

DELTA8.7



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY  
Centre for Policy Research

# COVID-19 and the Gendered Impact on Modern Slavery



# **United Nations University Centre for Policy Research (UNU CPR)**

- **UN-focused global think tank**
- **Encompasses 16 institutes and programmes located in a dozen countries across the world**
- **HQ in Tokyo; over 400 researchers worldwide**





# UN Sustainable Development Goal: Target 8.7

In 2015, 193 countries committed to:

*Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.*

# DELTA 8.7

The Alliance 8.7 Knowledge Platform



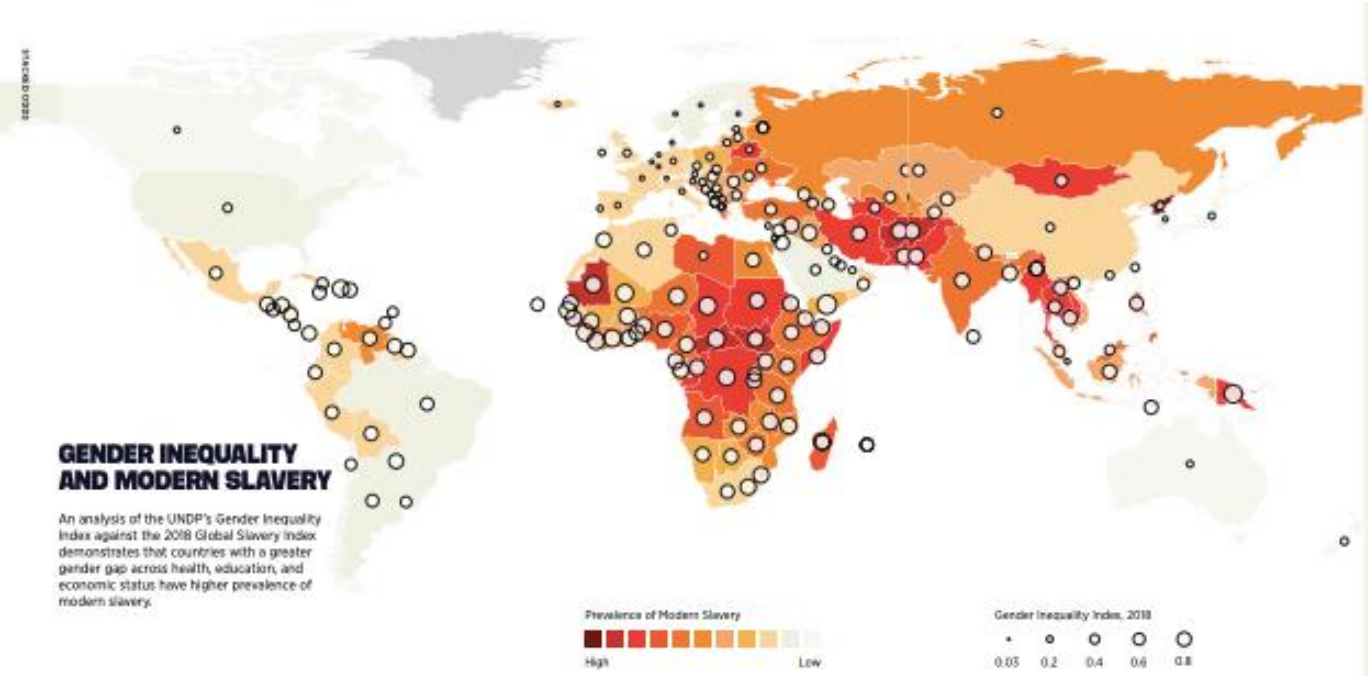


# Modern Slavery

- 1. Slavery reduces productivity**
- 2. Slavery creates inter-generational poverty**
- 3. Slavery institutionalizes inequality**
- 4. Slavery weakens multiplier effects**
- 5. Slavery discourages innovation in production**
- 6. Slavery produces a capital market failure**
- 7. Slavery hits the public purse**
- 8. Slavery weakens governance**
- 9. Slavery fuels corruption and illicit financial flows**
- 10. Slavery harms the environment**

**Source - James Cockayne, *Developing Freedom: The Sustainable Development Case for Ending Modern Slavery, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking* (United Nations University: New York, 2021).**

# The gendered nature of modern slavery



Women and Girls are:

**99%** Of all victims of forced sexual exploitation

**84%** Of all forced marriage victims

**58%** Of all forced labour victims

**41%** Of all state imposed forced labour victims





Source – Walk Free Initiative, Stacked Odds, Minderoo Foundation(2020)

# Why are women and girls more at risk?


**1 IN 130  
WOMEN & GIRLS  
GLOBALLY  
IS LIVING IN  
MODERN  
SLAVERY**

## *This is why:*

**0-2 Years**  
Conception to infancy

-  Less value placed in girls than boys
-  Boys inherit family assets, believed to have more earning potential, and so will look after parents in old age
-  Preference for boys drives female infanticide and contributes to the 130 million missing women and girls in the world
-  This gender imbalance fuels bride trafficking



**3-12 Years**  
Childhood

-  15 million girls each year will never go to school
-  This increases the risk of child marriage and forced labour

**13-17 Years**  
Adolescence

-  2 in 5 complete secondary school
-  13 million have experienced forced sex in their lifetime
-  Increases risk of child marriage and forced labour exploitation

**18-44 Years**  
Adulthood

-  Women do 2.6 times the unpaid care and domestic work that men do
-  Less than half of all women participate in the labour force compared to 75% of men
-  Globally, there are 122 women (aged 25-34) in extreme poverty for every 100 men of the same age

**45+ Years**  
Late Adulthood

-  At this stage have less value than a girl because female value is linked to fertility
-  Own only 13 percent of agricultural land across the globe
-  Compounded impact of lack of education and access to assets means increased risk of modern slavery – e.g. garment workers and domestic workers in private homes

Biases that stack the odds against girls start with not being valued as much as boys and lead to fewer girls in school, fewer opportunities for quality work, and an increased risk of exploitation and modern slavery across their lifetime.

Source – Walk Free Initiative, Stacked Odds, Minderoo Foundation(2020)



# **Covid-19 and the Gendered Impact on Modern Slavery**

- 1. How has the COVID-19 pandemic increased vulnerability of women and girls to modern slavery?***
- 2. How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted women and girls already in situations of modern slavery?***



***How has the COVID-19 pandemic  
increased vulnerability of women  
and girls to modern slavery?***





***First, because there is an increased supply of workers vulnerable to exploitation.***



***Second, employers have stronger incentives  
and greater latitude for exploitation***



***Third, with education systems suspended, children, specifically girls, have become more vulnerable to exploitation.***

***How has the COVID-19 pandemic impacted women and girls already in situations of modern slavery?***





**1) Identification**

**2) *Support***

**3) *Resourcing***





Source: Freedom Fund



# Thank you!

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Angharad Smith, [angharad.smith@unu.edu](mailto:angharad.smith@unu.edu)