Network Readiness Index 2025

With support from:

aws **CNi**

Ethiopia

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.
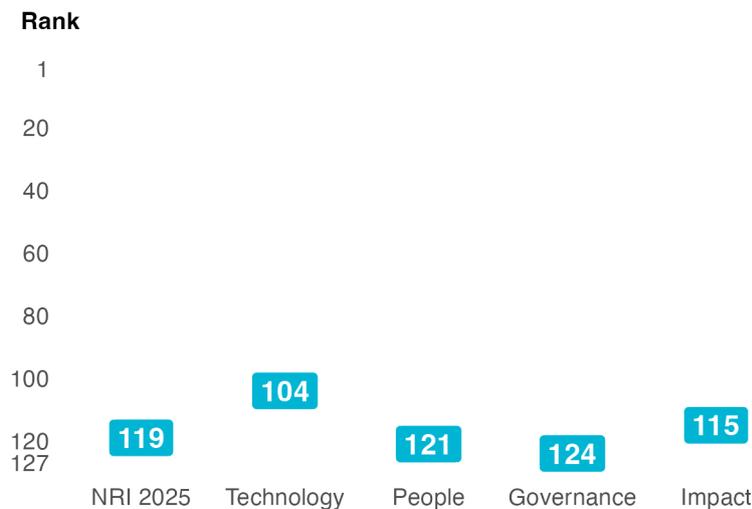
Figure 1: The NRI 2025 model

Global NRI position of Ethiopia

Ethiopia ranks 119 out of the 127 economies included in the NRI 2025 (Figure 2). Its main strength relates to Technology. The greatest scope for improvement, meanwhile, concerns Governance.

Figure 2: Ethiopia global ranking, overall and by pillar

Performance at sub-pillar level

When it comes to sub-pillars, the strongest showings of Ethiopia relate to Economy, Content and Access, among others (Table 1). More could be done, though, to improve the economy's performances in the Governments, Regulation and Inclusion sub-pillars.

Table 1: Ethiopia rankings by sub-pillar

Sub-pillar	Rank	Sub-pillar	Rank
Economy	62	Future Technologies	119
Content	81	Trust	119
Access	101	Individuals	123
Businesses	102	Governments	123
Quality of Life	115	Regulation	123
SDG Contribution	115	Inclusion	124

NRI score and income

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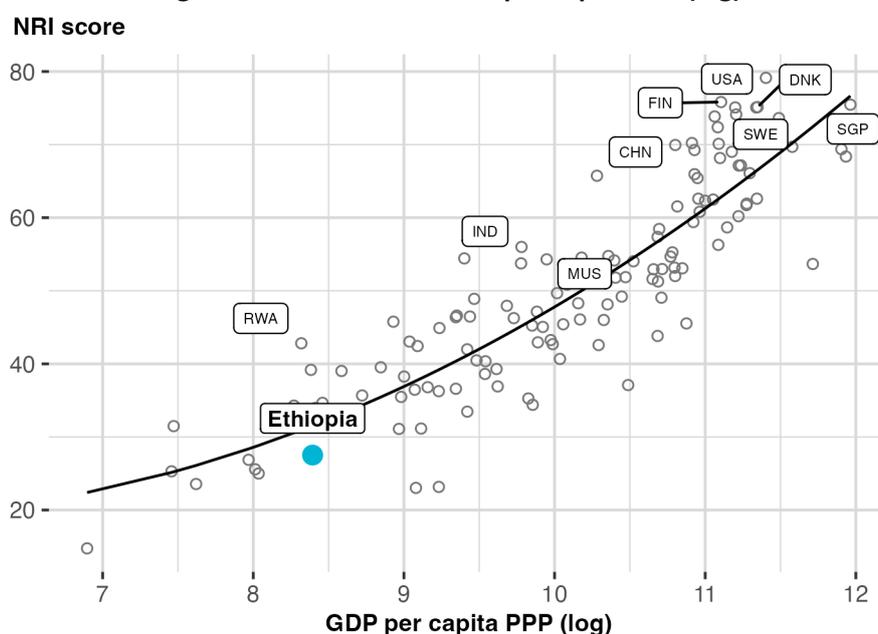
Note: USA = United States of America (rank: 1), FIN =Finland (rank: 2), SGP = Singapore (3), DNK =Denmark (4), SWE = Sweden (5), CHN =China (24), and IND = India (45).

