



MOSUL



vam
food security analysis

mVAM IRAQ: EMERGENCY UPDATE #5

FEBRUARY 2017

Key points:



High use of negative coping strategies among IDP and returnee households



Households increasingly unable to access food due to lack of income and rising food prices



Key informants inside Mosul non-liberated areas report shortages of basic foods



WFP/Mohamed Albahbahani

Situation Update

Since the start of military operation in western Mosul on 19 February, nearly 30,000 people have been displaced; approximately 4,000 people per day since 25 February. There are an estimated 750,000 people still living in western Mosul, where food, water and fuel are already running low. The humanitarian situation for an estimated 750,000 civilians within western Mosul remains difficult. Since November, western Mosul has been cut off from its supply routes.

As of 21 February, Iraqi forces have captured the strategic hilltop of Al-Bu Saif and are proceeding towards Mosul airport. Government and humanitarian partners are prioritizing the expansion of existing camps and the establishment of new ones to the south of Mosul.

In eastern Mosul, ongoing humanitarian assistance is needed to provide food, water and health care. Of the estimated 220,000 people who have cumulatively been displaced by the military operations in Mosul and surrounding areas, over 57,000 have returned home as the security situation improves. Markets in some of the eastern neighbourhoods are open and being supplied through commercial routes.

Source: WFP, OCHA and IOM

522

Households surveyed

36

Average age of respondents



13% IDPs
43% Returnees
44% Non IDPs



57% Own Home
36% Rental
7% Guest



93% Male
7% Female

21

Key informants called

32

Locations surveyed



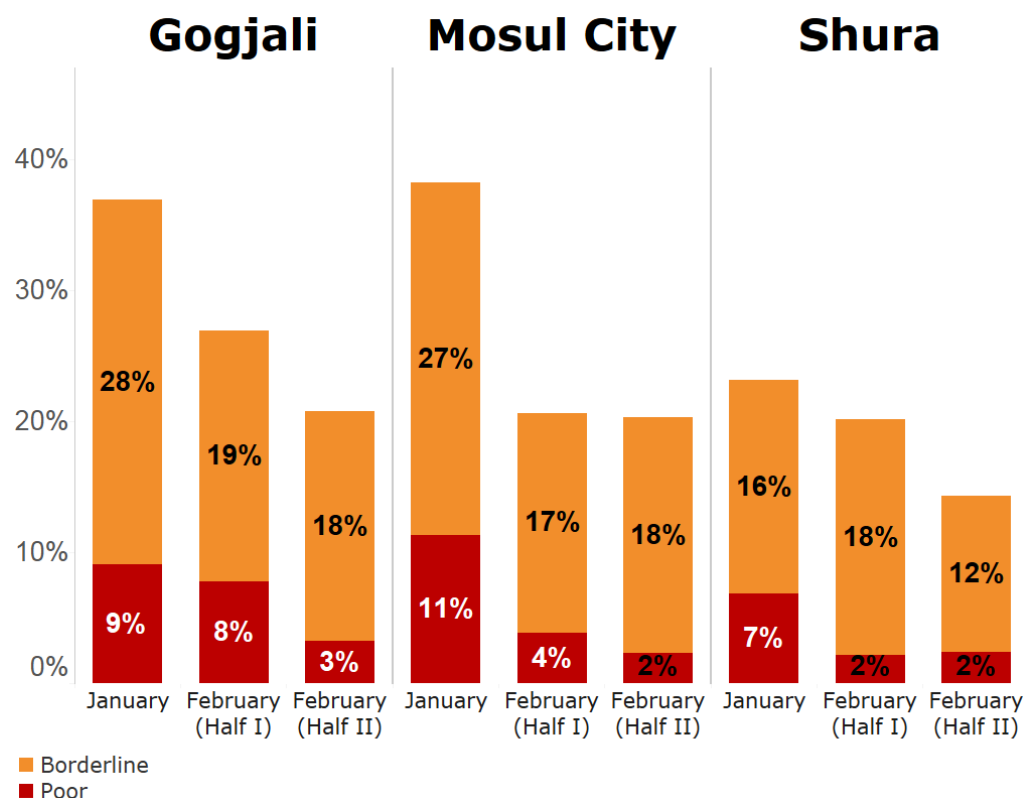
Inadequate food consumption increases among IDPs

In the second February round (20 February-07 March) the mVAM survey covered three conflict-affected areas in Mosul district: Mosul city-retaken areas, Gogjali and Shura. These locations host large numbers of IDPs from Mosul and surrounding areas, as well as returnees.

February mVAM data showed a fall in the percentage of respondents with inadequate food consumption in all three surveyed locations in Mosul district compared with January (Figure 1). As conflict moves towards western Mosul access to retaken areas has improved and humanitarian organizations are reaching households in these locations.

