Modern slavery in Bahrain
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

KEY STATS
Population (2021) 1,701,583
GDP per capita, PPP (Current Intl $) $43,821

6.7
PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people

11,000
NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

40/100
VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY

55/100
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

The scale of modern slavery
According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 6.7 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Bahrain at any point in 2021. In other words, 11,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Bahrain in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Bahrain ranks 61st globally and 8th within the Arab States.
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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, Bahrain is rated as 40 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

Figure 3.
Vulnerability of Bahrain to modern slavery by dimension of vulnerability, compared to the regional average

![Graph showing vulnerability of Bahrain to modern slavery by dimension of vulnerability, compared to the regional average.]

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Bahrain scored 55 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 identification and support of survivors and the least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

Figure 4.
Response of the government of Bahrain to modern slavery by government response milestone, compared with the regional average

Priority Recommendations for the government of Bahrain:

1. Remove laws or policies that prevent or make it difficult for workers to leave abusive employers without risking loss of their visa, deportation, and/or loss of security deposits.

2. Criminalise forced labour in line with international conventions.

3. Criminalise commercial sexual exploitation of children in line with international conventions.

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