

DIRECT COSTS FOR COVID-19 PERSON UNDER SURVEILLANCE TO A DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICE - A PROVIDER'S PERSPECTIVE

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INTRODUCTION

Sufficient public funding at organizational levels that reaches the ground is a major factor towards comprehensive response to a pandemic and this was made evident globally especially during the recent COVID-19 pandemic. Hence knowing the costs incurred to any facility while managing a disease outbreak is quite pertinent for good outbreak management and preparedness [1]. Thus, this presentation estimated the costs of public health measures incurred by a district health office (DHO) under the Ministry of Health Malaysia specifically for the COVID-19 Person Under Surveillance (PUS) cases, a provider's perspective. Part of a larger study, this presentation focuses only on PUS which is defined as asymptomatic individuals who are at risk such as travelers arriving in Malaysia from overseas who are subjected to the mandatory quarantine requirement within an allocated time frame [2].

METHODOLOGY

- Cross sectional study design analyzing data from Phase 1 to 3 of Malaysia's first Movement Control Order Phases in year 2020 from Klang DHO
- Detailed work process of the public health activities as documented in an earlier study [3] resulting in the development of the data collection sheets
- Activities and expenses related to COVID-19 patients were collected
- All identified PUSs were listed and mapped based on activities. Then cost of the resources needed to conduct the activity was estimated
- Cost data was grouped according to the different cost categories; Human Resource (HR) and Others. HR cost resulted in a range due to time estimation of activities from key experts
- Micro costing approach adopted. Each of the resources for each activity was quantified based on price in 2020 in Malaysian Ringgit (RM)

