AN ESTIMATED
# 35.8 MILLION
MEN, WOMEN AND
CHILDREN AROUND
THE WORLD ARE
TRAPPED IN MODERN
SLAVERY TODAY.

**Click here to explore the key
findings of the 2014 Global
Slavery Index.**

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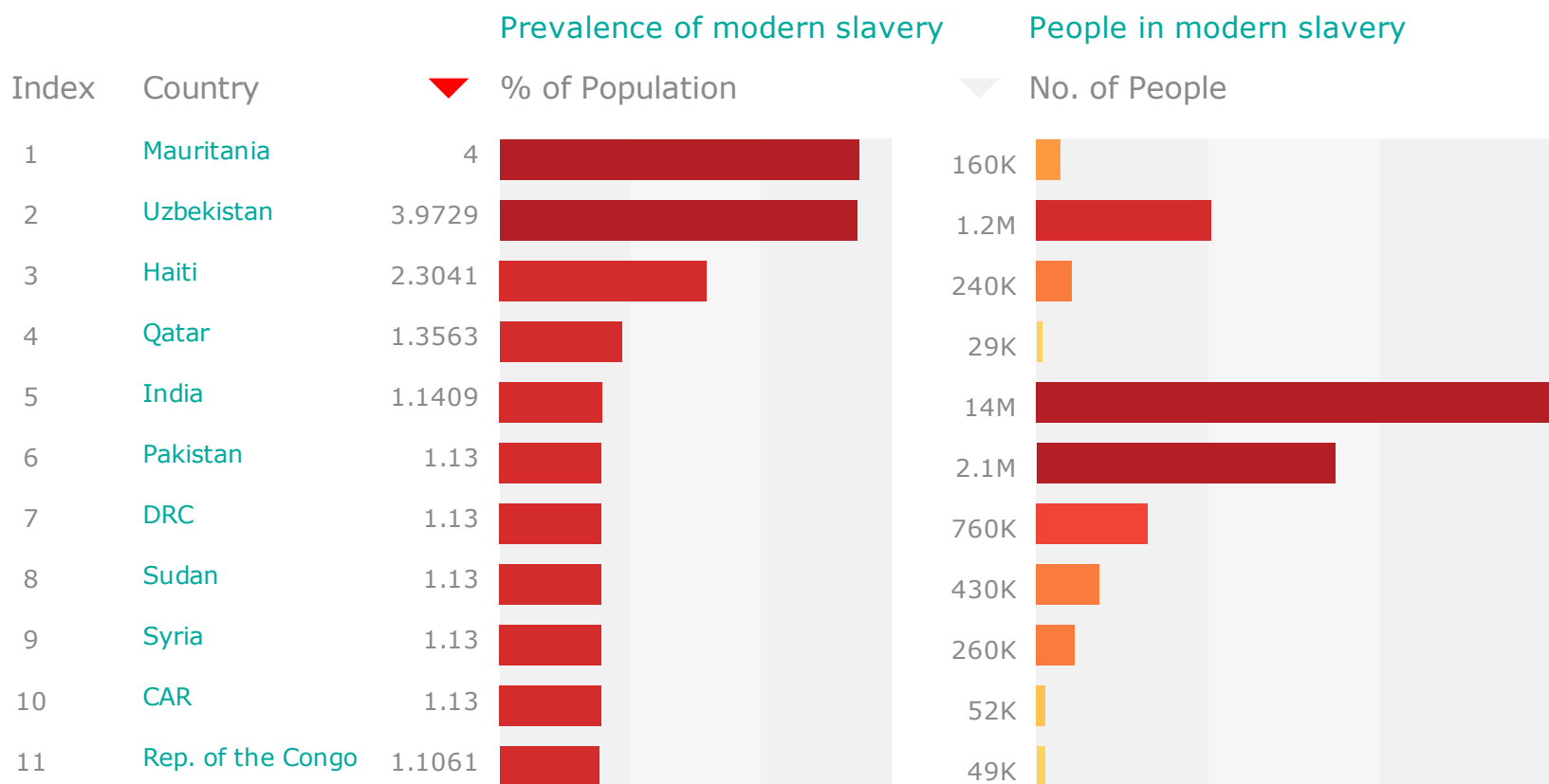
# OVERVIEW

