

# Final Report

## The Immigrants Mapping Project

Florianópolis, Brazil



# About ICOM

ICOM is a non-profit civil society organization that acts as a community foundation. Since 2005, it has promoted community development in the state of Santa Catarina, mobilizing, articulating and supporting social investors and collective actions of public interest. In its 17 years of existence, ICOM has delivered:

**2k**  
civil society organizations  
and social movements  
impacted

**US\$ 1,058M**  
donated to civil society  
organizations and social  
moviments

**US\$ 2,5M\***  
invested in the  
community

**3**  
awards  
best NGOs in Brazil  
(2017,2018,2022)





# Vital Signs

Vital Signs is a participatory social diagnosis that seeks to identify priority issues and challenges in the community, aiming to guide actions to improve the quality of life of the population. Since 2008, ICOM has carried out nine editions of Vital Signs covering the main municipalities of Greater Florianópolis. A deep understanding of the territory in which the community foundation operates is essential to ensure that its activities meet the needs of the local community. The Vital Signs series identifies inequities and gaps in public policies in the city of Florianópolis, where ICOM operates.



Sinais Vitais  
2008  
Florianópolis



Sinais Vitais  
2009  
Florianópolis



Sinais Vitais  
2010  
Crianças e  
Adolescentes em  
Florianópolis



Sinais Vitais  
2011  
Crianças e  
Adolescentes em  
Palhoça



Sinais Vitais  
2012 e 2013  
Desafios de  
Florianópolis FTQB



Sinais Vitais  
2015  
Florianópolis



Sinais Vitais  
2016  
Criança e  
Adolescente em  
Florianópolis



Sinais Vitais  
2018 e 2019  
Adolescentes e  
jovens no mundo  
do trabalho

# Vital Signs

## Metodology

The methodology used to prepare the diagnoses is inspired by the Vital Signs Project, developed by the Community Foundations of Canada. The methodology proposes a contextualized analysis based on indicators available in secondary databases and primary research, according to the local context. The results are presented in a simple way, easy to understand and accessible to all audiences.

1

Data collection

2

Mobilizing specialists for contextualized analysis of the indicators

3

Systematizing indicators in a report with accessible language

4

Publicizing a report with an attractive and easy-to-understand design

5

Dissemination of information and knowledge generated for public authorities, companies, organized civil society and the community in general



# Vital Signs International Migration

## Global diversity, local transformation

This edition of Vital Signs on international migration pointed out the need for transversality and community in the work with immigrants in the region:

- Based on data perceptions intuited by actors in the social field and by immigrants themselves
- In a didactic way, made public the main challenges faced by immigrants in their integration in the Florianópolis region
- Demonstrated the importance of social mobilization, both by CSOs and community leaders, in assisting and integrating this population in the city
- It brought ICOM closer to organizations previously outside its circle of action, expanding and strengthening the community network through its inclusion, fostering connections and paving the way for partnerships to mitigate the gaps identified
- Pointed out the importance of involving the entire community in the issue of migration, with every stakeholder being co-responsible for building a more just and democratic society.

[See full report here](#)

# Data collection

## 1 The mapping of civil society organizations in Florianópolis

The civil society organizations (CSOs) that were mapped in this process lead advocacy on the subject, occupy the spaces of public discussions, carry out training and partnerships with the public power in search of a qualification in the assistance of immigrants in Florianópolis, and are protagonists in the main local actions that seek to guarantee rights and improve the quality of life of the population.

Based on the challenges identified in the workshops, the themes on which the indicators would be collected were defined, in addition to data on the migratory flow and the regularization process: (a) education; (b) work and income; (c) health; social assistance; and (d) cultural diversity.

## 3 Selection of indicators

## 2 Workshop with civil society organizations

Through a participatory workshop with CSOs identified in Florianópolis that serve immigrants, the following challenges faced by immigrants in the city were identified:

- migratory regularization
- access to health services
- academic diploma validation and high cost of the process
- access to the formal labor
- communication and translation of documents
- lack of professional training, especially for immigrant women
- need for home for families.





# Data collection

Through this collective construction, we sought data from municipal, state and federal public authorities, in addition to official databases and research institutions in Brazil. Some of the main sources of data used were the National Migration Registry System (SISMigra) and databases and consolidated reports from the Observatory of International Migrations, from the Ministry of Justice and Public Security.

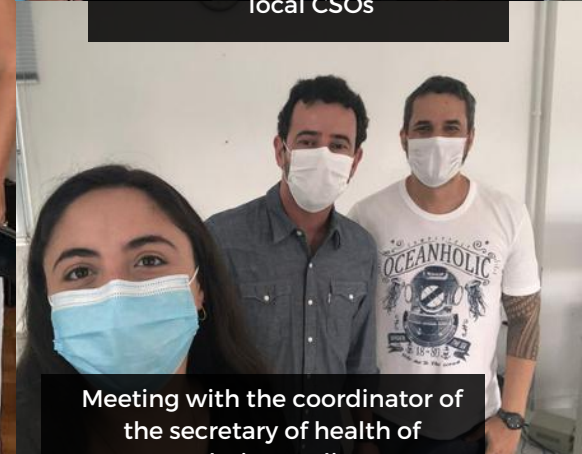
To access data and ensure engagement with the mapping by other actors who make important decisions in the city, ICOM coordinated articulation meetings with public authorities, including state departments, local universities and other strategic visits to add narratives that clarify the migratory context in the city.



