

The Synergetic Effect of Teen Clubs Towards Pediatric HIV Viral Load Suppression in Southern Zone of Tanzania: *Case Study from Morogoro Region*

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Background

HIV Viral Suppression remains a pivotal game changer for achieving HIV Epidemic Control. On the other hand, achieving optimal ART adherence and viral suppression outcomes remain a major challenge among pediatric population.

Methods

USAID Afya Yangu Southern Program is implementing 60 teen clubs and 323 Saturday clinics with 1,734 and 8,280 beneficiaries respectively. Through these clinics adherence to medication has improved and subsequently the HIV Viral Load suppression among pediatric population.

Eligibility criteria:

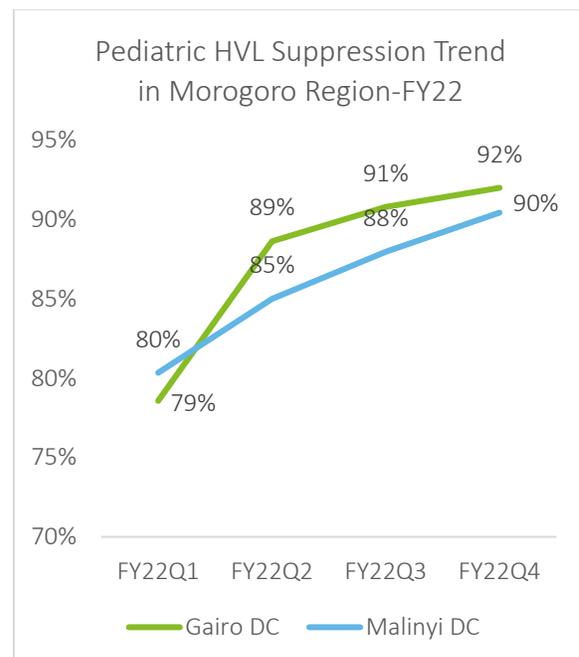
- Age: 0-19 years of age in and out of school children
- On ART medication

Activities conducted:

- Psychological support and medical treatment
- Adolescent peers as role models to adherence to ART
- Disclosure counselling to parents/care givers and children
- Round trip fare to clinic
- MMD to eligible children
- Games and sports

Results

During FY22, HVL Suppression among peds improved from 79% to 92% in Gairo DC (n=92) and from 80% to 90% in Malinyi DC (n=104) in Morogoro region.



Conclusion

Teen clubs help in improving attendance to clinic and in turn adherence to ART which led to notable improvement in Viral Load Suppression. This best practice will be scaled up in other health facilities within Morogoro Region as well as the rest of AYS supported regions.