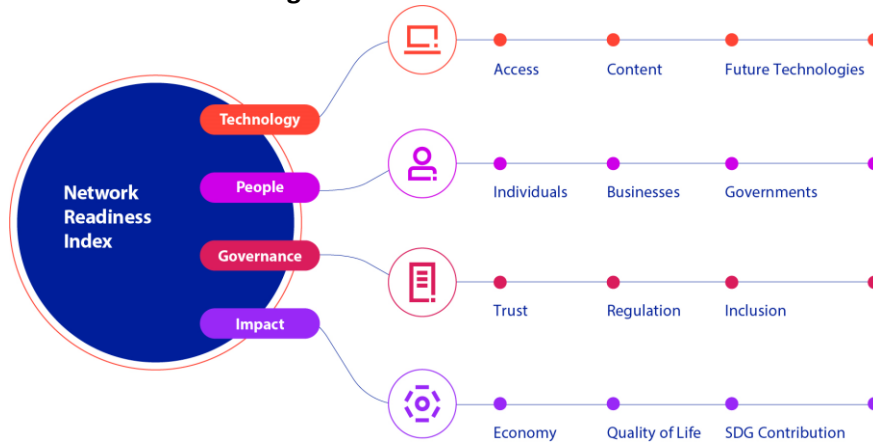


Congo, Dem. Rep.

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.

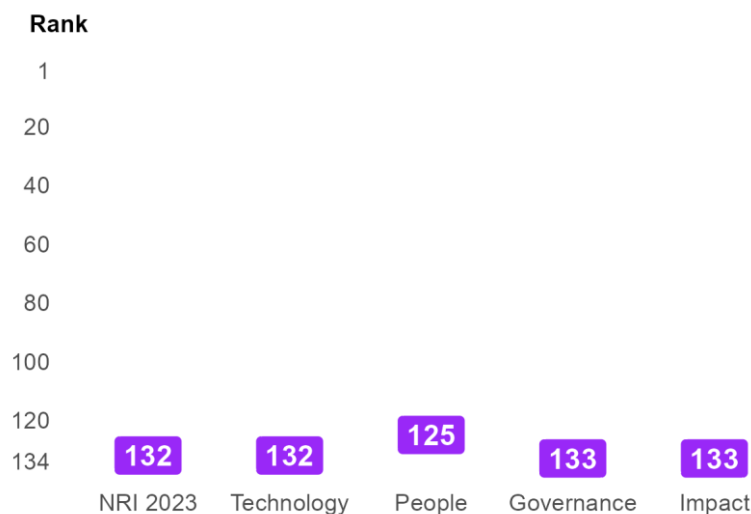
Figure 1: The NRI 2023 model



Global NRI position of Congo, Dem. Rep.

Congo, Dem. Rep. ranks 132nd 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 Governance and Impact.

Figure 2: Congo, Dem. Rep. 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 Congo, Dem. Rep. relate to Economy, Businesses and Individuals, among others (Table 1). More could be done, though, to improve the economy's performances in the Regulation, Trust and SDG Contribution sub-pillars.

