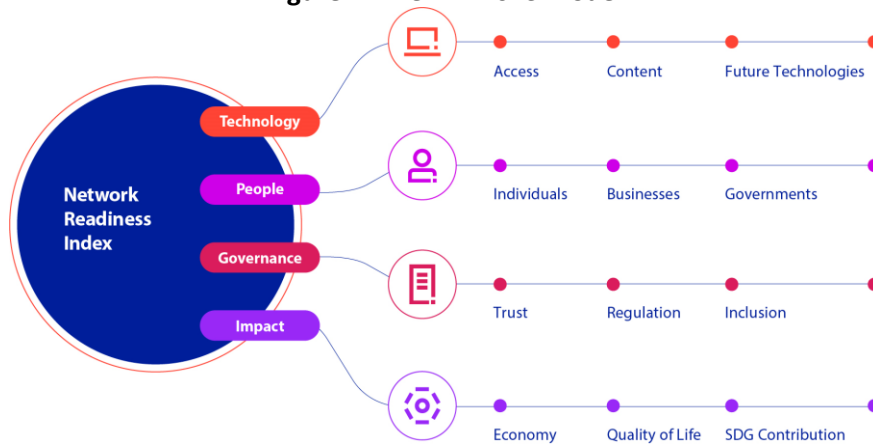# Cambodia

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.
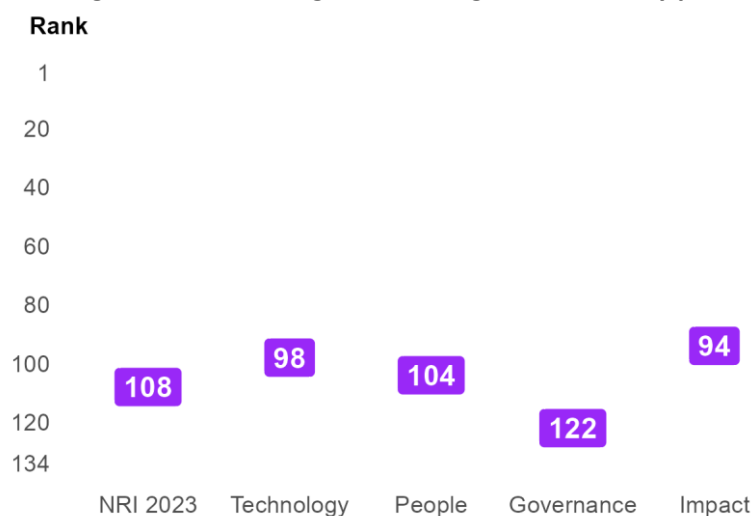
Figure 1: The NRI 2023 model

Global NRI position of Cambodia
Cambodia ranks 108th out of the 134 economies included in the NRI 2023 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to Impact. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Governance.

Figure 2: Cambodia global ranking, overall and by pillar

Performance at sub-pillar level

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

Table 1: Cambodia rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
SDG Contribution	76	Governments	106
Individuals	81	Inclusion	108
Quality of Life	84	Economy	114
Content	85	Regulation	118
Future Technologies	97	Businesses	120
Access	102	Trust	121

