"Trade Unions and Economic Inequality: Perspectives, Policies and Strategies"

A trade union survey of the Global Labour University

by

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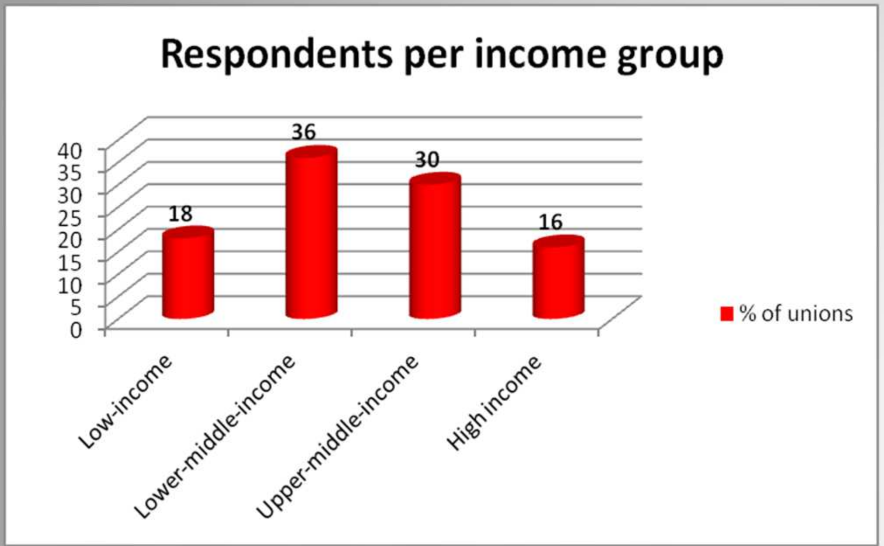
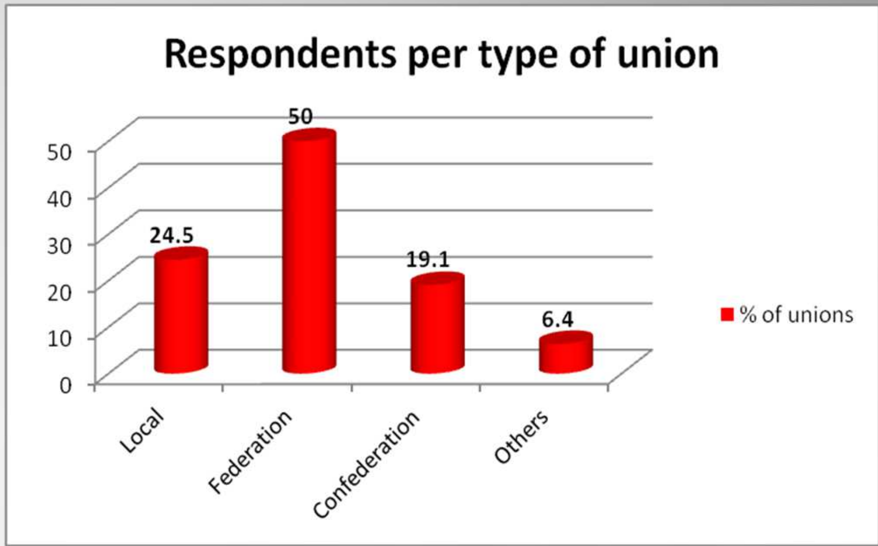
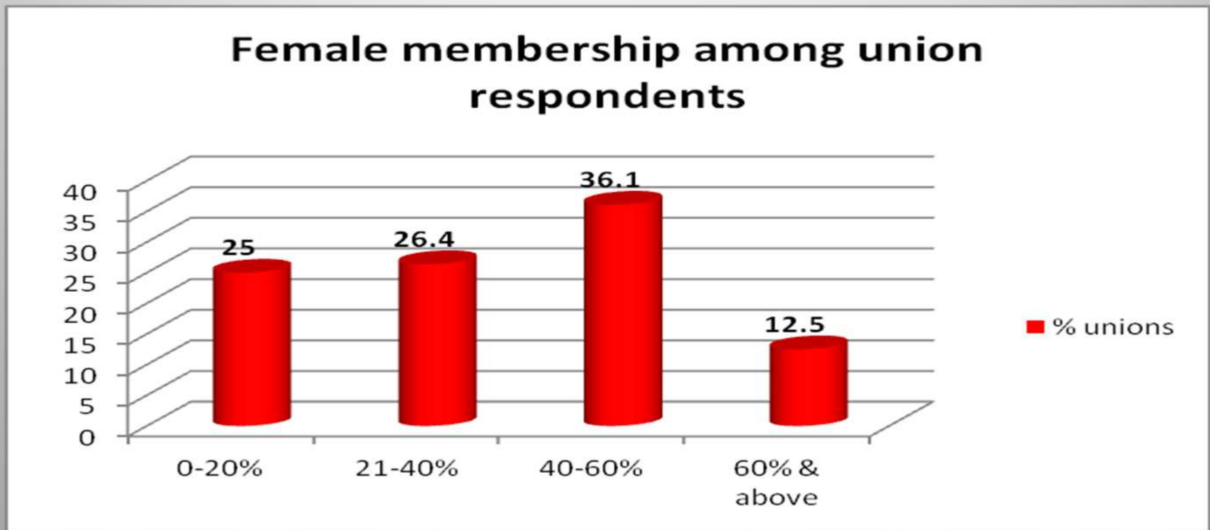
Outline