The 2014 Global Slavery Index presents a ranking of 167 countries based on the percent of a country's

population that is estimated to be in modern slavery. This year we have also ranked countries based on what actions their governments are taking to end modern slavery. We also analysed the contextual factors that make people vulnerable to modern slavery.

# HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM?

The table below shows the prevalence of slavery, based on the percentage of the population enslaved and the estimated number of people enslaved by country. For more information on how to interpret the table or sort the data presented, please click on the help button.

## Global Rankings                                                                                                    ?

|  |  | Prevalence of modern slavery | People in modern slavery |
|---|---|---|---|
| Index | Country | ▼ % of Population | ▽ No. of People |
| 1 | Mauritania | 4 | 160K |
| 2 | Uzbekistan | 3.9729 | 1.2M |
| 3 | Haiti | 2.3041 | 240K |
| 4 | Qatar | 1.3563 | 29K |
| 5 | India | 1.1409 | 14M |
| 6 | Pakistan | 1.13 | 2.1M |
| 7 | DRC | 1.13 | 760K |
| 8 | Sudan | 1.13 | 430K |
| 9 | Syria | 1.13 | 260K |
| 10 | CAR | 1.13 | 52K |
| 11 | Rep. of the Congo | 1.1061 | 49K |

12          UAE                  1.0572                    Show all            99к

Around the world today, there are an estimated **35.8 million men, women and children trapped in modern slavery**

It is important to note that we are not asserting that there has been an increase in modern slavery around the world over the last year. We believe that this increase is due to the improved accuracy and precision of our measures and that we are uncovering modern slavery where it was not seen before. Five countries are appearing in the Global Slavery Index for the first time: Taiwan, South Sudan, North Korea, Kosovo and Cyprus. A detailed description of the methodology underpinning this process can be found here (http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/methodology/).

A ranking of one in the Index indicates the most severely concentrated modern slavery situation; a ranking of 167 indicates the least severely concentrated modern slavery problem.

## ▼ LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE PROBLEM

The ten countries with the highest estimated prevalence of modern slavery by population are:

**Mauritania, Uzbekistan, Haiti, Qatar, India, Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Syria and the Central African Republic**.

The countries with the largest estimated numbers of people in modern slavery are: **India, China, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Thailand**. Taken together, these countries account for **71 percent** of the estimated **35.8 million people** in modern slavery.

As was the case in 2013, the West African nation of **Mauritania ranks number one in the Index**. In 2014, an estimated four percent of the population – approximately 155,600 people – are enslaved in Mauritania, a country with deeply entrenched hereditary slavery. In the past 12 months, the Mauritanian Government has taken positive steps to address slavery, adopting a plan of action recommended by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. The government has agreed, amongst other things, to establishing a special tribunal to adjudicate cases of slavery. While this progress is important, it may be several years before these changes have any impact on the size of the problem.

**The Republic of Uzbekistan**, a Central Asian nation whose economy relies heavily on cotton production and export, **is second in the Index**. The rise in Uzbekistan's ranking is a direct reflection of government-imposed forced labour. While it is very difficult to obtain accurate estimates of modern slavery in Uzbekistan, the role of the government in forcing citizens to pick cotton for two months every year has

been well-documented by numerous organisations.[1] The most conservative of available estimates

indicates that almost four percent – approximately 1,201,400 people – of the Uzbek population is subjected to modern slavery during the annual cotton harvest.

Several other countries rose in the rankings in 2014. Those that entered the top ten include: **Qatar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Syria and the Central African Republic.**

**Qatar** hosts significant numbers of foreign workers, and has risen in the ranking due to improved survey data giving better insight to the high number of enslaved migrant workers in the nation. It is ranked fourth with an estimated 1.4 percent of the population in modern slavery. We consider this to be a conservative estimate.

