Appendix 3: Bibliography of products at risk of forced labour

Cattle
Brazil
Reports indicate that labour inspections carried out by the Brazilian government in 2021 uncovered cases of forced labour and debt bondage in the cattle industry. The investigation found that from 2018 to 2020, 276 workers were rescued from situations of slavery in the livestock sector, however the total number of workers who experience this form of exploitation is unknown. Reports indicate that workers are underpaid, face verbal and physical abuse from employers, and live in inadequate conditions, often sleeping in the same sheds as the cattle. In 2017, news media reported seven workers were rescued from slavery on an Amazonian cattle ranch in Northern Brazil. These workers experienced pay below minimum wage, excessive debts leading to bonded labour, inadequate living and working conditions, coercion, abuse, and threats. Geographical isolation is one of the largest contributing factors to the prevalence of forced and bonded labour. Isolation hampers labour inspections and prevents enforcement of legislation.

Paraguay
Cases of forced labour and debt bondage of cattle workers in the Chaco region of Paraguay have been reported alongside a rapid growth of the industry. Indigenous populations make up the majority of the workforce, and are highly vulnerable to modern slavery and exploitation due to geographical isolation, low literacy levels, and low awareness of rights. The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery found workers experienced excessive hours without breaks or overtime and wages paid in credits that could only be used at stores owned by their employers, leaving workers vulnerable to bonded labour.

Coal
China
Reports allege that the renewables sector is heavily reliant on the state imposed forced labour of the Uyghur peoples in China, starting at the beginning of the supply chain with the mining and burning of coal. The Xinjiang Zhundong Economic and Technological Development Zone provides cheap and carbon-emitting coal reserves that are used to create green energy products. Reports indicate that Uyghur and other Turkic and Muslim majority peoples are forced to work in the Development Zone, including via government labour transfer programs. Workers reportedly face violence, coercion, and threats of re-education and internment. An investigation into 30 Chinese companies operating in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (Uyghur region) alleged the use of forced labour in manufacturing solar energy components by several companies.

Cocoa
Côte d’Ivoire
In 2017, representative surveys of cocoa-growing households conducted by Walk Free estimated that 9,600 adult cocoa workers and 2,000 child workers in Côte d’Ivoire had experienced forced labour. Surveys during the 2018/19 cocoa harvest, revealed that 37 per cent of children were working in hazardous child labour. This situation was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Interviews conducted by the International Cocoa Initiative in 2020 with cocoa-growing households during partial lockdown, identified an increase in hazardous child labour from 16 to 19.4 per cent across 263 communities.
Ghana
In 2017, representative surveys of cocoa-growing households conducted by Walk Free estimated that 3,700 adults and 14,000 children were in forced labour in the cocoa sector. In 2019, semi-structured interviews conducted in two key cocoa producing districts, combined with a digital survey that captured workers across 74 cocoa-producing communities, revealed a high number of migrant workers at risk of exploitation. Surveys conducted by the research organisation NORC at the University of Chicago in 2020 revealed that 51 per cent of children in Ghana were working in hazardous child labour in Ghanaian cocoa production. This exploitation continues: in 2022, cases of hazardous child labour, including use of machetes, no protective clothing and excessive hours were documented on Ghanaian cocoa plantations in connection with a major chocolate company.

Coffee
Brazil
Reports tie the harvest of coffee beans in Brazil to an informal, underpaid and undocumented workforce, who lack basic working rights and safety equipment. A 2019 investigation conducted by Thomson Reuters Foundation documented extensive cases of modern slavery and exploitation in the largely unregulated coffee industry in Minas Gerais. Despite certification schemes that label coffee products supplied to major companies as slavery-free, 300 workers on plantations were in conditions of modern slavery in 2018. Undocumented children were alleged to work in hazardous conditions for little pay.

Electronics
China
Multiple reports provided evidence of state-imposed forced labour of Uyghur people in the electronics industry. One 2020 report alleged that 82 well-known global brands were linked to the forced labour of Uyghur people in their supply chains, including manufacturing electronics. In 2019 560 Uyghur labourers were forcibly transferred to the central Henan province to work at several electronics factories. Media interviews in 2018 documented forced labour through student internships in Chinese electronics factories. Students were threatened that they will not graduate unless they complete an internship in an electronics factory production line, unrelated to their area of study. Students were working as production line workers for major electronics brands including Apple, Acer, Dell, HP, and Sony.

