Cameroon

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.
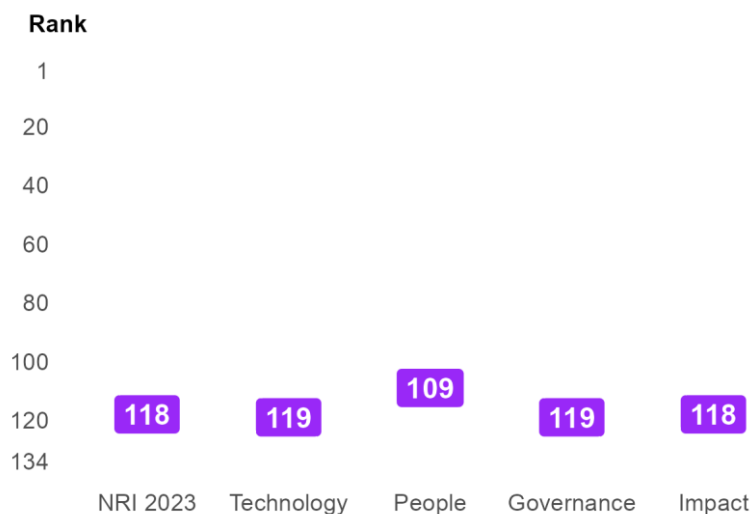
Figure 1: The NRI 2023 model

Global NRI position of Cameroon

Cameroon ranks 118th out of the 134 economies included in the NRI 2023 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to People. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Technology and Governance.

Figure 2: Cameroon global ranking, overall and by pillar

Performance at sub-pillar level

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

Table 1: Cameroon rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Economy	67	Trust	109
Future Technologies	92	Individuals	113
Businesses	97	Quality of Life	122
Content	100	Inclusion	127
Regulation	107	SDG Contribution	128
Governments	108	Access	132

NRI score and income

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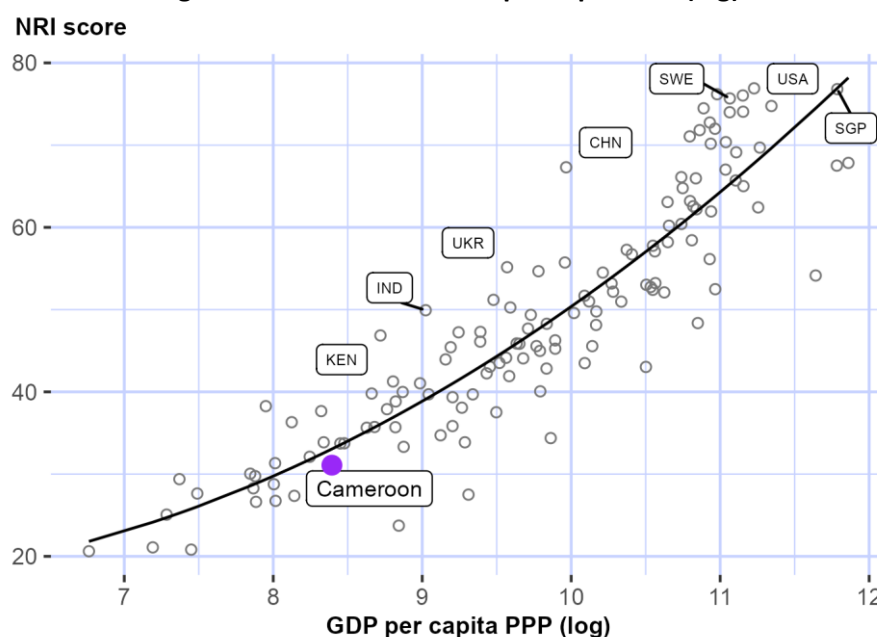
Note: USA = United States (rank: 1), SGP = Singapore (rank: 2), FIN = Finland (3), NLD = Netherlands (4), SWE = Sweden (5), CHN = China (20), IND = India (61). Cameroon belongs to the group of lower-middle-income countries, where the best performer is Ukraine (UKR). The top performer of its region-Africa-is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

Performance against its income group and region

Lower-middle-income countries
Cameroon is ranked 34th in the group of lower-middle-income countries (Figure 4, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a score below the income group average in each of the four pillars. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms lower-middle-income countries in two of the twelve sub-pillars: Regulation and Economy.

Africa
Cameroon is ranked 16th within Africa (Figure 4, right panel). It has a score above the regional average in two of the four pillars: People and Impact. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Africa in five of the twelve sub-pillars: Content, Future Technologies, Individuals, Businesses and Economy.