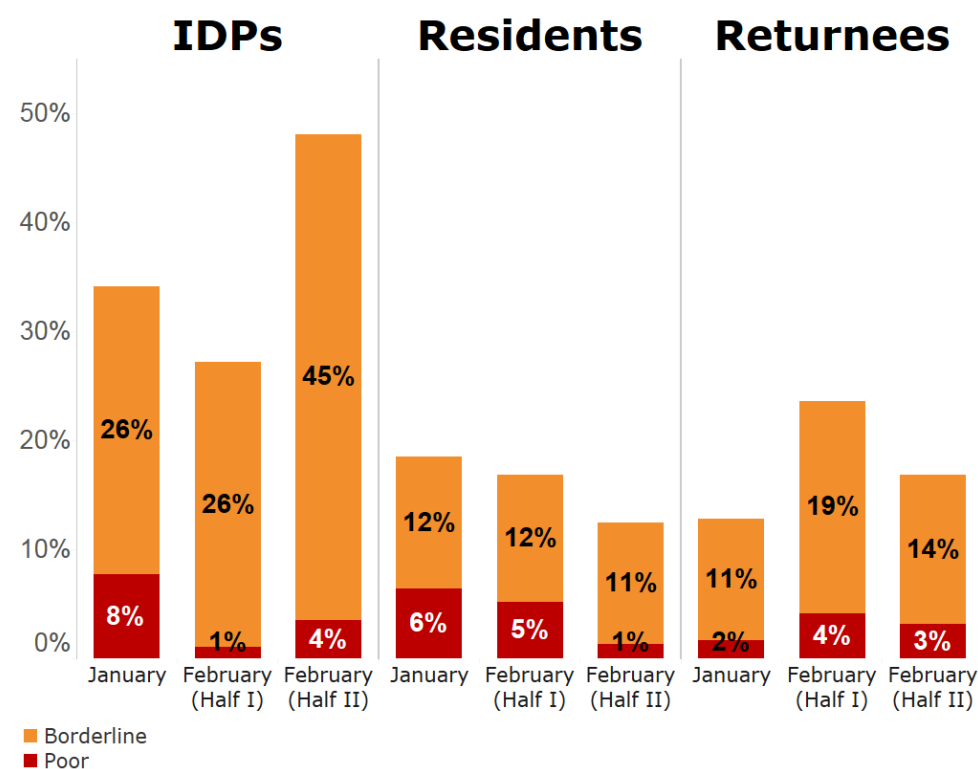
A similar trend has been noticed also for the resident and returnee respondents. However IDPs food consumptions appeared to have deteriorated. There was a significant increase in the percentage of IDPs with borderline food consumption (Figure 2).

Figure 1. Households with inadequate consumption, January to February 2017



Source: mVAM February 2017

Figure 2. Households with inadequate consumption by respondent status, January to February 2017



Source: mVAM February 2017



More IDP and returnee households are resorting to negative coping

Households were asked if there were times in the week before the survey when they did not have enough food or money to buy food. The percentage of households who reported using food-based negative coping strategies remained high and increased in Mosul retaken areas from 36 percent in the first half of February to 41 percent in the second half of the month (Figure 3).

Negative coping strategies are still more commonly used by IDP and returnee households than by resident families. However, in a continuation of last month's trend the percentage of IDP households who adopted negative coping strategies increased reaching 48 percent in the second half of February while it remained at the same levels as the previous rounds for residents and returnee households (Figure 4). In specific, more IDPs are borrowing food on credit or rely on help from friends and relatives.

In retaken areas of eastern Mosul, respondents reported that people are relying on food assistance provided by humanitarian organizations as PDS access is very limited. Lower income families are particularly affected and they are using credit or savings to cover their spending on food. With food prices still high and low wage rates, respondents reported the cost of food as one of their top three worries after lack of water and electricity. While they use more credit and whittle down their savings, households are worried about their savings and levels of debt.

In the west part of Mosul, shortages of basic food items continue to be reported by key informants. People are surviving with what is left in the market and with family stocks. This means that many households had to reduce drastically the number of meals eaten per day and limiting their consumption to bread and the available vegetables. Families are helping each other and prioritizing children. Due to increased fighting, people are afraid to leave their homes, making it even more difficult to obtain essential food items.

Figure 3: Percentage of households using food-based negative coping strategies, January to February 2017

