

Situational Assessment of Labor Migrants in Asia: Needs and Knowledge During COVID-19

Research Brief 1: CAMBODIA

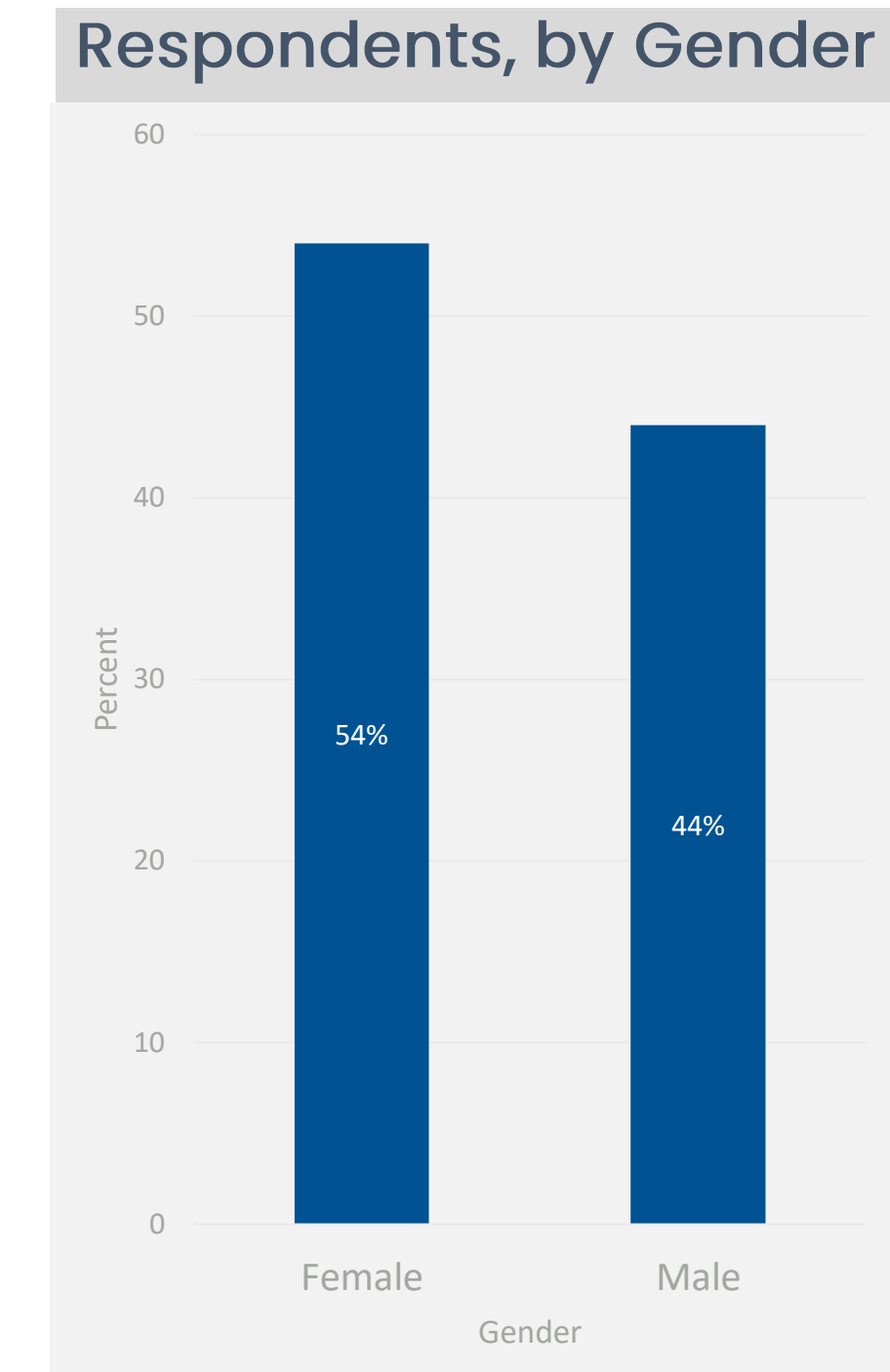
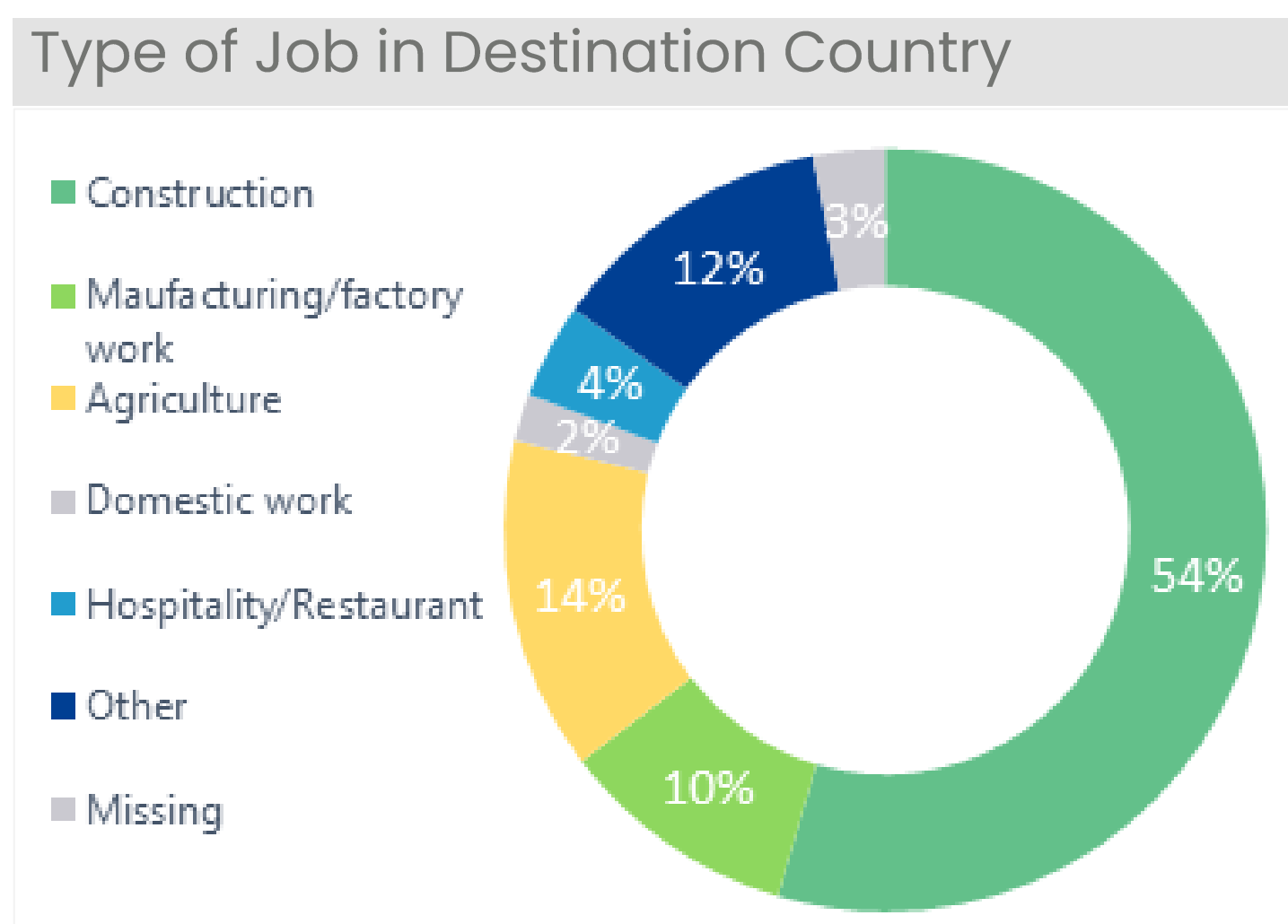
June 2020



