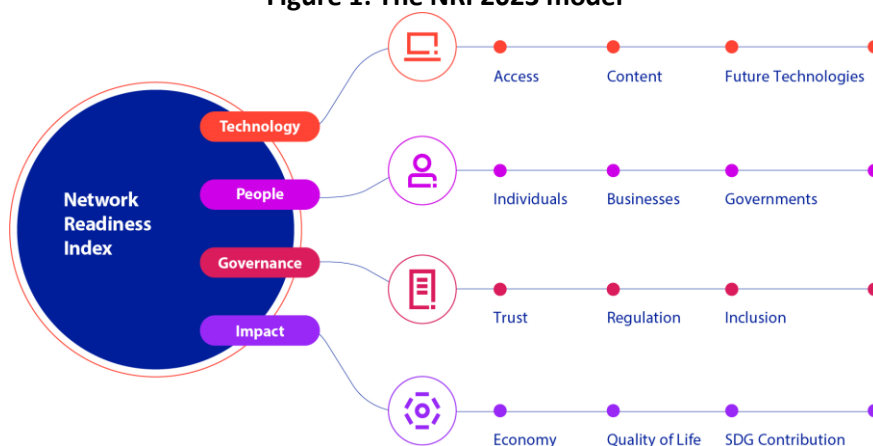


## Zimbabwe

*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.*

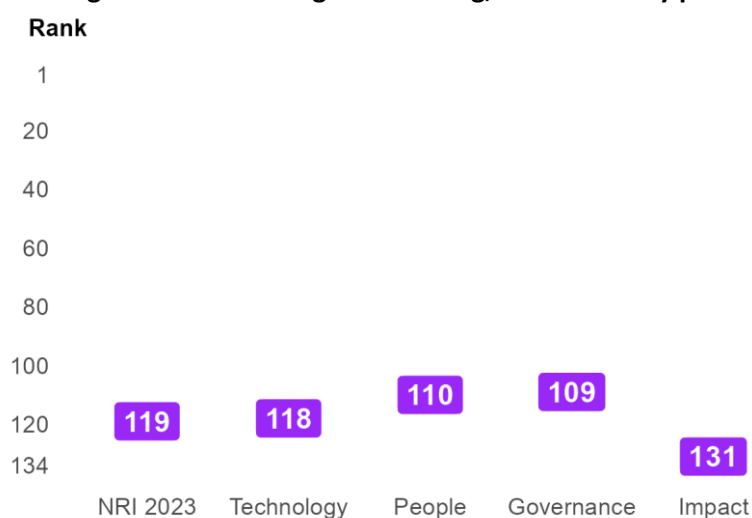
Figure 1: The NRI 2023 model



### Global NRI position of Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe ranks 119th 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 Impact.

Figure 2: Zimbabwe global ranking, overall and by pillar



## Performance at sub-pillar level

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

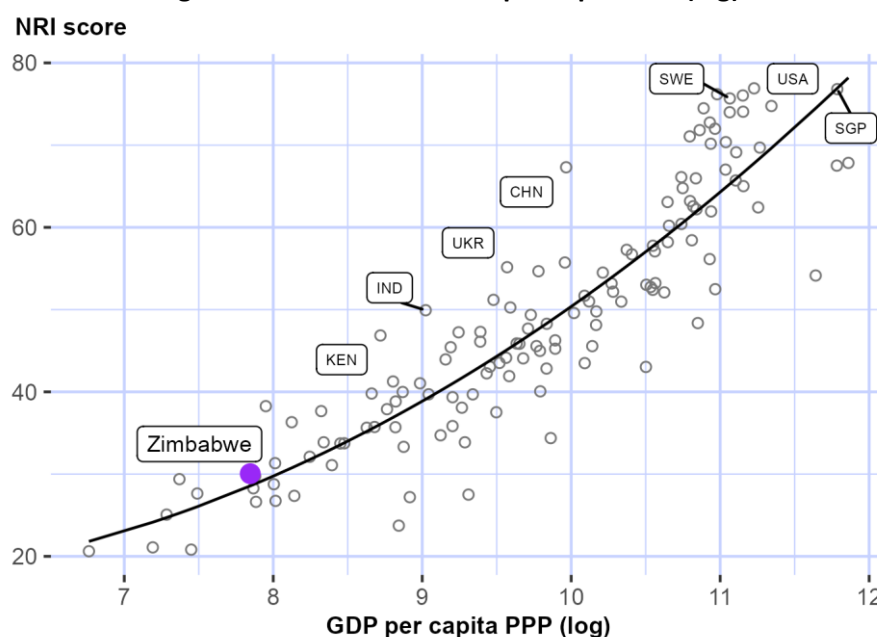
**Table 1: Zimbabwe rankings by sub-pillar**