Malaysia
News media interviews with electronic factory workers from across Malaysia in 2019 indicated high levels of worker exploitation. Nepalese and Indonesian migrant workers reported common experiences of forced labour, including excessive overtime, restricted movement, threats of violence, and the withholding of passports. Recruitment fees are common in the Malaysian electronics industry, with some workers reported to have paid approximately US$1000 or four to five months wages in fees. Bangladeshi migrant workers sub-contracted to a Samsung factory alleged that they paid high recruitment fees, earned less than promised, and had their passports confiscated.

Fish
China
Reports from NGOs and news media allege extreme labour and human rights abuses onboard Chinese-owned fishing vessels. Interviews conducted on Chinese distant-water fleets reportedly
exposed cases of debt bondage, confiscation of documents, wages withheld or deducted, abusive working and living conditions, and experiences of intimidation, threats, or physical violence. Media reports highlight the experience of foreign crew members allegedly forced to work 18 to 22 hours per day. Fishing fleet operations rely on migrant and rural workers, while crew members can remain at sea for up to 13 months, facilitated by trans-shipments at sea. Reportedly, poor treatment and abuse of workers onboard led to crew jumping overboard to escape.

Ghana
In-depth interviews with workers on Ghanaian-flagged industrial trawlers indicated that Ghanaian workers onboard experienced indicators of forced labour, allegedly including physical violence, threats of abuse, debt bondage, withholding of wages, and inadequate living conditions. These reports also allege that captains and officers onboard perpetrate maltreatment and abuse. In the Lake Volta area, children are reportedly sold into slavery and forced to work in hazardous conditions in the fishing industry.

Indonesia
Complaints from Indonesian migrant fishers in 2021 indicated that there was an increase in forced labour indicators over a 13-month period. An investigation by Greenpeace alleged that 20 Indonesian manning agencies and 26 vessel owners were involved in forced labour in the fishing sector. The most common forced labour indicators identified in this study of 62 complaints from workers across 41 fishing vessels included withholding of wages, abusive working and living conditions, deception, and abuse of vulnerability.

Taiwan
In 2022, nine Taiwanese nationals were charged with abuse of migrant workers on board a Taiwan fishing vessel. News media reports of the charges indicated that 20 Filipino and Indonesian migrant workers were subjected to exploitative treatment, including excessive working hours and forced labour. Indonesian migrant workers are highly vulnerable to debt bondage and exploitative recruitment practices in the Taiwan fishing sector. Despite the Labour Standard Act passed in 2017, distant fishing vessels do not fall under Taiwanese jurisdiction creating systematic exploitation of migrant fisherman.

Thailand
Forced labour has been widely documented in Thailand’s fishing industry. A 2019 nationwide prevalence study found 76 per cent of fishermen surveyed had faced a situation of bonded labour at the hands of the broker or owner of a fishing vessel. Migrant workers on board fishing vessels face inhumane living and working conditions such as inadequate food and water, excessive work, and violence; these conditions are worsened through long periods at sea as a result of trans-shipment.

Garments – apparel and clothing accessories
Argentina
The garment industry is one of the largest informal sectors in Argentina and has been linked with several cases of labour exploitation, trafficking, debt bondage and negligence of predominantly female workers. Ethnographic fieldwork and interviews with garment workers in 2017 reported harsh working conditions and allegations of pay being withheld. Reports indicate that garment workers are recruited by relatives, which can prevent workers from seeking redress. Migrants and undocumented workers are highly vulnerable, for example, Bolivian migrant workers represent most victims of exploitation in Korean owned workshops in Argentina.
Bangladesh
COVID-19 had a large impact on workers in Bangladesh’s garment industry. Interviews and focus group discussions with garment factory workers during the pandemic indicated that workers were forced to complete unpaid overtime and meet high production targets. Respondents to the study indicated that they were not allowed to take breaks and faced verbal abuse while working to produce garments for global fashion brands.