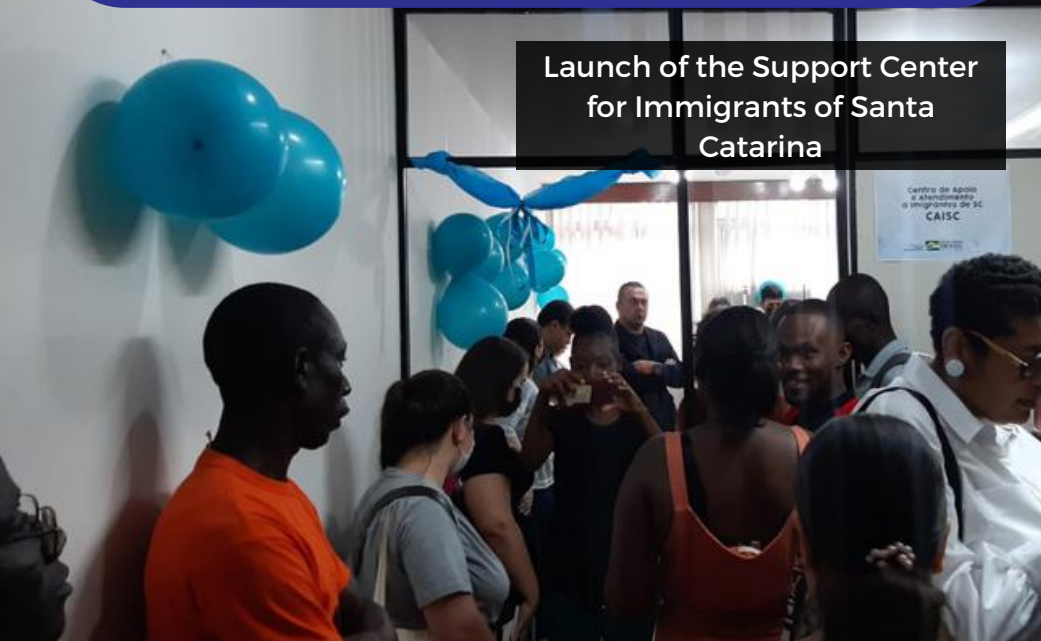
Meeting with representatives of local CSOs



Meeting with representatives of local CSOs



Meeting with the coordinator of the secretary of health of Florianopolis



Launch of the Support Center for Immigrants of Santa Catarina



Meeting with the secretary of social assistance of Santa Catarina



# Sharing with the community

At the end of the data collection process, the report was presented to CSOs that directly serve this population, with the objective of refining the collected content and contextually understanding the collected data, being of vital importance to guarantee the use of mapping in the work of CSOs.

In order to make the research public, **ICOM held a launch event on 11/23/2022**, attended by immigrants, representatives of CSOs, public authorities and the press. The launch event generated several reports in the local media, drawing attention to the importance of the migration issue in the city, as well as the needs of the migrant population. The event featured a cultural performance by an Argentinian artist and a coffee break from an Arab restaurant, visually representing some of the ways in which cultural diversity adds value to life in Florianópolis.





# Vital Signs Highlights

## A Snapshot of migration

Santa Catarina, in the last decade, has been among the main migratory destinations in Brazil, especially for work purposes. Likewise, Florianópolis stands out as one of the main destinations in Santa Catarina. See below for a summary of the immigrant demographic at the national, state, and county level.



[See full  
report  
here](#)

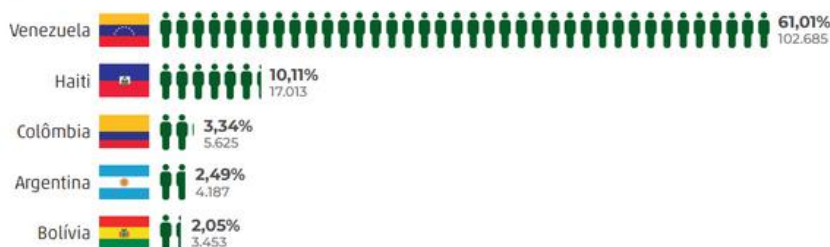




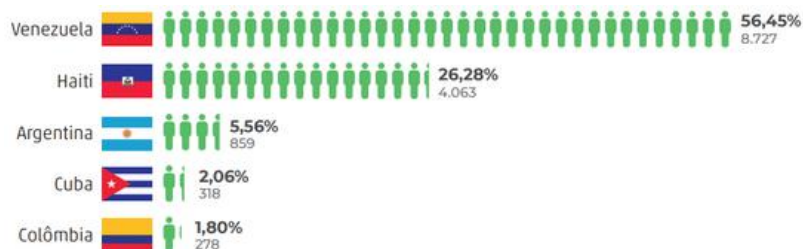
## Nacionalidade

Throughout Brazil, the main nationalities of immigrants refer to Latin American countries. In Florianópolis, Venezuelans, Argentines, Haitians and Cubans stand out.

