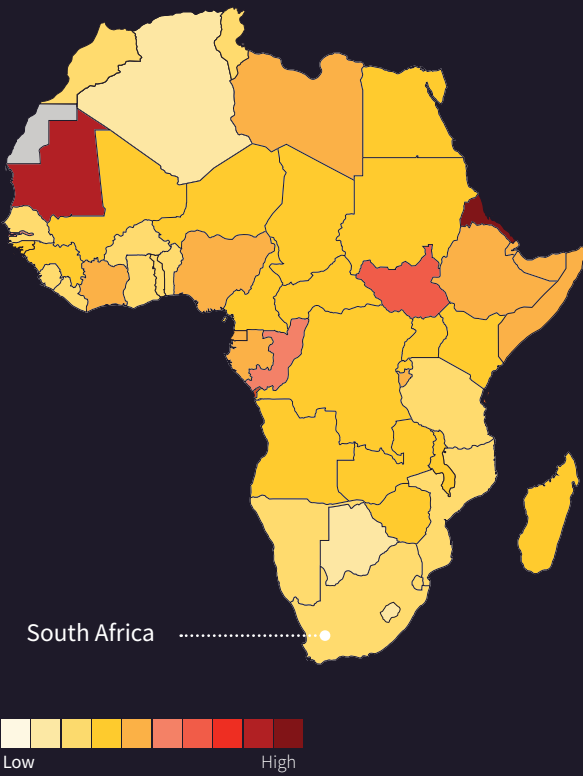


Modern slavery in South Africa

Global Slavery Index 2023 Country Snapshot



Figure 1.
Estimated prevalence of modern slavery across Africa



KEY STATS

Population (2021) 59,308,690

GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl \$) \$13,359

2.7

PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY
per 1,000 people

158,000

NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

52/100

VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY

53/100

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

The scale of modern slavery

According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 2.7 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in South Africa at any point in 2021. In other words, 158,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in South Africa in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, South Africa ranks 133rd globally and 43rd within Africa.

