



**HELPS**  
LATAM EXPERT

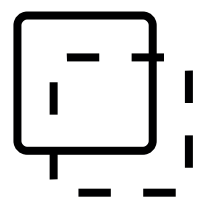
## RANGE

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

# LATAM SECURITY SITUATIONAL REPORT SEPTEMBER, 2024



## BACKGROUND



This report outlines the intricate challenges various countries face. Political instability, economic pressures, and organized crime define much of their current landscape. In many Latin American and Caribbean nations, these challenges are further complicated by environmental crises and resource mismanagement, creating a multidimensional problem that threatens governance, public safety, and development.

Organized crime has become a central force in undermining democratic institutions across the region. In countries like Honduras, Paraguay, and Colombia, narcotrafficking and gang violence not only destabilize local communities but also infiltrate political systems, compromising the rule of law. The intersections between political corruption and crime syndicates create an environment where governance becomes fragmented, with state institutions often failing to control critical regions fully. This criminal influence is especially notable in territories where state presence is weak, allowing criminal organizations to flourish and exploit resources, whether through the drug trade or illegal mining.

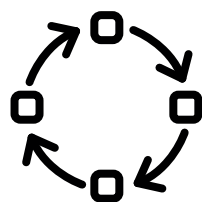
In parallel, environmental crises are increasingly taking center stage, especially in nations like Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia, where the misuse of natural resources—whether in energy production or land use—has led to severe consequences. Though rich in natural resources, these countries struggle to maintain sustainable practices, resulting in long-term environmental degradation. In Ecuador, an electricity crisis due to drought conditions highlights how dependent infrastructure is on consistent resource management. Similarly, forest fires in Peru and Bolivia demonstrate how poor environmental policies and weak enforcement exacerbate already vulnerable ecosystems, with long-term recovery times stretching into decades or more.

On a sociopolitical level, many of these nations also face growing civil unrest and societal divisions, with protests against government reforms or policies highlighting dissatisfaction with leadership. In Argentina, pension reforms have led to large-scale protests, while in El Salvador, issues like public health threats from diseases such as dengue showcase the government's struggle to manage both health crises and public safety. These events indicate a broader discontent with governance that spans local issues and touches on more significant systemic problems.

However, the nature of these crises varies from country to country. While some, like Ecuador and Paraguay, deal primarily with resource mismanagement and criminal exploitation, others, such as Trinidad and Tobago, face escalating gang violence and its direct impact on public safety. The responses to these challenges vary similarly, with some governments implementing security-focused initiatives. In contrast, others attempt structural reforms—sometimes unsuccessfully—as seen in the case of Argentina's pension reform.

The common thread across these regions is the struggle to maintain governance in the face of complex, interrelated issues. From organized crime to environmental degradation and public unrest, these nations illustrate the diverse yet interconnected problems that undermine development, safety, and governance in Latin America and the Caribbean. As these countries face growing internal and external pressures, comprehensive and coordinated solutions are more critical.

METHODOLOGY



The proposed methodology focuses on the assessment of vulnerabilities and threats across 22 Latin American nations. This approach is comprehensive and multidimensional, encompassing political, economic, sociocultural, technological, ecological, and legal aspects. Furthermore, it takes into account specific threats such as terrorism, organized crime, protests, common crime, cybercrime, climate disasters, and medical threats.

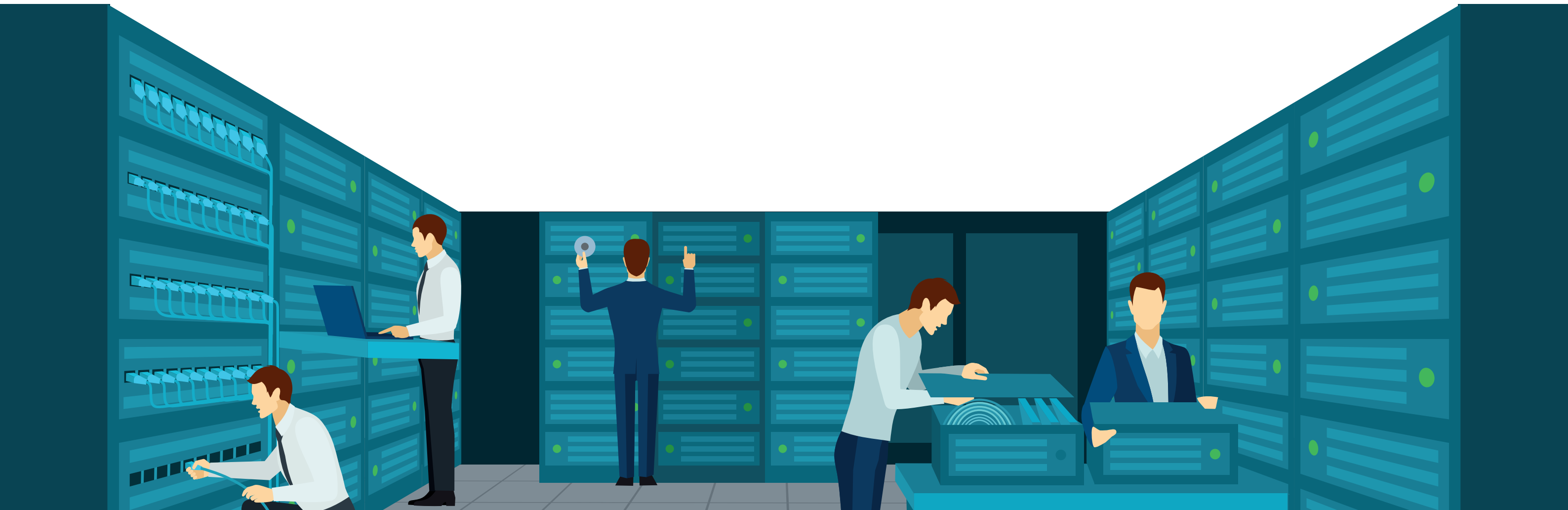
Data collection is carried out using official government sources, national and international media, and individual testimonials in each country. This approach ensures a broad and diverse view of the region's situation. Data is collected over a 15-day period, allowing for real-time analysis and its progressive 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 countries and categories.

