Modern slavery in Kuwait

Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

Figure 1. Prevalence of modern slavery across the Arab States

KEY STATS

- Population (2021): 4,270,563
- GDP per capita, PPP (Current Intl $): $47,303

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevalence of Modern Slavery per 1,000 people</th>
<th>Number of People Living in Modern Slavery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>55,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vulnerability to Modern Slavery</th>
<th>Government Response to Modern Slavery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39/100</td>
<td>37/100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The scale of modern slavery

According to the Global Slavery Index 2023, an estimated 13.0 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Kuwait at any point in 2021. In other words, 55,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Kuwait in 2020. Kuwait ranks 10th globally and 3rd within the Arab States.

Figure 2. Estimated number of people in modern slavery across the Arab States
Modern slavery in Kuwait
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 to modern slavery, Kuwait is rated as 39 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

Government response to modern slavery

The government of Kuwait scored 37 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 national and regional coordination of the response to modern slavery and the least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

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

Priority Recommendations for the government of Kuwait:

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.