Brazil
News media reported that the number of workers found in situations of modern slavery in Brazil tripled between 2017 and 2018. Repórter Brasil allege that many of Brazil’s fashion companies are failing to prevent labour exploitation and lack transparency in their treatment of garment workers. In 2019, news media reported that two of the largest fashion companies in Brazil were added by the government to the national name and shame list for exploiting garment workers.

China
State-imposed forced labour of Uyghurs and other Turkic and Muslim majority groups is widely reported in the Uyghur region of China by multiple sources. For example, case studies and survivor testimonies highlight accounts of Uyghur and Kazakh peoples being forced to work in garment factories in the Jiangsu Province in the Uyghur region, where they allegedly receive no payment and face threats of re-education if they dispute working conditions. Numerous Withhold Release Orders (WROs) have been issued in the United States banning the import of garments produced in the Uyghur region, following the introduction of the 2021 Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act.

India
The Indian garment sector employs millions of workers in both informal home workshops and formal factory settings. Interviews with workers highlight allegations of routine exploitation in factories supplying major fashion brands, including forced overtime, no breaks, verbal abuse, and poor working conditions. Interviews conducted in 2019 indicate that women and girls are highly susceptible to forced labour. Reports existed of workers, primarily from minority or lower caste groups, working in Northern Indian homes for US$ 15 cents per hour: allegedly ten per cent of workers interviewed were in forced labour and six per cent were in bonded labour. Deception, restriction of movement, physical and sexual violence, withholding wages, debt bondage, among other indicators of exploitation and forced labour have been reported in Tamil Nadu mills supplying large international brands.

Malaysia
An 18-month investigation by Transparentum into Malaysian garment factories, highlighted alleged cases of forced labour of migrant workers. The investigation was conducted at three garment factories, assessing forced labour indicators such as recruitment fees, recruitment related debt, deception, abusive living conditions and lack of grievance mechanisms. Forty-five migrant workers from Bangladesh, Nepal and Indonesia were interviewed for the study, who reported that they had paid recruitment fees ranging from US$745 to US$4,356, with many migrants allegedly having to borrow the money to pay these fees and facing risks of debt bondage.

Vietnam
Firsthand accounts from garment workers in Vietnam reported indicators of forced labour. Additional interviews highlighted that many exploited workers were reportedly women and migrants, often from lower-socio economic groups. Respondents noted widespread intimidation in
the factories, with workers alleging abusive living and working conditions, restricted movement, coercion, psychological threats, and physical harm. The study also used a multi-stage probability sample taken across three prominent garment regions in 2021 and reported an estimated prevalence rate of forced labour at 5.9 per cent.\textsuperscript{64}

\textbf{Gold
Burkina Faso}

An investigation conducted by Associated Press in 2021 reported forced sexual exploitation in Burkina Faso gold mines.\textsuperscript{65} Interviews with 20 Nigerian women, alongside aid workers, local anti-trafficking activists and community members, reported cases of debt bondage and forced commercial sexual exploitation in the growing industry.\textsuperscript{66} Many of these women reported being lured by promises of jobs in shops or salons in Burkina Faso but were sent to pay off debts in poor conditions in or near small-scale mines.

\textbf{Peru}

Workers are reportedly exploited in forced labour at artisanal and small-scale gold mining camps in the Peruvian Amazon. Government data and NGO investigations indicate that miners experience deception, exposure to hazardous work, excessive working hours, bonded labour, and restricted freedom, movement, or communication.\textsuperscript{67} Investigations allege forced sexual exploitation and hazardous child labour also occur in or near illegal gold mines in Peru.\textsuperscript{68}

\textbf{Palm oil
Indonesia}

In 2021, a study by the Forest Peoples Programme reported multiple human rights abuses in the Indonesian palm oil industry linked to the supply chain of some of the world’s largest companies.\textsuperscript{69} Another study by the Fair Labour Association reported that remote locations of plantations, lack of contractual agreements, and limited mobility of workers were drivers of forced labour in the palm oil sector.\textsuperscript{70} The strongest indicators of forced labour allegedly included dependency on employers, low wages, unrealistic production targets, and piece rate payment systems.\textsuperscript{71} To meet production quotas, workers are reportedly incentivised to bring spouses and children to work with them, increasing rates of child labour and exploitation on palm plantations.\textsuperscript{72}