The purpose of this methodology lies in the need to understand and measure vulnerabilities and threats within Latin America. This region is 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 15 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.

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# ANTIGUA & BARBUDA



## COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

2,94/558,80%

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 3 | Terrorism       | 2 |
| Economic        | 2 | Organized Crime | 3 |
| Sociocultural   | 4 | Civil Unrest    | 3 |
| Technological   | 2 | Common Crime    | 4 |
| Ecological      | 4 | Health Threat   | 2 |
| Legal           | 4 | Environmental   | 3 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 2 |

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

Prime Minister Gaston Browne brokered a peace deal between two rival gangs, 2Drilly and the Grays Farm Killers, during a meeting on Thursday night. The truce aims to end the violence that has plagued the community, with Browne expressing hopes for "lasting peace." Browne introduced rehabilitation programs, including the Youth Education & Empowerment Programme (YEEP) and the Harrison Centre, offering gang members opportunities for education, employment, and entrepreneurship. However, participation is contingent on ending violence. Browne also announced harsher penalties for gun crimes and loitering, along with a curfew for minors. The gangs agreed to a symbolic football match to mark the peace deal. Browne acknowledged challenges but stressed the government's commitment to ending gang violence.

# ARGENTINA



## COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

3,78/575,71%

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 5 | Terrorism       | 4 |
| Economic        | 4 | Organized Crime | 4 |
| Sociocultural   | 5 | Civil Unrest    | 5 |
| Technological   | 3 | Common Crime    | 4 |
| Ecological      | 3 | Health Threat   | 3 |
| Legal           | 4 | Environmental   | 3 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 2 |

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

Large protests erupted in Buenos Aires in response to President Javier Milei's controversial pension reforms in Argentina. Led by the Confederación General del Trabajo (CGT), protesters, including retirees, sought to defend labor rights and oppose the government's severe fiscal adjustments. The phrase "La Patria no se vende" became the rallying cry as demonstrators marched through the city. Critics like Leandro Santoro accused Milei of harming retirees by vetoing the Pension Mobility Law. Tensions escalated as protesters breached security barriers at the Congress, where lawmakers debated the reforms. Despite the unrest, Milei's veto was upheld in a vote, with 153 deputies in favor, 87 against, and eight abstentions, solidifying the reform's implementation.



COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

2,83/556,66%

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 3 | Terrorism       | 2 |
| Economic        | 4 | Organized Crime | 4 |
| Sociocultural   | 3 | Civil Unrest    | 2 |
| Technological   | 2 | Common Crime    | 4 |
| Ecological      | 2 | Health Threat   | 3 |
| Legal           | 2 | Environmental   | 4 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 2 |

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Recent reports exposed that the Bahamas is facing a growing labor crisis due to a widening skills gap between industry demands and the available workforce. As industries evolve, local workers often lack the specialized expertise, leading to underemployment and frustration among graduates. Local and international businesses have exploited this gap by hiring unskilled or semi-skilled workers at lower wages rather than employing qualified professionals. This practice reduces service quality, exacerbates income inequality, and undermines the value of expertise. In critical sectors like construction and healthcare, the risks are even higher. The reliance on unskilled labor hampers innovation and national development, further widening the country's socio-economic divide and stalling progress.

COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

3,36/567,38%

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 4 | Terrorism       | 2 |
| Economic        | 3 | Organized Crime | 4 |
| Sociocultural   | 3 | Civil Unrest    | 4 |
| Technological   | 2 | Common Crime    | 4 |
| Ecological      | 4 | Health Threat   | 3 |
| Legal           | 3 | Environmental   | 5 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 3 |

IMPORTANT EVENTS

The Bolivian government postponed a referendum on presidential re-election due to judicial concerns. Proposed by President Luis Arce amid tensions with Evo Morales, it aimed to allow non-consecutive re-election. However, the Constitutional Tribunal declined approval, citing the lack of Electoral Tribunal consent. As a result, the referendum will not proceed as planned.

Bolivia declared a national emergency after forest fires destroyed four million hectares. This is South America's worst environmental disaster this year. Uncontrolled agricultural burns, called "cheques," are believed to be the main cause. The fires have devastated Santa Cruz, Beni, and national parks, causing environmental, social, and health damage.



# BRAZIL



## COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

3,75/5 75%

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 3 | Terrorism       | 4 |
| Economic        | 3 | Organized Crime | 4 |
| Sociocultural   | 3 | Civil Unrest    | 3 |
| Technological   | 5 | Common Crime    | 5 |
| Ecological      | 4 | Health Threat   | 4 |
| Legal           | 3 | Environmental   | 4 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 4 |

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

The suspension of X (formerly Twitter) in Brazil has disrupted many digital businesses. Users, including musicians, illustrators, and influencers, had to find alternatives with little notice. The shutdown followed Elon Musk's refusal to follow court orders, leading to the platform's blockage by the Brazilian Supreme Court. Businesses dependent on X for income and marketing are now struggling to rebuild on other platforms.

Chuí, a Brazilian border city, has become a hub for illegal money transfers financing terrorist groups like Hamas. Investigations show "doleiros" (illegal money changers) in the area are laundering money suspected of reaching Hamas. Chuí's porous border with Uruguay has a history of illicit activities, previously linked to groups like Al Qaeda and Hezbollah.

# COLOMBIA



## COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

3,69/5 73,80%

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 4 | Terrorism       | 5 |
| Economic        | 3 | Organized Crime | 4 |
| Sociocultural   | 4 | Civil Unrest    | 3 |
| Technological   | 4 | Common Crime    | 4 |
| Ecological      | 4 | Health Threat   | 3 |
| Legal           | 3 | Environmental   | 4 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 3 |

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

A series of attacks in southwestern Colombia highlights the expansion of violence into new territories. On September 10, an explosion in Timbiquí, Cauca, damaged over 100 homes and injured eight marines. Two days earlier, 12 people were killed in López de Micay. The Timbiquí attack was attributed to the FARC dissident group Frente 30 Rafael Aguilera. Violence in the Cauca Pacific region has surged, with 466 incidents reported in the past year. Recent military operations, following the end of a ceasefire with EMC, have disrupted a previously tenuous calm established by FARC dissidents. In response, the government has increased its military presence, launching "Misión Cauca" to combine military offensives with institutional support and opportunities for local farmers.





| COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 2,85/5                              | 57,14% |

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 3 | Terrorism       | 2 |
| Economic        | 4 | Organized Crime | 2 |
| Sociocultural   | 4 | Civil Unrest    | 4 |
| Technological   | 3 | Common Crime    | 3 |
| Ecological      | 2 | Health Threat   | 4 |
| Legal           | 2 | Environmental   | 2 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 2 |

\*The information may be partial due to the management and secrecy of the government.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Cuba is overwhelmed by severe shortages of food, water, and essential services, with 89% of the population living in extreme poverty, according to a July 2024 report. Garbage piles up in the streets, malnutrition is widespread, and daily life is marked by hunger and deteriorating infrastructure. Many citizens rely on substandard food sold at exorbitant prices, while protests have erupted due to water shortages. The lack of essential services, including medicine and electricity, exacerbates the crisis, as many struggle to survive. Corruption within the government is widely perceived, with officials accused of exploiting the system while the population endures increasing hardship. The dire situation has drawn comparisons to the difficulties of the 1990s Special Period.

| COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 2,83/5                              | 56,66% |

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 3 | Terrorism       | 2 |
| Economic        | 3 | Organized Crime | 4 |
| Sociocultural   | 3 | Civil Unrest    | 2 |
| Technological   | 2 | Common Crime    | 4 |
| Ecological      | 3 | Health Threat   | 3 |
| Legal           | 2 | Environmental   | 3 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 2 |

IMPORTANT EVENTS

Transnational organized crime is increasingly threatening Costa Rica's democracy by assuming control over certain territories and weakening the rule of law. Criminal groups, mainly involved in narcotrafficking, have created "criminal governance" in these areas, where their own rules replace state authority. Experts, such as Mario Zamora, Minister of Public Security, highlight how this criminal governance erodes democracy, fosters corruption in public institutions, and undermines judicial, executive, and legislative powers. The rise of organized crime mirrors broader regional trends in Latin America, where high levels of violence, corruption, and the collapse of state control are affecting democratic institutions. Political analysts emphasize that these dynamics compromise the state's ability to address key social issues, further destabilizing the region.





COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

3,22/5

64,52%

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 3 | Terrorism       | 3 |
| Economic        | 3 | Organized Crime | 4 |
| Sociocultural   | 3 | Civil Unrest    | 3 |
| Technological   | 3 | Common Crime    | 4 |
| Ecological      | 3 | Health Threat   | 3 |
| Legal           | 4 | Environmental   | 3 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 3 |

RELEVANT EVENTS

The Chilean judiciary faces a crisis after revelations in the "Hermosilla case," where a lawyer allegedly influenced judicial appointments, compromising court independence. This scandal, involving Supreme Court Minister Ángela Vivanco, has eroded public trust and the rule of law. Experts urge reforms and constitutional actions to restore transparency and integrity, critical for preserving democracy.

Weichan Auka Mapu (WAM), a paramilitary group, dominates the area where three Chilean officers were ambushed in Cañete. Although WAM hasn't claimed responsibility, their presence is notable. Active since 2016 and linked to territorial recovery, WAM has carried out violent attacks and is associated with machi Fidel Tranamil.



COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

4,17/5

83,57%

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 4 | Terrorism       | 4 |
| Economic        | 4 | Organized Crime | 5 |
| Sociocultural   | 5 | Civil Unrest    | 3 |
| Technological   | 5 | Common Crime    | 5 |
| Ecological      | 5 | Health Threat   | 3 |
| Legal           | 4 | Environmental   | 4 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 3 |

RELEVANT EVENTS

Ecuador faces an electricity crisis due to severe drought, reducing hydroelectric power generation, which supplies 90% of energy. Demand has surged 28.8% since 2013, while production remains stagnant. A barge generating 110 megawatts was deployed, with more expected. Private companies are asked to create 200 megawatts using diesel. Nationwide blackouts, lasting 8 hours, aim to support system maintenance.

María Daniela Icaza Resabala, acting director of the Guayas No. 1 Men's Social Rehabilitation Center, was murdered on September 12, 2024, in Guayaquil. Armed individuals intercepted her vehicle, and Icaza later died at Guasmo Sur Hospital. This is the second prison director murdered in September. Police arrested Wilson O., a suspected accomplice, and continue investigating.





# EL SALVADOR



## COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

2,63/552,61%

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 3 | Terrorism       | 2 |
| Economic        | 3 | Organized Crime | 3 |
| Sociocultural   | 4 | Civil Unrest    | 2 |
| Technological   | 2 | Common Crime    | 3 |
| Ecological      | 2 | Health Threat   | 3 |
| Legal           | 3 | Environmental   | 2 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 2 |

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

El Salvador faces a persistent dengue threat, with the Ministry of Health confirming a ninth death, a child. Since July, the country has been under a red epidemiological alert. Despite a drop in cases due to fumigation, health officials urge vigilance and warn against self-medication. Nationwide antivector strategies will continue to combat the disease.

El Salvador has achieved 11 consecutive homicide-free days in September, reflecting progress in public safety. Local media credit the government's anti-gang strategies. On September 15, authorities reported zero homicides nationwide. Since President Nayib Bukele's 2019 inauguration, the country has recorded 700 murder-free days, aiming for a homicide rate of 1.5 per 100,000 inhabitants this year.