NRI score and income

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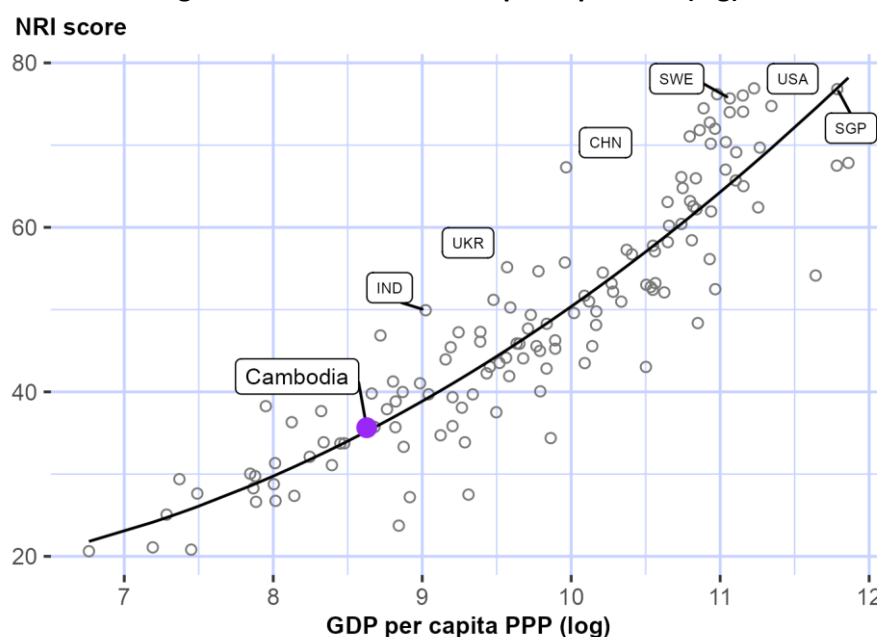
Note: USA = United States (rank: 1), SGP = Singapore (rank: 2), FIN = Finland (3), NLD = Netherlands (4), SWE = Sweden (5), CHN = China (20), IND = India (61). Cambodia belongs to the group of lower-middle-income countries, where the best performer is Ukraine (UKR). The top performer of its region-Asia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

Performance against its income group and region

Lower-middle-income countries
Cambodia is ranked 27th 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: Impact. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms lower-middle-income countries in four of the twelve sub-pillars: Content, Individuals, Quality of Life and SDG Contribution.

Asia & Pacific
Cambodia is ranked 19th within Asia & Pacific (Figure 4, right panel). It lags behind its region in each of the four pillars. With regard to sub-pillars, it trails the regional average in each of them.

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

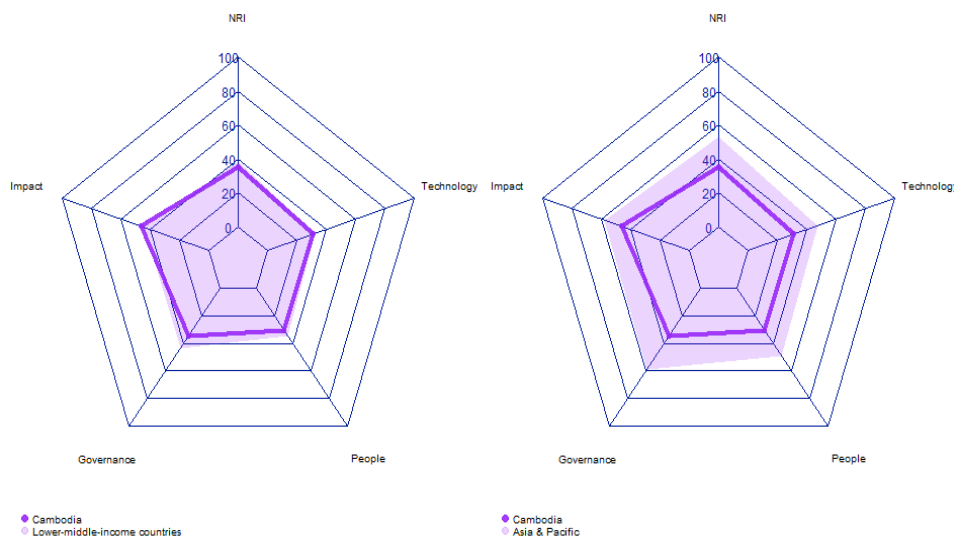**Table 2: Cambodia scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar**

Dimension	Cambodia	Lower-middle-income countries	Asia & Pacific
NRI	35.64	38.41	53.28
Technology	31.23	32.12	47.34
People	30.22	34.38	48.95
Governance	34.88	43.27	59.22
Impact	46.23	43.89	57.62

Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where Cambodia performs particularly well include 4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices, 2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country, and 1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions (Table 3). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include 3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content, 3.1.3 Online access to financial account, and 2.2.3 Knowledge intensive employment.

