Parent's Voices: A roundabout pathway to hearing and communicating with cochlear implants

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CIICA 2026

Not everyone has access to hearing care

80% of people with hearing loss live in Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)

LMICs lack

- Financial access to cochlear implants
- Trained professionals
- Public understanding of hearing loss and cochlear implants

WHO, 2021

Even so,
some families
find cochlear
implantation













CIICA put out the call…

- What was your biggest challenge?
- What has been your greatest support/help?
- What was your greatest achievement?
- What advice would you give another parent?
- How did you make change happen?

76 Stories. 19 Countries. 5 Continents



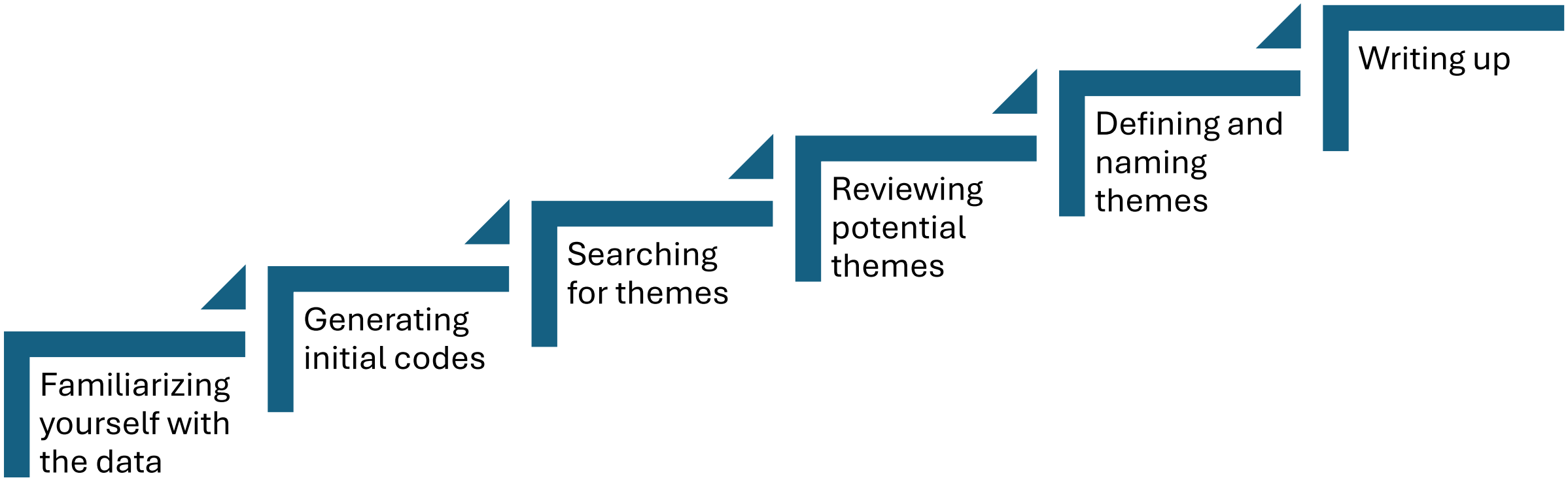
https://ciicanet.org/resources/new-resource-development-parents-voices-in-lmic/

What are families of children with cochlear implants in LMICs perceptions of the cochlear implant process?

