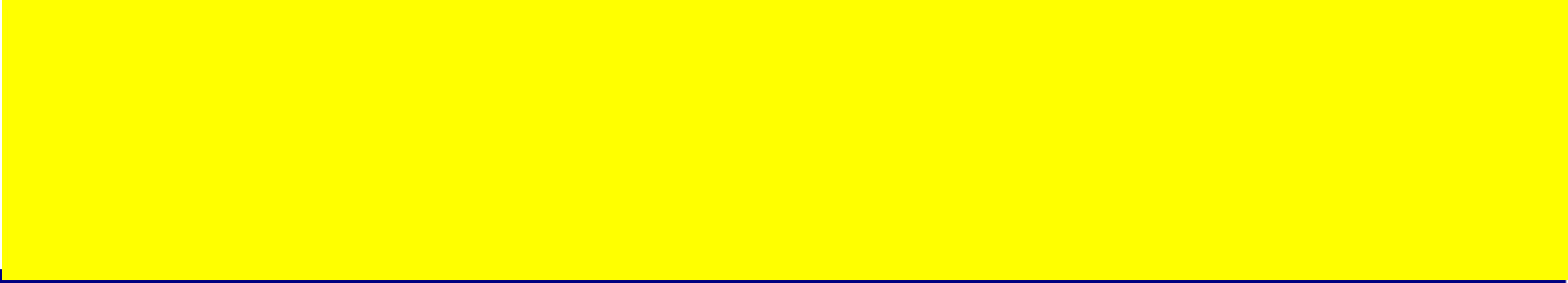
## BUDGETARY ISSUES

The expenditures of the event were covered by the incidental budget under the project. Incidental budget approval for this activity was received from the CFCU on 10.06.2022 in accordance with ToR Article 6.5.

## ANNEXES

**ANNEX 1** – Informative Note on Activity 1.6

**ANNEX 2** – Participant Lists



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