

# Modern slavery in Jamaica

## Global Slavery Index 2023 Country Snapshot



**Figure 1.**  
Prevalence of modern slavery  
across the Americas



### KEY STATS

**Population (2021)** 2,961,161

**GDP per capita, PPP (Current intl \$)** \$9,241

**7.3**

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

**22,000**

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING  
IN MODERN SLAVERY**

**45/100**

**VULNERABILITY TO  
MODERN SLAVERY**

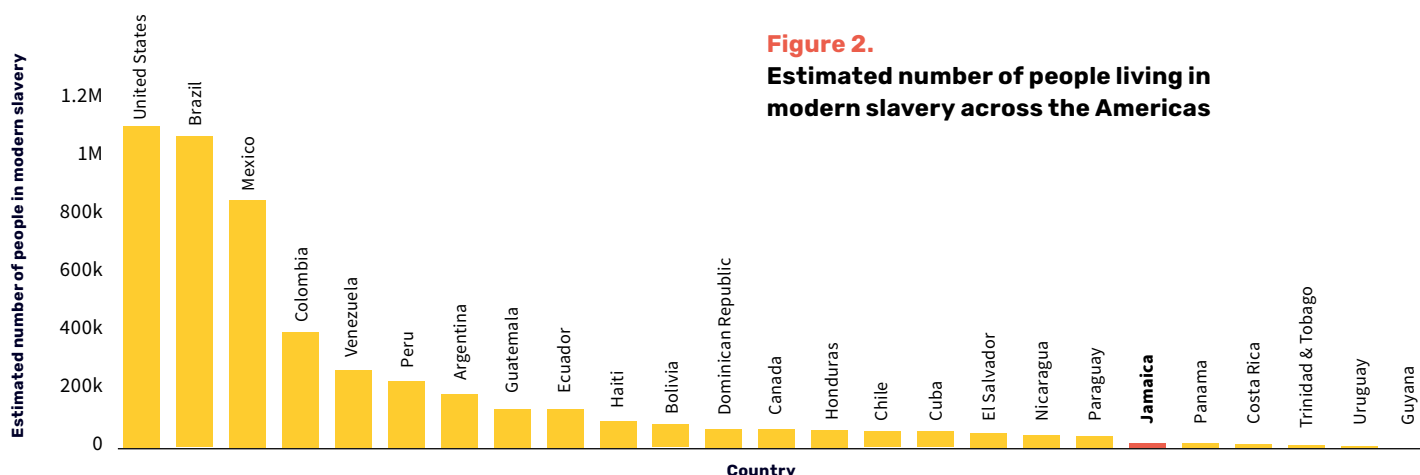
**51/100**

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE  
TO MODERN SLAVERY**

### The scale of modern slavery

According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 7.3 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Jamaica at any point in 2021. In other words, 22,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Jamaica in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Jamaica ranks 51st globally and 8th within the Americas.

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



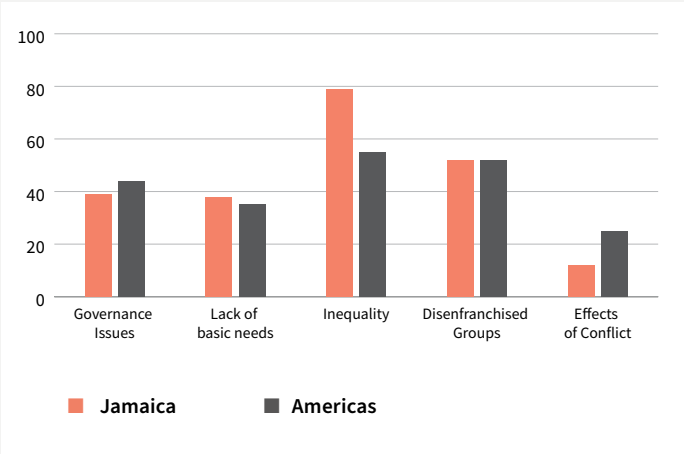
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## Vulnerability to modern slavery

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, Jamaica is rated as 45 and has above average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of inequality.

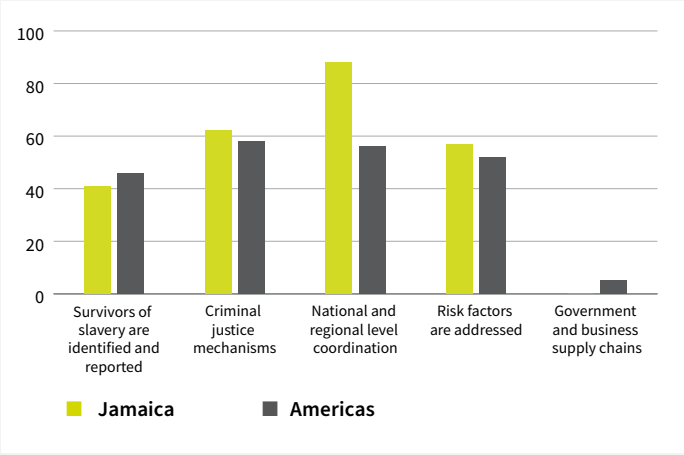
**Figure 3.**  
Vulnerability of Jamaica to modern slavery by dimension, compared to the regional average



## Government response to modern slavery

The government of Jamaica 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 Jamaica’s responses to modern slavery by milestone, compared with the regional average



### Priority Recommendations for the government of Jamaica

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.