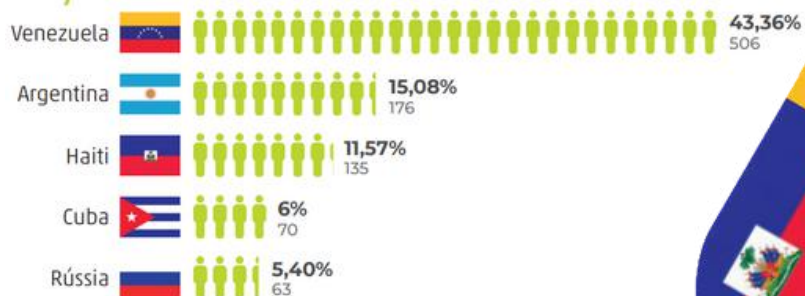
### Brazil



### Santa Catarina



### Florianópolis



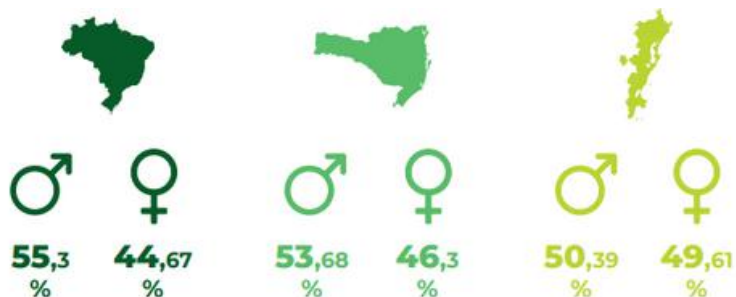
“ I wanted to live in a country where I could work, study and raise my family, and have a better future, because there are few jobs in my country. There, the political situation has many uncertainties, I was very skeptical about the political situation in my country.” (Focus group participant; male, Haitian immigrant) ”

“ [...] the situation got worse with the pandemic of Covid-19. We ran out fuel supply, the country was completely paralyzed. They closed not only borders, but also within the same state was not allowed to move between counties. the only business were allowed to work pharmacies and wholesale, so we couldn't get out, our savings ran out and we had to migrate with the little that we had left.” (Focus group participant: woman, Venezuelan immigrant) ”

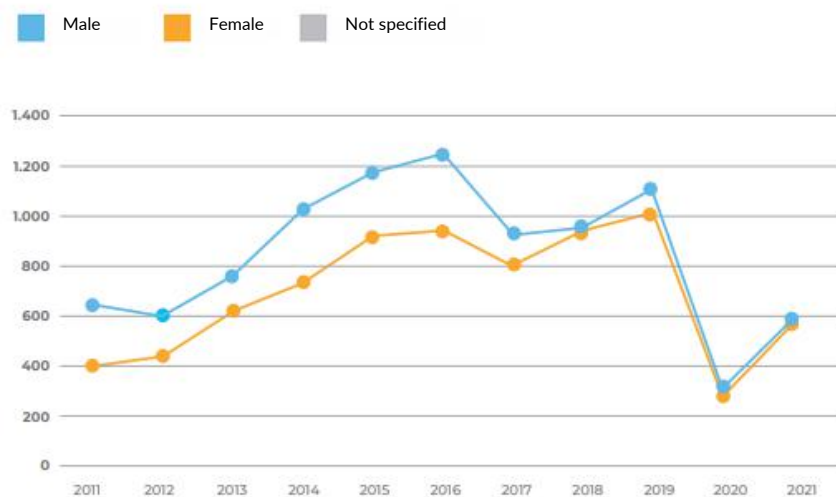


## Gender

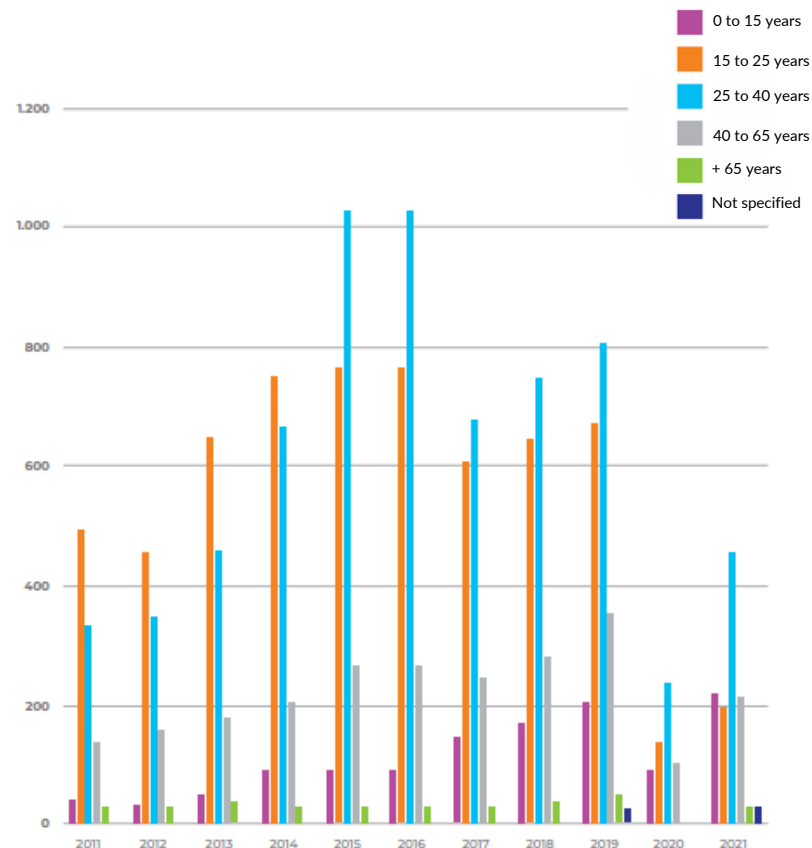
2021



Gender of migrants who requested authorization to migrate to Florianópolis from 2011 to 2021.