- Profile of trade union respondents
- Trade unions’ views on economic inequality
- Dominant trade union policies and strategies tackling issues of economic inequality
- Assessing the success of union policies/strategies: facilitating and constraining factors
- Insights and questions

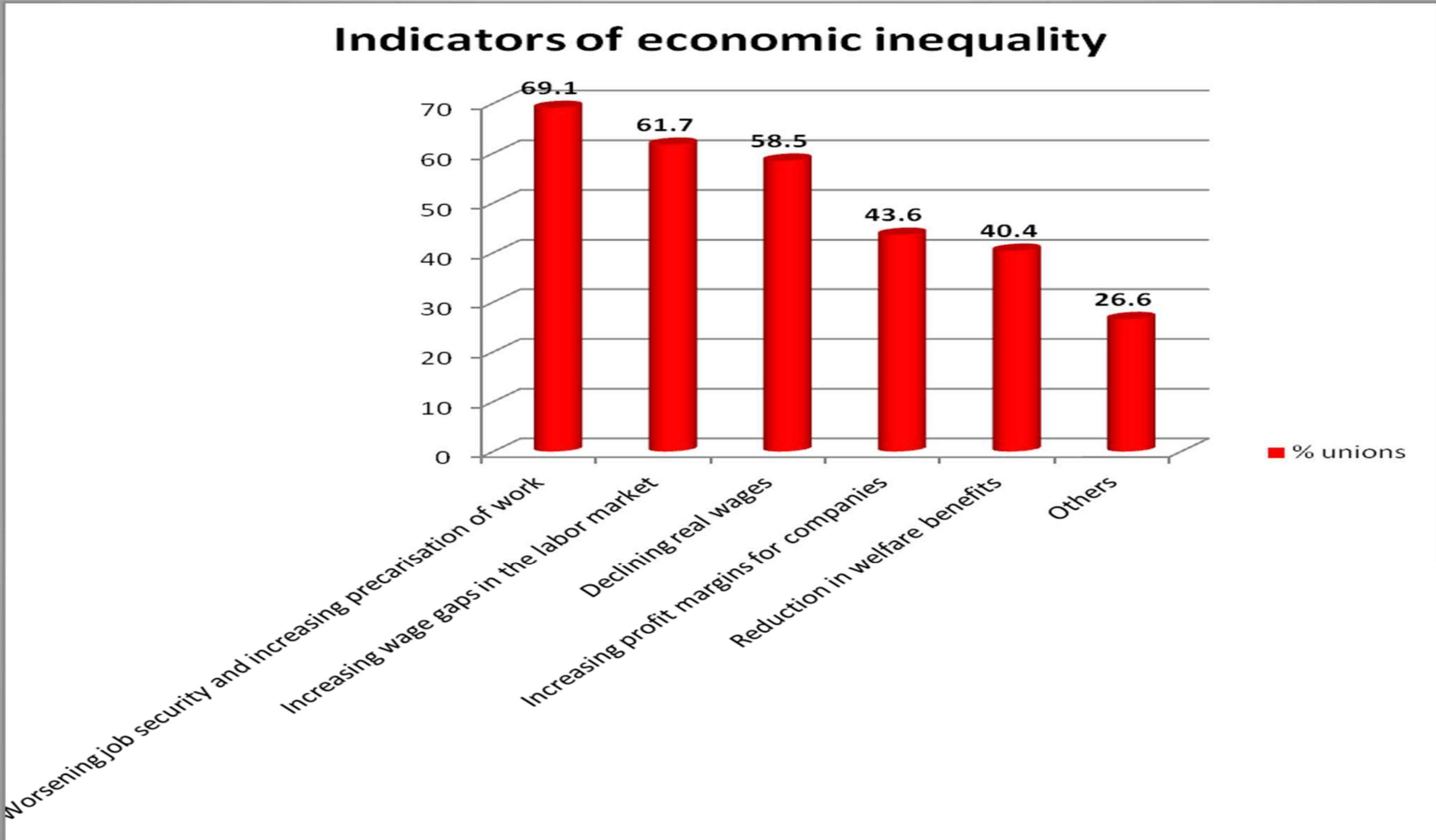
Profile of Trade Union Respondents







What are the **indicators** of economic inequality in your country?



What are your union's view on the causes of economic inequality?

- Related to **general political trends:**
  - Neoliberal capitalism & globalisation; pro-capital gvt. policies and unequal distribution of power &wealth; economic policy detached from social policy; and low investment and/or privatisation of PS.

