


Decision-making in nutrition: areas of opportunity to support greater use of economic evidence

Survey results of the multi-sectoral nutrition community

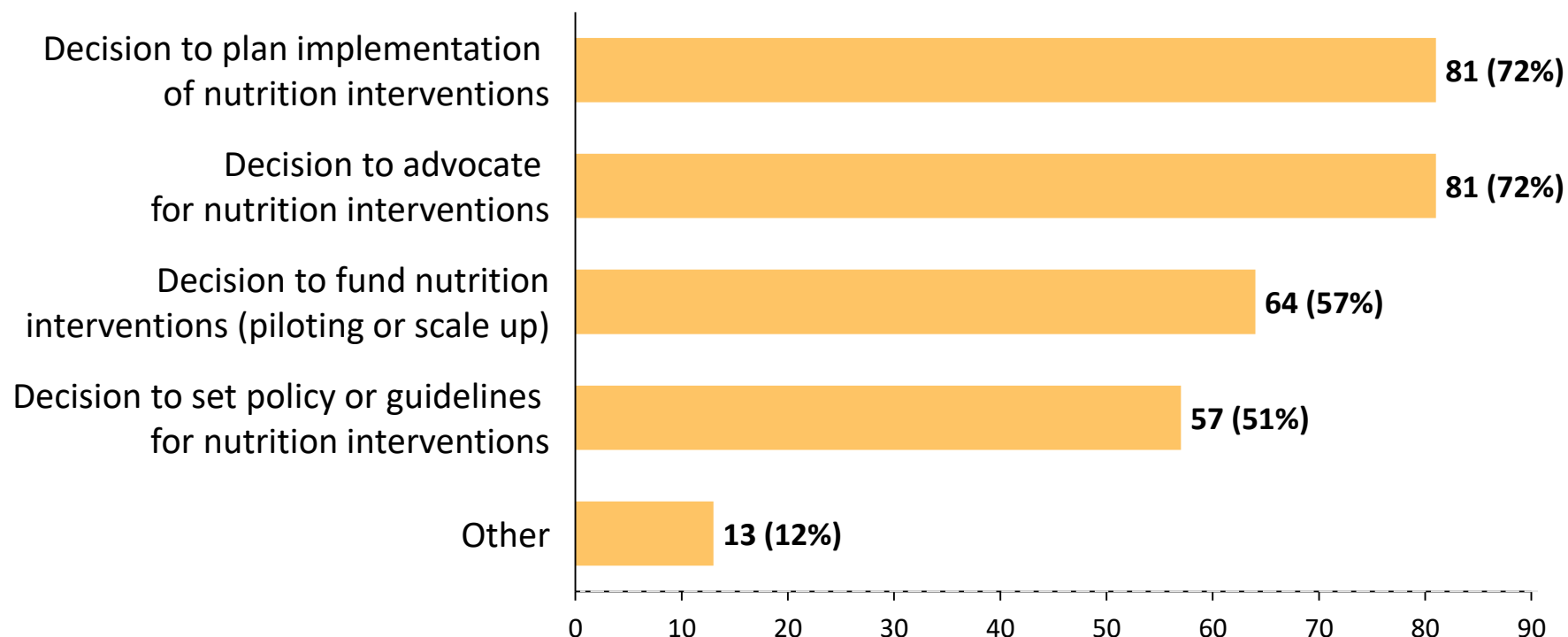
Strengthening Economic Evaluation for Multisectoral Strategies for Nutrition (SEEMS-Nutrition)



