POPULATION, HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN GHANA:

ATTAINING THE MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
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Edited by Chuks J. Mba and Stephen O. Kwankye
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C.J. Mba and S.O. Kwankye
Dedication

This book is dedicated to all those individuals and organizations whose interests, research efforts, decisions, policies, and programmes contribute toward the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.
Preface

The United Nations Population Fund Country Office in Ghana expresses its welcome to this important publication. The areas covered—population growth, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, gender equality and women’s empowerment—squarely correspond with the provisions of the International Conference for Population and Development for which the Government of Ghana/UNFPA Fifth Country Programme (2006-2010), is addressing, namely reproductive health, population and development and gender.

A number of key issues have been raised in this book, but it is particularly noteworthy that the authors have paid attention to the intertwined and intractable nature of these problems. The relationship between the health outcome and gender, service delivery and population, are one of the few examples which these analyses have rightly recognized and underlined as critical linkages. It is further emphasized that population issues are central to the achievement of poverty reduction and sustainable development. Fertility decline and its implications for public policy, the demand for water and sanitation, population and health care facilities, to name a few, are the subjects researched into by the members of the Population Association of Ghana, which have implications for the pace and nature of development in Ghana.

The publication of these studies is especially timely, given the consensus made at the 2005 World Summit where world leaders reaffirmed the need to keep reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and gender equality at the top of the development agenda. This renewed high-level commitment is a testimony of the success made through more than a decade of advocacy efforts since the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994. Critical contributions made by the research to this process are particularly significant. Ghana, in collaboration with its development partners and the UN system, has an important role to play, not only to maintain the momen-
tum generated by the Summit, but also to further advance the agenda, using research as a tool to strengthen evidence-based advocacy.

Reading through the articles one is strongly reminded that many challenges still remain and that efforts need to be accelerated in order for the country to achieve most of the MDGs by 2015. With the commitment of the government and its partners as well as the ample knowledge produced through such research that provides some answers, I am confident that progress will be made in addressing the bottlenecks and identifying the critical next steps.

The Population Association of Ghana had received support from this office to organize a symposium on the research findings. Given the importance of the various contributions, UNFPA is now supporting their publication and dissemination to relevant partners including ministries, research institutions, universities, NGOs, CBOs and media. I am certain that the book will generate meaningful discussions and be used to raise the public awareness and to inform policy and programme formulation, implementation and monitoring.

Makane Kane
UNFPA Representative

14th December 2006