# GUATEMALA



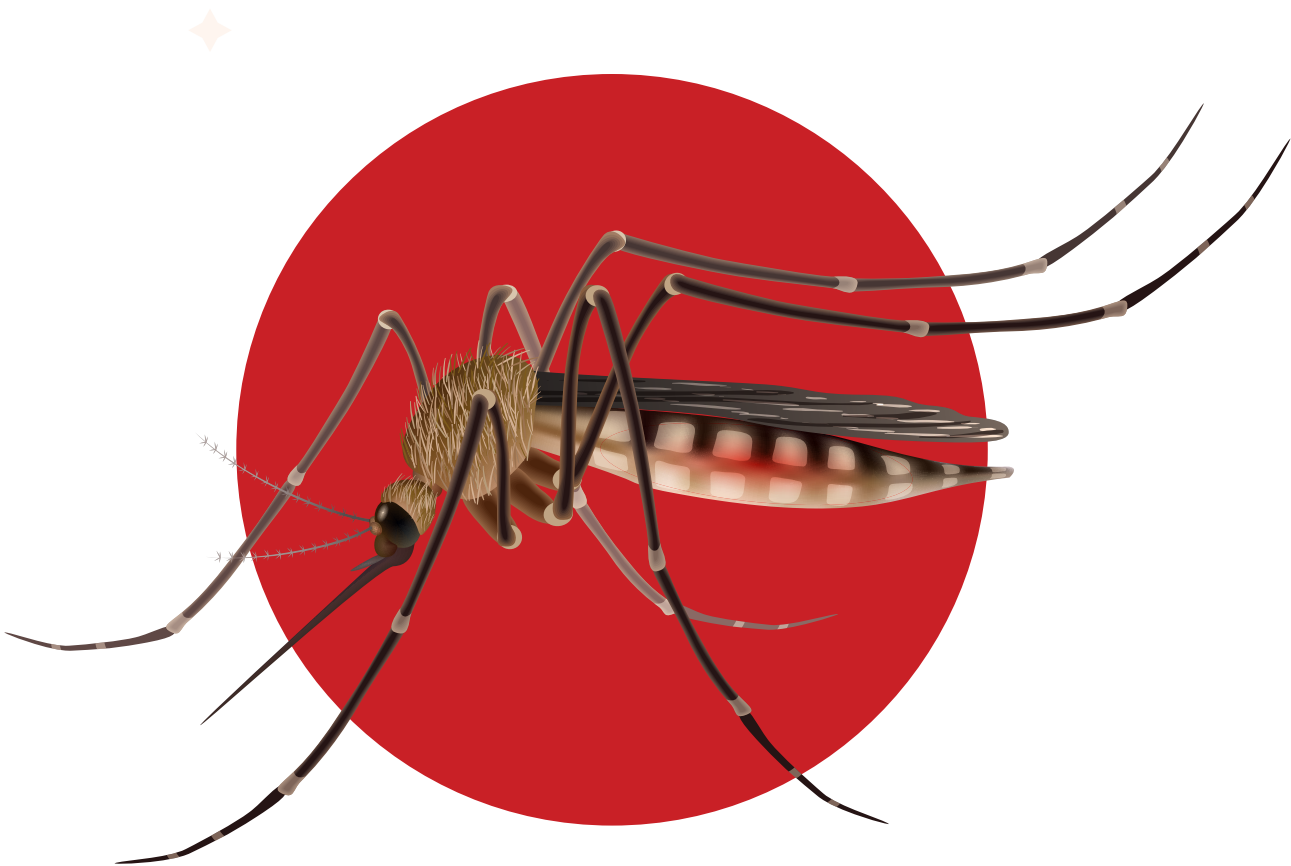
## COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

3,07/561,42%

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 4 | Terrorism       | 2 |
| Economic        | 3 | Organized Crime | 4 |
| Sociocultural   | 3 | Civil Unrest    | 3 |
| Technological   | 2 | Common Crime    | 4 |
| Ecological      | 3 | Health Threat   | 3 |
| Legal           | 3 | Environmental   | 3 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 3 |

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

Guatemalan military sources confirmed the incursion of Mexican criminal groups, including the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG), into the country. Last week, armed civilians set up a narco-roadblock in Huehuetenango, marking the first time Mexican cartels have established checkpoints in Guatemala. This area borders Mexico and has seen increased violence, prompting the deployment of Guatemalan forces, including elite Kaibiles soldiers, to contain the threat. Authorities have been aware of CJNG's intentions since 2023, as the group seeks control over critical regions near the border. The situation has escalated, with clashes between the CJNG and Guatemalan military forces. Groups like Los Ponchos, linked to the Sinaloa Cartel, are also present in Guatemala, intensifying the security challenges.



# HONDURAS



## COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

3,76/575,23%

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 5 | Terrorism       | 3 |
| Economic        | 3 | Organized Crime | 5 |
| Sociocultural   | 5 | Civil Unrest    | 5 |
| Technological   | 2 | Common Crime    | 4 |
| Ecological      | 2 | Health Threat   | 3 |
| Legal           | 5 | Environmental   | 3 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 4 |

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

In 2013, Carlos Zelaya, brother-in-law of Honduran President Xiomara Castro, met with drug traffickers during her failed presidential campaign, where over \$500,000 was offered to support the ruling party. A video, recorded by the traffickers and obtained by InSight Crime, shows Zelaya discussing contributions to Castro's husband, former president Mel Zelaya. While Carlos admitted attending the meeting, he denied receiving money. The video reveals the involvement of key figures from the infamous Cachiros cartel and confirms suspicions of political ties to drug money. This revelation further complicates the political landscape in Honduras as President Castro, who promised to combat corruption and drug trafficking, faces heightened scrutiny ahead of the 2025 elections.

