Muzaffarabad – 04 - 05 December 2012. United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in collaboration with UNICEF, WFP, UN-HABITAT, Department of Education AJK and State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) organized the workshop on development of school safety action plan for Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Potential stakeholders such as Communication and Works Department, Private Schools Management Association, local government department, education department district representative and other stakeholders were also invited for the said purpose in order to develop the holistic and need based action plan.

Secretary Department of Education Mr. Khawaja Sadiq Dar in his inaugural speech emphasized on the need to provide safer learning environment to the children because children are the future generation. He urged all the participants to pay special attention during these two days and appreciates the support of UN agencies for this initiative.

On first day participants were oriented with various concepts of school safety. Government officials and UN agencies presents their presentations. On second day participants were divided into three groups to suggest expert recommendations in order to develop the need based action plan for AJ&K. Director General State Disaster Management Authority while concluding the workshop thanked UN agencies for their continued support and also assures that the SDMA will take forward the suggestions and recommendation of this workshop and will endorsed them for future implementation.

The School Safety Plan of Action is expected to be a planning and a reference document for all stakeholders to immediately act upon for improvement of school safety in the region.