

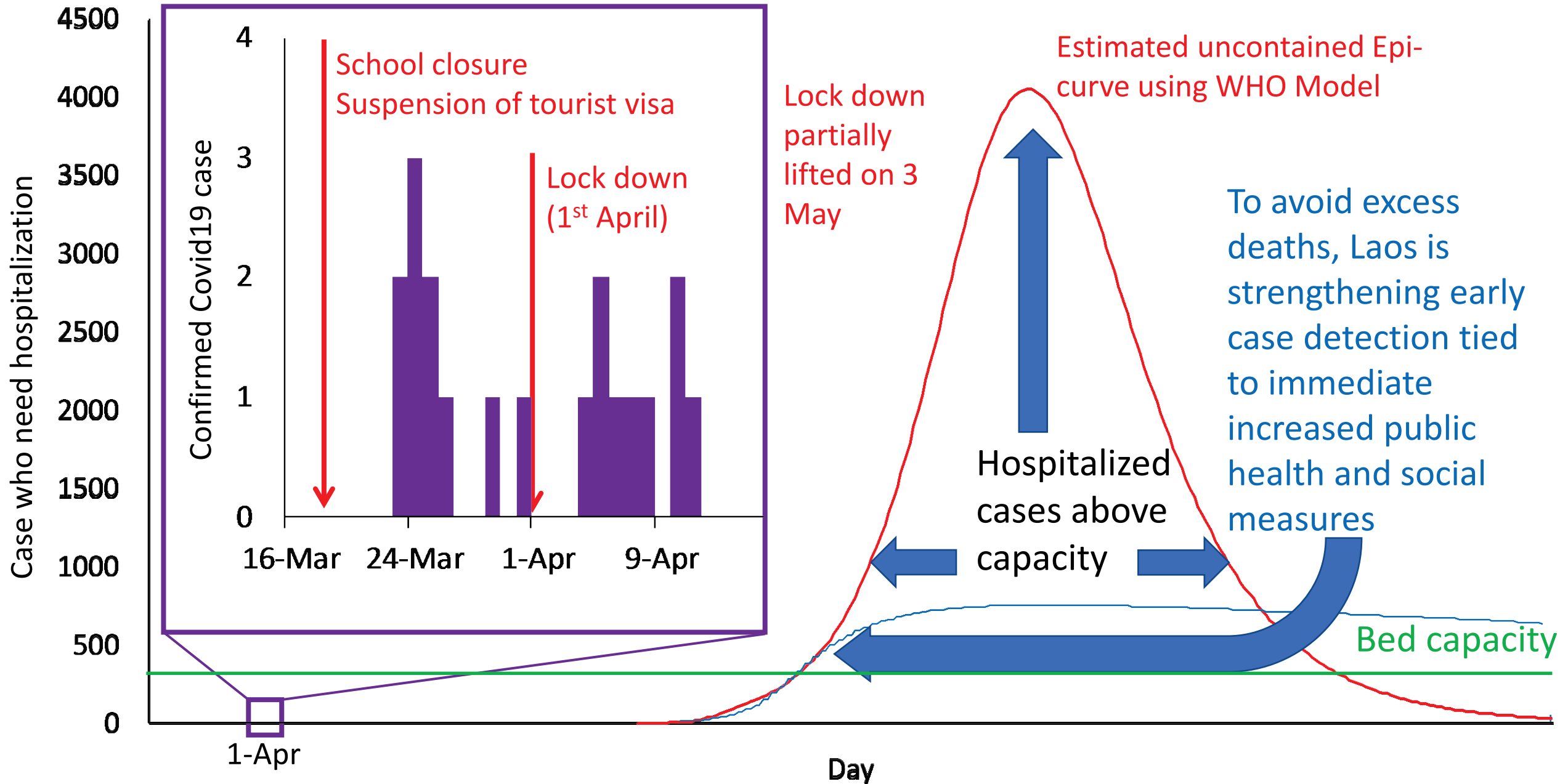
Preparing the health system to contain and mitigate COVID-19 in Lao People's Democratic Republic

WHO Global COVID-19 Information Session
14 May 2020

Outline

- Containment strategy
- Facility preparedness
- Mitigating the damage on
 - Essential health services
 - Health systems

Confirmed cases, uncontained and contained Epi-curve



Strengthening early detection: Building Lab capacity



- National Centre for Laboratory and Epidemiology (NCLE), plus
- 3 additional advanced laboratories