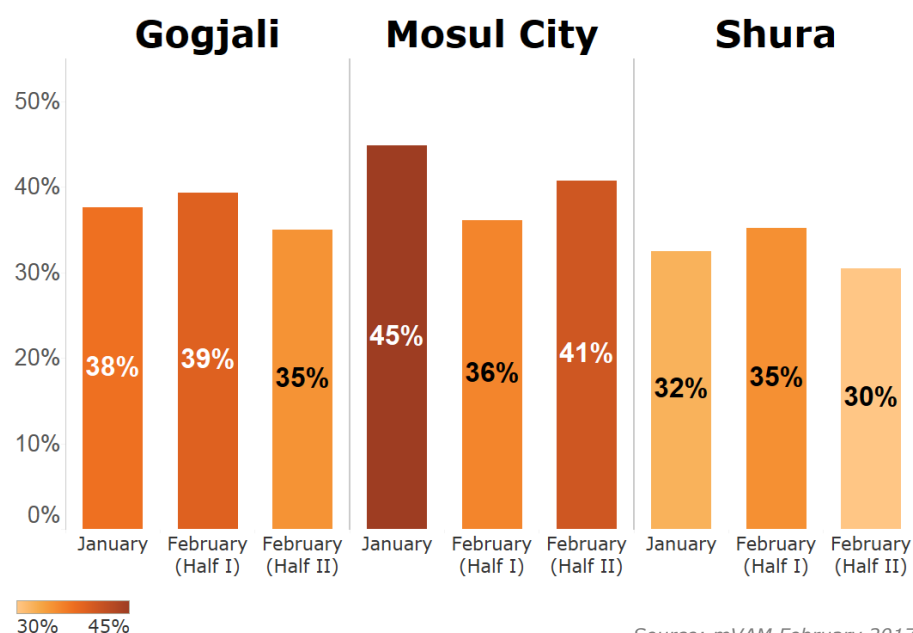
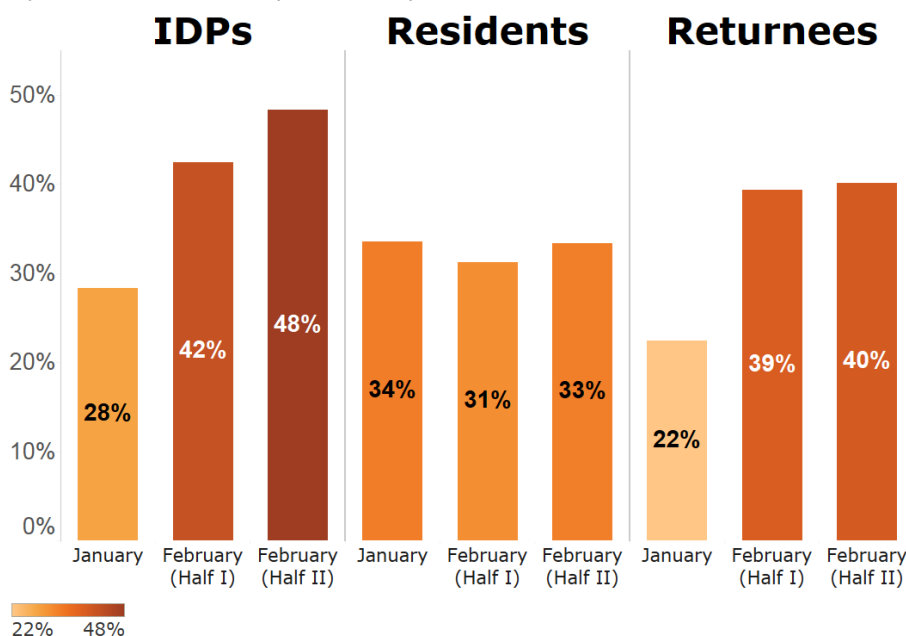


Figure 4: Percentage of households using food-based negative coping strategies by respondent status, January to February 2017





More IDP and returnee households are resorting to negative coping

More than a third of interviewed households in all three locations reported having received food assistance in the 30 days before the survey, regardless of their residency status. As access to newly retaken areas continue to expand, the percentage of households receiving food assistance increased significantly in Shura and Gogjali. In Mosul retaken areas where the humanitarian access is still occasionally affected by security incidents the delivery of food assistance remain lower than in the other two surveyed locations. Government and humanitarian partners are distributing emergency response kits and assistance where possible.

Returnee households continued to have better access to food assistance than IDPs and residents (Figure 5). However, the percentage of IDPs receiving food assistance continued to increase since January.

While some people in retaken areas of eastern Mosul are relying on food assistance provided by humanitarian organizations, markets are still the main source of food. The three main income sources for the majority of the respondents regardless of their residency status are regular wages (52 percent), temporary employment (38 percent) and social safety nets (7 percent). Around 13 percent of respondents said they were unemployed.