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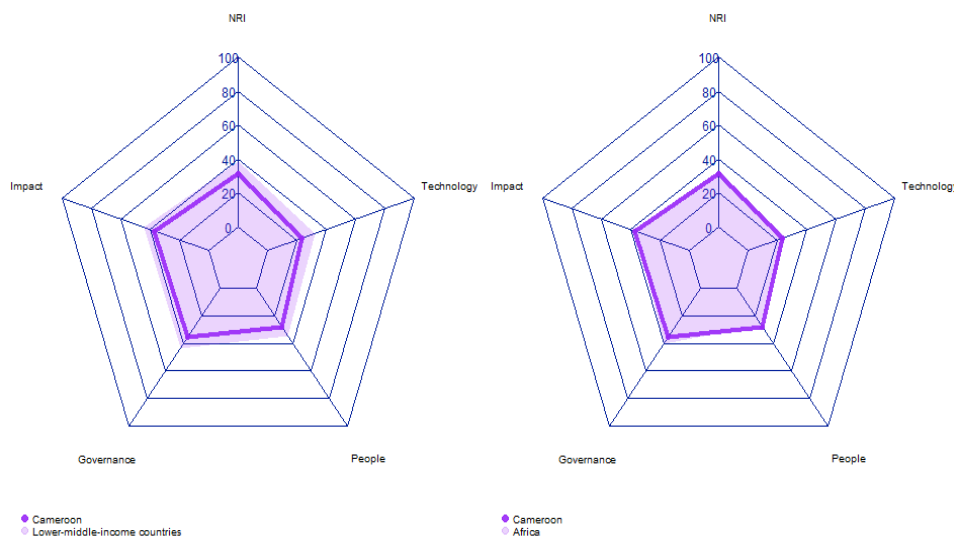

Table 2: Cameroon scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Cameroon	Lower-middle-income countries	Africa
NRI	31.09	38.41	32.14
Technology	23.29	32.12	25.14
People	28.46	34.38	26.19
Governance	35.79	43.27	40.44
Impact	36.81	43.89	36.77

Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where Cameroon performs particularly well include 3.2.4 E-commerce legislation, 4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy, and 4.1.6 ICT services exports (Table 3). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include 1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network, 4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, and 2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country.

Table 3: Highlight of Strengths and Opportunities for Cameroon

Strongest indicators	Rank	Weakest indicators	Rank
3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	99
4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy	41	3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	101
4.1.6 ICT services exports	51	2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	113
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	59	4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	125
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	63	1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	134
4.1.2 High-tech exports	64		
3.1.3 Online access to financial account	72		
2.2.4 Annual investment in telecommunication services	73		
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	81		
4.1.4 Domestic market size	85		

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

Network Readiness Index 2023

NRI 2023 At-A-Glance: Cameroon

Network Readiness Index   Rank: 118 (out of 134)   Score: 31.09

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	119	23.29	C. Governance pillar	119	35.79
1st sub-pillar: Access	132	26.62	1st sub-pillar: Trust	109	24.13
2nd sub-pillar: Content	100	16.18	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	107	53.23
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	92	27.08	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	127	30.00
B. People pillar	109	28.46	D. Impact pillar	118	36.81
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	113	27.96	1st sub-pillar: Economy	67	27.07
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	97	35.16	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	122	42.36
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	108	22.26	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	128	40.99

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score		Indicator	Rank	Score	
A. Technology pillar	119	23.29		**C. Governance pillar**	119	35.79	
1st sub-pillar: Access	132	26.62		*1st sub-pillar: Trust*	109	24.13	
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	114	27.66		3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	124	22.37	
1.1.2 Handset prices	116	24.45		3.1.2 Cybersecurity	97	44.67	
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	91	17.96		3.1.3 Online access to financial account	72	24.15	●
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	134	0.00	○	3.1.4 Internet shopping	107	5.31	
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	108	63.02		*2nd sub-pillar: Regulation*	107	53.23	
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	NA	NA		3.2.1 Regulatory quality	121	28.76	
2nd sub-pillar: Content	100	16.18		3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	100	68.24	
1.2.1 GitHub commits	109	1.38		3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	96	24.94	
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	104	0.64		3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	1	100.00	●
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	97	55.39		3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	111	44.23	
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	59	7.32	●	*3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion*	127	30.00	
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	92	27.08		3.3.1 E-Participation	106	26.75	
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	93	36.36		3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	115	41.96	
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	90	33.25		3.3.3 Availability of local online content	122	24.76	

Network Readiness Index 2023

Indicator	Rank	Score	
1.3.3 Robot density	NA	NA	
1.3.4 Computer software spending	85	11.64	
B. People pillar	109	28.46	
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	113	27.96	
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	113	0.75	○
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	63	50.11	●
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	116	10.85	
2.1.4 Tertiary enrollment	104	7.79	
2.1.5 Adult literacy rate	84	70.28	
2.1.6 AI talent concentration	NA	NA	
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	97	35.16	
2.2.1 Firms with website	102	15.13	
2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise	NA	NA	
2.2.3 Knowledge intensive employment	102	13.23	
2.2.4 Annual investment in telecommunication services	73	77.12	●
2.2.5 GERD performed by business enterprise	NA	NA	
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	108	22.26	
2.3.1 Government online services	114	32.76	
2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	99	4.41	○
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging tech	90	29.62	
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	NA	NA	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	101	22.14	○
3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	108	34.43	
D. Impact pillar	118	36.81	
1st sub-pillar: Economy	67	27.07	
4.1.1 High-tech and medium-high-tech manufacturing	NA	NA	
4.1.2 High-tech exports	64	12.50	●
4.1.3 PCT patent applications	78	1.33	
4.1.4 Domestic market size	85	46.39	●
4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy	41	56.10	●
4.1.6 ICT services exports	51	19.03	●
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	122	42.36	
4.2.1 Happiness	97	43.89	
4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	113	49.92	
4.2.3 Income inequality	101	41.21	
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	123	34.42	
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	128	40.99	
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	123	26.36	
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	NA	NA	
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	121	43.36	
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	81	67.85	●
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	125	26.38	○

NOTE: ● a strength and ○ a weakness.

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