RESULTS

Total PUS costs between
RM 306,353.63 - RM 603,956.68
71 - 91% are HR costs

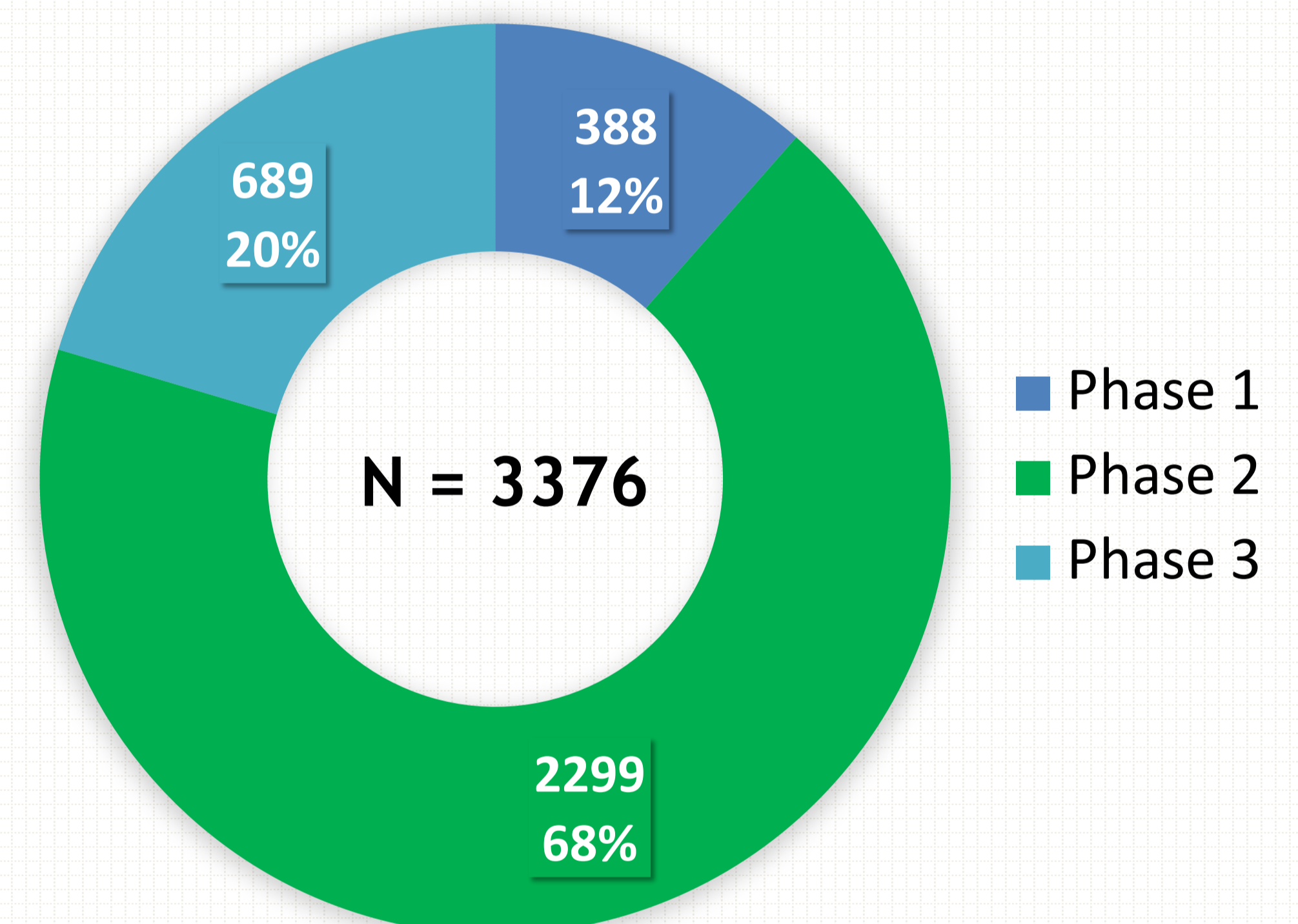


Figure 1: No. of PUS

Figure 2: Costs for HR and Others categories

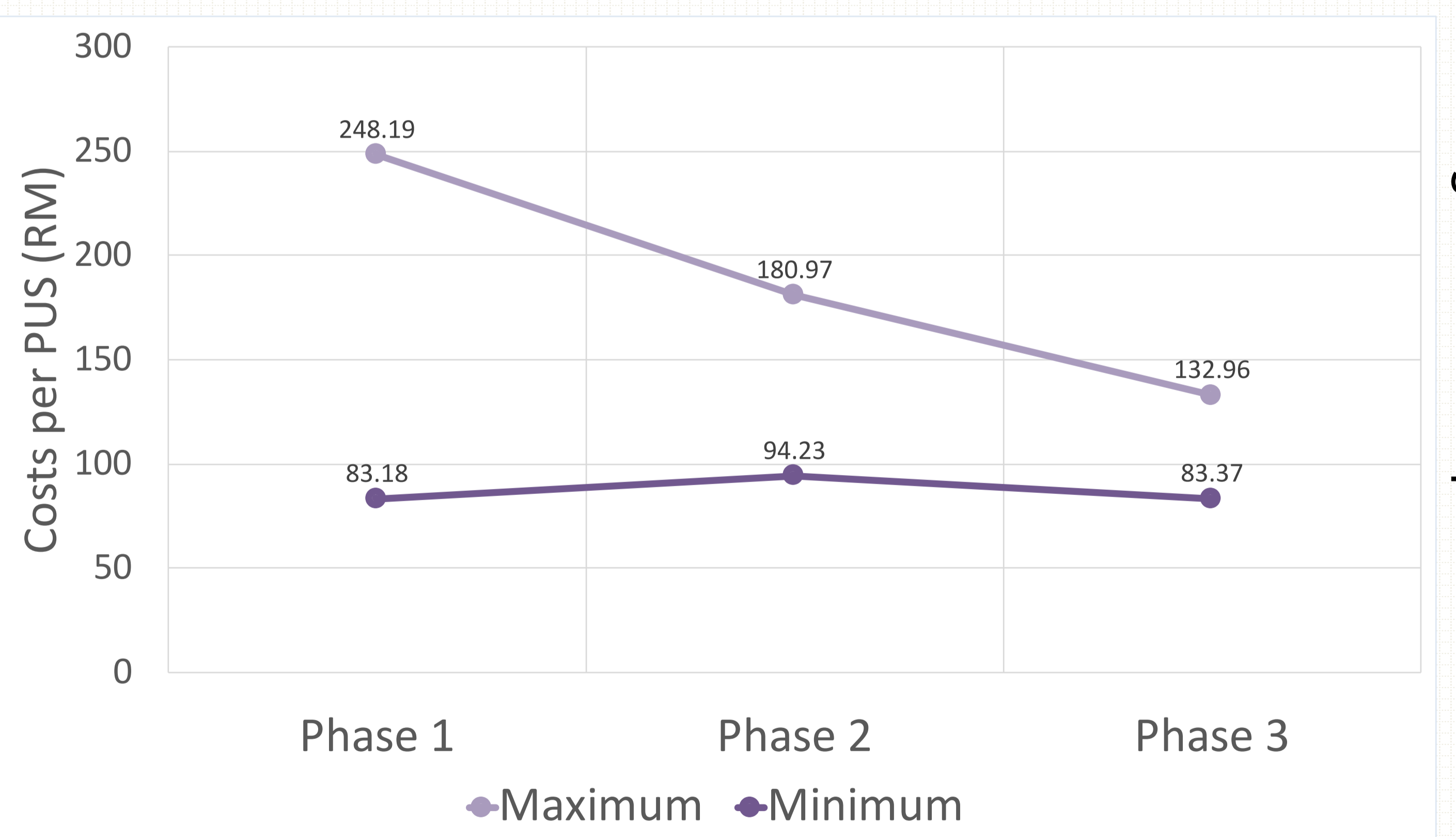
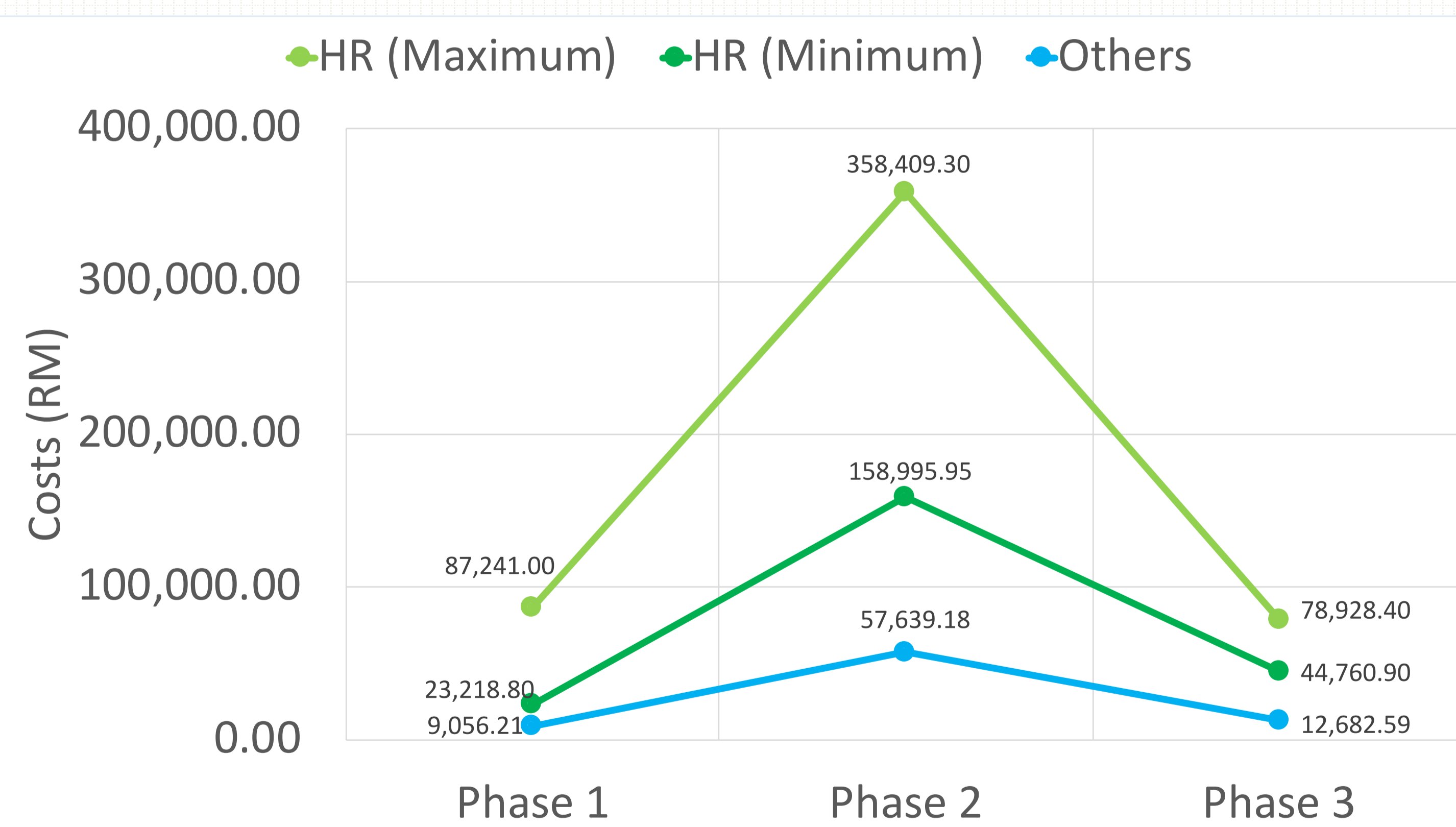


Figure 3: Costs per PUS

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

The cost trend was consistent with number of cases managed by DHO (Figures 1 and 2). Costs per PUS showed down going trend and a smaller range in Phase 3 compared to prior phases (Figure 3) suggesting a better management of PUS. Total management cost for a DHO includes the costs of Patient Under Investigation and from other supporting activities. Direct cost for PUS incurred by a DHO as generated is useful for managers planning their resources for prevention and control of infectious disease outbreaks.

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