# MÉXICO



## COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

3,90/578,09%

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 4 | Terrorism       | 5 |
| Economic        | 4 | Organized Crime | 5 |
| Sociocultural   | 4 | Civil Unrest    | 4 |
| Technological   | 2 | Common Crime    | 5 |
| Ecological      | 3 | Health Threat   | 3 |
| Legal           | 5 | Environmental   | 3 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 4 |

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

On September 16, 2024, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador enacted a judicial reform in Mexico, aligning with Independence Day. The reform, approved by Congress and ratified by 17 state legislatures, introduced the popular election of Supreme Court ministers, judges, and magistrates. It also implements austerity measures to reduce judicial spending. Despite opposition and protests from judicial workers, the government maintains that the reform aims to improve transparency and eliminate corruption within the judicial system. The reform is part of broader efforts to change Mexico's judicial structure, which has been under scrutiny for years. The reform's implementation marks a shift in how the judiciary operates, with citizens playing a more direct role in electing vital judicial officials.





# NICARAGUA



## COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

3,85/577,14%

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 5 | Terrorism       | 2 |
| Economic        | 5 | Organized Crime | 4 |
| Sociocultural   | 5 | Civil Unrest    | 5 |
| Technological   | 2 | Common Crime    | 4 |
| Ecological      | 2 | Health Threat   | 5 |
| Legal           | 5 | Environmental   | 3 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 3 |

\*The information may be partial due to the management and secrecy of the government.

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

León Fredy Muñoz, Colombia's ambassador to Nicaragua, was accused of drug trafficking by Colombian prosecutors. In 2018, authorities found 146 grams of cocaine in his luggage at Medellín airport, with an additional 200 grams discovered in 2020. The prosecution is seeking a 9-11 year prison sentence. Muñoz, who was a congressman-elect at the time, claims the drugs were planted by a political rival. The case is now before Colombia's Supreme Court. Muñoz was appointed ambassador in 2022 by President Gustavo Petro, amid strained relations between Colombia and Nicaragua. Tensions have heightened following comments from Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, criticizing Petro and Brazil's Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva for their stance on Venezuela's elections.

# PANAMÁ



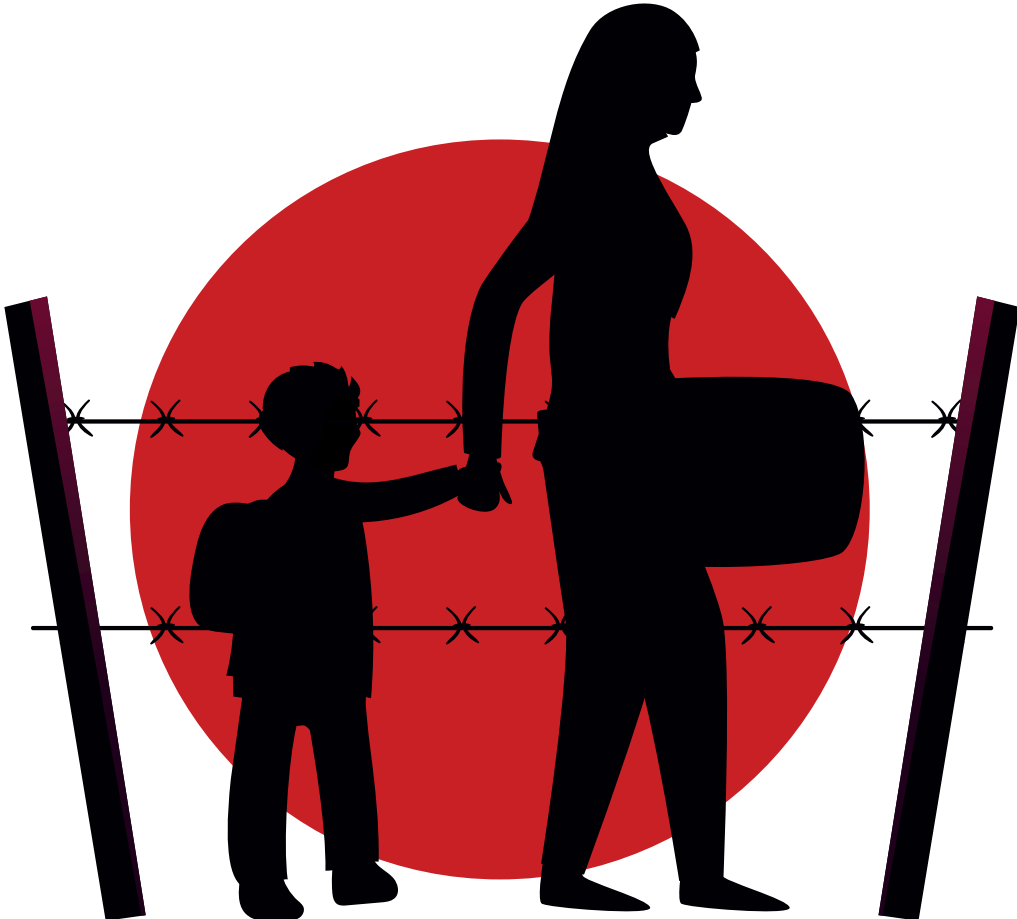
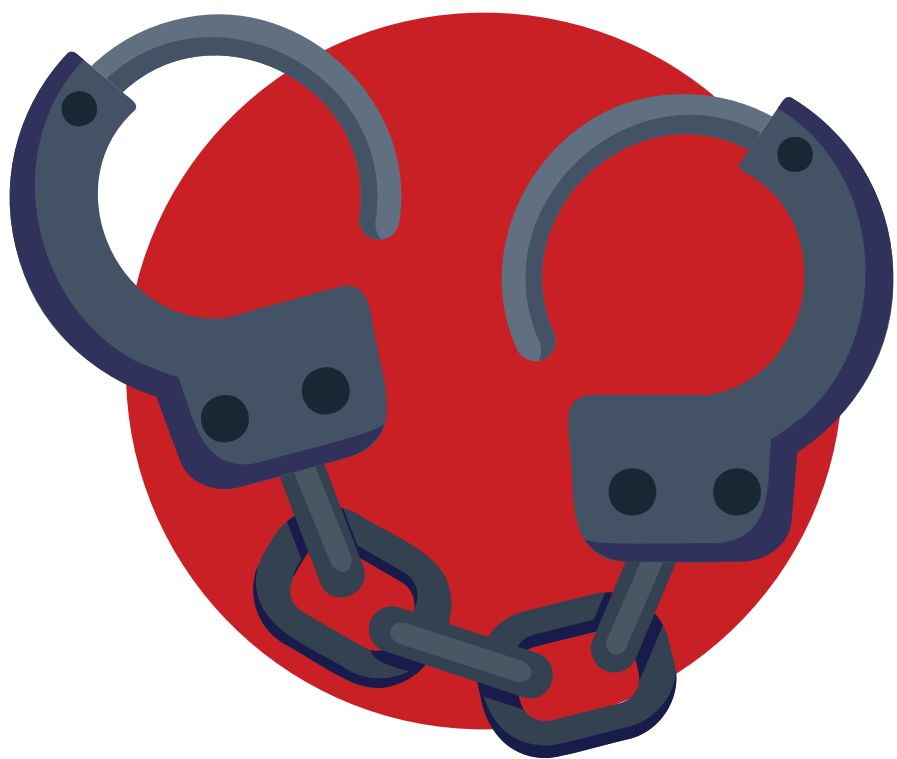
## COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