Figure 5. Percentage of households receiving food assistance, January to February 2017

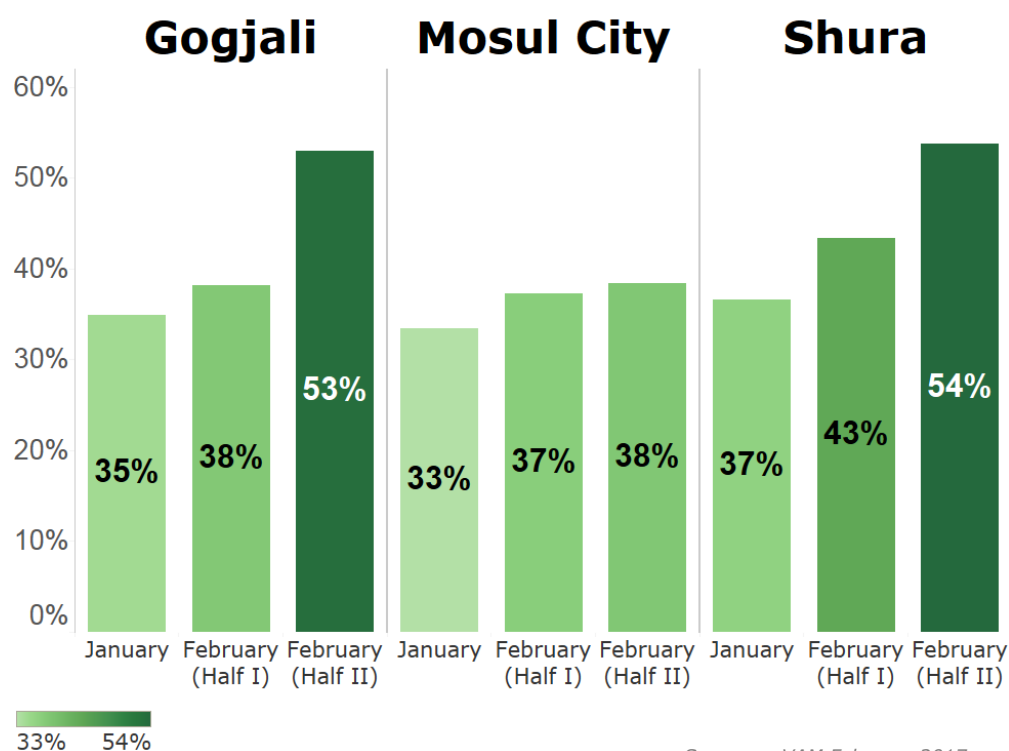
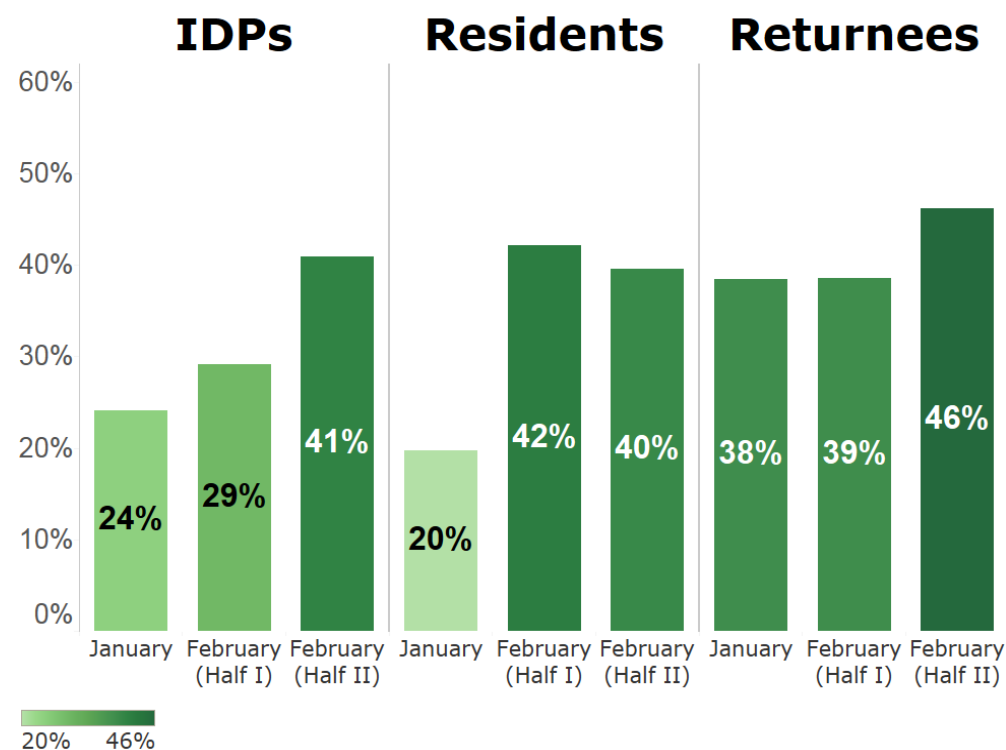


Figure 6. Percentage of households receiving food assistance by respondent status, January to February 2017



