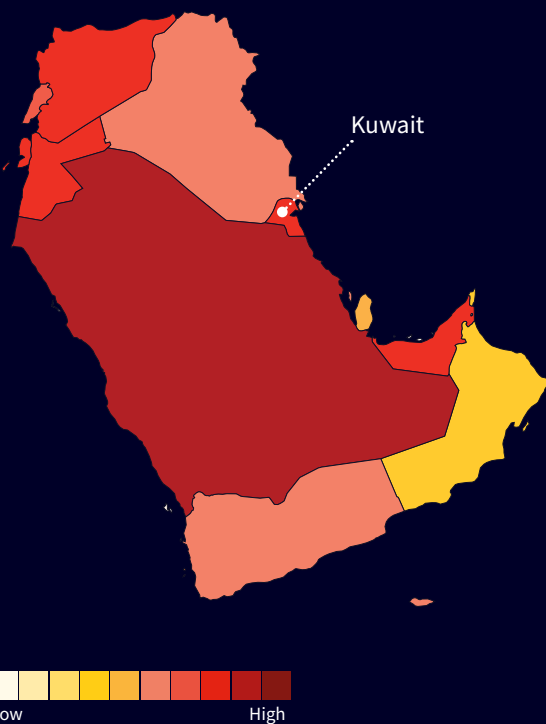# Modern slavery in Kuwait

Global Slavery Index 2023 Country Snapshot

WALK FREE

Figure 1.
Prevalence of modern slavery across the Arab States

Kuwait

Low — High

KEY STATS

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

13.0
PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY
per 1,000 people

55,000
NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY
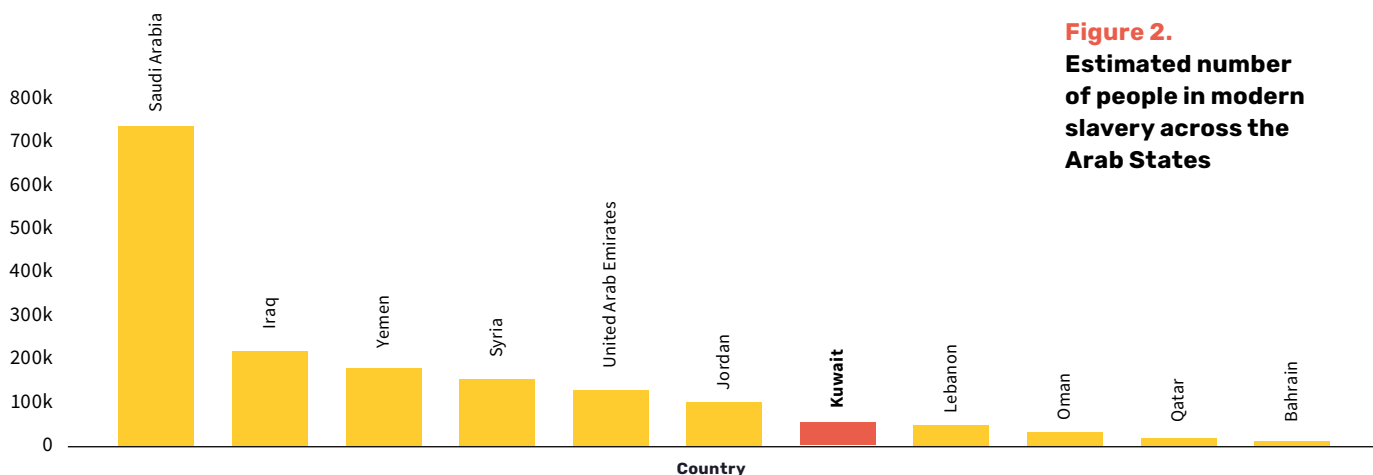
39/100
VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY

37/100
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

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

Estimated number of people in modern slavery

800k
700k
600k
500k
400k
300k
200k
100k
0

Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Yemen, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, **Kuwait**, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain

Country

Modern slavery in Kuwait

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.
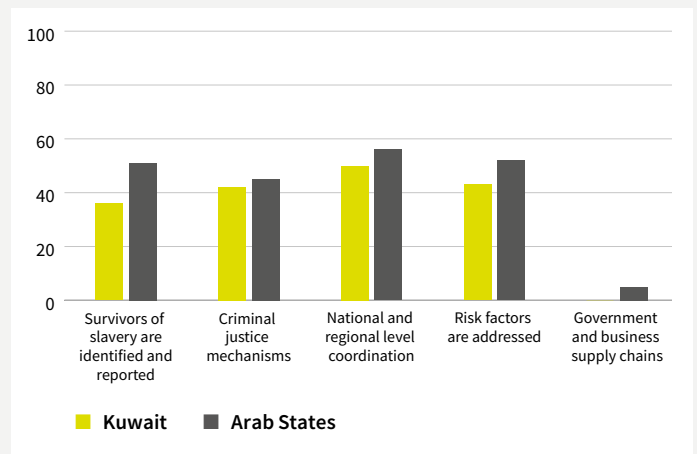
Figure 3.

Vulnerability of Kuwait to modern slavery by dimension of vulnerability, compared to the regional average
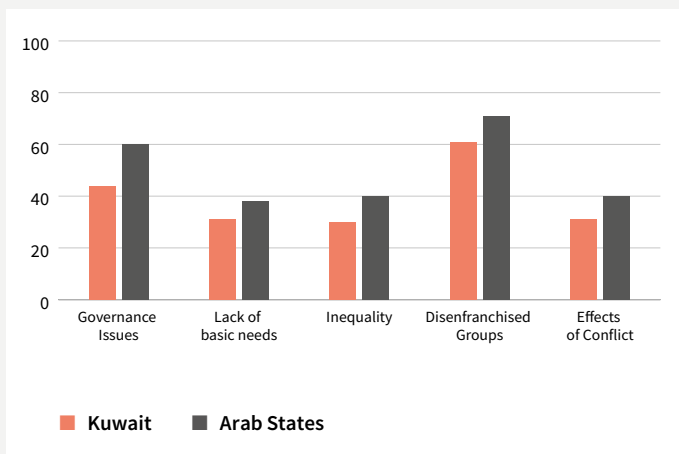
Government response to modern slavery

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

THE GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX 2023

WALK FREE

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

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.