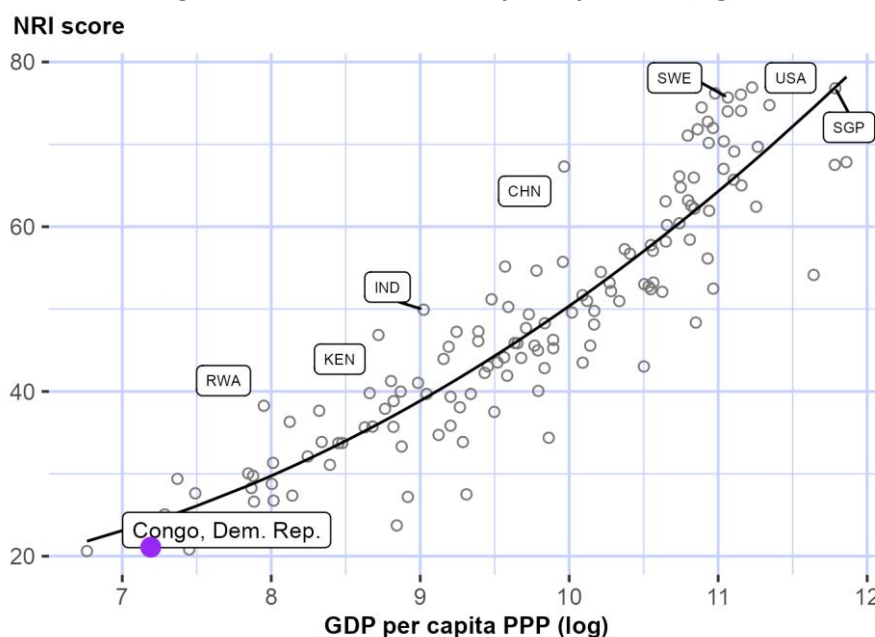
Table 1: Congo, Dem. Rep. rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Economy	115	Access	129
Businesses	119	Inclusion	129
Individuals	123	Governments	131
Future Technologies	125	Regulation	131
Quality of Life	126	Trust	132
Content	128	SDG Contribution	134

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Congo, Dem. Rep. 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, Congo, Dem. Rep. is well below the trend line, which suggests that it is underachieving and that one would expect it could raise its network readiness in view of 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). Congo, Dem. Rep. belongs to the group of low-income countries, where the best performer is Rwanda (RWA). The top performer of its region-Africa-is Kenya (KEN).

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Performance against its income group and region

Low-income countries

Congo, Dem. Rep. is ranked 10th in the group of low-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 low-income countries in one of the twelve sub-pillars: Individuals.

Africa

Congo, Dem. Rep. is ranked 29th within Africa (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 Congo, Dem. Rep. against its income group and region, overall and by pillar

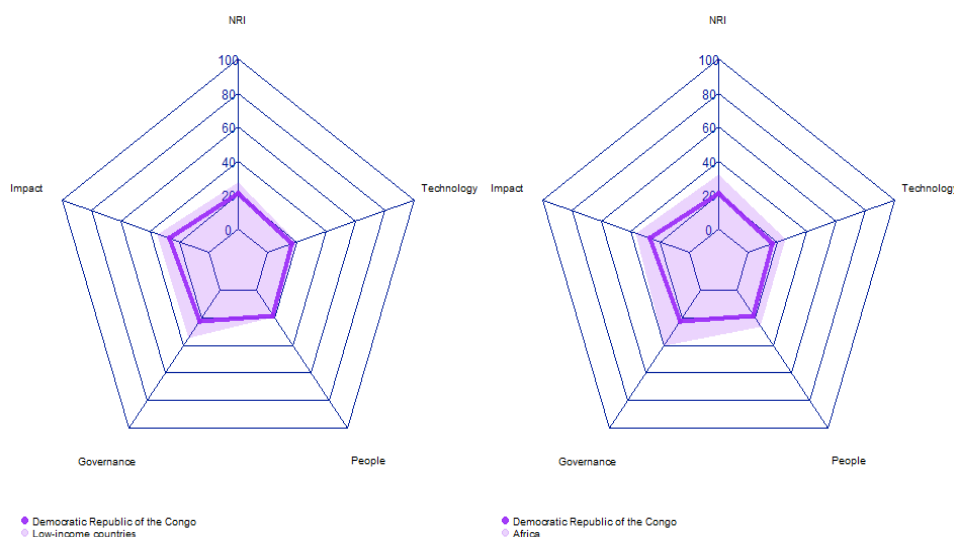


Table 2: Congo, Dem. Rep. scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Congo, Dem. Rep.	Low-income countries	Africa
NRI	21.09	27.19	32.14
Technology	16.27	19.75	25.14
People	18.27	19.57	26.19
Governance	22.81	34.61	40.44
Impact	27.00	34.82	36.77

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Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where Congo, Dem. Rep. performs particularly well include 3.1.3 Online access to financial account, 2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education, and 2.2.4 Annual investment in telecommunication services (Table 3). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include 4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, 1.2.2 Internet domain registrations, and 3.1.1 Secure Internet servers.

