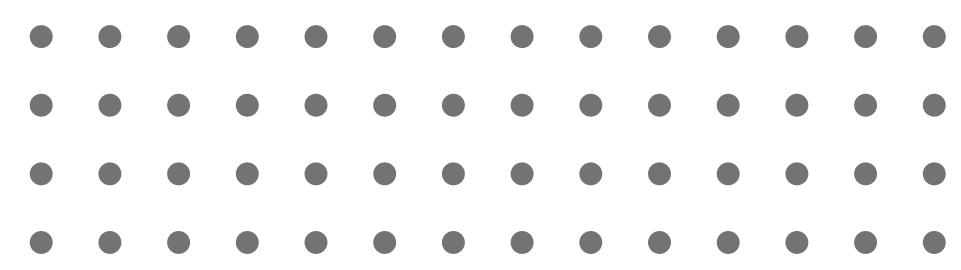


Hong Kong Helpers' Food Rights Concern Group
Caritas Asian Migrant Workers Social Service Project



NO MORE HUNGER! Foreign Domestic Workers

Survey on the Food Welfare of Hong Kong
Foreign Domestic Workers

Press Conference

24 September 2023



SURVEY BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES



Background Study

- Under the Standard Employment Contract, it states that: “Employers should provide the Helper with food free of charge. If no food is provided, food allowance shall be paid to the Helper.”
- However, the Food Allowance is set at \$1,196 per month, only **less than \$40 per day**.
- The provision of Free Food **is not well acknowledged** by both FDWs and their employers.



Objectives

- Understand the food welfare situation and the needs of Foreign Domestic Workers (FDWs)
- Reflect on the survey results and provide recommendations
- Increases the awareness of the government, FDWs and their employers and general public about the food rights of FDWs.



Introduction of Helper’s Food Rights Concern Group

- Formed by a group of FDWs in Hong Kong
- Aims to improve the awareness of the food rights of FWDs and advocate “NO HUNGER” for FDWs

