



HELPS
LATAM EXPERT

COLOMBIA SITUATIONAL REPORT AUGUST, 2024



RANGE

- 05** Severe
- 04** High Risk
- 03** Elevated
- 02** Guarded
- 01** Low

COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT	
3,67/5	73,57%

VULNERABILITIES	THREATS
Political	Terrorism
Economic	Organized Crime
Sociocultural	Protestors
Technological	Common Crime
Ecological	Medical
Legal	Environmental
	Cybercrime

GENERAL RISK PROBABILITY IN THE CONTEXT
72,57%

The First part of our proposed methodology focuses on the assessment of vulnerabilities and threats across the country. This approach is comprehensive and multidimensional, encompassing political, economic, sociocultural, technological, ecological, and legal aspects. Furthermore, it considers specific threats such as terrorism, organized crime, protests, common crime, cybercrime, climate disasters, and medical threats.

Data collection is carried out using official government sources, national and international media, and individual testimonials in each country. This approach ensures a broad and diverse view of the region's situation. Data is collected over a 30-day period, allowing for real-time analysis and its progressive evolution. Once the information is gathered, it is classified into different categories of vulnerabilities and risks. Each category is evaluated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest level and 5 being the most severe. This scale allows for a quantitative assessment, facilitating comparison between different categories.

The purpose of this methodology lies in the need to understand and measure vulnerabilities. Countries are diverse and complex, with a variety of challenges and opportunities. By providing a quantitative assessment, it offers tools for evaluation and decision-making, research, and understanding of the situation in each country.

Lastly, the methodology is dynamic and adaptable. By collecting data from a variety of sources and updating the information every 30 days, it can keep up with rapid changes in the political, economic, and social environment. This is especially important in a region like Latin America, where conditions can change quickly.

The second part of our protective intelligence framework is used to assess and quantify the probability of general risk to any individual or organization in a context, by evaluating the vulnerabilities and threats within the designated area.

The scores help in understanding the severity of deficiencies (General Vulnerabilities) and capabilities (General Threats), which then are used to calculate the overall risk probability.

1. General Vulnerabilities (measured by the inadequacy of controls)

1.1 Deficiencies in the System (PESTEL) - rated from 1 to 5, with 1 being adequate, 2 having some inconsistencies, 3 being deficient, 4 being very deficient, and 5 being totally ineffective.

1.2 Deficiencies in Response Capacities: Police, Armed forces, Disaster Management and, Emergency & Medical- rated from 1 to 5, with 1 being adequate, 2 having some inconsistencies, 3 being deficient, 4 being very deficient, and 5 being totally ineffective.

2. General Threats (measured by capabilities)

2.1 Resources: Personel, Weapons, Equipment, Transportation- rated from 1 to 5, with 1 being nonexistent, 2 being low, 3 being medium, 4 being high, and 5 being unlimited (or unknown).

2.2 Information about: Type of crimes, Criminal Resilience, surveillance and Intelligence capability, Ability to co-opt internal staff - rated from 1 to 5, with 1 being unlimited, 2 being high, 3 being medium, 4 being low, and 5 being nonexistent (or unknown).

3. General Risk in the context (Average between CRP, IC, GTC)

In this part of the methodology, a comprehensive evaluation of the overall risk in a specific context is conducted. This evaluation is based on the average of three key components. The first component is Inadequate Controls (IC), referring to security or preventive measures that may be insufficient or not functioning correctly. The second component is the General Threat Capability (GTC), which assesses the potential dangers that threats might pose in each scenario due to their capabilities. The third and final component is the Country Risk Probability (CRP), which considers the inherent risk level in the country based on PESTEL and TOPCMEX measures. By summing these three components, we obtain the General Risk Probability in the Context in the context, providing a comprehensive measure of the risk level to which an individual or entity may be exposed.

GENERAL VULNERABILITIES (INADEQUANCY CONTROLS)

71,66%

SYSTEM DEFICIENCIES

Political

Economic

Sociocultural

Technological

Ecological

Legal

RESPONSE DEFICIENCY

Police

Armed forces

Disasters management

Emergency & medical

RANGE

05 Totally ineffective

04 Very poor

03 Poor

02 Certain inconsistencies

01 Adequate

GENERAL THREATS CAPACITY

GENERAL THREATS (CAPABILITIES)

72,5%

INFORMATION

Type of offense

Criminal Resilience

Surveillance and Intelligence Capacity

Ability to Co-opt Internal Staff

RESOURCES

Personel

Weapons

Equipment

Transportation

RANGE

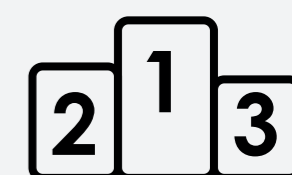
05 Unlimited (or unknown)

