



SECURITY
COLOMBIA

Assessment of Urban Security

BOGOTÁ D.C

June 2024

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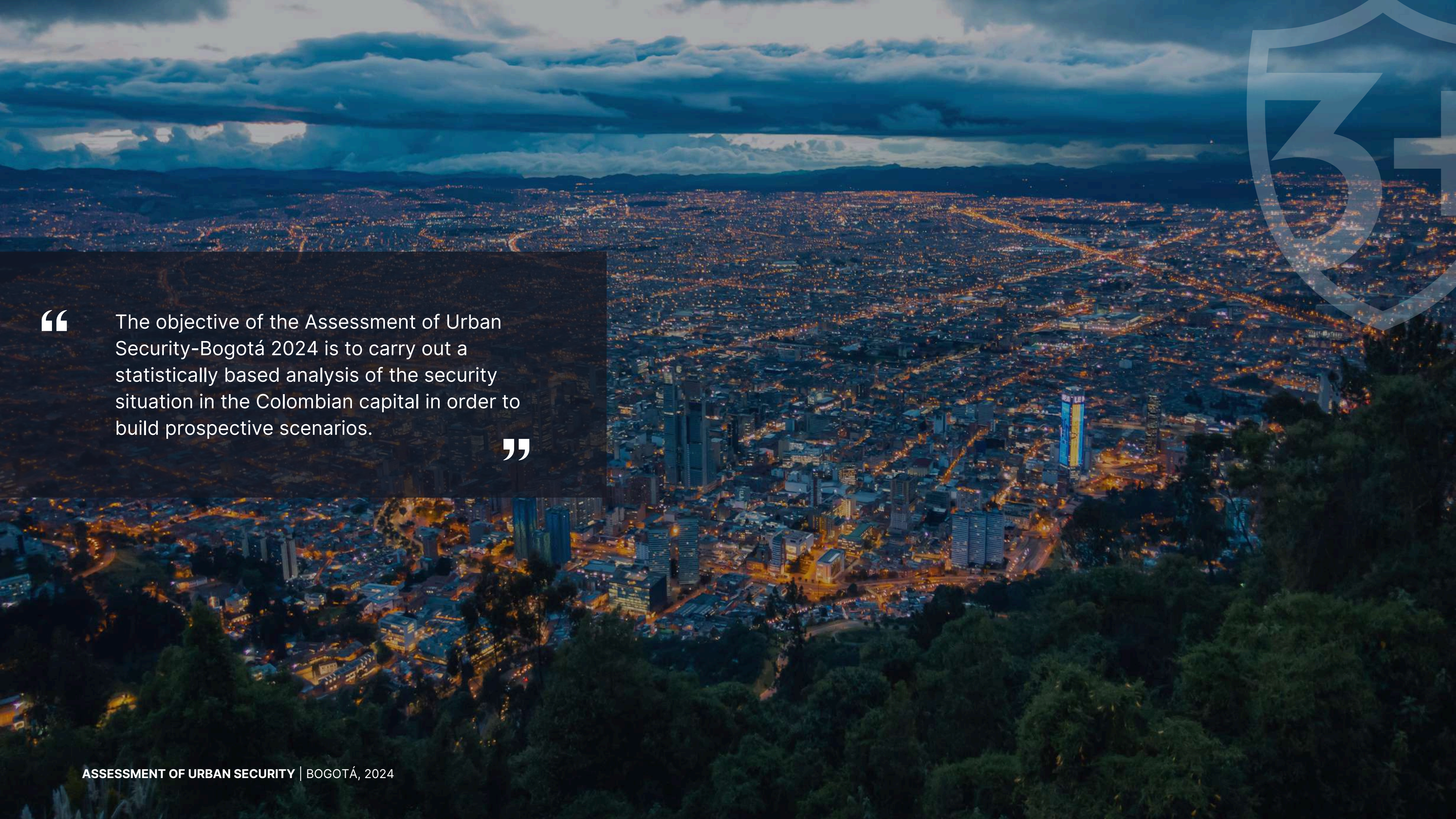
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“ The objective of the Assessment of Urban Security-Bogotá 2024 is to carry out a statistically based analysis of the security situation in the Colombian capital in order to build prospective scenarios. ”

1. Situational Analysis

In this document the Unidad de Análisis Político y Seguridad Corporativa (UAPSC) of 3+SC will conduct the Assessment of Urban Security for the city of Bogotá, analyzing the dynamics that impact security, risk generating factors and criminal behavior based on statistics, with the main objective of making known the security situation of the city, information that will be useful for the control and mitigation of risks.

In the first months of 2024, Bogotá has experienced different security challenges. Thefts from persons, commercial establishments, homicides in public spaces and shootings are just some of the problems that have affected citizens. According to Mayor Carlos Fernando Galán, in the Colombian capital there is an important number and variety of criminal actors

that have been consolidating in the territory for years, which would be responsible for the current situation. The official affirms that insecurity is not only a matter of perception, but responds to a difficult reality that needs an effective operational strategy to see a transformation (Noticias RCN, 2024).



27%

of the citizens surveyed reported having been victims of some crime.

52%

of the citizens surveyed do not feel safe in the city.

66%

of respondents cite street robbery as the biggest problem in their neighborhoods.

52%

of people feel that the biggest problem in the city is insecurity.