DATA COLLECTION

Duration: **6 months**

From March to August 2023

Sampling

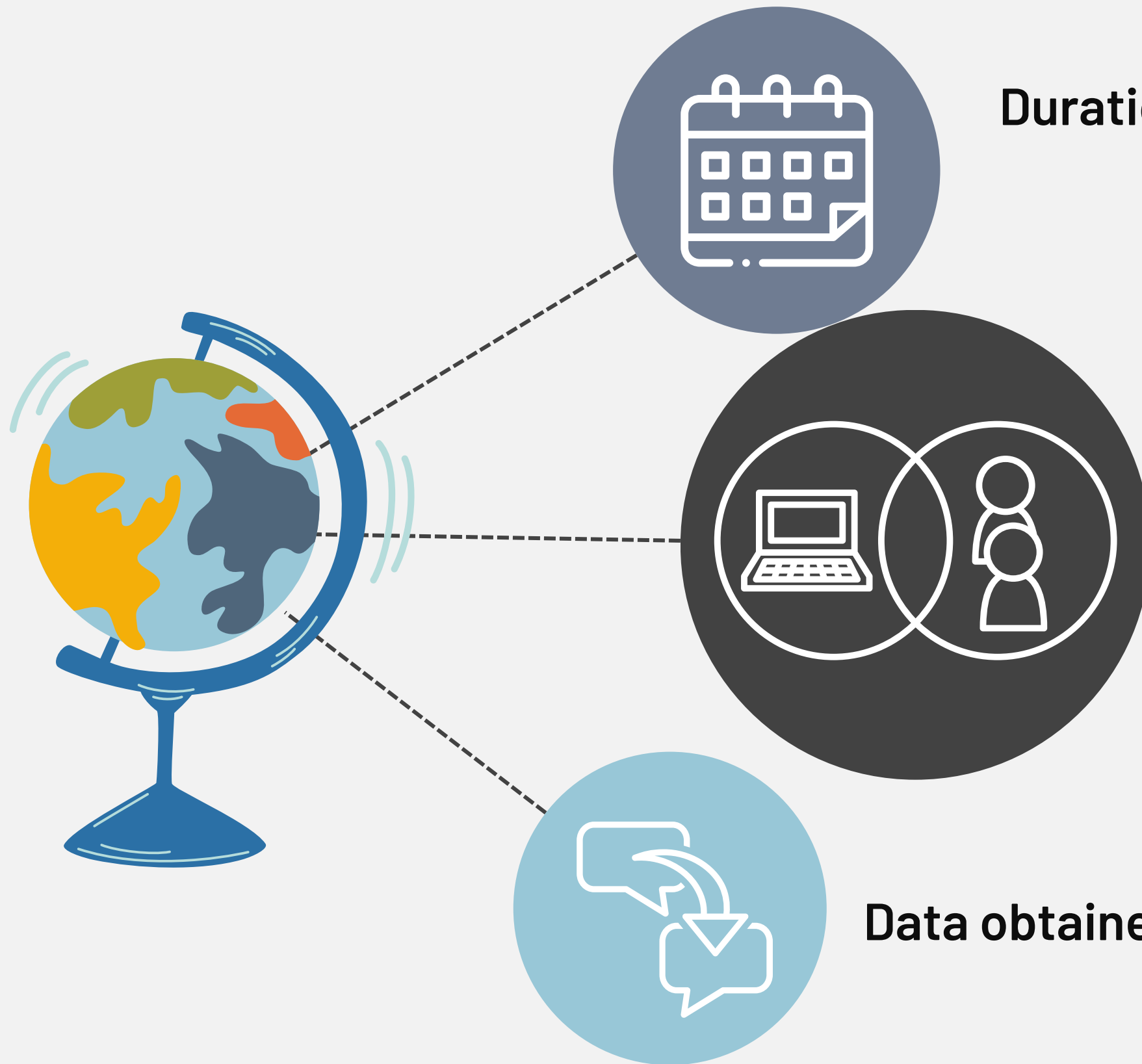
Convenience sampling

Data collection

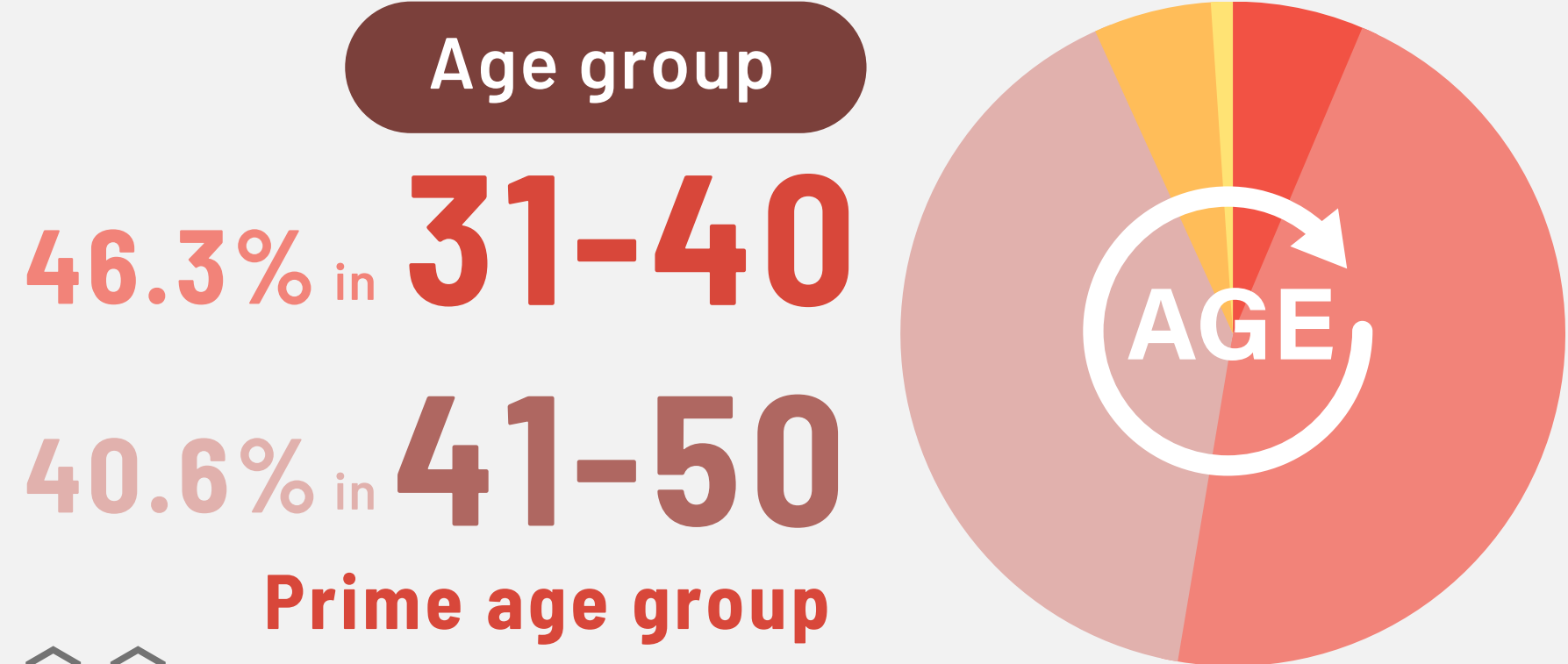
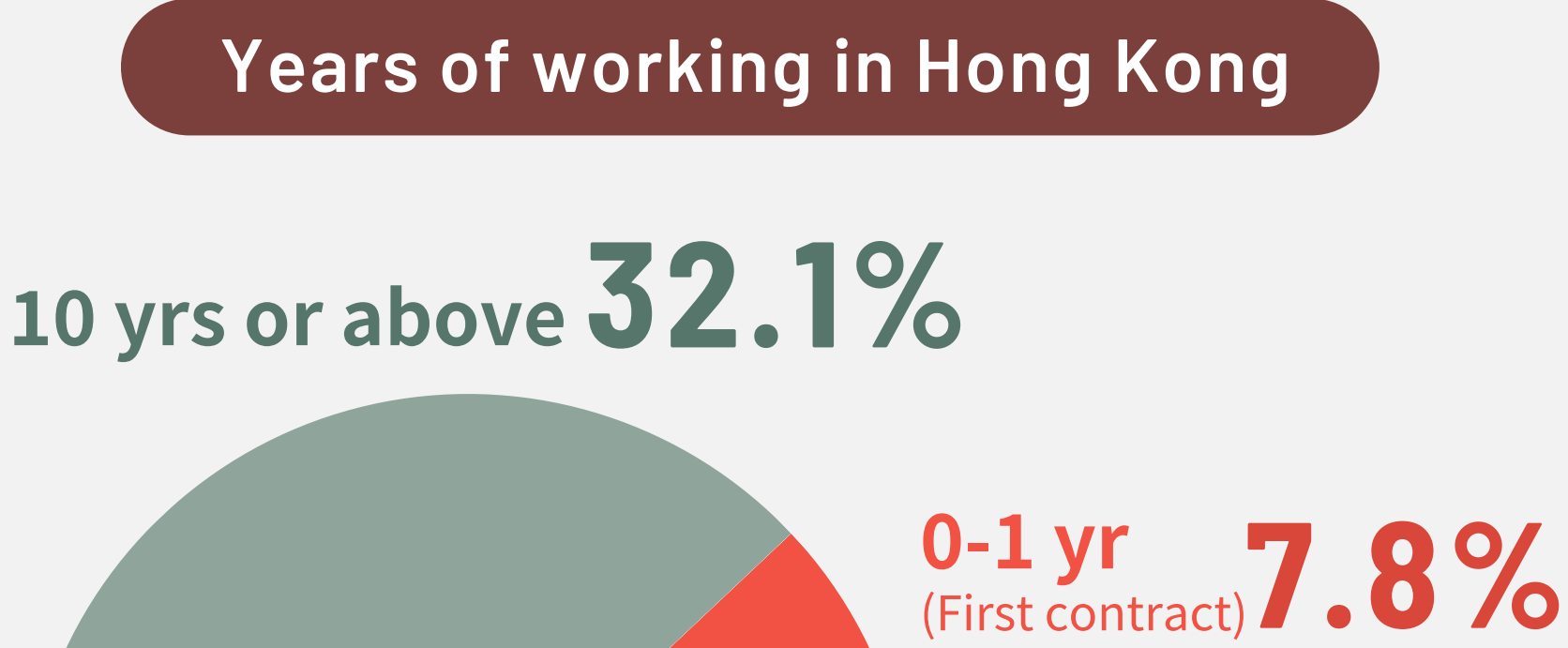
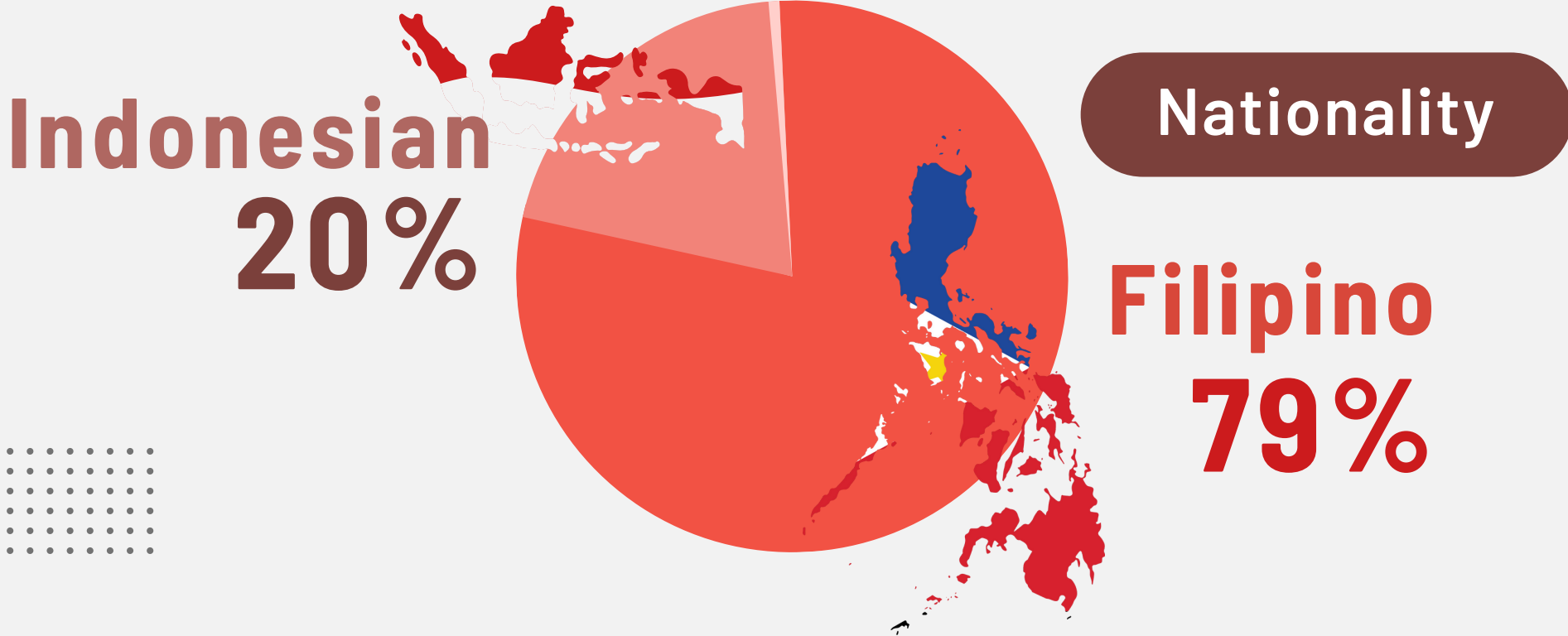
Street interviews by the Concern Group members in popular gathering spots of FDWs /

