

Modern slavery in El Salvador

Global Slavery Index 2023 Country Snapshot



Figure 1.
Prevalence of modern slavery across the Americas



KEY STATS

Population (2021) 6,486,201

GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl \$) \$8,420

8.1

PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY
per 1,000 people

52,000

NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

52/100

VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY

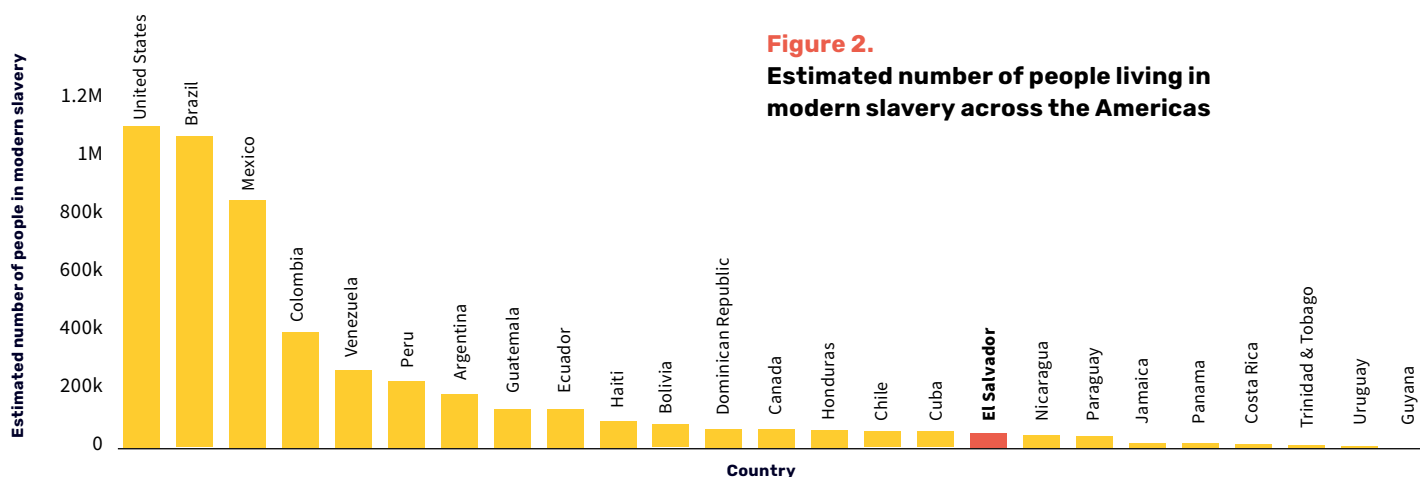
45/100

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

The scale of modern slavery

According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 8.1 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in El Salvador at any point in 2021. In other words, 52,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in El Salvador in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, El Salvador ranks 31st globally and 3rd within the Americas.

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



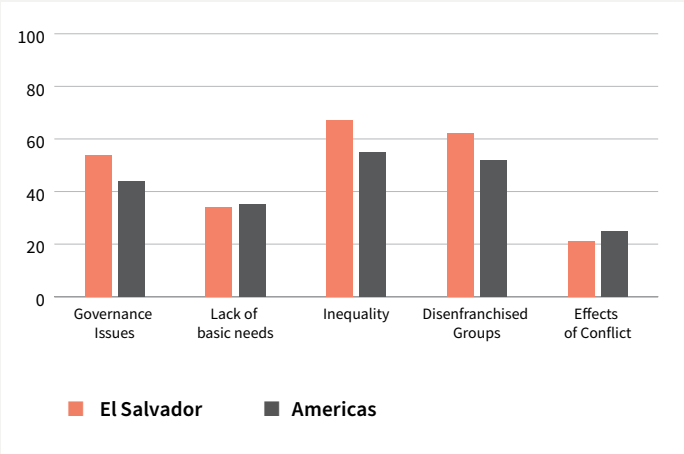
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Vulnerability to modern slavery

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, El Salvador is rated as 52 and has above average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of inequality.

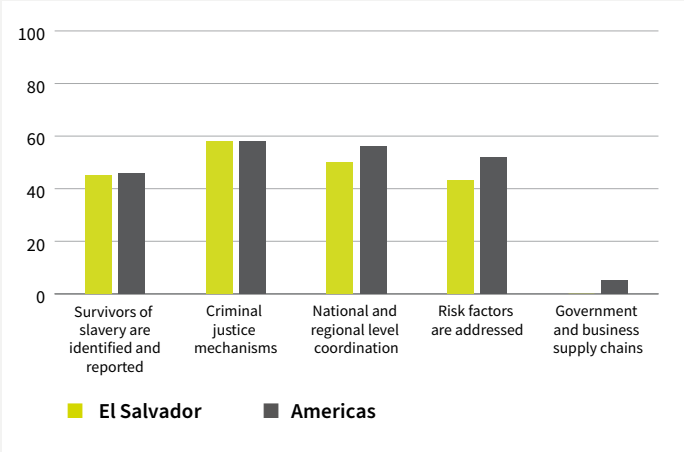
Figure 3.
Vulnerability of El Salvador to modern slavery by dimension, compared to the regional average



Government response to modern slavery

The government of El Salvador scored 45 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 least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

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



Priority Recommendations for the government of El Salvador

1

Criminalise forced labour 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

Enact legislation recognising that victims should not be treated as criminals for conduct that occurred while under control of their exploiter and ensure the law is enforced.