Performance against its income group and region

Low-income countries
Ethiopia is ranked 4th in the group of low-income countries (Figure 4, left panel). In terms of pillar performance, it has a score higher than the income group average in two of the four pillars: Technology and Impact. At the sub-pillar level, it outperforms low-income countries in five of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Content, Businesses, Economy and Quality of Life.

Africa
Ethiopia is ranked 19th within Africa (Figure 4, right panel). It has a score above the regional average in one of the four pillars: Technology. With regard to sub-pillars, it outperforms the average in Africa in three of the twelve sub-pillars: Access, Content and Economy.

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

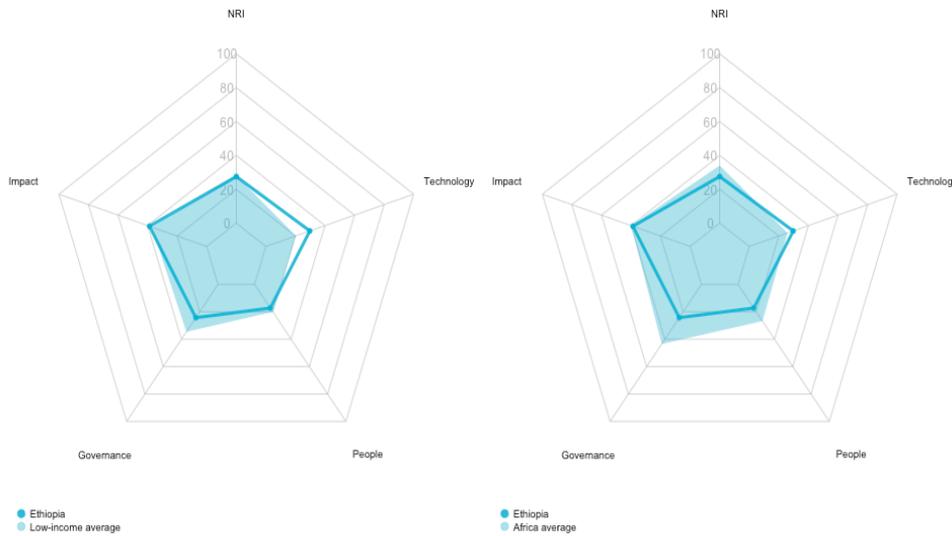**Table 2: Ethiopia scores vs. averages of its income group and region, overall and by pillar**

Dimension	Ethiopia	Low-income countries	Africa
NRI	27.52	28.02	34.00
Technology	29.77	20.32	25.85
People	17.26	19.98	26.78
Governance	24.29	34.60	43.45
Impact	38.75	37.17	39.92

NRI 2025 At-A-Glance: Ethiopia

Network Readiness Index   Rank: 119 (out of 127)   Score: 27.52

Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score	Pillar/sub-pillar	Rank	Score
A. Technology pillar	104	29.77	C. Governance pillar	124	24.29
1st sub-pillar: Access	101	55.27	1st sub-pillar: Trust	119	23.28
2nd sub-pillar: Content	81	19.92	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	123	34.01
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	119	14.12	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	124	15.59
B. People pillar	121	17.26	D. Impact pillar	115	38.75
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	123	17.68	1st sub-pillar: Economy	62	32.24
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	102	21.56	2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	115	39.31
3rd sub-pillar: Governments	123	12.54	3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution	115	44.70