Online questionnaires

Data obtained: **471**



RESPONDENTS' BASIC INFORMATION

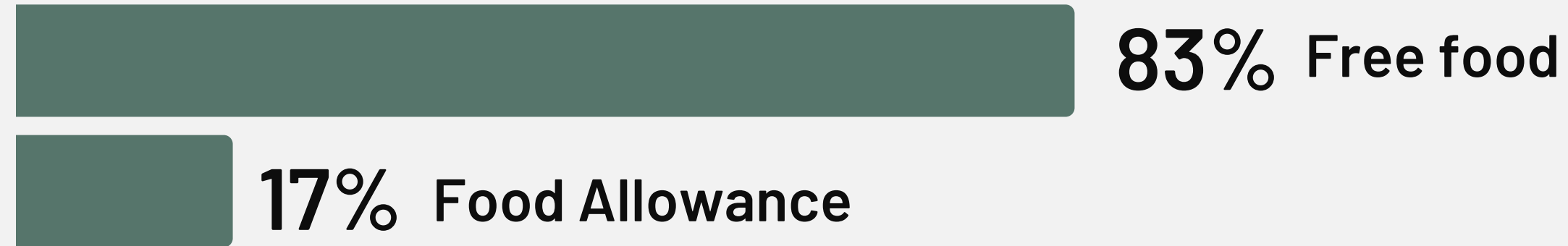


MEDIAN: 7 YEARS

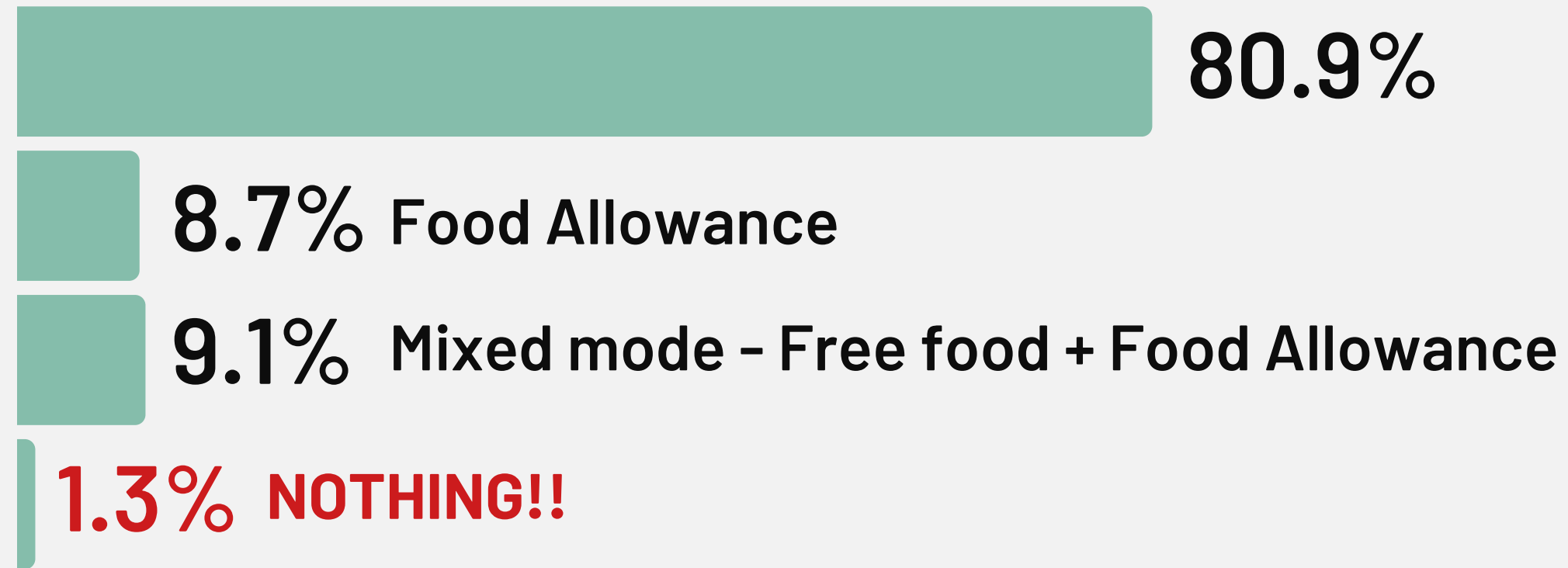
SITUATION ON FDW'S MEAL WELFARE



What does your employer promise to provide to you on the contract?