How evidence on
costs and benefits
are used in decision-
making for nutrition

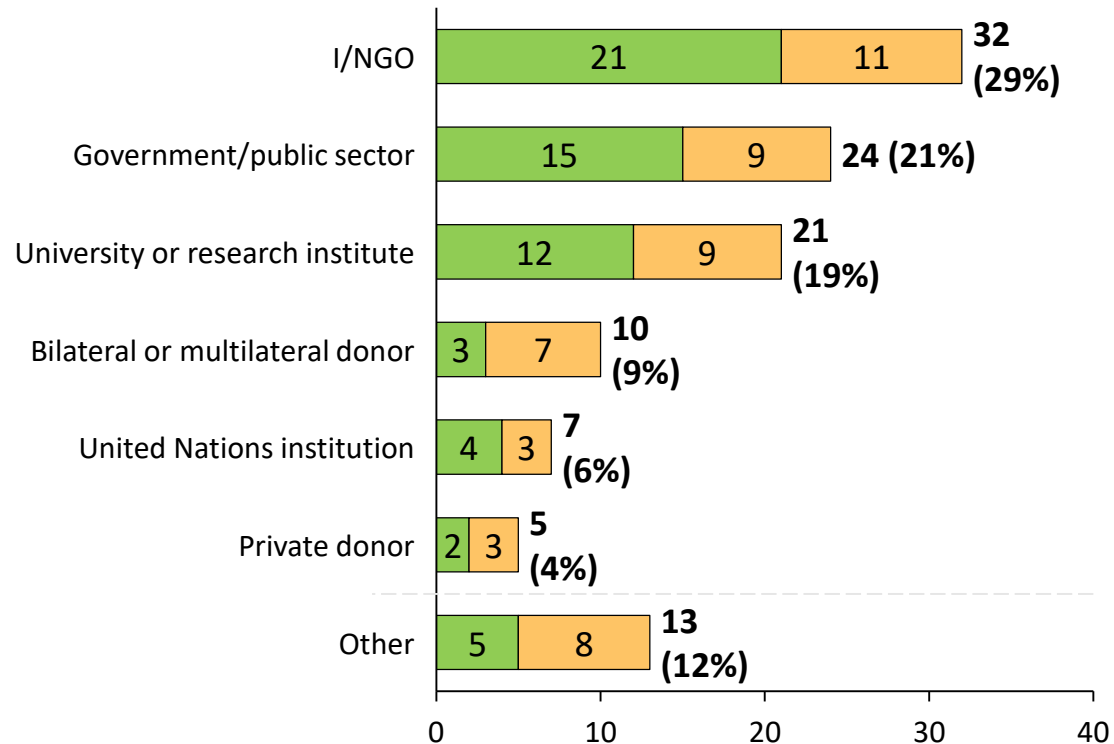
Respondents represent a variety of decision-makers: people who fund, plan, advocate for, or set policy/guidelines for nutrition

Which of the following decisions do you help make in your current role? *Decisions could be internal within your organization/institution or external (n=112)*



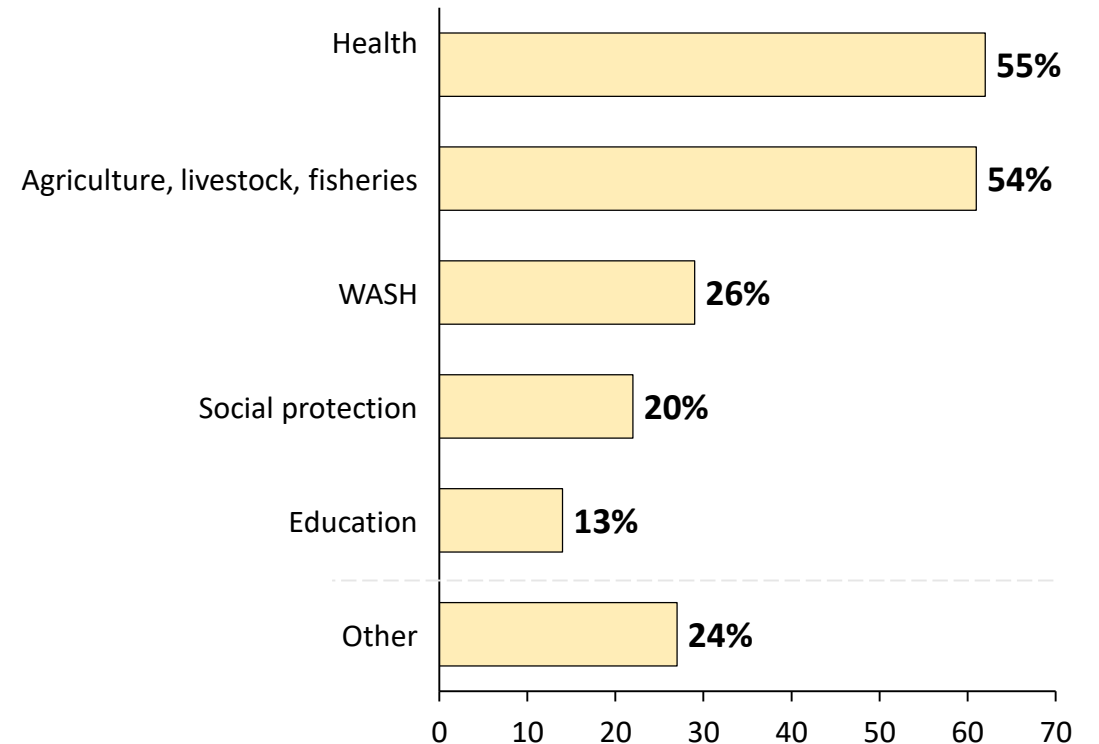
We received responses from a variety of institutions that work across nutrition-sensitive sectors

