

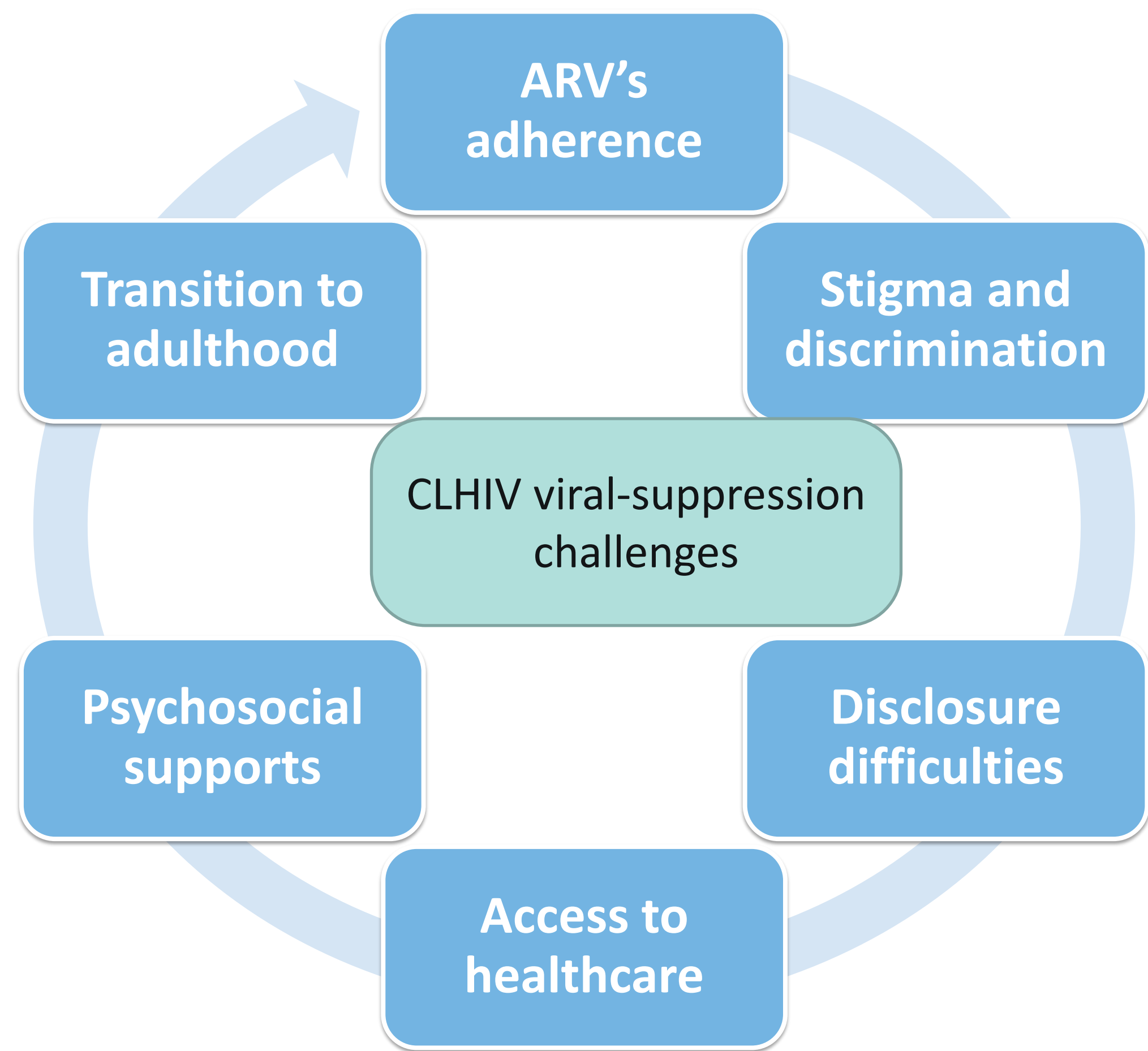
Home visits and the triple attachment approach for enhancing viral load suppression rate among children living with HIV in Rukwa Region, Tanzania



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BACKGROUND / INTRODUCTION



To enhance the overall care given to pediatric clients and achieve a viral load suppression rate among pediatric clients < 15 years, HJFMRI implemented home visits and a **triple attachment approach**.

METHODS

- 142 pediatric clients with a high viral load (> 1000 copies/mL) was attached to a
 - health care provider
 - treatment Advocates / Community healthcare workers for follow-up
 - client's treatment supporter.
- A home visit once a month was conducted at a parent/guardian pre-approved place and time.
- Assessment of each pediatric client's unique needs was done, proper support given with integration of services.



A healthcare provider conducting a physical assessment of a pediatric client supported by HJFMRI through a triple attachment approach during the home follow-up visits in Rukwa Region, Tanzania. With her is the client's parent and a Community health worker.

RESULTS

- 138 pediatric clients achieved viral load suppression
- The suppression rate for pediatric clients remarkably improved from 88% in September 2022 to 95% by June 2023.
- Major challenges observed and addressed during the visits were:
 - Inept treatment supporter oversight of adherence,
 - Numerous caregivers who weren't sufficiently concerned or aware of the child's status,
 - HIV-related stigma displayed by other family members,
 - Partial disclosure to some of the clients,
 - Poor living conditions that affect one's ability to access food and their level of adherence.



Two supported pediatric clients who achieved viral load suppression poses for a group photos with their guardian and the Community Health workers in Rukwa Region, Tanzania.

CONCLUSION

- Home visits and triple attachment showed a very positive impact in pediatrics care and treatment.
- Every pediatric client is unique with different needs and challenges related to the care and treatment of HIV.
- Differentiated and person-centered care is mandatory for improving viral load suppression among pediatrics.

