Modern slavery in Niger
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

The scale of modern slavery
According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 4.6 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Niger at any point in 2021. In other words, 112,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Niger in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Niger ranks 95th globally and 23rd within Africa.

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, Niger is rated as 76 and has above average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of governance issues.

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

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Niger scored 37 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 effective criminal justice mechanisms and the least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

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

Priority Recommendations for the government of Niger

1. Criminalise the use of children in armed conflict and ensure that laws are enforced and offenders are given proportionate sentences.
2. Continue eradicating the practice of Wahaya by supporting the empowerment of women and girls through community empowerment programming and by mainstreaming women’s rights into national strategies to combat child and forced marriage.
3. Strengthen legislation to criminalise the use of children in armed conflict and remove legal loopholes that allow children to voluntarily join armed forces.

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