

Impact of Covid-19 on cervical cancer screening programmes in the LMICs

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World Health Organization

WHO guideline for screening and treatment of cervical pre-cancer lesions for cervical cancer prevention, second edition

hrp
research for impact

Global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer as a public health problem

August 2020 WHA Session

It was the worst of times...

WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard

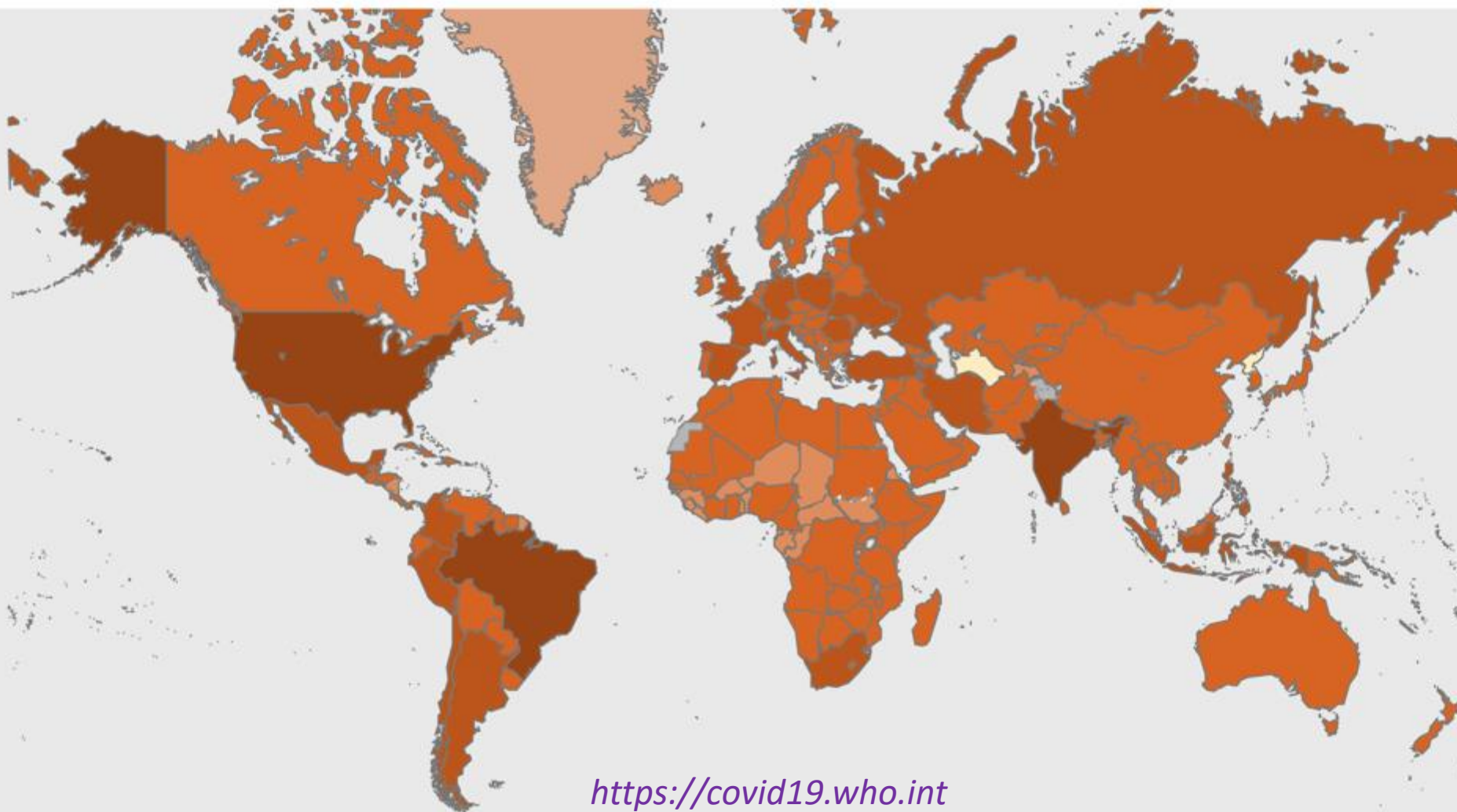
Overview

Measures

Table View

Data

More Resources



Deaths



Total



2,063

new deaths

6,213,876

cumulative deaths

505,817,953

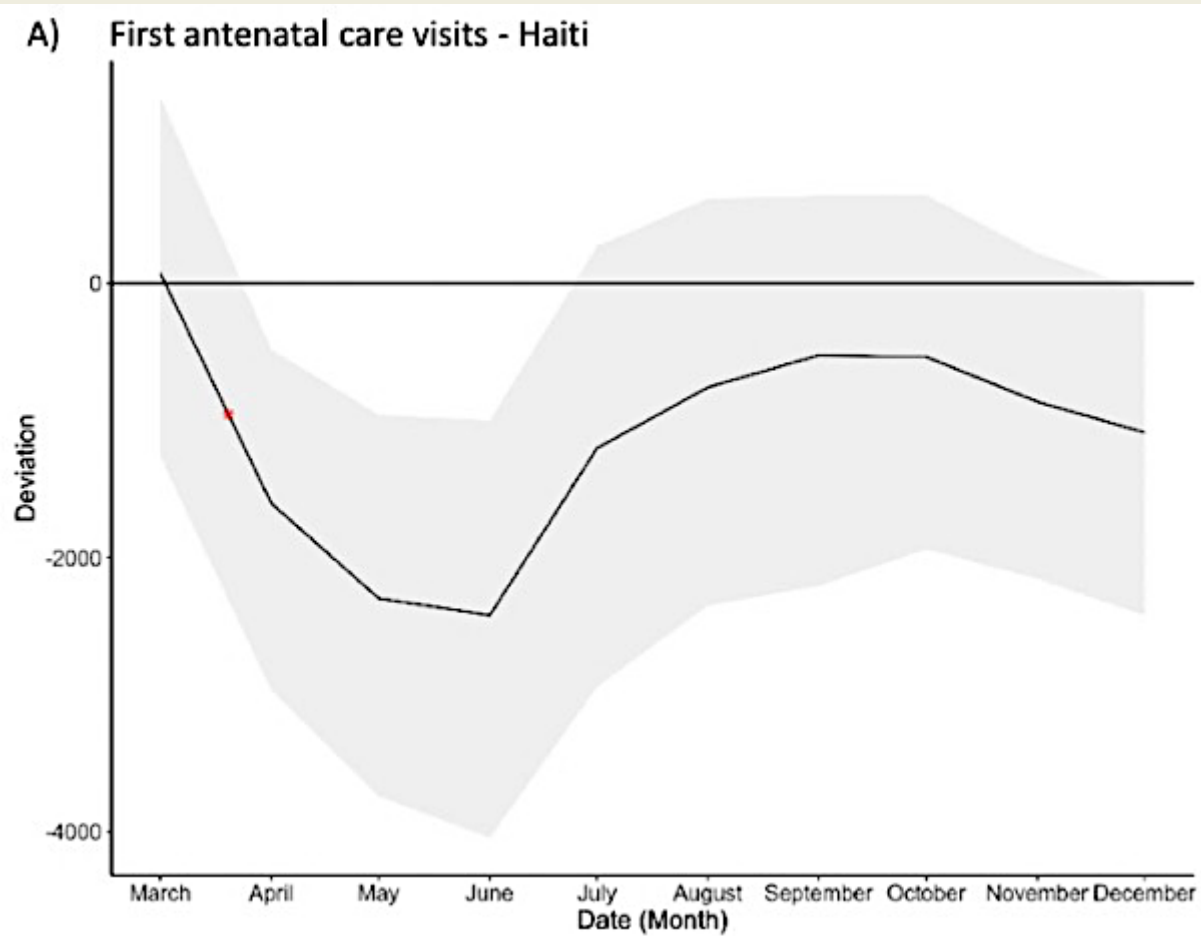
cumulative cases

<https://covid19.who.int>

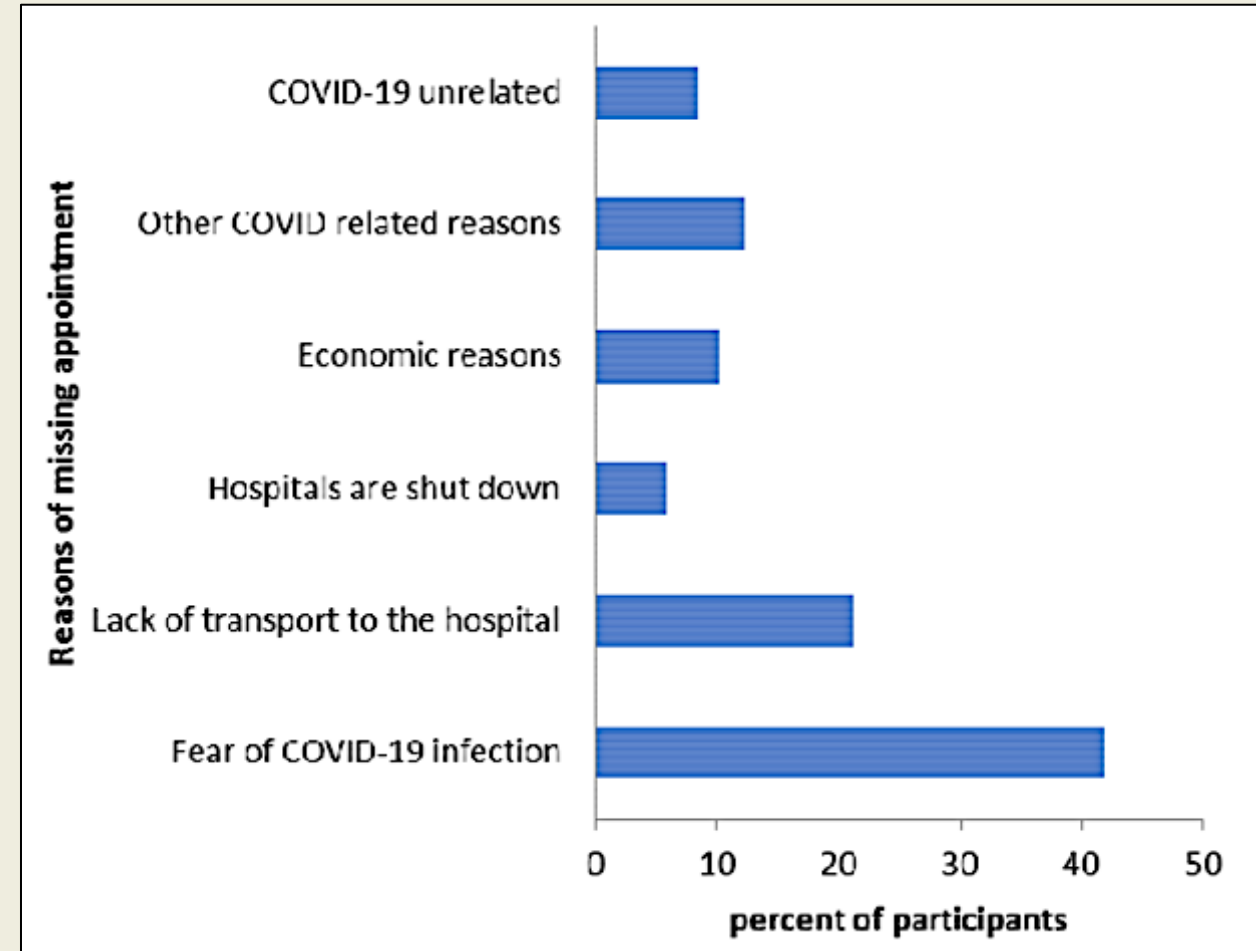
Download M

Impact of COVID on health-seeking behaviour

Time series plots showing deviations from expected counts during March–December 2020 for first ANC visits in Haiti



