

THE GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX 2018

ICI Analysis

The *Global Slavery Index* (GSI) published by the Walk Free Foundation, measures world-wide slavery estimates and conditions by country, and also identifies the steps that governments are taking to respond to the issue. In the context of the report, the term “modern slavery” covers a set of specific legal concepts which includes, forced labour, debt bondage, forced marriage, slavery and slavery-like practices, and human trafficking.

The 2018 report *findings*, released on Thursday 19th July 2018, estimates that:

- **40.3 million** men, women, and children were victims of modern slavery in 2016.
- **24.9 million** of modern slavery victims are in forced labour and 15.4 million people were living in a forced marriage in 2016.

Women and girls constitute **71%** of the victims, and modern slavery is most prevalent in Africa, followed by Asia and the Pacific region.

Regional Analysis for Africa (specific focus on Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire)

Specifically, the regional *analysis for Africa* estimates that:

9.2 million men, women and children were victims of modern slavery (with Africa having the region with the highest prevalence of modern slavery, 23% regional proportion of the global estimate).

- **63%** are victims of forced marriage and **37%** are victims of forced labour.
- **54%** of forced labour victims were held in debt bondage.
- **400,000** people were victims of forced sexual exploitation (accounting for 8% of all victims of forced sexual exploitation and commercial sexual exploitation of children worldwide).

The table below presents the estimated prevalence of modern slavery for Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana:

Regional	Country	Estimated prevalence (victims per 1,000 population)	Estimated absolute number of victims	Population
31	Côte d’Ivoire	5.9	137,000	23,108,000
38	Ghana	4.8	133,000	27,583,000

The following table presents the estimated vulnerability to modern slavery for Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana:

Country Name	Governance Issues	Lack of basic needs	Inequality	Disenfranchised Groups	Effects of Conflict	Final weighted overall score
Côte d'Ivoire	59.5	30.1	41.7	37.5	40.9	57.2
Ghana	52.6	29.1	42.0	53.7	21.6	52.2

The government response scores also shows that **the rating for Cote d'Ivoire has improved** from CCC rating in 2016 to a B rating in 2018 (principally as a result of strengthened modern slavery legislations). In comparison, Ghana scored a CC in 2016 which has remained the same in 2018.

Products at-risk of Modern Slavery

The top 5 products at-risk of modern slavery practices imported by G20 countries are:

- 1) Laptops, computers and mobile phones (\$200.1 billion);
- 2) Garments (\$127.7 billion);
- 3) Fish (\$12.9 billion);
- 4) Cocoa (\$3.6 billion) and,
- 5) Sugarcane (\$2.1 billion)

Looking only at the “top five” at risk products in each country, G20 countries are collectively importing \$354 billion worth of at-risk products annually.

The G20 countries taking action to stop sourcing good services at risk of being produced by forced labour, are: Brazil, China, France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom and the United States.

Government Responses and Ratings

According to the report, the governments taking the most action to modern slavery, are: United States, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Sweden, Belgium, Croatia, Spain, Norway, Portugal and Montenegro.

The prevalence estimates of modern slavery in high-GDP countries (including the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, the Netherlands and several other countries in Europe) is higher than previous understood, despite the fact that these are the countries that are taking the most action to respond to modern slavery. This indicates that the gaps in protection for vulnerable groups for instance, need urgent attention from governments.

Overall, the government response at the national legal, policy and programmatic levels are improving with an upward trend in ratings for the Government Response Index since the 2016 Global Slavery Index. Nonetheless, several countries appear to be going backwards, or have a weak response to modern slavery and a high prevalence of modern slavery - in most cases, these are countries with high repressive regimes or conflict situations. The findings confirm that modern slavery remains a critical issue for all countries and requires commitment and efforts from all.

The Government response rating by country provides the following ratings:

Rating	Country	Support Survivors	Criminal Justice	Coordination	Address risk	Supply chains	Total
A	Netherlands	72.2	72.2	75.0	92.9	36.7	75.2
BBB*	United States	92.6	75.6	56.3	66.7	65.0	71.7
BBB*	United Kingdom	82.0	73.9	62.5	73.8	26.7	71.5
BBB	Switzerland	66.7	60.6	37.5	81.0	0.0	60.0
B	Cote d'Ivoire	34.4	36.7	43.8	66.7	8.3	42.4
CC	Ghana	24.8	33.3	37.5	40.5	8.3	27.6

*Indicates where a country could not score above a BBB. These countries have received a negative rating for policies that hinder their response to modern slavery.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are listed in the report:

1. Governments and businesses prioritise human rights in decision making when engaging with repressive regimes
2. Governments proactively anticipate and respond to modern slavery in conflict situations.
3. Governments improve modern slavery response at home.
4. G20 governments and businesses address modern slavery in supply chains.
5. Governments prioritise responses to violations against women and girls.