



**HELPS**  
LATAM EXPERT

# VENEZUELA SITUATIONAL REPORT 2024 Wrap-Up

## COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

**4,46/5**

**89,28%**

### VULNERABILITIES

Political

Economic

Sociocultural

Technological

Ecological

Legal

### THREATS

Terrorism

Organized Crime

Civil Unrest

Common Crime

Health Threat

Environmental

Cybercrime

## GENERAL RISK PROBABILITY IN THE CONTEXT

**94,20%**

## RANGE

**05** Severe

**04** High Risk

**03** Elevated

**02** Guarded

**01** Low

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)

95,83%

### 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)

97,5%

### INFORMATION

Type of crimes

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

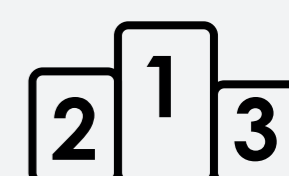
02

Low

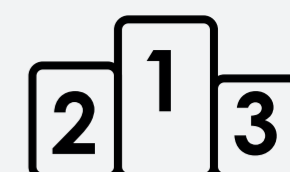
01

Nonexistent (or unknown)

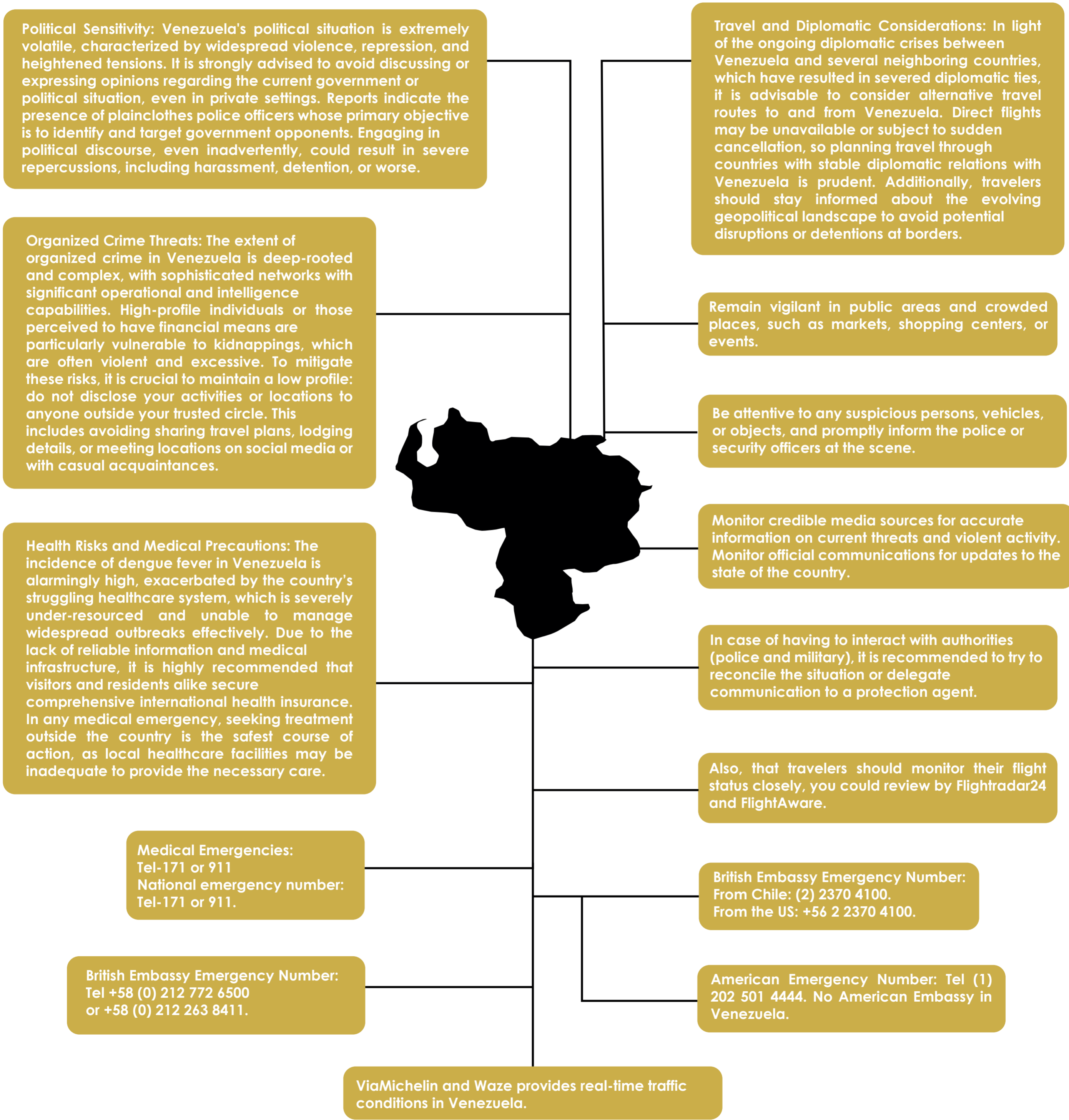




| VULNERABILITIES      | BACKGROUND                                                                                  | HELPS LATAM EXPERT ANALYSIS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | SCORE      |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>POLITICAL</b>     | <b>Venezuela's Political Standoff:</b> Power Struggle and International Scrutiny.           | Venezuela's political crisis deepened as Nicolás Maduro refused to cede power after losing the July presidential election to opposition leader Edmundo González. This refusal has escalated internal tensions and drawn international criticism, particularly from neighboring Colombia. Additionally, the persecution of María Corina Machado's allies, sheltered in the Argentine embassy, highlighted concerns over human rights violations and Venezuela's disregard for international diplomatic norms.                                                                                    | <b>5.0</b> |
| <b>ECONOMIC</b>      | <b>Venezuela's Economic Woes:</b> Inflation, Declining Oil, and Stalled Reforms.            | Venezuela's economy remained in critical condition, plagued by persistent inflation and declining GDP. International sanctions and political instability further restricted financial market access and deterred foreign investment. Oil production, the country's primary revenue source, decreased due to neglected infrastructure and underinvestment. These challenges exacerbated economic hardships for citizens, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive reforms to stabilize the nation's financial and industrial sectors.                                                      | <b>4.0</b> |