Reasons for non-attendance for patients with chronic diseases in Ethiopia



Impact of COVID on health professionals

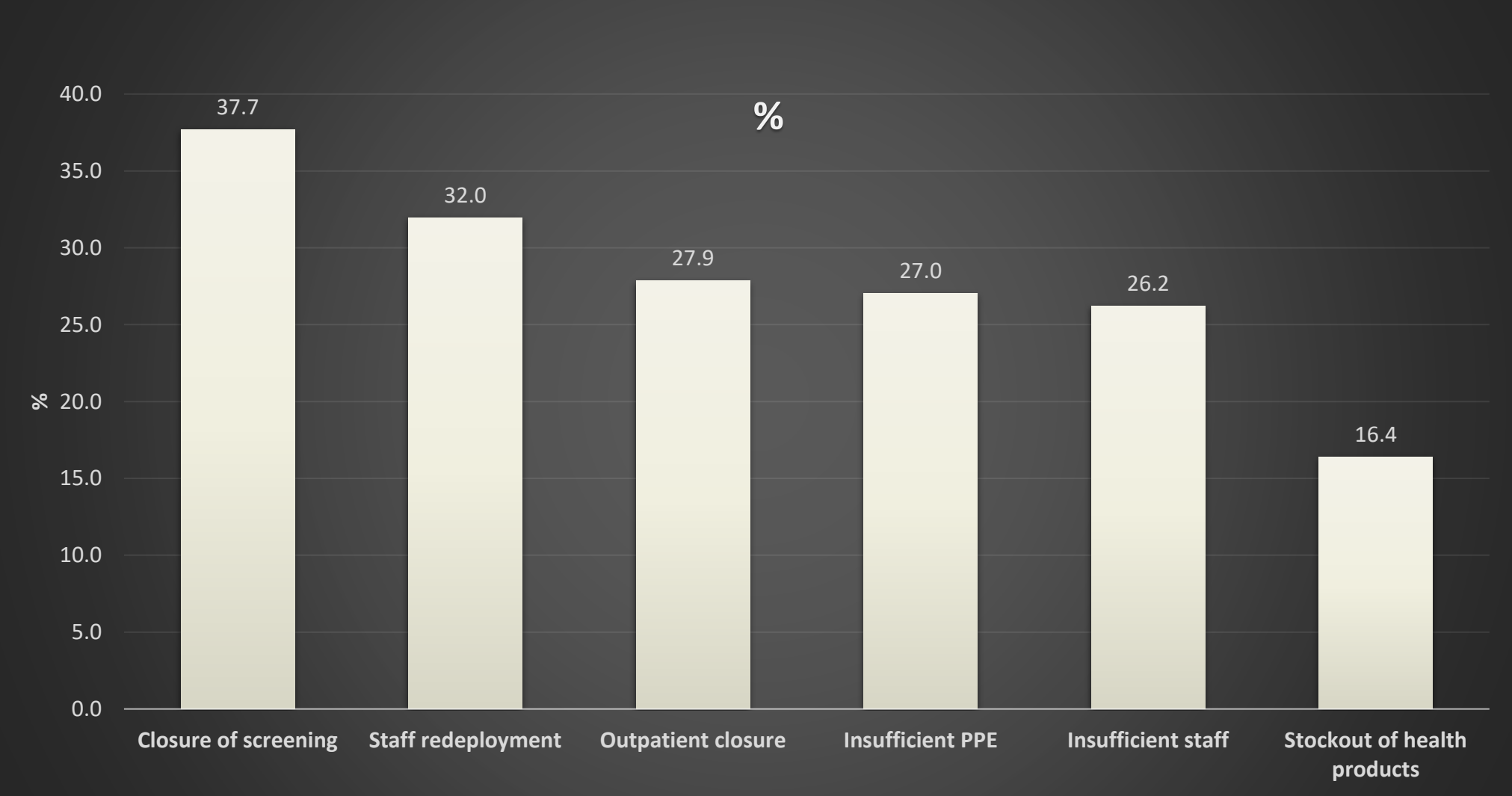
Personal

- I'm in state of fear and stress and sometimes depression too...I cannot sleep at night
- I am hesitant to hug my children
- Difficult to balance my professional work with all the house chores. Children need constant attention
- Difficult to keep the motivation high

