Modern slavery in Iran
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

The scale of modern slavery

According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 7.1 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Iran at any point in 2021. In other words, 597,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Iran in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Iran ranks 54th globally and 8th within Asia and the Pacific.

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

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

KEY STATS
- Population (2021): 83,992,953
- GDP per capita, PPP (Current int'l $): $15,791

PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people
7.1

NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY
597,000

VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY
68/100

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY
8/100
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, Iran is rated as 68 and has above average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

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

Government response to modern slavery

The government of Iran scored 8 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 national and regional coordination of the response to modern slavery and least action on identification and support of survivors.

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

Priority Recommendations for the government of Iran

1. Criminalise commercial sexual exploitation of children in line with international conventions.

2. Increase the legal age of marriage for males and females to 18 years without exceptions.

3. 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.