

A global public health crisis with extended and profound social implications has emerged in 2020. In late 2019, in China, a previously unrecognized coronavirus was found to be the cause of a severe and contagious disease that rapidly spread across the world. The World Health Organization named it COVID-19 - coronavirus disease 2019. The responsible for the occurrence of this disease is a new class of corona virus, later called SARS-CoV-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) (Chakraborty and Maity, 2020).

Furthermore, it is important to highlight that, as emphasized by Sansonetti (2020), the coronavirus is a large family of viruses. The COVID-19 crisis constitutes the third global epidemic associated with the coronavirus class in less than 20 years, the first one was the SARS in 2003 and the second was the MERS in 2012 (Id, Ibid). It is already well established that COVID-19 is the greatest health issue of the century and the biggest challenge for humanity since the Second World War (Chakraborty and Maity, 2020).

IOM affirms that “migrants will remain among the most vulnerable to the loss of economic opportunities, eviction and homelessness, as well as stigmatization and exclusion from essential services” (UN, 2020). The World Bank (2020) identifies the susceptibility of migrants to coronavirus infection, taking into account their tendency of concentration in urban economic centres. Additionally, there will be a shortage of remittance flows, due to unemployment, resulting in poverty in the population and reduction of households’ access to health services when they are highly needed during this crisis.

In this context and in view of the problems emerged, this study is carried out on the basis of the concepts of resilience and vulnerability and the related literature, specificities of migrants during the COVID-19 outbreak and secondary data relative to migrant communities living in Portugal. From this perspective, this study raises the following question: what were the main factors of resilience and vulnerability, individual-wise and communitarian-wise, experienced/mobilized by Brazilian and Cabo Verdean migrants living in Portugal, during the period of lockdown?

Thus, the primary goal of the present research is to gather, in the light of the literature about resilience and vulnerability, more specific information on how immigrants living in Portugal have experienced the peak of the COVID-19 crisis. In particular, the study aims to evaluate the impact of restrictions on free circulation imposed by Portuguese authorities as a preventive measure in order to control the transmission of infection.

In this survey, the target populations were immigrants from Brazil and Cabo Verde that live in Portugal. These two populations were selected because both represent the largest migrant communities in Portugal.