



**HELPS**  
LATAM EXPERT

# NICARAGUA SITUATIONAL REPORT APRIL 2025

## COUNTRY RISK PROBABILITY ASSESSMENT

3,38/5

67.65%

### VULNERABILITIES

Political

Economic

Sociocultural

Technological

Ecological

Legal

### THREATS

Terrorism

Organized Crime

Civil Unrest

Common Crime

Health Threat

Enviromental

Cybercrime

Internal Threats

## GENERAL RISK PROBABILITY IN THE CONTEXT

67.65%

## RANGE

05

Severe

04

High Risk

03

Elevated

02

Guarded

01

Low



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The First part of our proposed methodology focuses on assessing vulnerabilities and threats across the country. This comprehensive and multidimensional approach encompasses 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 is collected 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 is 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 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 assesses and quantifies 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 understand the severity of deficiencies (General Vulnerabilities) and capabilities (General Threats), which are then 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, 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:** Personnel, 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).

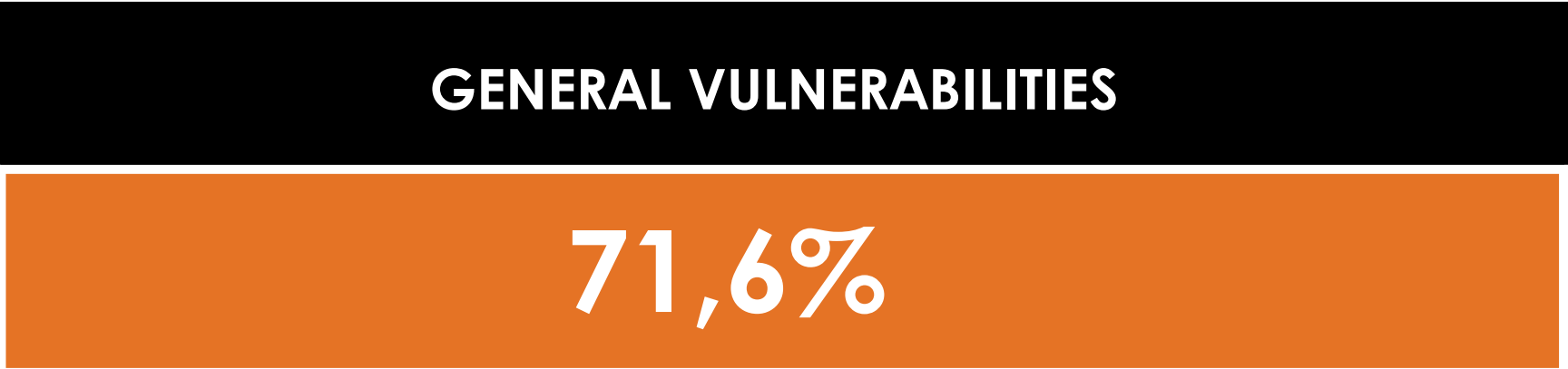
**2.2 Information about:** Type of crimes, Criminal Resilience, surveillance and Intelligence capability, Ability to co-opt internal staff - rated from 1 to 5, with 1 being unlimited, 2 being high, 3 being medium, 4 being low, and 5 being nonexistent (or unknown).