Professional

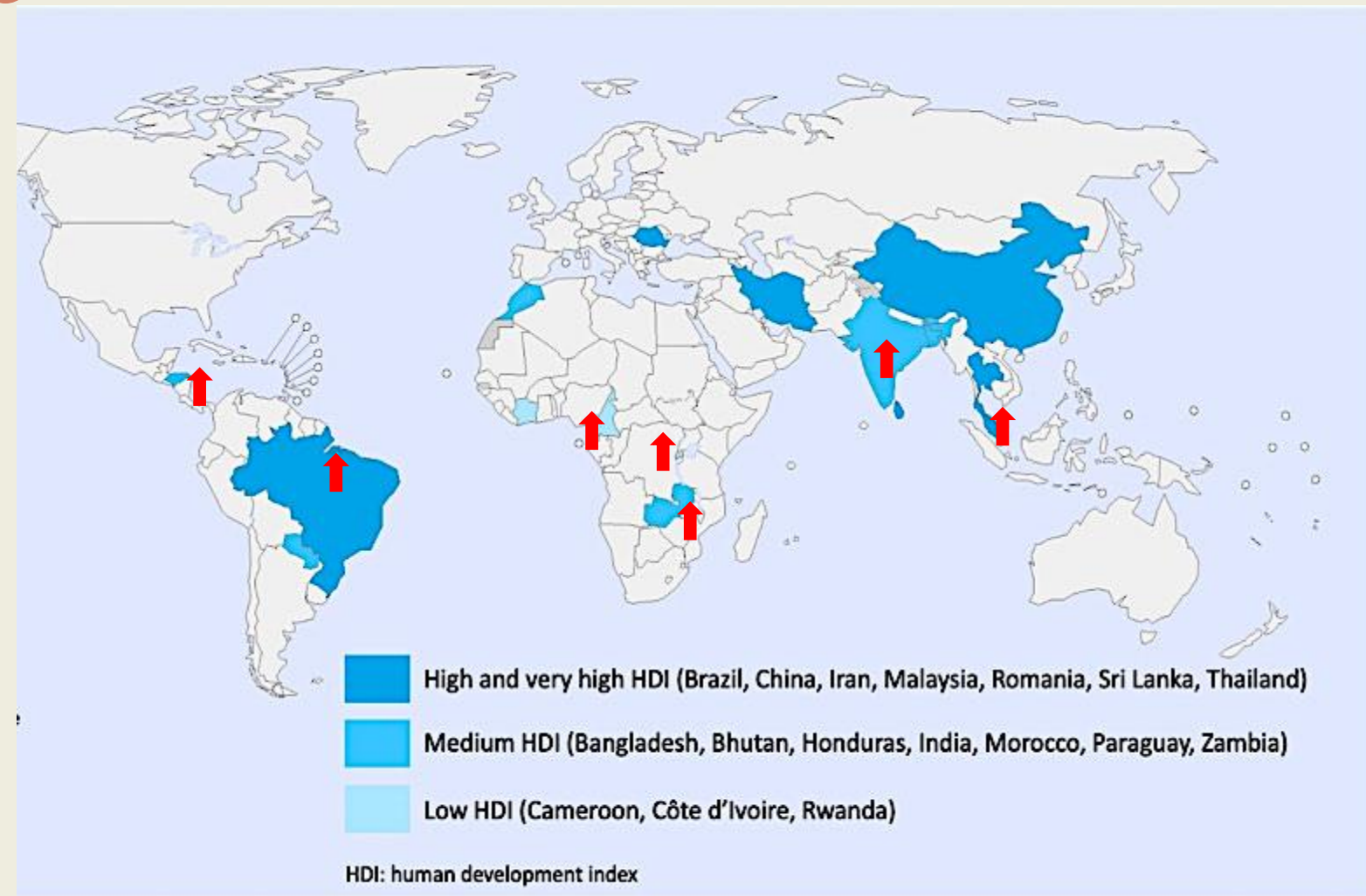
- Engaged 24/7 fighting COVID
- Demands by Hospital Administration to work with patients **without appropriate safety kits**
- **Uncertain** situation...No SOP available to manage patients
- Postponed elective cases till further order
- **Pay cut** imposed by our institution is disheartening
- My promotion is withheld
- We are **not trained** for online teaching/learning

WHO survey: 122 of 163 countries reported NCD service disruption: Health systems related causes



<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/rapid-assessment-of-service-delivery-for-ncds-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

Impact of COVID on cancer screening programmes in LMICs



- **Screening** suspended for 30+ days in all except Côte d'Ivoire, Rwanda, Brazil & Iran
- **Diagnostic** services suspended for 30+ days in 9 countries
- **Cancer treatment** services suspended for 30+ days in Bangladesh, India, China

% of program managers strongly agreed that the following factor(s) will have a major impact on cancer services?



Impact of COVID-19 on cancer care in India: a cohort study

	Number of centres that provided data	March–May, 2019, n	March–May, 2020, n	Percentage reduction*	April–May, 2019, n	April–May, 2020, n	Percentage reduction*
New patient registrations	40	112 270	51 760	54%	75 725	24 977	67%
Total outpatient clinic visits	37	634 745	340 984	46%	435 577	167 032	62%
Hospital admissions	39	88 801	56 885	36%	60 190	31 685	47%
Major surgeries	38	17 120	8 677	49%	11 563	4 245	63%
Minor surgeries	36	18 004	8 630	52%	12 229	3 677	70%
Outpatient chemotherapy	40	173 634	109 107	37%	116 584	60 154	48%
Patients undergoing external beam radiotherapy	37	51 142	39 365	23%	34 558	19 183	44%
Imaging reports (CT and MRI)	31	93 449	53 560	43%	62 763	26 961	57%
Pathology reports	32	398 373	246 616	38%	269 238	127 554	53%
Palliative care referrals	27	19 474	13 890	29%	13 694	6 671	51%

*Compared with the same period in 2019.