## Age



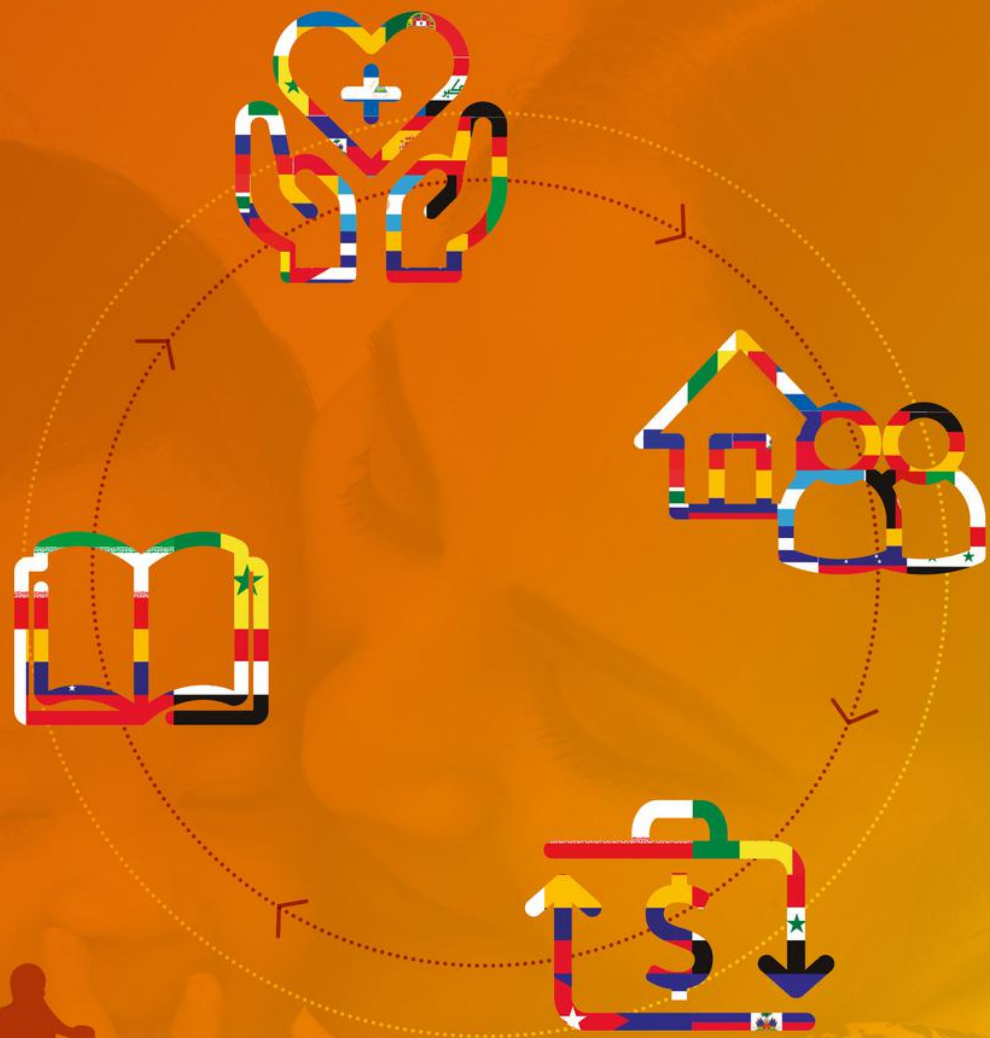
In Florianópolis, along the years, predominate requests for immigration of young people and adults, which corresponds to age groups from 15-25 years and 25-40 years. In 2021, however, there is proportionally a greater participation of **children and teenagers**. This pattern can be also observed in Brazil and in Santa Catarina.



# Vital Signs Highlights

## Migratory experience in Florianópolis

See below see below data about the experience of migrants in Florianópolis. Firstly, the performance civil society organizations such as fundamental agents of the guarantee of rights of this population. Right away, an overview of access to rights to education, to decent work, to health and social assistance.



## Civil Society Organizations protagonists in migration theme in Florianópolis

In Florianópolis, there is a relevant collective of CSOs that serve the migrant population. Eight CSOs, groups and movements that were active in 2021 were identified and mobilized during the construction of the Vital Signs:

- Grupo de Apoio a Imigrantes e Refugiados (GAIRF)
- Serviço Pastoral dos Migrantes de Santa Catarina
- Círculos de Hospitalidade
- Associação dos Imigrantes de Santa Catarina (AISC)
- Organização Pelos Imigrantes e Refugiados (OPIR)
- Serviço Jesuíta a Migrantes e Refugiados (SJMR) de Florianópolis
- Cáritas Brasileira
- Associação Voluntários pelo Serviço Internacional Brasil (AVSI)



Noting in addition the activities of organizations linked to the United Nations, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which has an office in Florianópolis. Both agencies play a relevant role in work with migrant populations, including the creation of indicators, stimulating the implementation of public policy, and the development of joint projects with governments and OSCs, including some of the above listed.