185%
increase in threats

96 %
increase in extortion

1 %
increase in homicides

2. Crime Analysys

High Impact Crimes Bogotá 2024

Based on figures provided by the National Police, it is possible to show that between January and April 2023 and 2024, only three high-impact crimes experienced an increase.

| CRIME STATISTICS IN BOGOTÁ | YEAR 2022 | YEAR 2023 | VARIATION % 2022 VS 2023 | JAN-APR 2023 | JAN-APR 2024 | VARIATION % JAN-APR 2023 VS 2024 |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Homicides | 1007 | 1069 | 6% | 349 | 354 | 1% |
| Theft from Persons | 136307 | 147321 | 8% | 49361 | 44210 | -10% |
| Extortion | 1251 | 1518 | 21% | 402 | 790 | 96% |
| Kidnapping | 11 | 13 | 18% | 7 | 6 | -14% |
| Threats | 10784 | 9751 | -9% | 2067 | 5900 | 185% |
| Terrorism | 2 | 0 | -200% | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Residential Theft | 6947 | 7302 | 5% | 2740 | 2033 | -26% |
| Carjacking | 3306 | 3856 | 17% | 1347 | 1276 | -5% |
| Motorcycle Theft | 4560 | 4790 | 5% | 1654 | 1556 | -6% |
| Retail Theft | 10086 | 8617 | -14% | 4333 | 3001 | -31% |
| Land Piracy | 10 | 18 | 80% | 11 | 2 | -82% |
| Total | 174271 | 184255 | 6% | 62271 | 59128 | -5% |

44.210

thefts from persons
between January-
April 2024.



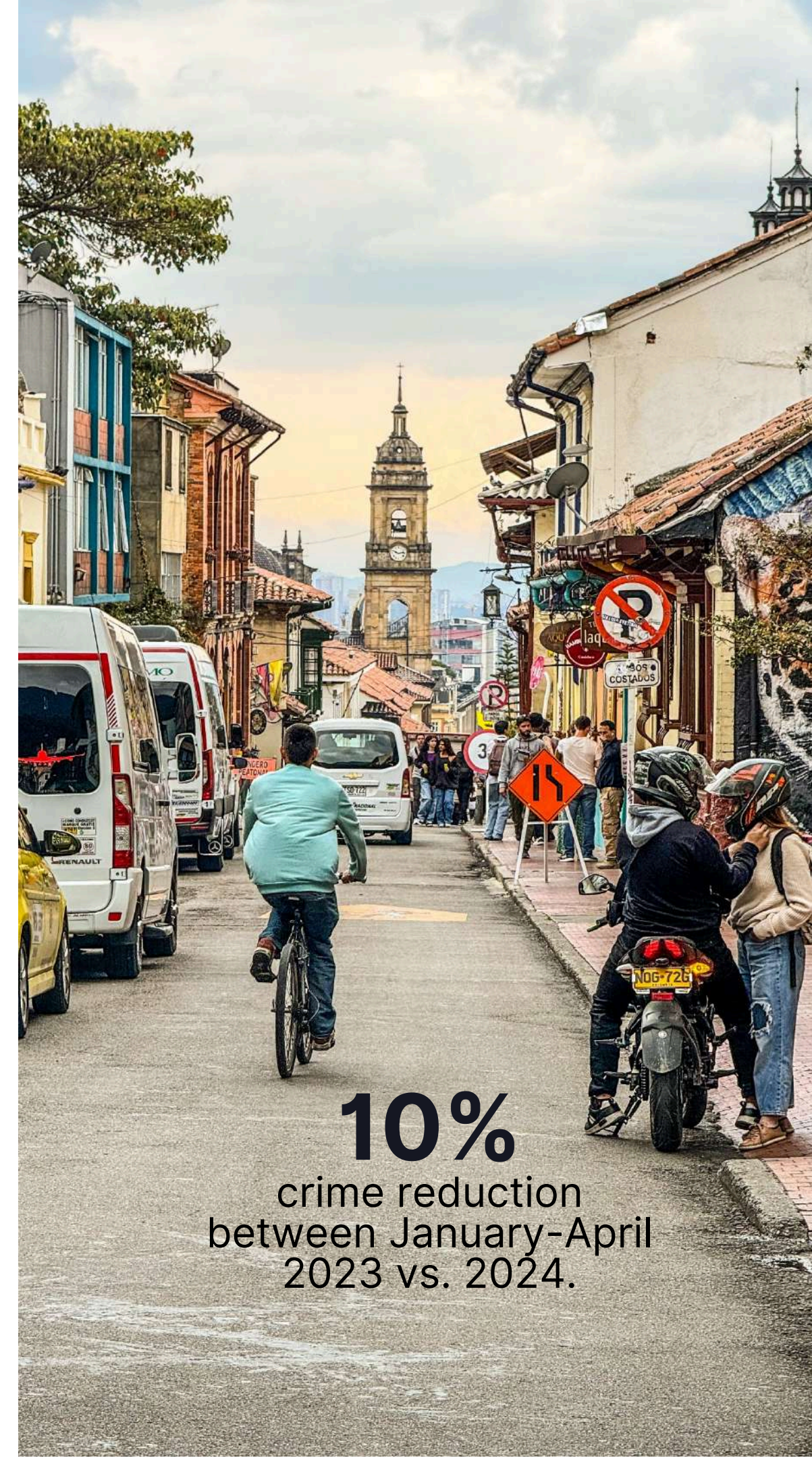
8%

crime increase
between 2022
and 2023.

