Modern slavery in Burkina Faso
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

The scale of modern slavery
According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 3.7 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Burkina Faso at any point in 2021. In other words, 77,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Burkina Faso in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Burkina Faso ranks 115th globally and 33rd within Africa.

Figure 2.
Estimated number of people living in modern slavery across Africa

Figure 1.
Estimated prevalence of modern slavery across Africa

KEY STATS

Population (2021) 20,903,278
GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl $) $2,274

3.7
PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people

77,000
NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

56/100
VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY

36/100
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY
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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, Burkina Faso is rated as 56 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of effects of conflict.

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

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Burkina Faso scored 36 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 identification and support of survivors and the least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

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

Priority Recommendations for the government of Burkina Faso

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.

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