

METHODOLOGY

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, including terrorism, organized crime, protests, common crime, cybercrime, climate disasters, medical threats, and internal stakeholders. 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 30 days, 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 five being the most severe. This scale enables a quantitative assessment, facilitating comparisons between different categories.

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 one being adequate, 2 having some inconsistencies, three being deficient, four being very deficient, and five being totally ineffective.
- 1.2 Deficiencies in Response Capacities: Police, Armed Forces, Disaster Management, Emergency & Medical—rated from 1 to 5, with one being adequate, 2 having some inconsistencies, three being deficient, four being very inadequate, and five being totally ineffective.

2. General Threats (measured by capabilities)

- 2.1 Resources: Personnel, Weapons, Equipment, Transportation- rated from 1 to 5, with one being nonexistent, two being low, three being medium, 4 being high, and five 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 one being unlimited, two being high, three being medium, four being low, and five being nonexistent (or unknown).

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

This part of the methodology comprehensively evaluates overall risk by averaging three components: Inadequate Controls (IC), which refer to insufficient security measures, and General Threat Capability (GTC), which assesses the potential dangers posed by threats.

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, providing a comprehensive measure of the risk level to which an individual or entity may be exposed.



INADEQUATE CONTROLS

GENERAL VULNERABILITIES

55,33%

SYSTEM DEFICIENCIES

Political

Economic

Sociocultural

Technological

Ecological

Legal

DEFICIENCIES IN CONTROL

Law enforcement

Emergency management

Medical

Comunications

Transport

Foreign

RANGE

05 Imminent

04 Very poor

03 Poor

O2 Certain inconsistencies

01 Adequate

GENERAL THREATS CAPACITY

GENERAL THREATS

54,91%

VIOLENCE

TERRORISM

ORGANIZED CRIME

CIVIL UNREST

COMMON CRIME

HEALTH THREAT

ENVIRONMENTAL

CYBERCRIME

INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

RECURRENCE

TERRORISM

ORGANIZED CRIME

CIVIL UNREST

COMMON CRIME

HEALTH THREAT

ENVIRONMENTAL

CYBERCRIME

INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

RESOURCES

Personel

Weapons

Equipment

Transportation

RANGE

05 Unlimited (or unknown)

04 High

03 Medium

02 Low

O1 Nonexistent (or unknown)











VULNERABILITIES	HELPS LATAM EXPERT ANALYSIS		
POLITICAL	Bolivia is currently facing instability and polarization due to the ongoing elections. The presidential runoff on October 19 between Rodrigo Paz and Tuto Quiroga is causing significant division and raises the risk of social mobilizations, roadblocks, and potential clashes. The MAS party and Evo Morales may rally supporters to take to the streets, which has historically paralyzed the country.		
ECONOMIC	Bolivia is currently facing a dollar liquidity crisis. The shortage of dollars, coupled with a significant decline in international reserves, is hindering imports and creating uncertainty. As of April 2025, Bolivia's country risk stands at an alarming 2,190 points, second only to Venezuela. This reflects a hazardous investment environment and raises concerns about the potential worsening of social issues due to inflation and economic stagnation.		
SOCIOCULTURAL	Bolivia is currently facing a surge in drug-related violence, primarily driven by the rise of organized crime in various regions of the country. There has been a notable increase in murders, kidnappings, and extortion, particularly in Santa Cruz de la Sierra. This situation has led to widespread discontent among the population, raising the likelihood of social protests aimed at finding solutions. Such unrest often results in roadblocks, as this has become a recurring factor of disruption.		
TECHNOLOGICAL	Since July 2025, Bolivia has experienced a notable increase in ransomware attacks, accompanied by a high volume of cyberattacks reported in the first quarter of this year. Despite the expansion of telecommunications infrastructure, it remains vulnerable. Additionally, the failure to implement necessary patches in corporate systems allows for the exploitation of security weaknesses.		54,35%
ENVIRONMENTAL	Bolivia's ecological situation faces several challenges. Heavy rains can lead to flooding, landslides, fallen trees, and sinkholes. Assistance during these emergencies is often limited and scarce, particularly for people in rural areas. Additionally, there are ongoing concerns about the expansion of extractive industries, which are affecting natural reserves. This expansion often contributes to climate change, leading to increased climate uncertainty.		
LEGAL	Bolivia is experiencing legal instability due to widespread corruption. Corruption in both the public and private sectors remains a significant barrier to development and security. The infiltration of organized crime into numerous public spheres has undermined the State's ability to effectively tackle transnational organized crime, which exploits these vulnerabilities and infiltrations.		54,15%
	AVERAGE SCORE	VULNERABILITY PERCENTAGE	