Table 3: Highlight of Strengths and Opportunities for Congo, Dem. Rep.

Strongest indicators	Rank	Weakest indicators	Rank
3.1.3 Online access to financial account	56	1.1.6 Internet access in schools	84
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	67	1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	128
2.2.4 Annual investment in telecommunication services	75	4.2.1 Happiness	128
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	76	4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	128
3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	76	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	129
4.1.4 Domestic market size	83	1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	131
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	86	1.2.1 GitHub commits	131
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	88	2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	131
4.2.3 Income inequality	89	2.3.1 Government online services	131
3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	100	3.1.2 Cybersecurity	131
		3.3.3 Availability of local online content	131
		3.2.1 Regulatory quality	132
		4.1.6 ICT services exports	132
		1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	133
		3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	133
		4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	134

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

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NRI 2023 At-A-Glance: Congo, Dem. Rep.

Network Readiness Index

Rank: 132 (out of 134)

Score: 21.09

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	132	16.27	C. Governance pillar	133	22.81
1st sub-pillar: Access	129	32.56	1st sub-pillar: Trust	132	12.10
2nd sub-pillar: Content	128	0.78	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	131	29.69
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	125	15.48	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	129	26.65
B. People pillar	125	18.27	D. Impact pillar	133	27.00
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	123	19.92	1st sub-pillar: Economy	115	15.24
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	119	24.33	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	126	37.40
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	131	10.55	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	134	28.38

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	132	16.27	C. Governance pillar	133	22.81
1st sub-pillar: Access	129	32.56	1st sub-pillar: Trust	132	12.10
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	131	6.54	3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	133	9.89
1.1.2 Handset prices	121	19.19	3.1.2 Cybersecurity	131	3.63
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	NA	NA	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	56	33.51
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	128	75.66	3.1.4 Internet shopping	123	1.38
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	115	61.39	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	131	29.69
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	84	0.00	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	132	17.46
2nd sub-pillar: Content	128	0.78	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	100	68.24
1.2.1 GitHub commits	131	0.10	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	118	1.30
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	133	0.02	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	129	0.00
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	NA	NA	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	76	61.46
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	86	2.21	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	129	26.65
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	125	15.48	3.3.1 E-Participation	115	23.26
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	123	13.47	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	118	39.66
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	123	17.50	3.3.3 Availability of local online content	131	10.34
1.3.3 Robot density	NA	NA	3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	NA	NA

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Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
1.3.4 Computer software spending	NA	NA	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	109	33.34
B. People pillar	125	18.27	D. Impact pillar	133	27.00
<i>1st sub-pillar: Individuals</i>	123	19.92	<i>1st sub-pillar: Economy</i>	115	15.24
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	76	7.16	4.1.1 High-tech and medium-high-tech manufacturing	NA	NA
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	102	14.68	4.1.2 High-tech exports	121	0.68
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	131	2.15	4.1.3 PCT patent applications	NA	NA
2.1.4 Tertiary enrollment	120	2.89	4.1.4 Domestic market size	83	46.80
2.1.5 Adult literacy rate	82	72.72	4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy	117	13.37
2.1.6 AI talent concentration	NA	NA	4.1.6 ICT services exports	132	0.09
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Businesses</i>	119	24.33	<i>2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life</i>	126	37.40
2.2.1 Firms with website	110	8.66	4.2.1 Happiness	128	15.90
2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise	99	0.05	4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	116	48.19
2.2.3 Knowledge intensive employment	106	11.98	4.2.3 Income inequality	89	52.51
2.2.4 Annual investment in telecommunication services	75	76.61	4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	126	33.00
2.2.5 GERD performed by business enterprise	NA	NA	<i>3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution</i>	134	28.38
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Governments</i>	131	10.55	4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	128	16.95
2.3.1 Government online services	131	15.35	4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	NA	NA
2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	86	11.76	4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	88	69.91
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging tech	120	7.96	4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	134	0.00
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	67	7.14	4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	124	26.64

NOTE: ● a strength and ○ a weakness.

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