2.1 Theft from Persons

According to Bogotá councilman Rafael Amí, during 2023 there were an average of 400 thefts per day in the city ([Infobae](#), 2024). Although, according to the mayor's office, theft from persons has decreased in the last two months ([Infobae](#), 2024), the security situation in the capital remains problematic. According to Councilman Julian Uscátegui, Bogotá accounts for more than 40% of the thefts nationwide. The city recorded the same number of thefts as the sum of those reported in the seven departments with the most cases nationwide: Antioquia, Cundinamarca, Valle del Cauca, Atlántico, Santander, Huila and Bolívar. The phenomenon can also be reflected regionally, as Bogotá is the Latin American city with the highest number of thefts ([Semana](#), 2024).

The constant thefts in Bogotá are the result of the diversity and number of criminal actors. Between Organized Armed Groups, Organized Criminal Groups and Organized Common Crime Groups, the capital city has about 72 criminal structures. The localities with the greatest presence of gangs are Ciudad Bolívar, Rafael Uribe Uribe, Bosa and Kennedy, although their operations extend throughout the city ([Semana](#), 2024). In 2023, 578 hotspots were registered in the territory, a figure that contrasts with the 228 identified in 2019 ([Infobae](#), 2024).



10%

crime reduction
between January-April
2023 vs. 2024.

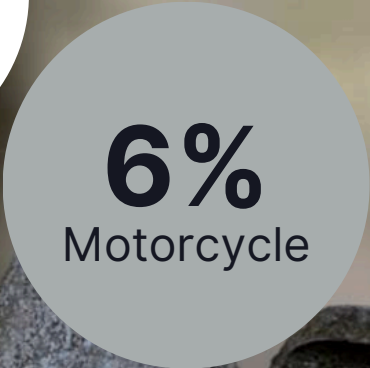
2.2 Theft in Different Modalities

In addition to theft from persons, there are different types of theft in Bogotá, such as theft from businesses, theft from residences, carjacking and theft from motorcycles. These high-impact crimes affect the security of citizens as they damage people's assets.

In the last few months, mass theft in commercial establishments has become a recurrent problem. In February several cases were recorded, particularly in restaurants, gastrobars and cafeterias in the north of the capital.

The bakery “Masa”, located on 81st Street and 9th Street, “Abasto”, located on 5th Street and 118th Street, and “Pecado Capital” in Cedritos, were some of the affected businesses (El Tiempo, 2024). The *modus operandi* of the criminals consisted of threatening diners, customers and workers with firearms in order to steal their belongings, and then fleeing on a motorcycle waiting for them at the exit of the place.

Decrease in crime between
January-April 2023 vs. January-
April 2024



2.033

residential thefts
between January-
April 2024



1.276

carjacking cases
between January-April
2024.



1.556

motorcycle thefts
between January-April
2024.



3.001

retail thefts
between January-
April 2024.

2.3 Homicides

According to the Minister of Defense Iván Velásquez, although insecurity continues to be one of the main problems in Bogotá, so far in 2024 there has been a considerable decrease in most of the high impact crimes.

A situation that is overshadowed by the “magnification” of criminal acts by the media. According to President Gustavo Petro, although homicides continue to be a serious phenomenon in the Colombian capital, this year has seen the lowest average number of daily homicides in more than four decades ([Infobae](#), 2024).

Official figures from the National Police and the Ministry of Defense state that Bogotá ranked 18th among Colombian cities with the highest homicide rates in 2023. With a rate of 1.000 murders, Cali ranked first, followed by Sincelejo with 335. For its part, the country's capital reported 13.7% cases per 100.000 inhabitants ([Infobae](#), 2024).



2.4 Extortion, threats and kidnapping

Extortion and threats are two of the crimes that have increased the most in 2024 compared to the previous year. Both practices are closely linked, since extortion uses threats and intimidation for its execution.

Those responsible for this scenario in the country are criminal groups and smaller gangs that operate in different areas of the capital ([Infobae](#), 2024).

The most affected localities are Kennedy, Suba, Los Mártires and Barrios Unidos and, although the criminal phenomenon reaches an important part of the population ([El Espectador](#), 2024), the most affected group is the merchants. So far in 2024, 21 merchants have been forced to close their establishments to ensure their safety ([Infobae](#), 2024).

In turn, express kidnapping is a recurrent modality that occurs in extortion, a dynamic in which criminals demand sums of money in exchange for the victim's release.



96%

Increase in **EXTORTION** crime between January - April 2023 vs. January - April 2024.



14%

Reduction in crime of **KIDNAPPING** between January and April 2023 and January and April 2024.



185%

Increase in the crime of **THREAT** between January and April 2023 and January and April 2024.

3. Risk Generating Factors

3.1 Microtrafficking and Criminal groups

| DRUG SEIZURE | YEAR 2022 (kg) | YEAR 2023 (kg) | YEAR 2024 (kg) |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 2CB | 10.911,00 | 19.996,00 | 5.434,70 |
| Ecstasy | 11.534,00 | 1.338,20 | 1.610,60 |
| Marijuana | 8.934,09 | 3.728,02 | 1.309,85 |
| Cocaine Hydrochloride | 3.713,11 | 1.666,72 | 412,72 |
| Basuco | 436,68 | 338,70 | 75,52 |
| Cocaine Paste / Base | 118,31 | 117,49 | 21,51 |
| Total | 35.647,19 | 27.185,13 | 8.864,90 |

Criminal Groups in Bogotá

According to the Fundación Paz y Reconciliación, around fifty criminal structures are involved in Bogotá, three of which correspond to Organized Armed Groups: the EMC, the ELN and the Clan del Golfo. Among the Organized Criminal Groups are “Satanás” and transnational groups such as the “Tren de Aragua”. Criminality in the capital is concentrated in 41 gangs that carry out activities in neighborhoods (PARES, 2024).