2,76/555,23%

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 3 | Terrorism       | 3 |
| Economic        | 3 | Organized Crime | 4 |
| Sociocultural   | 4 | Civil Unrest    | 2 |
| Technological   | 2 | Common Crime    | 4 |
| Ecological      | 2 | Health Threat   | 2 |
| Legal           | 2 | Environmental   | 3 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 2 |

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

Communities near the Panama border plan to file a formal complaint with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights against Panamanian President José Raúl Mulino over anti-migration measures. The border communities of Acandí, Capurganá, and Sapzurro criticize Panama's use of blockades and barbed wire, claiming these actions hinder migration and increase the risk of death in the hazardous Darién jungle. The complaint argues that Panama is a transit country, not a final destination, and calls for coordinated efforts between Panama and Colombia to create a safe, regulated migration plan. The communities seek to cease human rights violations and protective measures for migrants.





# PARAGUAY



## COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

3,40/568,09%

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 3 | Terrorism       | 3 |
| Economic        | 4 | Organized Crime | 4 |
| Sociocultural   | 4 | Civil Unrest    | 3 |
| Technological   | 3 | Common Crime    | 4 |
| Ecological      | 4 | Health Threat   | 2 |
| Legal           | 4 | Environmental   | 4 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 2 |

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

Paraguay's affordable electricity attracts legal and illegal cryptocurrency mining, with hydroelectric plants like Itaipú providing cheap energy. However, unauthorized miners exploit the power grid, causing energy theft and corruption. Despite regulatory efforts, illegal mining persists, and ANDE has seized equipment. Allegations of state worker bribes continue, frustrating legal miners facing rising energy costs and unpredictable regulations.

The Triple Frontier, where Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina meet, is a hotspot for drug trafficking and organized crime. Paraguay's political system is increasingly infiltrated by crime groups, creating a "narcomafia." Criminals influence state institutions, including the police and judiciary. Corruption hampers efforts to combat trafficking, with politicians linked to drug-related crime.

# PERU



## COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

3,78/575,71%

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 5 | Terrorism       | 3 |
| Economic        | 4 | Organized Crime | 4 |
| Sociocultural   | 3 | Civil Unrest    | 3 |
| Technological   | 3 | Common Crime    | 4 |
| Ecological      | 4 | Health Threat   | 3 |
| Legal           | 5 | Environmental   | 4 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 4 |

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

Peru's Attorney General, Juan Carlos Villena, informed Congress that changes to the organized crime law limit surprise raids, now requiring a defense attorney's presence. Public defenders usually work only until 4 p.m., complicating operations. Villena supports repealing the law for better efficiency. He also discussed investigations, including a recording linking Interior Minister Juan José Santiváñez to aiding fugitive Vladimir Cerrón.