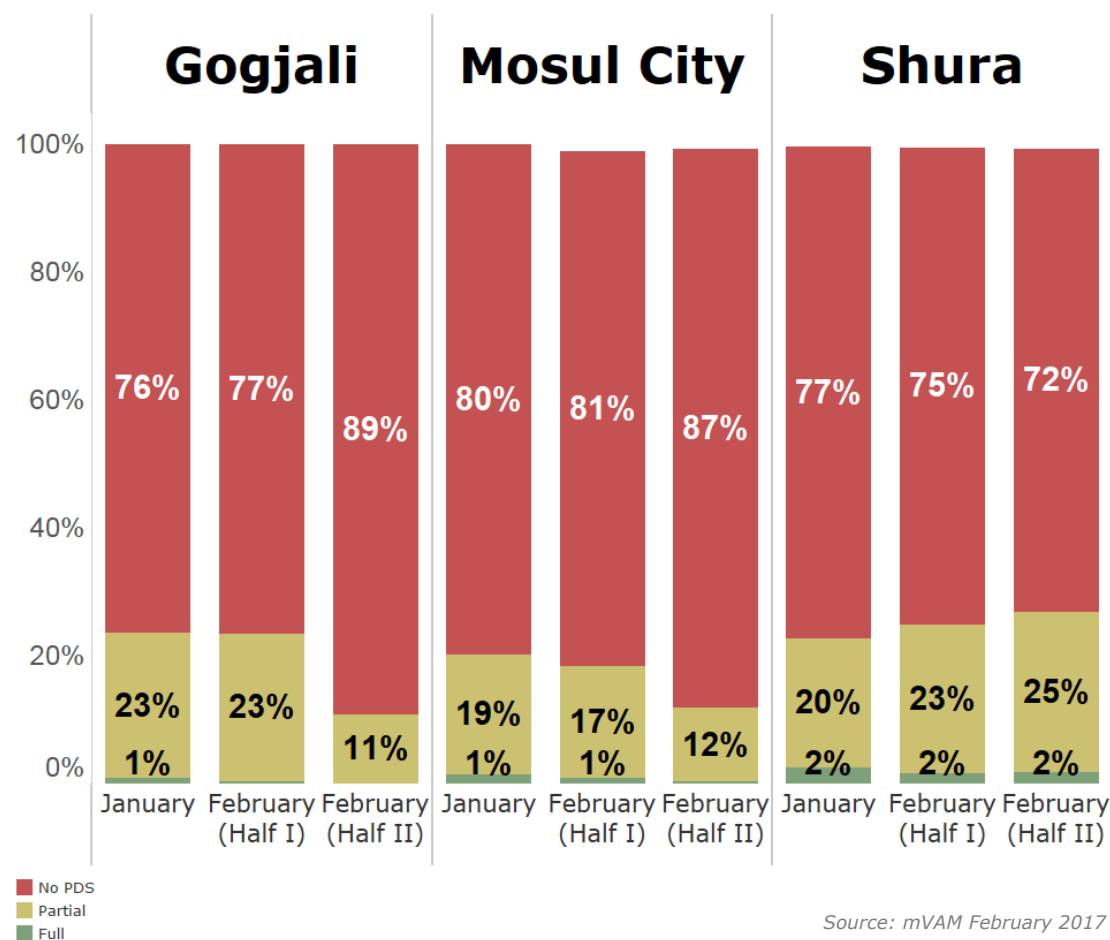


Households in retaken Mosul have no access to the Public Distribution System

February data shows that access to Public Distribution System (PDS) rations remained very low in all the surveyed locations. In Gogjali and Mosul neighbourhoods 89 percent and 87 percent of the respondents reported not receiving PDS rations, a significant increase in comparison with the previous rounds. In addition a significant change in the percentage of households who reported having received partial ration decreased significantly in the Gogjali and Mosul (Figure 7).

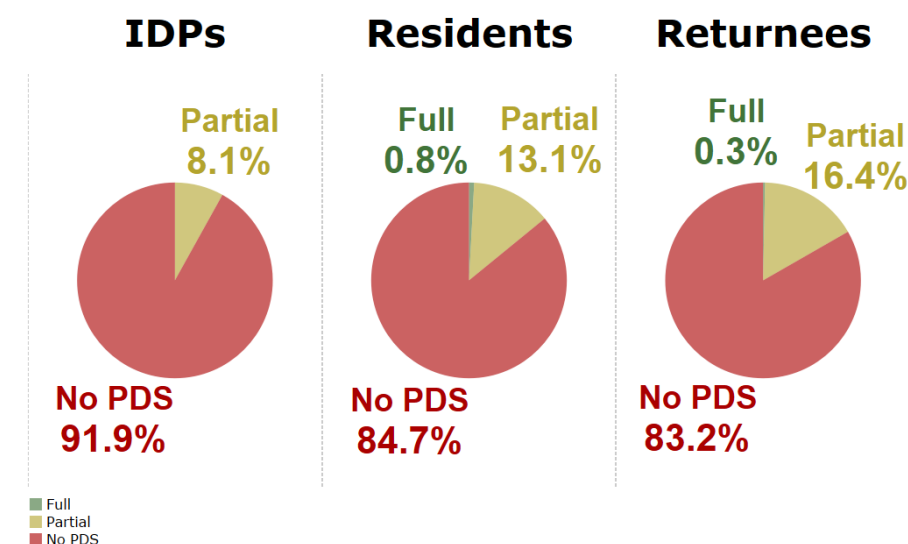
IDPs access to PDS continue to be extremely low, 92 percent of displaced households did not receive rations in February. As shown in Figure 8, only 8 percent of displaced households received partial rations; 13 percent of resident households and 16 percent of returnee households received partial rations in February