### **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

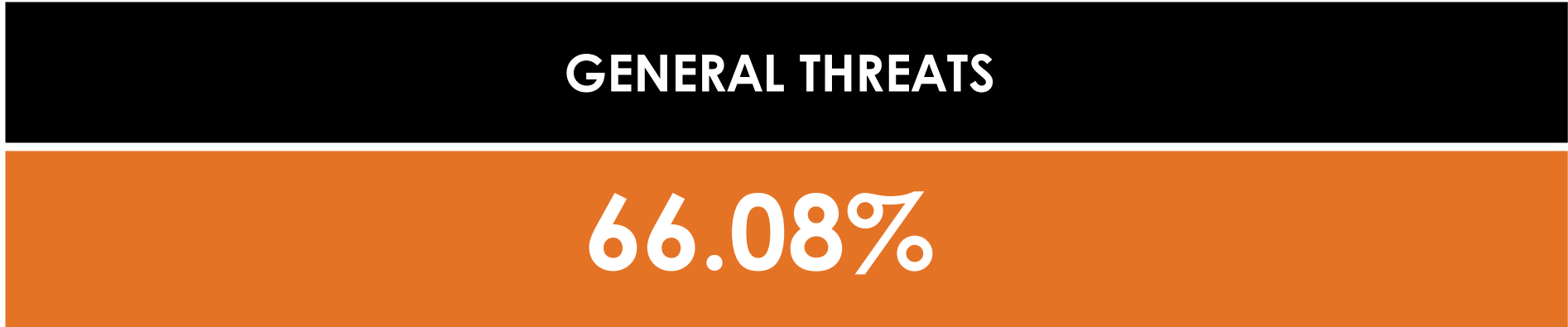
INADEQUATE CONTROLS



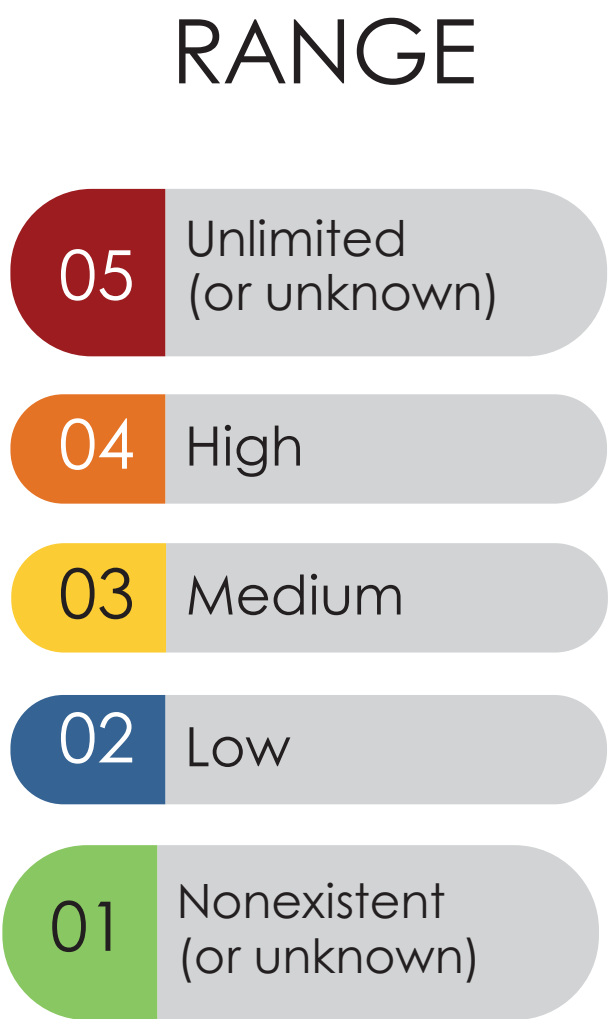
SYSTEM DEFICIENCIES	DEFICIENCIES IN CONTROL
Political	Law enforcement
Economic	Emergency management
Sociocultural	Medical
Technological	Comunications
Ecological	Transport
Legal	Foreign



GENERAL THREATS CAPACITY



VIOLENCE	RECURRENCE	RESOURCES
TERRORISM	TERRORISM	Personel
ORGANIZED CRIME	ORGANIZED CRIME	Weapons
CIVIL UNREST	CIVIL UNREST	Equipment
COMMON CRIME	COMMON CRIME	Transportation
HEALTH THREAT	HEALTH THREAT	
ENVIRONMENTAL	ENVIRONMENTAL	
CYBERCRIME	CYBERCRIME	
INTERNAL THREATS	INTERNAL THREATS	







