Modern slavery in Hong Kong
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

Figure 1. Prevalence of modern slavery across Asia and the Pacific

The scale of modern slavery
According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 2.8 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Hong Kong at any point in 2021. In other words, 21,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Hong Kong in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Hong Kong ranks 132nd globally and 22nd within Asia and the Pacific.

Figure 2. Estimated number of people in modern slavery across Asia and the Pacific
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Vulnerability to modern slavery
How vulnerable a country’s people are to modern slavery is dependent on a range of factors which reflect the strength of governance, access to basic needs, inequality, disenfranchised groups, and effects of conflict. On a scale of 0 to 100, with 100 being the highest vulnerability to modern slavery, Hong Kong is rated as 28 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

Figure 3.
Vulnerability of Hong Kong to modern slavery by dimension, compared to the regional average

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Hong Kong scored 32 out of 100 in their response to modern slavery. This places the government’s response below the average regional response. Of the five areas of response assessed (milestones), the government has taken most action on addressing risk factors of modern slavery and least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

Figure 4.
Government of Hong Kong’s responses to modern slavery by milestone, compared with the regional average

Priority Recommendations for the government of Hong Kong

1. Criminalise forced labour in line with international conventions.
2. Criminalise human trafficking in line with international conventions.
3. Increase the legal age of marriage for males and females to 18 years without exceptions.