The ranking of **Pakistan**, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (DRC), **Sudan**, **Syria** and the **Central African Republic** in the top ten reflects the impact of war and conflict on modern slavery. Conflict brings an almost immediate end to the rule of law, as well as bringing most infrastructure, normal services and governmental processes to a halt. In conflict, exploitation becomes an immediate threat to an increased proportion of the population. Over one percent of the population of **Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Syria and Central African Republic** is estimated to be in modern slavery. In absolute terms, this is approximately 2,058,200 people from Pakistan, 762,900 people from DRC, 429,000 people from Sudan, 258,200 people from Syria, and 52,200 people from the Central African Republic.

**Ireland and Iceland** sit at 166 and 167 in the 2014 Index with the lowest prevalence of modern slavery.

While the estimated proportion of the population in modern slavery in each country is small (0.0007, or seven in every 10,000 persons in the population), no country in the Global Slavery Index is free of modern slavery. Ireland and Iceland are estimated to have approximately 300 and up to 100 people in modern slavery, respectively.

# GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

In the table below, each country was given a letter rating based the strength of government responses to modern slavery. The highest possible rating is an AAA, and the lowest a D. For more information on how to interpret the table or sort the data presented, please click on the help button.

## Rank of countries by government response                                    ?

| Country | Response rating ▲ | Survivors are supported | Criminal justice | Coordination and accountability | Attitudes, social systems and institutions | Business and government |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Netherlands (http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/? post_type=country&p=205) | AA | ● ? | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| Sweden (http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/? post_type=country&p=199) | A | ● ? | ● | ● | ● | ● |
| United States (http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/? | BBB | ● ? | ● | ● | ● | ● |

post_type=country&p=123)

Australia
(http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/?
SEE
post_type=country&p=192)

Switzerland
(http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/?
SEE
post_type=country&p=211)

Show all

## ▼ HOW ARE GOVERNMENTS TACKLING MODERN SLAVERY?

While no country has a fully comprehensive response to modern slavery, **most countries within the Index are taking some action to respond to the problem.**
**All countries, with the exception of North Korea, have domestic legislation which criminalises some form of modern slavery.** This ranges from articles in their penal codes criminalising forced labour or child commercial sexual exploitation, through to fully fledged counter trafficking legislation. Australia and the United Kingdom currently criminalise all forms of modern slavery, including forced marriage. While in most countries there is room for improvement, some laws do exist to hold perpetrators to account in almost every country, which suggests much more could be done within existing frameworks.

Many countries have developed a national action plan to respond to forms of modern slavery (101 of

167 countries), and some have a national coordination body (140 of 167 countries). Nearly all countries participate in a relevant regional response (165 of 167 countries).

Identifying victims is a critical first step to ensuring that they are removed from harm and provided with support. **Most governments provide some training to front line law enforcement on how to identify victims** (150 of 167). In 2014, the Index does not take into account the scale or quality of the training. Fewer governments, however, are providing training for other potential 'first responders', that is those in the health and social services, teachers, or those who work in the tourism industry, who may also come into contact with victims. Ireland, Argentina, and Montenegro are particularly strong in running regular and systematic training for 'first responders'.

**Victim assistance for men, women and children is a weakness of all government responses.** No country scored 100 percent on these activities while the majority of countries scored 50 percent or lower. **Most countries either only provide short term assistance, neglecting long-term reintegration, or provide support solely for female or child victims.**

**Many countries are taking steps to respond to attitudes or institutions that enable modern slavery to exist** (165 of 167). Of these governments, approximately 93 percent run public information campaigns to raise awareness of modern slavery, while only eight percent focus on behaviour change. Many countries also have in place safety nets, such as child protection systems, and protections for

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), asylum seekers and stateless people (120 of 167 countries). While

these protections may exist in paper, the challenge is how to assess if such protections operate in reality.

