Modern slavery in Moldova
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

Figure 1. Prevalence of modern slavery across Europe and Central Asia

KEY STATS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stat</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population (2021)</td>
<td>4,033,963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP per capita, PPP (Current Intl $)</td>
<td>$12,942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence of modern slavery per 1,000 people</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people living in modern slavery</td>
<td>38,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerability to modern slavery</td>
<td>36/100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government response to modern slavery</td>
<td>47/100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The scale of modern slavery

According to the Global Slavery Index 2023, an estimated 9.5 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Moldova at any point in 2021. In other words, 38,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Moldova in 2021. Moldova ranks 25th globally and 12th within Europe and Central Asia.

Figure 2. Estimated number of people in modern slavery across Europe and Central Asia

Estimated number of people in modern slavery

Russia 2.1M
Ukraine 1.8M
Poland 1.5M
Italy 1.2M
Romania 900k
Georgia 600k
Moldova 300k

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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, the level of inequality, disenfranchised groups, and effects of conflict. On a scale of 0 to 100, with 100 being the highest vulnerability to modern slavery, Moldova is rated as 36 and has above average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

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

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Moldova scored 47 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 3. Vulnerability of Moldova to modern slavery by dimension of vulnerability, compared to the regional average

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

Priority Recommendations for the government of Moldova:

1. Criminalise commercial sexual exploitation of children in line with international conventions.
2. Increase the legal age of marriage for males and females to 18 years without exceptions.
3. Enforce legislation recognising that victims should not be treated as criminals for conduct that occurred while under control of their exploiter.