Modern slavery in Benin
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

The scale of modern slavery
According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 3.0 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Benin at any point in 2021. In other words, 37,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Benin in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Benin ranks 127th globally and 38th within Africa.

KEY STATS
Population (2021) 12,123,198
GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl $) $3,505

3.0
PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people
37,000
NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

48/100
VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY
40/100
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

The estimated number of people living in modern slavery across Africa is shown in Figure 2.
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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, Benin is rated as 48 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

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

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Benin scored 40 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 the least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

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

Priority Recommendations for the government of Benin

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. Develop and promote the use of clear national guidelines for identifying and screening victims for all first responders.

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