

Modern slavery in Saudi Arabia

Global Slavery Index 2023 Country Snapshot



Figure 1.
Prevalence of modern slavery across the Arab States



KEY STATS

Population (2021) 34,813,867

GDP per capita, PPP (Current Intl \$) \$46,778

21.3

PREVALENCE OF
MODERN SLAVERY
per 1,000 people

740,000

NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING
IN MODERN SLAVERY

53/100

VULNERABILITY TO
MODERN SLAVERY

49/100

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE
TO MODERN SLAVERY

The scale of modern slavery

According to the Global Slavery Index 2023, an estimated 21.3 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Saudi Arabia at any point in 2021. In other words, 740,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Saudi Arabia in 2020. Saudi Arabia ranks 4th globally and 1st within the Arab States.

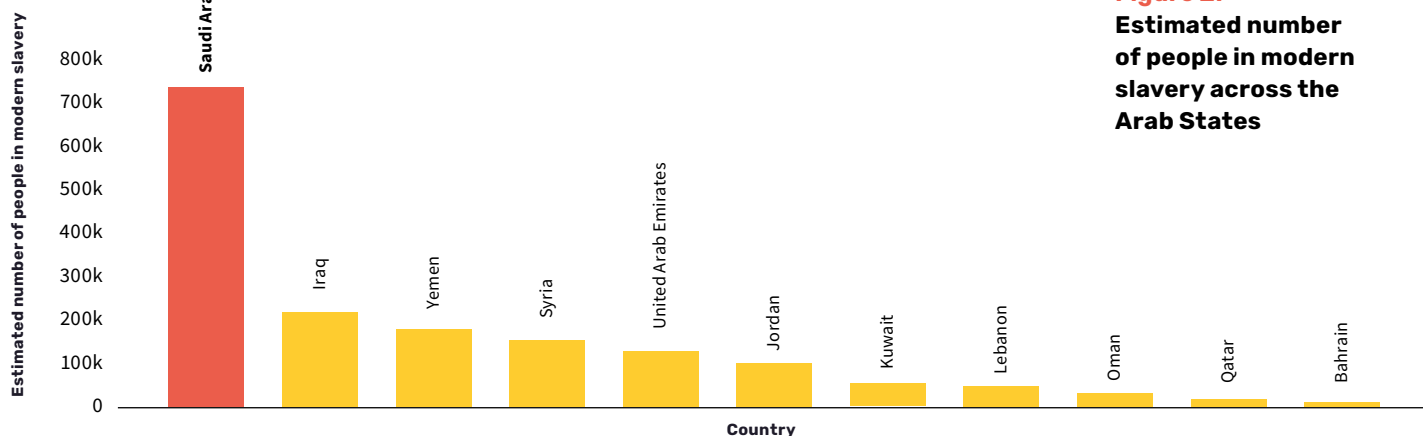


Figure 2.
Estimated number of people in modern slavery across the Arab States

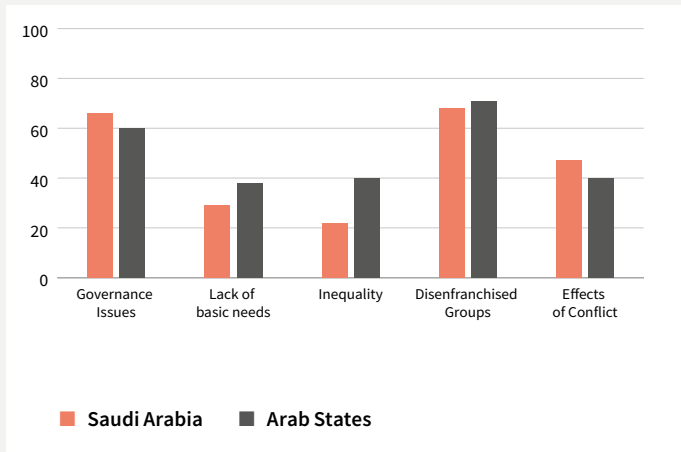
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Vulnerability to modern slavery

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, Saudi Arabia is rated as 53 and has below average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

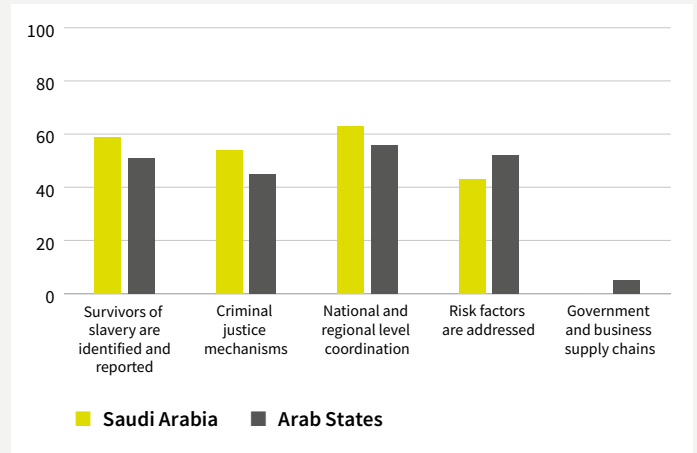
Figure 3.
Vulnerability of Saudi Arabia to modern slavery by dimension of vulnerability, compared to the regional average



Government response to modern slavery

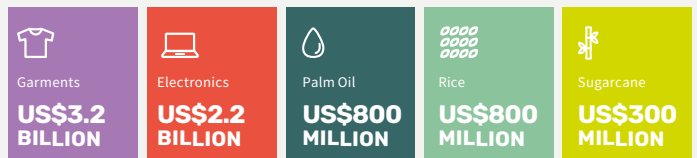
The government of Saudi Arabia scored 49 out of 100 in their response to modern slavery. This places the government's response above the average regional response. Of the five areas of response assessed (milestones), the government has taken most action on national and regional coordination of the response to modern slavery and the least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

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



Importing risk of modern slavery

Saudi Arabia imported US \$7.4 billion worth of goods at-risk of modern slavery. This includes:



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 Saudi Arabia:

- 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 Increase the legal age of marriage for males and females to 18 years without exceptions.