



# KENYA

53,010,000

POPULATION\*

\$4,587

GDP (PPP)\*



328,000

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN MODERN SLAVERY\*



66.2/100

VULNERABILITY TO MODERN SLAVERY\*



\*Global Slavery Index 2018 data. For more information on their findings, visit [GlobalSlaveryIndex.org](http://GlobalSlaveryIndex.org)

## TRAFFICKING IN KENYA

Kenya is a Tier 2 source, transit, and destination country for sex and labor trafficking, having only recently been taken off the Tier 2 Watch List, according to the 2016 U.S. Trafficking In Persons report. A HAART report suggests that as many as 20,000 Kenyan children are trafficked annually. Moreover, a 2008 IOM report found that Kenya's sex industry is a common destination for women from Sudan, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and even South Asia.

The vulnerability of women and children in Kenya to trafficking is due, at least in part, to poverty and a perversion of cultural practices that commercialize and sexualize girls. As a society, Kenya is patriarchal, and historically, women have not been given a role in decision-making processes. As with many cultures, gender inequalities in Kenya have perpetuated women's vulnerability to various forms of exploitation. Early marriage (i.e. before age 18) is still a common cultural practice, especially in communities where female genital mutilation (FGM) remains a ritual. Girls are considered vulnerable to trafficking in cases where FGM has occurred. Additionally, there are other ritual practices that specifically target the use of trafficked persons.

According to one in-country contact, a socio-cultural issue that affects understanding of trafficking is that adult victims are not given much empathy by communities and law enforcement, as their situations are more likely to be considered "voluntary" and due to their own poor choices or promiscuity. Sexual exploitation is widespread, with a 2015 USAID report finding that 45% of women between the ages of 15-49 have experienced physical and/or sexual violence.





## LJI KENYA IMPACT SINCE 2018

1,490

INTERCEPTS

19

ARRESTS

3

STATIONS

10

STAFF

1

SHELTERS

## OUR TIMELINE

### 2018

Love Justice Kenya is established and has 51 interceptions in their first month, October, followed by their first arrest in December of that same year.

### 2020

By July of 2020, LJI Kenya staff grows to 10 members and two stations, and together, they have intercepted over 900 individuals to prevent them from being trafficked.