What do you actually receive?



CONSTANTLY HUNGRY AND ITS CONSEQUENCE

Do you constantly feel hungry at work?

YES

36%



64%

NO

Have you experienced any of the below when you were constantly hungry?

69%

No energy

68%

**Physical
discomfort
(e.g. headache,
stomach ache)**

42%

**Unable to
concentrate**

36%

**Feeling
emotional**

33%

Forgetful

KNOWLEDGE OF STATUTORY MINIMUM FOOD ALLOWANCE

Without checking, do you know how much the current Statutory Minimum Food Allowance per month in HKD?



Effected from 1 October 2022, the Statutory Minimum Food Allowance is set at **HKD 1,196** per month.



28.7% Answer correctly

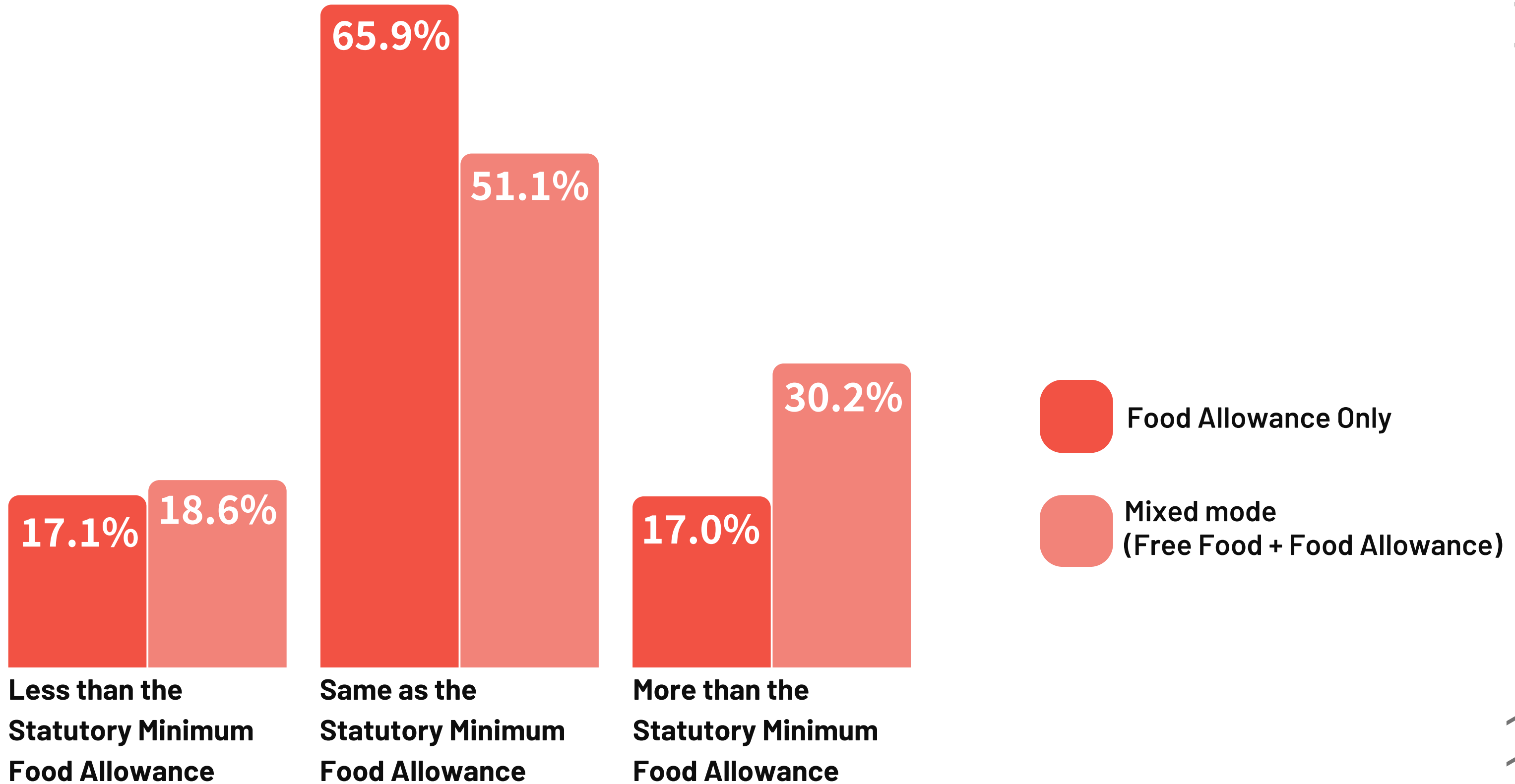
12.3% Answer more than \$1,196

22.3% Answer less than \$1,196

36.7% DON'T KNOW

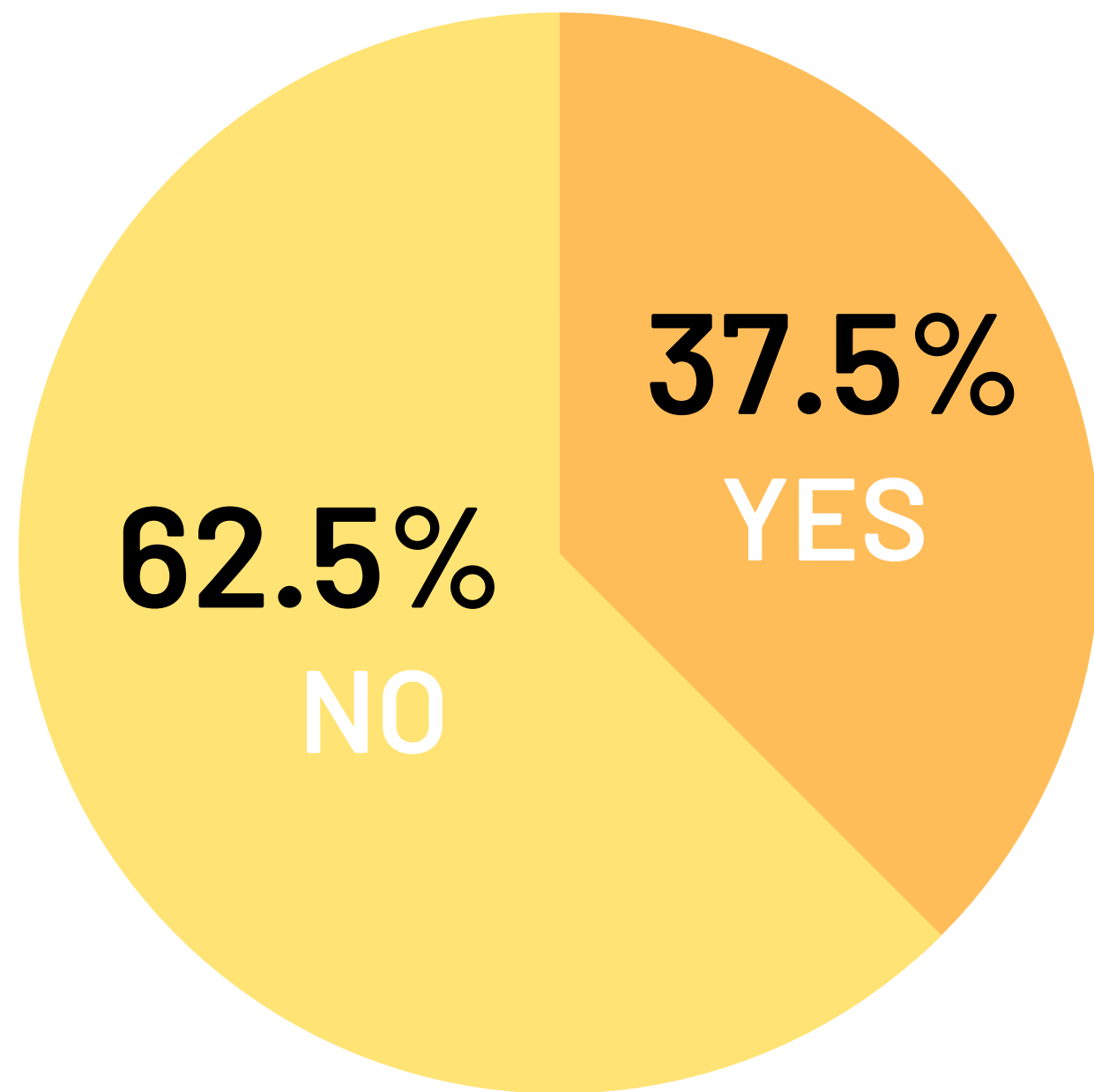
AMOUNT OF FOOD ALLOWANCE RECEIVED PER MONTH

