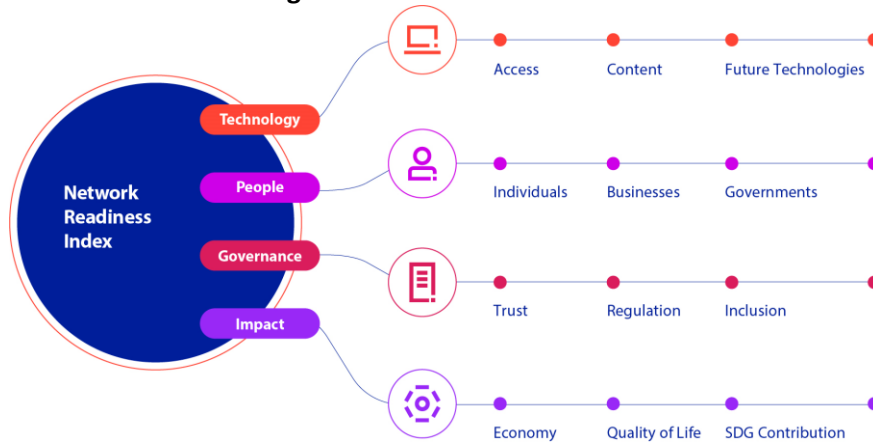




Benin

The Network Readiness Index (NRI) is one of the leading global indices on the application and impact of information and communication technology (ICT) in economies around the world. In its latest version of 2023 the NRI Report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 134 economies based on their performances in four different pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact. Each of these pillars is itself comprised of three sub-pillars (see Figure 1) that have been populated by a total of 58 variables.

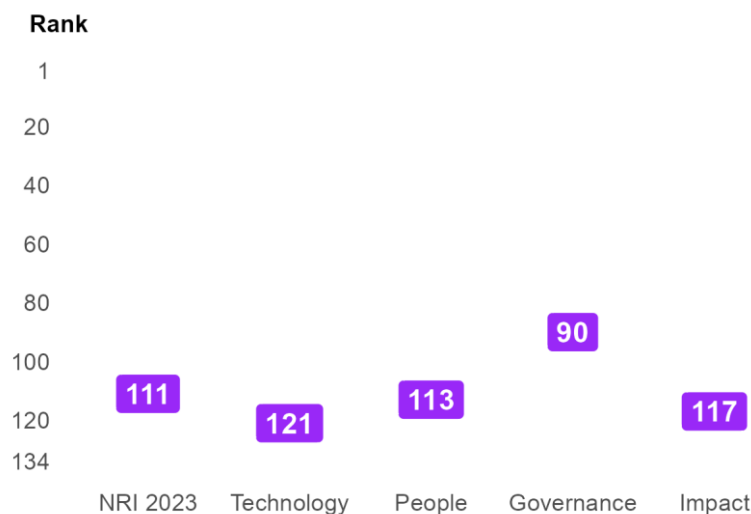
Figure 1: The NRI 2023 model



Global NRI position of Benin

Benin ranks 111th out of the 134 economies included in the NRI 2023 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to Governance. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Technology.

Figure 2: Benin global ranking, overall and by pillar



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Performance at sub-pillar level

When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Benin relate to Regulation, Trust and Businesses, among others (Table 1). More could be done, though, to improve the economy's performances in the Future Technologies, SDG Contribution and Individuals sub-pillars.

