The life-course approach to immunization addresses an individual's needs for different vaccines at different stages of life, depending on their specific vulnerabilities to infectious diseases.

Strengthen vaccination across the life course through building vaccine demand and service integration to contribute to pandemic preparedness and maximize the benefits of future vaccines for all.

Key Findings from VARN2023: Building Vaccine Demand and Service Integration

Examples of immunization over the life course

90% of deaths from cervical cancer occur in low- and middle-income countries, and confidence in HPV vaccination has been decreasing due to public concerns. However, evidence shows that vaccines can prevent almost all cervical cancer deaths if given early enough.

Influenza poses both a seasonal burden – with up to 650,000 people dying from seasonal influenza each year – and a severe pandemic threat. However, access to influenza vaccination is inequitable, as 50% of the global population only receives 5% of influenza vaccine doses.

For sustainable vaccination success, life-course vaccination (including COVID-19) needs to be integrated with primary healthcare and other elements of service delivery, especially given the conflicting priorities that exist in many settings.

Investment in life-course immunization and influenza vaccine infrastructure is vital for pandemic preparedness.