Type of institution (n=112)



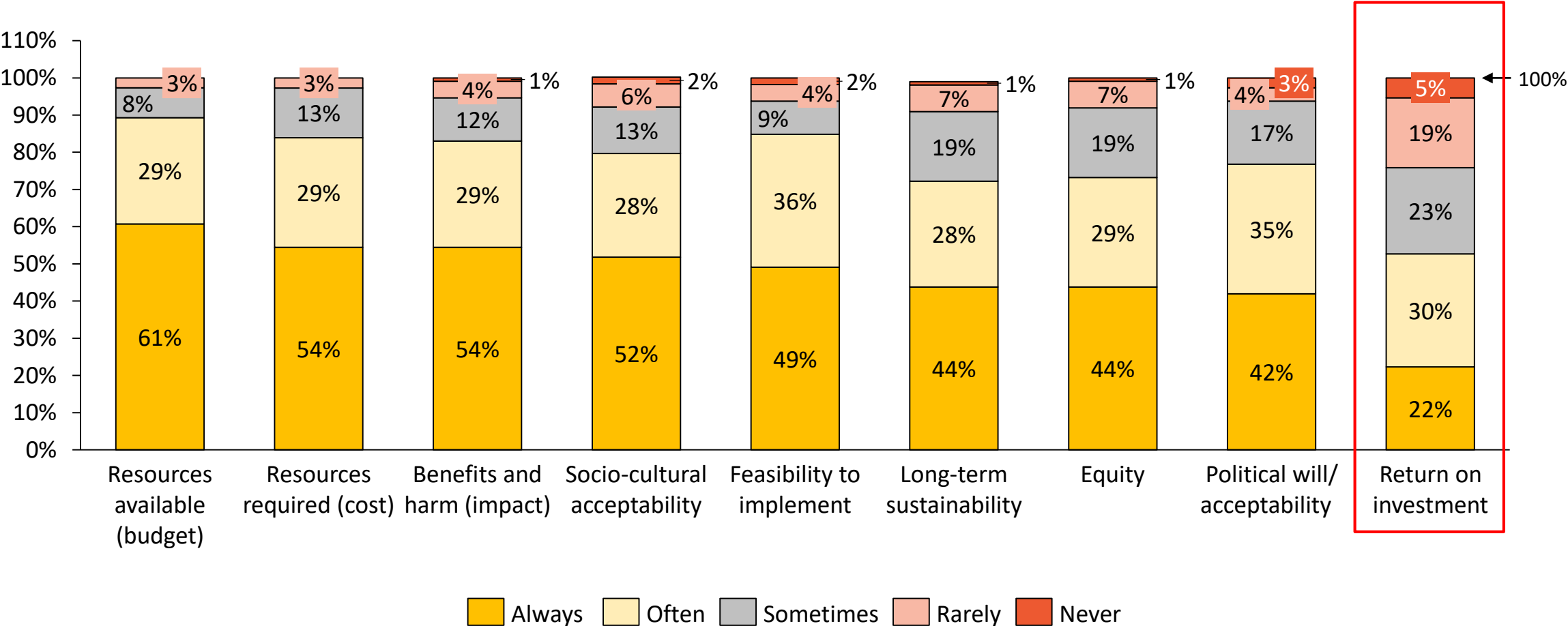
Country focus (one or multiple countries)
Global/regional focus (could include some country work)

Nutrition-sensitive sector (n=112)