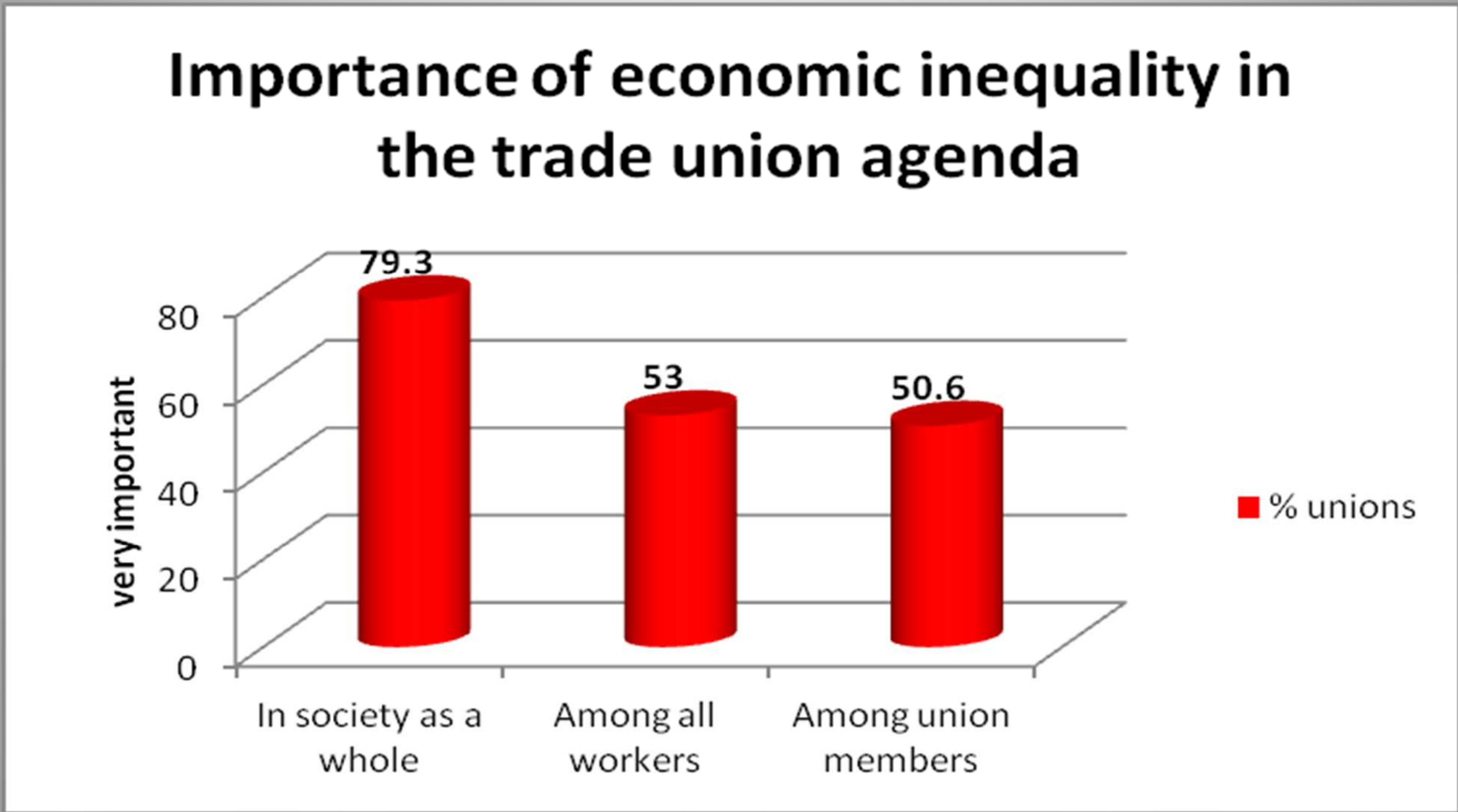
- Related to **labour policies:**
  - Lack/poor implementation of pro-labour policies and laws; income policies suppressing wages; workers excluded from productivity gains; weak tripartite bodies & social dialogue; and the persistence of gender pay gap.

What are your union's view on the impact of economic inequality?