For Food Allowance, how much do you actually receive per month in HKD\$?

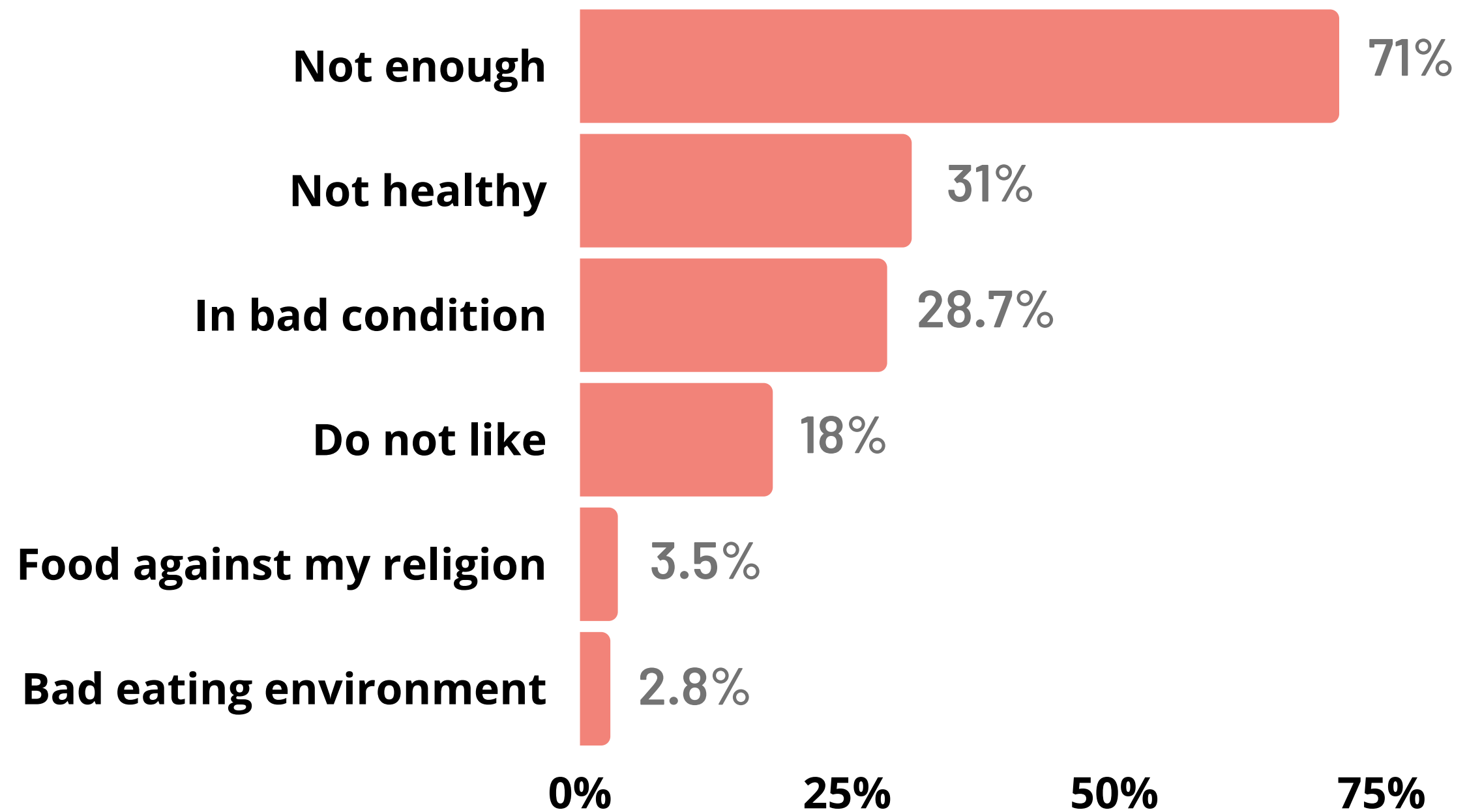


PROBLEMS REGARDING FREE FOOD

Do you experience any problem/ discontent with the Free Food? (N=381)