- PCR testing expanded to sub-national level

Strengthening early detection: Surveillance

- 2710 contract tracers nationwide
- >10,000 needed to flatten the curve



Expanding multi-source surveillance including analysis of hotline calls

- Expanding surveillance and contact monitoring capacity through health centers engaging
 - Village chiefs and committees
 - Mass organizations
 - Buddhist Fellowship
 - Workplaces and schools



Increasing capacity of hospitals to manage COVID-19:

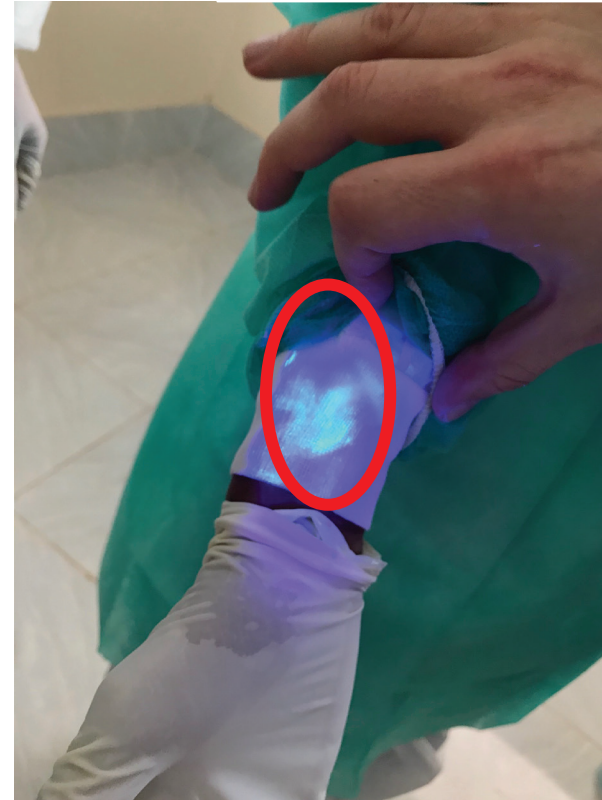
Safety / IPC/Planning: Screening, zoning, PPE, referral, sample collection, disinfection

Simulation of patient pathway



The plan worked on paper but not in practice...

Post-simulation feedback



Germs (GloGerm) spread everywhere

Increasing capacity of hospitals to manage COVID-19: Translating WHO recommendations into practical modules