| <b>SOCIOCULTURAL</b> | <b>Venezuela's Social Crisis Deepens:</b> Food Insecurity, Migration, and Inequality Surge. | Venezuela faced high social vulnerability due to food insecurity, extreme poverty, mass migration, violence, and crises in health and education. Inflation and failures in programs like CLAP worsened precarious conditions. Internal displacement, diseases such as malaria and dengue, protest repression, and indigenous exclusion highlighted structural deficiencies. An integral response is urgently needed to address basic needs and reduce social inequalities.                                                                                                                      | <b>5.0</b> |
| <b>TECHNOLOGICAL</b> | Venezuela Faces Cyberattacks and Infrastructure Failures Amidst Political Turmoil.          | Venezuela faced significant technological vulnerabilities, including over 106 state institutions targeted by cyberattacks, according to Minister Gabriela Jiménez. Infrastructure failures also persisted, with frequent blackouts and poor internet connectivity. Margarita Island suffered power outages of up to 20 hours daily after a gas complex explosion, crippling tourism and commerce. These challenges highlight the urgent need for improved cybersecurity and modernization of technological infrastructure to ensure essential services.                                         | <b>4.0</b> |
| <b>ECOLOGICAL</b>    | <b>Venezuela's Ecological Crisis:</b> Illegal Mining and Resource Mismanagement.            | Venezuela faced significant ecological vulnerabilities, exacerbating existing environmental challenges. Illegal mining activities in the Amazon, particularly in the Orinoco Mining Arc, continued to devastate ecosystems, causing deforestation, river pollution, and mercury contamination. Additionally, the mismanagement of natural resources led to water shortages in urban areas like Caracas. These issues and insufficient environmental policies underscored the urgent need for sustainable practices to protect biodiversity and ensure resource availability for the population. | <b>4.0</b> |
| <b>LEGAL</b>         | <b>Venezuela's Rule of Law Erodes:</b> Judicial Failures and Human Rights Violations.       | The detention of political opponents and the lack of judicial independence have undermined the rule of law in Venezuela. The recent decision by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which ruled that the Venezuelan government violated the human rights of former presidential candidate Henrique Capriles, highlights the deficiencies in the legal system and the urgent need for reforms to ensure justice and the protection of fundamental rights.                                                                                                                                  | <b>5.0</b> |
| <b>AVERAGE SCORE</b> |                                                                                             | <b>VULNERABILITY PERCENTAGE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |            |
| <b>4,67</b>          |                                                                                             | <b>93,33%</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |            |