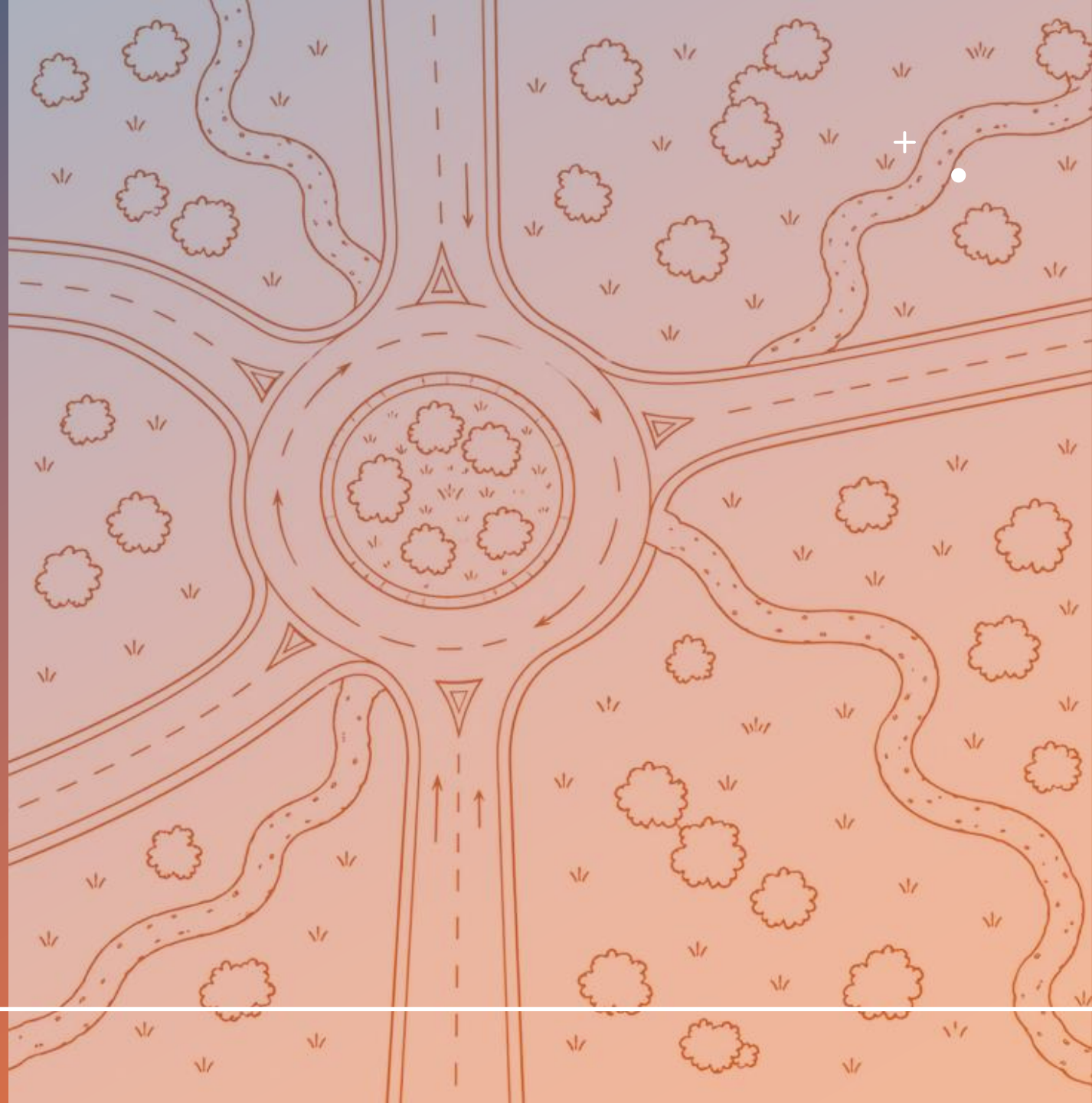
Qualitative Analysis: Constructivism

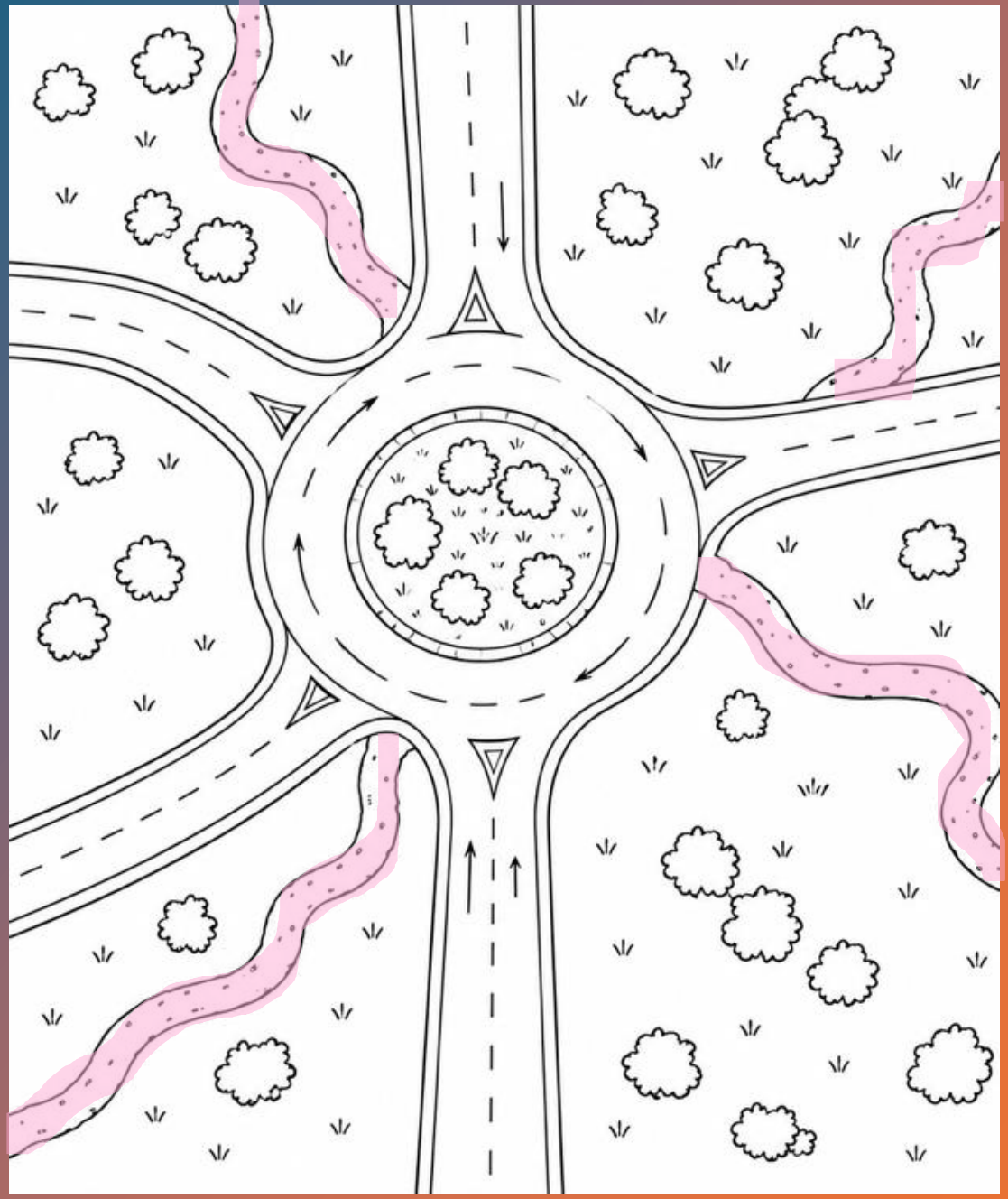


Thematic Analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006)