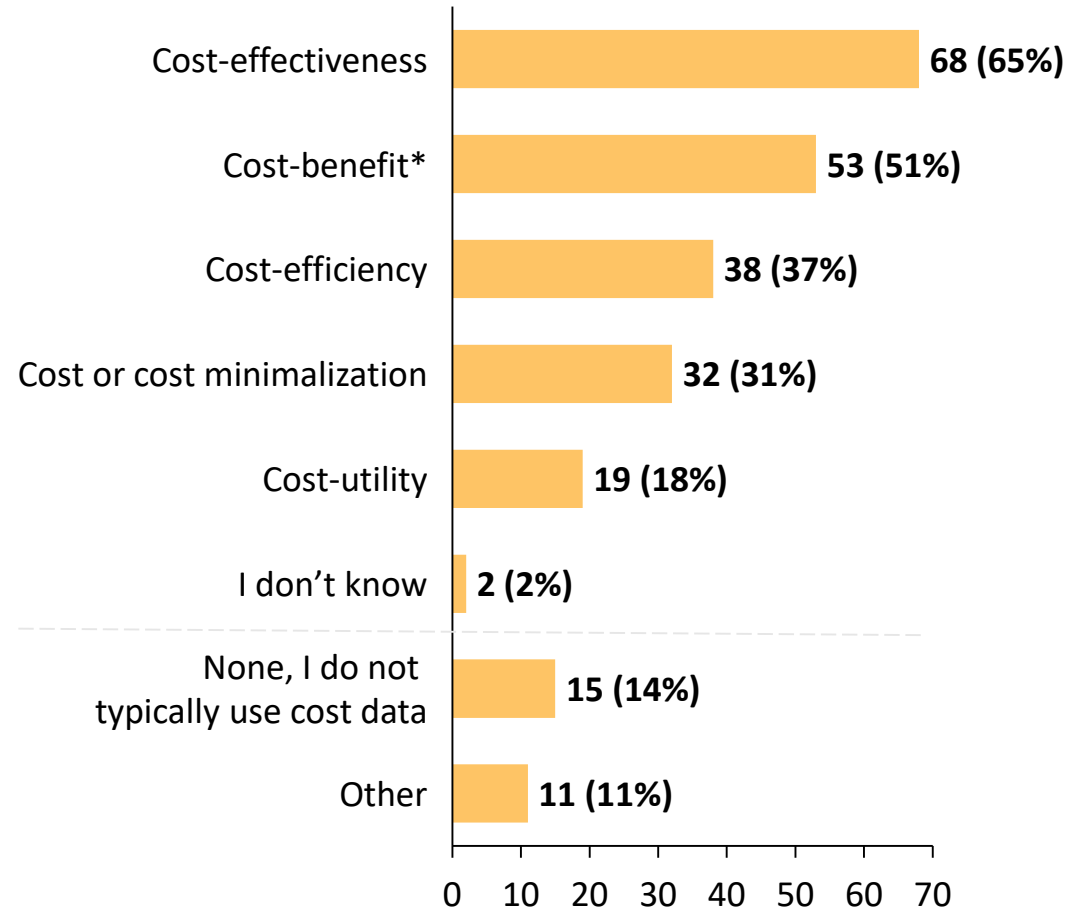
Criteria by which decisions are evaluated: 75% of respondents use information on return on investment

When making decisions to fund, plan, recommend/advocate, or set policy/guidelines, how often do you evaluate nutrition interventions based on the following criteria? (n= 112)

