Modern slavery in India
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 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

KEY STATS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population (2021)</th>
<th>1,380,004,385</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl $)</td>
<td>$6,525</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people: 8.0
NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY: 11,050,000

VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY: 56/100
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY: 46/100
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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

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.