According to the Defensoría del Pueblo, the “Tren de Aragua” and the Clan del Golfo have a presence in nine localities in Bogotá, including Kennedy and Suba, two of the most populated. These organizations have achieved such consolidation through subcontracting processes with local gangs, where in exchange for money or other resources, the smaller groups defend the interests of the structures and develop activities in the illicit markets in which they operate. This guarantees the parties greater effectiveness and profitability in their illicit businesses (Cambio, 2024).

600.000

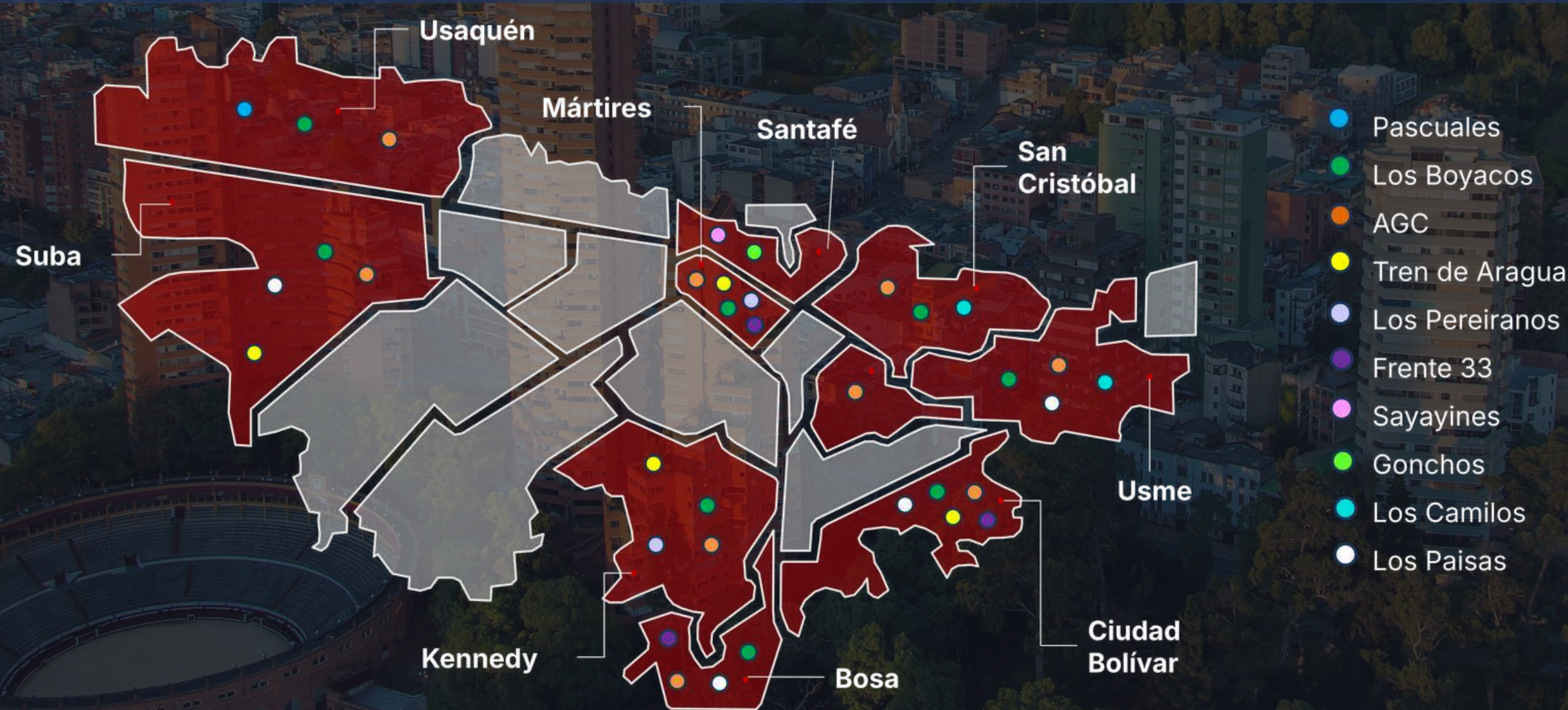
citizens live in areas surrounded by drug dealing zones