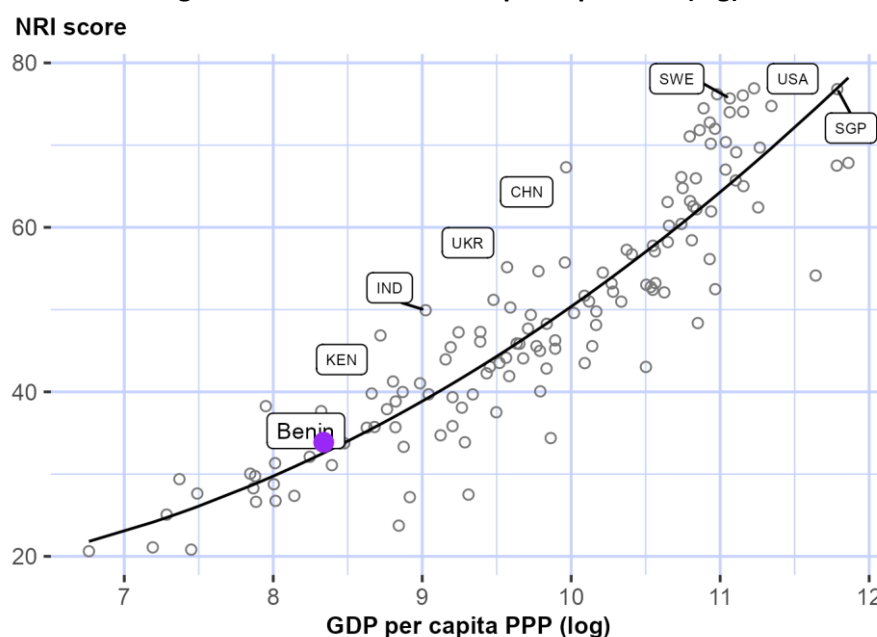
Table 1: Benin rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Regulation	62	Access	114
Trust	86	Quality of Life	114
Businesses	88	Content	118
Governments	93	Future Technologies	120
Economy	105	SDG Contribution	121
Inclusion	107	Individuals	127

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Benin in terms of both NRI score and GDP per capita (PPP). The trend line shows the expected NRI score given an economy's income level. As can be seen, Benin is slightly above the trend line, which suggests that its network readiness is more or less in line with what would be expected given its income level.

Figure 3: NRI score and GDP per capita PPP (log)



Note: USA = United States (rank: 1), SGP = Singapore (rank: 2), FIN = Finland (3), NLD = Netherlands (4), SWE = Sweden (5), CHN = China (20), IND = India (61). Benin belongs to the group of lower-middle-income countries, where the best performer is Ukraine (UKR). The top performer of its region-Africa-is Kenya (KEN).

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Performance against its income group and region

Lower-middle-income countries

Benin is ranked 29th in the group of lower-middle-income countries (Figure 4, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a score higher than the income group average in one of the four pillars: Governance. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms lower-middle-income countries in four of the twelve sub-pillars: Businesses, Governments, Trust and Regulation.

Africa

Benin is ranked 12th within Africa (Figure 4, right panel). It has a score above the regional average in three of the four pillars: NRI, People, Governance and Impact. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Africa in seven of the twelve sub-pillars: Businesses, Governments, Trust, Regulation, Inclusion, Economy and Quality of Life.

Figure 4: Performance of Benin against its income group and region, overall and by pillar

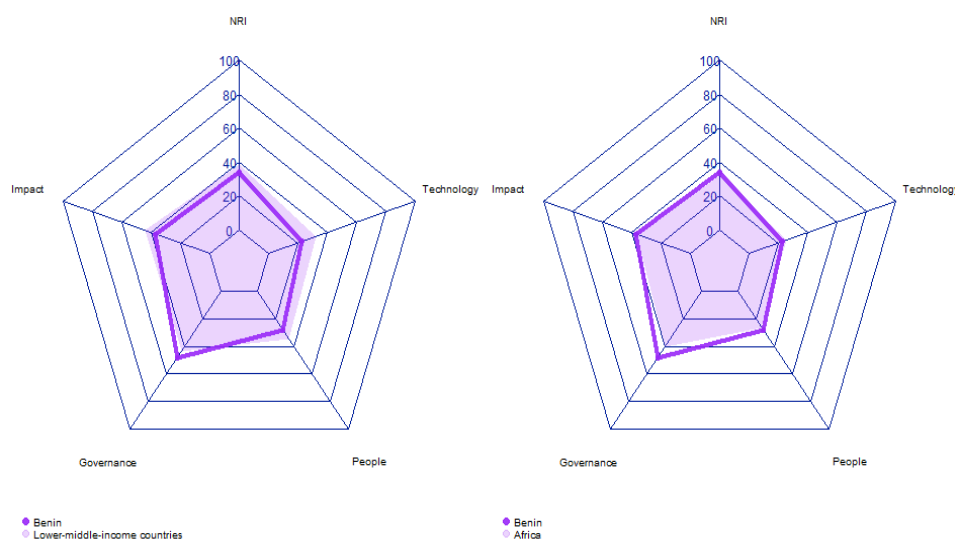


Table 2: Benin scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Benin	Lower-middle-income countries	Africa
NRI	33.87	38.41	32.14
Technology	22.49	32.12	25.14
People	27.88	34.38	26.19
Governance	48.29	43.27	40.44
Impact	36.81	43.89	36.77

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Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where Benin performs particularly well include 3.2.4 E-commerce legislation, 3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content, and 4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy (Table 3). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include 4.1.6 ICT services exports, 4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being, and 4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.