| THREATS                | BACKGROUND                                                                                    | HELPS LATAM EXPERT ANALYSIS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | SCORE      |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>TERRORISM</b>       | Venezuela's Government Intensifies Crackdown, Labels Dissenters as Terrorists.                | In Venezuela, the terrorist threat is low, although the presence of irregular armed groups, such as Colombian guerrillas operating in border regions, persists. These organizations engage in illicit activities such as drug trafficking and smuggling, posing indirect risks. The limited government response and lack of effective international cooperation hinder control efforts. Strengthening border security and intelligence capabilities is crucial to mitigating these emerging threats.                                               | <b>3.0</b> |
| <b>ORGANIZED CRIME</b> | <b>Venezuela's Battle with Organized Crime:</b> Embezzlement and Criminal Ties.               | Organized crime in Venezuela remained deeply entrenched. Investigations uncovered \$138 million laundered by businessmen linked to a \$4.2 billion embezzlement scheme from PDVSA. Government "megaoperations" targeted prisons, drug trafficking, gangs, and illegal mining networks. However, criminal networks' ties to state actors undermined anti-crime initiatives, highlighting the challenges of dismantling systemic organized crime and restoring institutional integrity in the country.                                               | <b>5.0</b> |
| <b>CIVIL UNREST</b>    | Protest Tensions Simmer in Venezuela Despite Decreased Demonstrations.                        | Venezuela saw a 37% decrease in protests compared to the previous year, with 359 demonstrations in October, according to the Venezuelan Observatory of Social Conflict. Protests focused on economic, social, and environmental rights. Opposition leader María Corina Machado called for a massive protest on December 1 to demand Venezuela's "liberation" before the scheduled government transition. Despite fewer protests, political and social tensions remained high.                                                                      | <b>5.0</b> |
| <b>COMMON CRIME</b>    | <b>Venezuela's Common Crime Crisis:</b> Persistent Insecurity Amidst Questionable Statistics. | Venezuela continued to experience high levels of everyday crime, including homicides, robberies, and kidnappings. Despite government-reported declines in crime rates, independent analyses suggest that these reductions may be due to underreporting and the migration of criminal activities to other countries. The pervasive presence of criminal gangs and the lack of effective law enforcement have perpetuated insecurity, affecting daily life and contributing to the ongoing humanitarian crisis.                                      | <b>5.0</b> |
| <b>MEDICAL</b>         | <b>Venezuela's Medical Crisis:</b> Disease Outbreaks and Healthcare System Collapse.          | Venezuela's healthcare system faced severe challenges, with over 70% of the population lacking access to essential medicines and clean water. Outbreaks of malaria and dengue disproportionately affected vulnerable groups, including women and children. Humanitarian organizations provided critical support, but the collapse of public health services highlighted the urgent need for systemic reforms and increased international aid to mitigate the growing health risks and humanitarian crises.                                         | <b>4.0</b> |
| <b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>   | <b>Environmental Struggles:</b> Wildfires, Droughts, and Policy Controversies.                | Venezuela faced significant environmental threats, including illegal mining in the Amazon, leading to deforestation and mercury contamination. Waste management issues persisted in states like Falcón, Lara, and Sucre, with delays in garbage collection causing health concerns. Additionally, wildfires across South America, including Venezuela, increased greenhouse gas emissions to record levels, exacerbating climate change impacts.                                                                                                   | <b>4.0</b> |
| <b>CYBERCRIME</b>      | Venezuela Confronts Escalating Cyber Threats with New Security Measures.                      | Venezuela faces a vulnerable cyber environment with an increase in cyberattacks targeting individuals, businesses, and critical infrastructure. The lack of robust legislation, investment in cybersecurity, and public awareness exacerbates the risks. Phishing, ransomware, and data theft are prevalent, exploiting outdated systems and security gaps. It is essential to implement effective policies, training, and advanced technologies to mitigate growing threats and protect users and organizations in a fragile digital environment. | <b>5.0</b> |
| <b>AVERAGE SCORE</b>   |                                                                                               | <b>THREATS PERCENTAGE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |            |
| <b>4,42</b>            |                                                                                               | <b>88,57%</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |            |