04 High

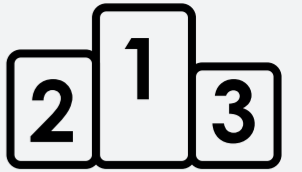
03 Medium

02 Low

01 Nonexistent (or unknown)

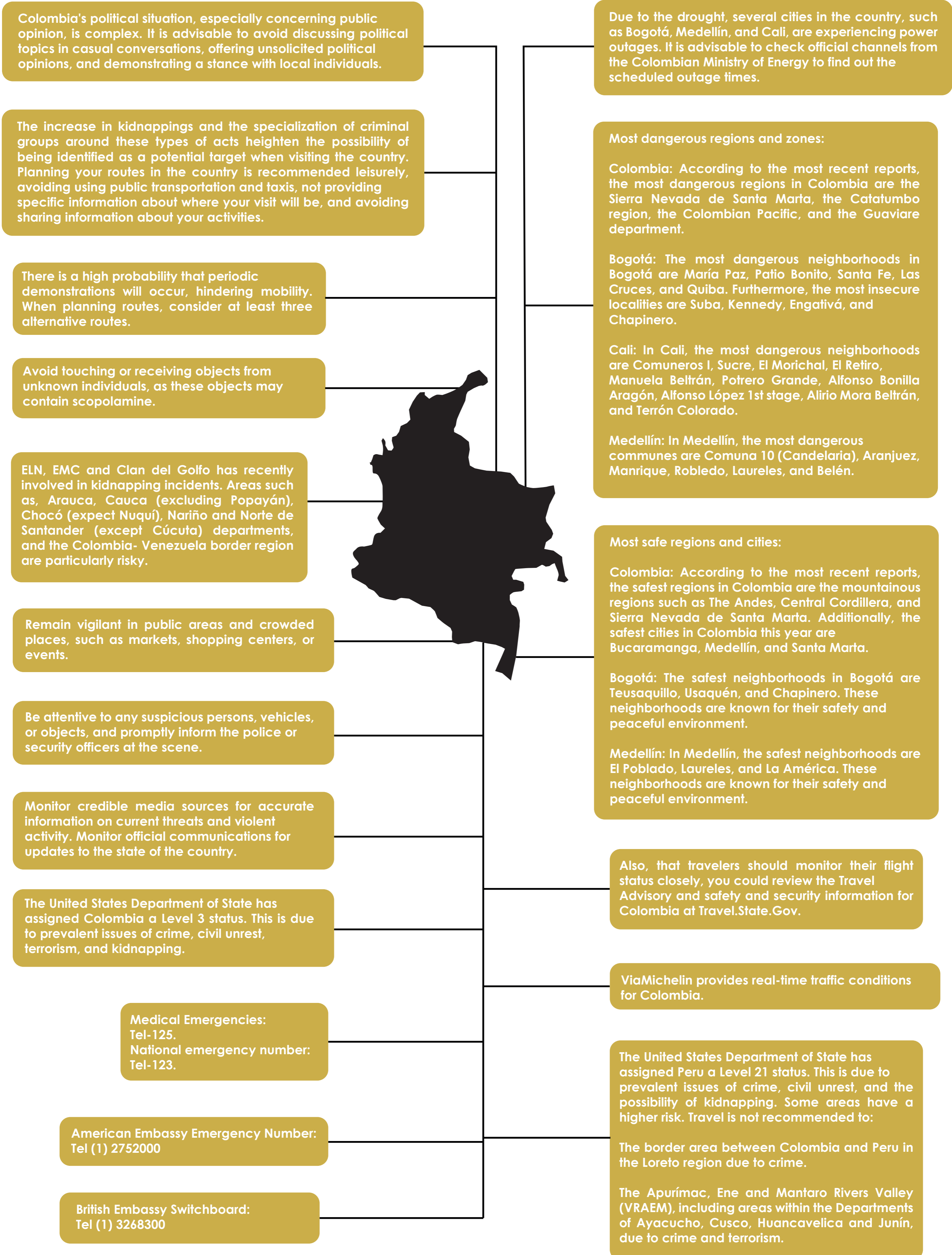


VULNERABILITIES	BACKGROUND	HELPS LATAM EXPERT ANALYSIS	SCORE
POLITICAL	Gulf Clan peace talks challenge Petro's "total peace" strategy.	In August, President Gustavo Petro initiated peace talks with the Gulf Clan, a powerful criminal group, as part of his "total peace" agenda. Led by Jobanis de Jesús Ávila Villadiego, alias 'Chiquito Malo,' the negotiations aim to reduce violence but risk legitimizing criminal activities and eroding public trust. Success could enhance security, while failure might strengthen criminal networks and damage government credibility.	4.0
ECONOMIC	Petro's tax reform seeks \$12 trillion to boost fiscal revenue.	President Gustavo Petro's tax reform seeks to raise \$12 trillion to fund the 2025 budget, supporting social and infrastructure programs. Key measures include changes to income tax, increased VAT, and adjustments to wealth and financial transaction taxes. The reform aims to address Colombia's post-COVID fiscal deficit and promote equity but faces challenges like preventing tax evasion and managing VAT's regressive impact, while reducing corporate taxes to stimulate investment.	3.0
SOCIOCULTURAL	Indigenous protests in Bogotá test Petro's commitment to change.	In August 2024, over 4,200 Indigenous people from Cauca protested in Bogotá, demanding a meeting with President Gustavo Petro, signaling growing discontent among social organizations. Along with other demonstrations since June, these protests highlight concerns over violence and policy implementation in their territories. The mobilizations reveal tensions between expectations of structural change and government action, with the response being crucial for maintaining support and Colombia's social and political stability.	4.0
