Modern slavery in Ukraine
Global Slavery Index 2023
Country Snapshot

KEY STATS
Population (2021) 43,733,759
GDP per capita, PPP (Current Intl $) $13,087

12.8
PREVALENCE OF MODERN SLAVERY per 1,000 people

559,000
NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY

48/100
VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY

51/100
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO MODERN SLAVERY

The scale of modern slavery
According to the Global Slavery Index 2023, an estimated 12.8 in every thousand people were in modern slavery in Ukraine at any point in 2021. In other words, 559,000 people experienced forced labour or forced marriage in Ukraine in 2021. Ukraine ranks 11th globally and 4th 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, Ukraine is rated as 48 and has above average vulnerability for the region. Vulnerability is highest in terms of disenfranchised groups.

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

Government response to modern slavery
The government of Ukraine scored 51 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 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 Ukraine to modern slavery by government response milestone, compared with the regional average

Priority Recommendations for the government of Ukraine:

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.