Figure 7. Percentage of households receiving PDS, January to February 2017



Source: mVAM February 2017

Figure 8. Percentage of households receiving PDS by respondent status, February 2017



Source: mVAM February 2017

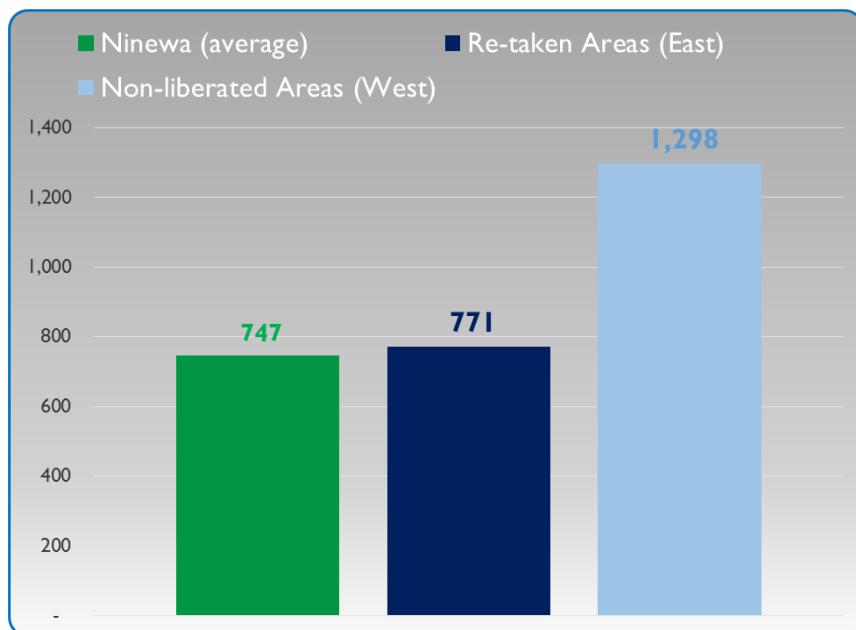


Rising food prices and falling purchasing power

In Mosul, respondents consistently reported that food prices have increased compared to previous months. Average food prices in the governorate are lower than prices in Mosul (east and west), particularly for onions, sugar and fresh milk (Figure 9). The cost of wheat flour and rice is similar in Mosul compared to the rest of the governorate.

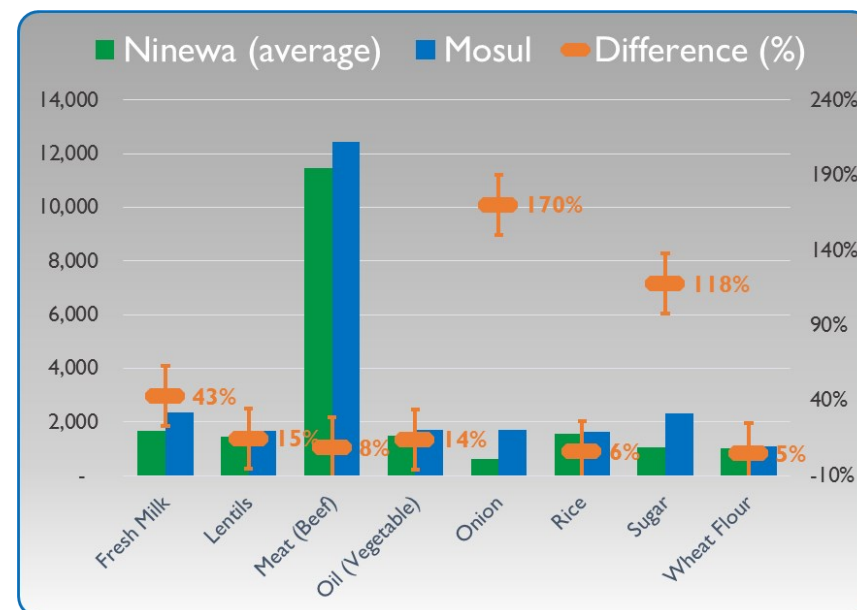
The food basket in Mosul retaken areas (IQD771) in February 2017 was 3 percent more expensive than in the rest of Ninewa (IQD747) but 68 percent cheaper than the food basket in non-liberated areas (IQD1,298) (Figure 10). However the cost of the food basket in Mosul retaken areas decreased by 5 percent in comparison with the previous round of survey, confirming a trend that has been seen before in other retaken areas. On the contrary the cost of the food basket increased by 9 percent in Mosul non-liberated areas.

