Modern slavery in Oman
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

Figure 1.
Prevalence of modern slavery across the Arab States

KEY STATS

| Population (2021) | 5,106,622 |
| GDP per capita, PPP (Current Intl $) | $31,118 |

| 6.5 | 33,000 |
| PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people | NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY |

| 40/100 | 38/100 |
| VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY | GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY |

The scale of modern slavery

According to the Global Slavery Index 2023, an estimated 6.5 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Oman at any point in 2021. In other words, 33,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Oman in 2020. Oman ranks 67th globally and 9th within the Arab States.

Figure 2.
Estimated number of people in modern slavery across 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, Oman is rated as 40 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

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

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Oman scored 38 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 the most action on national and regional coordination of the response to modern slavery and addressing risk factors of modern slavery, and the least action on government and business supply chains.

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

Priority Recommendations for the government of Oman:

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 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.