Province	Respondents
Siem Reap	19
Bantaey Meanchey	17
Prey Veng	14
Oddar Meanchey	4
Kampong Thom	2
Svay Rieng	2
Takeo	2
Missing	3
Total	63

Respondents

63 Returned migrants participated in interviews between May 14– 22



78%
Of respondents are under the age of 40

96%
Of respondents returned from Thailand

86%
Had legal documents to work and live in destination country

35%

Of respondents do not have enough food to eat every day

58%

Of respondents do not have enough income to support themselves

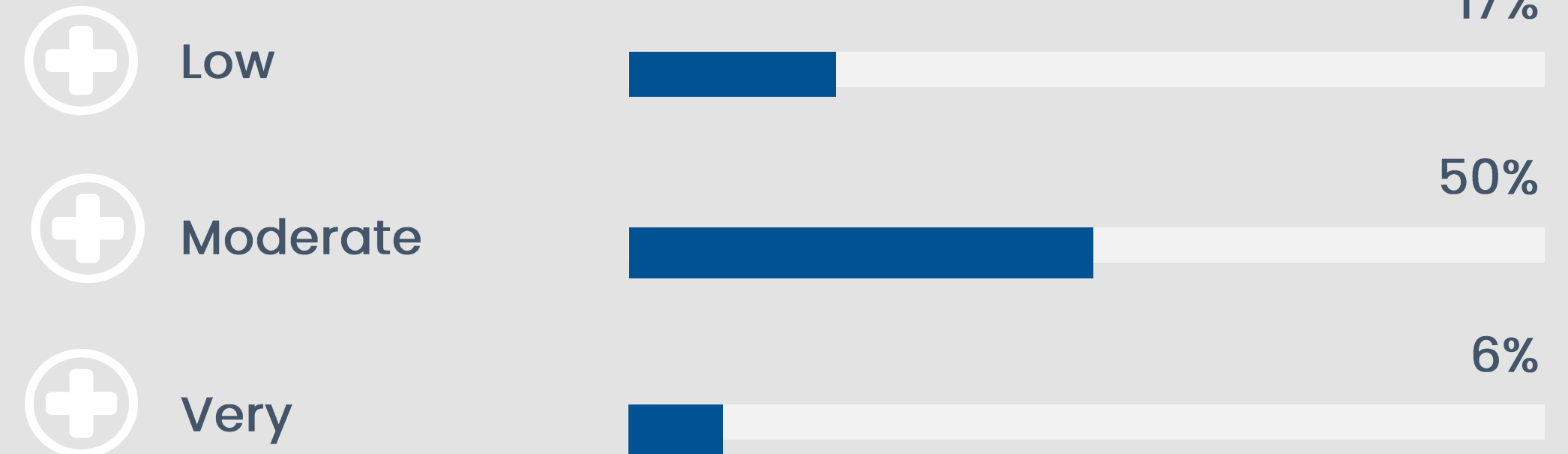
60%

Have not received any support since returning to Cambodia

78%

Of respondents **had not** been sick since returning to Cambodia

Confidence in accessing medical care if respondents became sick (n=49)



Risks and Vulnerabilities

8 out of 9

Respondents who had been sick were able to access medical care.

