Modern slavery in Turkmenistan
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

WALK FREE

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

Turkmenistan

Low — High
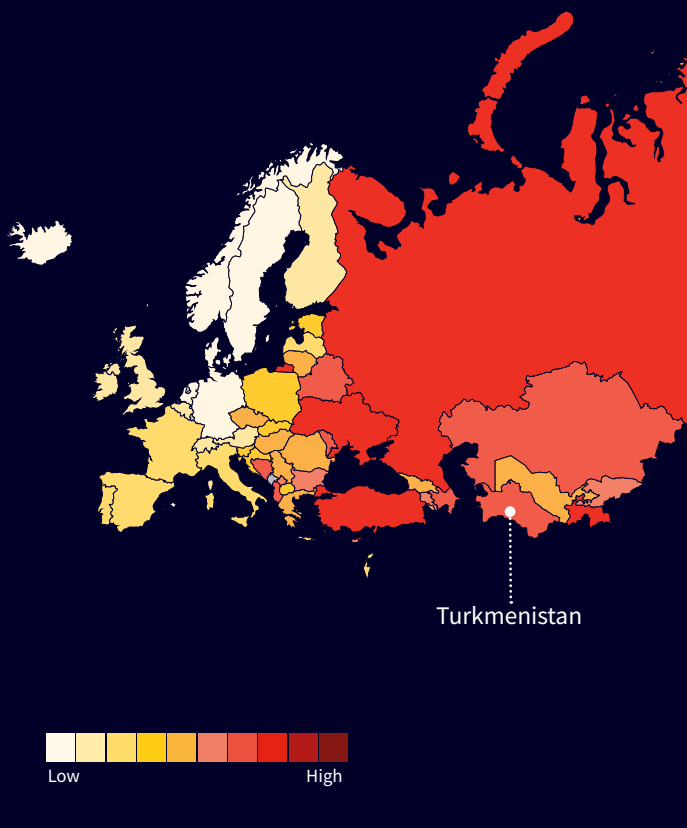
KEY STATS

Population (2021) 6,031,187
GDP per capita, PPP (Current Intl $) $15,628.5

11.9
PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY
per 1,000 people

72,000
NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

47/100
VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY

26/100
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

The scale of modern slavery

According to the Global Slavery Index 2023, an estimated 11.9 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Turkmenistan at any point in 2021. In other words, 72,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Turkmenistan in 2021. Turkmenistan ranks 14th globally and 6th within Europe and Central Asia.
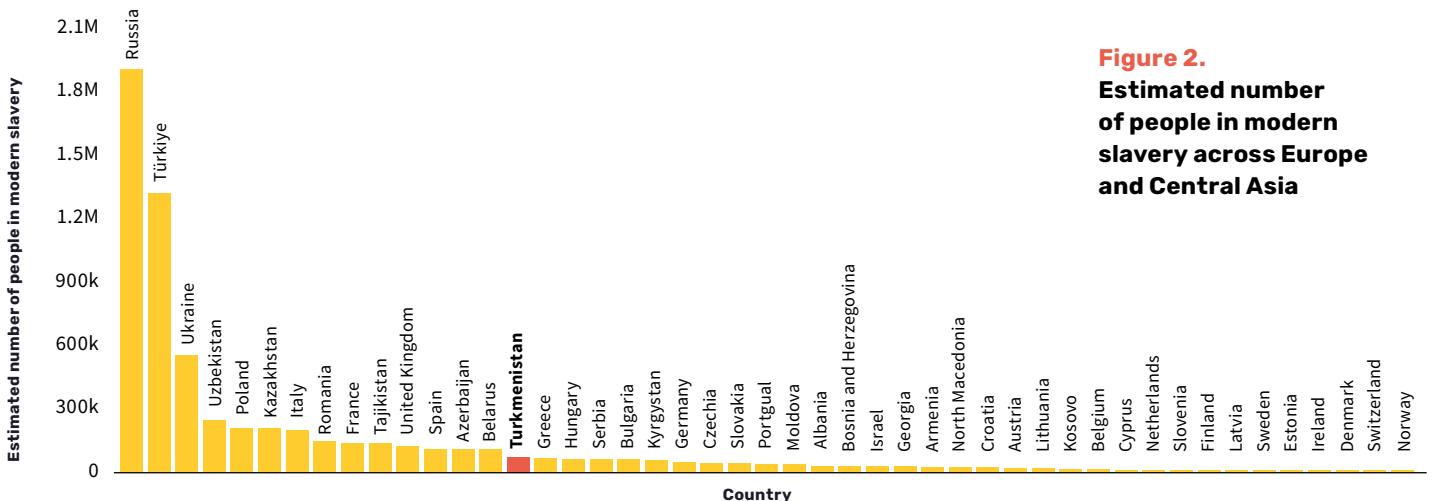
Figure 2.
Estimated number of people in modern slavery across Europe and Central Asia