### Cross-sectional Demographic:

Service to the immigrant community goes beyond the specialized network of CSOs. During the development of Vital Signs, it was noticed that other CSOs in the city, mainly those that carry out public policies, also serve immigrants in their target audience. Through a questionnaire directed at organizations registered with the Municipal Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents (CMDCA), it was identified that the 15 responding CSOs served 141 immigrant children and adolescents in 2021.



## Education

The revalidation of higher education diplomas is a major challenge faced by migrants, with difficulties ranging from the cost of carrying out access procedures to difficulties in accessing and understanding information.

In Brazil, public universities are responsible for this process. Faced with the installed capacity of universities to validate diplomas (503 in 2021) versus the demands of migrants to validate these documents, the processes actually carried out fall short of the potential and identified demand (6 process were finished).

In 2021, the total number of Equivalence and Revalidation processes in Florianópolis was 613, of which the majority (83.36%) are requests for equivalence to high school, followed by requests for elementary school (8.32%).

The countries with the highest demand for Equivalence applications were Venezuela (26.1%), Haiti (12.7%), United States (10.0%) and Guinea-Bissau (9.4%). As for Revalidation, the majority corresponds to candidates who completed their studies in Angola (19.44%), Venezuela (19.44%) and Italy (11.11%).

“ I started to work, [...] but not as a professional, because we have to do the revalidation of diplomas and I I didn't get it yet. I brought my diplomas, I didn't get resolve the documentation [...] (Focus group participant: woman, Venezuelan immigrant) ”

1 NO POVERTY



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



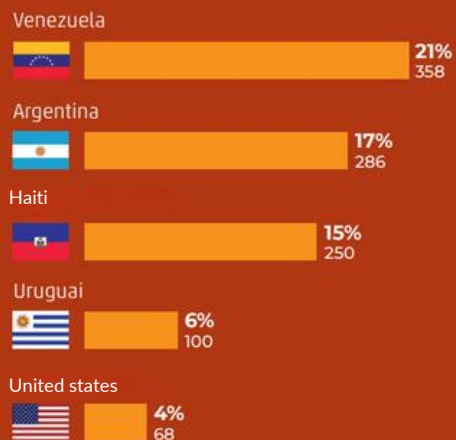
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



# Migratory experience in Florianópolis

The number of enrollments of migrants in basic education in Florianópolis in 2021 was 1,693, distributed in 207 schools in the city. Most of these enrollments are in public and elementary schools, with 71 different nationalities registered.

