Mr. Hazar Kahn Bijarani, Minister for Planning and Development Department (P&DD) Govt. of Sindh, launched the Sindh SUN Movement Unit at Karachi on 17th October 2016. He said that nutrition is on spotlight and Government of Pakistan along with other development partners is striving hard to tackle the malnutrition in Pakistan in a coordinated manner. He shared that Rupee1 billion has been allocated for the nutrition in the Annual Development Plan (ADP 2016-17). Mr. Bijarani added that nutrition has a critical role in social and economic growth of a nation. He said that the SUN Movement is a good initiative and providing a multi-sectoral platform to overcome malnutrition and related problems in the country.

Ms. Rehana Memon, Secretary Development P&DD Sindh said that SUN is a unique movement that provide a good opportunity to work together in achieving the nutrition related country targets and tackling this multi-faceted issue in a well-coordinated way.

Dr. Mubarak Ali, Member Planning Commission Pakistan said that malnutrition is multi-sectoral issue, we need to be focused on both nutrition specific approaches and nutrition sensitive interventions. He said that economic development of Pakistan is directly related with nutritional status of the population. He shared that malnutrition causes about 2-3% loss in GDP every year, comparing with energy & security crises which impacts 1.5% loss to GDP. He showed federal government’s commitments for all support and cooperation in this regard.

Mr. Muhammad Aslam Shaheen, Chief Nutrition/SUN Focal Point Pakistan shared that Global and National SUN Movement perspective. He said that SUN Movement founded in 2010 with the principle that everyone has right to food and good nutrition. He shared that SUN Movement objectives, principles and processes with the audience. He informed that up till now 57 countries and 3 Indian states have joined the Global SUN Movements. He further shared that movement is working through SUN networks bringing together government officials, civil society members, donors, businesses and researchers. He said that SUN movement has given a momentum to our efforts against malnutrition in Pakistan and can play a central role in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He said that investing $1 in nutrition result in return of $16.

Dr. Mazhar Iqbal and Dr. Samar Memon (Nutrition Coordinator-P&DD Sindh) presented nutrition situation in Sindh and also shared provincial updates and achievements in improving the nutrition situation in the province.

Mr. Stephen Glunning, Acting Country Director WFP Pakistan said that Malnutrition is one of the greatest challenges Pakistan is facing today and the situation is not improving over the decades (NNS 2001-2011). He said, we all need to do our efforts but in a well-planned and coordinated manner. He further added that we need to look for solutions at a local level and the SUN Unit in Karachi is a key step in this direction.
We will significantly reduce the menace of malnutrition and stunting as soon as possible, vowed Muhammad Waseem, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) of the Planning and Development Department Sindh, however in order to achieve any significant positive result, we should combine our efforts, pull together and work in partnership, and SUN Movement is one of the best opportunities he said.