Foreword

It is with great pride and pleasure that I introduce this second series of Tales Be Told and with it, this collection of new inspiring stories of UN collaboration on nutrition. The release is timely, as it comes knocking at the door of the third phase of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, and as the UN nutrition community sets in place a new coordination entity, UN Nutrition. While the gears are in motion for change, I’m confident that these country stories will endure and trigger learning across borders. I’m also hopeful that stories like these will help to reinforce the country-owned, country-driven ethos of SUN 3.0.

In a certain sense, Tales Be Told is a learning laboratory; a mechanism for capturing good practices, amplifying country voices and showing the world how the United Nations is working together on nutrition so that we invest in people today for a better future tomorrow. This year has given us an increased appreciation for joint action. As the world physically distanced to stave off the COVID-19 pandemic, we experienced bouts of isolation and we began to see new meaning in solidarity and new value in partnerships. The UN [nutrition] Network (UNN), in its varying forms, has provided that outlet for nutrition, helping to bolster the SUN Movement in many countries.

The UNN is about celebrating diversity and leveraging the individual strengths of the United Nations agencies for a stronger collective. It’s a way to put into practice the principles of UN reform and to place people — mothers, fathers, children and elders — at the center.
Our UN colleagues have had the courage to tell us their stories and the patience to answer our questions, despite heavy workloads that multiplied virtually overnight alongside the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). This is in and of itself testament to the perceived importance and popularity of these ‘tales’.

Enjoy the read!

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