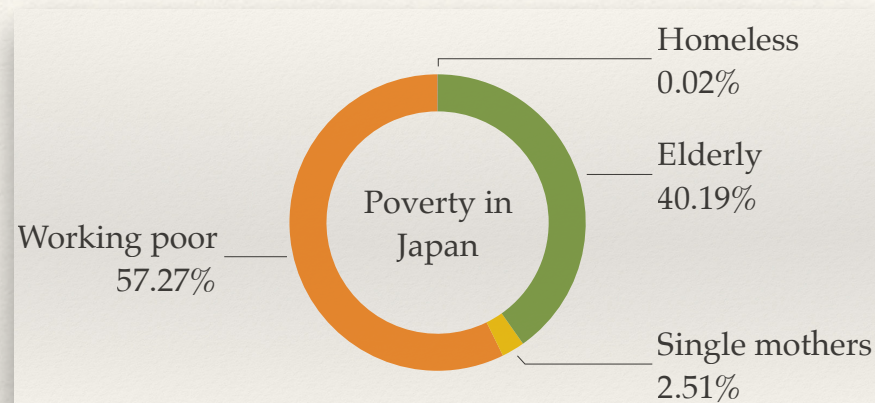


Issue: Food Security in Japan

- Relative poverty rate: 15.7% (2018)
- 20 million below poverty line
- 2 million food insecure
- No government policy
- Less than 100 pantries in Tokyo