Estimated number of people in modern slavery (y-axis): 0, 300k, 600k, 900k, 1.2M, 1.5M, 1.8M, 2.1M

Countries (x-axis): Russia, Türkiye, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Poland, Kazakhstan, Italy, Romania, France, Tajikistan, United Kingdom, Spain, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Turkmenistan, Greece, Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria, Kyrgystan, Germany, Czechia, Slovakia, Portugal, Moldova, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Israel, Georgia, Armenia, North Macedonia, Croatia, Austria, Lithuania, Kosovo, Belgium, Cyprus, Netherlands, Slovenia, Finland, Latvia, Sweden, Estonia, Ireland, Denmark, Switzerland, Norway

Country

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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, Turkmenistan is rated as 47 and has above average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

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

■ Turkmenistan   ■ Europe and Central Asia
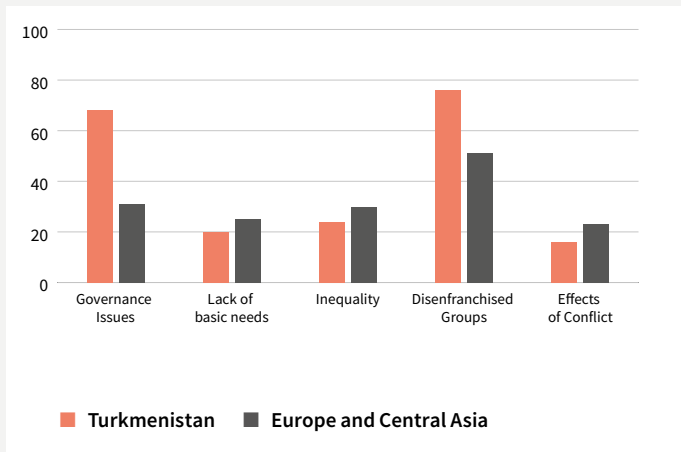
THE GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX 2023

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

Government response to modern slavery

The government of Turkmenistan scored 26 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 effective criminal justice mechanisms and the least action on addressing risk in government and business supply chains.

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

■ Turkmenistan   ■ Europe and Central Asia
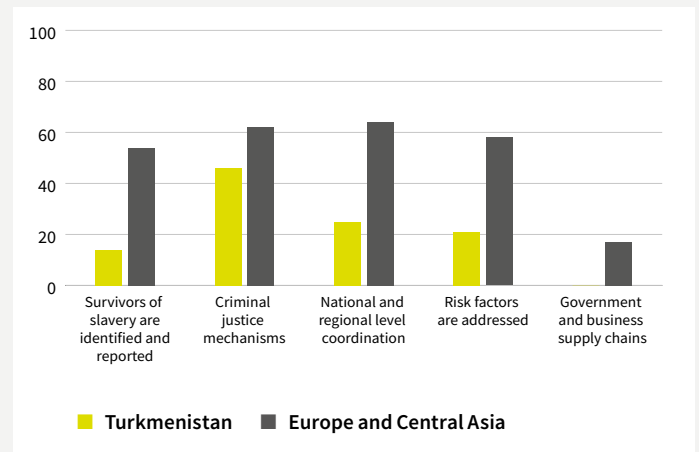
Priority Recommendations
for the government of Turkmenistan:

1 Immediately end the state-imposed forced labour of citizens by publicly acknowledging the existence of serious human rights violations in the cotton harvest and take immediate steps to end such violations.

2 Initiate fair judicial processes that conform to international standards against government officials found to have forced citizens to work, including in the cotton sector, and hold accountable those found guilty with penalties that reflect the severity of the crime and serve as a deterrent for future crimes.

3 Allow independent journalists, human rights defenders, and other individuals and organizations to document and report concerns about the use of forced labour without fear of reprisals. Initiate a time-bound plan to reform root causes of forced labour in the agriculture sector.