IHSCO community-based approach to risk education is one of the key success factors in out-reaching more people and minimising the impact of ERW and IED on local populations. Harara Village (36°01'58"N: 43°17'37"E) in Shora is one of the contaminated areas where IHSCO team delivered RE.

IHSCO team built strong relationships with the local community and community leaders. They have promoted the significance of risk education for the local population, IDP and returnees. As a result, the village community became interactive with IHSCO team. Mr Ahmed Jassim, the Mukhtar of the Village, contacted IHSCO team leader informing him about a mortar shell planted in the middle of the main road to the Village.

UXO in the middle of a street in Harara Village, Shora, Mosul
Accompanied by the Mukhtar and some local community leaders, IHSCO teams mobilised to the location and did the following:

- Reminded the locals about the right safety approach upon encountering UXO;
- Distribution of more RE materials to the local population;
- Marked the dangerous area with improvised markings;
- Informed the local ISF about it; and,
- Recorded the hazardous area details and took photos for the UXO and marking.

The team then observed the change in behavior of the local population. They followed the RE safety instructions and started moving away around the dangerous area.
Local passengers obeying warning signs

This incidence points to the fact that community-based RE turns local populations to be very receptive and interactive. It is a good practical example for locals to learn and apply the messages they heard from the team and saw in the materials they received. They are more active and participative in protection of their lives and for the safety of their community. It has also proved to be a good example of effective multi-stakeholder partnership contributing to protecting lives. Local civil society, represented by IHSCO, worked with local population and local authorities to minimise the impact of ERW and IED on population. This is one of the utmost goals of both emergency and developmental approaches to risk education in contaminated/affected areas.