HELPS
LATAM EXPERT

COLOMBIA SITUATIONAL REPORT

2024 Wrap-Up

RANGE

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

COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT	
3,45/5	69,04%

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

GENERAL RISK PROBABILITY IN THE CONTEXT
71,04%

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METHODOLOGY

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 Managment 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.

INADEQUATE CONTROLS

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GENERAL VULNERABILITIES (INADEQUANCY CONTROLS)

71,66%

SYSTEM DEFICIENCIES
Political
Economic
Sociocultural
Technological
Ecological
Legal

RESPONSE DEFICIENCY
Police
Armed forces
Disasters managment
Emergency & medical

RANGE

05	Totally ineffective
04	Very poor
03	Poor
02	Certain inconsistencies
01	Adequate

GENERAL THREATS CAPACITY

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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

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VULNERABILITIES	BACKGROUND	HELPS LATAM EXPERT ANALYSIS	SCORE
POLITICAL	Political Landscape and Challenges in Colombia.	In Colombia, political tensions escalated between October and November 2024 due to challenges in President Gustavo Petro's "Total Peace" policy. The persistence of FARC and ELN dissidents highlights structural issues, while criticisms of agreement implementation undermine public trust. Additionally, perceptions of corruption and political polarization exacerbate social fragmentation, hindering consensus and weakening the institutional stability necessary for progress.	**4.0**
ECONOMIC	Colombia's Economic Slowdown Amid Trade and Fiscal Adjustments.	Between October and November 2024, Colombia's economy showed limited growth, with an annual projection of 1.5%, according to the World Bank. The government proposed renegotiating FTAs and adjusting the budget to meet fiscal rules. While Asobancaria highlighted a new growth phase, quarterly GDP reflected a slowdown, influenced by challenges in international trade and weak domestic dynamics compared to the region.	**3.0**
SOCIOCULTURAL	Social Dynamics and Challenges in Colombia.	Colombia faced social challenges, including threats to 164 journalists, risking freedom of expression. Progress was made in peace processes with dissident groups and civil society, but criminal violence persisted in Medellín and Valle de Aburrá. Recovering historical memory became crucial to addressing victims' needs and fostering social cohesion.	**3.0**
TECHNOLOGICAL	Technological Advancements and Cybersecurity Concerns in Colombia.	Colombia's technological landscape highlighted growing vulnerabilities, particularly in cybersecurity. Increased cyberattacks targeted financial institutions and individual users, exposing gaps in digital infrastructure and security protocols. Criminal groups leveraged technology for coordination and evasion, complicating law enforcement efforts. While digital transformation initiatives advanced in urban areas, rural regions lagged, exacerbating the digital divide. The need for robust technological policies and investments remains critical to safeguard economic stability and public trust.	**3.0**
ECOLOGICAL	Environmental Pressures and Sustainability Challenges in Colombia.	Colombia faced ecological challenges from illegal mining and deforestation in Amazonas and Chocó, driven by armed groups, threatening biodiversity and displacing communities. Climate variability, including rainfall and landslides, disrupted infrastructure and agriculture. Weak enforcement of environmental regulations hindered mitigation efforts, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive policies to protect natural resources and vulnerable populations.	**4.0**
LEGAL	Justice Under Strain: Legal Challenges in Colombia.	Colombia's legal landscape faced significant scrutiny. Allegations of impunity resurfaced, particularly concerning unresolved cases of forced disappearances and extrajudicial killings. Legal reforms to enhance justice efficiency were criticized for insufficient implementation and transparency. The influence of organized crime on judicial processes further eroded public trust, while high-profile corruption cases underscored systemic weaknesses. Strengthening the rule of law remains imperative to restore confidence and uphold democratic principles.	**3.0**

AVERAGE SCORE	VULNERABILITY PERCENTAGE
3,33	**66,66%**

THREATS

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THREATS	BACKGROUND	HELPS LATAM EXPERT ANALYSIS	SCORE
TERRORISM	**FARC Dissidents and ELN Escalate Attacks:** Colombia's Ongoing Terror Threats.	Between October and November 2024, Colombia faced escalating terrorist threats. In Cauca, FARC dissidents targeted key infrastructure, while ELN attacks in Norte de Santander used IEDs against security forces. Regional counterterrorism efforts remained underfunded and fragmented, underscoring the need for a unified strategy to address the evolving tactics of armed groups and protect critical infrastructure.	4.0
ORGANIZED CRIME	**Cartel Clashes and Coca Expansion:** Colombia's Organized Crime Surge	Organized crime surged in Colombia. In Buenaventura, cartel clashes over drug routes fueled violence and disrupted trade. Coca cultivation rose in Norte de Santander, aiding armed groups. Authorities uncovered drug smuggling networks, but criminal adaptability remains a challenge. Enhanced interagency coordination is crucial to counter organized crime's pervasive impact on security and the economy.	4.0
CIVIL UNREST	Tax Reforms and Rural Unrest Ignite Nationwide Protests in Colombia.	Colombia faced escalating protests. Demonstrations in Bogotá highlighted discontent with tax reforms, while strikes in Cauca demanded better protections for rural farmers amid ongoing violence. Students nationwide protested reduced education budgets, clashing with police in Medellín. The government's response, criticized as heavy-handed, fueled further unrest. These events underscore deep socio-economic divides and the urgent need for dialogue to address grievances and prevent further escalations.	3.0
COMMON CRIME	**Rising Urban Crime:** Colombia's Everyday Security Challenges.	Common crime surged in Colombia between October and November 2024. Bogotá reported increased street robberies, with organized theft rings targeting public transportation. In Medellín, neighborhoods experienced higher rates of extortion, straining local businesses. Kidnappings in rural areas, particularly in Antioquia, underscored the vulnerability of isolated communities. Despite targeted police operations, limited resources and corruption hindered effective action. Strengthening community policing and judicial efficiency is critical to restoring public confidence.	4.0
HEALTH THREAT	**Dengue Outbreaks and Healthcare Strain:** Colombia's Medical Crisis Deepens.	Between October and November 2024, Colombia faced significant medical threats. Dengue outbreaks in Valle del Cauca and Chocó overwhelmed healthcare systems, with hospitals reporting capacity shortages. Rural areas, already strained by violence, struggled with vaccine access amid rising respiratory infections due to climate variability. Underfunding and logistical challenges hindered efforts to address these crises, underscoring the urgent need for strengthened public health infrastructure and emergency response coordination.	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. Regions like Cundinamarca, Tolima, and Nariño are heavily impacted, with wildfires destroying forests and rainfall increasing landslide risks. This crisis threatens lives, infrastructure, and food security, while exacerbating social conflicts in areas affected by armed groups. IDEAM warns of worsening conditions.	4.0
CYBERCRIME	**Ransomware and Data Breaches:** Colombia's Cybersecurity Under Attack.	Colombia faced a surge in cyber threats between October and November 2024. Hackers targeted financial institutions with ransomware attacks while phishing scams plagued small businesses and individuals. In Bogotá, a breach exposed sensitive government data, highlighting critical vulnerabilities in digital infrastructure. The rise in social engineering tactics and lack of robust cybersecurity measures emphasized the urgent need for stronger legislation and investment in cybersecurity to protect digital ecosystems.	3.0