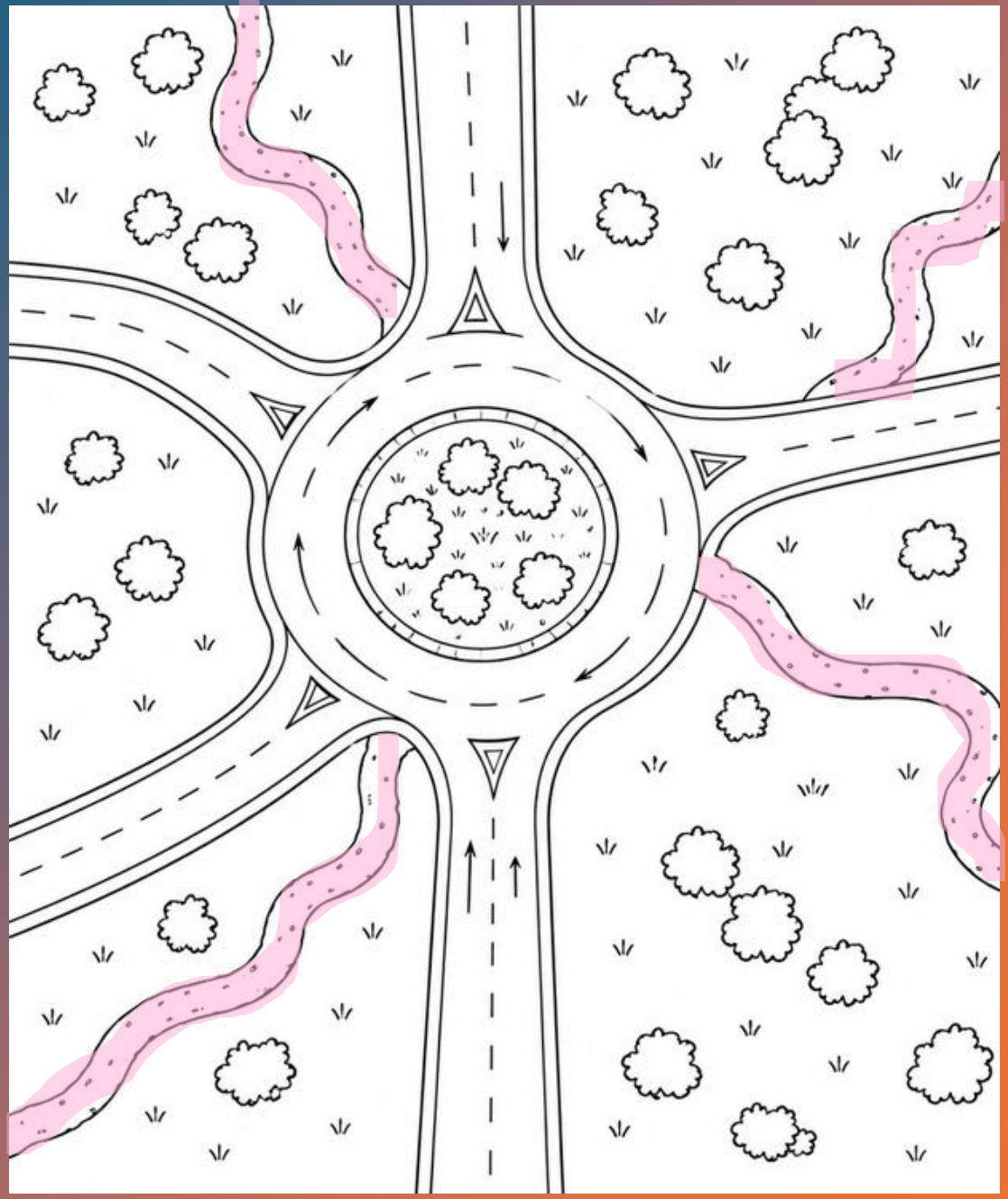


A roundabout pathway to hearing and communicating with cochlear implants





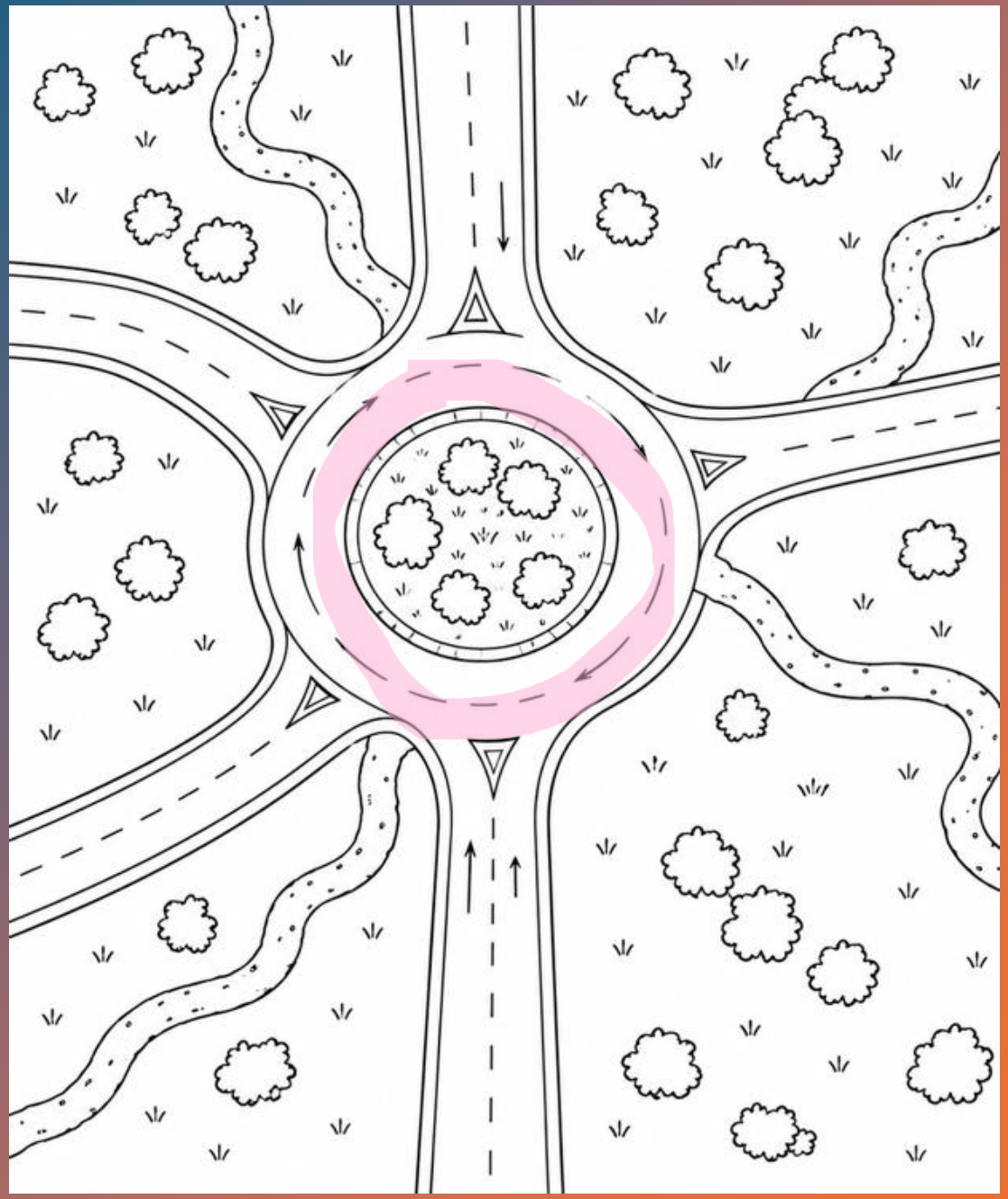
Theme 1: Navigating Roadblocks after Diagnosis