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Businesses	82	Access	120
Inclusion	96	Regulation	121
Trust	102	SDG Contribution	122
Content	107	Governments	124
Individuals	110	Economy	129
Future Technologies	114	Quality of Life	130

## NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Zimbabwe 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, Zimbabwe 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). Zimbabwe 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

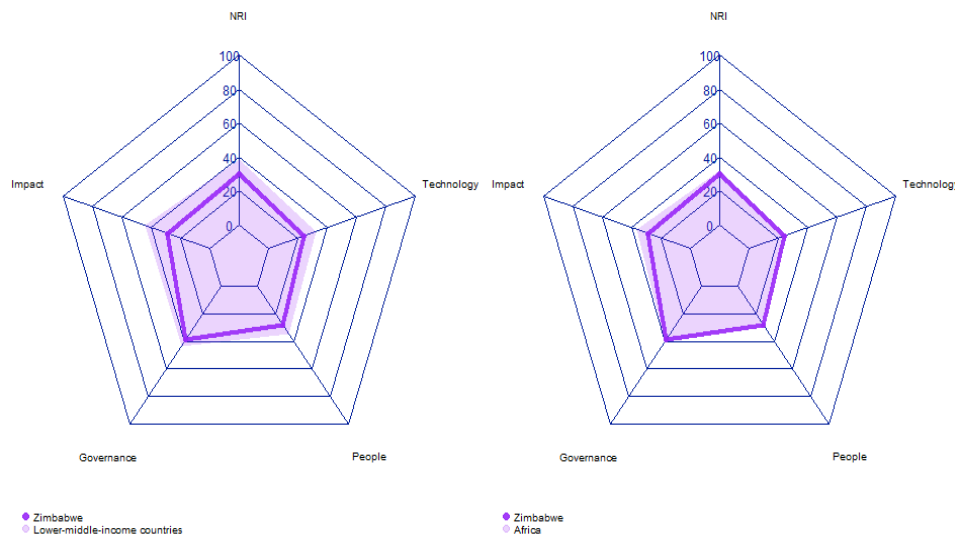
### *Lower-middle-income countries*

Zimbabwe is ranked 35th 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: Businesses and Inclusion.

### *Africa*

Zimbabwe is ranked 17th within Africa (Figure 4, right panel). It has a score above the regional average in one of the four pillars: People. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Africa in five of the twelve sub-pillars: Content, Individuals, Businesses, Trust and Inclusion.

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



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

Dimension	Zimbabwe	Lower-middle-income countries	Africa
NRI	30.05	38.41	32.14
Technology	24.34	32.12	25.14
People	28.27	34.38	26.19
Governance	38.88	43.27	40.44
Impact	28.71	43.89	36.77

# Network Readiness Index 2023



## Strongest and weakest indicators

The indicators where Zimbabwe performs particularly well include 3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use, 3.1.3 Online access to financial account, and 1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions (Table 3). By contrast, the economy's weakest indicators include 1.1.1 Mobile tariffs, 3.2.1 Regulatory quality, and 4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy.

