

## Press Release: Advancing Immunization Through the Decade of Healthy Ageing

22 January 2024

**Toronto, Ontario-** The International Federation on Ageing is pleased to be launching the Vaccines4Life strategic report '*Advancing Immunization Through the Decade of Healthy Ageing*'. Today, the need for robust adult immunization programs and research is more evident than ever, with older people and those with chronic medical conditions at higher risk of serious life-threatening complications from vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs), such as influenza, pneumonia, COVID-19, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), pertussis, and shingles. The International Federation on Ageing (IFA) Vaccine4Life (V4L) program is forging a powerful rationale to build connections between the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (the Decade), the Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030), and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) toward more comprehensive national immunization plans that are equitable across all ages.

Vaccines4Life is a program of work aimed at mobilizing and translating information into knowledge that informs and helps to shape policies that improve the health and well-being of populations as well as the health systems and economies of nations. As outlined in the strategic report, making connections across intergovernmental policy agendas is a critical responsibility of V4L when calling for improved immunization infrastructure, greater investment in health promotion, and the preservation of function at all stages of life and for those with underlying chronic conditions and comorbidities. Vaccines4Life presents an unparalleled opportunity to actively not only support, but exercise, each of the enablers, synergistically, while simultaneously advancing immunization policy measures across the four action areas of age-friendly environments, combatting ageism, integrated care, and long-term care.

The V4L program is framed and enacted through the three broad pillars of the Immunization for All Ages (IFAA) initiative of prevention, access, and equity. Throughout the years, V4L has become a reliable source of information, evidence, and good practices across sectors and disciplines on the link between adult vaccination and healthy ageing. The program is a synthesizing platform of information, evidence, collaborators, and thought leaders to improve the uptake rates of routine adult immunization.

*Advancing Immunization Through the Decade of Healthy Ageing* is a report that shines a powerful light on the gaps in vaccination policies for older adults, as well as emerging opportunities. Through V4L's work, immunization can be viewed as an opportunity to combat inequities, improve access to immunization, and promote health throughout life, including helping preserve function and prevent death and disability.

To learn more about the *Advancing Immunization Through the Decade of Healthy Ageing* strategic report visit: <https://ow.ly/bsrT50QszCZ>

### Media Contact

Please contact Ms Roxana Badiei, Policy and Advocacy Program Lead, at [rbadiei@ifa.ngo](mailto:rbadiei@ifa.ngo) should you have any questions or would like any additional information about the *Advancing Immunization Through the Decade of Healthy Ageing* strategic report.

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### **About the International Federation on Ageing (IFA)**

IFA is an international, non-governmental organization (NGO) with a unique membership base comprising government, NGOs, academics, industry, and individuals in over 80 countries. Over the last 45 years, 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.

Improving rates of vaccination for globally is a priority of IFA, as a key contributor to healthy ageing. The IFA, across almost a decade, and through the [Vaccines4Life](#) program, has worked alongside committed organizations to address barriers to improve adult vaccination rates in the context of healthy ageing.

As a non-State actor at the World Health Organization (WHO) and with 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.