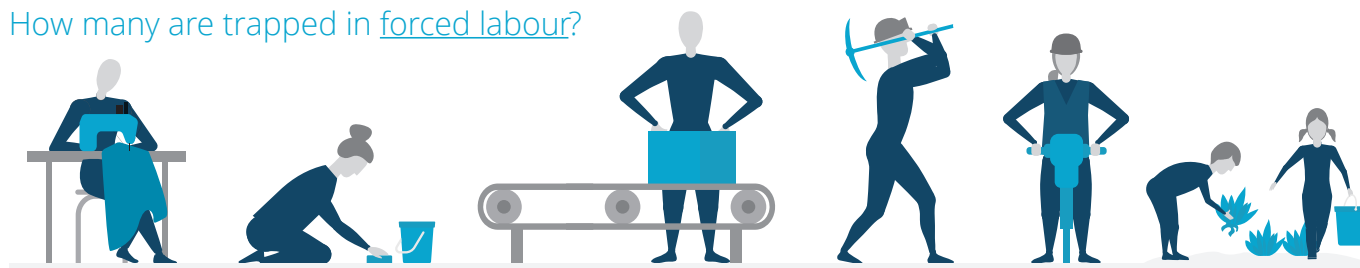


# Forced Labour: Global Overview

## GLOBAL FACTS AND FIGURES

How many are trapped in forced labour?



**Almost 25 million people**  
are in forced labour globally

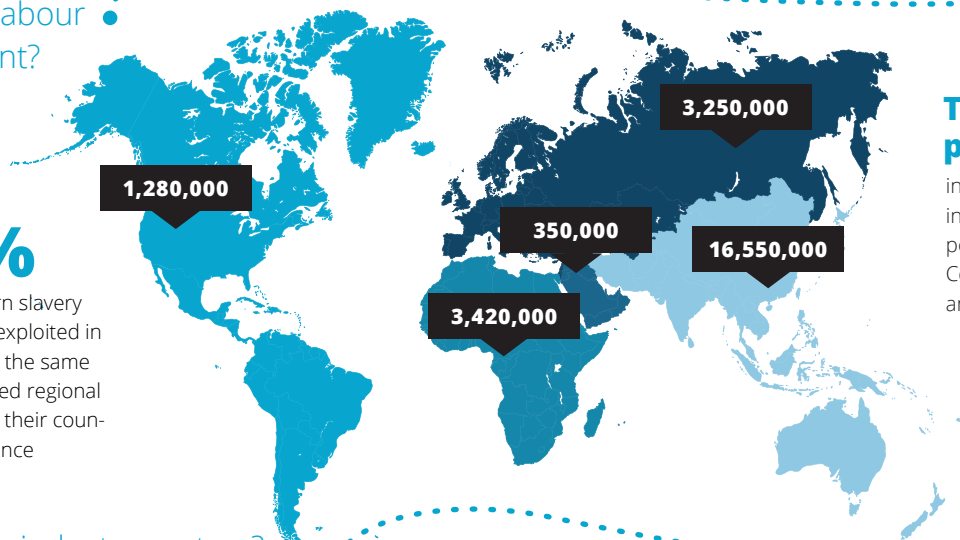
**Of them, 20.8 million**  
are working in the private economy,  
including in private economic activities  
and commercial sexual exploitation

**Some 4.3 million**  
are children

Where is  
forced labour  
prevalent?

