Modern slavery in North Macedonia

Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

KEY STATS

| Population (2021) | 2,083,380 |
| GDP per capita, PPP (Current Intl $) | $16,720 |

12.6
PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY
per 1,000 people

26,000
NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

38/100
VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY

58/100
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

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 North Macedonia at any point in 2021. In other words, 38,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in North Macedonia in 2021. North Macedonia ranks 12th globally and 5th 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, 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, North Macedonia is rated as 38 and has above average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

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

**Government response to modern slavery**
The government of North Macedonia 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 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 North Macedonia to modern slavery by government response milestone, compared with the regional average

**Priority Recommendations for the government of North Macedonia:**

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

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

3. **Ensure support services are available for all victims of modern slavery, regardless of gender, age, nationality, or sexuality.**