Modern slavery in Botswana
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

The scale of modern slavery
According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 1.8 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Botswana at any point in 2021. In other words, 4,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Botswana in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Botswana ranks 143rd globally and 48th within Africa.

KEY STATS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Population (2021)</th>
<th>2,351,625</th>
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<tr>
<td>GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl $)</td>
<td>$15,471</td>
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| PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people | 1.8 |
| NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY | 4,000 |
| VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY | 45/100 |
| GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY | 42/100 |

Figure 1. Estimated prevalence of modern slavery across Africa

Figure 2. Estimated number of people living in modern slavery across Africa
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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, Botswana is rated as 45 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of inequality.

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

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Botswana scored 42 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 the least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

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

Priority Recommendations for the government of Botswana

1. Criminalise commercial sexual exploitation of children in line with international conventions.
2. Amend the Marriage Act 2001 to apply to religious and customary marriages, to ensure that the minimum age of marriage is 18 with no exception.
3. Ensure that support services are available for all victims of modern slavery, regardless of gender, age, nationality, or sexuality, and that victims are not held against their will in shelters.