Conclusion

These tales show the dynamism of UNN’s contributions to the SUN Movement as it has embarked upon the final half of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025). They are also testament to the mounting momentum of the UNN at country level on multiple fronts. Starting with UNN people from UNRCs, to UNN-REACH facilitators, UNN chairs and other colleagues from the United Nations agencies, the UN is fortifying joint action in pursuit of shared results and greater impact. UNRCs are increasingly recognizing the UNN as a platform for collaboration on nutrition at the country level and seeing how it can trigger joint UN action in other areas thanks to its horizontal breadth.

Other stories have shed light on how the UNN is working to strengthen government capacity for improved nutrition coordination between different sectors and stakeholders and to secure (and maintain!) nutrition a prominent place on the political agenda. In addition, UNN analytics continue to delineate the path to scale up and provide a stepping stone to new ways of working together.

Looking ahead, 2021 will be an intense year with golden opportunities to bolster commitment for nutrition. The United Nations Food Systems Summit, including the country dialogues leading up to it, and the N4G Summit, will be crucial rallying points and avenues for the UN voice in nutrition to be heard. But nothing is a given, particularly during this COVID-19 era and its immediate aftermath. The United Nations cannot be complacent. Resources will be constrained, and yet, there will be more vulnerable people, requiring unprecedented support worldwide.
CONSOLIDATING JOINT ACTION ON NUTRITION AT COUNTRY LEVEL TO MAKE A BIGGER IMPACT

With SUN 3.0 and changing UN institutional arrangements on the horizon and questions about what the future may hold, one thing is clear. Knowledge management will play a foremost role. Both the documentation and curation of country stories will continue to be important mechanisms for peer learning and replicating good practices. Likewise, efforts to measure the impact of joint action to learn more about what works on the ground in different types of settings and to substantiate requests for new nutrition investments, amidst competing interests.

The UNN celebrates the ‘we’, and the knowledge it has accrued over the years can provide rich soil for building back better together.