The World Health Organisation (WHO) launched the World Health Survey (WHS) Programme to develop internationally comparable statistics on health of populations and outcomes associated with the investment in health systems. A selected number of countries from each WHO Region was identified to participate in the project.

In August 2001, at the request of the WHO Office in Geneva, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life agreed for the WHS to be conducted by the Mauritius Institute of Health.

The survey instrument was designed by WHO after a long development process. Representatives from the Africa and the Eastern Mediterranean Regions of WHO studied the survey tools during a workshop held in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire in September 2002.

The enumeration of households in Mauritius was done in January 2003. A pilot survey was carried out in April/May 2003. Professor O. Gureje, Quality Assurance Expert of the World Health Organisation, visited Mauritius in May 2003 prior to the implementation of the main phase of the survey. Household and individual interviews were conducted between July and September 2003.

In May 2005, during a workshop organized at its Regional Office in Brazzaville, the WHO provided support and guidelines to the local investigators in the analysis of the survey findings and in the drafting of the national report.
The WHS report on Mauritius contains comprehensive results of the survey. The aim of this report is to facilitate discussion on health system performance assessment and provide data which may contribute to policy formulation for health interventions, programs and services. A national focal point needs to be set up for the follow-up on the utilization of this preliminary report for decision making and policy planning.

I wish to acknowledge the contributions of all people and organizations that contributed in the successful completion of World Health Survey in Mauritius. In particular, my thanks go to the World Health Organisation for its financial and technical assistance, the Steering Committee, Mr P. Burhoo, Principal Investigator and the staff of the Mauritius Institute of Health.

Dr J.C. Mohith
Executive Director
October 2005
Mauritius Institute of Health