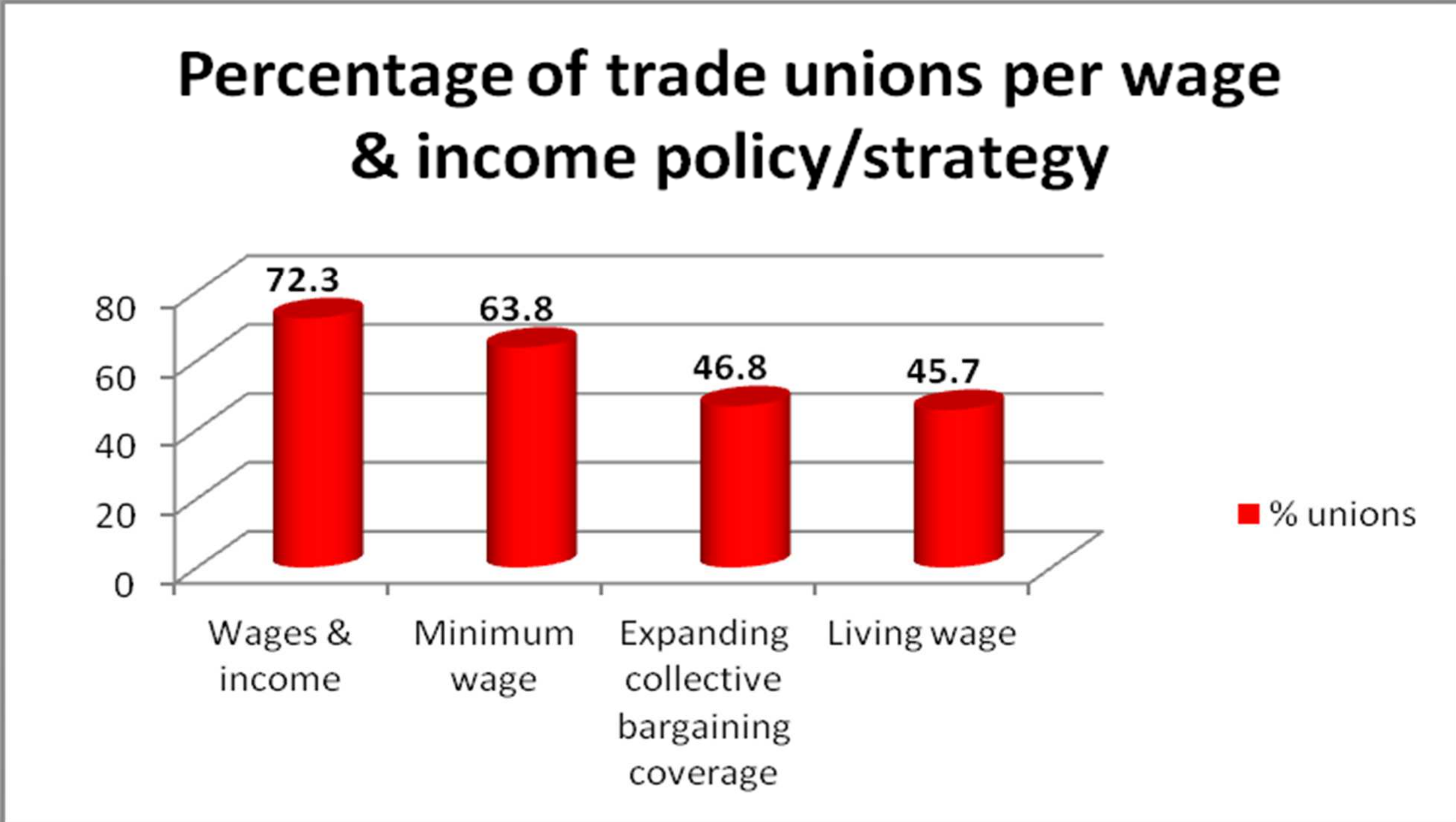
- On **society**:
  - social inequality and problems: poverty and social exclusion, criminality, prostitution, violence against women, migration and brain drain, increased life insecurity, health (and mental) problems, and high levels of suicide
  - political unrest and a threat to democracy

- On **working people:**
  - increased job insecurity and precariousness; low, insecure and unstable wages; deterioration of working conditions; increasing wage gaps (standard/non-standard, men/women); and weakening of trade unions.