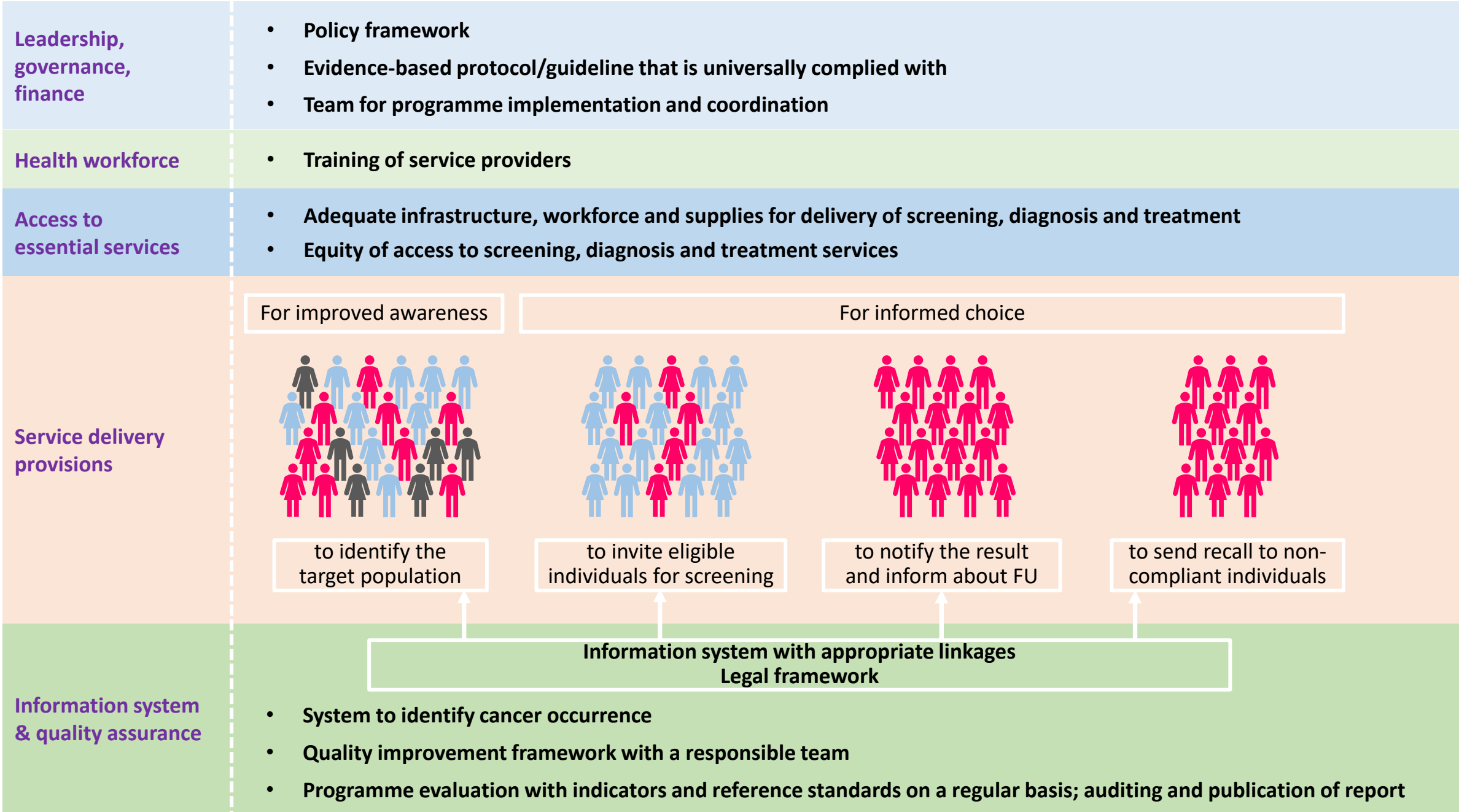
Table 2: Provision of hospital oncology services between March 1 and May 31, 2020, compared with the same period in 2019 across all participating centres

The Great Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020—7 Critical Lessons

- **Build Resilient Health Systems** all countries to have core health system capacities, including surveillance, laboratories, human resources, and risk communication
- **Focus on Equity: The Prevailing Narrative of This Age**
- **Leadership and Public Trust Are the Single Greatest Indicator of Success**
- **Defend the Integrity of Science and Public Health Agencies**
- **Invest in Biomedical Research and Development**
- **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE VERTICAL INVESTMENTS MADE DURING THE PANDEMIC**

Health system building blocks

Essential elements of organized cancer screening



Leveraging the Investment made to improve HIMS

DHIS2: The world's largest health information management system — developed through global collaboration led by UiO



National Cervical and Breast Cancer Surveillance System
Welcome to Ministry of Health & Family Welfare



Sign in

Username

Password

Powered by **DHIS 2** Developed by HISP Bangladesh; www.hispbd.org
The support team monitored by MIS DGHS & HISP Bangladesh

DHIS2 in action

DHIS2 is in use all over the world. Check out different use cases with this interactive map.

