A decade ago, Mauritius endorsed a Programme of Action to improve reproductive health services at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), which was held in Cairo. However, prior to the ICPD, great strides had already been taken in Mauritius to provide comprehensive reproduction health services to the population. Presently, Mauritius is cited as having one of the best reproductive health programme throughout Africa.

Although, the policy of the Government of Mauritius is to maintain fertility at 2.1 births per woman (replacement level), the government family planning programme has shifted its focus from achieving demographic targets to improving the reproductive health of the population.

The Evaluation Unit of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, which is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the national family planning programme, publishes the Family Planning and Demographic Year Book. The present issue of this yearbook is the thirtieth volume and presents data on population trends, vital rates, family planning, and health service points for both Island of Mauritius and Island of Rodrigues.

The family planning and demographic data presented in this yearbook has been obtained from the different departments of this Ministry, namely, the Area / Community Health Centres, the Medical Statistics Section, the Medical Records Division and the Central Supplies Division and also, from the Central Statistical Office of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

Data from Mauritius Family Planning Association and Action Familiale, which are two non-governmental organisations that provide family planning services, are also included in this yearbook.

This Family Planning and Demographic Yearbook is intended for planners, policy makers and general public.

In presenting this yearbook, I would like to thank my staff and other organisations involved directly or indirectly to its compilation.

J. Sunkur
Principal Demographer