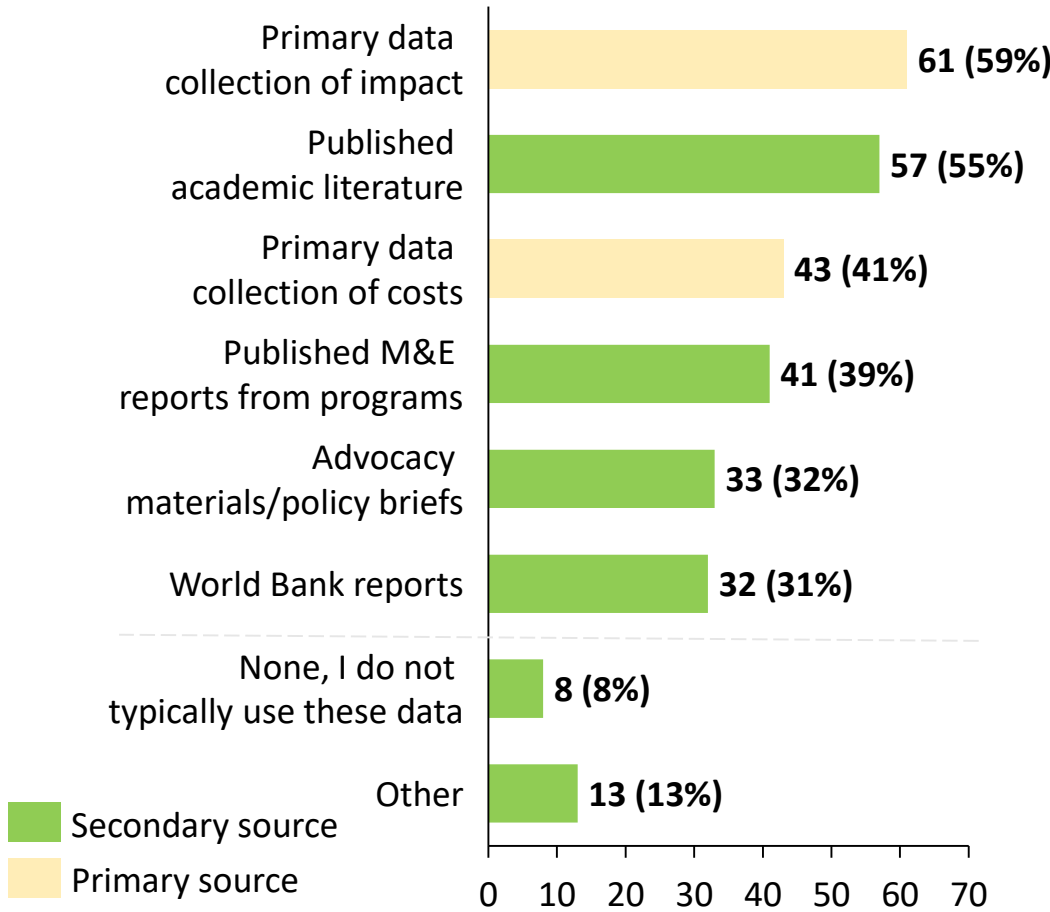


Respondents reported using different types of economic evaluation evidence

What types of economic evaluation data do you support and or use in your current role? (n=104)



From what source do you get this data/ evidence? (n=104)

