

In October 2013, the Walk Free Foundation released the first edition of the Global Slavery Index. The index estimates the number of people enslaved in the world and ranks 163 countries on the prevalence of slavery. Mauritania is the worst-ranked and Iceland, Ireland, and the United Kingdom are tied for best-ranked. In addition to slavery prevalence, the index scores countries on their risk of enslavement and provides descriptions of slavery patterns and government responses in select countries. This snapshot focuses on low- and middle-income countries that received \$2 million or more in USAID assistance in fiscal year 2011, referred to as USAID-assisted countries.

**2013 Global Slavery Index:
Best and Worst USAID-assisted Countries**

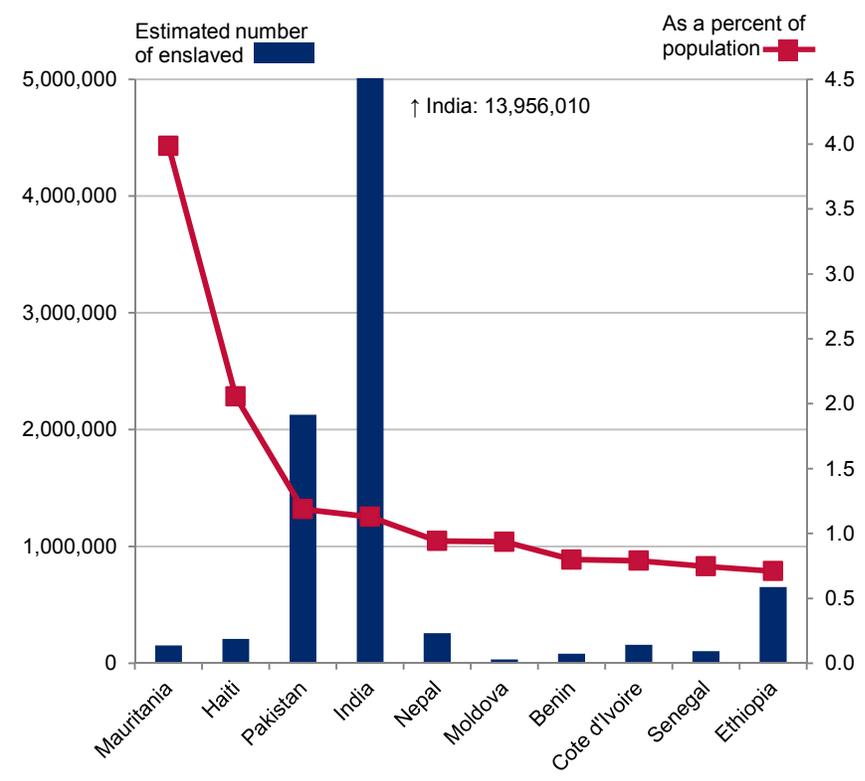
Best 10 (rank)	Worst 10 (rank)
Cuba (149)	Ethiopia (12)
Costa Rica (146)	Senegal (11)
Jamaica (124)	Cote d'Ivoire (8)
Tunisia (122)	Benin (7)
Timor-Leste (120)	Moldova (6)
Lebanon (119)	Nepal (5)
Sri Lanka (118)	India (4)
Belarus (117)	Pakistan (3)
Angola (116)	Haiti (2)
South Africa (115)	Mauritania (1)

Overall Patterns of Slavery

The Walk Free Foundation estimates that there are 29.8 million people enslaved in the world, and that most of them live in USAID-assisted countries. India has the highest number of people enslaved, with nearly half of the world's slave population.

The rankings are based on a slavery prevalence score, which ranges from 1–100 (lower is better). The score is based on the estimated percentage of the population that is enslaved; the prevalence of human trafficking; and the prevalence of child marriage. Mauritania is the worst performer with the highest score of 100. The second worst ranked country, Haiti, scores 53.4, and third-ranked, Pakistan, scores 32.8, followed more closely by the other countries.

Total Number of Enslaved and Enslaved as a Percent of Population, 10 Worst Ranked Countries



The best-ranked USAID-assisted country, Cuba, is ranked 149th in the world with a score of 1.3. Because the prevalence score takes into account slaves as a share of the population, the countries with the largest absolute numbers of people enslaved differ considerably from the worst-ranked countries in the index.