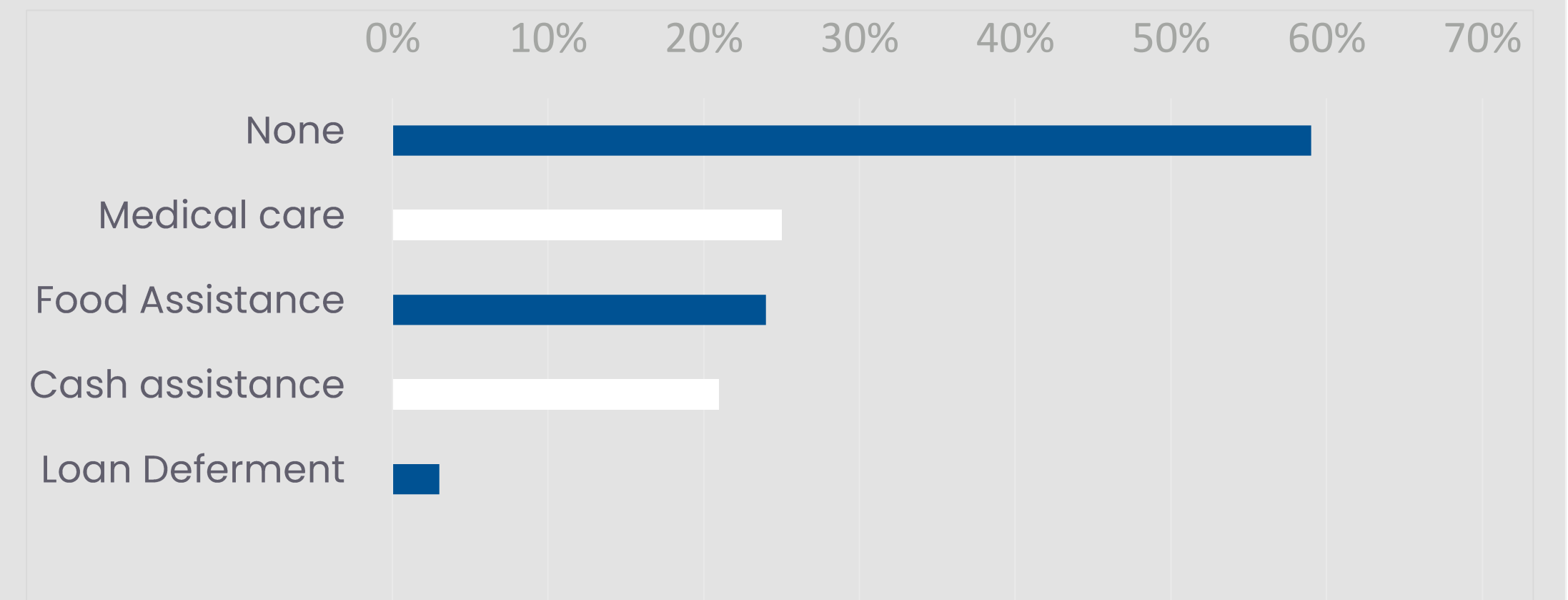
10%

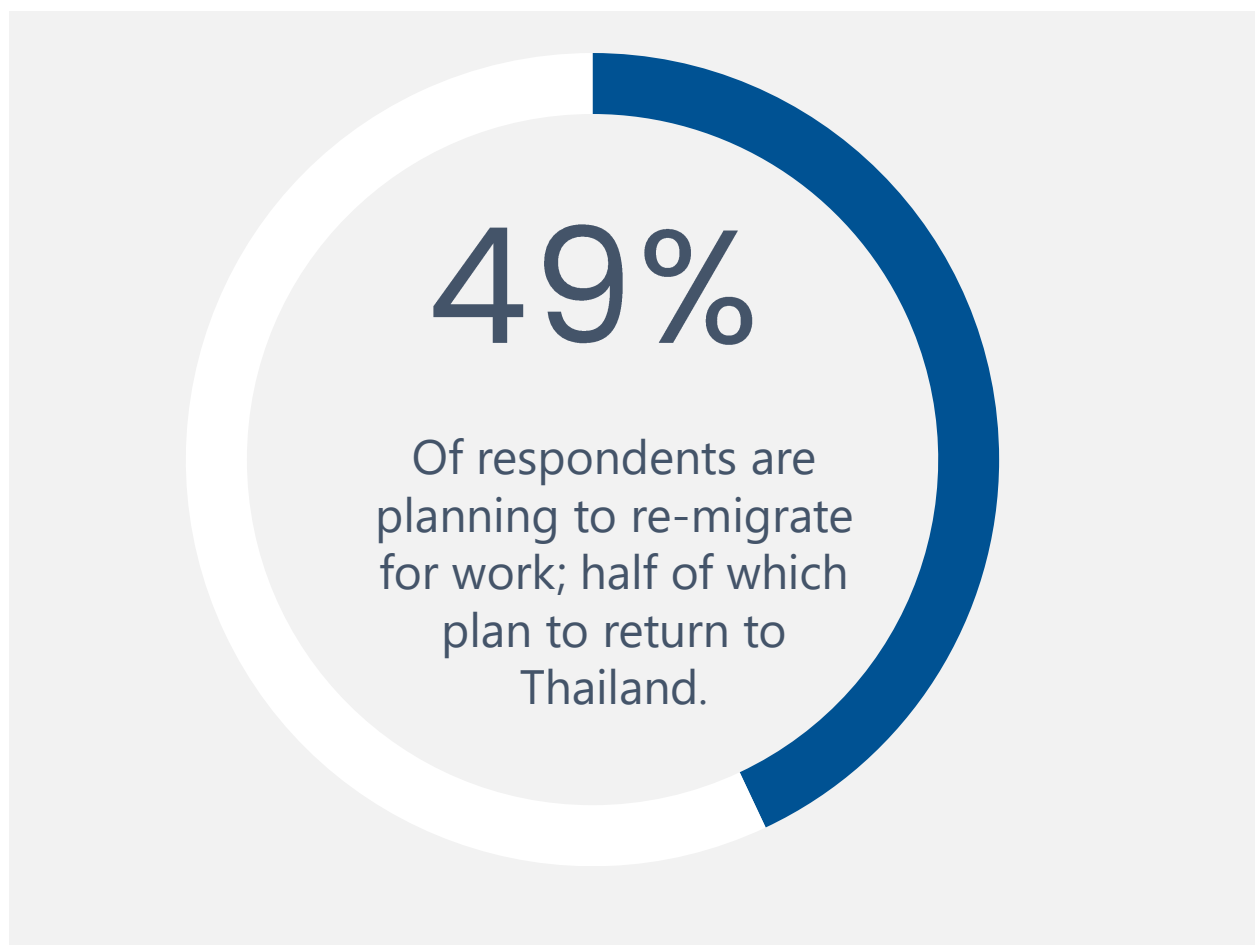
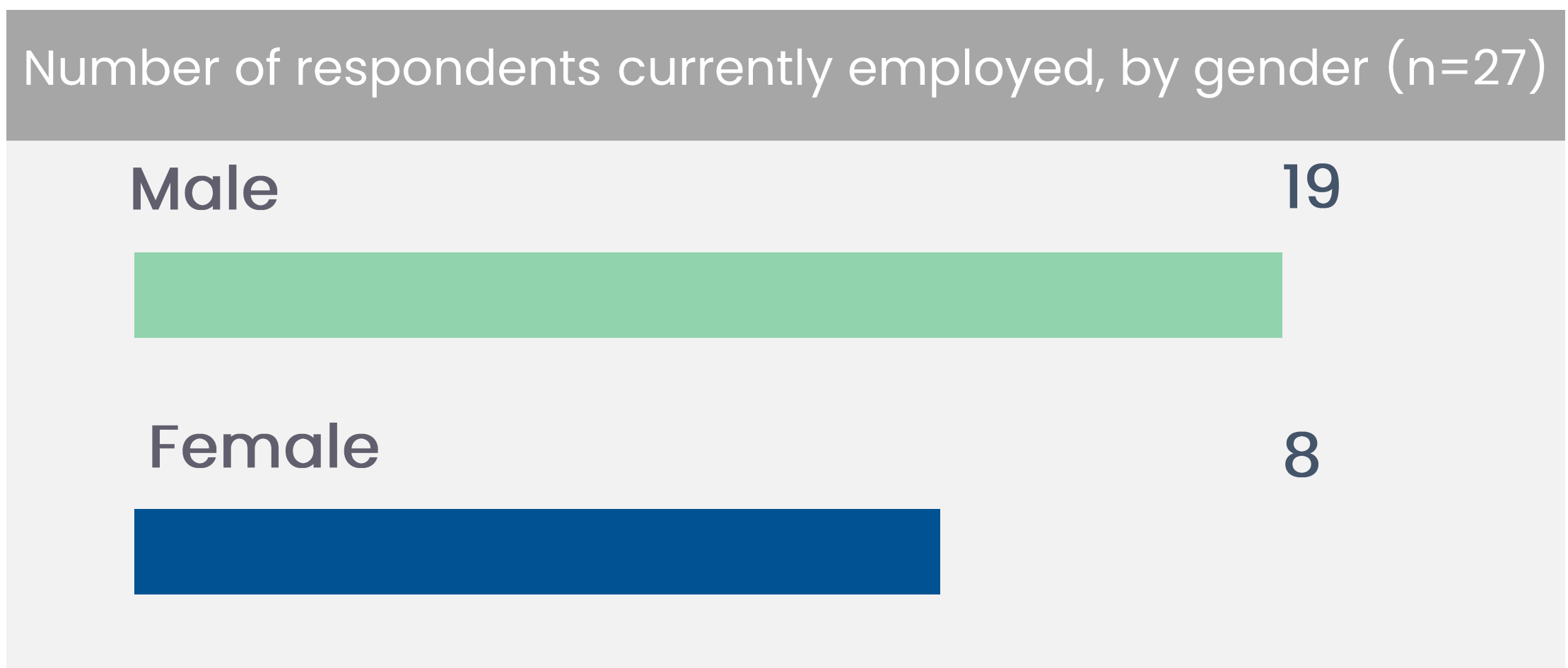