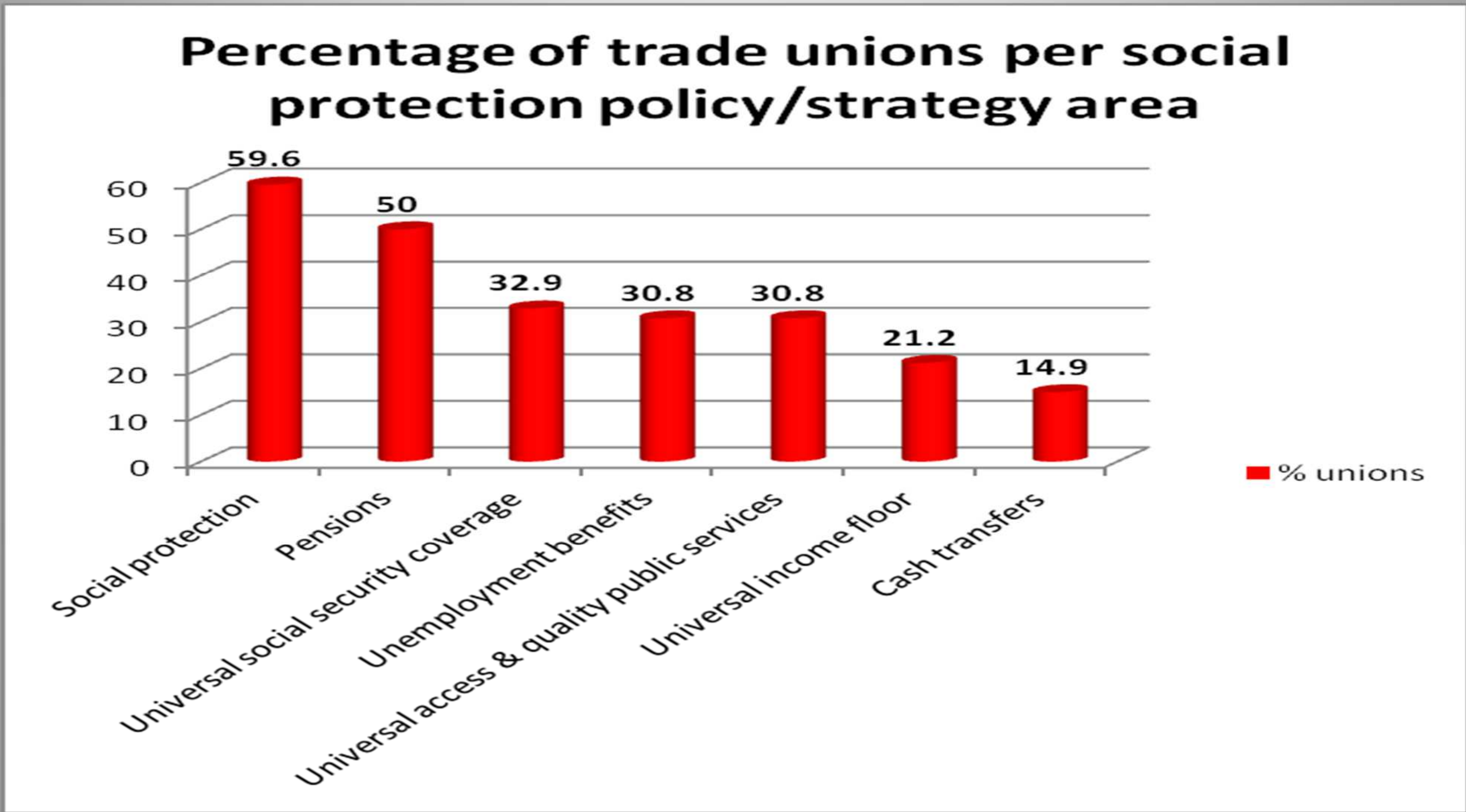
How important is economic inequality for trade unions in terms of policies & strategies?