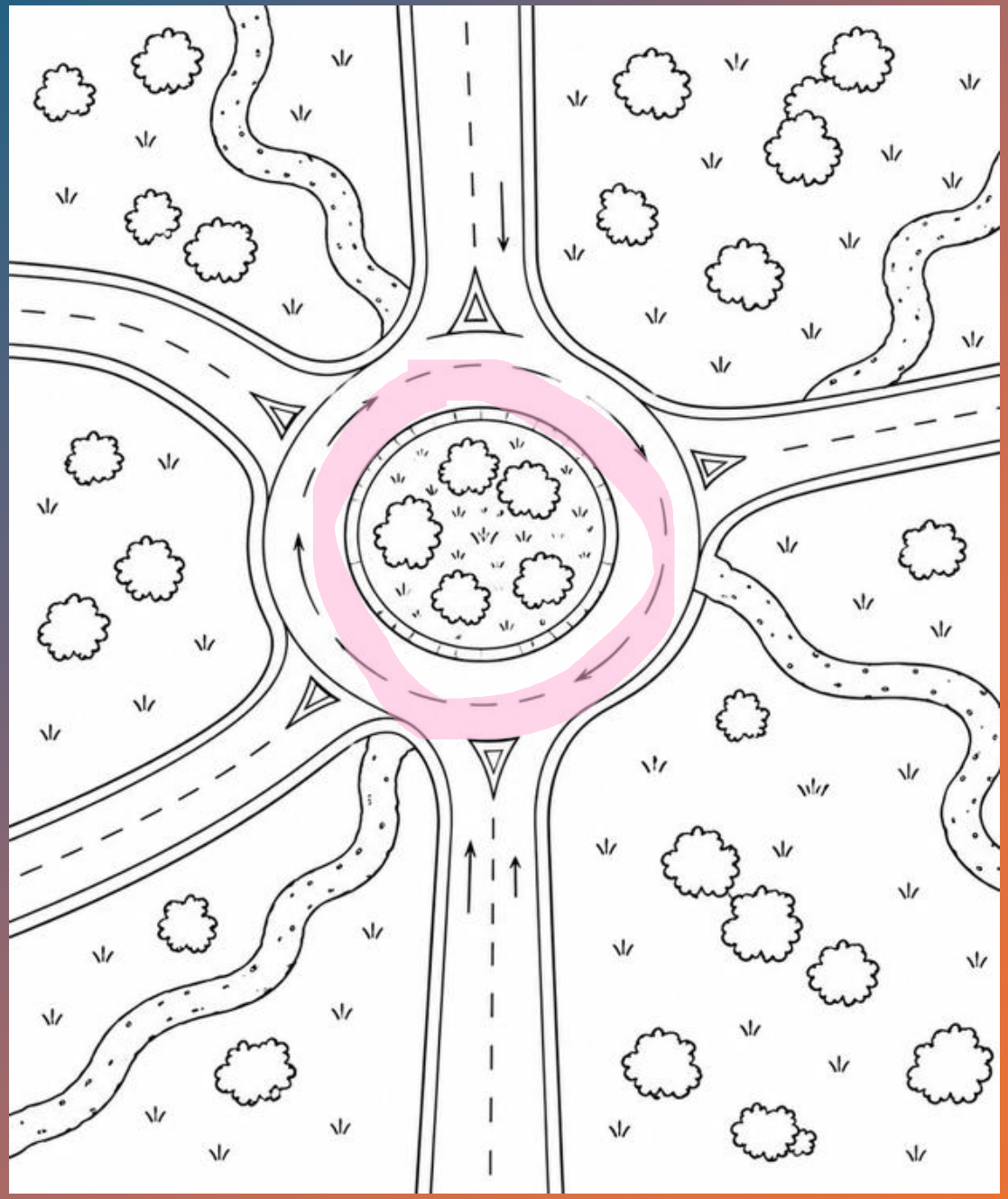
Theme 1: Navigating Roadblocks after Diagnosis

