

IFA**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION ON AGEING**
Global Connections**12TH GLOBAL
CONFERENCE
ON AGEING**

Connecting Informal and Formal Care

It is critical informal and formal care providers work in tandem to ensure all people can age in the best possible health and with dignity. Societies are becoming wealthier and individuals demand higher quality and more responsive social-care systems. With technological advances the possibilities for long-term care services at home are greater. However it requires reorganization of care and to connect the dots between formal and informal care. Enabling and encouraging families and older people to integrate both informal and formal care services to maximize care efficiency will be critical to deal with demographic changes and prevent flooding healthcare systems worldwide in the decades to come.

In order to maximise the health and well-being of the ageing population there has to be a better allocation of resources to improve health and social care and an openness to having community members involved in the decision making process. Using formal and informal care in tandem will sustain healthcare systems around the world. By enabling family members, neighbours and other volunteers to create an environment and support network that allows ageing people the opportunity to stay at home longer it will ease the financial burden on the state and informal caregivers. However, if states fail to adequately encourage and support informal caregivers the influx of older people will continue to grow and have no one to care for them. Connecting informal and formal healthcare alternatives will benefit both sectors and improve the quality of life of people as they age.