Modern slavery in India
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

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

India

Low　　　　High
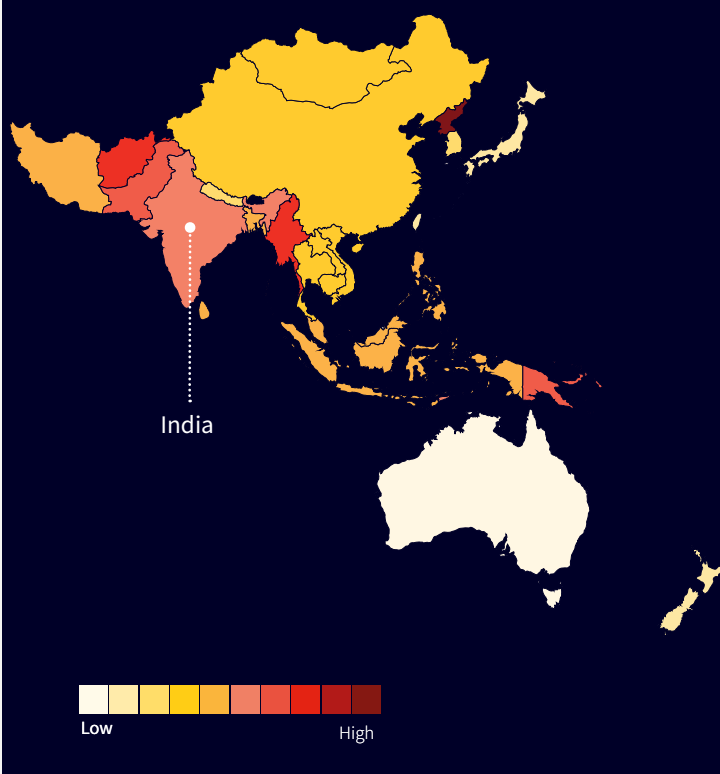
KEY STATS

Population (2021) 1,380,004,385
GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl $) $6,525

8.0
PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY
per 1,000 people

11,050,000
NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

56/100
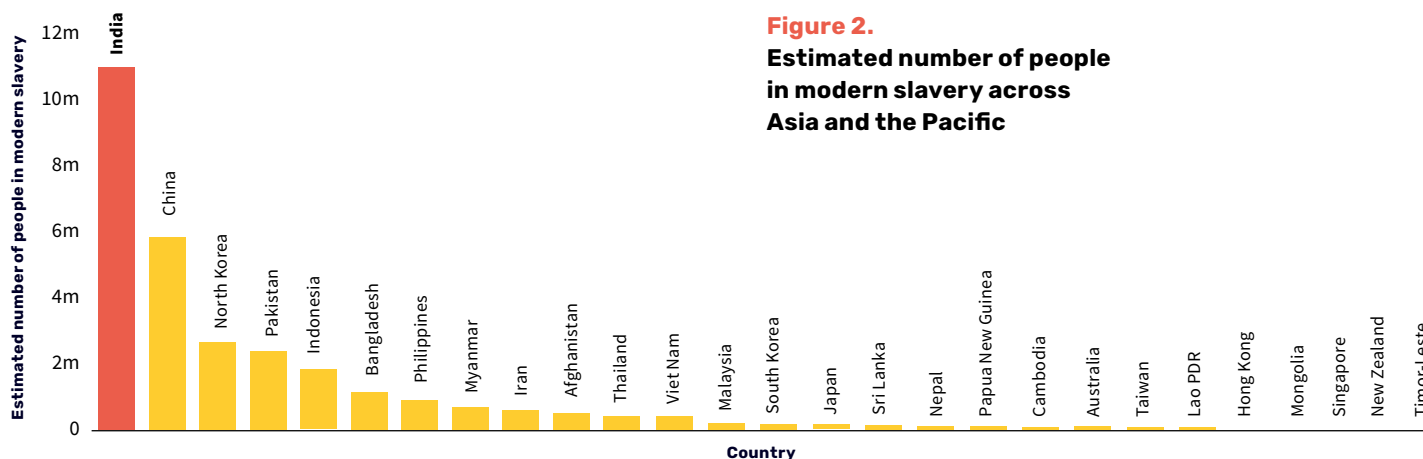**VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY**

46/100
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

The scale of modern slavery

According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 8.0 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in India at any point in 2021. In other words, 11,050,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in India in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, India ranks 34th globally and 6th within Asia and the Pacific.