AVERAGE SCORE	THREATS PERCENTAGE
3,57	71,42%

RECOMMENDATIONS

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Colombia's political situation, especially concerning public opinion, is complex. It is advisable to avoid discussing political topics in casual conversations, offering unsolicited political opinions, and demonstrating a stance with local individuals.

The increase in kidnappings and the specialization of criminal groups around these types of acts heighten the possibility of being identified as a potential target when visiting the country. Planning your routes in the country is recommended leisurely, avoiding using public transportation and taxis, not providing specific information about where your visit will be, and avoiding sharing information about your activities.

There is a high probability that periodic demonstrations will occur, hindering mobility. When planning routes, consider at least three alternative routes.

Avoid touching or receiving objects from unknown individuals, as these objects may contain scopolamine.

ELN, EMC and Clan del Golfo has recently involved in kidnapping incidents. Areas such as, Arauca, Cauca (excluding Popayán), Chocó (expect Nuquí), Nariño and Norte de Santander (except Cúcuta) departments, and the Colombia- Venezuela border region are particularly risky.

Remain vigilant in public areas and crowded places, such as markets, shopping centers, or events.

Be attentive to any suspicious persons, vehicles, or objects, and promptly inform the police or security officers at the scene.

Monitor credible media sources for accurate information on current threats and violent activity. Monitor official communications for updates to the state of the country.

The United States Department of State has assigned Colombia a Level 3 status. This is due to prevalent issues of crime, civil unrest, terrorism, and kidnapping.

Medical Emergencies:
Tel-125.
National emergency number:
Tel-123.

American Embassy Emergency Number:
Tel (1) 2752000

British Embassy Switchboard:
Tel (1) 3268300

Due to the drought, several cities in the country, such as Bogotá, Medellín, and Cali, are experiencing power outages. It is advisable to check official channels from the Colombian Ministry of Energy to find out the scheduled outage times.

Most dangerous regions and zones:

Colombia: According to the most recent reports, the most dangerous regions in Colombia are the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, the Catatumbo region, the Colombian Pacific, and the Guaviare department.

Bogotá: The most dangerous neighborhoods in Bogotá are María Paz, Patio Bonito, Santa Fe, Las Cruces, and Quiba. Furthermore, the most insecure localities are Suba, Kennedy, Engativá, and Chapinero.

Cali: In Cali, the most dangerous neighborhoods are Comuneros I, Sucre, El Morichal, El Retiro, Manuela Beltrán, Potrero Grande, Alfonso Bonilla Aragón, Alfonso López 1st stage, Alirio Mora Beltrán, and Terrón Colorado.

Medellín: In Medellín, the most dangerous communes are Comuna 10 (Candelaria), Aranjuez, Manrique, Robledo, Laureles, and Belén.

Most safe regions and cities:

Colombia: According to the most recent reports, the safest regions in Colombia are the mountainous regions such as The Andes, Central Cordillera, and Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. Additionally, the safest cities in Colombia this year are Bucaramanga, Medellín, and Santa Marta.

Bogotá: The safest neighborhoods in Bogotá are Teusaquillo, Usaquén, and Chapinero. These neighborhoods are known for their safety and peaceful environment.

Medellín: In Medellín, the safest neighborhoods are El Poblado, Laureles, and La América. These neighborhoods are known for their safety and peaceful environment.

Also, that travelers should monitor their flight status closely, you could review the Travel Advisory and safety and security information for Colombia at Travel.State.Gov.

ViaMichelin provides real-time traffic conditions for Colombia.

The United States Department of State has assigned Peru a Level 21 status. This is due to prevalent issues of crime, civil unrest, and the possibility of kidnapping. Some areas have a higher risk. Travel is not recommended to:

The border area between Colombia and Peru in the Loreto region due to crime.

The Apurímac, Ene and Mantaro Rivers Valley (VRAEM), including areas within the Departments of Ayacucho, Cusco, Huancavelica and Junín, due to crime and terrorism.

COLOMBIA OPERATIONAL STATUS

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 ther 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 pi@latam.expert

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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.
Contact us for a free Latin American capabilities statement.**

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