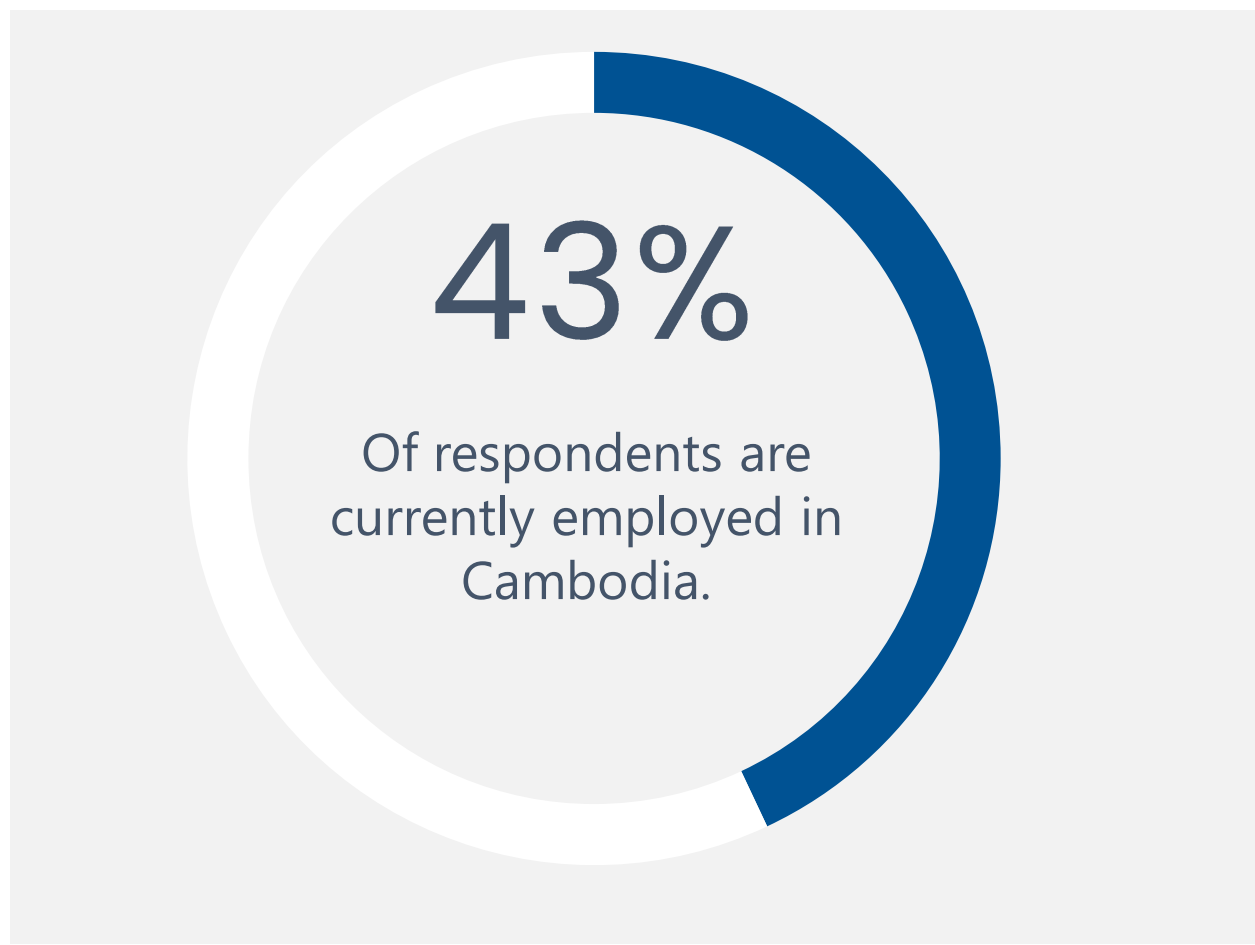
Said returned migrants are being treated worse or much worse since returning.

