

## **IFA Launches Global Atlas on Adult Vaccination to Advance Life-Course Immunization Policy Worldwide**

**April 2025** – The International Federation on Ageing (IFA) is proud to announce the launch of the Global Atlas on Adult Vaccination (GAAV), a knowledge mobilization tool that provides a comprehensive evaluation of national immunization policies and practices for older adults from across WHO regions. This global benchmarking platform aims to strengthen vaccine equity and inform policy action toward the realization of the World Health Organization’s Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) and the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021-2030).

The GAAV includes country-specific report cards that evaluate seven critical indicators of adult vaccination programs: national policy, funding, program infrastructure, performance, equity, long-term care inclusion, and civil society engagement. The Atlas outlines vaccination policies from an initial set of countries, serving with the objective of progressively including more countries over time. Research for the GAAV was nationally based, and while the IFA acknowledges that some countries have provincial, territorial, or state-based programs, the report cards only recognize national or country-wide initiatives. It is important to note that the GAAV serves as an opportunity to identify and highlight best practices and policy gaps. The GAAV is not intended for direct cross-country comparison. Rather, it serves as a snapshot of the status of older adult vaccination across the countries included in the assessment.

“Despite the proven benefits of vaccines in promoting healthy ageing, our research shows significant variation in access, coverage, and prioritization of older adult immunization across countries,” said Ms. Katrina Bouzanis Director, Policy, Advocacy and Innovation. “The GAAV provides a policy compass for governments and civil society to address systemic gaps and advance immunization for all.”

The GAAV highlights several meaningful insights into the state of adult vaccination policy on a global scale. First, significant policy gaps remain. While countries like France and Canada have integrated adult immunization into their national aged care strategies and include ageing experts in advisory committees, countries such as India and South Korea lack such comprehensive frameworks. Second, inconsistent funding mechanisms pose a substantial barrier to access. For instance, Brazil and Turkey lead in providing widespread public coverage, but countries like Germany and Australia struggle with transparency and equitable investment in immunization.

In terms of program reach and performance, disparities are pronounced. Brazil demonstrates robust public health outreach and effective dissemination of vaccine information, whereas countries like India and France present limited accessibility and awareness initiatives. Equity considerations and the needs of those in long-term care (LTC) are also frequently overlooked. Few countries explicitly address the intersection of ageing with chronic illness, disability, or rurality in their vaccination strategies. Additionally, LTC residents are often excluded from national immunization plans.

Furthermore, civil society engagement in vaccination advocacy varies significantly. While organizations in Brazil and the Canada play an active role in bridging the gap between policy and public awareness, most countries lack structured opportunities for civil society participation in immunization efforts. These findings highlight a need for more inclusive and equitable channels of participation for civil society and community voices, which in turn supports comprehensive adult vaccination policies worldwide.

Ultimately, the GAAV is a dynamic advocacy and knowledge mobilization resource for policymakers, researchers, and community organizations. The platform not only highlights best practices but also underscores persistent barriers and identifies where policy improvements are urgently needed.

“Immunization is a cornerstone of healthy ageing and sustainability in health systems. With the GAAV, we empower countries and communities with the information they need to act,” added Bouzanis.

The IFA invites governments, health organizations, and civil society leaders to explore the GAAV and leverage its insights to inform national strategies, elevate equity, and accelerate progress toward lifelong immunization. To learn more about the *Global Atlas on Adult Vaccination (GAAV)* visit: <https://www.vaccines4life.com/gaav/global-atlas-on-adult-vaccination-gaav/>

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

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. Now over 45 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. Through its Vaccines4Life program, IFA has worked alongside committed organizations to address barriers to improve adult vaccination rates in the context of healthy ageing.