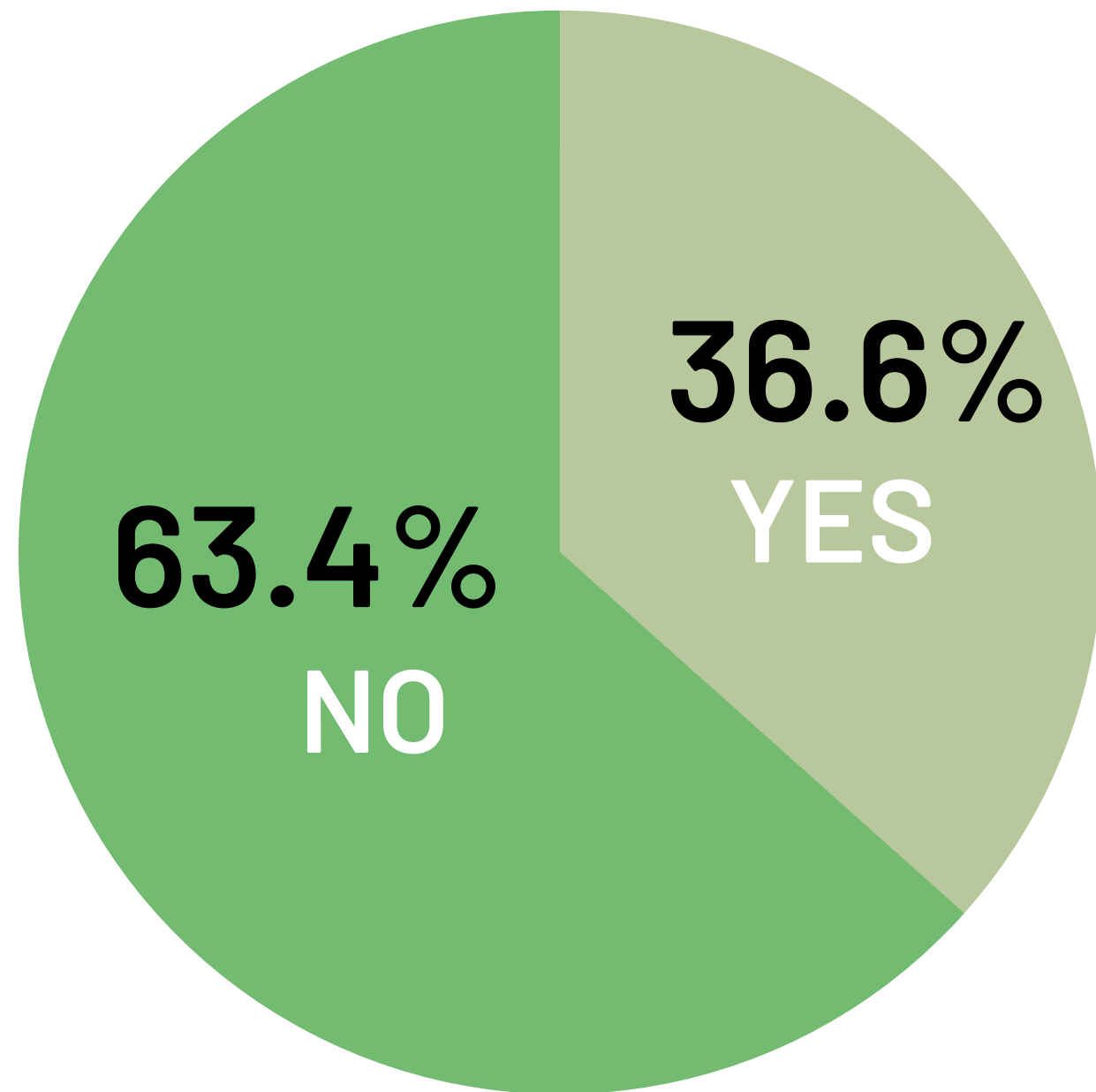


Which problem(s) do you experience? (N=143)

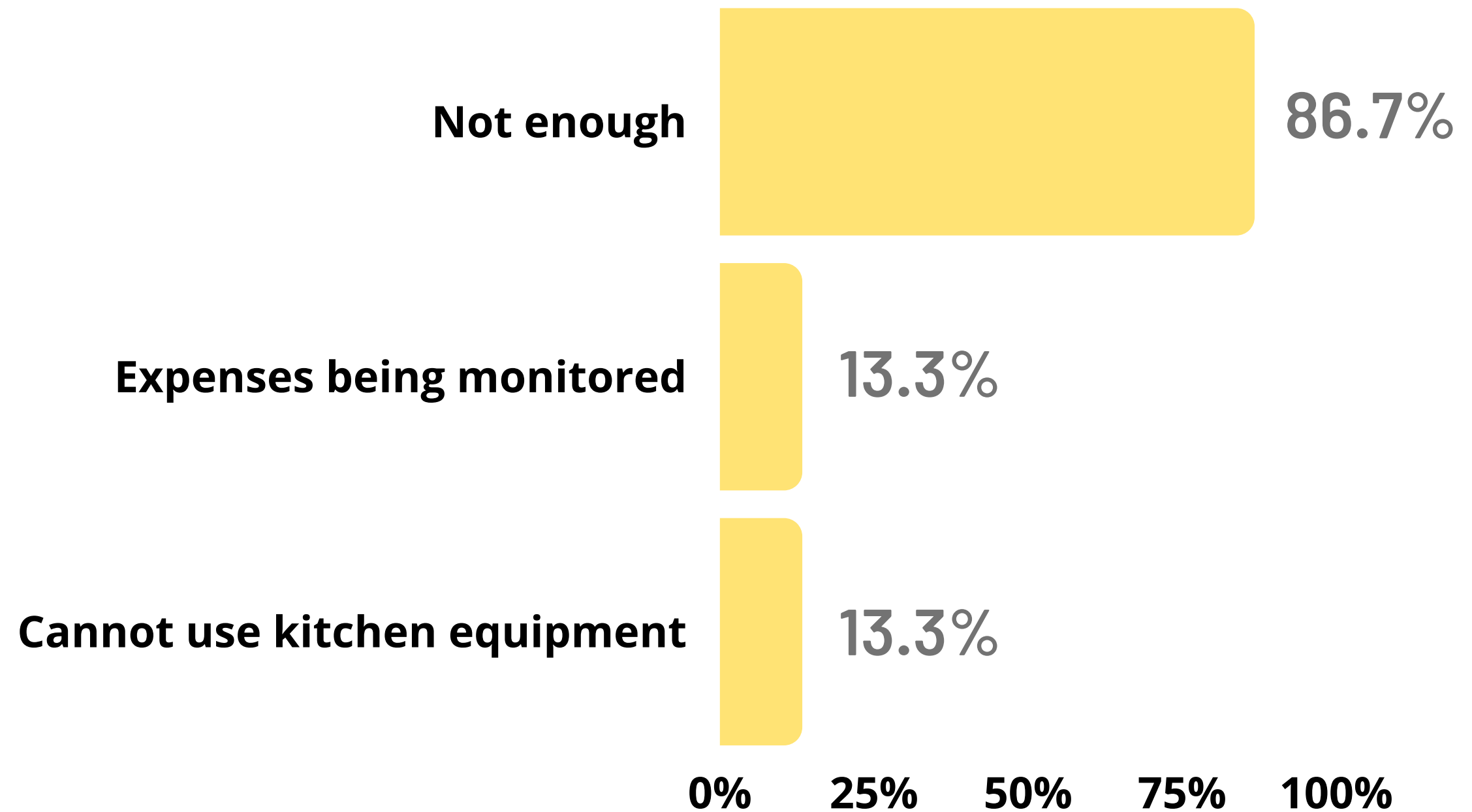


PROBLEMS REGARDING FOOD ALLOWANCE

Do you experience any problem/ discontent with the Food Allowance? (N=41)