The worst-ranked countries on the index generally have the highest percentages of the population enslaved. Mauritania has a long, entrenched tradition of hereditary slavery, with an estimated 140,000–160,000 people, nearly 4 percent of the country's population, enslaved. Slavery has been illegal in Mauritania for several decades, and the government recently created a new ministry charged with eradicating the “vestiges of slavery,” but it is difficult for victims to file claims and few cases have been brought to the courts. There are an estimated 200,000–220,000 people in slavery or slavery-like conditions in Haiti. Haiti's *restavek* system of sending children from poor rural families to work as domestic helpers for wealthier families in exchange for housing and access to schooling is chronically abused, with children often working in conditions of enslavement. Children and adults who remain in camps for internally displaced persons following the 2010 earthquake also have a heightened risk of abuse.

USAID-assisted Countries with the Most Enslaved

Country	Estimated number of enslaved	Rank
India	13,956,010	4
China (P.R.C.)	2,949,243	84
Pakistan	2,127,132	3
Nigeria	701,032	48
Ethiopia	651,110	12
Thailand	472,811	24
Congo (Kinshasa)	462,327	23
Burma (Myanmar)	384,037	42
Bangladesh	343,192	71
Tanzania	329,503	29
USAID-assisted countries	27,525,658	
All countries	29,800,695	

The Slavery Prevalence Score in Context

This section looks at performance on the slavery prevalence score by region, income group, and level of human trafficking. The graphs leave out the two worst-scoring countries, Mauritania (score 100) and Haiti (score 53.4), because their scores skew the presentation of the graphs. Ninety percent of USAID-assisted countries score below 23, half score below 10.5, and 10 percent score below 5. The best-scoring country, Cuba, received a score of 1.3.

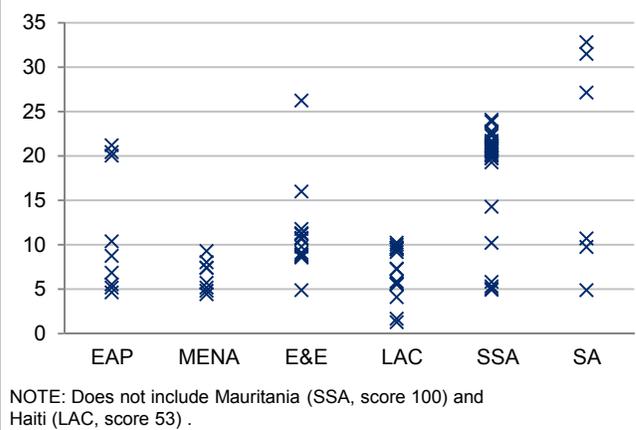
Prevalence by Region

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), with the exception of Haiti, has low levels of slavery. It is home to the three best-performing USAID-assisted countries: Cuba, Costa Rica, and Jamaica.

The **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** also performs well, with all scores below the median of 10.5. However, MENA has high levels of forced and child marriages and exploitation of trafficked women as domestic workers or prostitutes.

Europe and Eurasia (E&E) performs well, although Moldova is in the top ten worst countries, primarily due to its status as a source country for human traf-

Slavery Prevalence Score by Region
(1–100, lower is better)



ficking. Uzbekistan is only ranked 47th but forces up to one million citizens (who are not counted in the index's estimate) to work on the annual cotton harvest for minimal or no wages, giving Uzbekistan the second highest prevalence of modern slavery for two months of the year.