**Globally, only three governments are making some efforts to prevent the use of forced or slave labour in their supply chains, and in the supply chains of businesses operating in their country.** These include the United States, Brazil and Australia. These countries have either made a public commitment to address modern slavery within their own supply chains, such as Australia, or have taken more active steps to ensure supply chain transparency, such the United States' Executive Order, or Brazil's Register of Companies (the Dirty List).

**The Netherlands** has the strongest response to modern slavery of the 167 countries examined, scoring highly across victim assistance programmes, criminal justice responses, and responding to institutional risk. The Netherlands includes the private sector in its National Action Plan and conducts independent evaluations.

Other governments in the top ten responses are, **Sweden, the United States, Australia, Switzerland, Ireland, Norway, the United Kingdom, Georgia and Austria**. Common characteristics of each of these countries are **a strong political will to respond to the issue and a strong rule of law**. **These countries are also starting to take ownership of the link between business and modern slavery**. In Brazil, companies that profit from slave labour are named and shamed. In the US, the government

has taken steps to ensure its procurement practices are not contributing to modern slavery. In Australia,

public procurement rules identify modern slavery as an important issue when considering the ethical behaviour of suppliers, but it is not clear if this has translated to action yet.

While these efforts are commendable, **most countries within the top ten responses have strong economies, and also benefit from low prevalence and low risk across all vulnerability dimensions (indicating state stability, respect for human rights and rule of law)**. Despite these strong economies, none of these countries have a perfect response to modern slavery. In the US, victim support services are currently underfunded, and skewed towards supporting victims of sexual exploitation, but not forced labour despite recent studies confirming the significance of this problem. Victim support services in the Netherlands also focus predominately on those who experience commercial sexual exploitation.

The actions of Georgia deserve credit – despite having a weaker economy than many countries covered by the Index and ranking 78th in the Global Slavery Index for prevalence, the government has taken some strong steps to eradicate modern slavery. More, however, could be done to provide training to those who would ordinarily identify victims, and to address vulnerability factors.

In several of the countries in the top ten of responses, **there is evidence of discriminatory migration policies**, deportation of potential victims without sufficient screening, or criminalisation of victims for actions whilst under the control of criminals. The United Kingdom, for example, has been accused of deporting, or detaining in immigration detention centres, foreign migrants who are potential victims of modern slavery. There are inconsistencies in Australia's screening processes of vulnerable migrant populations, such as asylum seekers, for indicators of trafficking. There have also been reports of

children being treated as offenders in the United States for conduct committed as a direct result of being sold to others for sexual exploitation. Unaccompanied minors can also be subject to fast track screening and deportation at border points making it very unlikely for modern slavery to be detected.

**Countries at the lower end of the ranking include North Korea, Iran, Syria, Eritrea, the Central African Republic, Libya, Equatorial Guinea, Uzbekistan, the Republic of the Congo and Iraq.** These countries are characterised by weak economies, high levels of instability caused by recent conflict, such as Libya and Syria, or government complicity in modern slavery. Uzbek cotton, produced with forced labour, is exported to Bangladesh, South Korea and China. In North Korea, prisoners in the gulag system – or forced labour camps – produce hardwoods for export to Japan. The forced labour systems in both Uzbekistan and North Korea are major contributors to their national economies.

**Hong Kong, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia each have either a strong or middle range economy, but have a particularly poor response to modern slavery.** The kafala system, which ties an employee to an employer, has facilitated significant abuses of domestic and construction workers in the Middle East. Hong Kong is part of a small group of countries in South East Asia, such as Japan, Malaysia and Singapore, who, despite their relative wealth, have done little to respond to the problem within their borders.