Clinical management role play



PPE practice



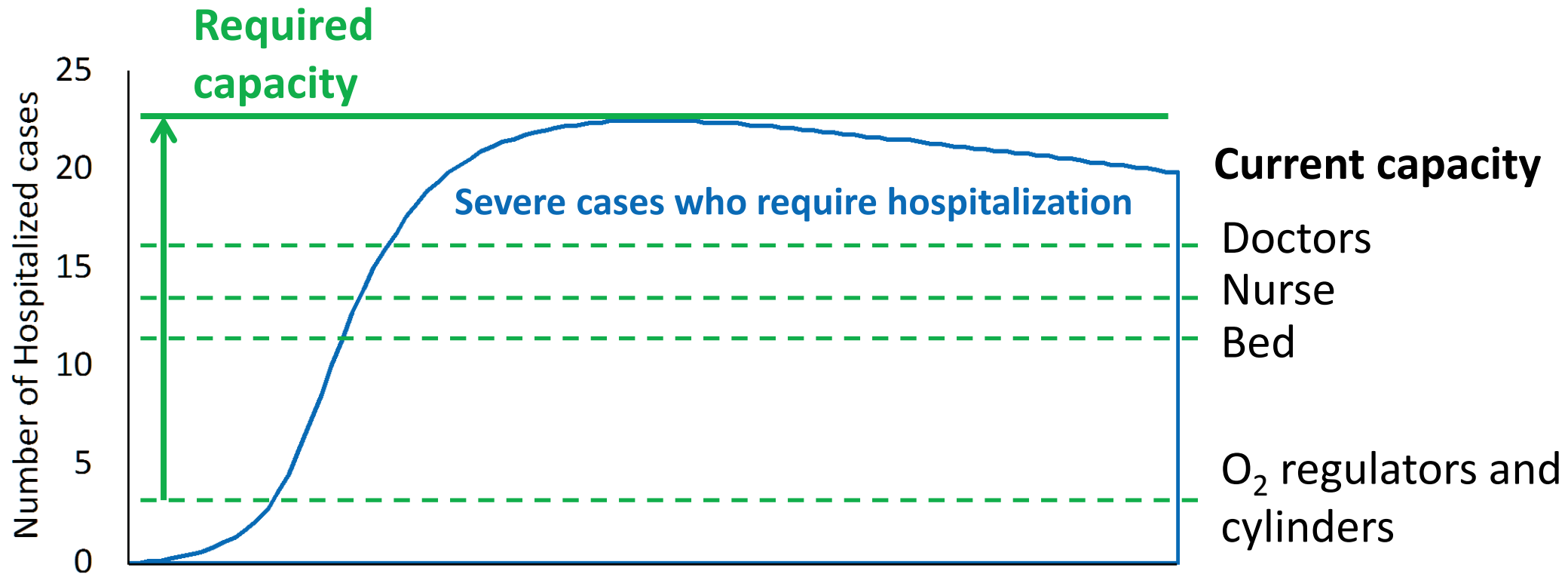
Setting up screening booths



**Helping managers to determine and plan for adequate resources, equipment and surge capacity to protect staff and patients:
Including allocation of trained staff (considering shift hours), rooms and beds**