41%

of citizens in Los Mártires report living near a micro-trafficking pit

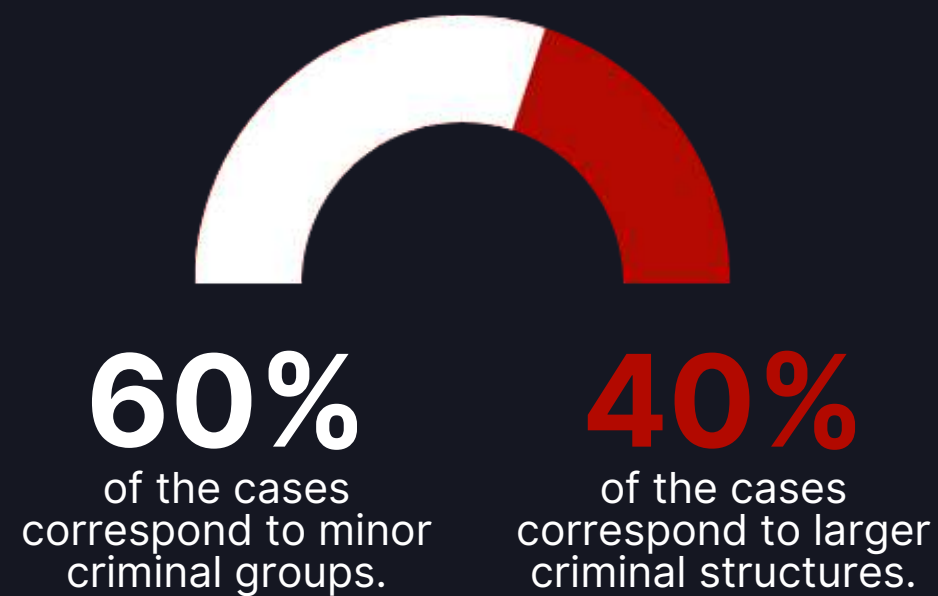
60

Points of distribution of illicit substances were identified in the first four months of the year



50

organizations have consolidated extortion as one of their main sources of expansion.

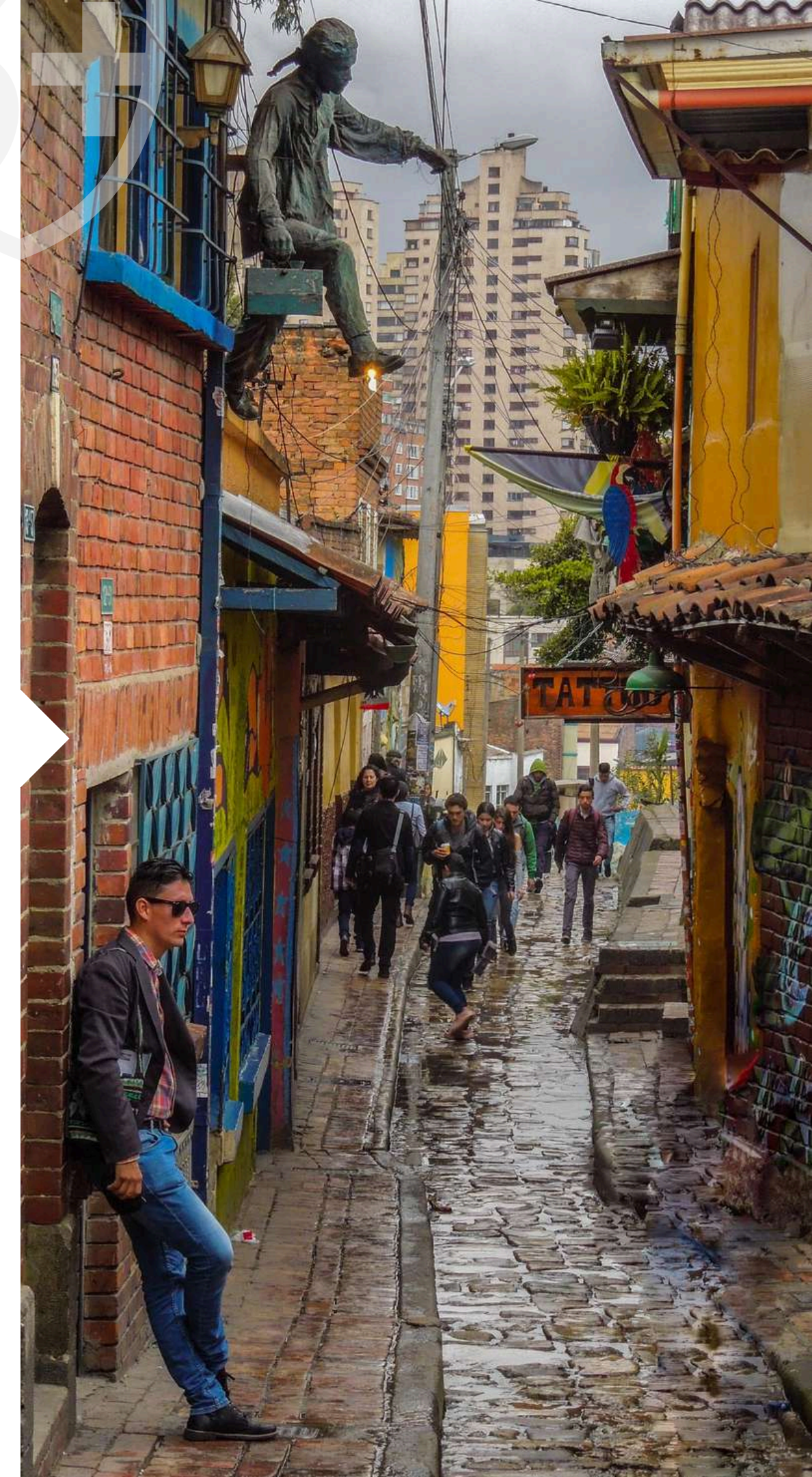


“Satanás” y el “Tren de Aragua”

are two of the organizations whose extortion processes in the city have been strengthened the most.