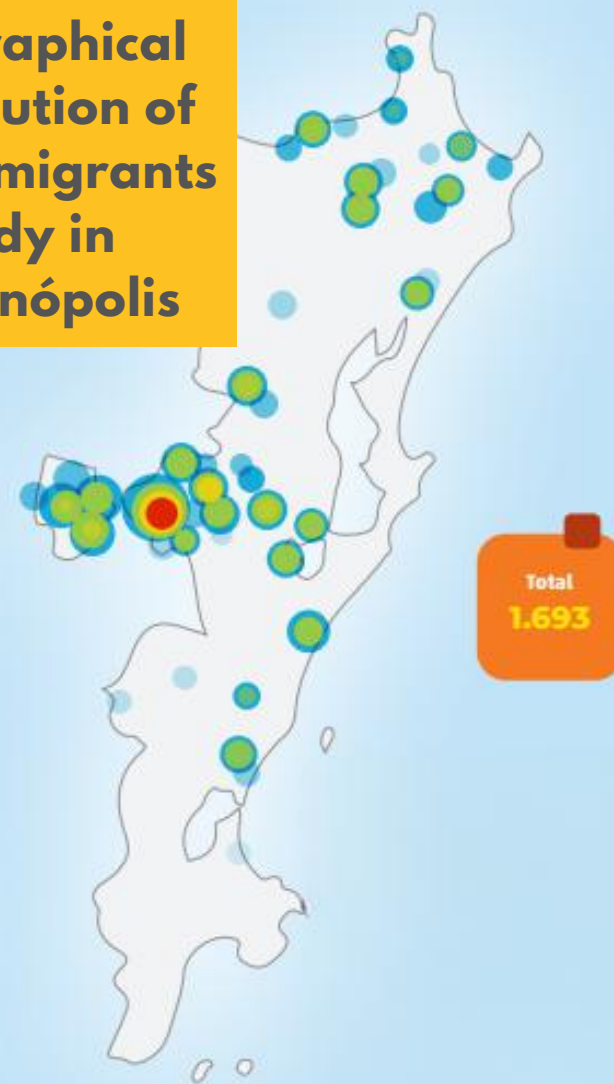
## Main nationalities



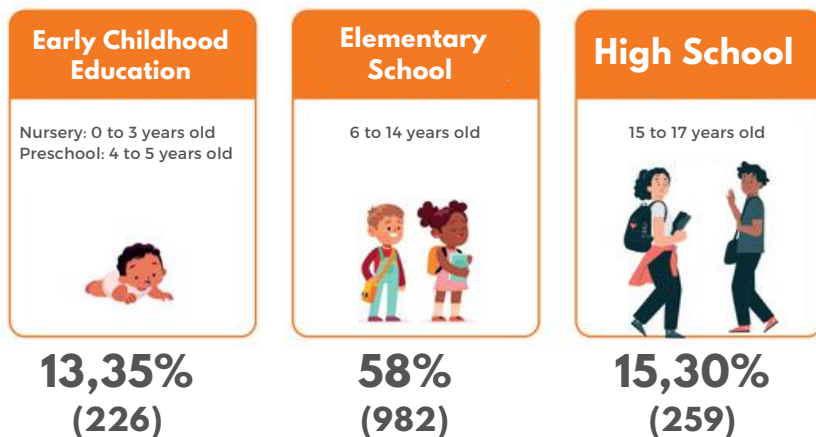
## Gender



## Geographical distribution of where migrants study in Florianópolis



## Main teaching stage



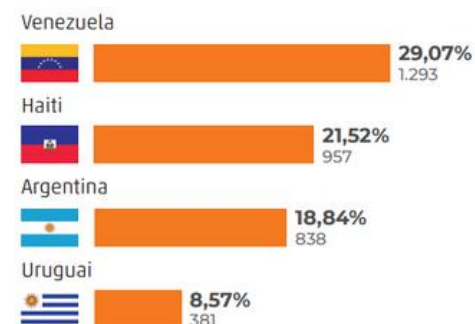


# Migratory experience in Florianópolis

In Florianópolis, **4,448 immigrants** were employed with a formal contract in 2021.

## Work and income

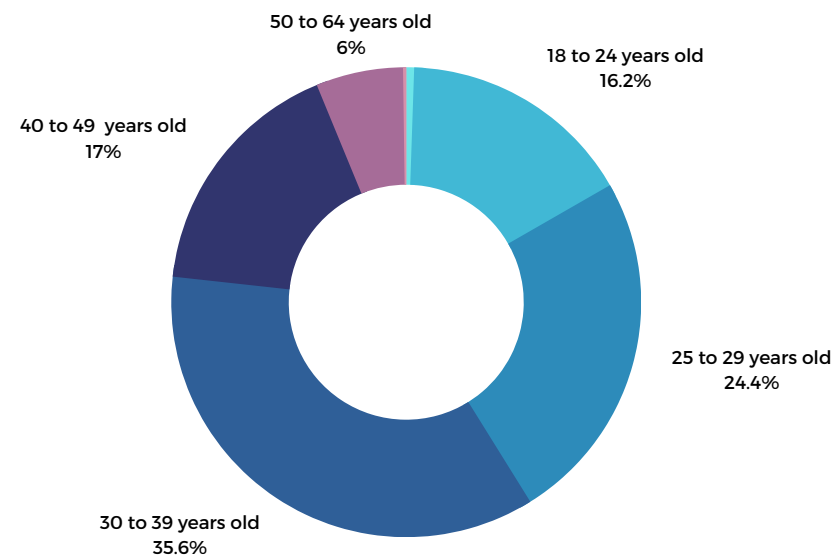
### Main nationalities



### Gender



### Age



1 NO POVERTY



5 GENDER EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



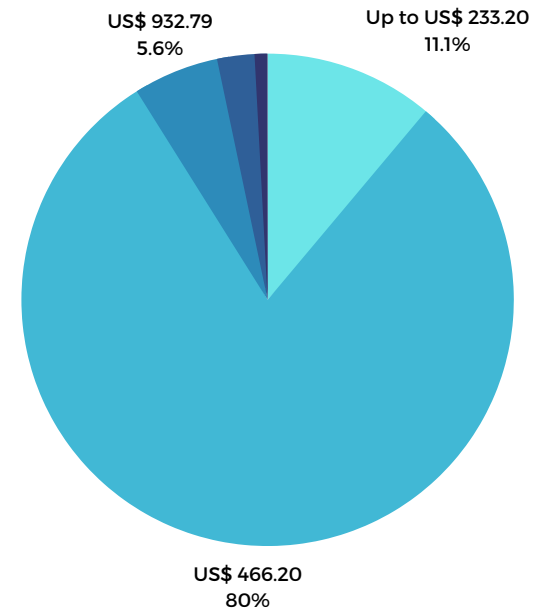
## Highlights

- Most migrants with a formal job are men and young people (18 to 29 years old).
- The main functions are: seller, cafeteria attendant, cleaner and stoker.
- Most work hours are 41 to 44 hours a week.
- The income of migrant workers does not follow their level of formal education, except in the postgraduate group.

Migrants' work and income are part of sociability networks that even go beyond the Brazilian border: the periodic sending of part of the migrants' income is of fundamental importance not only for their families who remained in their countries of origin, but for the national economy of some countries.

## Salary per month

In Brazil, payments for work are paid per month.



- 92% of migrant workers earn up to 2 minimum wages/month (BRL 2,424.00; USD 466.20), a total of **\$2.13 an hour**
- The higher the income range, the lower the participation of migrant women with formal employment.
- There is a considerable presence of migrants in informal work, mainly for reasons of survival and resistance.





