Mauritius is currently cited as having one of the best family planning programme in Africa. Since its inception in the early 60s, the family planning programme has empowered women with respect to both their productive and reproductive lives. Women have been able to bridge the gap between planned and unplanned pregnancies through the accessibility and use of contraceptives, which have allowed them to have the desired number of children. This has given them the opportunity to take up employment in different sectors of the economy and hence, they have tremendously contributed to the socio-economic development of the country.

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 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Plan of Action. The Government of Mauritius provides comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services to its population, free of user cost, through a network of about 150 health service points.

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-sixth 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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Chief Demographer
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Ministry of Health and Quality of Life