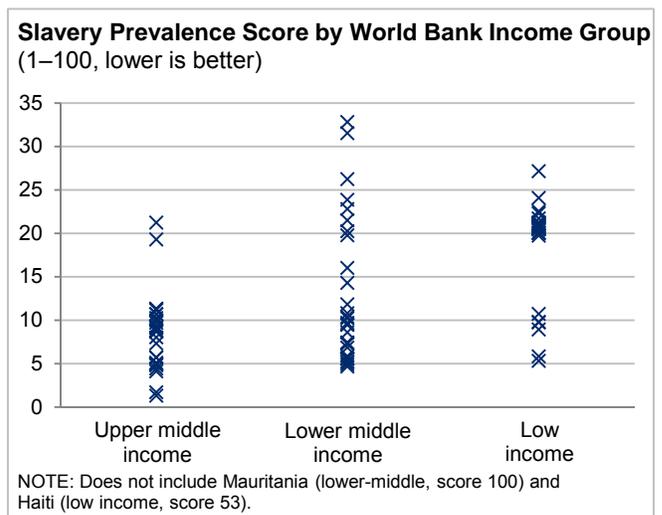
The majority of countries in **East Asia and the Pacific (EAP)** score below the median, but Thailand, Cambodia, and Burma (Myanmar) have scores over twenty. Thailand has the highest prevalence of modern slavery in the region, with many victims coming from neighboring countries. The Thailand country study highlights slavery in the sex and fishing industries. Women and children, especially from neighboring countries, are often trafficked into sex work, and men (also often from neighboring countries) who work on Thai fishing ships have faced slavery-like conditions and had pay withheld.

South Asia (SA) is home to the third- fourth- and fifth-worst-ranked countries Pakistan, India, and Nepal, all of which have problems with forced and bonded labor. In India, internal slavery represents most of the problem, whereas for Nepal, both forced laborers in the country and Nepali migrant workers abroad are vulnerable. Sri Lanka, the best performer in the region with a score of 4.9, is in the best ten USAID-assisted countries.

The worst-performing region is **sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)**, home to Mauritania and a cluster of countries with scores close to twenty, including Burundi, Lesotho, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. A handful of sub-Saharan countries do well, with two, Angola and South Africa, in the top ten.

Prevalence by World Bank Income Group

A country's income level is strongly correlated with its slavery prevalence score. The best-ranked USAID-assisted countries are upper middle income. The two upper middle income countries that perform worst are Thailand (score 21.2) and Namibia (score 19.3). Lower middle income countries, including Mauritania, have the largest score range of 4.6 to 100. Many low income countries are clustered with poor scores of close to 20. The worst-performing low-income country is Haiti and the second-worst is Nepal (score 27.1). Only five out of twenty-nine low income countries (Tajikistan, Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Kenya, and Madagascar) score better than the median.



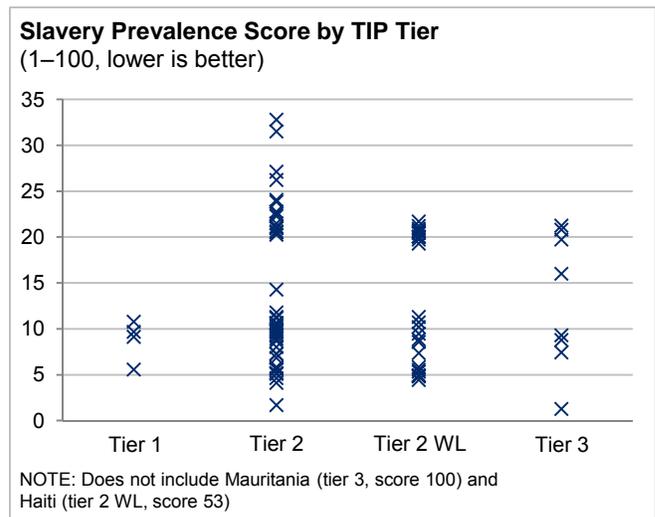
Prevalence by TIP Tier

A commonly used measure of human trafficking is the U.S. State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. The TIP report places countries into four categories:

- **Tier 1:** Countries whose governments fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards.
- **Tier 2:** Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards.

- **Tier 2 Watch List:** Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA’s minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards AND:
 1. The absolute number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing;
 2. There is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year; or
 3. The determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year.
- **Tier 3:** Countries whose governments do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so.