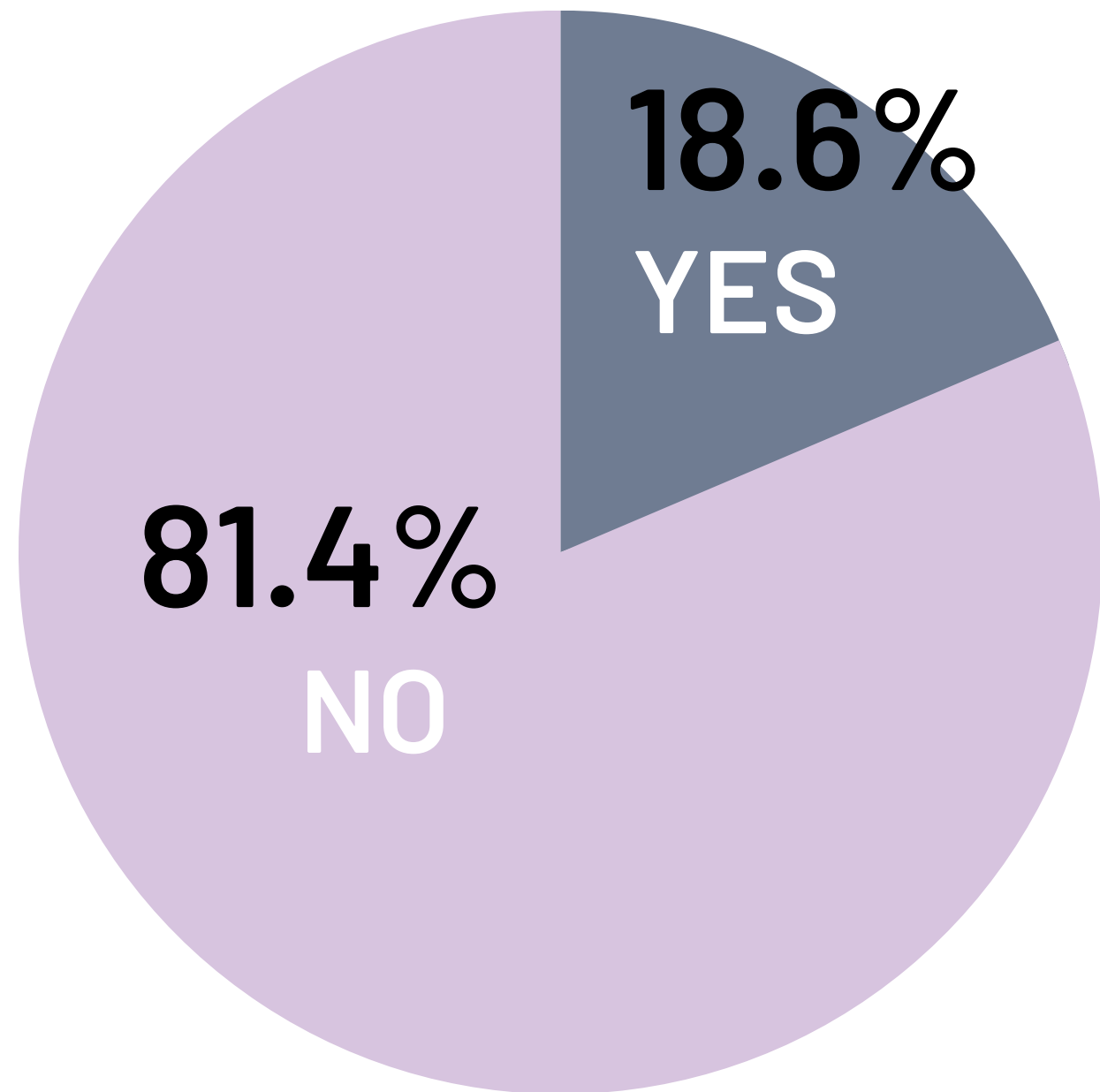


Which problem(s) do you experience? (N=15)