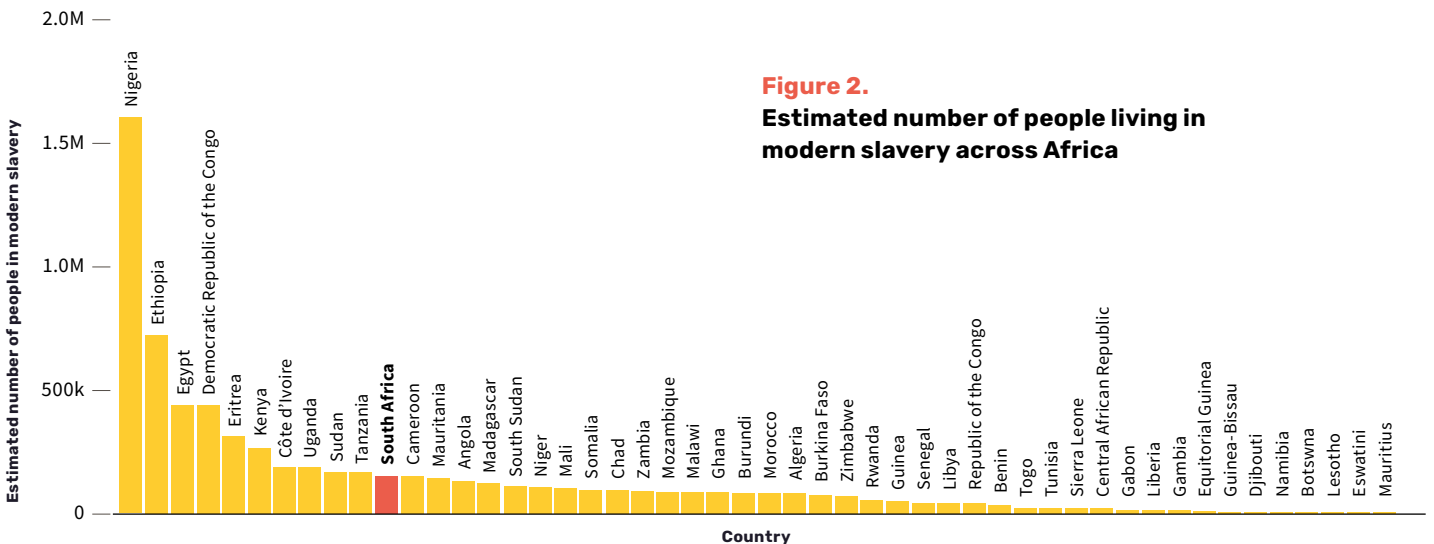


Figure 2.
Estimated number of people living in modern slavery across Africa

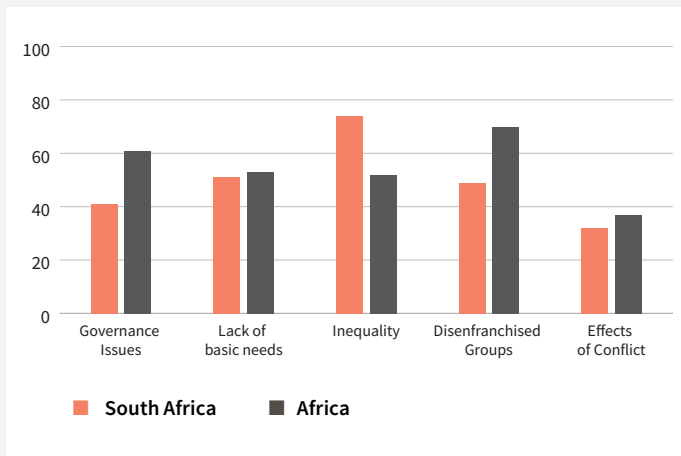
Modern slavery in South Africa

Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

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, South Africa is rated as 52 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of inequality.

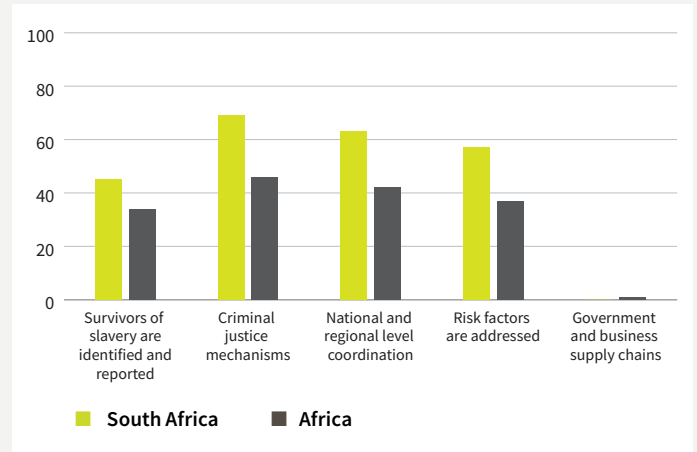
Figure 2.
Vulnerability of South Africa to modern slavery by dimension, compared to the regional average



Government response to modern slavery

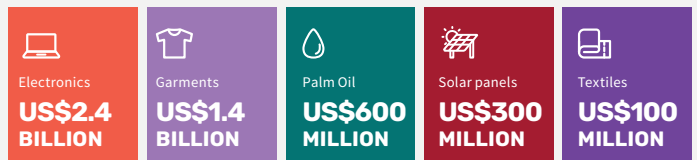
The government of South Africa scored 53 out of 100 in their response to modern slavery. This places the government's response above the average regional response. Of the five areas of response assessed (milestones), the government has taken most action on effective criminal justice mechanisms and least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

Figure 3.
Government of South Africa's responses to modern slavery by milestone, compared with the regional average



Importing risk of modern slavery

South Africa imported US \$4.8 billion worth of goods at-risk of modern slavery. This includes:



Priority Recommendations for the government of South Africa

- 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.

THE GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX 2023

WALK FREE

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