3.2 Extortion

- 1 Since 2023 extortion has been experiencing a significant increase in the city of Bogotá. So far in 2024, the mayor's office and other authorities have expressed their concern about the growing crime on several occasions.
- 2 Among the groups most affected by the problem are sex workers, who have received death threats in Kennedy, Suba, Bosa, Barrios Unidos and Los Mártires, and shopkeepers, who constantly receive intimidating visits to their establishments or threatening text messages and phone calls. The modalities used to affect the population are varied.
- 3 In some cases, the criminals travel to the premises or establishments to generate the threat, while in others, they are contacted by means of pamphlets or cell phones. Often, if the extorted person is delaying payment, the criminals attack their homes and businesses to force them to give the money ([El Tiempo](#), 2024)



3.3 Recruitment and Instrumentalization of Minors

The use of minors by criminal structures is also a high-impact problem for the Colombian capital. Due to their legal status, children and youths are constantly instrumentalized by Organized Criminal Groups and criminal gangs to commit various crimes or as an instrument of financing for the organization. Sexual exploitation and micro-trafficking are two of the illicit markets in which minors end up actively participating, becoming victims of criminal gangs.

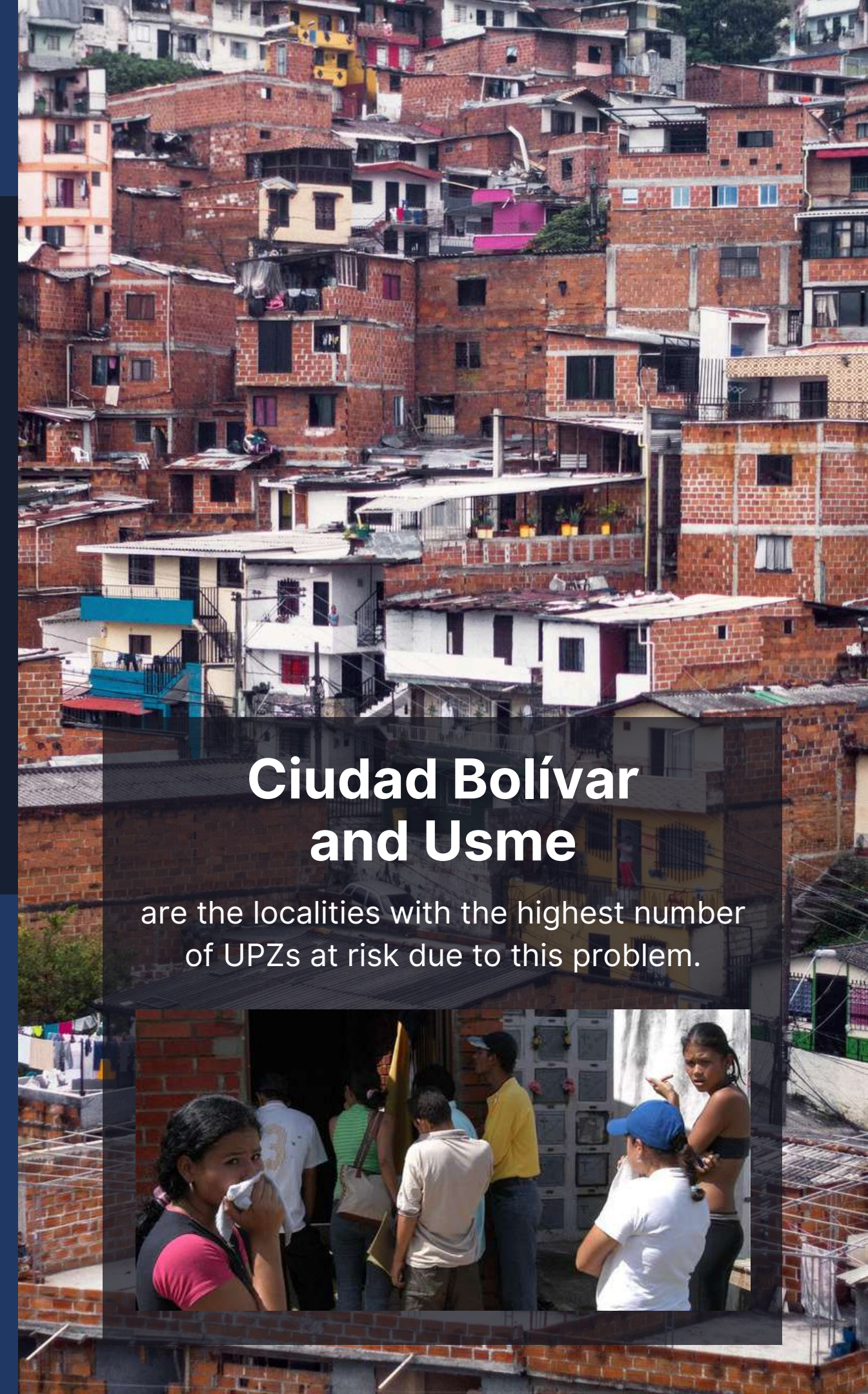
In April, Bogotá councilman Óscar Ramírez Vahos denounced that minors were being used for sexual exploitation and micro-trafficking in Bogotá and Medellín. According to the official, “what happens in the Santa Fe neighborhood or in other places in Bogotá is related to what happens in the Torre del Reloj in Cartagena or, in the case of Medellín, in parks such as Lleras, El Poblado, or Botero”. Victims are moved from city to city to offer sexual services, while sharing information about narcotic substances ([Infobae](#), 2024).



72 juveniles are arrested monthly for involvement in high-impact crimes.