The Network Readiness Index in detail

Indicator	Rank	Score		Indicator	Rank	Score	
A. Technology pillar	104	29.77		C. Governance pillar	124	24.29	
1st sub-pillar: Access	101	55.27		1st sub-pillar: Trust	119	23.28	
1.1.1 Mobile tariffs	100	47.48		3.1.1 Secure Internet servers	124	21.33	
1.1.2 Handset prices	112	32.48		3.1.2 Cybersecurity	85	71.77	
1.1.3 FTTH/building Internet subscriptions	56	34.35	●	3.1.3 Online access to financial account	57	0.00	○
1.1.4 Population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	74	93.68	●	3.1.4 Internet shopping	118	0.00	○
1.1.5 International Internet bandwidth	81	68.35	●	2nd sub-pillar: Regulation	123	34.01	
1.1.6 Internet access in schools	n/a	n/a		3.2.1 Regulatory quality	123	16.68	
2nd sub-pillar: Content	81	19.92		3.2.2 ICT regulatory environment	124	10.00	
1.2.1 GitHub commits	112	0.87		3.2.3 Regulation of emerging technologies	n/a	n/a	
1.2.2 Internet domain registrations	127	0.00	○	3.2.4 E-commerce legislation	72	75.00	
1.2.3 Mobile apps development	103	45.61		3.2.5 Privacy protection by law content	108	34.36	
1.2.4 AI scientific publications	25	33.20	●	3rd sub-pillar: Inclusion	124	15.59	
3rd sub-pillar: Future Technologies	119	14.12		3.3.1 E-Participation	124	11.60	○
1.3.1 Adoption of emerging technologies	n/a	n/a		3.3.2 Socioeconomic gap in use of digital payments	113	29.92	
1.3.2 Investment in emerging technologies	98	28.25		3.3.3 Gender gap in Internet use	103	10.84	○
1.3.3 Robot density	n/a	n/a		3.3.4 Rural gap in use of digital payments	78	10.02	
1.3.4 Computer software spending	127	0.00	○	D. Impact pillar	115	38.75	
B. People pillar	121	17.26		1st sub-pillar: Economy	62	32.24	
1st sub-pillar: Individuals	123	17.68		4.1.1 ICT patent applications	n/a	n/a	
2.1.1 Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country	69	13.03	●	4.1.2 Domestic market scale	54	57.63	●
2.1.2 ICT skills in the education system	n/a	n/a		4.1.3 Technology-Enabled Work Flexibility	n/a	n/a	
2.1.3 Use of virtual social networks	126	0.86	○	4.1.4 ICT services exports	85	6.84	●
2.1.4 Adult literacy rate	89	39.16		2nd sub-pillar: Quality of Life	115	39.31	
2.1.5 AI talent concentration	n/a	n/a		4.2.1 Happiness	115	14.25	
2nd sub-pillar: Businesses	102	21.56		4.2.2 Freedom to make life choices	114	38.54	

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Indicator		Rank	Score	
2.2.1	Firms with website	98	27.85	
2.2.2	Number of venture capital deals invested in AI	83	1.61	
2.2.3	Annual investment in telecommunication services	26	52.85	●
2.2.4	Public cloud computing market scale	69	3.93	●
3rd sub-pillar: Governments		123	12.54	
2.3.1	Government online services	119	20.83	
2.3.2	Data Capabilities	n/a	n/a	
2.3.3	Government promotion of emerging technologies	n/a	n/a	
2.3.4	Gross expenditure on R&D	76	4.24	

Indicator		Rank	Score	
4.2.3	Income inequality	29	81.38	●
4.2.4	Healthy life expectancy at birth	100	48.92	
3rd sub-pillar: SDG Contribution		115	44.70	
4.3.1	SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	125	0.00	○
4.3.2	SDG 4: Quality Education	n/a	n/a	
4.3.3	SDG 5: Women's economic opportunity	84	70.91	
4.3.4	SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	111	45.96	
4.3.5	SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	106	34.44	

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

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