

# Evaluation Summary: Combating Exploitative Child Labor Through Education in Turkey

## Project and Evaluation Facts

**Region/Country:** EUROPE/Turkey  
**Grantee:** IMPAQ International, LLC and Management Systems International, Inc.  
**Project Duration:** September 30, 2004 – September 26, 2008  
**Fiscal Year Funded and Funding Level:** FY 2004 USD 6,000,000  
**Type of Evaluation:** Midterm  
**Date of Evaluation:** January 2008  
**Mode of Evaluation:** Independent  
**Evaluation Management:** Macro International  
**Evaluator(s):** Fredrick Huxley, PhD (Team Leader), Mert Karabiyikoglu

## Background and Context

### Summary of Project Objectives and Focus

The Tarladan Okula project was a four-year project that aimed to contribute to the reduction of the incidence of the worst forms of child labor (WFCL) in Turkey through the provision of educational services. The project operated in the provinces of Ankara, Elazig, Gaziantep, and Sanliurfa. Further, the project was focused upon children engaged in or at risk of engaging in exploitative work in the seasonal commercial agriculture sector.

The project was guided by the following Immediate Objectives:

- Facilitate children's access to targeted educational programs;
- Link families of seasonal child laborers to available social and economic service programs to help children stay in school;
- Make children, parents, and communities aware of the benefits of education; and
- Provide the public sector with quality information about the prevalence of child labor in seasonal commercial agriculture.

The project is designed to work closely with government actors, NGOs, and international organizations, such as the International Labor Organization.

### Purpose and Scope of Evaluation

The midterm evaluation examined project performance to date in relation to stated objectives. Specifically, the evaluation reviewed and assessed activities with respect to their relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability. Further, the evaluation was designed to be a learning process that could serve to provide guidance as to revisions in strategy for the balance of the cooperative agreement to ensure project objectives are realized.

### Methodology of Evaluation

The evaluation was based on a desk review of relevant documentation, followed by a field mission to all four provinces conducted by the evaluation team from the 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2008 to the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2008. The field work consisted of interviews, focus groups and other information collection techniques with stakeholders including government representatives, NGOs, children, parents of beneficiaries, and project staff. The evaluation was affected in accordance with the terms of reference (TOR), as prepared by Macro International with input from USDOL and other key stakeholders.

## Evaluation's Main Findings & Conclusions

### Performance Summary

As a consequence of (a) a lack of agreement in regard to project management and service provision, (b) challenges with respect to communication and collaboration with key government ministries, as well as (c) competition for project leadership amongst project headquarters staff, project field work did not commence, in full, until 2007, resulting in limited progress toward withdrawal and prevention targets.

With project management now effectively operational, however, the evaluator contends that through greater cooperation, coordination, and collaboration with key ministries, as well as through successful leveraging of grass roots support, assuming a one-year extension is realized, the

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project could approach and perhaps even exceed target objectives.

## Lessons Learned & Recommendations

### Lessons Learned

- Representatives negotiating and establishing agreements underlying a project should be clear about project objectives, the means to pursue those objectives, and the rights and responsibilities of implementing parties;
- The executing agency of a project and its implementing partners should communicate clearly and collaborate effectively;
- Personnel hired to staff the project's executing agency should be provided with clear enumeration of responsibilities to moderate divisive internal competition; and
- As the project progresses, active dialogue and reciprocal support between project headquarters staff and field office staff should be maintained.

### Key Recommendations

- IMPAQ should share registration and tracking data and access codes with the Ministry of National Education to facilitate prospective cooperation for withdrawal and prevention of children from exploitative labor;
- USDOL should consider a no-cost one-year extension of the Tarladan Okula project, provided the project and key ministries demonstrably commit to cooperate, coordinate, and collaborate effectively; and
- The project and implementing partners should organize and hold a retreat to initiate a commitment to greater collaboration inclusive of the following themes:
  - Reassess causal link among agriculture, child labor, and primary education;
  - Consider implementation of support activities in the summer of 2008 to supplement training narratives with quantitative demonstrations of improvement;

- Address project management, administration, and staffing concerns, as expressed by both headquarters staff as well as field office staff;
- Coordinate and expedite activities to ensure the project attains and potentially even surpasses targeted outcomes for withdrawn and prevented children; and
- Identify, coordinate, and nurture the efforts of people and organizations committed to the reduction of child labor.