2,77

55,33%









THREATS	HELPS LATAM EXPERT ANALYSIS		
TERRORISM	While the terrorism alert level in Bolivia remains low, it should always be taken seriously. The events that occurred in October and November last year prompted a reform of the country's terrorism laws, which are now in progress.		
ORGANIZED CRIME	Organized crime has significantly increased its activities across various parts of the country. The rise in homicides, kidnappings, and extortion is indicative of the violence affecting Bolivia. This criminal activity is most prevalent in the eastern region, particularly in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra. Reports indicate the presence of the criminal group Comando Vermelho (Red Command), which is known for employing extreme violence.		70,13%
CIVIL UNREST	The potential for civil unrest historically leads to nationwide roadblocks and armed violence, which disrupts transportation and supply chains, making it a recurring threat.		53,47%
COMMON	Bolivia is experiencing an increase in common crime, particularly urban robberies and assaults. This rise in criminal activity is exacerbated by the ongoing economic crisis and social unrest, which directly impacts the safety of both citizens and travelers. Many of these robberies can be violent, with some victims sustaining injuries.		67,73%
HEALTH THREAT	The healthcare sector in Bolivia is facing a crisis due to significant shortcomings. The deteriorating healthcare infrastructure and shortages of essential medicines pose a risk of endemic diseases or outbreaks, particularly in rural regions.		46,93%
ENVIRONMENTAL	Bolivia faces significant environmental issues such as deforestation, illegal mining, river pollution, and wildlife trafficking. Furthermore, heavy rains have mainly affected the municipality of Tipuani.		47,47%
CYBERCRIME	Cybercrime in Bolivia is on the rise, with a demonstrated capacity to execute ransomware and phishing campaigns that can compromise corporate systems and critical infrastructure. The risk is heightened by the inadequate security measures implemented by businesses. Additionally, online sales scams have surged, leading to numerous victims.		
INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS	Internal threats in Bolivia mainly come from judges and governors, while security agents, including police and military personnel, play a lesser role. Numerous corruption cases have implicated ministers accused of illegally inflating or misrepresenting their assets. Consequently, these officials are frequently subjected to investigations or prosecution.		
	AVERAGE SCORE	THREAT CAPABILITIES PERCENTAGE	

HELPS

2,75

54,91%

Restrict the movement of foreign executives and personnel to approved transportation services.

Consider employing specialized security for off-site meetings and travel in unfamiliar urban areas due to the high incidence of armed robberies and violence.

Update the communications plan to include current emergency contacts, such as local authorities, embassies, and key local personnel, as well as any relevant information. Focus on communicating with local personnel to gain immediate information about any blockades or civil unrest.

Reevaluate security protocols in light of increasing extortion, kidnapping, and organized crime violence. Implement strict access controls, establish partnerships with approved private security firms, and adjust personnel movements in response to real-time threat assessments.

Please keep a close watch on the runoff election scheduled for October 19 and its potential consequences.

Develop contingency plans to address possible logistical issues that may arise due to roadblocks following the election. Stay updated on the liquidity crisis and dollar shortages, as these factors can affect the importation of supplies and overall operational stability.

Keep an eye on social conflicts that may arise from illegal mining and deforestation, as these can lead to localized blockades and disruptions. Ensure that staff are informed about health risks, such as influenza outbreaks, and issues related to waste management, especially considering the health system's limited capacity to handle complex emergencies.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS	Numbers	
Police	110/911	
Firefighters	119	
Medical Emergencies	118/160	
Civil Defense	911	
British Embassy	+591 2 2433424	
US Embassy Asunción	+ (591) (2) 216-8000	



AIRPORT

Airport	Location	Type	Remarks	Numbers
Viru Viru International Airport	Santa Cruz de la Sierra	International	Bolivia's busiest airport is the central hub for intercontinental connections and is vital to economic and tourism development.	+591 3 3385000 / +591 3 3852400
El Alto International Airport	El Alto, La Paz	International	At 4,061 meters, it is the world's highest international airport, making it key for high-altitude aircraft testing and La Paz's connectivity.	+59122157300
Jorge Wilstermann international Airport	Cochabamba	International	Cochabamba's airport is essential for linking Bolivia's central region, enhancing its significance as a major hub for tourism and the regional economy.	+591 4 4592162

HOSPITALS



Hospitals in Bolivia are operational, but the public healthcare system continues to face challenges despite the Sistema Único de Salud (SUS) implemented in 2019 for universal coverage. Recent influenza outbreaks have highlighted resource limitations. Key public hospitals include Hospital de Clínicas, Hospital del Niño in La Paz, and Hospital Universitario Japonés in Santa Cruz. Private clinics such as Clínica de Las Américas and Clínica Foianini in Santa Cruz, and Clínica Los Andes and Clínica del Sur in La Paz, offer a broader range of services. The Ministry of Health oversees public health research and disease control, focusing on strengthening primary healthcare and improving epidemiological surveillance.



ROADS

Bolivia often experiences significant traffic congestion in major cities like La Paz and Santa Cruz de la Sierra, especially during peak hours. Due to the heavy vehicle volume, key routes such as the Autopista La Paz-El Alto and Doble Vía a La Guardia frequently experience delays. Local disruptions from social protests and roadwork also impact the flow of goods and people across the country.



HOTELS

Hotels in Bolivia offer a range of accommodations for different travelers. The Hotel Europa and the Ritz Apart Hotel in La Paz provide luxury amenities and central locations. For a boutique experience, Casa Grande Hotel and Los Tajibos Hotel in Santa Cruz are excellent choices. For business and extended stays, the Camino Real Hotel in Santa Cruz and La Paz and the Radisson Hotel in La Paz offer comprehensive facilities and easy access to commercial areas.

INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY



Bolivia has shifted from being mainly a transit country to also serving as a destination for vulnerable migrants. By the end of 2023, around 30,000 refugees and migrants from Venezuela had arrived, with many still heading to other South American nations like Argentina and Chile. In addition to Venezuelans, there are also migrants from Haiti, Nepal, and Cameroon, often passing through border points like Desaguadero. To manage these flows and provide essential services, the Bolivian government has introduced regularization programs, such as Supreme Decree 4576 from August 2022, prioritizing minors in need.

We have Protective Intelligence capabilities in:





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



Our operations in BOLIVIA and all Latin America 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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