91%

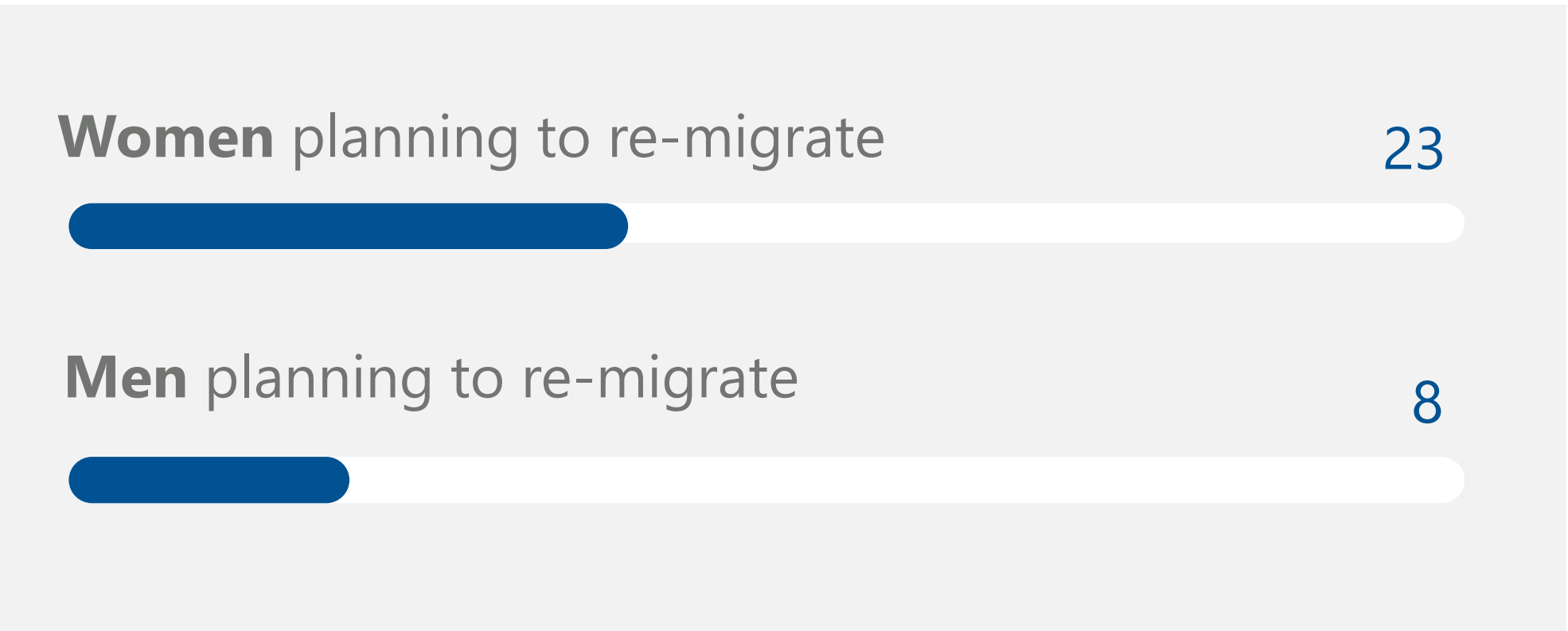
Female respondents said they **did not** face an increased risk of violence.

Types of support received since returning to Cambodia (multi-response)





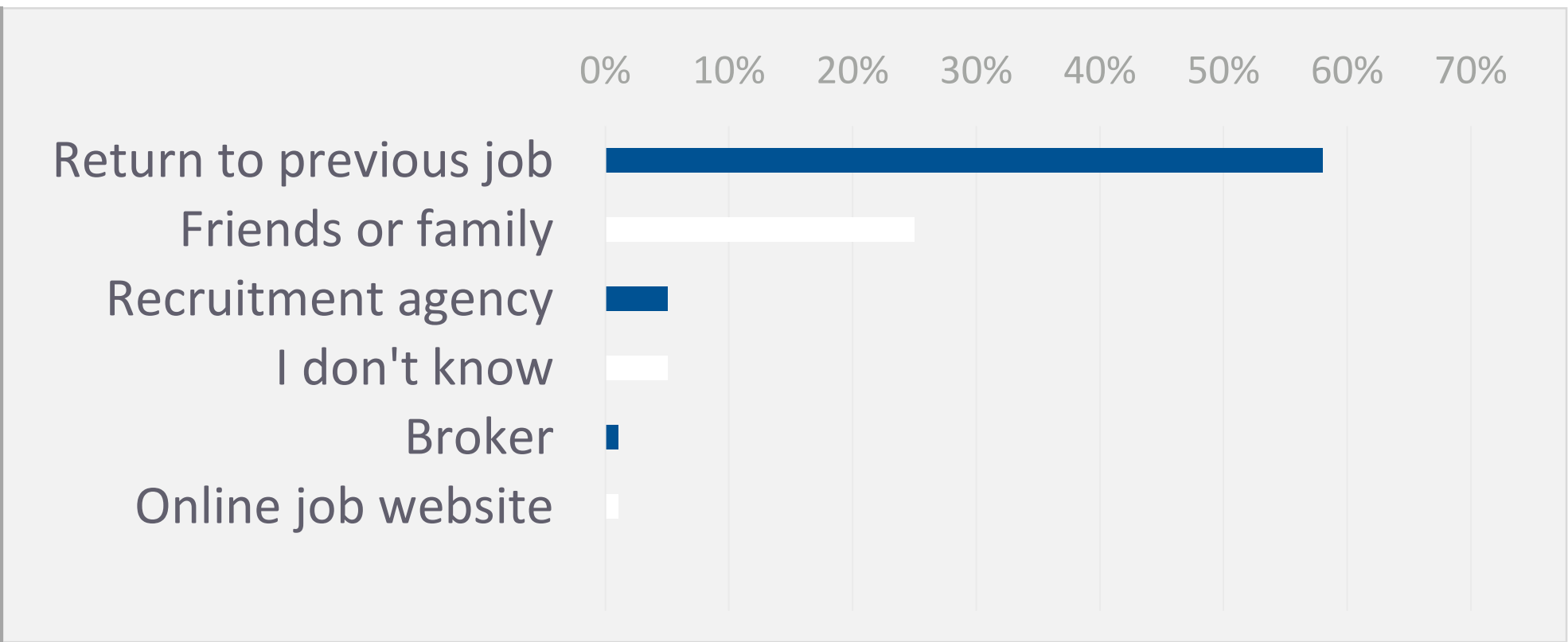
Those planning to re-migrate, by gender (n=31)