TECHNOLOGICAL	Colombia limits electricity exports, impacting Ecuador's energy crisis.	On August 16, 2024, Colombia restricted electricity exports to Ecuador due to domestic demand concerns, worsening Ecuador's electricity crisis. This underscores Colombia's reliance on thermal plants and the need for energy diversification. Additionally, AI adoption in Colombia may affect up to 35% of jobs, increasing inequality and requiring investments in education and workforce training. Effective AI management is crucial for economic growth, while poor handling could heighten unemployment and social instability.	4.0
ECOLOGICAL	Chiribiquete Park endangered by illegal coca processing, deforestation.	Chiribiquete National Park faces ecological threats from coca processing labs, causing deforestation, habitat fragmentation, and toxic water contamination, endangering biodiversity and Indigenous communities. Illegal basa fish in the Magdalena and Sinú Rivers disrupt native species and ecosystems, challenging biodiversity and local fisheries. In Farallones de Cali National Park, illegal mining causes deforestation, mercury contamination, and habitat destruction, threatening endemic species and Cali's water supply, demanding urgent protection efforts.	3.0
LEGAL	LOOT reform pushes for greater territorial autonomy in Colombia.	Modifying Colombia's Organic Law of Territorial Organization (LOOT) aims to enhance autonomy and decentralization, harmonizing planning and reconfiguring government competencies. While the reform seeks to reduce conflicts and create new funding sources, it risks perpetuating inequality if resources are lacking. The Worldcoin project faces legal challenges in Colombia for alleged privacy violations, and Senator Isabel Zuleta's proposal for presidential re-election sparks debates about power alternation and stability.	3.0
AVERAGE SCORE		VULNERABILITY PERCENTAGE	
3,5		70%	