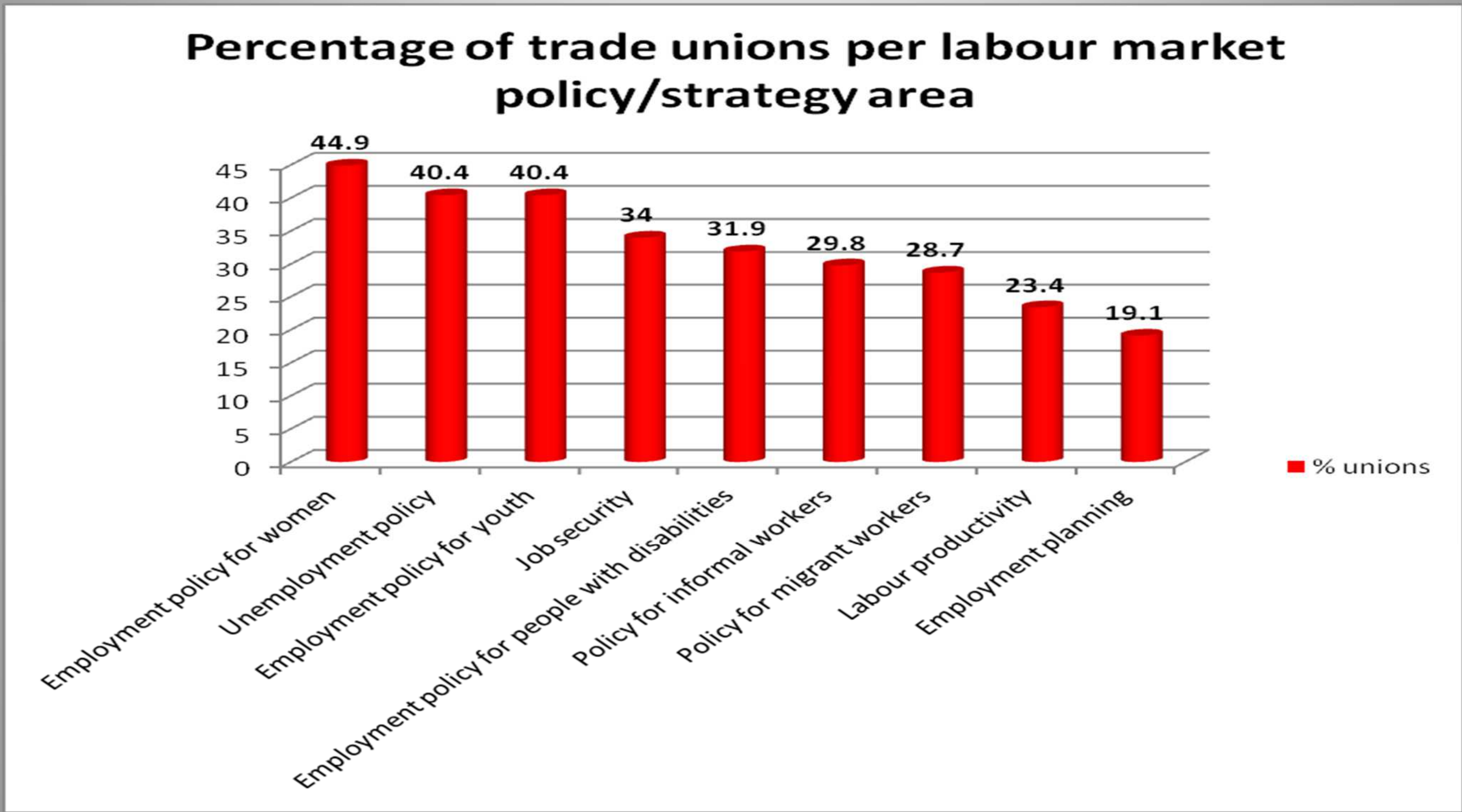
1) Wage and income policies and strategies



