

## BACKGROUND: Adult Vaccination Advocacy Toolkit (AVAT) Helping Civil Society Organizations influence and shape policies to improve adult vaccination

Vaccination is one of the most effective public health interventions of our time, yet globally the uptake rates amongst adults are suboptimal. The [Adult Vaccination Advocacy Toolkit \(AVAT\)](#) was identified as a pressing need to help influence and shape policy through extensive global research and calls to action from patient and advocacy organizations.

The external drivers in the creation of the AVAT include a rapidly ageing global population, an increased prevalence of noncommunicable diseases resulting in a population at-risk of complications from vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs), the natural weakening of the immune system over time known as immunosenescence, and vaccination programs traditionally focussing on pediatrics and children even though the major burden of VPDs is in adults.

The Toolkit focuses on 4 major policies, which if addressed would positively change the immunization landscape for all and most importantly those most vulnerable to serious complications from VPDs. These policies include the simplification of vaccination pathways, expansion of vaccination administrators, targeted vaccination campaigns, and vaccination equity.

The structure of the Toolkit is quite unique in that for each of these policy issues, it provides context and scenarios that illustrate the barriers to accessing adult vaccination, links to useful tools and resources, and actions for advocacy and building knowledge assets to promote adult vaccination; all in an interactive manner.

The International Federation on Ageing (IFA) is calling for civil society organizations and government stakeholders to use and promote the Adult Vaccination Advocacy Toolkit to transform policies and reduce barriers at individual and population levels to ultimately improve vaccination uptake rates globally. The application of this toolkit should enhance the global health community network across different sectors and disciplines to ensure that immunization progress across the life course is protected.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Bruna Swerts, Director of Strategic Communications | [bswerts@ifa.ngo](mailto:bswerts@ifa.ngo)

The [International Federation on Ageing](#) (IFA) is an international, non-governmental organization (NGO) with a unique membership base comprising government, NGOs, academics, industry, and individuals in over 80 countries. Nearly 50 years old, the IFA has become known as a leading and innovative organization that works across disciplines and sectors toward common goals that improve the lives of older people. Through the IFA's formal relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) and general consultative status at the United Nations and its agencies, the IFA is in the position to advocate directly with member states and contribute to and inform intergovernmental dialogue.