14 are the localities in which young people are at risk of recruitment.



Ciudad Bolívar and Usme

are the localities with the highest number of UPZs at risk due to this problem.

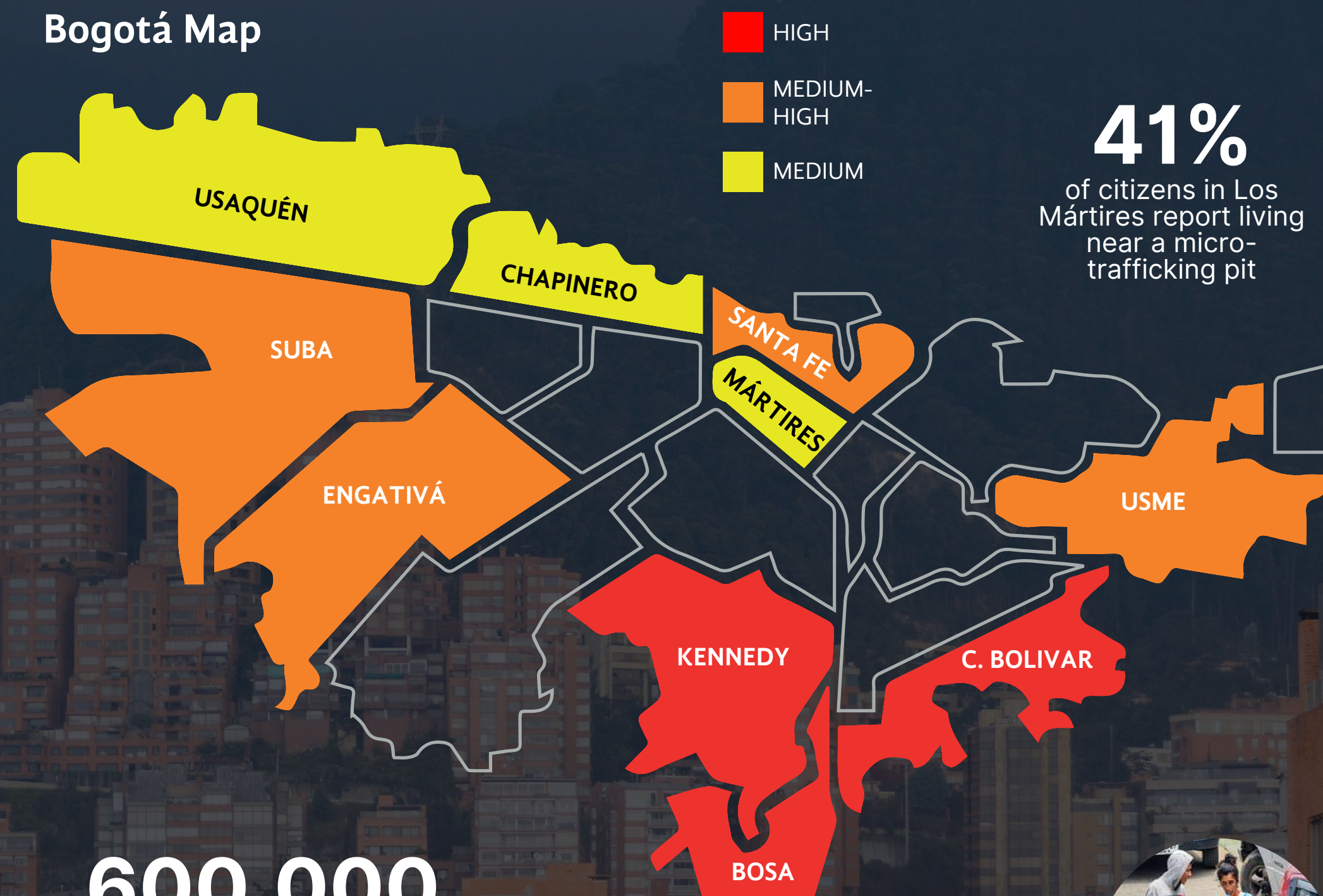


4. Bogotá Risk Level

Risk Level of the City by Localities

The objective of the risk level is to identify the areas where there is a greater probability of violence and high impact crimes. The classification of the localities will be based on the official statistics of the Secretaría de Seguridad Distrital homicides and robberies, which correspond to the period between January and April 2024, and on the Early Alert 004 of 2024, issued by the Defensoría del Pueblo.

Bogotá Map


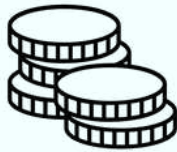
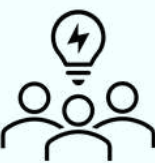



41%
of citizens in Los Mártires report living near a micro-trafficking pit

600.000
citizens live in areas surrounded by some drug dealing zones



**Analysis of the dynamics of risks in the city of Bogota so that companies can evaluate their operations
(qualification based on ISO 31000 and quantitative risk analysis).**