Figure 2.
Estimated number of people in modern slavery across Asia and the Pacific

Estimated number of people in modern slavery (y-axis): 12m, 10m, 8m, 6m, 4m, 2m, 0

Countries (x-axis): India, China, North Korea, Pakistan, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Philippines, Myanmar, Iran, Afghanistan, Thailand, Viet Nam, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia, Australia, Taiwan, Lao PDR, Hong Kong, Mongolia, Singapore, New Zealand, Timor-Leste
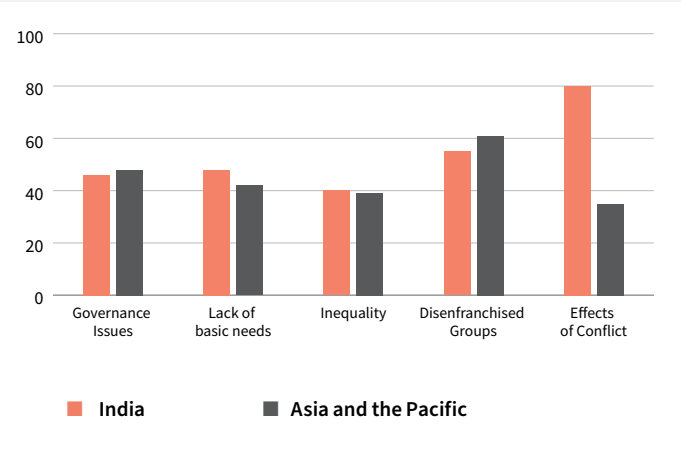
Country

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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, India is rated as 56 and has above average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of effects of conflict.

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

■ India   ■ Asia and the Pacific

THE GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX 2023

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For more information on modern slavery, visit the Global Slavery Index 2023 website.

Government response to modern slavery

The government of India scored 46 out of 100 in their response to modern slavery. This places the government's response above the average regional response. Of the five areas of response assessed (milestones), the government has taken most action on national and regional coordination of the response to modern slavery and least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

Figure 4.
Government of India's responses to modern slavery by milestone, compared with the regional average

■ India   ■ Asia and the Pacific
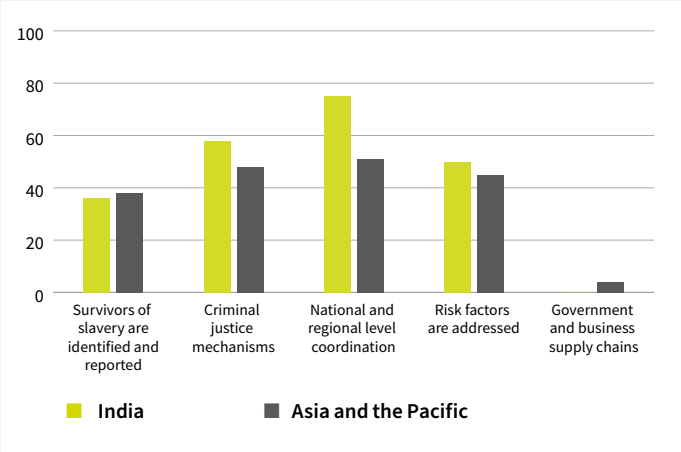
Importing risk of modern slavery

India imported US$23.6 billion worth of goods at-risk of modern slavery. This includes:

Electronics **US$7.8 BILLION**	Palm Oil **US$7.6 BILLION**	Solar panels **US$3.8 BILLION**	Gold **US$3.1 BILLION**	Garments **US$1.3 BILLION**

Priority Recommendations
for the government of India

1 Ensure support services are available for all victims of modern slavery, regardless of gender, age, nationality, or sexuality.

2 Enact legislation recognising that victims should not be treated as criminals for conduct that occurred while under control of their exploiter and ensure the law is enforced.

3 Enact and enforce laws that criminalise corruption in the public sector.