Figure 10. Cost of the food basket in Mosul district and Ninewa governorate



¹ The minimum food basket monitored by WFP contains five foods: wheat flour, sugar, rice, vegetable oil and onions. The quantities are adjusted against the survival caloric intake needs.

Figure 9. Comparison of main food prices between Mosul district and Ninewa governorate



Commodity	Mosul	Ninewa (average)	Difference (%)	Relevance of difference
	19Feb-9Mar 2017	19Feb-9Mar 2017		(+/-5%)
Fresh Milk	2,364	1,656	43%	↑
Lentils	1,671	1,456	15%	↑
Meat (Beef)	12,445	1,471	8%	↑
Oil (Vegetable)	1,711	1,500	14%	↑
Onion	1,710	632	170%	↑
Rice	1,640	1,544	6%	↑
Sugar	2,317	1,065	118%	↑
Wheat Flour	1,079	1,029	5%	→
Unskilled Labour	10,536	17,647	-40%	↓
Food Basket	840	747	12%	↑
ToT	13	24	-47%	↓

Source: mVAM, IMST February 2017



Rising food prices and falling purchasing power

Food prices in retaken parts of Mosul are significantly higher than in non-liberated parts except for rice, which costs the same in both eastern and western parts (Figure 11). Fresh milk, onions, sugar and wheat flour continue to be much more expensive in non-liberated areas of Mosul. The high prices in non-liberated areas are mainly driven by limited access together with supply disruptions and high transportation costs because of the unavailability of fuel. Lentils, meat and vegetable oil were not available in the markets of non-liberated areas.

Terms of trade

Wage-to-food terms of trade is a proxy indicator used to measure household purchasing power, by showing how many food baskets can be purchased with the wage earned from one day of casual unskilled labour. Findings show significant differences in terms of trade between Mosul liberated areas (9) and Ninewa governorate (25), reflecting higher food prices and lower wage rates (IQD8,000 in Mosul and IQD19,205 in Ninewa) (Figure 12). In Mosul non-liberated areas, respondents did not report wage rates as most people are not working.

Figure 12. Wage-to-food terms of trade in Mosul (retaken areas) and Ninewa governorate

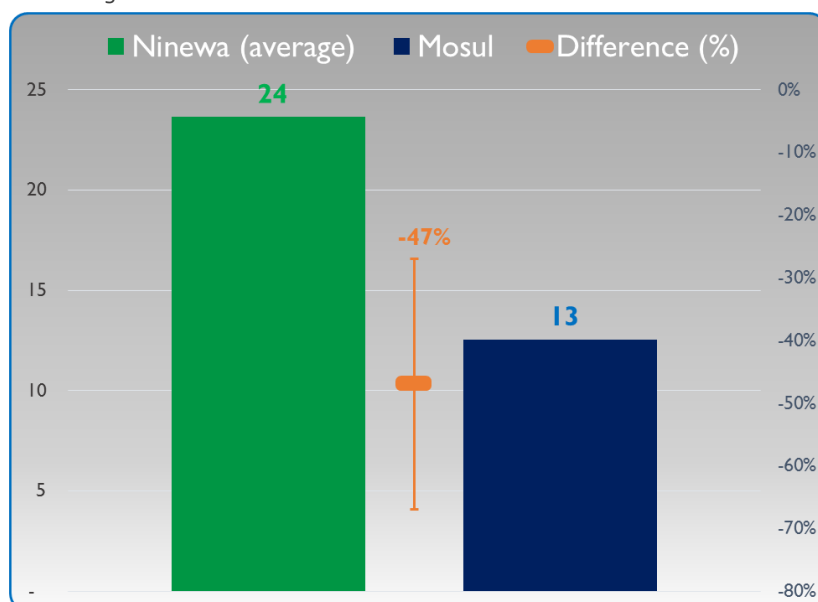
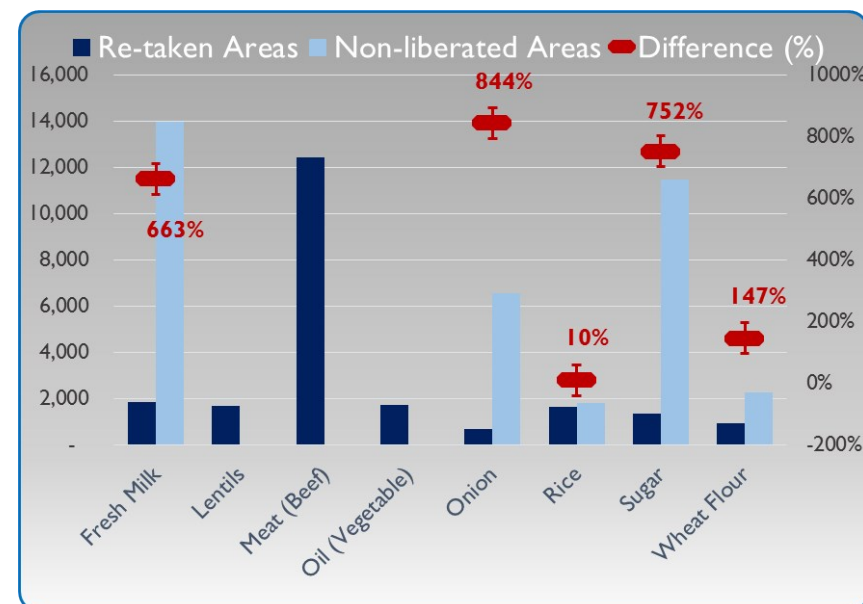