Peru faces a severe environmental crisis with 222 forest fires reported in 20 regions in 2024, causing 14 deaths and 98 injuries. The worst-hit areas include Cusco, Cajamarca, and Huancaavelica. Experts warn of long-lasting ecosystem damage, with forests potentially needing 100 years to recover. Illegal farming and inadequate prevention efforts are worsening the crisis.



# REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA



## COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

2,83/556,66%

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 3 | Terrorism       | 2 |
| Economic        | 3 | Organized Crime | 4 |
| Sociocultural   | 3 | Civil Unrest    | 3 |
| Technological   | 2 | Common Crime    | 4 |
| Ecological      | 3 | Health Threat   | 3 |
| Legal           | 2 | Environmental   | 3 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 2 |

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

The Dominican Republic has been listed by the U.S. as one of 20 key countries for drug trafficking or production, according to a memo from President Joe Biden. While this designation highlights the country's role in global drug routes, it does not imply a lack of cooperation or effort in combatting narcotics. The U.S. considers the Dominican Republic a crucial ally in fighting drug trafficking, with ongoing collaboration in law enforcement and anti-narcotic initiatives. Alongside other Latin American countries, the Dominican Republic faces significant challenges from drug cartels, but it remains a crucial partner for the U.S. in efforts to curb the global drug trade and enhance regional security.

# TRINIDAD & TOBAGO



## COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

3,11/562,38%

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 3 | Terrorism       | 3 |
| Economic        | 3 | Organized Crime | 5 |
| Sociocultural   | 2 | Civil Unrest    | 2 |
| Technological   | 3 | Common Crime    | 5 |
| Ecological      | 3 | Health Threat   | 4 |
| Legal           | 2 | Environmental   | 3 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 3 |

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

In 2024, gang-related violence in Trinidad and Tobago made up 42.6% of murders, with 10.7% linked to drug activities and 8.4% to retaliations. By August 26, the country recorded 413 homicides, surpassing previous years, and is projected to reach 635 by the end of the year. Experts warn that murders could rise to 700 by 2030 without significant changes in security policies. Rivalries between gangs like Sixx and Rasta City, combined with easy access to firearms, have fueled the violence. Anti-gang community initiatives since 2015 have lacked continuity, limiting their effectiveness. The country's current homicide rate is 26 per 100,000 people, with gang conflicts and organized crime contributing to the increasing murder toll.



# URUGUAY



## COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

2,46/549,28%

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 3 | Terrorism       | 2 |
| Economic        | 3 | Organized Crime | 3 |
| Sociocultural   | 3 | Civil Unrest    | 2 |
| Technological   | 2 | Common Crime    | 3 |
| Ecological      | 2 | Health Threat   | 2 |
| Legal           | 2 | Environmental   | 3 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 2 |

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

The social security plebiscite in Uruguay, spearheaded by the PIT-CNT, will be held on October 27, 2024, alongside national elections. The initiative seeks to amend Article 67 of the Constitution, declaring social security a fundamental human right. The key proposals include setting the retirement age at 60, ensuring minimum pensions match the minimum wage, and eliminating private pension funds (AFAPs) in favor of a fully state-managed system. The PIT-CNT, supported by social movements and political groups, including the Frente Amplio, gathered over 430,000 signatures. The Electoral Court validated 276,151 signatures, surpassing the 10% electoral threshold, allowing the plebiscite to proceed. The proposal seeks to restructure the country's pension system and guarantee state oversight.

# VENEZUELA



## COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

4,61/592,38%

| VULNERABILITIES |   | THREATS         |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Political       | 5 | Terrorism       | 5 |
| Economic        | 4 | Organized Crime | 5 |
| Sociocultural   | 5 | Civil Unrest    | 5 |
| Technological   | 5 | Common Crime    | 5 |
| Ecological      | 4 | Health Threat   | 4 |
| Legal           | 5 | Environmental   | 3 |
|                 |   | Cybercrime      | 5 |

## IMPORTANT EVENTS

Edmundo González Urrutia, a Venezuelan opposition leader, left Venezuela for Spain on September 7, 2024, where he applied for political asylum. He had taken refuge in the Spanish embassy in Caracas after disputing the results of Venezuela's recent presidential election, which re-elected Nicolás Maduro. González claims to have won the election, but Venezuelan authorities accuse him of conspiracy, usurpation of functions, and inciting rebellion. Venezuela granted him safe passage despite these charges, and he flew to Spain on a Spanish Air Force plane. Spain's Foreign Minister confirmed the asylum request and pledged support for political rights in Venezuela. González's departure follows increasing tensions and accusations of electoral fraud in the country.





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