We were crushed. We felt confused, scared, and helpless

- Kenyan Participant



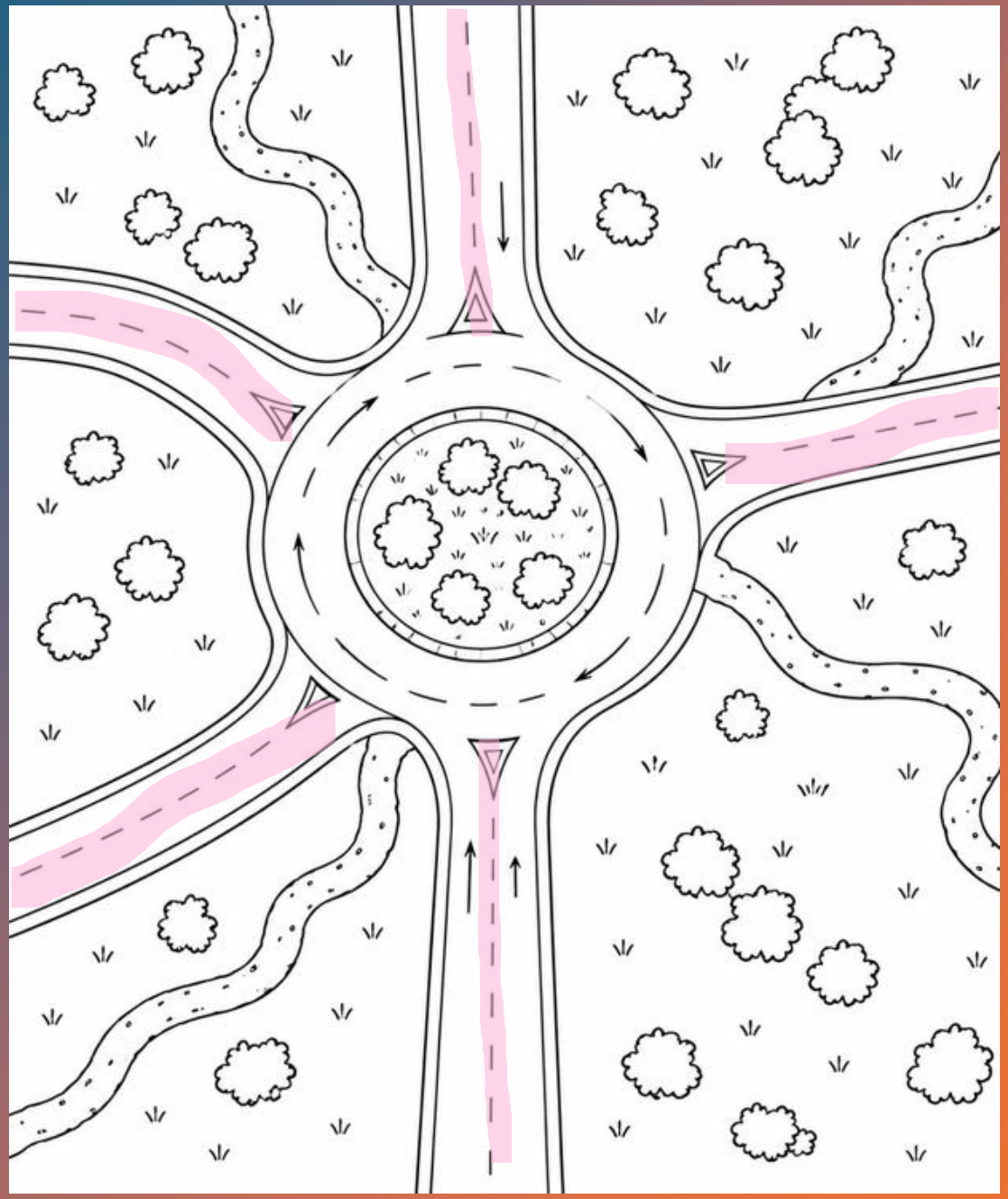