Health Information System

- National (60)
- Indian State (22)
- Pilot (13)

COVID-19 Surveillance

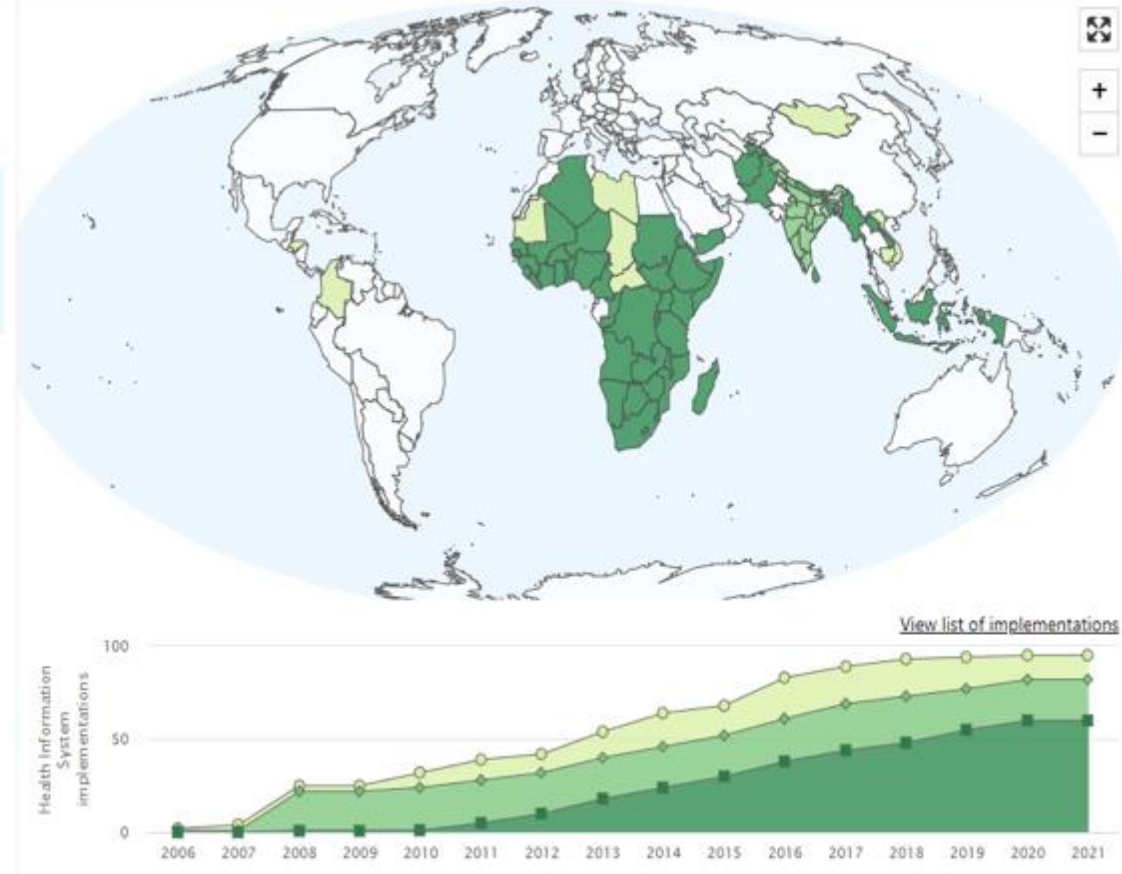
COVID-19 Vaccine

Tracker

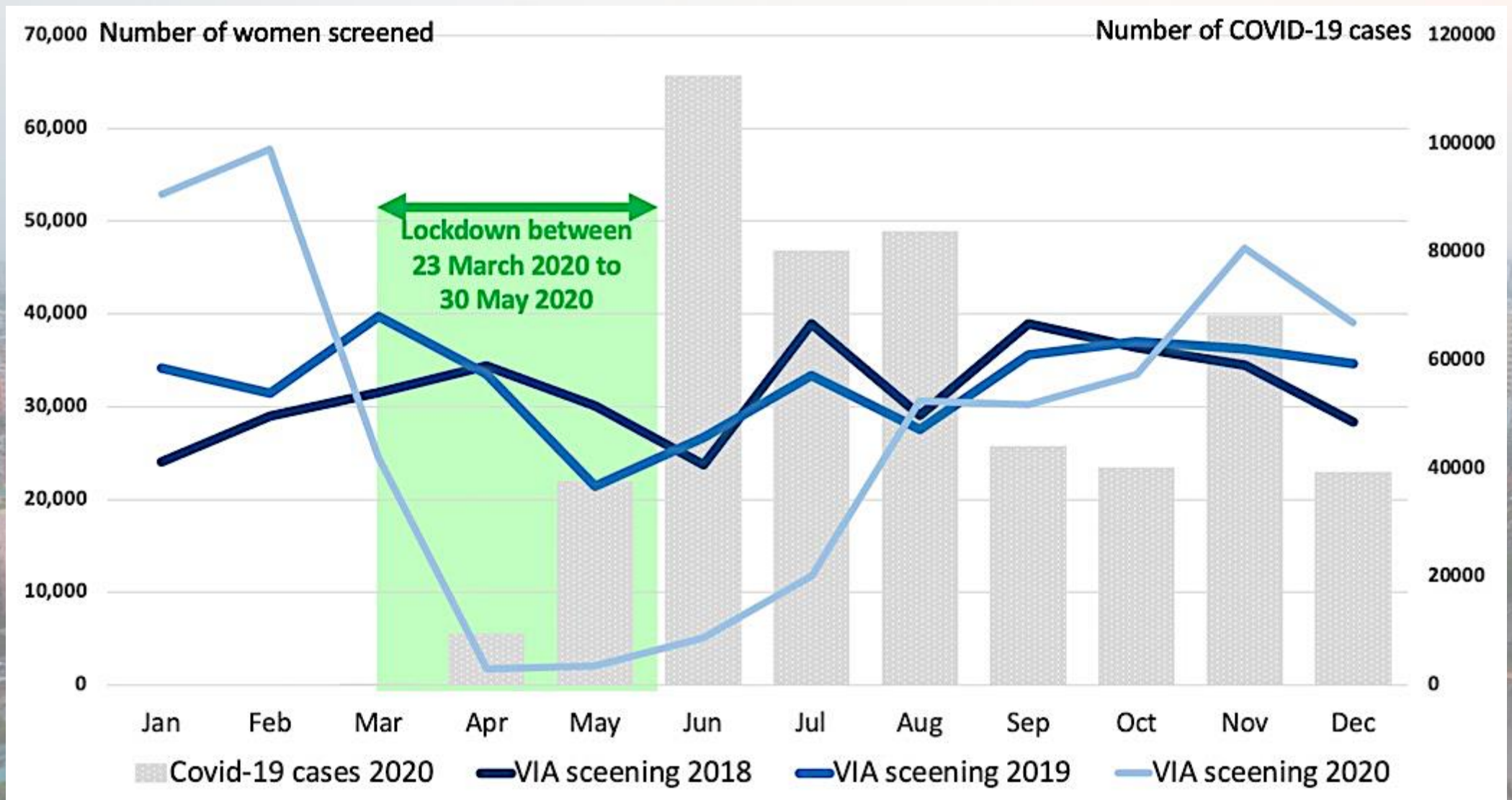
Android app

WHO Packages

Education Management Information System (EMIS)