Figure 11. Main food prices in retaken and non-liberated areas of Mosul



Commodity	Re-Taken Areas	Non-liberated Areas	Difference (%)	Relevance of difference
	19Feb-9Mar 2017	19Feb-9Mar 2017		(+/-5%)
Fresh Milk	1,835	14,000	663%	↑
Lentils	1,671	-	-	—
Meat (Beef)	12,445	-	-	—
Oil (Vegetable)	1,711	-	-	—
Onion	693	6,542	844%	↑
Rice	1,632	1,800	10%	↑
Sugar	1,350	11,500	752%	↑
Wheat Flour	925	2,283	147%	↑
Unskilled Labour	10,536	-	-100%	↓
Food Basket	771	1,298	68%	↑
ToT	14	-	-100%	↓

*Due to lack of information, the food basket in unliberated areas has been calculated without taking into account lentils and vegetable oil

Source: mVAM, IMST February 2017

Food Shortages and Market Functionality

Respondents from eastern Mosul continue to report shortages drinking water. Safe drinking water is available for a couple of hours every two to three days in northern and eastern neighbourhoods of the western Mosul, but some neighbourhoods have no access to safe drinking water at all and they are drinking untreated water. Where available, the price of fuel has increased and is now only affordable for the wealthiest families. Moreover, the electricity supply has reportedly been cut off for a number of weeks. The lack of fuel has led many families to burn wood, furniture and household rubbish to keep warm.

Most basic food items are not available or are sporadically available in the majority of the west of the city and commercially available stocks are exhausted. Fresh products such as milk, fruit and vegetables are absent, except for onions and potatoes. Respondents are particularly concerned for the food security of children under 1 because of the lack of milk and baby formula.

For more information on East Mosul markets: [East Mosul Rapid Market Assessment, March 2017](#)

Methodology – mVAM remote data collection

In February 2017, mVAM conducted household food security monitoring using telephone interviews. Data was collected from a sample of 522 respondents via Korek, a major mobile network operator, from 20 February to 7 March. WFP monitored respondents living in several locations in recently retaken areas, drawn from Korek's database. The data was weighted by the number of mobile phones owned by the household. In addition, in collaboration with Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW), 21 key informant interviews were conducted in Mosul covering 18 locations in the eastern part of the city and 14 locations in western Mosul.

Figure 13. Availability Analysis – Mosul district

Areas	Commodity	Al Qayara	Al Shurah	Hay Al-mashrq	Al-masaref	Hay Al-jamia	Hay Al-zhur	Hay Al-samah	Al-qadisia alula	Al-qadisia	Hay Al-nur	Hay Al-axaa	Hay A-elam	Al-qusbat	Hay A-zahraa	Hay Al-ann	Hay Al-qahira	Shuqq Al Khathar	Hay Al-zaitun
Re-taken	Lentils	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV
	Oil (Vegetable)	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV
	Rice	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV
	Sugar	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV
	Wheat Flour	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV
Areas	Commodity	Hay Al-arabi	Hay Al-rifaae	South Western	Hay Al-yarmuk	Hay Al-najar	Mosul Al-jadida	Al-cayaran	Hay Al-risala	Wadi hajar	Al-yarmuk	Al- Mansur	Dandan	l7 Tamuz	Hay Al-sadam				
Non-liberated	Lentils	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			
	Oil (Vegetable)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			
	Rice	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	MNA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			
	Sugar	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	MNA	NA	NA	NA	NA	AV	SAV	NA	NA	NA			
	Wheat Flour	NA	AV	NA	NA	SAV	SAV	AV	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA			
AV	Available																		
WAD	Widely Available																		
SAV	Sporadically Available																		
MNA	Mostly Not Available																		
NA	Not Available																		

Source: mVAM, IMST February 2017

Source: mVAM, IMST February 2017



For further information:

Sally Haydock	sally.haydock@wfp.org
Arif Husain	arif.husain@wfp.org
Mariko Kawabata	mariko.kawabata@wfp.org
Asif Niazi	asif.niazi@wfp.org

mVAM Resources:

Website: http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/
Blog: mvam.org
Toolkit: <http://resources.vam.wfp.org/mVAM>



vam
food security analysis



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

THE BELGIAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



Government of the Netherlands