THREATS	HELPS LATAM EXPERT ANALYSIS	SCORE
<b>TERRORISM</b> Organized Crime Threatens Security and Business in Nicaragua	In Nicaragua, particularly in certain regions, criminal organizations, including gangs and drug cartels, continue to exert significant influence, using the area as a strategic corridor for drug trafficking. Their operations go beyond narcotics and include activities such as extortion and robbery, resulting in a rise in violent crime in nearby urban centers. This increase poses substantial risks for tourists and creates serious challenges for local businesses operating amidst heightened insecurity. The widespread presence of these groups highlights the urgent need for comprehensive security measures and policy interventions to restore stability and protect the local population and economic interests in the affected areas.	72.00%
<b>ORGANIZED CRIME</b> Rising Security Risks and Digital Surveillance in Nicaragua	As of April 2025, Nicaragua is facing significant security challenges, especially in its border regions, where armed groups are involved in activities such as kidnapping, robbery, and vehicle theft. These criminal operations have increased risks for residents and travelers, highlighting the need for heightened vigilance. Furthermore, implementing the General Law of Convergent Telecommunications in November 2024 has expanded governmental surveillance capabilities, raising concerns about digital privacy and the potential targeting of dissenting voices. This combination of physical and cyber threats emphasizes the importance of strong personal security measures and heightened awareness for individuals in Nicaragua.	67.33%
<b>CIVIL UNREST</b> Growing Civil Unrest and Authoritarian Shift in Nicaragua	Nicaragua is experiencing civil unrest due to various socio-political factors. In February 2025, the government withdrew from the UN Human Rights Council after accusations of establishing a repressive authoritarian regime. Furthermore, the administration has sworn in 30,000 masked civilians as part of a new "voluntary police" force, raising concerns about militarization and human rights violations. These actions have fueled public dissatisfaction, leading to nationwide protests. Although many protests have been peaceful, there are expectations of escalating unrest as citizens express their grievances over governance and the decline of democratic institutions.	53.33%
<b>COMMON CRIME</b> Organized Crime Fuels Rising Urban Violence in Nicaragua	Nicaragua is experiencing an increase in everyday criminal activities, including robberies, thefts, kidnappings, homicides, and extortions, which are increasingly connected to organized crime networks. Reports indicate that these criminal groups are recruiting local gangs to carry out specific illegal operations, resulting in heightened violence in urban areas. Notably, there has been a rise in kidnappings and extortions targeting high-profile executives and social leaders, raising concerns within the business community and civil society. Furthermore, criminal organizations use tactics like graffiti to intimidate residents and mislead law enforcement, complicating efforts to maintain public safety and order.	72.00%
<b>HEALTH THREAT</b> Public Health Challenges and Disease Risks in Nicaragua	As of early 2025, Nicaragua faces significant health challenges. Between epidemiological weeks 1 and 4, the country reported 5,702 dengue cases, accounting for 2.5% of total cases in the Americas. All four dengue virus serotypes are present, increasing the risk of severe outbreaks. Malaria remains a concern in certain areas, and prophylactic measures for travelers are recommended while the risk of Zika virus transmission continues. The incidence of tuberculosis has decreased from 180 cases per 100,000 in 2000 to 134 cases per 100,000 in 2023. Although Nicaragua has a low HIV prevalence compared to other Latin American nations, ongoing efforts are needed to maintain this status. These challenges emphasize the need for continued public health interventions to mitigate the impact of communicable diseases in Nicaragua.	60.00%

