

## **Introduction**

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994 highlighted adolescent reproductive health (ARH) as a priority concern. This is in recognition of the reality that adolescents have a specific set of needs which are different from adults because they are in a period of transition from childhood to adulthood.

As a signatory to the ICPD Programme of Action, the Philippines has initiated efforts to address the reproductive health needs of its populace, especially adolescents, by incorporating ARH in the Department of Health's Reproductive Health Framework, and supplementing it with the Adolescent and Youth Health Policy. These are meant to complement and strengthen the existing efforts being done by the Commission on Population and NGOs, who have continuously worked for mainstreaming of ARH concerns.

Various studies, programs and policies on ARH have already been undertaken by government agencies, NGOs, the academic community and international

organizations. However, little has been done to integrate available information and share them to the different stakeholders.

To address this gap, the World Health Organization and National Center for Disease Prevention and Control of the Department of Health in collaboration with the Center for Reproductive Health Leadership and Development undertook this review of literature and programs on ARH in the Philippines from 1995-2003. This review aimed to present information on the reproductive health status of adolescents, progress of educational and service interventions, lessons learned and issues and challenges. Important recommendations are also highlighted in the results of the review.

Hopefully, this report will help policy-makers, service providers, donor organizations, as well as the target clients understand the concrete situation of adolescents, learn from effective approaches and weaknesses, and guide them in developing appropriate policy and programme responses.

