



BENIN

13,791,271

POPULATION*

\$3,505

GDP (PPP)*



37,000

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY*



48.00/100

VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY*



*Global Slavery Index 2023 data. For more information on their findings, visit [GlobalSlaveryIndex.org](https://www.Globalslaveryindex.org)

TRAFFICKING IN BENIN

In 2006, a UNICEF study suggested that in that year alone, 40,000 children were trafficked to, from, and internally within Benin, the numbers of which were expected to increase with each year. A common Beninese critique of anti-trafficking legislation is that the Western construction of trafficking fails to understand Benin's cultural system of internal child migration. In Benin, children become familiar with work from a young age, and work is viewed as part of the process of a child's basic development. With high levels of illiteracy in Benin, it can be difficult for rural populations to learn and comply with legal requirements for child migration. Moreover, extended family is considered just as responsible for children as their parents, and a child will voluntarily be placed with any relative who can provide them with good opportunities. With this context, it may be difficult to distinguish child trafficking from cultural child migration, even in cases where travel requirements are not met.

Child trafficking takes different forms in Benin. A child's family can sell the child under contract trafficking, in which a family will be paid according to the child's age and how many years the child is being sold for. A child may also be sold to pay off their parent's debt bondage, meaning that it is the parent's loan "debt" that will keep a child in a labor exploitative situation. Another method used is that an abandoned or orphaned child will be taken outside of Benin with fake adoption documents, and the child will be sold upon arriving to the destination country. Due to the religious beliefs and superstitions of many animist groups, children may be sold if they are considered to be sorcerers, meaning that they were born with some type of defect or malformation. If a child was a product of an adulterous relationship or rape, he or she may be sold. Lastly, street children are prone to being trafficked and will often be lured off the street with promises of better living conditions, only to be sold to a separate party.





LJI BENIN IMPACT SINCE 2018

992

INTERCEPTS

387

ARRESTS

1

STATION

4

STAFF

OUR TIMELINE

2018

Love Justice Benin is established in July with 29 interceptions and 13 assisted arrests.

2021

Benin's border begin to reopen after the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. Our team returns to work, and Love Justice Benin staff grows to 10 individuals.