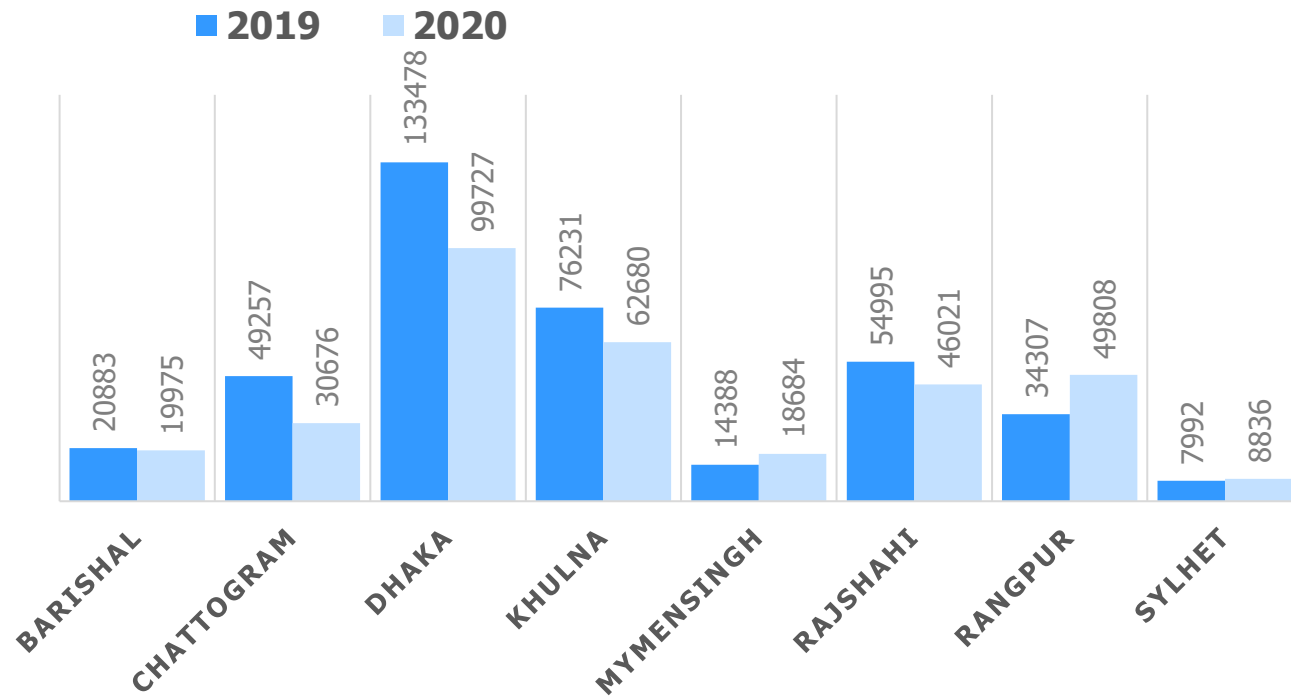


Number of women screened for cervical cancer in Bangladesh in 2018-2020

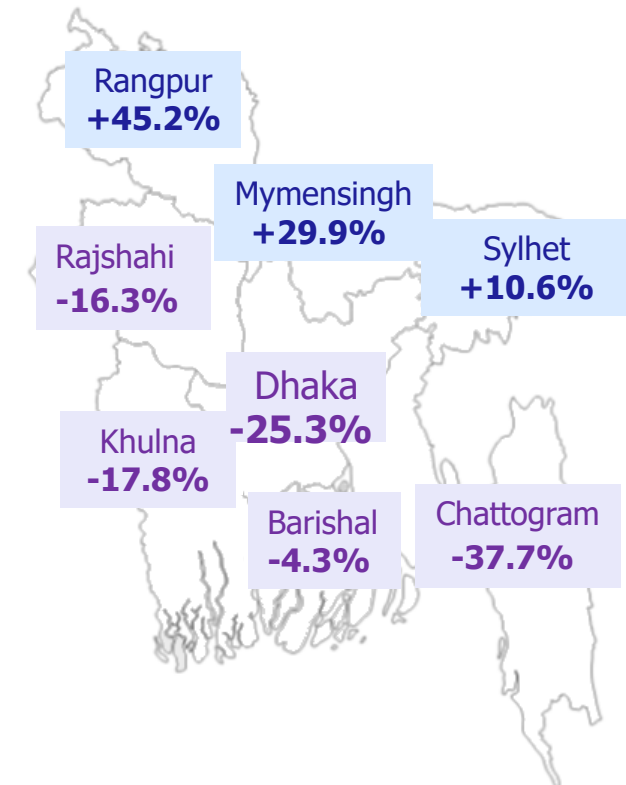


Cervical Cancer Screening - Bangladesh

'With 90% of all reported COVID-19 cases, urban areas have become the epicentre of the pandemic'
– UN report