**Table 3: Highlight of Strengths and Opportunities for Zimbabwe**

Strongest indicators	Rank	Weakest indicators	Rank
3.3.4 Gender gap in Internet use	9	2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	103
3.1.3 Online access to financial account	38	4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy	126
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	52	1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	128
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	55	4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	129
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	59	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	131
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	65	4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	131
2.1.5 Adult literacy rate	66	1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	133
1.3.4 Computer software spending	70		
4.1.3 PCT patent applications	73		
3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	78		

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

# Network Readiness Index 2023



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## NRI 2023 At-A-Glance: Zimbabwe

Network Readiness Index

Rank: 119 (out of 134)

Score: 30.05

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	118	24.34	C. Governance pillar	109	38.88
1st sub-pillar: Access	120	40.21	1st sub-pillar: Trust	102	28.93
2nd sub-pillar: Content	107	13.60	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	121	39.45
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	114	19.20	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	96	48.26
B. People pillar	110	28.27	D. Impact pillar	131	28.71
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	110	30.12	1st sub-pillar: Economy	129	10.71
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	82	39.92	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	130	31.30
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	124	14.77	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	122	44.12

### The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	Indicator	Rank	Score
<b>A. Technology pillar</b>	118	24.34	<b>C. Governance pillar</b>	109	38.88
<i>1st sub-pillar: Access</i>	120	40.21	<i>1st sub-pillar: Trust</i>	102	28.93
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	133	4.93	3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	109	33.94
1.1.2 Handset prices	119	21.17	3.1.2 Cybersecurity	102	35.37
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	52	32.45	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	38	44.27
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	119	94.19	3.1.4 Internet shopping	121	2.11
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	96	65.96	<i>2nd sub-pillar: Regulation</i>	121	39.45
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	67	22.55	3.2.1 Regulatory quality	131	18.60
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Content</i>	107	13.60	3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	106	65.88
1.2.1 GitHub commits	114	0.89	3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	NA	NA
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	97	1.02	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	121	33.33
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	107	46.47	3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	116	39.98
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	65	6.01	<i>3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion</i>	96	48.26
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies</i>	114	19.20	3.3.1 E-Participation	122	20.94
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	111	26.03	3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	87	60.15
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	128	12.25	3.3.3 Availability of local online content	116	27.64



# Network Readiness Index 2023



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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	9	76.12	●
1.3.4 Computer software spending	70	19.32	●	3.3.5 Rural gap in use of digital payments	78	56.47	●
<b>B. People pillar</b>	110	28.27		<b>D. Impact pillar</b>	131	28.71	
<i>1st sub-pillar: Individuals</i>	110	30.12		<i>1st sub-pillar: Economy</i>	129	10.71	
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	101	1.95		4.1.1 High-tech and medium-high-tech manufacturing	69	20.35	
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	59	52.32	●	4.1.2 High-tech exports	90	4.08	
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	123	6.26		4.1.3 PCT patent applications	73	2.02	●
2.1.4 Tertiary enrollment	116	4.15		4.1.4 Domestic market size	118	34.91	
2.1.5 Adult literacy rate	66	85.94	●	4.1.5 Prevalence of gig economy	126	0.00	○
2.1.6 AI talent concentration	NA	NA		4.1.6 ICT services exports	106	2.89	
<i>2nd sub-pillar: Businesses</i>	82	39.92		<i>2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life</i>	130	31.30	
2.2.1 Firms with website	87	33.73		4.2.1 Happiness	126	17.55	
2.2.2 GERD financed by business enterprise	NA	NA		4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	117	46.17	
2.2.3 Knowledge intensive employment	108	10.87		4.2.3 Income inequality	106	31.91	
2.2.4 Annual investment in telecommunication services	85	75.17		4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	129	29.56	○
2.2.5 GERD performed by business enterprise	NA	NA		<i>3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution</i>	122	44.12	
<i>3rd sub-pillar: Governments</i>	124	14.77		4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	104	43.46	
2.3.1 Government online services	115	31.97		4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	NA	NA	
2.3.2 Publication and use of open data	103	1.47	○	4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	55	81.42	●
2.3.3 Government promotion of investment in emerging tech	115	10.87		4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	131	20.38	○
2.3.4 R&D expenditure by governments and higher education	NA	NA		4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	122	31.24	

NOTE: ● a strength and ○ a weakness.



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