Modern slavery in Republic of the Congo
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

The scale of modern slavery

According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 8.0 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Republic of the Congo at any point in 2021. In other words, 44,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Republic of the Congo in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Republic of the Congo ranks 38th globally and 4th within Africa.

KEY STATS

Population (2021) 5,518,092
GDP per capita, PPP (Current int'l $) $3,689

8.0
PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people

44,000
NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

77/100
VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY

28/100
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

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, Republic of the Congo is rated as 77 and has above average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of governance issues.

**Figure 3.** Vulnerability of Republic of the Congo to modern slavery by dimension, compared to the regional average

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**Government response to modern slavery**

The government of Republic of the Congo scored 28 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 identification and support of survivors and the least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

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

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**Priority Recommendations for the government of Republic of the Congo**

1. Criminalise forced labour in line with international conventions.
2. Criminalise commercial sexual exploitation of children in line with international conventions.
3. Increase the legal age of marriage for males and females to 18 years without exceptions.