

### 2022 Harvest: Audit, Monitoring and Evaluation

The second transition year of the 2020 standard of the Rainforest Alliance Turkey Hazelnut Program has been completed this year. In 2022, activities were carried out to ensure a 'gradual' transition to the environmental, social and economic sustainability targets of the new standard.

On the other hand, during this harvest period, inspections and evaluation processes were carried out by 3rd party auditors within the scope of our affiliation (since 2013) with the Fair Labor Association (FLA).



In addition, Western Black Sea and Eastern Black Sea regions were visited for the “focus assessment” of our child protection program, which was carried out in cooperation with Genç Hayat Foundation this year. Within the scope of the visits, one-on-one and focus group meetings were held with seasonal mobile agricultural workers, agricultural labor intermediaries, traders and representatives of public institutions participating in the 2022 origin-winter activities.

Also in 2022, the accreditation process with the FLA started, and “shadowing” visits were carried out in this context.



During the audits and visits, in addition to meeting with the garden owners and workers who were in the harvest, visits were also made to the public institutions with which we cooperate within the scope of social activities. The findings and field notes of the closing meetings were evaluated. The reports will be made publicly available by the end of the year.





## 2022 Harvest: Seasonal Migrant Agricultural Workers Trainings



In the hazelnut harvest period of 2022, we continued fieldwork together with the “temporary social workers” to prevent child labor, support farmers and improve the living and working standards of the workers. Seasonal mobile agricultural workers coming to the Eastern and Western Black Sea Regions for the hazelnut harvest were visited in their accommodation areas after working hours, and they were provided with good social practices and occupational health and safety trainings.

**With the support of personal protective equipment and hygiene kits provided at the end of each training, 15,182 workers have been reached since 2014.**

We continue by reporting the field results at the end of the harvest and raising our targets for the next year. We reached 1701 workers in the 2021 harvest and we continued to track these workers in the winter period through origin activities. This year, 2 thousand workers will be reached in 5 provinces, namely Sakarya, Düzce, Ordu, Samsun and Giresun.



In addition to receiving one-to-one complaints and support requests during the trainings, we also continue to disseminate our complaint support line, which provides 24/7 service. In 2022, 47 complaints and support requests were received from both workers and farmers on various issues, and 36 of them were resolved. Among the demands that have been resolved, there are 7 mobile toilets and 3 mobile bathrooms placed in the accommodation areas of the workers in the Western Black Sea Region. The remaining 11 records are under follow-up. We also convey the complaints received to the necessary public units according to the subject and follow up until a solution is reached.

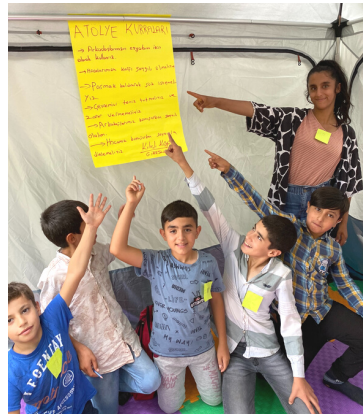


## 2022 Child Protection Program



Balsu has been collaborating with Genç Hayat Foundation, International NGOs and local governments since 2014 to provide safe spaces for children while their families work in the hazelnut harvest. The mobile workshops model has been added to the summer school model implemented until 2020 due to the pandemic as of 2020.

In the 2021 harvest, as a result of the cooperation with the Genç Hayat Foundation within the scope of the Child Protection Program, a total of 1681 workshops were held in 14 different regions, and 2744 children were provided with access to the safe areas. In addition, 501 children were followed up in schools supported by origin activities carried out during the winter period.



Our workshop and summer school models applied in safe areas; It aims to create group belonging, develop social relations skills, increase psychological well-being and self-awareness. We aim to improve both children's academic success and personal and social skills with sophisticated content, including cultural and artistic expressionist activities. We also support healthy eating habits and physical development through nutrition support and sports activities.

In the 2022 hazelnut harvest period, the child protection program is carried out by establishing workshops and opening summer schools in accommodation areas in 5 provinces, Sakarya, Düzce, Ordu, Samsun and Giresun. Thus, children are prevented from working in the garden, and their academic, social, psychological and physical development is supported by ensuring that they continue their education with this model.



## Assessment of the Harvest 2022

Hazelnut harvest in 2022 started as of the beginning of August, especially in the coastal parts. We have seen that in the coastal areas, the beginning of the harvest date is determined before the product matures. Farmers mainly target the first week of September for the middle and higher altitudes.

Due to the rainy weather in both the Western and Eastern Black Sea Regions in the 2021 harvest period, problems were experienced in the drying and harvesting and quality losses occurred in the products due to rotten. It has been revealed that August this year is climatically more favorable for harvesting and after harvesting activities than last year.



As in the previous year, hazelnut farmers in middle and higher altitudes had difficulties in finding workers. Since the harvest has not started completely during the month of the August, it is foreseen that the quality losses due to drying may be similar to the previous year.



It is predicted that the increased fertilizer and agrochemical prices in the 2022 season is already reflected in the maintenance activities of the farmers, and this may be one of the reasons for the increase in the amount of empty hazelnuts along with the pollination problems due to the climate change. The effects of factors such as "the lack of precipitation during the months of May and July and "the delayed temperature increase" on the quality of the product will be evaluated in the coming months.