



World Food Programme

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Flash Update – March 2016

# IRAQ - Anbar

## Highlights

- **Tens of thousands of people continue to flee ongoing fighting between government security forces and armed opposition groups in Anbar, while many remain trapped in what are being described as siege-like conditions, sealed off from assistance.**
- **Food and fuel shortages are being reported across the governorate - particularly in Falluja and Heet districts.**
- **In Fallujah, due to the escalation of armed conflict for the second consecutive month serious food shortages have been recorded within the governorate, resulting in record-high prices of the available food commodities in local markets.**

## Situation overview

Military operations by Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) in Anbar Governorate are intensifying. According to IOM, on 11 and 12 March, about 34,900 people (5,818 families) were newly displaced due to the armed clashes. People have reportedly been displaced from Kabissa, Heet, Al-Asriya village and Al-Saghriya village to Kilo 35, Kilo 7, Kilo 18 and the Al Wafaa sub-district west of Ramadi. Most people are reported to have left with few belongings. The most urgent needs are reportedly shelter, household items, food and water. People who have arrived in the Kilo 7 area have been temporarily accommodated in tents that were already erected in the area, although a gap in shelter has been reported. There are two IDP sites now, one Kilo 18, and another one at Kilo 50 near al-Wafa. The Government of Iraq's Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center (JCMC) and the Anbar governor confirmed these two IDP sites will be permanent, and that they are in need of urgent intervention. The situation remains fluid and military operations have continued towards Heet.

## Humanitarian response

Humanitarian partners have started delivering rapid response kits with ready-to-eat food, safe drinking water and hygiene kits to those newly displaced at Kilo 7 and Kilo 18 through the Rapid Response Mechanism. By 15 March, over 3,300 kits had been distributed by Rebuild Iraq Recruitment Program (RIRP) and Norwegian Refugee Council in Anbar. Each kit lasts a family of five for a week. RIRP is covering Habbaniyah Tourist City and Kaldiyah, while NRC is covering Kilo 7, Kilo 18 and Ameriyat al Falluja.

## Markets and food prices

In February, The overall average cost of a food basket recorded in Anbar slightly increased from 1013 IQD in January to 1042 IQD in February. However, variation in the cost of a standard food basket was recorded at district level (Tables 1 and 2).

In **Ramadi** and **Al Khalidiyah**, February data shows a 17 and 16 percent decrease in the average cost recorded in January. In **Haditha**, after three consecutive months of price decrease, the average cost of the food basket increased by 16 percent in comparison with January, according to the key informant responses. In **Al Rutba**, the average cost of the food basket increased by 16 percent between January and February reporting the highest food costs in all the governorates (1280 IQD) and 23 percent higher than the average in Anbar governorate.

As conflict continues in Heet, the average cost of the food basket increased by 27% from 792 IQD in January to 1008 IQD in February. In addition key informants from Heet center reported, due to ongoing fighting between armed opposition groups and ISF, people moved to the outskirts of the city where they established an IDP site and they are in need of food and water.

All monitored locations, with the exception of Haditha, indicated that no Public Distribution System (PDS) deliveries had been received in February and that there is a large need for assistance, especially for the displaced population.

**Table 1. Average cost of a standard food basket in monitored locations of Anbar governorate, December 2015 – February 2016**

Location	December (IQD)	January (IQD)	February (IQD)	% change between January and February
<b>Anbar governorate</b>	<b>1143</b>	<b>1013</b>	<b>1042</b>	<b>3%</b>
<i>Ramadi district</i>	1419	1447	1240	-17%
<i>Al Khalidiyah district</i>	1611	1363	1184	-15%
<i>Haditha district</i>	932	837	995	16%
<i>Al Ruttba district</i>	915	1064	1280	17%

Source: WFP mVAM, February 2016

In **Falluja district**, for the second consecutive month respondents from Hay Alwahda sub-district reported that shops and markets had exhausted all food supplies including wheat, sugar, rice, vegetable oil and lentils and that people were mainly depending on food such as potatoes, lettuce and eggplants that they collected from farms in rural areas close to the city. Armed opposition groups are reportedly still controlling these areas and bombings and shelling are preventing the movement of people. The situation is deteriorating as there are scarce vegetables available.

According to the key informants from Hay Almoalmin sub-district (two observation) food commodities are not easily available. Even if the prices of food commodities in Falluja decreased in comparison with January, accessibility remains a problem and prices are extremely high in comparison with December (Table 2).

In addition, no availability of cooking gas and fuel was reported in Falluja and electricity is available only for few hours a day, in accordance with what was observed 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)	Average price in February 2016: Falluja* (IQD)	% change between January and February	Average price in February: Anbar (IQD)
<b>Wheat flour (kg)</b>	2,600	24,000	22,000	-9%	1,407
<b>Imported rice (kg)</b>	2,650	20,000	15,000	-33%	2,121
<b>Sugar (kg)</b>	2,200	20,000	15,000	-33%	1,457
<b>Vegetable oil (liter)</b>	3,200	20,000	21,000	5%	2,292
<b>Lentils (kg)</b>	3,800	NA	NA	NA	2,193

\* These figures are based on two markets in Falluja, Hay Almoalmin sub-district. Key informant interviews are ongoing.

Source: WFP mVAM, February 2016

## Methodology

The mVAM findings are based on market information from 7 locations in Anbar governorate collected with the assistance of Islamic Relief International (IRW) from 3 February to 10 March 2016, covering the following districts: Al Khalidiyah (1 location), Al Qaiam (1), Al-Ruttba (1), Amiriyat Al Falluja (1), Fallujah (2), Haditha (1), Heet (2) and Ramadi (1).

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