Modern slavery in Mauritius

Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

The scale of modern slavery

According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 1.5 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Mauritius at any point in 2021. In other words, 2,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Mauritius in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Mauritius ranks 150th globally and 50th within Africa.

KEY STATS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population (2021)</th>
<th>1,271,767</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl $)</td>
<td>$20,529</td>
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</table>

1.5

PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people

2,000

NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

20/100

VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY

36/100

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

The estimated number of people living in modern slavery across Africa is 2.0 million. Mauritius is highlighted on the map with a prevalence of 1.5 per 1,000 people, ranking 150th globally and 50th within 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, Mauritius is rated as 20 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

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

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

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

Priority Recommendations for the government of Mauritius

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. Remove laws or policies that prevent or make it difficult for workers to leave abusive employers without risking loss of their visa, deportation, and/or loss of security deposits.

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