

ECUADOR
STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES
AND THREATS ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS	A network of new digital media that remains active and sustainable. The more voices and media outlets that consolidate in the country, the more plurality, information, competition, and freedom. Another strength is the recent Communication Law, not only approved but also regulated. This is good news for the media industry.
WEAKNESSES	A fragile institutional framework and a fragmented social fabric. The violence crisis deepened the structural problems of a country that does not attain political or economic stability; this impacts the work of institutions that should improve conditions, in this case, linked to freedom of expression and press. Two emblematic examples: the Assembly took almost three years to approve a new communication law that was already drafted; the government lost control and could not face a security problem that, this year, resulted in four journalists in exile, two murdered and media outlets object of multiple threats and attacks.
OPPORTUNITIES	The new government. The election of a new president, in this case Daniel Noboa, always brings winds of change. He bears the responsibility of pacifying the nation and, through that, improving the conditions for the press and recovering the freedom to live. On the other hand, some international organizations and governments such as the United States, through its embassy in Quito, have expressed their support in the battle against violence. Ecuador could use this support to extend it to other areas, such as freedom of expression and the press.
THREATS	Organized crime and public safety crisis continue to be the greatest risk factors. Ecuador has already experienced the consequences of these two evils this year, but we do not know if we have reached the bottom in terms of violence. Therefore, this continues to be as the greatest threat and, if not corrected by the next administration, could lead the country to an unprecedented and devastating scenario.

