Modern slavery in Nepal
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 3.3 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Nepal at any point in 2021. In other words, 97,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Nepal in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Nepal ranks 121st globally and 21st within Asia and the Pacific.

KEY STATS

| Population (2021) | 29,136,808 |
| GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl $) | $3,997 |

3.3
PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people

97,000
NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

46/100
VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY

45/100
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

The scale of modern slavery

The prevalence and impact of modern slavery in Nepal are significant.

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
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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, Nepal is rated as 46 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of lack of basic needs.

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

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Nepal scored 45 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 Nepal’s responses to modern slavery by milestone, compared with the regional average

Priority Recommendations for the government of Nepal

1. Criminalise forced labour in line with international conventions.
2. Criminalise human trafficking in line with international conventions.
3. Ensure support services are available for all victims of modern slavery, regardless of gender, age, nationality, or sexuality.

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