Table 3: Highlight of Strengths and Opportunities for Benin

Strongest indicators	Rank	Weakest indicators	Rank
3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	2.1.5 Adult literacy rate	103
3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	20	1.2.3 Mobile apps development	117
4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy	60	4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	123
3.1.3 Online access to financial account	62	4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	129
3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	62	4.1.6 ICT services exports	134
3.1.2 Cybersecurity	64		
4.2.3 Income inequality	65		
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	69		
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging technologies	79		
3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	84		

Note: For the full list of strengths and weaknesses, see At-A-Glance table.

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NRI 2023 At-A-Glance: Benin

Network Readiness Index

Rank: 111 (out of 134)

Score: 33.87

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	121	22.49	C. Governance pillar	90	48.29
1st sub-pillar: Access	114	42.56	1st sub-pillar: Trust	86	34.30
2nd sub-pillar: Content	118	7.39	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	62	66.89
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	120	17.52	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	107	43.67
B. People pillar	113	27.88	D. Impact pillar	117	36.81
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	127	17.33	1st sub-pillar: Economy	105	17.41
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	88	36.91	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	114	48.07
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	93	29.39	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	121	44.96

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	121	22.49	C. Governance pillar	90	48.29
1st sub-pillar: Access	114	42.56	1st sub-pillar: Trust	86	34.30
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	120	21.44	3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	123	22.89
1.1.2 Handset prices	111	27.99	3.1.2 Cybersecurity	64	79.71 •
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	114	6.45	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	62	30.59 •
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	122	92.27	3.1.4 Internet shopping	114	4.03
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	99	64.66	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	62	66.89
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	NA	NA	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	93	39.85
2nd sub-pillar: Content	118	7.39	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	110	64.71
1.2.1 GitHub commits	115	0.88	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	62	44.68 •
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	114	0.33	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00 •
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	117	26.89 ○	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	20	85.19 •
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	96	1.45	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	107	43.67
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	120	17.52	3.3.1 E-Participation	98	32.56
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	110	26.30	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	89	58.72
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	116	22.00	3.3.3 Availability of local online content	113	29.57

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Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
1.3.3 Robot density	NA	NA	3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	NA	NA
1.3.4 Computer software spending	103	4.26	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	84	53.85 ●
B. People pillar			D. Impact pillar		
<i>1st sub-pillar: Individuals</i>	113	27.88	<i>1st sub-pillar: Economy</i>	117	36.81
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	127	17.33	4.1.1 High-tech and medium-high-tech manufacturing	105	17.41
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	91	3.34	4.1.2 High-tech exports	NA	NA
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	72	44.85	4.1.3 PCT patent applications	89	4.77
2.1.4 Tertiary enrollment	122	6.74	4.1.4 Domestic market size	88	0.77
2.1.5 Adult literacy rate	109	5.65	4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy	105	37.92
2.1.6 AI talent concentration	103	26.05 ○	4.1.6 ICT services exports	60	43.60 ●
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Businesses</i>			<i>2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life</i>		
2.2.1 Firms with website	88	36.91	4.2.1 Happiness	134	0.00 ○
2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise	88	33.27	4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	114	48.07
2.2.3 Knowledge intensive employment	NA	NA	4.2.3 Income inequality	111	34.69
2.2.4 Annual investment in telecommunication services	117	5.39	4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	103	56.50
2.2.5 GERD performed by business enterprise	103	72.07	<i>3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution</i>		
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Governments</i>			4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	121	44.96
2.3.1 Government online services	93	29.39	4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	129	16.39 ○
2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	94	47.45	4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	NA	NA
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging tech	96	7.35	4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	69	76.99 ●
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	79	33.36 ●	4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	107	56.29
	NA	NA		123	30.17 ○

NOTE: ● a strength and ○ a weakness.

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