THREATS	BACKGROUND	HELPS LATAM EXPERT ANALYSIS	SCORE
TERRORISM	Petro assassination threat reveals security vulnerabilities amid national challenges.	President Gustavo Petro faced an assassination threat on July 20, 2024, exposing security vulnerabilities amid ongoing terrorist challenges. Similarly, Bucaramanga Mayor Jaime Andrés Beltrán was targeted for his anti-drug stance, highlighting the criminal-insurgent convergence. In August 2024, authorities thwarted an attack on Bogotá's Palace of Justice, underscoring risks to national institutions. Additionally, FARC dissidents used drones in an attack in Tolima, signaling technological evolution in Colombia's armed conflict.	5.0
ORGANIZED CRIME	Clan del Golfo expands control, intensifying Colombia's security challenges.	The Clan del Golfo controls 75% of Colombia, affecting national security through drug trafficking, extortion, and illegal mining. Violence in Valdivia, Antioquia, has displaced hundreds, showing the state's struggle to maintain order. The assassination of emerald trader Juan Sebastián Aguilar in Bogotá highlights organized crime's influence in the emerald trade. FARC dissidents' explosives complex in Cauca and the theft of a security vehicle for Colombia's Military Forces Commander reveal escalating criminal threats.	4.0
PROTESTORS	August protests and strikes highlight Colombia's social and security tensions.	In August 2024, key events in Colombia included the Indigenous Minga in Bogotá, highlighting state-Indigenous tensions, and campesino mobilizations in Cauca over land ownership. The August 7th marches reflected both support for and division over President Petro's reforms. The ELN's armed strike in Chocó worsened regional instability, underscoring the challenges of peace negotiations. These events reveal Colombia's complex social issues, territorial struggles, and ongoing security threats from organized crime.	4.0
COMMON CRIME	Colombia's crime wave surges amid peace negotiation crises, urban insecurity.	Colombia faces a severe crime wave amid peace negotiation crises, with crime perception indexes alarmingly high in major cities. Bogotá's index is 66.47, and Cali's is 71.48, highlighting significant urban insecurity. Medellín and Barranquilla also report high crime perception, reflecting widespread public concern. This escalating violence and sophisticated criminal operations erode public trust in authorities, posing a critical threat to national security and social stability, as the state struggles to control crime.	4.0
MEDICAL	Oropouche fever outbreak and hospital crisis strain Colombia's healthcare.	The Oropouche fever outbreak in Latin America, especially Colombia, is causing major concern due to its rapid spread and impact on healthcare. With over 7,700 cases in Brazil and 87 in Colombia, the virus, spread by midge mosquitoes, presents challenges as its symptoms resemble dengue and chikungunya. The lack of specific treatments or a vaccine strains the healthcare system, notably in the Caribbean and Amazon. Additionally, Medellín's Pablo Tobón Uribe Hospital declared a "hospital emergency," with its emergency department at 185% capacity, highlighting systemic issues.	3.0
ENVIRONMENTAL	Environmental crisis puts 185 Colombian municipalities on red alert.	Colombia faces a severe environmental crisis, with 185 municipalities on red alert for wildfires, landslides, and floods, according to IDEAM. Cundinamarca, Tolima, and Nariño are particularly affected, with regions like La Calera, Ibagué, and Pasto facing heightened risks. Wildfires in Huila and intense rainfall in Antioquia and Santander have devastated forests and increased landslide risks. This crisis threatens lives, infrastructure, food security, and exacerbates social conflicts, further straining Colombia's resilience.	4.0
CYBERCRIME	Akira ransomware and Windows vulnerability threaten Colombia's cybersecurity.	The Akira ransomware has become a major cybersecurity threat in Colombia, targeting critical sectors like healthcare, finance, and technology since June 2024. Its double extortion tactics—encrypting and threatening to leak data if the ransom is unpaid—have disrupted essential services and caused economic losses. Additionally, the CVE-2024-38063 vulnerability in Windows TCP/IP protocol allows remote code execution, risking widespread service disruptions. These threats highlight the urgent need for stronger cybersecurity measures in Colombia.	3.0

AVERAGE SCORE	THREATS PERCENTAGE
3,85	77,14%





El Dorado International Airport: The Civil Aeronautics Authority has declared the capacity of El Dorado International Airport for the Summer 2024 season, which runs from March 31 to October 26. The operational capacity remains at 74 operations per hour. The maximum number of arrivals will be 34 operations per hour, distributed in various ways throughout the day.



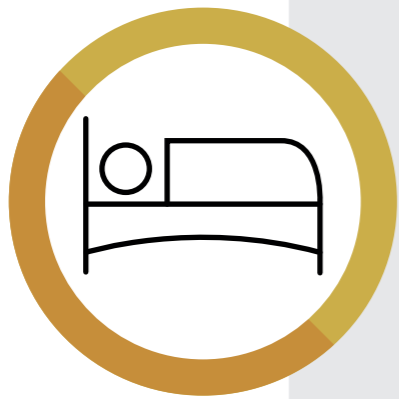
HOSPITALS

Hospitals are operating normally, National Hospital Fundación Santa Fe de Bogotá, it's the biggest and most well-equipped medical facility in Bogotá. The San Juan de Dios Hospital in Cali is the one that offers the highest complexity service in the city. For Medellin, the San Vicente Foundation University Hospital stands out as the health center with the best care indices.



ROADS

Roads in the country are functioning as usual. But there have been incidents on the perimeter roads heading to Cali. Several of these attacks aim to block access to the city and destroy infrastructure.



HOTELS

The hotels in the country operate normally. It is recommended to stay in Bogota at the hotels, Hotel Movich Buró 26 or Ayenda Bioma 1010, in Cali at the Hotel Spiwak Chipichape or Ayenda Bugatier, and in Medellin at the Sites Hotel or 14 Urban Hotel.



INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

There have been no changes in Colombia's immigration policies during April 2024. It is estimated that 18.5 million people entered and left the country during 2023. The highest flow of refugees and migrants is from Venezuela, with an approximate figure of 2.48 million people.



We are ready to HELP. Our operations in Colombia are active 24/07.

Executive Protection - Secure Transportation - Private Investigation

We have Protective Intelligence capabilities in:



If you have specific questions or wish to subscribe to our **IN-DEPTH CHILE-SPECIFIC CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS**, you may contact our Protective Intelligence team at



HELPS
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Our operations are 100% active.

If you need Executive Protection, Secure Transportation, Private Investigations, Risk Management, and Crisis Support, **we are ready to HELP 24/7.**

**Risk is out there, but Helps Latam Expert is here for you.
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+593 99 810 4457



admin@latam.expert



www.latam.expert