ENDORSEMENT OF FATA SCHOOL SAFETY ACTION PLAN

Peshawar - 20th June 2013: One day consultative workshop on “Endorsement of FATA School Safety Action Plan” was organized by UNESCO in collaboration with FATA Disaster Management Authority (FDMA), over 45 participants including FDMA, Directorate of Education FATA, Works and services department FATA, representatives from FATA line departments, academia, Representatives from UN agencies, civil society organizations actively participated in the event.

Director General FDMA Mr. Arshad Khan and Director Education FATA Mr. Rooz Wali Khattak graced the event as chief guests. While giving opening remarks Mr. Muhammad Haseeb (Assistant Director training and capacity building FDMA) thanked UNESCO for initiating much needed school safety action plan for FATA, he also explained role of FDMA in promoting concepts of Disaster Risk Reduction. Mr. Shah Zar Khan (Deputy Director Directorate of Education, FATA) emphasized on vulnerabilities of educational institutions in FATA, he also said that GOD forbids if any catastrophe like earthquake 2005 occur educational institutions will be on very high risk, he also mentioned that informally concepts of DRR were there in communities which needed to be formalized at institution level, UNESCO efforts are highly appreciated to formalize and support Directorate of Education FATA and FDMA in preparation of school safety action plan. Mr. Kashif DRR advisor FDMA presented roles, responsibilities, mandate, and initiatives of FDMA in the field of DRR; he also presented objectives of school safety action plan.

Representatives from WFP shared national and global perspectives of DRR and UN-Habitat presented structural issues related to DRR. Participants were divided into three groups namely 1) Policy and Curriculum group 2) Capacity building group and 3) Structural and non structural each group then presented their concerns in the relevant area which will then be incorporated in the final version of KPK School safety action plan. Participants of the workshop unanimously endorsed FATA School safety action plan. In his concluding speech Director General FDMA unanimously endorsed UNESCO for realizing the need of school safety action plan and making it happen, DG FDMA formally endorsed the FATA school safety action plan as representative of FATA secretariat and head of FDMA which will be implemented in letter and spirit he added.