



Embassy of the Republic of Mauritius and Permanent Mission of Mauritius to the United Nations and other International Organizations

Ambassade de la République de Maurice et Mission Permanente auprès des Nations Unies et des autres Organisations Internationales

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The Embassy and Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and with reference to its Note WRGS/LOH/Res33/18 dated 1 December 2017 regarding the 2Questionnaire on Preventable Maternal Mortality and Morbidity and Human Rights", has the honour to attach herewith the inputs of the Government of Mauritius.

The Embassy and Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) the assurances of its highest consideration. *un*

Geneva, 9 March 2018

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Palais des Nations
Geneva



Inputs from the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life

A. Preventable Maternal mortality and morbidity and Human Rights

Mauritius has a population of about 1, 250,000 inhabitants. The population is serviced by 5 Regional Hospitals, 3 Districts Hospitals, 1 Community Hospital, 5 Mediclinics, 20 Area Health Centres and 117 Community Health Centres.

The maternal health services in the Republic of Mauritius are integrated into the general health services and are provided free of user cost through a network of accessible health care delivery institutions at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

The services in maternal health care include:

- Promoting proper nutrition for the mother and the child.
- Providing maternal and child care and family planning services. Special emphasis on antenatal services to reduce perinatal mortality
- Increasing immunisation coverage against major infectious diseases
- Promoting exclusive breastfeeding for six months, and continued breastfeeding for 2 years and beyond
- Arranging for post-natal follow-up and counselling

Various activities are being carried out at the Public Sector health service network:

- Information, Education and Communication (IEC) on ante natal and post-natal care
- Dietary advice to pregnant women
- Immunisation of pregnant women and infants
- Promotion of breastfeeding in health institutions and in the community
- Sensitization and awareness campaigns on proper nutrition, regular and early attendance for antenatal care, avoiding cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption especially during pregnancy, change in

behaviour and life style during pregnancy to reduce the prevalence of low birth weight babies in Mauritius.

- Screening for gestational diabetes is carried out in all public health institutions

The maternal and child health services have been strengthened at both primary and secondary levels with specialized care being available in regional hospitals.

Ante-natal care (ANC) is provided in Community Hospitals, Mediclinics, AHCs and CHCs. These health institutions (except for Community Health Centres) have been equipped with an Echography machine and hemoglobin analyser. There is a weekly half day session by a gynaecologist in these institutions.

Pregnant women are offered voluntary HIV counselling and testing. All HIV positive cases receive HIV preventive treatment with antiretroviral drugs after 25th week of pregnancy and for first 6 weeks for babies after birth. They are also delivered by Caesarian Section (C/S) and babies are fed with formula milk provided free for 24 months to reduce Maternal to Child Transmission (MCTC) of HIV. Routine testing for syphilis and other Sexually Transmitted Infections are done for all pregnant women (and appropriate treatment given).

All deliveries are attended by skilled personnel at regional hospitals. This is a major contributory factor for the reduction of maternal and infant mortality in Mauritius. Echography and foetal monitoring services are available. Post Natal Care (PNC) is available in all government health facilities.

The National Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy and Plan of Action 2009-2015

- A National Sexual & Reproductive Health Strategy and Plan of Action 2009-2015 has been prepared in order to revitalise the Sexual and Reproductive

Health Programme with the concerted effort of all relevant sectors and stakeholders.

- The Plan of Action paves the way for the next seven years for actions with clearly defined outputs, objectives and targets. The National Sexual & Reproductive Health Strategy and Plan of Action 2009-2015 operationalizes the objectives set out in the 2007 National Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy where twelve key areas for intervention have been enunciated:

- Family Planning
- Infertility
- Safe motherhood
- Abortion
- Infant and Child Health
- Adolescent and Youth
- STIs, HIV/AIDS
- Malignancies of the reproductive tract, breast cancer and other concerns
- Prevention of HPV cancer
- Gender
- Male involvement
- Male sexual dysfunction
- Geriatrics

The Plan of Action addresses family planning and child development in priority. The Action Plan elaborates on a series of activities, namely awareness campaign on family planning as well as women's health in women centres, social welfare centres, youth centres, community centres and at worksites. Emphasis is also laid on education and sensitisation of men in relation to contraception in order to avoid unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted infection and HIV/AIDS prevention at the level of his community and worksite.

A new Plan of Action (2018-2022) is underway for the forthcoming years ahead.

B. Health Information System

In Mauritius, we have a fully-functioning health information system in place, including 100% civil registration coverage and disaggregated data on maternal morbidity and mortality. The data collection system extends all over the country, including vulnerable groups.

Arrangements are made for collection of data on sexual and reproductive health on daily and systematic basis, including in crisis setting.

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