



Flash Update – February 2016

IRAQ - Anbar

Highlights

- **Humanitarian situation is rapidly deteriorating in Anbar due to the ongoing conflict and limited access to provide assistance to the conflict-affected population.**
- **Food and fuel shortages are being reported across the governorate - particularly in Falluja district that has been under siege for over a year.**
- **In Fallujah, recent escalation of armed conflict and fuel shortages have severely disrupted the movement of commodities within the governorate, resulting in extreme shortages and high prices of food in local markets.**

January 2016:

In January, the overall average cost of a food basket recorded in Anbar was about 1013 IQD - 13 percent lower than the average price observed in the governorate in December (1143 IQD) and 21 percent lower than the average price observed in November (1227 IQD). However, variation in the cost of a standard food basket was recorded at district level (Tables 1 and 2).

In **Ramadi** district, January data showed a slight increase in the cost of a standard food basket from the average recorded in December (+2%). While in **Haditha**, a steep decrease in the average cost was reported for the third consecutive month, following the delivery of WFP food assistance in December and distribution of the Government's Public Distribution System (PDS) rations in January. According to the Iraq Ministry of Trade (MoT) director in Haditha, on 29 January 1081.400 MT of wheat flour were distributed to Haditha and neighborhood areas (Al Baghdadi, Haqlaniya and Barawan) covering the needs of 117,810 individuals.

Moreover, according to MoT Food Stuff Director, the Ministry distributed full PDS rations (including 2132 MT of wheat flour) in January to the IDPs in safe and liberated areas in **Amiriyat al Falluja** and **Al Khalidiya**. However, all other monitored locations, with the exception of Al Habbaniya sub-district of Ramadi, indicated that no PDS deliveries had been received in January and that the need of assistance is huge especially for the displaced population.

Table 1. Average cost of a standard food basket in monitored locations of Anbar governorate, November 2015 – January 2016

Location	November 2015 (IQD)	December 2015 (IQD)	January 2016 (IQD)	% change between December & January
Anbar governorate	1227	1143	1013	-13%
Ramadi district	1419	1419	1447	2%
Al Khalidiyah	1611	1611	1363	-15%
Haditha	1692	932	837	-10%

Source: WFP mVAM, January 2016

In **Falluja** district, respondents from Hay Alwahda sub-district (five observations) reported no availability of food items in the market including wheat, sugar, rice, vegetable oil and lentils. Shops have exhausted their food stocks and people are reportedly mainly depending on food produce they collect from farms in rural areas close to the city, including potatoes. Armed opposition groups are reportedly controlling these areas and restricting access to prevent essential food, water, fuel and medical supplies from entering.

According to data collected from Hay Almoalmin sub-district, food commodities are not easily available and prices are extremely high in comparison with December (Table 2).

No availability of fuel or cooking gas was reported in Falluja district in January.

Table 2. Average prices of basic food basket commodities in Falluja

Food commodity	Average price in December 2015: Falluja (IQD)	Average price in January 2016: Falluja* (IQD)	% change between December and January	Average price in January: Anbar (IQD)	Average price in January: Baghdad (IQD)
Wheat flour (kg)	2,600	24,000	823%	1,500	1,063
Imported rice (kg)	2,650	20,000	655%	1,963	2,000
Sugar (kg)	2,200	20,000	809%	1,500	1,250
Vegetable oil (liter)	3,200	20,000	525%	2,055	2,063
Lentils (kg)	3,800	NA	NA	2,043	2,188

* These figures are based on three observation in Falluja, Hay Almoalmin sub-district. Key informant interviews are ongoing.

Source: WFP mVAM, January 2016

Almost all monitored locations noted that road supply corridors remain unsafe. Due the ongoing military operation in Anbar, the limited availability of security forces to ensure the safe transport of the food commodities and prevailing high fuel prices are preventing the regular distribution of the PDS rations in the governorate, especially to besieged areas. WFP has not been able to access or distribute food inside Fallujah since armed groups took control of the city over a year ago. In September 2015, WFP was able to access an area called Garm, some 10 km away from Fallujah city, and distributed a one-month ration to 400 families (approximately 2800 people). However, WFP has been unable to access the area again as fighting intensified.

Methodology

The mVAM findings are based on market information from 10 locations in Anbar governorate collected with the assistance of Islamic Relief International (IRW) in January 2016, covering the following districts: Al Khalidiyah (1 location), Al Qaiam (1), Al-Ruttba (1), Amiriyat Al Falluja (1), Fallujah (2), Haditha (1), Heet (1), Ramadi (1) and Rawah (1).

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