Mauritius has been consistently ranked as the top performer in Africa in terms of family planning programme. Family planning has empowered women with the respect to both their productive and reproductive rights and has played a crucial role in attaining the Millennium Development Goals particularly 4, 5, and 6 which is health related. The Government of Mauritius provides comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services to its population, free of user cost, through a network of 1 Community Hospital, 3 Medi Clinics, 22 Area Health Centres, 117 Community Health Centres at Primary Health Care Level. Access to and use of contraceptives has given women the opportunity to take up employment in different sectors of the economy and thus contributing 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 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-eighth 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 Medi Clinics, Area/Community Health Centres, the Medical Statistics Section, the Medical Records Division and from Statistics Mauritius.

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
October 2013

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Ministry of Health and Quality of Life