Table 3: Highlight of Strengths and Opportunities for Cambodia

Strongest indicators	Rank	Weakest indicators	Rank
4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	5	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	87
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	31	4.1.3 PCT patent applications	99
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	35	2.2.3 Knowledge intensive employment	118
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	55	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	121
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	55	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	124
3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	62		
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	73		
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	74		
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	76		
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	86		

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

Network Readiness Index 2023

PORTULANS INSTITUTE · UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD · Saïd Business School

NRI 2023 At-A-Glance: Cambodia

Network Readiness Index   Rank: 108 (out of 134)   Score: 35.64

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	98	31.23
1st sub-pillar: Access	102	49.07
2nd sub-pillar: Content	85	18.59
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	97	26.03
B. People pillar	104	30.22
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	81	43.42
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	120	24.31
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	106	22.92

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
C. Governance pillar	122	34.88
1st sub-pillar: Trust	121	17.32
2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	118	44.27
3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	108	43.06
D. Impact pillar	94	46.23
1st sub-pillar: Economy	114	15.44
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	84	62.76
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	76	60.48

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	
A. Technology pillar	98	31.23	
1st sub-pillar: Access	102	49.07	
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	86	49.82	●
1.1.2 Handset prices	106	30.39	
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	35	39.57	●
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	102	97.27	
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	74	70.32	●
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	76	7.06	
2nd sub-pillar: Content	85	18.59	
1.2.1 GitHub commits	99	2.10	
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	110	0.42	
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	55	70.14	●
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	93	1.70	
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	97	26.03	
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	100	32.06	
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	55	43.75	●
1.3.3 Robot density	NA	NA	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
C. Governance pillar	122	34.88	
1st sub-pillar: Trust	121	17.32	
3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	93	41.95	
3.1.2 Cybersecurity	118	17.70	
3.1.3 Online access to financial account	121	5.27	○
3.1.4 Internet shopping	112	4.34	
2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	118	44.27	
3.2.1 Regulatory quality	108	35.05	
3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	113	63.53	
3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	87	30.91	
3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	87	66.67	○
3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	124	25.18	○
3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	108	43.06	
3.3.1 E-Participation	106	26.75	
3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	113	43.37	
3.3.3 Availability of local online content	94	45.19	
3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	62	67.50	●

Indicator	Rank	Score	
1.3.4 Computer software spending	113	2.28	
B. People pillar	104	30.22	
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	81	43.42	
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	31	27.84	●
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	NA	NA	
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	73	60.90	●
2.1.4 Tertiary enrollment	105	6.92	
2.1.5 Adult literacy rate	73	78.03	
2.1.6 AI talent concentration	NA	NA	
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	120	24.31	
2.2.1 Firms with website	101	16.98	
2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise	67	24.05	
2.2.3 Knowledge intensive employment	118	5.20	○
2.2.4 Annual investment in telecommunication services	88	74.91	
2.2.5 GERD performed by business enterprise	82	0.38	
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	106	22.92	
2.3.1 Government online services	112	35.69	
2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	NA	NA	
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging tech	87	31.13	
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	103	1.95	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	110	32.51	
D. Impact pillar	94	46.23	
1st sub-pillar: Economy	114	15.44	
4.1.1 High-tech and medium-high-tech manufacturing	NA	NA	
4.1.2 High-tech exports	92	3.89	
4.1.3 PCT patent applications	99	0.00	○
4.1.4 Domestic market size	91	43.14	
4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy	97	27.62	
4.1.6 ICT services exports	109	2.57	
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	84	62.76	
4.2.1 Happiness	109	35.30	
4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	5	95.15	●
4.2.3 Income inequality	NA	NA	
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	98	57.83	
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	76	60.48	
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	97	53.95	
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	NA	NA	
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	76	73.45	●
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	95	63.29	
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	86	51.22	

NOTE: ● a strength and ○ a weakness.

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