Overall, many countries appear to have responses in place on paper, yet modern slavery still persists. This indicates that these responses are either not fit for purpose, or are not being fully implemented, or a combination of the two. **Countries in South East Asia, such as Thailand and Indonesia, appear to have strong responses on paper, but these are often poorly implemented, or are hampered by**

**high levels of corruption.**

# VULNERABILITY

The vulnerability table below shows factors that put a country's residents at risk of modern slavery. The higher the score, the more vulnerable a country's population is to slavery. For more information on how to interpret the table or sort the data presented, please click on the help button.

## Global data table – vulnerability                                   ?

| Country | Mean vulnerability ▼ | Slavery policy | Human rights | Development | State stability | Discrimination |
|---------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Somalia (http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/?post_type=country&p=11) | 94.9 | | | | | |
| Eritrea (http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/?post_type=country&p=6) | 83.8 | | | | | |
| Sudan (http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/?post_type=country&p=135) | 82.6 | | | | | |
| Yemen (http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/?post_type=country&p=69) | 80.6 | | | | | |
| Dem. Rep. Congo (http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/? | 79.3 | | | | | |

Overview

How big is the problem?

Government Response

Vulnerability
Central                                                            **Show all**

## ▼ MEASURING VULNERABILITY

In 2014, the Global Slavery Index examines the relative vulnerability of the population in individual countries to modern slavery, based on an analysis of data across five dimensions:

1. National policies to combat modern slavery.
2. The availability of human rights protections in a country.
3.  The level of economic and social development in a country.
4. The level of state stability in a country.
5. The extent of women's rights and levels of discrimination in a country.

In 2014, the ten countries where vulnerability is highest were: **Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan, Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Syria, Libya, North Korea, and Afghanistan.** In an effort to better understand the relative significance of each of the dimensions noted above, we undertook statistical testing (bivariate analysis) to examine the correlations between these

dimensions, and prevalence of modern slavery. Correlation results confirm that the relationship

between each of these dimensions and prevalence is statistically significant.

The strongest relationships (in order of strongest to weakest) are seen between:

- State Stability and Prevalence (r = 0.55, p<.01)

- Human Rights and Prevalence (r = 0.53, p<.01)

- Development and Prevalence (r = 0.41, p<.01)

- Discrimination and Prevalence (r =0.40, p<.01)

- State Policy on Modern Slavery and Prevalence (r = 0.38, p<.01)

Each of these results is statistically significant indicating the relationship is not the result of chance (the closer r is to 1, the stronger the relationship between the two variables). The stability or instability of a country is a significant factor; protective policies will have little impact when a country's rule of law has broken down because of civil war, or ethnic or religious conflict. In the Global Slavery Index the State Stability measure is an aggregate of factors that examine a country's level of corruption, governance, independence of its judiciary, relative level of peace, political stability, level of violent crime, and availability of small arms and light weapons. Statistical testing confirms the relevance of modern slavery to conflict situations as we have seen this year in Syria and the horrors perpetrated by the terrorist group Islamic State.

High levels of prejudice and discrimination in a society can create a context that marks some people as less important and less deserving of rights and protection, which in turn makes the crime of modern slavery easier to commit against them. In the Global Slavery Index seven variables are used to measure

the extent and types of discrimination. These factors include: discrimination on the basis of sexual

orientation, disability, immigration status, ethnicity, women's political and economic rights, and the level of income inequality (Gini coefficient) in a given country. Statistical testing confirms the relationship between discrimination and prevalence of modern slavery.

## ▼ FOOTNOTES

1. "Follow-up to the conclusions of the Committee on the Application of Standards International Labour Conference, 102nd Session, June 2013: Uzbekistan (Ratification: 2008)", (International Labour Organization, 2014), accessed 22/09/14: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3149080 (http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3149080); see also "Forced Labor in Uzbekistan: Report on the 2013 Cotton Harvest", (Uzbek-German Forum for Human Rights, 2014), accessed 22/09/14: http://uzbekgermanforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Forced-Labor-in-Uzbekistan-Report-2013.pdf (http://uzbekgermanforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Forced-Labor-in-Uzbekistan-Report-2013.pdf) ↩

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