## The Brave Journey of Venance

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In Tanzania, children with HIV face challenges in understanding their condition and the significance of consistently following their antiretroviral therapy (ART). Many children, especially those younger than 16 years old have difficulty grasping the complex terminology related to HIV and the effects of their treatment. This lack of comprehension often results in poor adherence to ART, which is vital for controlling the virus and maintaining their health. Furthermore, the traditional methods used to teach children about HIV and ART have not been engaging enough to make the information both memorable and effective.

Tara Atabasamu Tena is an HIV storybook that provides education using a

combination of pictures and text. It offers guidance on the proper use of antiretroviral drugs for managing HIV, especially for children. The book uses **appealing pictorial language** that helps

It introduces new terms, such as using "dawa ya ajabu" instead of "ARV medication," which helps reduce stigma and also it helps avoid stigma by enabling children to use discreet terms in front of others, thereby protecting family privacy.

in easily delivering education to children about the

proper use of HIV.

The book **includes songs** that children enjoy and have become accustomed to singing, bringing enthusiasm to their clinic visits.

> "The children have managed from having a high viral load they have suppressed and undetectable. Many children have expressed a desire to have their own copies of Tara Atabasamu Tena to read at home and share with their friends." Thobias Gobre Fissoo, manager of Dareda Hospital

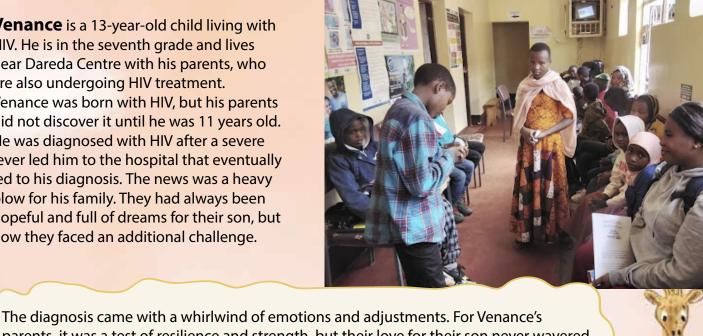


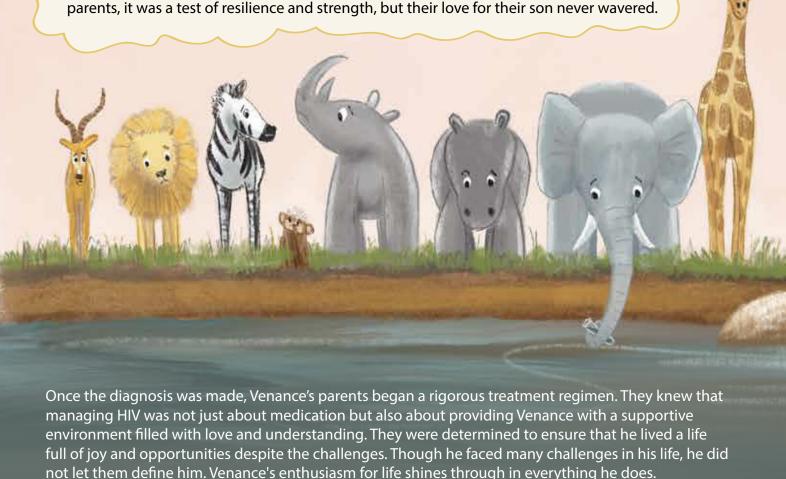


You can live a happy life because the medicine is here to help!

near Dareda Centre with his parents, who are also undergoing HIV treatment. Venance was born with HIV, but his parents did not discover it until he was 11 years old. He was diagnosed with HIV after a severe fever led him to the hospital that eventually led to his diagnosis. The news was a heavy blow for his family. They had always been hopeful and full of dreams for their son, but now they faced an additional challenge.

**Venance** is a 13-year-old child living with HIV. He is in the seventh grade and lives







understood the importance of his ART. His confidence was boosted and the storybook has helped him follow his medication regimen and choose friends wisely who are supportive in his life.

his medication." As Venance grows older, his story continues as one of hope and resilience. He is a shining example of h courage and positivity can overcome daunting

ART nurse said "Since Venance started HIV

treatment he never misses

challenges. His journey is a testament to the power of love, community and unwavering determination.

And so, the story of Venance a brave and cheerful soul continues, reminding everyone that with hope and perseverance, even the most challenging journeys can lead to extraordinary destinations.

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