

Background

- According to UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets, the third 90 stipulates that **90%** of all people receiving ART should be **virally suppressed**.
- Atuhura et al. 2017 demonstrated that the **community score card (CSC)** effectively enables communities to advocate for such improvement.
- CSC findings in Uganda have revealed **community demand for adherence clubs** to support viral load (VL) suppression among HIV-positive men who have sex with men (MSM).

Description

- A retrospective observational evaluation of 2017-2018 Spectrum data across 8 facilities representing 3 regions reported that, of the 126 MSM enrolled on ART, **only 15 (11.9%) had VL suppression**.
- Between January 2018 to March 2019, clinicians screened 145 MSM, of whom **71 (49.0%) were eligible** (VL suppression at screening, on ART for ≥ 1 year) **to join adherence clubs**.
- **10 adherence clubs** (each consisting of 4 to 11 participants) **were formed** across the country.
- Each club's healthcare workers (HCWs) received gender and sexual diversity training, performed medical check-ups, refilled ART, and offered HIV care counseling.
- **Participants were followed monthly** from January 2018 through November 2019.
- The last VL test in November 2019 reported **VL suppression among these 71 MSM was 100%**.

Community Score Card

Demand for Adherence Clubs

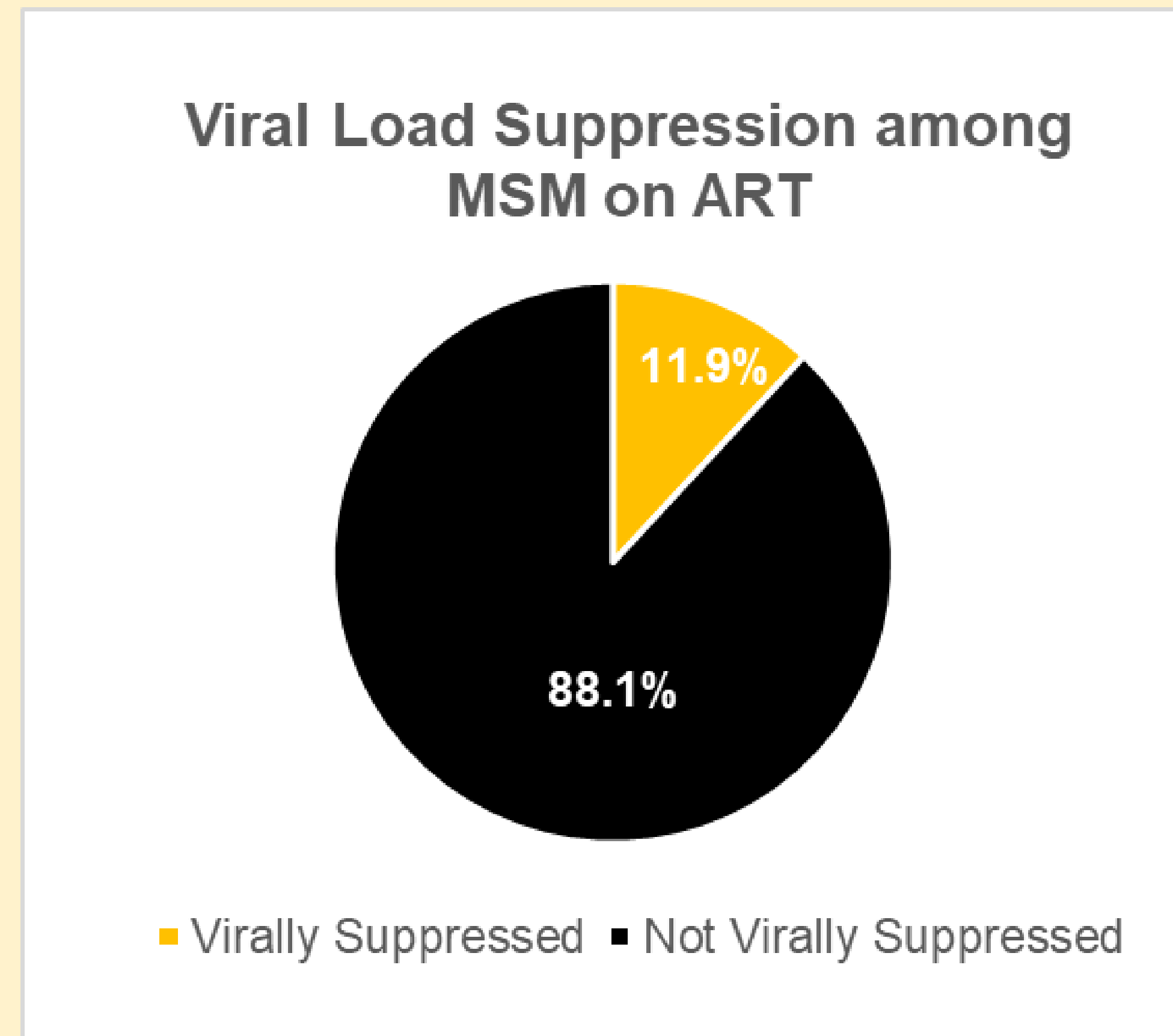


Figure 1. Viral load suppression among MSM on ART using Spectrum data 2017-2018, (N=125)

Adherence Club Features



Figure 2. Features included in 10 adherence clubs across Uganda

100% VLS
Among MSM in Adherence Clubs

Lessons Learned

- To our knowledge, this is the **first time** that **adherence clubs** have been demonstrated to enhance treatment compliance and retention in care among **MSM in Uganda**.
- HIV-positive clients reported overwhelming support for these adherence clubs because accompanying **healthcare workers were friendly and compassionate**.
- Members agreed that **monthly gatherings** were an optimal frequency.
- Clients reported increase in general confidence, **ability to speak openly about their HIV status**, and **desire to mobilize their HIV-positive peers**.
- Overall, **communities have reported greater ownership** and investment into reaching HIV epidemic control.

Next Steps

- **ART adherence clubs will continue to expand** for MSM clients and will be introduced to other KP groups.
- Successes with adherence clubs and other community engagement activities (e.g., CSC) continue to underscore the importance of recognizing the **community as a critical stakeholder in the fight against HIV**.