## AIRPORTS

Airports in Venezuela have been operating under certain restrictions. The Venezuelan government has prohibited the passage of Argentine flights in Venezuelan airspace. This is a retaliatory measure against Argentina's decision to hand over to the United States justice system a Boeing 747-300 aircraft from Emtrasur, which is involved with the Iranian regime.

The temporary suspension of flights between Venezuela and Panama, as well as with the Dominican Republic, has led to significant operational changes at Venezuelan airports and has impacted travel options for affected passengers. Copa Airlines, the largest operator of weekly flights between Panama and several Venezuelan cities (including Caracas, Maracaibo, Valencia, Barcelona, and Barquisimeto), is currently in a holding pattern, awaiting updates on the situation.

The nation is home to more than sixty airports, of which fifty are public, three are private, and three are reserved for military use. The Simón Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetía, which accommodates the country's most significant air traffic volume, has been conducting its operations without any hindrances.



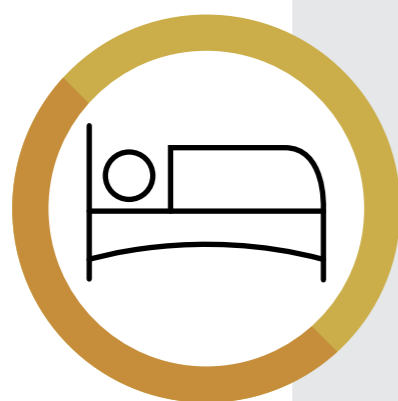
## HOSPITALS

Although hospitals are operating normally, medical conditions in the country are challenging. There have been reports of poor infrastructure, a shortage of emergency supplies, and a lack of available beds. However, in the capital, Caracas, the Caracas Clinics Hospital stands out as an institution that offers high-quality health services.



## ROADS

Although the country's roads are operational, there are several challenges for land mobility. Fuel shortages can make route planning difficult, and the 70% of the vehicle fleet is out of service, which complicates the search for optimal and safe vehicles for transport. In addition, 20% of the road communication networks are unpaved. The network of roads and highways has a total length of 96,189 km. However, traffic in Venezuela is considered very dangerous, with an average of 11,041 traffic fatalities per year.



## HOTELS

Due to the Easter holiday, a hotel occupancy rate of 35% was estimated during the holiday, which was a 5% increase compared to the same period in 2023. The destinations with the highest demand are from the north-coastal region which includes Caracas, Miranda state, Carabobo, La Guaira, and Margarita Island. In Caracas, it is recommended to stay at the JW Marriott Hotel Caracas, Meliá Caracas, and Hotel Eurobuilding, due to their location and security levels. On the other hand, in Maracaibo, the recommended hotels are Inter Maracaibo Hotel, Hotel Kristoff, and Crowne Plaza.



## INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

On July 29, 2024, Venezuela severed diplomatic relations with seven Latin American countries: Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Peru, Panama, the Dominican Republic, and Uruguay. These countries demanded a "complete review of the results" of the Venezuelan presidential elections with the presence of independent observers. In response, the Venezuelan government decided to withdraw all its diplomatic personnel from missions in these countries and demanded that their diplomatic representatives be immediately withdrawn from Venezuela.



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