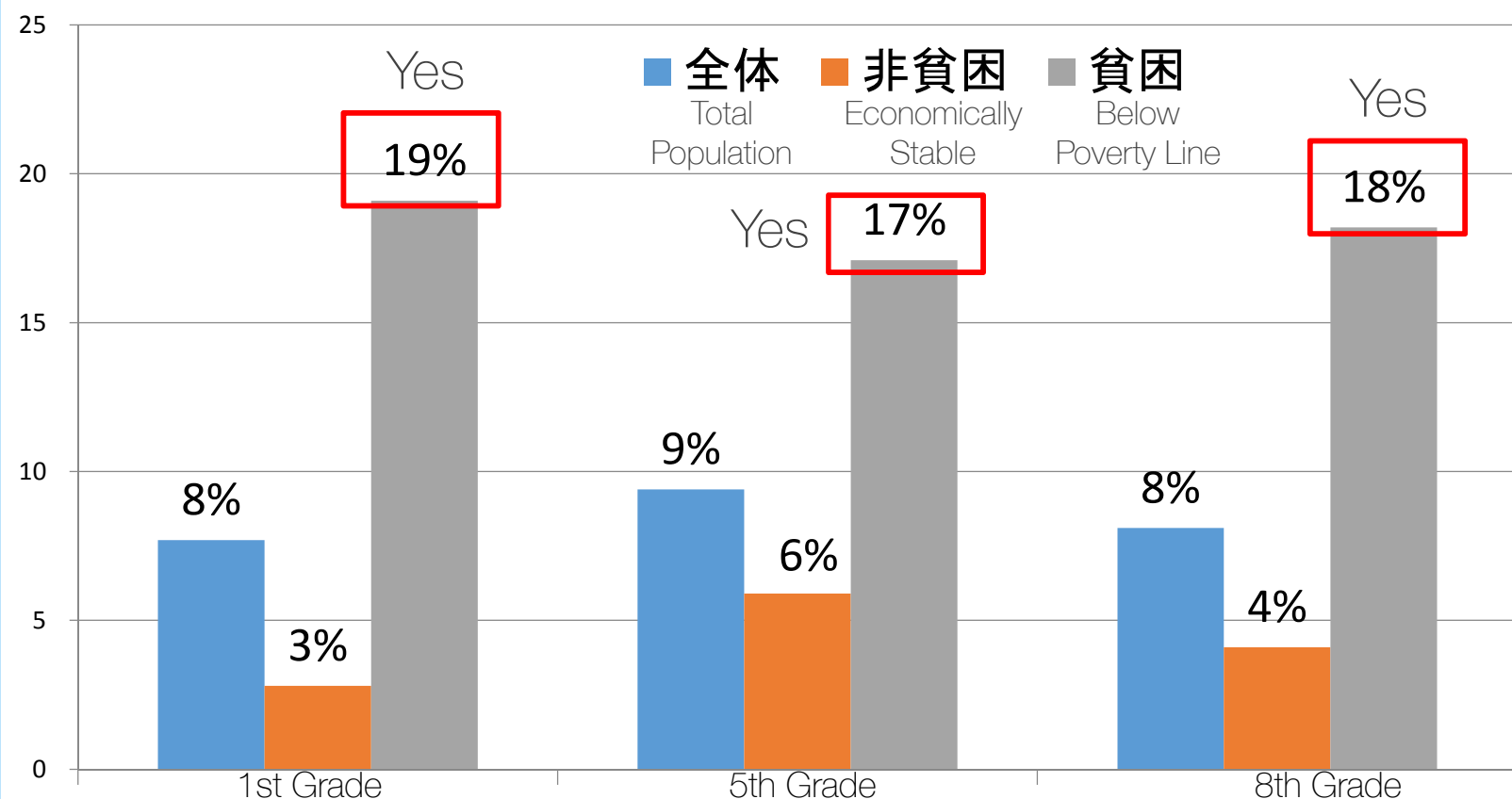
Why Food Security is Important

- The COVID19 pandemic exposed the fragility of our current food safety-net
- Poor nutrition is connected to educational outcomes, especially among young students
- Food insecure elderly and single-parents skips meals to make ends meet
- Poor nutrition contributes to poor health which leads to higher medical costs. Higher medical costs are borne by tax-payers
- In the end, when people do not have food security, we all pay

Context: Why Okinawa

- ✚ Population of Okinawa: 1,447,134 (585,632 households)
- ✚ Relative poverty rate: 31.2% (national avg.: 15.6%)
 - 451,505 people
 - 50% report experiencing food security at least once a month
- ✚ Single-parent households: 70,196
- ✚ Single-parent household poverty rate: 58.9% (national avg.: 54.6%)
 - 71,345 households, 118,278 people
- ✚ Single-parent avg. income, ¥1.55 million (national avg.: 1.88 million)
- ✚ Child poverty rate 29.9%: (national avg.: 13.9%)
- ✚ On public assistance, 24.9% of households (national avg.: 16.9%)
- ✚ Avg. income per person, ¥2.1 million (national avg.: ¥3.1 million)

2018 government survey question to Okinawa students:
“In the past 10 years has your gas, water, or electricity been turned off for non-payment due to financial difficulty?”



Food Safety-net

- Provides access to food in times of need
- Matches the values of our culture
- Engages a wide range of stakeholders

Key Stakeholders

- Government
- NPOs / faith-based orgs
- Food donors
- The community
- Recipients
- Volunteers

Second Harvest Japan

- First food bank (2002)
- Mission: “So everyone can eat”
- Goal: Create a food safety-net
- Provided 50,000 food packages in Okinawa (July 2020 – February 2022)
- Adequate staff and resources



Rationale

Our national healthcare insurance system is a form of a safety-net. It gives us peace of mind, there are many different models, and it makes our community stronger. We believe a food safety-net can act in the same manner. Just as the creation of the healthcare system in the 1960s required the involvement of the government so too will a food safety-net. To engage the government we need clear data on the positive impact of food security for needy households. Thus, we need to shift from merely distributing food each month to a large number of households to running pilot projects to gather data on the impact of food assistance. We believe successful pilot projects offers us the best hope for engaging the government. Okinawa has the highest needs in the nation and could benefit the most from a viable, sustainable food safety-net. Your support can help us pioneer a food safety-net for all of Japan.

Theory of Change

IF we run a small pilot project in one city in Okinawa to demonstrate the benefits of food security

THEN we will select 500 households for the project to receive food assistance from us

THEN those 500 households will receive food each month and save money and have more food security (peace of mind)

THEN those households can use the savings towards unmet needs such as school fees. They will also have less tension in the home.

THEN we can take lessons learned and expand to three other cities and 1,500 households

Timeline

