**Modern slavery in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

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**KEY STATS**

| Population (2021) | 3,280,815 |
| GDP per capita, PPP (Current Intl $) | $15,598 |

| PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people | 10.1 |
| NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY | 33,000 |
| VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY | 36/100 |
| GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY | 58/100 |

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The scale of modern slavery

According to the 2023 Global Slavery Index, an estimated 10.1 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Bosnia and Herzegovina at any point in 2021. In other words, 33,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2021. In terms of prevalence of modern slavery, Bosnia and Herzegovina ranks 22nd globally and 11th within Europe and Central Asia.
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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, Bosnia and Herzegovina is rated as 36 and has above average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

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

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Bosnia and Herzegovina scored 58 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina to modern slavery by government response milestone, compared with the regional average

Priority Recommendations for the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina:

1. Criminalise forced labour in line with international conventions.
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.

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