

UNDERSTANDING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK RESPONSE ACTIVITIES FROM DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICE'S PERSPECTIVE



¹Intan Syafinaz Saimy, ¹Noraziani Khamis, ¹Nor Hayati Ibrahim, ²Nor Zam Azihan Mohd Hassan, ¹Nur Khairah Badaruddin, ³Masitah Mohamed, ³Faridah Kusnin, ³Sukhvinder Singh Sandhu

¹Institute for Health Management
²Institute for Health Systems Research
³Klang District Health Office

NMRR-20-667-54550 (IIR)

INTRODUCTION:

Public health activities under District Health Office (DHO) played a major role in Malaysia's fight against COVID-19.

Objective:

To understand the COVID-19 outbreak response activities at DHO in combating the pandemic from a provider's perspective.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Review of literatures and verification with experts in the field were done before finalizing the framework (Figure 1). The study defined the activities by health care workers at DHO from 16 January until 12 May 2020 in line with the country's response to COVID-19 Pandemic.

RESULTS:

The framework (Figure 2) describes the overview flow of patient and community care from case notification until they were released from surveillance in keeping with the prevention and control strategies for COVID-19.

Within the respective outbreak phases (Figure 3), there were three main sub frameworks of activities (Figure 2) identified namely Patient under Investigation (PUI), Person under Surveillance (PUS) and concurrent relevant support activities. The activities continued and expanded or reorganised from phase 1 to 2 and 3.



Figure 1: Methodology Work Flow

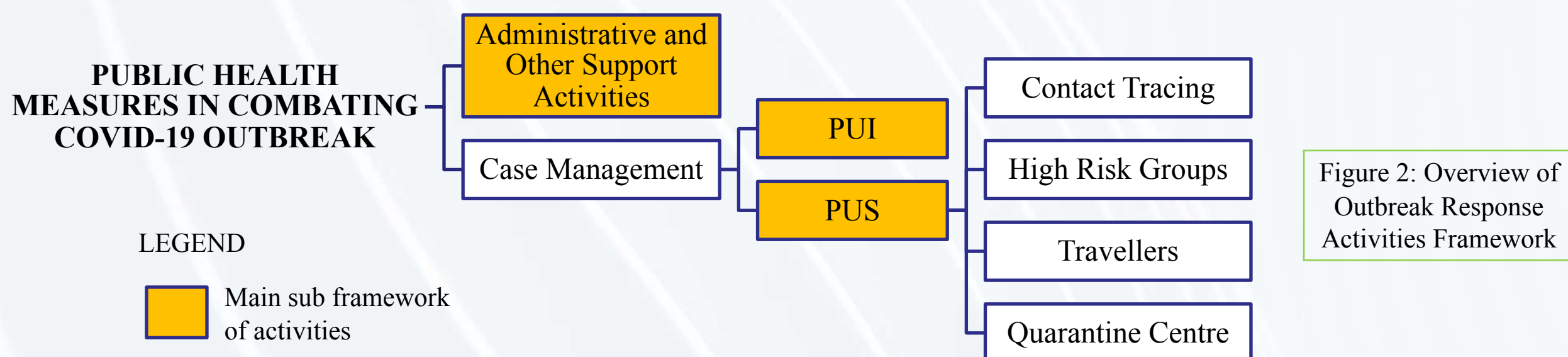


Figure 2: Overview of Outbreak Response Activities Framework

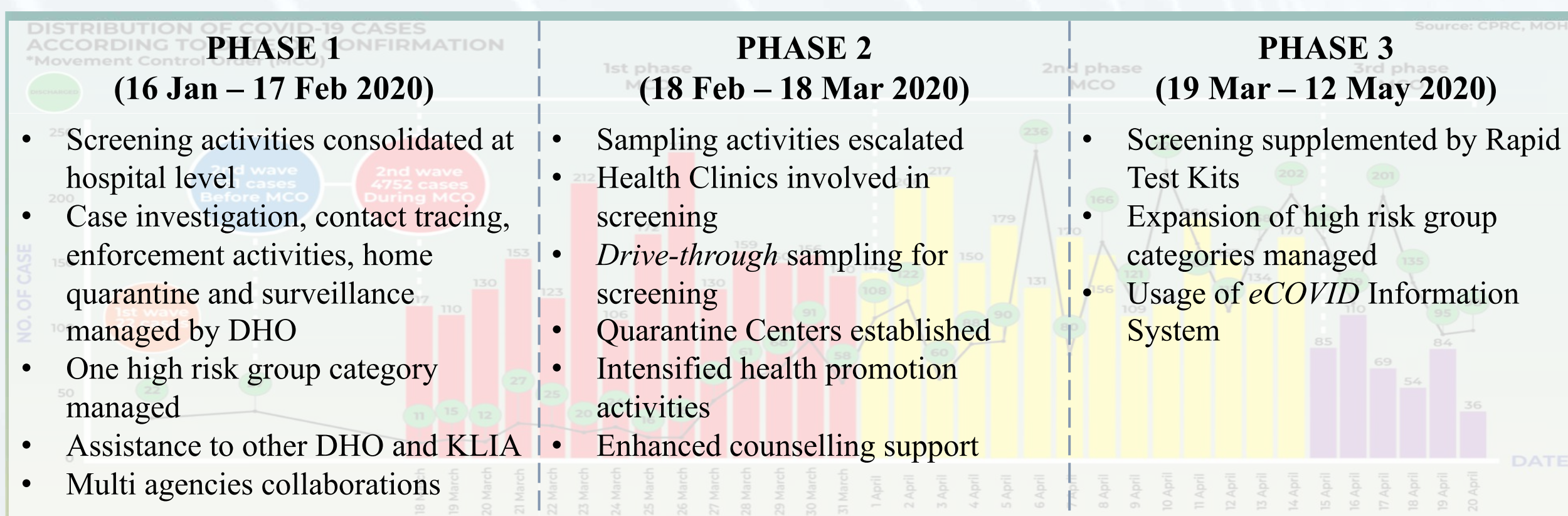


Figure 3: Distribution and Evolution of Main Activities over Different Outbreak Response Phases at DHO Level

DISCUSSION:

The increasing number of days in the pandemic translated directly to the increasing number of activities with different complexities. There were further additional sub activities catering to Standard Operating Procedures, guidelines and newly imposed policies.

The framework is useful to determine resources required by DHO and can be extended to other DHOs to show the varieties of adoption and adaptation in outbreak response. The findings allow opportunities for future research in COVID-19 disease management and valuations.

CONCLUSION:

Public health activities in combating the COVID-19 pandemic by the providers were notable. The outbreak response activities at DHO varied and evolved by phases in accordance to the local occurrences.

Acknowledgement: We thank the Director General of Health, Malaysia for the permission to present this poster. This is a collaborative initiative between Institute for Health Management, Institute for Health Systems Research and Klang District Health Office.

References:

- <http://covid-19.moh.gov.my/garis-panduan/garis-panduan-kkm>
- <http://www.jknselangor.moh.gov.my/index.php/bahagian/khidmat-kesihatan/pejabat-kesihatan-daerah>
- MS, A. U. et al., 2020. COVID-19 outbreak in Malaysia: Actions taken by the Malaysian government. *International Journal of Infectious Diseases*, Volume 97, pp. 108-116