Theme 2: Building Support to Essential Lifelines



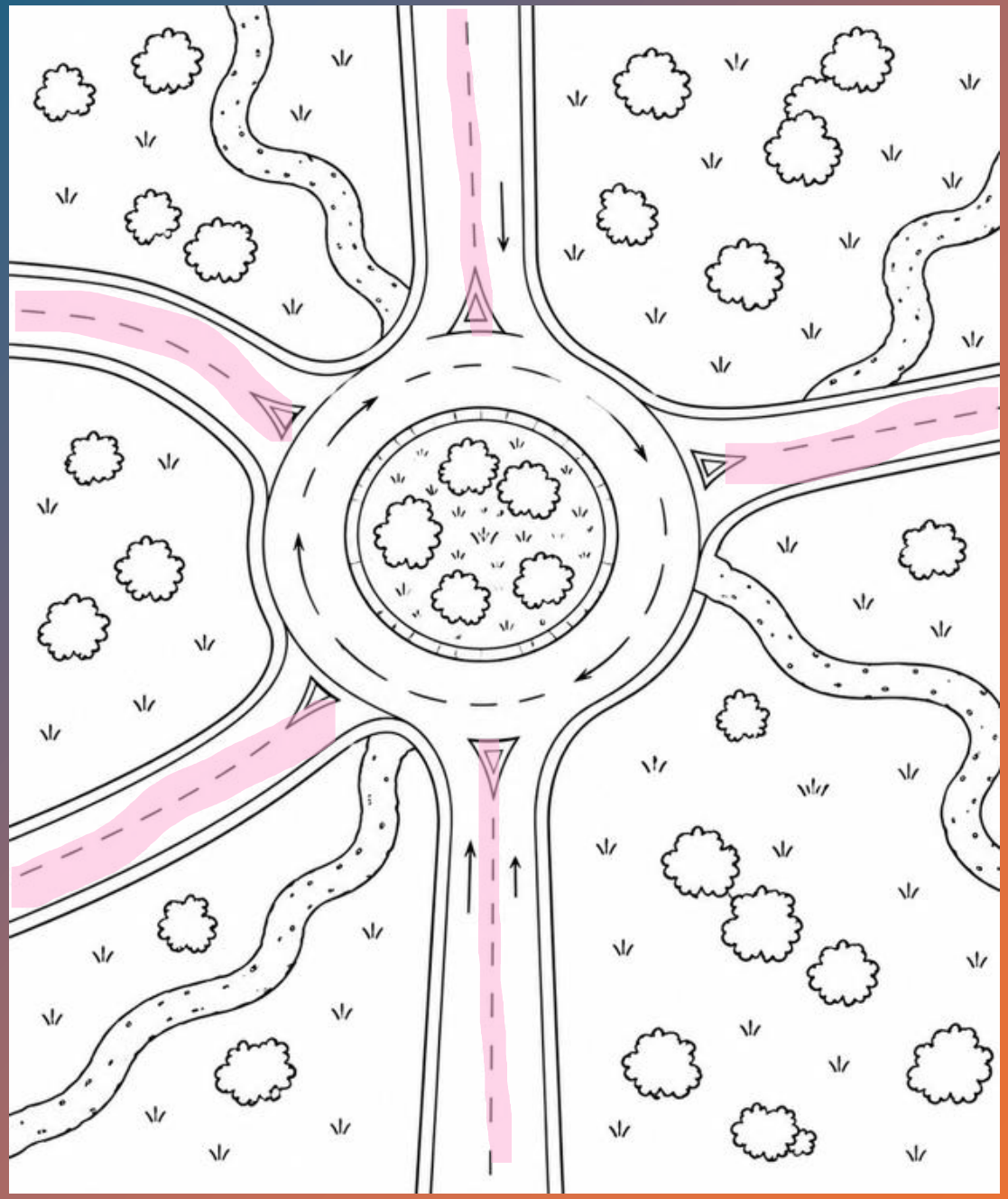
Theme 2: Building Support to Essential Lifelines

