Modern slavery in Burundi
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

The scale of modern slavery
According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 7.5 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Burundi at any point in 2021. In other words, 89,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Burundi in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Burundi ranks 47th globally and 8th within Africa.

KEY STATS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (2021)</td>
<td>11,890,781</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP per capita, PPP</td>
<td>$771</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevalence of modern slavery</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people living in modern slavery</td>
<td>89,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerability to modern slavery</td>
<td>77/100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government response to modern slavery</td>
<td>29/100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Estimated prevalence of modern slavery across Africa

Figure 2. Estimated number of people living in modern slavery across Africa
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, Burundi is rated as 77 and has above average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of governance issues.

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

Government response to modern slavery

The government of Burundi scored 29 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 the least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

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

Priority Recommendations for the government of Burundi

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. **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.**