THREATS



THREATS	HELPS LATAM EXPERT ANALYSIS	SCORE
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b> Environmental Crisis and Investor Uncertainty in Nicaragua	Nicaragua's business environment is facing significant challenges due to rising environmental threats. The expansion of open-pit gold mining has worsened ecological degradation and led to violent conflicts with Indigenous communities, resulting in their displacement and various human rights abuses. Additionally, the resurgence of the New World screwworm parasite has severely impacted the livestock sector, causing economic losses and leading neighboring countries to impose import restrictions. To make matters worse, the government's crackdown on civil society has resulted in the closure of over 5,600 NGOs, including those focused on environmental advocacy. This has diminished the nation's ability to tackle ecological challenges and increased investor uncertainty.	66.67%
<b>CYBERCRIME</b> State Surveillance and Cyber Risks Threaten Digital Security in Nicaragua	As of April 2025, Nicaragua faces increasing technological threats due to heightened state control over digital infrastructure. The General Law on Convergent Telecommunications, effective from late 2024, allows the government, through Telcor, to monitor all digital content, resulting in significant surveillance. This raises cybersecurity concerns for businesses, as data privacy and confidential communications are at risk of state interference. The unclear legal framework and lack of independent oversight expose companies to cyber extortion and reputational damage. Under these conditions, the rising dependence on digital platforms underscores the urgent need for strong cybersecurity strategies and legal risk mitigation for both domestic and international actors in Nicaragua.	69.60%
<b>INTERNAL THREATS</b> Corruption and Control Undermine Stability in Nicaragua	Nicaragua faces serious challenges, primarily due to rampant corruption, lack of accountability, and organized crime. The government's increasing control over civil society has led to the closure of numerous NGOs, undermining transparency and efforts to address these issues. Furthermore, the appointment of controversial officials such as Luis Cañas, known for his harsh control tactics, raises concerns about human rights violations and the potential misuse of anti-corruption measures against the political opposition. These factors, combined, create an unstable environment that seriously hampers safe and sustainable operations in Nicaragua.	67.67%
<b>AVERAGE SCORE</b>	<b>THREATS PERCENTAGE</b>	
3,30	66.08%	





VULNERABILITIES



VULNERABILITIES	HELPS LATAM EXPERT ANALYSIS	SCORE
<b>POLITICAL</b> Ortega Intensifies Repression Amid Global Condemnation	Nicaragua has been experiencing a prolonged socio-political crisis under the Ortega-Murillo regime, marked by violent repression of protests since 2018. In March 2025, the government deepened its authoritarian stance by withdrawing from the UN Human Rights Council after being accused of systematic abuses, including arbitrary arrests and extrajudicial killings. Independent media like La Prensa and Radio Corporación continue to report increased censorship and persecution of journalists, reflecting the regime's efforts to silence dissent and tighten control over the population.	70.48%
<b>ECONOMIC</b> Economic Fragility Behind Nicaragua's Mining Boom	Nicaragua's economy, though experiencing moderate growth in mining, remains vulnerable due to widespread poverty and significant reliance on remittances. Gold mining is a key export, yet it raises environmental concerns and conflicts with indigenous communities over land rights. Political instability and governance issues further deter foreign investment and hinder sustainable development.	62.98%
<b>SOCIOCULTURAL</b> Enduring Inequality and Social Strain in Nicaragua	Nicaragua faces significant social inequality, marked by a stark divide between wealthy and impoverished populations and a large informal employment sector. The country serves as a transit point for both internal and external migration, a situation worsened by ongoing political instability and violence. These disparities have increased youth involvement in criminal activities, particularly in rural areas. Furthermore, access to quality education and healthcare services remains inadequate, especially in remote regions, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and limiting opportunities for social mobility.	70.48%
<b>TECHNOLOGICAL</b> Expanded Cyber Laws Raise Privacy and Business Concerns in Nicaragua	In September 2024, the Nicaraguan government expanded its Cybercrime Law, also known as the "gag law," to include social media and mobile apps. The amendment imposes penalties of up to 15 years in prison and allows for extraterritorial prosecution of those accused of spreading false or inciting information. It also gives the National Police the power to conduct searches and access personal data without a judicial order in some instances. Additionally, changes to the Financial Analysis Unit Law enable monitoring of electronic transfers and remittances, affecting individuals and businesses. These changes have raised concerns among business leaders about privacy violations and the implications for freedom of expression in Nicaragua.	72.48%
<b>ECOLOGICAL</b> Environmental Crisis and Investor Uncertainty in Nicaragua	Nicaragua is facing serious ecological challenges that impact its business environment. Open-pit gold mining, the country's leading export since 2020, has caused environmental degradation and conflicts with Indigenous and Afro-Nicaraguan communities, resulting in displacement and human rights abuses. The return of the flesh-eating screwworm parasite has harmed the livestock industry, leading to economic losses and import restrictions from neighboring countries. The government's crackdown on civil society has closed over 4,000 NGOs since 2018, including those addressing environmental and human rights issues. These factors create uncertainty for investors and emphasize the urgent need for sustainable and equitable solutions in Nicaragua.	67.48%
<b>LEGAL</b> Corruption and Legal Uncertainty Undermine Nicaragua's Business Climate	Nicaragua struggles with judicial corruption and irregularities in public procurement. Reports suggest that politically connected companies are favored in bidding processes, undermining fair competition and deterring foreign investment. Unpredictable government policies create an uncertain business environment and raise compliance concerns with international anti-corruption laws, such as the FCPA. The judicial system's lack of transparency and accountability emphasizes the need for reforms to foster a more stable economic climate.	71.48%
AVERAGE SCORE		VULNERABILITY PERCENTAGE
3,46		69.23%