Primary ways respondents will decide when its safe and possible to re-migrate. (n=31, multi-response)

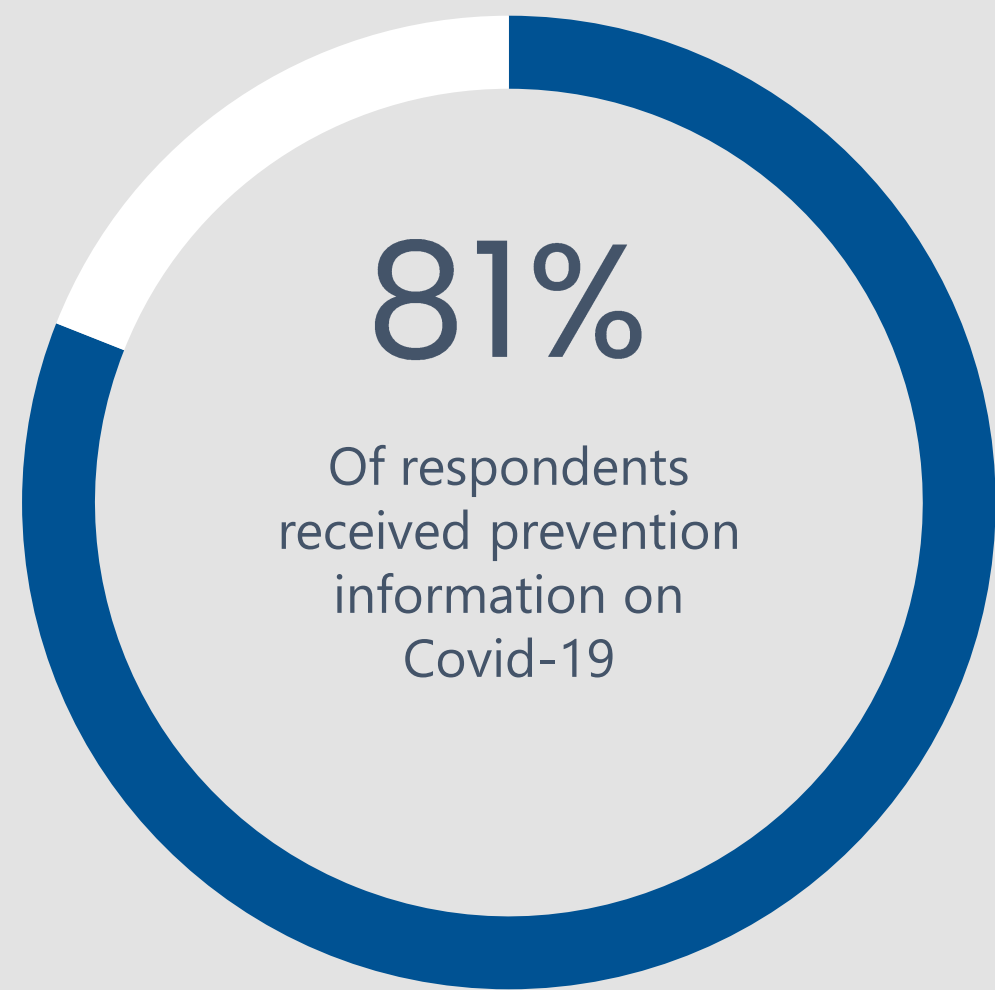


How respondents plan to find a job in destination country (n=31)