\textbf{Malaysia}

Reports indicate that Malaysia’s palm oil industry is closely linked with the forced labour of migrant workers.\textsuperscript{73} Other research indicates that migrant and undocumented workers from Indonesia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and their children born in Malaysia, are at high risk of exploitation.\textsuperscript{74} There are an estimated 72,000 ‘stateless children’ working on palm oil plantations.\textsuperscript{75} Reports of high recruitment fees, poor living and working conditions, and mistreatment of workers were documented by human rights group Finnwatch in 2021.\textsuperscript{76}

\textbf{Rice
Myanmar}

A survey and semi-structured interviews of 300 low skilled agricultural workers in Myanmar estimated that 11 per cent were allegedly in situations of forced labour in 2020, including those who work in the production of rice.\textsuperscript{77} The report estimates that one in six low skilled workers in Myanmar are in a situation of forced labour due to multiple gaps in the labour protection framework.\textsuperscript{78}
India
NGO reports indicated two families were rescued in 2019 after being trapped in bonded labour for three years on a rice mill in South India. Interviews conducted with the survivors reportedly revealed a situation of debt bondage, where initial loans from the rice mill owner were increased with additional interest and charges, resulting in large debts. Families allegedly faced restrictions to their freedom and movement, coercion, and violence.

Solar Panels
China
A study investigating the solar panel supply chain in China reported evidence of state imposed forced labour of Uyghur men and women. Workers were allegedly unable to refuse to participate and threatened with internment within re-education camps and detention. In June 2021, the US issued an WRO to prevent the import of silica-based products (including solar panels) made by specific companies operating within the Uyghur region.

Sugarcane
Brazil
First-hand accounts and secondary research describe situations of underpayment, excessive workloads, and inadequate and abusive working conditions in Brazil’s sugarcane industry. In early 2021, Brazilian labour inspectors reportedly rescued 67 workers from situations of debt bondage on sugarcane plantations over three states.

Textiles
China
Interviews with Uyghurs and other Turkic and Muslim majority groups indicate these peoples have allegedly been forcibly transferred and made to work in textile factories by state authorities. A report conducted by the Sheffield Hallam University in 2021 indicated that workers in textile factories are initially held in internment or re-education camps. Reports of forced labour in this sector are allegedly facilitated by threats of return to such camps. A review of 525 testimonies of survivors working in the cotton and textile industry in the Uyghur region reported widespread indicators of forced labour alongside extensive human rights abuses. North Korean workers are also allegedly exploited in the textiles industry in the Chinese border city of Dandong. News media reports from 2020 alleged North Korean workers experienced exploitation while working to manufacture PPE for the COVID-19 pandemic, where they were forced to work for up to 18 hours per day, and experienced constant surveillance, withheld wages, and restricted movement.

Timber
Brazil
Reports allege that workers in the Amazon involved in illegal timber logging experience debt bondage and forced labour. Since 1995, over 1,324 workers have reportedly been rescued from slavery in Brazil’s logging industry. An investigation led by Brazil’s Pastoral Land Commission indicated many of these working situations amounted to forced labour, fuelled by physical violence or threats of violence towards exploited workers. News media reports indicated large US brands imported timber from Brazil that was allegedly produced using forced labour. In 2022, studies showed that artificial intelligence and satellite imagery allegedly detected forced labour and exploitation at deforestation sites in the Amazon.
Peru

Illegal logging in Peru is reportedly tied to exploitative recruitment of workers who are deceived into situations of debt bondage by labour intermediaries. The areas at greatest risk of forced labour allegedly include Ucayali, San Martin, and Loreto in the Amazon region, and in Cusco and Puno in the highland’s region. INGOs indicate that Indigenous communities are highly vulnerable to forced labour and families can experience generational debt bondage.

Russia

A 2017 investigation into North Korean forced labour in international supply chains reported that Russia was a primary destination for North Korean workers who allegedly face labour exploitation. The report alleged that thousands of North Korean workers are subjected to mistreatment and abuse in remote logging camps in Russia, including being forced to work excessive hours, with labour contracts lasting for up to five years. These workers reportedly earn less than other migrant workers, and allegedly have a significant portion of their wages withheld by the North Korean regime.


