

PANAMA
SWOT Analysis

<p>STRENGTHS</p>	<p>Panama has a solid network of both private and state-owned media. There is a State Radio and Television System with one digital broadcast TV station and three radio stations, one of them AM. The National Assembly and the Panama Canal also have digital broadcast TV stations. All the above TV stations also stream through the Internet. As of January 2023, the most important provinces will receive only the Digital Terrestrial Television broadcast. A national digital literacy program has been implemented through the National Secretariat of Science and Technology for more than 20 years in nearly 300 community support centers across the country.</p>
<p>WEAKNESSES</p>	<p>The classification of libel and slander as crimes against integrity in Criminal Code article 185, considered as aggravated cases when committed through a communication medium, open the way to judicial control. When it comes to civil servants, there is an exclusion of penalty, but civil liability is not excluded and pecuniary sanctions do not contemplate limits on their amounts. In addition to the possible spread of self-censorship, complaints of this nature jeopardize the financial stability of the media.</p>
<p>OPPORTUNITIES</p>	<p>In Panama, a public policy of Open Government Data has existed since 2017. To date, four national open government plans have been presented. There are two multisectoral entities, the National Open Government Commission Panama and the Open Data Working Group, who formulate and drive action plans fostering greater transparency, accountability and citizen participation in public affairs.</p>
<p>THREATS</p>	<p>Panama is a highly unequal country and this asymmetry has a strong territorial character. Although Internet penetration is approximately of 70%, it comes from prepaid mobile networks in urban zones. The telecommunications governing body does not offer differentiated figures between provinces and rural zones, but during the pandemic a very important urban-rural gap was revealed. There is total freedom of expression and the press in the digital environment, but disinformation campaigns orchestrated by undetermined agents are increasingly frequent.</p>