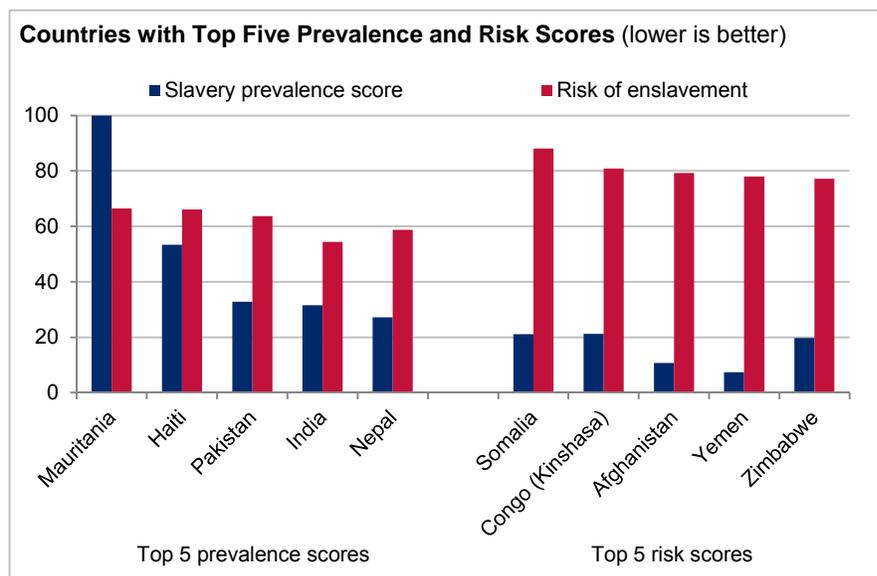
There is not a very strong correlation between a country’s score on the Global Slavery Index and its TIP tier, although worse-ranked countries on the index are somewhat more likely to be in worse tiers. The few USAID-assisted countries in Tier 1 tend to do well on the index. Most countries are in Tier 2 or on the Tier 2 Watch List, including most of the worst performers on the index. Both Cuba, the best-performing USAID-assisted country on the Global Slavery Index, and Mauritania, the worst-performing, are in Tier 3.



Slavery Risk

In addition to the slavery prevalence score, the Walk Free Foundation calculates the risk of enslavement in each country. The risk score ranges from 1–100, with 100 being the worst score, and is based on five dimensions:

- A country’s anti-slavery policies;
- A country’s respect for human rights;
- A country’s level of human and economic development;
- The stability of the government and the institutions of a country; and
- The level of discrimination against women in a country.



Many of the indicators and dimensions used to calculate the risk score are correlated with one another. However, the level of development dimension has the strongest correlation with the prevalence score. Risk itself is not tied very closely to slavery prevalence—the scores of countries on the two measures can and do differ. In fact, there is no overlap between the top ten countries on the index (based on prevalence score) and the countries with the ten highest risk scores.

Methodology

The prevalence score is composed of three sub-components, all of which have scores from 1–100, where higher is worse. The largest is the percentage of the population in slavery, weighted at 95 percent of the score. Due to the difficulty in obtaining reliable statistics on slavery, the index relies on several sources to calculate the number of people enslaved. As a result, the numbers used in the index should be considered estimates. If relevant household surveys are available, those are the most reliable method and are used to construct a countrywide estimate. If not, the index uses secondary reports or creates an estimate using data from similar countries.

The other two sub-components of the prevalence score, human trafficking and child marriage, each account for 2.5 percent of the overall score. The trafficking score is based on the U.S. State Department’s Trafficking in Persons report and considers human trafficking into and out of each country. Trafficking IN and OUT are extracted by the research team and coded on an ordinal scale of 1–4 (where 1 reflects low levels of cross border human trafficking and 4 reflects high levels of cross border human trafficking). They are then added together and their sum is scaled from 1–100. The child marriage score comes from UNICEF’s Childinfo, which compiles child marriage statistics from a variety of international sources.

The slavery risk score is based on five dimensions, which also range from 1–100, with 100 being the worst score. These five dimensions are derived from 33 indicators from secondary sources. For each dimension, the relevant indicators are scaled to a range of 1–100 and then averaged, yielding the dimension score. The risk score is an unweighted average of the five dimension scores.

Additional Information

For questions or more information, please contact the author, Katherine Shanahan, at kshanahan@devtechsys.com.

Global Slavery Index Data: To access the entire Global Slavery Index dataset, please visit the Economic and Social Database (ESDB) at <http://esdb.eads.usaidallnet.gov/>. The ESDB also has data from many of the sources used to create the slavery risk score, including the World Bank’s World Development Indicators and the Cingranelli-Richards (CIRI) Human Rights Dataset.

The complete Global Slavery Index 2013 report can be found at <http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/>.

The U.S. Department of State’s Trafficking in Persons 2013 report can be found at <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/>.