Botswana

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 2025 the NRI Report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 127 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 53 variables.
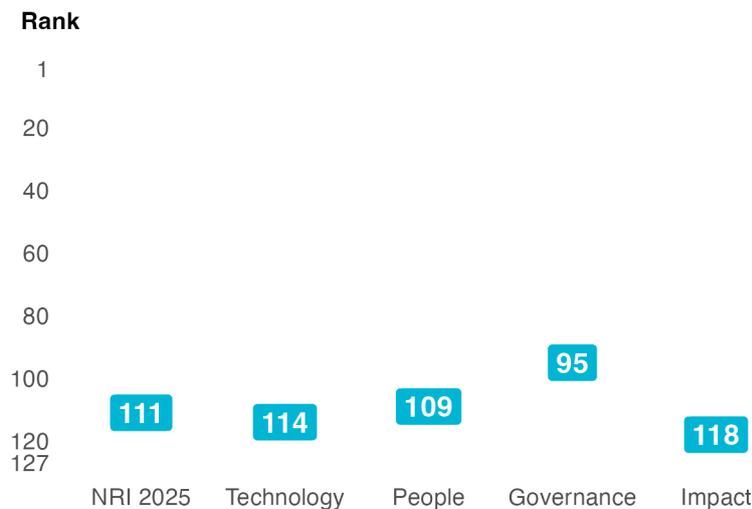
Figure 1: The NRI 2025 model

Global NRI position of Botswana

Botswana ranks 111 out of the 127 economies included in the NRI 2025 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to Governance. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Impact.

Figure 2: Botswana global ranking, overall and by pillar

Performance at sub-pillar level

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

Table 1: Botswana rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Regulation	82	Governments	103
SDG Contribution	86	Individuals	105
Trust	89	Economy	110
Access	91	Content	121
Businesses	92	Quality of Life	122
Inclusion	93	Future Technologies	123

NRI score and income

Figure 3 shows the position of Botswana 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, Botswana 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)
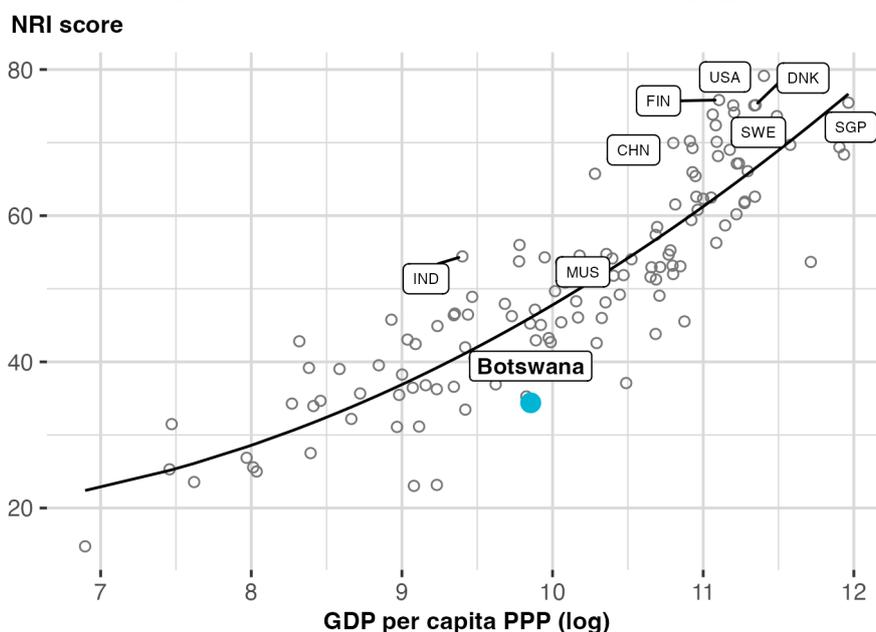
Note: USA = United States of America (rank: 1), FIN =Finland (rank: 2), SGP = Singapore (3), DNK =Denmark (4), SWE = Sweden (5), CHN =China (24), and IND = India (45).

Performance against its income group and region

Upper-middle-income countries
Botswana is ranked 34th in the group of upper-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 trails upper-middle-income countries in all of them.

Africa
Botswana is ranked 12th within Africa (Figure 4, right panel). It has a score above the regional average in two of the four pillars: People and Governance. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Africa in six of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Individuals, Trust, Regulation, Inclusion and SDG Contribution.

