REPORT ON

CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY ON 9th AUGUST 2019
**Introduction:** SAFWCO launched its WASH interventions in remote areas of district Umerkot with support of UNOCHA. SAFWCO is implementing the project entitled as “Integrated WASH Response for Building Resilience in Drought-Affected Desert Areas of District Umerkot, Sindh.” The purpose of the project is to ensure the access of portable drinking water through installation of 35 deep hand pump; rehabilitation of 12 dug well (connected submersible pumps along with solar electrification) restoration of damaged 06 water sources, installation of 10 lead hand pump and rehabilitation of 40 hand pumps for 45,700 people (including women and children), furthermore 3,297 hygiene kits will be distributed to the ultra poor & poor families. Provide improved sanitation and water facilities in 13 schools for 900 primary students (boys and girls). To accomplish this; extensive series of activities will be undertaken to improve the water facilities for people of remote areas of Union Council Sekhro, Kaplore and Faqeer Abdullah.

**Invitation:** To celebrate the 72nd Independence Day of Pakistan, SAFWCO Umerkot formally received the invitation from the Head Master of GBP School Gareebabad to attend the Independence Day function which was organized on 9th August 2019. On the instruction of Mr. Salman Lodhi (Project Manager), Mr. Shoaib Ahmad (Monitoring & Evaluation Officer) & Mr. Habibullah Arisar (Water Testing & Quality Officer) attended the function and collaborated in logistics support.

**Function:** The function was organized in the GBP School Gareebabad’s ground; to attend the function all students and guests were gathered in the ground; students were energetic and chanting Pakistan Zindabad. Function was started with the Recitation of Holy Quran & Naat. After the name of Allah almighty, Mr. Faraz Ahmed (Host) requested to all the participants to stand up for the National Anthem. Mr. Imran Ali (Head Master) during his welcome speech expressed gratitude to all the students, social activist, honorable guests from government line department and team of SAFWCO Umerkot to participate with such enthusiasm. Selected students of GBP School Gareebabad, one by one came on stage to sang National songs and shared their patriotic view in speeches. Furthermore various groups of students did the skits and performed on National song “Her Dil Dil Ki Awaaz”; throughout the function all participants waving the flags of Pakistan. At last honorable guests shared their thoughts on Independence Day. Firstly Mr. Agha Iftikhaar (Focal Person of TEO) said that by the bless of God, that we Pakistani has been celebrating its 72 years of independence, our nation has endured endless pain over the past years but I am proud to say that I belong to this land because we are strong, determined and resilient. We are free and safe today because this nation has provided us with freedom; it has taught us the true meaning of Azaadi. We should also stand in solidarity with the people of Kashmir who are not able to celebrate their freedom truly. May we all taste harmony and prosperity and live in a better future together. Secondly Mr. Shoaib Ahmad (Monitoring & Evaluation Officer) expressed views on independence and said that May Allah always protect our beautiful Pakistan!
It is our home, pride and no one but we can lead it towards prosperity with our unity, faith and discipline and do not forget the people of Kashmir in this difficult time.

Mr. Habibullah Arisar (Water Testing & Quality Officer) said that the future of Pakistan is sitting in front of me, our elder gave many sacrifices to get this free land and it is now your duty to make this country better & prosperous. Let’s not forget people of Kashmir and stay unite.

**Closing Remarks:** Mr. Ramchand (Deputy DEO) expressed that Quaid’s principles of Unity, Faith & Discipline are beacon of light to overcome the challenges faced by the country. Independence Day is an occasion to rejoice and celebrate but I feel saddened to see our Kashmiri brethren in IoK being subjected to the worst kind of oppression. May Allah grant us the ability to transform Pakistan in accordance with the vision of Quaid-e-Azam and Allama Iqbal, Amen! Furthermore I want to congratulate the students who actively participate in function and I want to thank all honorable guests who motivate the students with their clap, Pakistan Zindabad!
Students & Mr. Faraz Ahmed (host) stand for the National Anthem in GBP School Gareebabad, Umerkot.
Student while sharing the views on Independence in GBP School Gareebabad, Umerkot.
Student while sharing the views on Independence in GBP School Gareebabad, Umerkot.
Group of Student while performing on National Song in GBP School Gareebabad, Umerkot.
Honorable guests are enjoying the Independence day function in GBP School Gareebabad, Umerkot.
Students while enjoying the Independence day function in GBP School Gareebabad, Umerkot.