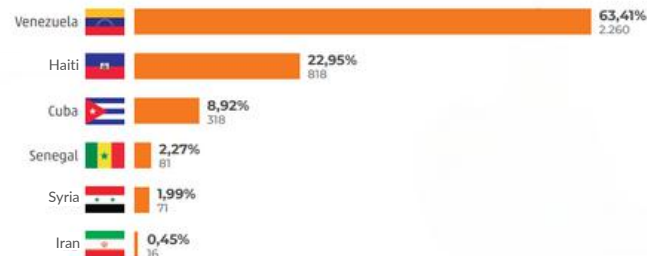
# Migratory experience in Florianópolis

\*To collect health data from the government, we need to choose focus nationalities. Exceptionally in health data, the data presented are from the following nationalities: Venezuela, Haiti, Cuba, Senegal, Syria and Iran.

Of the nationalities surveyed in 2021, there were **3,564 migrants registered in health units**, with emphasis on Venezuelan and Haitian, **distributed in 66 neighborhoods of Florianópolis**, in all regions of the city, focusing on the central, continental and northern regions.

## Health

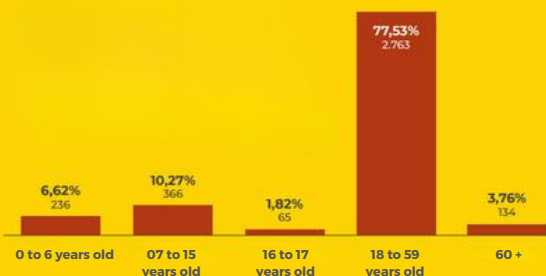
### Main nationalities



### Gender



### Age



In 2021, 22,399 consultations (doctors, nurses and dentists) were registered for the nationalities surveyed in 102 health units in Florianópolis

Most of the health care provided to migrants in Florianópolis took place in public units, in the Emergency Care Units and Health Centers.



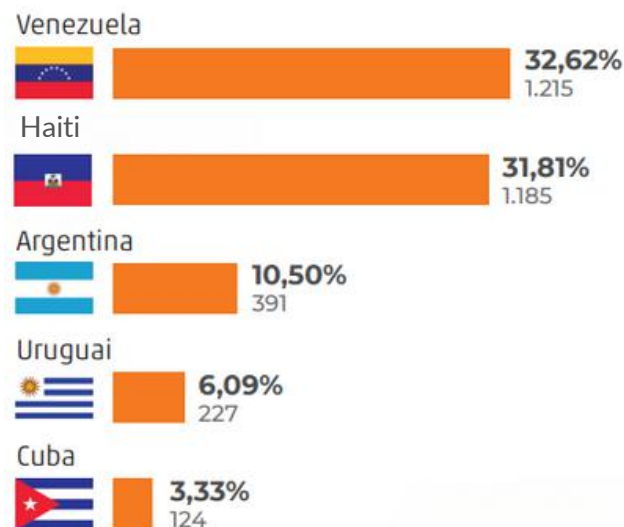
## Social assistance

Families that receive up to half a minimum wage per member, or a total monthly income of up to three minimum wages, **must be registered in CadÚnico**, a system that identifies and characterizes families in social vulnerability, so that they can have access to the Federal Government's social programs and to the Unified Social Assistance System - SUAS.

In 2021, **3,725 migrants** of **68 different nationalities** living in 79 neighborhoods of Florianópolis were **registered in CadÚnico**.

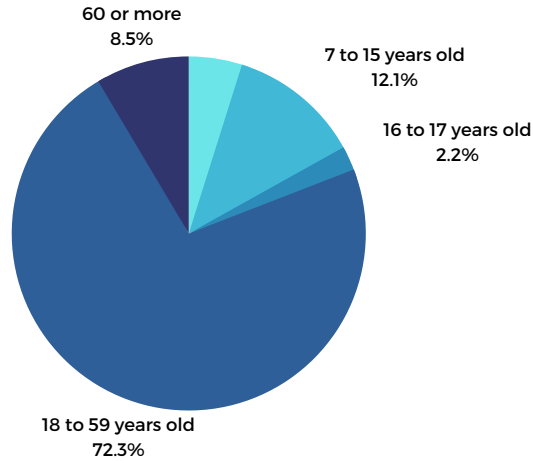
There is an importance of the gender issue in relation to social assistance policy: the large presence of women in CadÚnico, in care services in general and in the records of situations of violence against women, in particular, stands out.

### Main nationalities

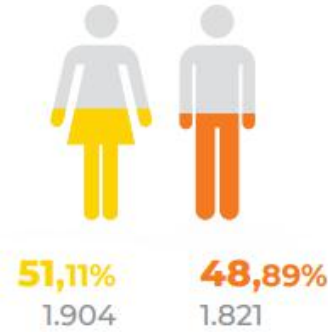




## Age



## Gender



## Highlights

- More than 58% of migrants registered in CadÚnico have **completed high school** or completed higher education.
- There were **712 children and teenagers** registered in the CadÚnico and it is noticed the low inclusion of this public in the projects and initiatives of the city hall;
- Access to housing is another major challenge for migrants in the city. This is due to difficulties related to the high cost of housing registered in Florianópolis, cultural difficulties **and the considerable number of migrants living on the streets (268)**

## Family income

Income up to R\$89.00/month (USD17.12/month)  
**Situation of extreme poverty**



Income between R\$89.01/month to R\$178.00/month (USD34.25/month) **Poverty situation**



