Mauritius endorsed a twenty-year Programme of Action to improve sexual and reproductive health services at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo, Egypt. It was duly recognized that sexual and reproductive health would be called upon to play a crucial role in the social and economic development of all countries. In Mauritius, sexual and reproductive health service delivery is a core function of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life. Last year marked the 15th year of implementation of the ICPD Plan of Action. It is worth mentioning that Mauritius is currently cited as having one of the best sexual reproductive health programme in Africa.

However, with emerging reproductive health issues as a result of socio-economic changes in the recent years, the sexual and reproductive health programme is being re-engineered by implementing a National Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy and Plan of Action 2009-2015. This Plan of Action paves the way for actions with clearly defined outputs, objectives and targets in twelve key areas for interventions which will help to achieve the Millennium Development Goals pertaining to health.

The family planning programme has shifted its focus from achieving demographic targets to improving the reproductive health of the population, which is in line with the recommendations of the ICPD Plan of Action.

The Demographic/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 Yearbook. The present issue of this yearbook is the thirty-fifth 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 different Departments of this Ministry, namely the Area/Community Health Centres, the Medical Statistics Section, the Medical Records Division and from the Central Statistical Office of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

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

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

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

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