Modern slavery in Gambia
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

The scale of modern slavery

According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 6.5 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Gambia at any point in 2021. In other words, 16,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Gambia in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Gambia ranks 66th globally and 12th within Africa.

KEY STATS

| Population (2021) | 2,416,664 |
| GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl $) | $2,277 |

| PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people | 6.5 |
| NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY | 16,000 |

| VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY | 58/100 |
| GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY | 36/100 |

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, Gambia is rated as 58 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of governance issues.

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

Government response to modern slavery

The government of Gambia 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 effective criminal justice systems and the least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

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

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

Priority Recommendations for the government of Gambia

1. Criminalise forced labour in line with international conventions.
2. Increase the legal age of marriage for males and females to 18 years without exceptions.
3. Regularly conduct labour inspections to identify modern slavery and ensure there is a sufficient number of labour inspectors to inspect all high-risk workplaces across the country.