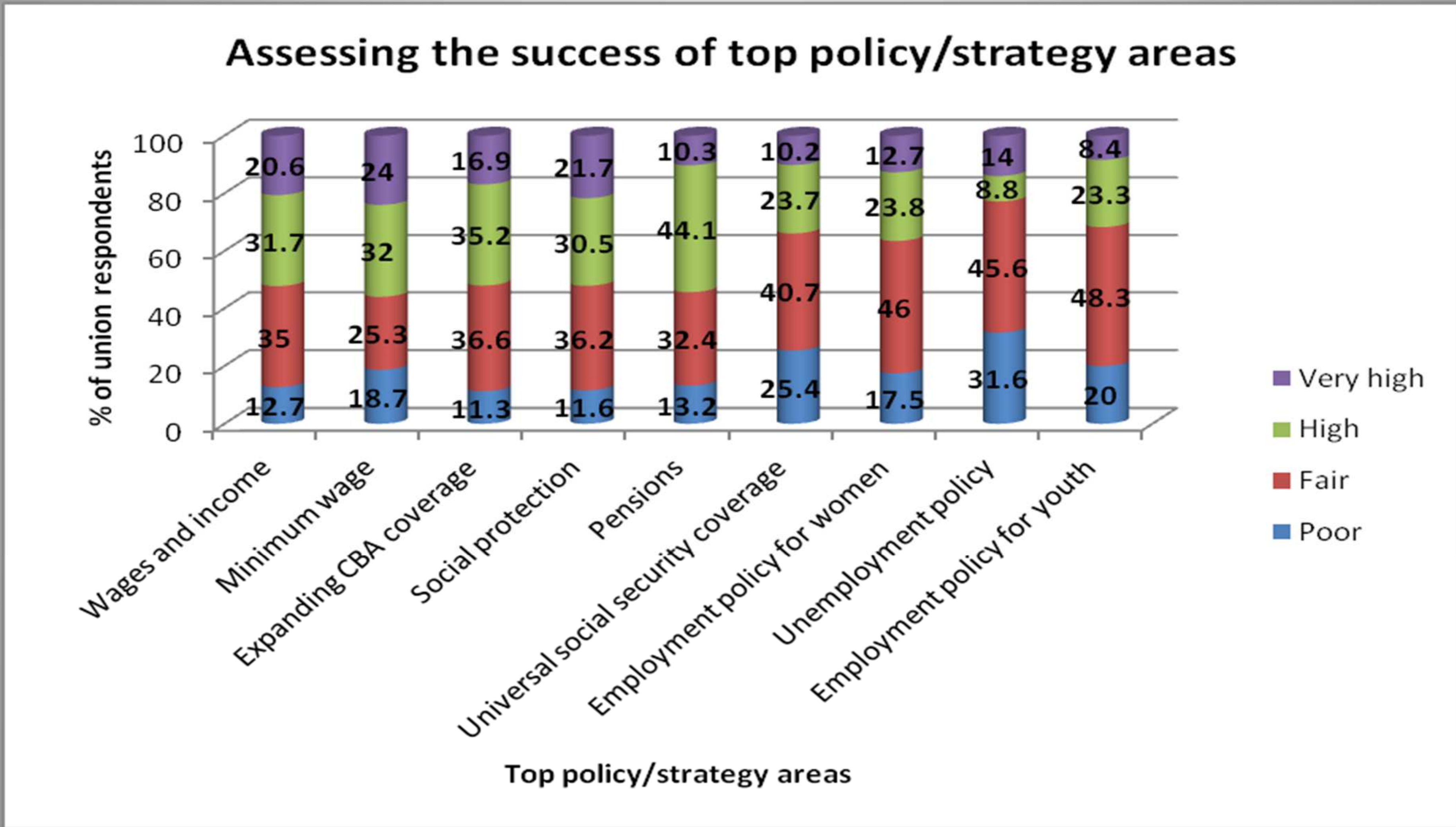
2) Social protection policies and strategies



3) Labour market policies and strategies



How do you assess the success of your union policies &strategies?



Critical factors to the success of policies & strategies

Political and economic environment

Employers' attitude

State of trade unions

Alliances: political parties, social movements (women, rural etc.) and other labour groups (informal, precarious, migrant workers etc.)

Insights and questions…

- **Is there a “gap” between the level of importance attached to EI issues and union policies and strategies?**
  – Three main policy areas dominated by: minimum wage and pensions policies
  – Rising precarious and informal work and limited use of CBA extension
  – Limited use and/or underdeveloped policy proposals: job security (34%); universal social security coverage (32%); universal access and quality public services (30.8%); universal income floor (21.2 %); cash transfers (14.9 %); policies for PWD and informal and migrant workers (31.9%, 29.8% and 28.7%)

- **What policy packages have a stronger and more direct impact on reducing inequality?**

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