

Modern slavery in Costa Rica

Global Slavery Index 2023 Country Snapshot



Figure 1.
Prevalence of modern slavery
across the Americas



KEY STATS

Population (2021) 5,094,114

GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl \$) \$22,244

3.2

**PREVALENCE OF
MODERN SLAVERY**
per 1,000 people

16,000

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING
IN MODERN SLAVERY**

24/100

**VULNERABILITY TO
MODERN SLAVERY**

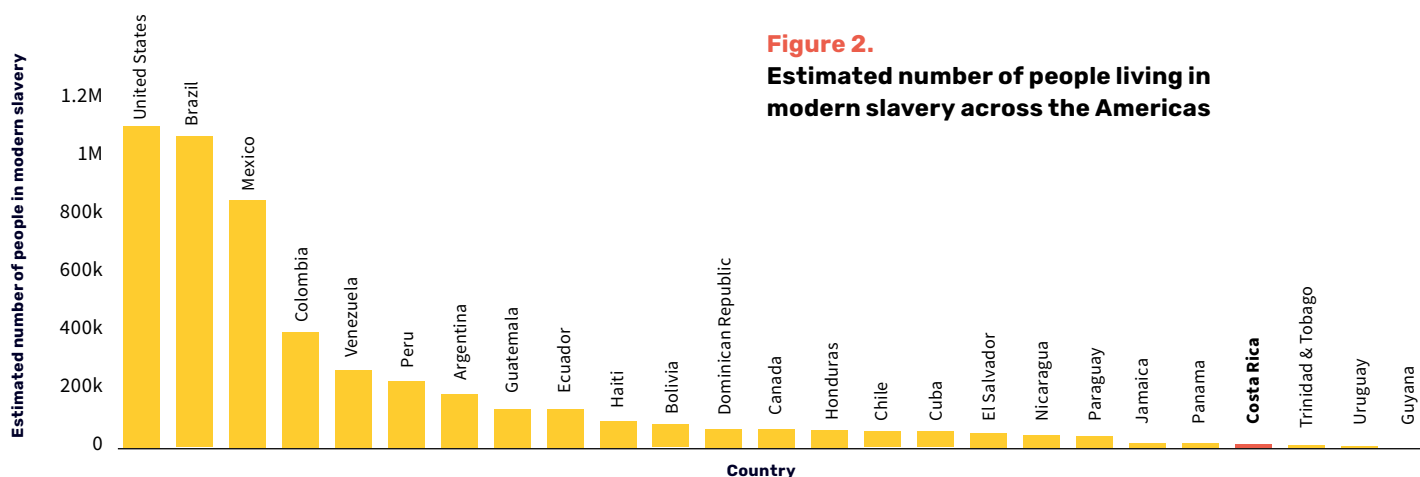
51/100

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE
TO MODERN SLAVERY**

The scale of modern slavery

According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 3.2 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Costa Rica at any point in 2021. In other words, 16,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Costa Rica in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Costa Rica ranks 124th globally and 22nd within the Americas.

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



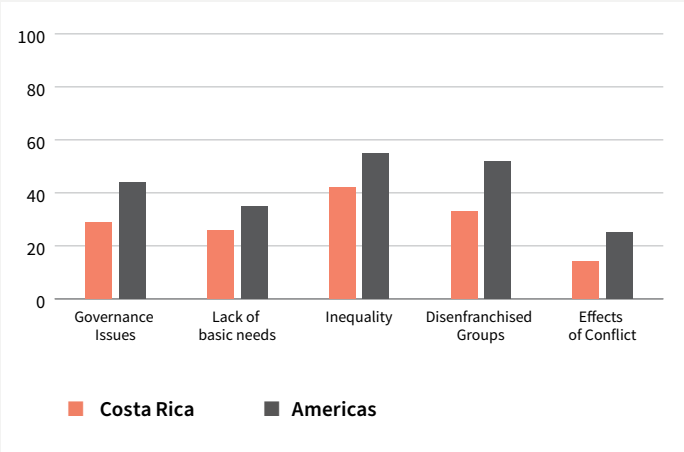
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Vulnerability to modern slavery

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 to modern slavery, Costa Rica is rated as 24 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of inequality.

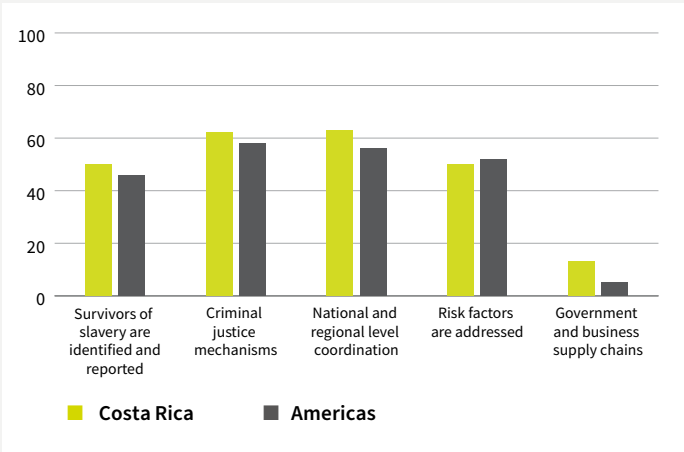
Figure 3.
Vulnerability of Costa Rica to modern slavery by dimension, compared to the regional average



Government response to modern slavery

The government of Costa Rica scored 51 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 national and regional coordination of the response to modern slavery and least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

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



Priority Recommendations for the government of Costa Rica

1

Criminalise human trafficking in line with international conventions.

2

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

3

Develop and promote the use of clear national guidelines for identifying and screening victims for all first responders.

