Modern slavery in Sierra Leone
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

The scale of modern slavery
According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 3.4 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Sierra Leone at any point in 2021. In other words, 27,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Sierra Leone in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Sierra Leone ranks 118th globally and 35th within Africa.

KEY STATS

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (2021)</td>
<td>7,976,985</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl $)</td>
<td>$1,727</td>
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<tr>
<td>PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people</td>
<td>3.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY</td>
<td>27,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY</td>
<td>55/100</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY</td>
<td>33/100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Sierra Leone scored 33 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 Sierra Leone’s responses to modern slavery by milestone, compared with the regional average

Priority Recommendations for the government of Sierra Leone

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. Ensure support services are available for all victims of modern slavery, regardless of gender, age, nationality, or sexuality.

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