Ramadhan is the month of fasting and worship for all Muslims. It is of a high significant value for people which includes religious rituals, congregations and social traditions practiced only during this month. However, the people displaced from western Mosul due to the military operations are deprived from practicing and enjoying the sentiment of this month. They have the double humanitarian suffering of starvation and lack of basic humanitarian services as well as the threats posed by ERW and IED. Nearly, half a million people have been displaced from western Mosul through various transit points out of which Albu Safi and Al-Aqrab Junctions are the main stops.

In order to contribute to easing the suffering of these people and to raise their awareness on adopting safe behaviour during displacement, before return, during return and after returning home, IHSCO launched its emergency RE campaign called “Break your Fasting with RE”.

IHSCO teams mobilized from Hamam al-Aleel and Shora to these places and started conducting RE in different forms and shapes to these people. Innovatively, and due to the need of these people, IHSCO distributed cold water bottles with stickers of RE messages as well as leaflets, booklets and communication cards and sticking posters. Starting with the first day of Ramadhan, in addition to the RE materials and water bottles, IHSCO teams distributed packs of dates with stickers of RE message and provided safety briefings to boys, girls, men and women.

IHSCO teams were going up and down in buses, moving around the screening points and checkpoints, talking to all accessible people educating them. Posters were distributed and stuck all over the places so that IDP can have more exposure about the activity. The beneficiaries were very receptive of the risk education messages despite the displacement conditions and hard circumstances they are going through. Some of them were very interactive and kept asking questions; while, others narrated real life experiences of ERW and IED incidents and victims.

On average, almost 1500 beneficiaries received the packs of dates, water bottles and the rest of RE materials on daily basis. IHSCO staff members, who are fasting too, are working hard more than 7 hours daily under the hot sun sharing some of the suffering of IDP while they are trying to ease some of their sufferings.