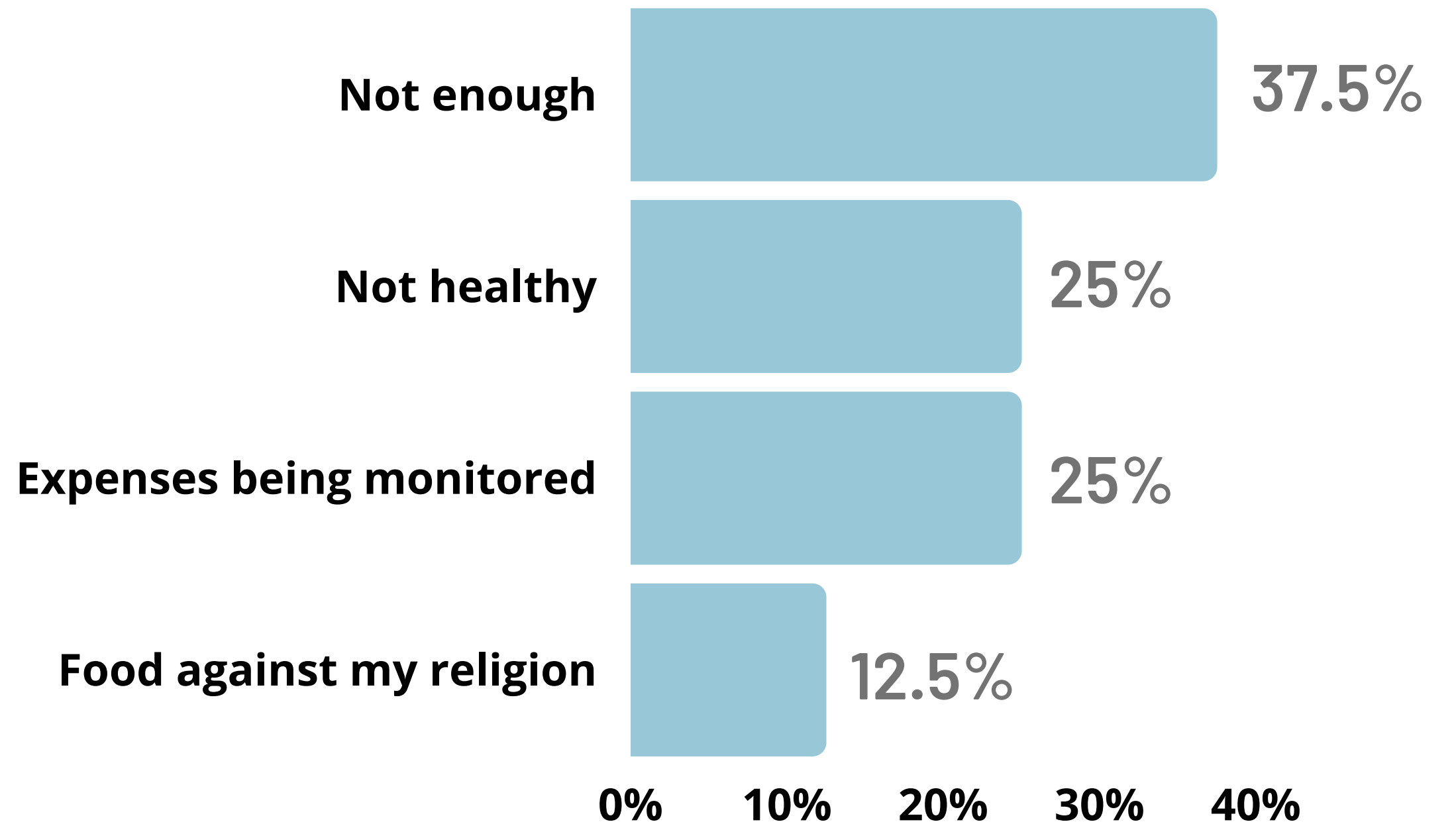


PROBLEMS REGARDING FREE FOOD + FOOD ALLOWANCE

Do you experience any problem/ discontent with the Free Food + Food Allowance? (N=43)



Which problem(s) do you experience? (N=8)



OTHER CASES OF MALTREAT

Direct quotes from FDW respondents

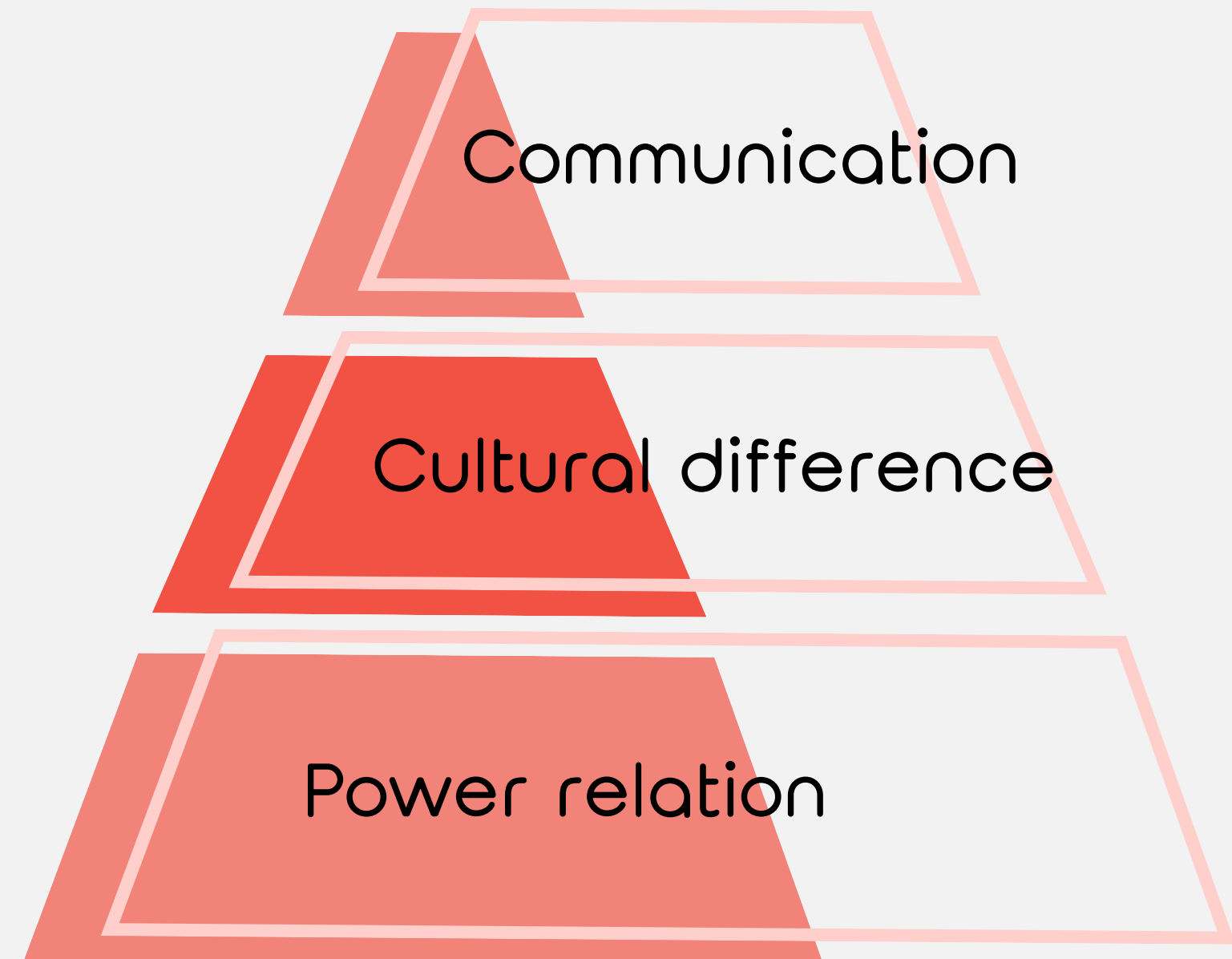
"I don't know what food I am allowed to cook for myself."

"My employer complaint that I eat too much rice (two bowls), but that is our food culture that and we always gain energy by eating rice."

"I usually have leftover for lunch, sometimes the food was cooked with pork oil and I cannot have it."

"I always share food with popo (elderly), she eats very little like having a fish for two meals. I am hungry but I am embarrassed to cook more for myself, especially I am in my first contract"

"I do not share food with employer, the food allowance only supports me to buy eggs, bread, canned food and instant noodles, or I have to buy with my own salary."



CASE SHARING



RECOMMENDATION

Increase explicit terms of food welfare in standard contract

- Bilingual in English and Indonesian
- Use of kitchen utensils, equipments, seasonings
- Provide three meals with sufficient portions

T/C



Increase the monthly food allowance from \$1,196 to \$1,800

- The baseline of the food allowance is too low
- Increase weekly food allowance from \$300 to \$450 at once

Two-hour meal time/ meal break per day

- In Hong Kong, most contracts state meal hour(s) clearly, but no meal hour(s) or meal break is stated in Standard Contract
- The legitimated rest hours can protect the FDWs from overloading and the exploitation of hunger.



Community education to FDWs' Employers

- Increase mutual understanding
- Promote humanistic and good practice
- Respect food choices related to religion



Q & A