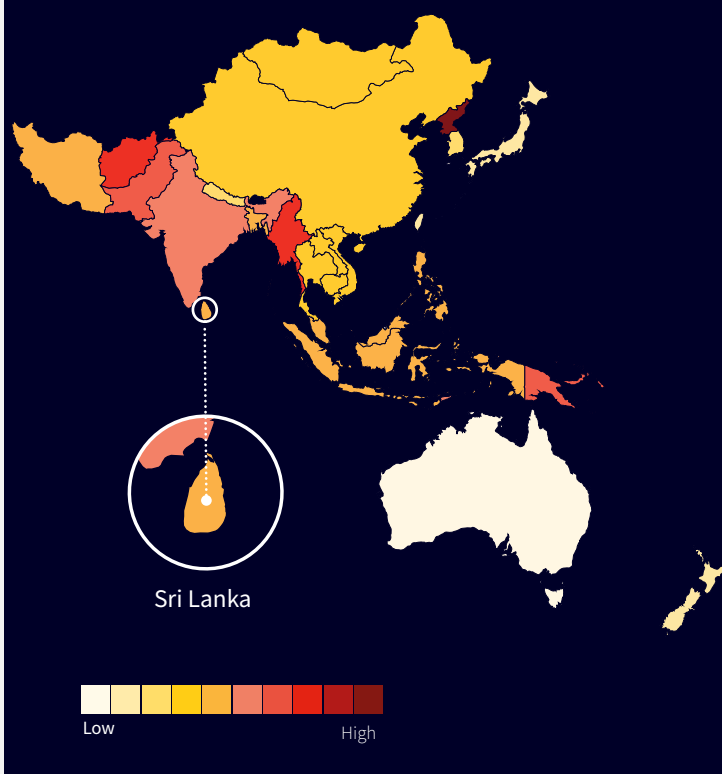


# Modern slavery in Sri Lanka

## Global Slavery Index 2023 Country Snapshot



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



### KEY STATS

**Population (2021)** 21,413,250

**GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl \$)** \$13,227

**6.5**

**PREVALENCE OF  
MODERN SLAVERY**  
per 1,000 people

**139,000**

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING  
IN MODERN SLAVERY**

**56/100**

**VULNERABILITY TO  
MODERN SLAVERY**

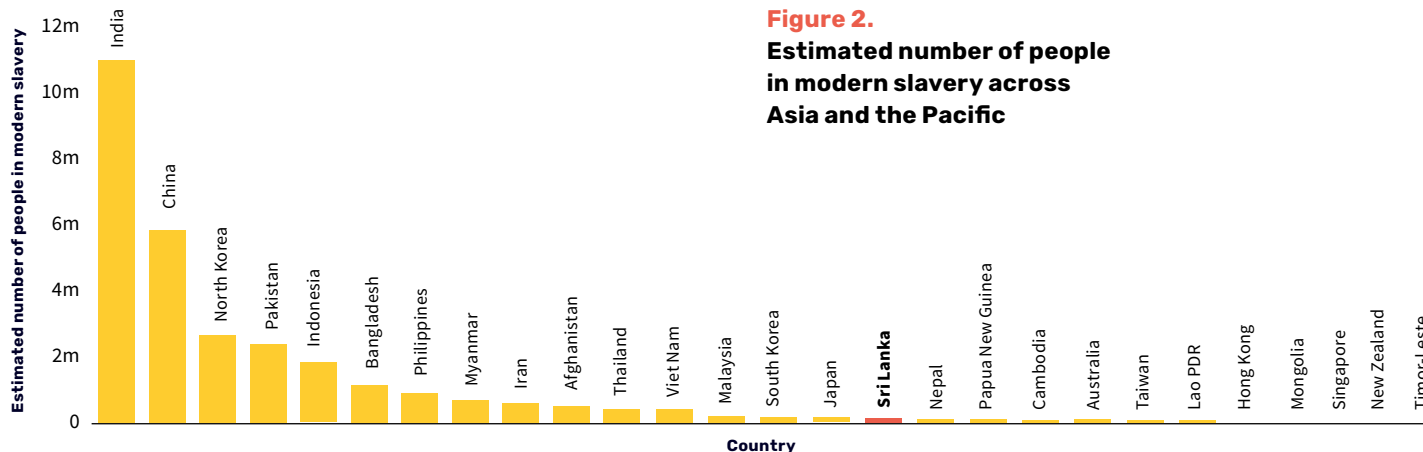
**49/100**

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE  
TO MODERN SLAVERY**

### The scale of modern slavery

According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 6.5 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Sri Lanka at any point in 2021. In other words, 139,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Sri Lanka in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Sri Lanka ranks 68th globally and 11th within Asia and the Pacific.

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



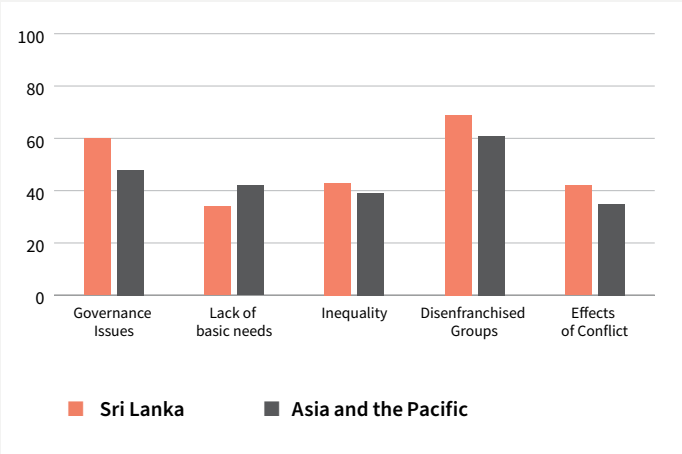
# Modern slavery in Sri Lanka

Global Slavery Index 2023  
Country Snapshot

## 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, Sri Lanka is rated as 56 and has above average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

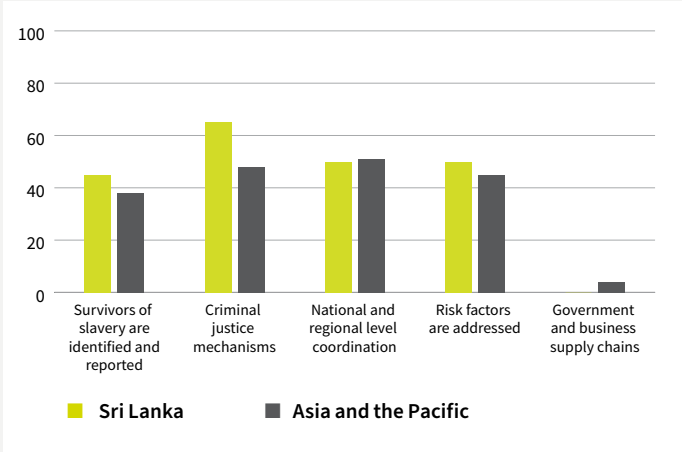
**Figure 3.**  
Vulnerability of Sri Lanka to modern slavery by dimension, compared to the regional average



## Government response to modern slavery

The government of Sri Lanka scored 49 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 effective criminal justice mechanisms and least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

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



### Priority Recommendations for the government of Sri Lanka

1

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

2

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

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.

### THE GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX 2023

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

