Modern slavery in Malawi
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

The scale of modern slavery

According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 4.9 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Malawi at any point in 2021. In other words, 93,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Malawi in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Malawi ranks 92nd globally and 22nd within Africa.

KEY STATS

Population (2021) 19,129,955
GDP per capita, PPP (Current int'l $) $1,591

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevalence of Modern Slavery per 1,000 people</th>
<th>Number of People Living in Modern Slavery</th>
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<tr>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>93,000</td>
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Vulnerability to Modern Slavery

Government Response to Modern Slavery

High

Low

55/100

38/100

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, Malawi is rated as 55 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

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

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Malawi scored 38 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 identification and support of survivors and the least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

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

Priority Recommendations for the government of Malawi
1. Criminalise commercial sexual exploitation of children in line with international conventions.
2. Ensure support services are available for all victims of modern slavery, regardless of gender, age, nationality, or sexuality.
3. Investigate and prosecute cases of public corruption and complicity in modern slavery cases.