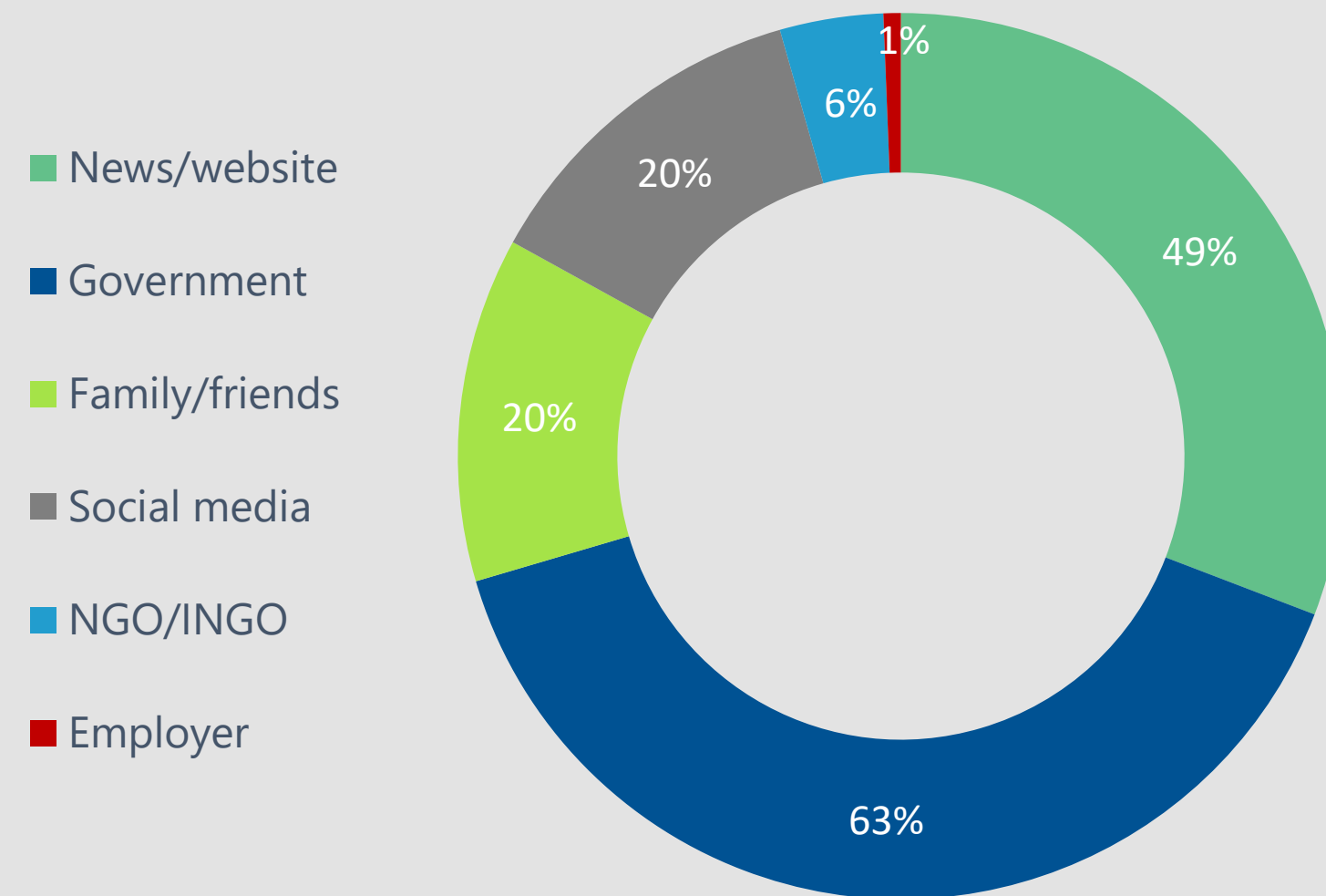


Of those planning to return to their previous job, what sector did they work in? (n =15)

Sector	Responses
Construction	4
Manufacturing (other factory work)	4
Other	4
Agriculture	3

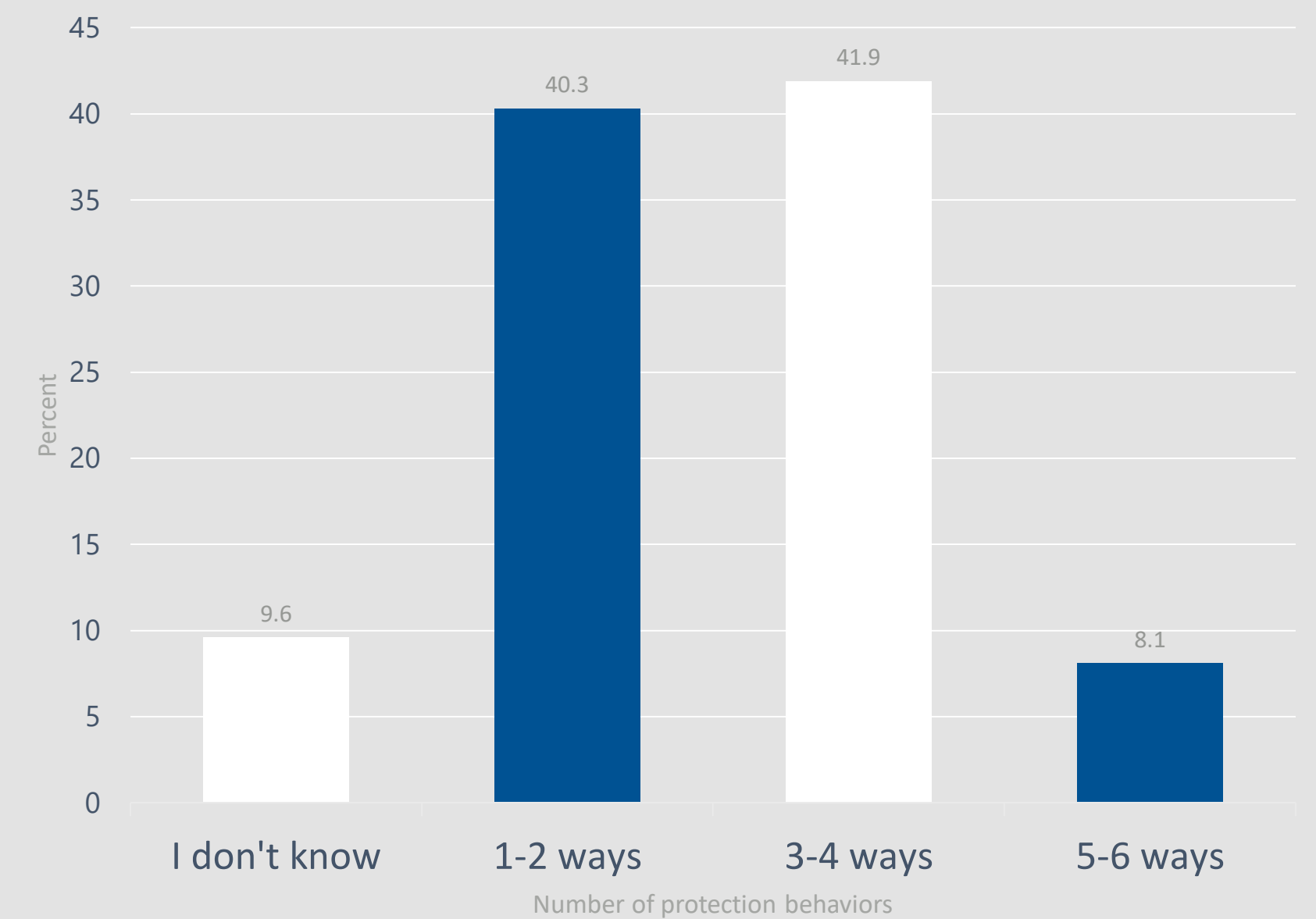


Where did respondents receive prevention information on COVID-19? (n=51)

