Modern slavery in Timor-Leste
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 6.1 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Timor-Leste at any point in 2021. In other words, 8,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Timor-Leste in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Timor-Leste ranks 75th globally and 13th 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></th>
<th>Population (2021)</th>
<th>GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl $)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,318,442</td>
<td>$4,141</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people</th>
<th>NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>8,000</td>
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<th>VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY</th>
<th>GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>51/100</td>
<td>35/100</td>
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</table>
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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, Timor-Leste is rated as 51 and has above average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

**Figure 3. Vulnerability of Timor-Leste to modern slavery by dimension, compared to the regional average**

**Government response to modern slavery**
The government of Timor-Leste scored 35 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 addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

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

**Priority Recommendations for the government of Timor-Leste**

1. **Criminalise forced labour in line with international conventions.**
2. **Criminalise commercial sexual exploitation of children in line with international conventions.**
3. **Increase the legal age of marriage for males and females to 18 years without exceptions.**

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