[He] refer[ed] us to a fantastic team, secur[ed] unimaginable discounts and present[ed] us with two donations from two different foundations, which effectively allowed us to realize this great dream.

- South African Participant



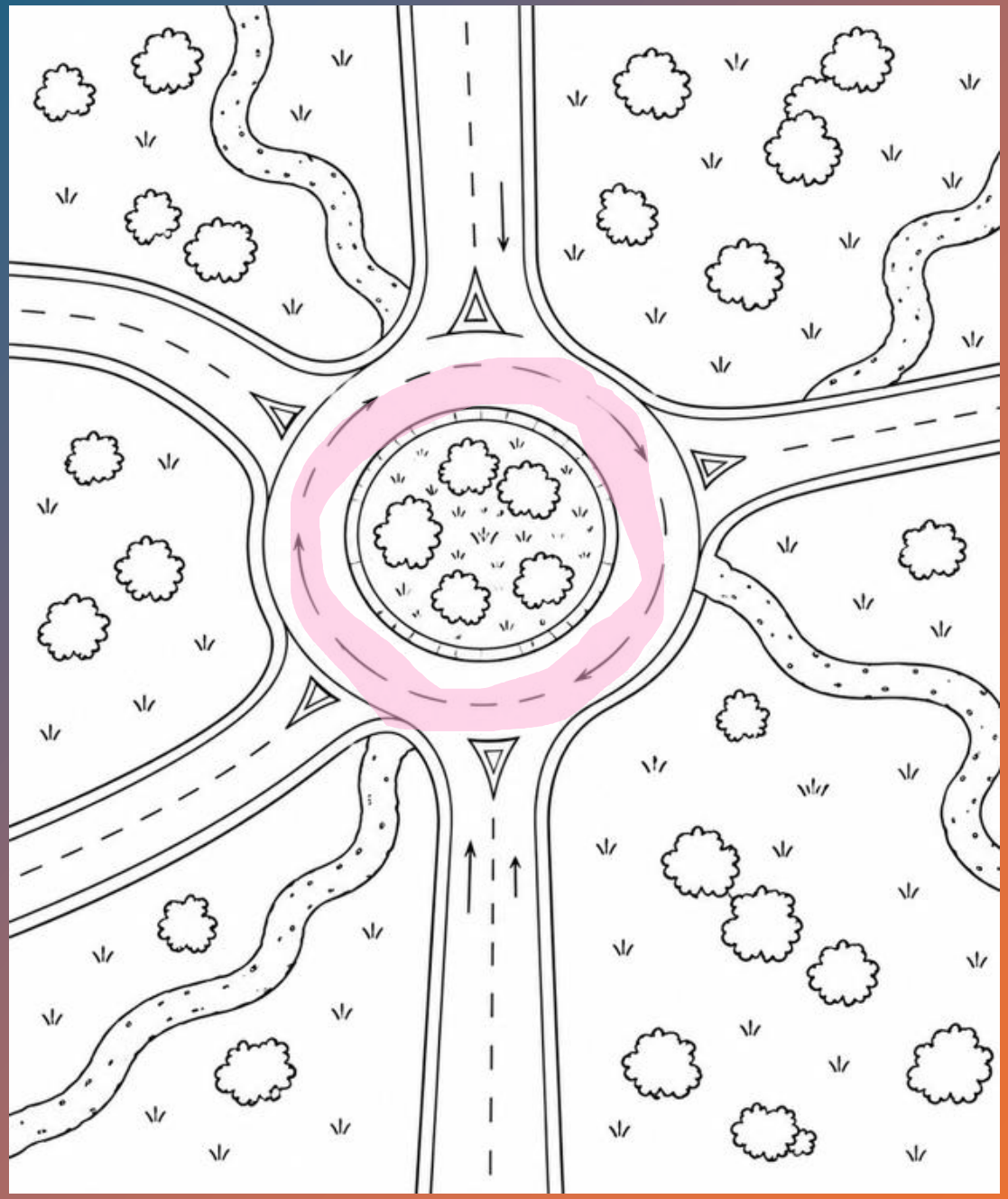
Theme 3: Gaining Momentum



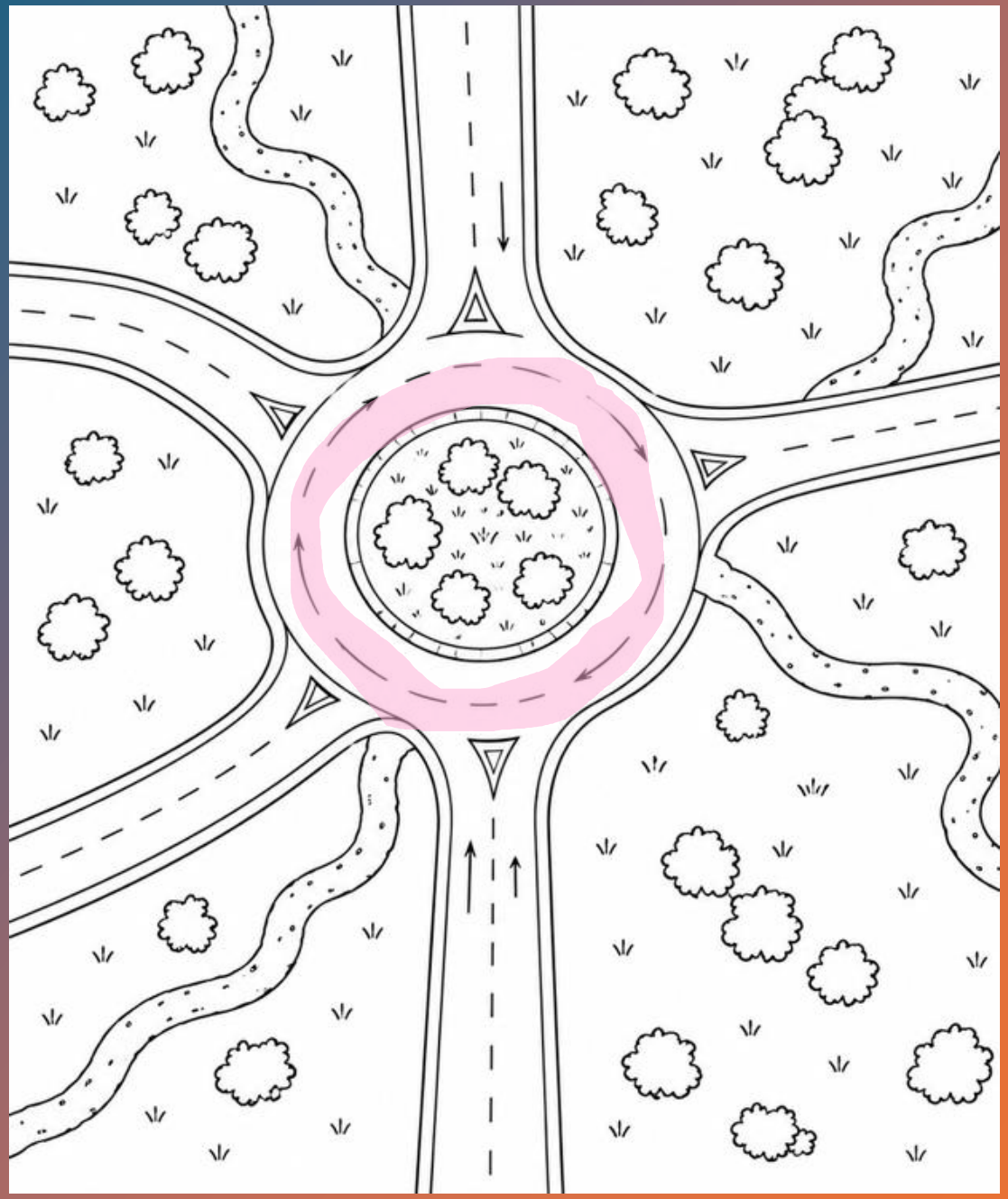
Theme 3: Gaining Momentum

Trust your instincts, educate yourselves, demand your children's rights, and be present.

- Colombian Participant



Theme 1a: Post-CI Struggles



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The ongoing costs of maintenance, specialized hygiene services, and expensive replacement parts weigh heavily on our daily lives

- Vietnamese Participant

All studies have limitations

Broad population sampled

Does not include those who were not able to access cochlear implantation

Stories were in English and lightly edited

A roundabout through cochlear implantation



- Families in LMIC navigate bumpy roads to cochlear implantation
- Support comes from family, institutions, and well-trained professionals
- Those who access cochlear implantation are ready to advocate for themselves and their communities
- But this is not the end of the road, they will find themselves in the roundabout again

Next steps

- Advocating for access to cochlear implant care in LMICs
- Policy paper from CIICA
- Academic publication and presentation



Thank yous









Ashley McNaughton, Myia Bennett, Eryn Hussey, Merit Omedo, Haleigh Grant, Ashleen Hale, Mya Booker