Income between R\$178.01/month up to 1/2 minimum wage/month (USD116.6/month) **Low income**



With income above 1/2 minimum wage/month



There are a significant number of migrants living in poverty or extreme poverty

“ I spent a few months looking for rent and had than looking for it on your own [...]. They ask for a series of documentation that we don't have yet, to immigrants is very difficult. (Focus group participant: woman, Venezuelan immigrant) ”



# Lessons learned



Detailed mapping of the migratory situation at the municipal level was a pioneer in Brazil and we can list some lessons learned:

- The CSOs that serve the migrant population in Florianópolis are protagonists in guaranteeing the rights of this population;
- Florianópolis has legislation on the subject, but it needs to move forward through the allocation of resources in the public budget towards the execution of public policies on welcoming and integrating migrants;
- Despite Brazil being an open country to receive migrant populations, it is necessary to combat prejudice and xenophobia towards immigrants, especially those who come seeking asylum as refugees from countries facing humanitarian crises;
- It is essential to involve immigrants and CSOs who serve this population in designing and carrying out surveys with this public. Many migrants have faced a painful process when leaving their country of origin, and are at risk of reliving related traumas. Caution and care are essential in researching this topic (avoiding reliving/remembering traumas)
- Brazil needs to advance a lot in the production, systematization and transparency of data on migration, mainly at the state and municipal level. International agencies are the main actors currently facilitating this work;
- When immigrants arrive in Brazil, they are often unaware of universal rights secured and free services provided in the country, such as the Unified Health System, public education, social assistance policies, free legal assistance among others;
- The best way to reach this population is to map existing support networks and leaders, strengthening the performance of these actors;
- Demystifying the concept of “migrants” for Brazilian society (noting that the migrant population is diverse and not necessarily linked to a situation of vulnerability, but are working and contributing economically to the city) helps mitigate integration challenges with the local population;
- It’s vital to engage public actors and organized civil society that work with migration issues, as there is enormous potential for collaboration, learning and complementarity between the services offered by these actors;
- Giving immigrants a voice so that they can present “in the first person” what challenges, dreams and possibilities they envision in the new city they have chosen to live in and, given this reality, helps CSOs identify how they can help make these desires come true.



# Next Steps



The mapping work supported new projects for 2023, in which ICOM sought to mitigate some of the GAPS pointed out in the report.

- Call for support for organizations, groups and movements that serve the migrant population through the Impact Fund for Social Justice: ICOM will make available an open call to provide financial and technical support for pertinent actors to qualify their work in assisting the migrant population.
- Florianópolis Beyond Borders: a project (Florianópolis Beyond Borders) has been approved, in which ICOM will collaborate with educators from the Child and Adolescent Rights Guarantee System (Social Assistance Departments, Education Departments and CSOs) to develop technical and pedagogical training that will increase the inclusion and appreciation of immigrant children in Florianópolis.
- SDG Vital Signs Panel: ICOM developed a digital platform, financed by the Mott Foundation, that includes over 300 indicators from various editions of ICOM Vital Signs, identifying and geolocating activities of CSOs in Greater Florianópolis. The Vital Signs Migration indicators will be integrated into this platform, as part of the platform's periodical updates. Data is made available free of charge to the entire community and contributes to the data-based formulation of public policies.



# Annex 1: Complementary media

## Communication Materials:

- Video produced about the mapping project
- Vital Signs Report International Migration - Global Diversity, Local Transformation.
- Photos from the launch event for the Vital Signs International Migration - Global Diversity, Local Transformation report.

## Main data sources:

- National Migration Registry System (SISMigra), of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security
- International Traffic System (STI), from the Ministry of Justice and Public Security
- Annual list of social information (RAIS), from the Ministry of Labor and Employment
- General Registry of Employees and Unemployed (CAGED), of the Ministry of Labor and Employment
- Primary data provided at the request of the State Secretary of Education of Santa Catarina,
- Municipal Secretary of Health of Florianópolis and Municipal Secretary of Social Assistance of Florianópolis
- Databases and consolidated reports from the Observatory of International Migrations, from the Ministry of Justice and Public Security

## Collection of primary data with the actors involved:

- Focus group with immigrants
- Interviews with specialist CSOs and assistance to migrants
- Questionnaire with CSOs registered with the Municipal Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents (CMDCA)

## Actors Engaged in Articulation Meetings

### Public authority

- Secretary of State for Education - Manager of Educational Policies; Statistics and Evaluation Management
- Municipal Secretary of Education - Director of Educational Planning and Data
- Municipal Secretary of Health - Director of Sanitary Surveillance of Florianópolis
- Municipal Secretariat of Social Assistance - Basic Management, Medium Management and High Complexity Management.

### Universities:

- Federal University of Santa Catarina  
Coordinator and professor of the PLAM Project - UFSC Extension  
Representative of the Presidency Sérgio Vieira de Melo  
Department of School Administration
- State University of Santa Catarina  
Registration of Certificates and Diplomas  
Secretariat for International Cooperation / International Office

### Other Actors:

- Visit to the Islamic Mosque
- Inauguration of CAISC - Santa Catarina Immigrant Support Center
- Launch of the Admission Examination for Immigrants - UFSC