| Risk | Main factors that generate risk | Consequences | Implications for private companies | Risk Level |
|---|--|--|---|--------------------|
|  Deterioration in the security situation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unemployment.• Consolidated presence of groups such as common crime, gangs, organized groups.• Influence of the micro-trafficking phenomenon in common and organized crime, developing networks of hired killings and their strengthening. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Citizen distrust• Decrease in local and foreign investment in the city.• Affectation of small and medium-sized businesses.• Decrease in tourism potential.• Increase in complaints of extortion, threats and homicides. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potential impact on the supply or value chain due to the permeability of crime.• Non-fulfillment of services or commitments.• Leakage of personnel with intentions of harming companies.• Fear of market expansion due to criminal networks. | High |
|  Impact on the economic and financial system | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corruption in the public and private sector.• Increasing poverty and inequality. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decrease in foreign investment in the city.• Low wages.• Labor informality.• Inflation.• Limitation and inadequate use of public space.• Low business generation.• Increased recruitment of criminal groups. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduced demand for services and products.• Decrease in revenues.• Increased costs due to phenomena such as inflation.• Limitation of operating capacities. | Medium-High |
|  Social protest | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dissatisfied communities• Failure to comply with agreements between citizens and the government.• Insufficient government management and lack of public resources.• Unresolved or ongoing territorial claims. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Governmental destabilization.• Interruption of economic activities.• Increase in public spending.• Increased violence.• Resurgence of social conflicts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial losses.• Affectations in the supply chain.• Unfavorable business climate.• Loss of business opportunities. | Medium-High |
|  Political instability | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corruption.• Deepening inequalities.• Mistrust in institutions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Polarization.• Social conflict.• Strengthening and increase of organized groups.• Low productivity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decrease in foreign clients due to political uncertainty.• Reduced revenues due to periods of inflation and recession.• Uncertainty in creating long-term plans and projects. | Medium-High |

5. Foresight Design



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The short- and medium-term security outlook for Bogotá does not appear to be favorable. The causes of the current situation are multiple and have been brewing for some time, so a real and effective solution will take time to materialize. Mayor Carlos Fernando Galán has had security as one of his flagship issues since his candidacy. So far, several crime mitigation programs and projects have been developed, which can be framed within the strategy “Bogotá Camina Segura”. However, the problem in the capital is made up of different elements, so a definitive solution requires a timely treatment of each of them.

One of the causes of Bogotá's security situation is the transformation of crime. Today, crime operates at various levels that are interrelated to maximize profits and reduce visibility to the authorities. Higher level groups carry out different types of crimes, linking up with smaller organizations dedicated to the materialization of a single crime or a particular area.

“

New structures appear and seek to displace existing ones, resulting in scenarios of violence in the capital. In addition, the institutional framework is precarious

These dynamics have led to an increasing number of Organized Criminal Groups and smaller structures, including members of more than one nationality.

At the same time, crimes that previously did not appear with recurrence are now the main focus of the authorities. One of them is extortion, a crime that has been worsening in the city and positioning itself as one of the main sources of financing for criminality. The crime has reached the point that homicides and attacks on infrastructure have already been recorded as retaliation against victims who refuse to pay or simply as part of the threat.

Another crime is theft from commercial establishments, where mass armed robbery has become a daily occurrence.

Along with the above, phenomena such as the dismemberment of bodies, disappearances and bodies in bags respond to disputes and “settling of scores” between the same criminal actors for illicit rents such as micro-trafficking. New structures appear and seek to displace existing ones, resulting in scenarios of violence in the capital.

In addition, the institutional framework is precarious. On the one hand, the number of police patrolling the city is quite low considering the number of inhabitants. On the other hand, the justice system has little legitimacy, a situation that contributes to the increase in crime in the city. Thus, as long as each aspect of the problem is not solved, insecurity in the city will continue to be critical.

6. Recommendations

1 **Establish security protocols** for dealing with various security phenomena present in the territory, such as extortion and threats.

2 In the event of traveling in a private vehicle, keep the windows up, put the safety locks on and **always be aware** of everything that happens around you, using situational awareness as a self-protection measure.

3 To mitigate risks associated with vehicle theft, when leaving the vehicle, **avoid** leaving valuables inside. Install alarms and, if possible, GPS and security cameras inside the vehicle.

4 If you are a victim of threats by Organized Crime Groups, **avoid** commenting on them in public and report them immediately to the authorities.

5 **Keep yourself** permanently informed about the city's public order and mobility situation, to make alternative plans for transportation, logistics or as appropriate to your work or need.

6 Update your risk assessment by evaluating the environment and security conditions, ensuring measures to mitigate threats based on the dynamics of crime in the city.

7 If possible, train yourself in defensive and evasive driving to increase your ability to save your life or that of your family in the event of an assault on public roads.

8 If you must make cash withdrawals, preferably use ATMs located in shopping malls or inside the bank's own branches. If the amount of money involved is large, ask the corresponding authority to accompany you.

9 Avoid having detailed or sensitive information about your family members or the organization you work for on your cell phone.

10 Do not walk late at night in neighborhoods or localities that according to crime statistics had a high impact on theft and homicides.

11 Conduct a risk analysis of your entire supply or value chain that allows you to evaluate the context and identify weaknesses in your operations.

12 Never provide personal data or financial information through phone calls, messages or e-mails.

13 If you think you have been a victim of computer crimes such as Phishing, contact and report immediately to the financial entities with which you have links and risk of being affected.

14 Taking into account the constant massive thefts that have occurred so far in 2024, in case of visiting restaurants, try to avoid terraces or spaces near the road easily accessible to criminals. Also, do not leave cell phones or valuables on the table or in sight.

15 In case of witnessing a shooting or attempted assassination in a public space, remain calm, drop to the ground covering your head and do not confront the attackers.

16 In case of traveling by private vehicle, make a route analysis and have alternate routes that will allow you to resolve any new developments on the route.





SECURITY
COLOMBIA

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