**94%**

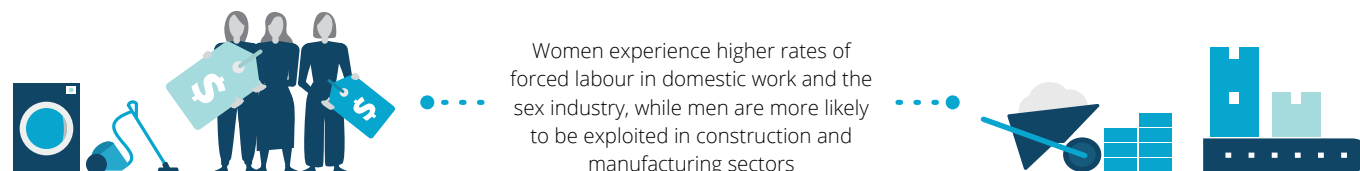
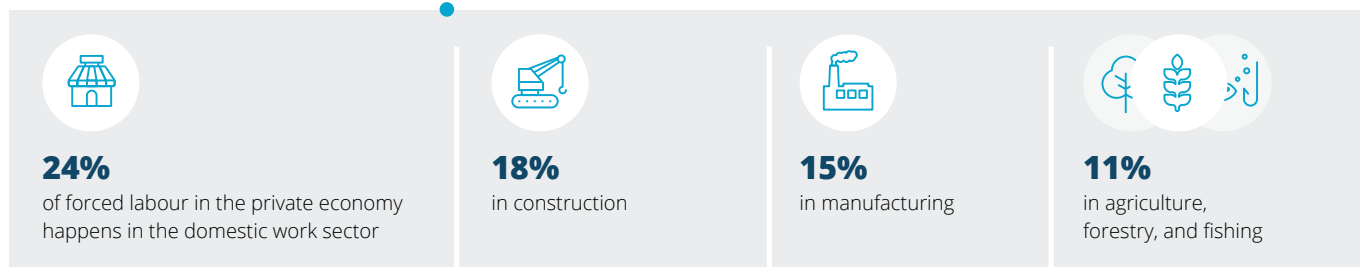
of all modern slavery  
victims are exploited in  
a country in the same  
income-based regional  
grouping as their coun-  
try of residence



**The highest  
prevalence**

in proportion to the population is  
in Asia and the Pacific (4 in 1,000  
people), followed by Europe and  
Central Asia (3.6 out of 1,000)  
and Africa (2.8 out of 1,000)

In which industry sectors?



## VULNERABILITIES

People in forced labour suffer a variety of forms of coercion



Debt bondage accounts for **50%** of forced labour in the private economy, around 8 million people worldwide, spanning across all sectors



**17%** are threatened with violence



**16%** experience physical violence



**24%** of all victims experience withholding, or threatened withholding, of wages



**12%** experience threats against family

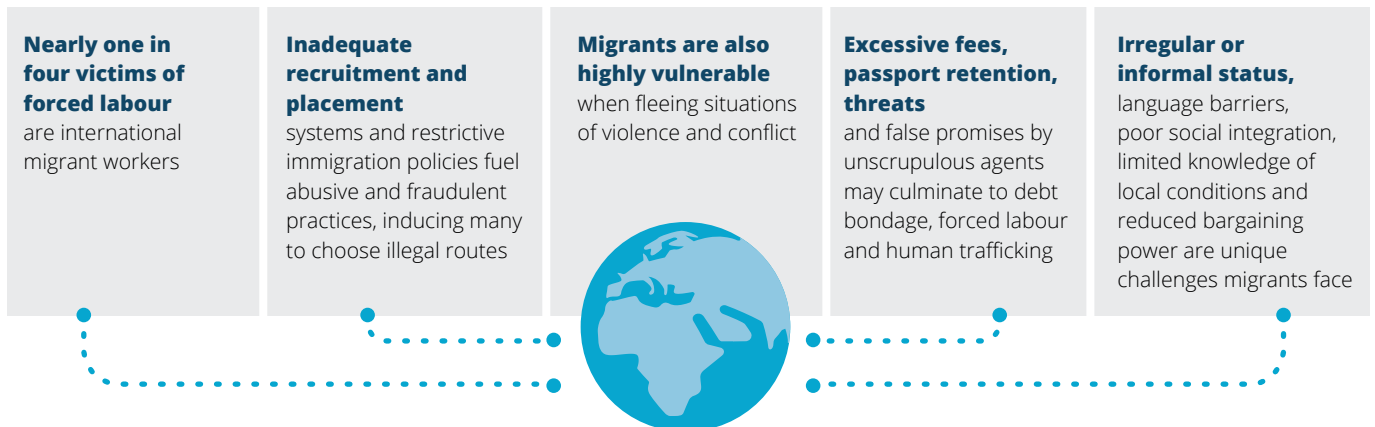


Multidimensional poverty, informality, lack of adequate protection and gaps in legislation are among root causes

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by forced labour



International migrant workers



ILO instruments on forced labour

The ILO defines forced labour as “all work or service which is exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered himself or herself voluntarily.” The following instruments to support the eradication of forced labour are available:

- ▶ [ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 \(No. 29\)](#)
- ▶ [ILO Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 \(P029\)](#)
- ▶ [ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 \(No. 182\)](#)
- ▶ [ILO Forced Labour Recommendation, 2014 \(No. 203\)](#)
- ▶ [ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 \(No. 105\)](#)

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