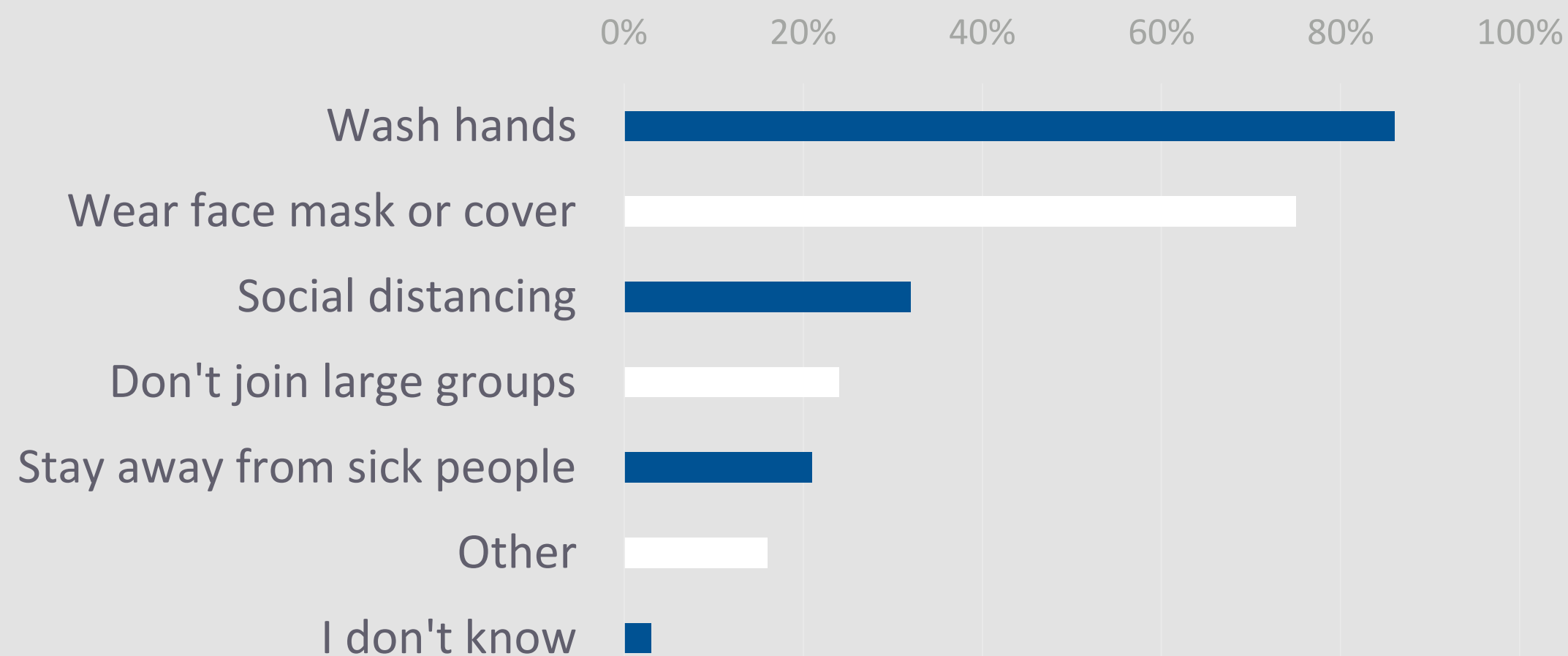


*Multiple responses could be given. Government includes village and district chiefs, and health centers.

Number of ways respondents knew how to protect themselves against Covid-19



Ways respondents listed to protect against Covid-19 (multi-response)



67%
Need more information on Covid-19. This is where they would go for trusted information

Source (multi-response)	Responses
Government/health center	28
Village chief/community leader	25
Facebook	15
News/online website	4
NGO/International organization	4
Friends or family	3
WhatsApp	2
No response	14

RECOMMENDATIONS



Returned female migrants are finding employment at a much lower rate than men, which may be reflective of the sample including a high number of men with prior construction industry jobs - skills that are in high demand in Cambodia. **Therefore, ensuring returned migrant women are included in job placement and skill building activities** is highly recommended.



The number of women planning to re-migrate is nearly three times more than men. The high rates of unemployment among female returned migrants is likely a factor in higher rates of women reporting plans to re-migrate. **Messages and information on re-migration should closely consider the needs and risks of women female migrants** as this group may be the first – and largest – to migrate for work, when migration is again possible.



The majority of respondents said they were planning to re-migrate to Thailand, and half said they would return to their previous job in the destination country. **As long as migrants remain in their home countries, it will be valuable to provide information on employer responsibilities in destination countries.** This information could include: fees employers are legally responsible to pay when they make the journey back, hygienic/health protections that employers must be putting in place, and other worker protection information.



Two-thirds of respondents said they had not received any support since returning despite public government announcements to the contrary. **The Royal Government of Cambodia should continue assisting this vulnerable population through emergency cash and food assistance.** International organizations and NGOs should consider providing the same type of support with available resources.



Most respondents knew several ways to protect themselves against COVID-19 and have received prevention information, yet a large percentage (over half) said they need additional information. **International organizations, NGOs and provincial governments should continue providing protection information in clear, easy to understand graphics or audio messaging.** Providing updated information on travel restrictions (particularly between Cambodia and Thailand) will be extremely valuable as migrants prepare to navigate a return journey.



Providing information to migrants who remain in Thailand is an urgent need. Specifically, **domestic workers are facing increased vulnerabilities as qualitative interviews found several are working excessive overtime without compensation, while others are worried about being laid off and unable to return home.** Migrants interviewed in Thailand said they often access information through Facebook and YouTube. Particularly, The Cambodia Embassy in Thailand Facebook page is followed by migrants interviewed. These channels should be used by both the Royal Government of Cambodia and Royal Thai Government, as well as migrant assistance organizations, to provide targeted information to this vulnerable group.