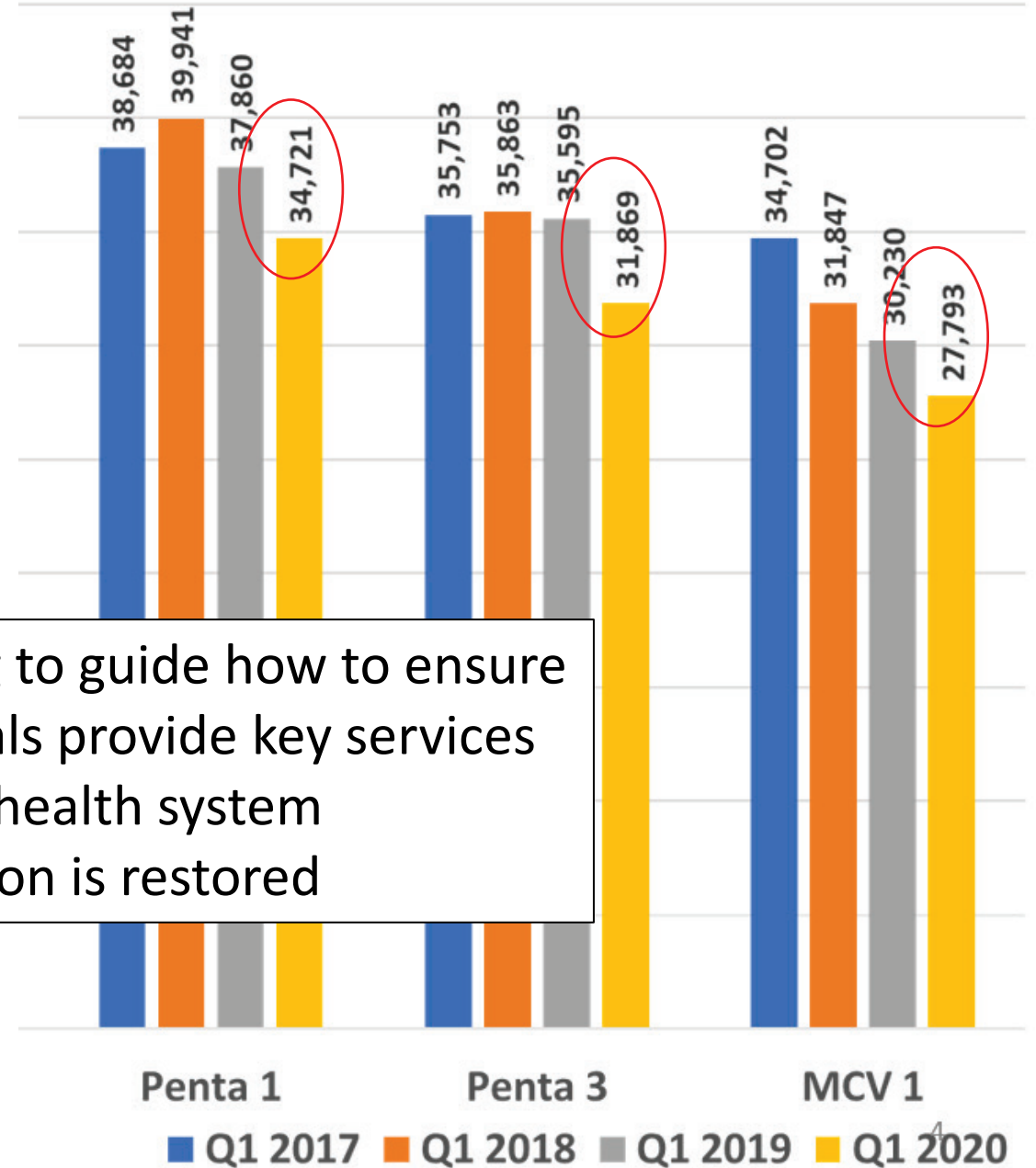
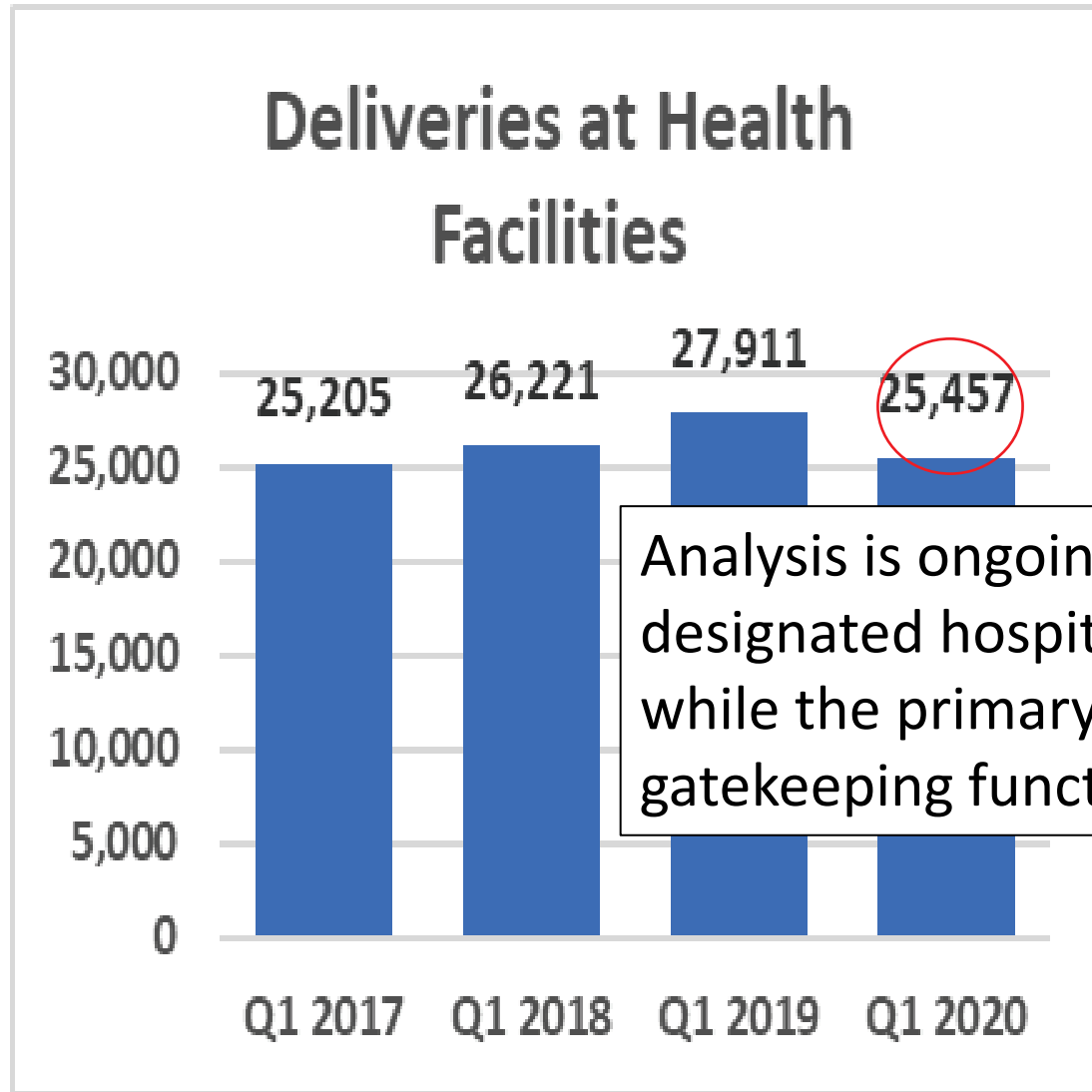
Example of Xaysomboun Province

- The training revealed increased beds and staff are needed, but
- O₂ regulators and cylinders are bigger gaps