Number of women screened for cervical cancer in Bangladesh in 2019-2020



% change in number of women screened between 2019 & 2020

New strategies to improve diagnostic and treatment services

	Adopted strategies	Countries
Modified or new strategies to ensure high compliance to further management of screen positive individuals	Deliver screening test results through an online system	China, Sri Lanka
	Introduce tele-consultation for the screen positive individuals	India, Malaysia
	Switch to ' screen and treat ' approach from existing 'screen colposcopy and treat' approach	Bangladesh, Rwanda
	Introduce ambulance services or reimburse transport charges to attend diagnostic/treatment services	Rwanda, Zambia
	Organize diagnostic services through a COVID-free hub , at least one in each city	Iran
Modified or new strategies to improve access to cancer treatment	Introduce dedicated hotlines and mobile apps for cancer patients to seek hospital appointment and advice	Bhutan; Cameroon; Malaysia
	Create teams of youth volunteers to assist and guide patients to reach oncology centers	India
	Ensure regular supply of oncology drugs even during lockdown	Bhutan, India
	Arrange free transport for cancer patients even during lockdown	Bhutan; India

Accelerating action on cervical screening in LMICs in post COVID-19 era

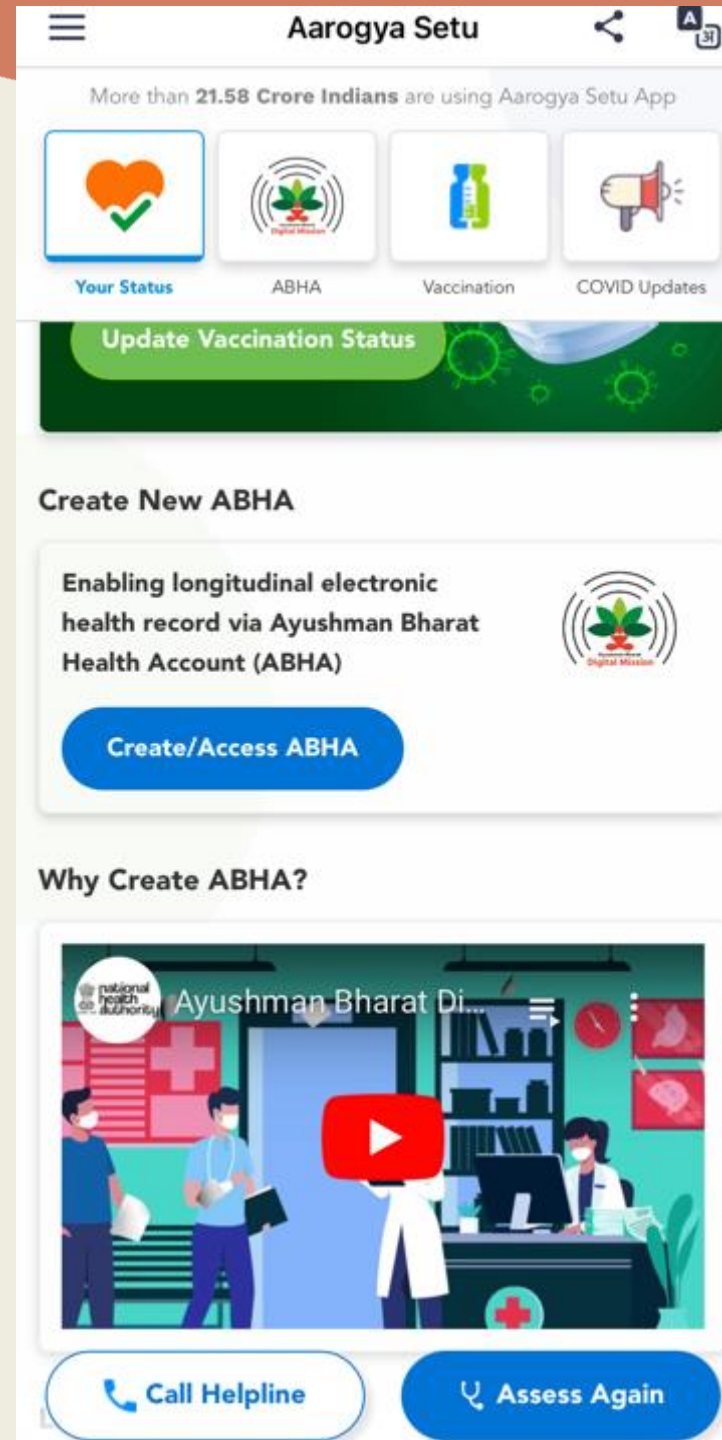
Take advantage of the improved molecular diagnostic capabilities

Many of the test platforms are common between COVID and HPV test

HPV test manufacturers are ready to have dialogues to make the test affordable

Following the recent WHO guidelines promote self-collection of HPV test every 5-10 years

Utilize the existing tele-consultation/ COVID surveillance applications for HPV sample tracking, report delivery, management appointments



“the COVID-19 pandemic might also generate opportunities for more efficient prevention, by promoting more cost-effective, evidence-based protocols, by focusing on women who are at high-risk, extending HPV testing on self-collected samples, and discouraging inefficient policies like too frequent testing..”

Lancet Public Health. 2020 Aug; 5(8): e425.