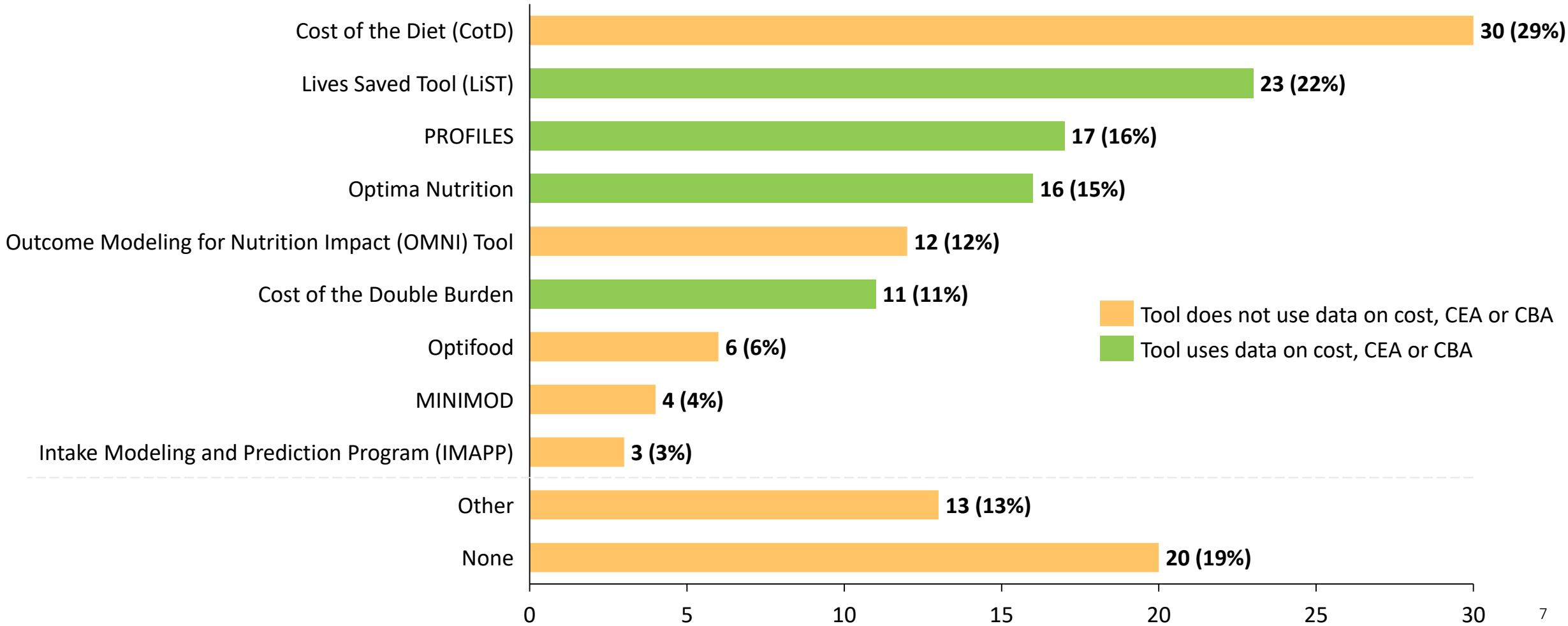


*analysis of return on investment (ROI)

Note: Disaggregated numbers do not sum to the total sample size because respondents could select multiple decision types

Respondents also reported using several nutrition modeling tools to support decision-making

Do you use any of the following nutrition modeling tools or their outputs for decision-making?
(n=104)



Applications of
existing evidence:
challenges and the
way forward

Respondents gave qualitative feedback on how economic evaluation evidence has been used in practice and challenges

Q: What evidence, knowledge and/or practices are missing that would improve the decision-making process to invest in, plan implementation, recommend and/or set policy or guidelines for nutrition interventions?

Please consider evidence on the costs and benefits of nutrition programming including cost analysis, cost-effectiveness, cost-utility (i.e. cost per DALY or cost per QALY), benefit-cost analysis, or other economic and financial analyses (please indicate).

Responses were summarized into these three categories:

1

Availability and
quality
of evidence

2

Applications of the
evidence to
programs

3

Applications of the
evidence to policy
and advocacy

Availability and quality of evidence

What we heard:

Evidence on economic evaluations for nutrition is limited and what is present is either insufficient or hard to access

- Eg, What is the combined impact of multiple interventions?
- Eg, Does one intervention have multiple benefits?

Concerns were raised on the quality of existing evidence: not enough or the right data to draw conclusions

“Consistent methodology is critical for reliable evidence”

Key questions:

- **What kind of economic evidence do you find most useful when making decisions? What level of detail is important?**
- **What are the cases where having information on combined impact is useful?**
- **What are the aspects of poor-quality data you struggle with the most?**
- **What would help you deal with data quality limitations?**

Application of the evidence to program design

What we heard:

Using evidence that is based on a few studies restricts decision-making because it's difficult to make appropriate comparisons for both cost and impact:

- Comparing the same intervention across different delivery platforms and contexts
- Comparing multiple interventions in the same context
- Making country comparisons

Concern on whether CEA for nutrition-sensitive interventions is appropriate:

“Assessing cost-effectiveness of a direct intervention that has a direct pathway to impact is not comparable to cost-effectiveness of a nutrition-sensitive ag intervention, which (1) is several steps removed from a single identifiable impact, and (2) has a wide array of additional potential impacts”

Key questions:

- **Do you make these types of comparisons? Others?**
- **Is there evidence to make those comparisons? What are the challenges you face when doing so?**
- **What are the ways you fill the information gaps without that evidence?**
- **Is the concern in the quote on the left shared?**

Applications of the evidence to policy and advocacy

What we heard:

It can be difficult for policy makers to understand very technical analyses

It's important to think about the needs of each sector to garner interest in new program investments – “Need to speak their language”

“Data use is not always a priority” for policy makers, underscoring the need to fit evidence into a broader narrative that “speaks” to the right audience

Key questions:

- **What are the key benefits/outcomes decision-makers in the sectors you're working in care most about?**
- **What are the key economic evaluation metrics that are likely to influence the decision-makers you're trying to reach?**
- **How is the communication strategy different across sectors?**