Essential services are suffering

Child Vaccinations

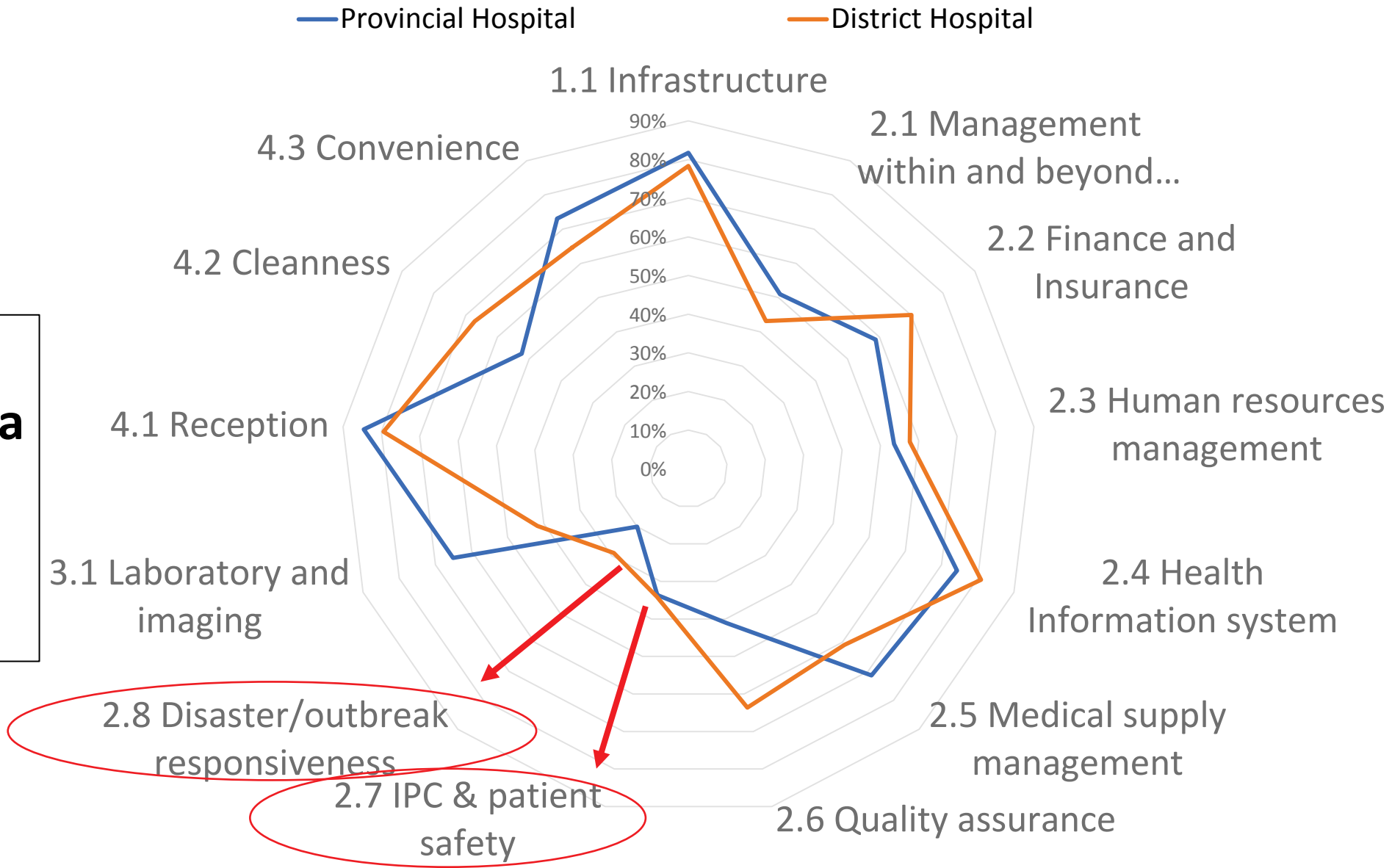


Analysis is ongoing to guide how to ensure designated hospitals provide key services while the primary health system gatekeeping function is restored

Hospital preparedness before COVID-19

Health system improvements should not be compromised because of COVID-19

Rather: we are making COVID-19 a driver for building a resilient health system



Concluding thoughts:

1. Large waves of COVID-19 can be expected
2. These early cases gave us time to
 - a. Increase surveillance and contact tracing capacity with community engagement
 - b. Complete health facility training in all provinces
 - c. Scale up to all districts and health centers in the next few weeks
 - d. Ensure isolation, quarantine centers and points of entry meet minimum standards (not presented but we have not forgotten this)
3. It is critical to consider how to transform COVID-19 to be a driver to build robust health service delivery systems