EMERGENCY NUMBERS	Numbers
Police	118
Firefighters	115 / 118
Medical Emergencies	128 /102
Civil Defense	2228-9915
British Embassy (Costa Rica)	+506-2258-2025
US Embassy Managua	+(505) 2252-7100



AIRPORT

Airport	Location	Type	Remarks	Numbers
Augusto C. Sandino International Airport	Managua	International	The country's main airport serves both domestic and international flights and is the primary hub for the state-owned airline La Costeña.	+505 2276 8580
Costa Esmeralda International Airport	Tola	International	It caters to tourist areas like San Juan del Sur and the resorts of Costa Esmeralda. Additionally, it accommodates private and commercial flights from Central America.	+505 8672 9224
Bluefields Airport	Bluefields	International	Connecting the Atlantic region to Managua is essential and is primarily serviced by La Costeña Airlines.	+505 2572 2346



## HOSPITALS

Nicaraguan hospitals are functioning normally. The Antonio Lenín Fonseca Hospital in Managua is one of the country's most extensive and specialized public medical facilities. The Vivian Pellas Metropolitan Hospital is the best-equipped private hospital, providing high-complexity services that meet international care standards. Additionally, the Hospital Regional Nuevo Amanecer in Bilwi is the primary referral center for remote coastal communities in the Caribbean region.



## ROADS

Nicaraguan roads are generally functioning normally. However, isolated incidents have been reported on key highways connecting Managua to the northern and Caribbean regions. While these disruptions are limited, they have occasionally affected the flow of goods and passenger transport, especially in areas impacted by heavy rains or localized protests.



## HOTELS

Hotels in Nicaragua typically offer a range of accommodations. In Managua, recommendations include the InterContinental Metrocentro and Hotel Real Los Robles. For a stay in Granada, travelers often opt for Hotel Plaza Colón or Hotel Dario, both known for their comfort and colonial charm. If you're heading to the beach, Mukul Beach Resort in Tola and Hotel La Santa María in San Juan del Sur provide premium experiences and excellent service.



## INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

Nicaragua changed its immigration policies in April 2024. In 2023, it is estimated that around 1.8 million people entered and exited the country. Most of this international mobility consists of travelers from Central America, with significant numbers of migrants and refugees passing through Nicaragua on their way to North America, particularly from Cuba, Haiti, and Venezuela.



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you may contact our Protective Intelligence team at



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**LATAM EXPERT**

**Our operations in NICARAGUA and  
all Latin America are 100% active.**

If you need Executive Protection, Secure Transportation,  
Private Investigations, Risk Management, and Crisis Support,  
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statement.**



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