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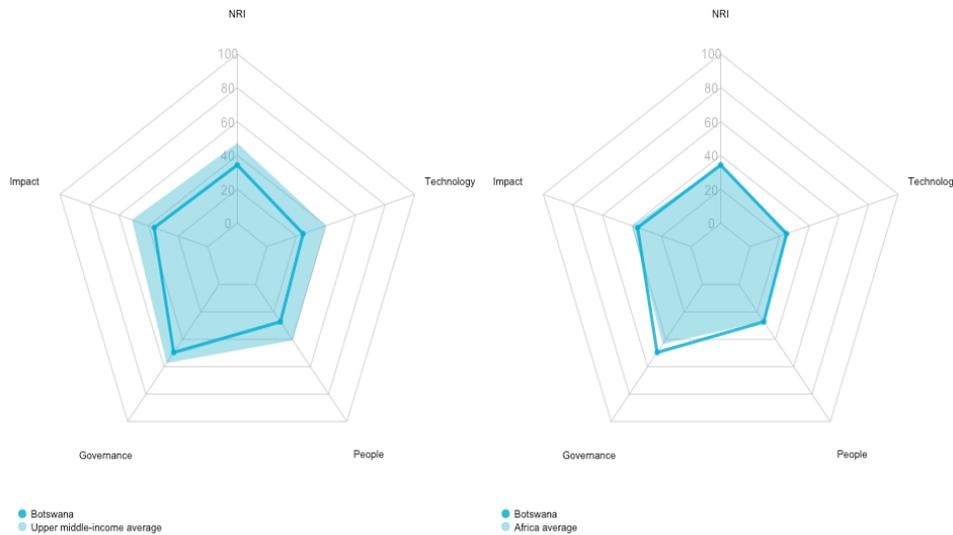

Table 2: Botswana scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar

Dimension	Botswana	Upper-middle-income countries	Africa
NRI	34.40	47.32	34.00
Technology	24.53	39.95	25.85
People	27.21	40.75	26.78
Governance	49.62	57.29	43.45
Impact	36.24	51.31	39.92

NRI 2025 At-A-Glance: Botswana

Network Readiness Index   Rank: 111 (out of 127)   Score: 34.40

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	114	24.53
1st sub-pillar: Access	91	57.67
2nd sub-pillar: Content	121	2.54
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	123	13.37
B. People pillar	109	27.21
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	105	34.39
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	92	23.19
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	103	24.04

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
C. Governance pillar	95	49.62
1st sub-pillar: Trust	89	44.32
2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	82	53.80
3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	93	50.74
D. Impact pillar	118	36.24
1st sub-pillar: Economy	110	20.94
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	122	29.30
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	86	58.48

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score	
A. Technology pillar	114	24.53	
1st sub-pillar: Access	91	57.67	
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	96	50.30	
1.1.2 Handset prices	56	71.56	●
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	121	3.14	○
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	83	89.47	
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	76	69.47	●
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	57	62.10	
2nd sub-pillar: Content	121	2.54	
1.2.1 GitHub commits	104	1.94	
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	84	1.80	
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	119	5.41	○
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	96	1.00	
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	123	13.37	
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	105	0.00	○
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	93	30.75	
1.3.3 Robot density	n/a	n/a	
1.3.4 Computer software spending	84	9.37	
B. People pillar	109	27.21	
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	105	34.39	
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	106	3.11	
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	62	53.22	●
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	94	46.84	
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	n/a	n/a	
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	n/a	n/a	
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	92	23.19	

Indicator	Rank	Score	
C. Governance pillar	95	49.62	
1st sub-pillar: Trust	89	44.32	
3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	87	49.41	
3.1.2 Cybersecurity	84	74.48	
3.1.3 Online access to financial account	24	47.01	●
3.1.4 Internet shopping	105	6.41	
2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	82	53.80	
3.2.1 Regulatory quality	48	54.68	●
3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	75	66.25	●
3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	100	21.58	
3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	107	50.00	○
3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	37	76.50	●
3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	93	50.74	
3.3.1 E-Participation	112	23.19	
3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	96	48.86	
3.3.3 Gender gap in Internet use	n/a	n/a	
3.3.4 Rural gap in use of digital payments	14	80.17	●
D. Impact pillar	118	36.24	
1st sub-pillar: Economy	110	20.94	
4.1.1 ICT patent applications	n/a	n/a	
4.1.2 Domestic market scale	112	36.96	
4.1.3 Technology-Enabled Work Flexibility	90	22.67	
4.1.4 ICT services exports	106	3.21	
2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	122	29.30	
4.2.1 Happiness	123	3.98	○
4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	90	58.98	

Network Readiness Index 2025

Indicator	Rank	Score
2.2.1 Firms with website	79	40.47
2.2.2 Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	n/a	n/a
2.2.3 Annual investment in telecommunication services	112	28.63
2.2.4 Public cloud computing market scale	109	0.47
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	103	24.04
2.3.1 Government online services	115	27.64
2.3.2 Data Capabilities	78	18.73
2.3.3 Government promotion of emerging technologies	87	25.74
2.3.4 Gross expenditure on R&D	n/a	n/a

Indicator	Rank	Score	
4.2.3 Income inequality	111	20.66	○
4.2.4 Healthy life expectancy at birth	120	29.19	
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	86	58.48	
4.3.1 SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	100	44.44	
4.3.2 SDG 4: Quality Education	n/a	n/a	
4.3.3 SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	114	47.27	
4.3.4 SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	41	81.27	●
4.3.5 SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	81	49.33	●

NOTE: ● indicates a strength and ○ indicates a weakness.

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