



# MOSUL



**vam**  
food security analysis

## mVAM IRAQ: EMERGENCY FLASH UPDATE #4

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



### Situation Update

The offensive on western Mosul started on 19 February; up to 250,000 people are expected to be on the move as a result. Given the narrow streets and high population density in western Mosul city, particularly in the Old Town area, civilians are at great risk of being caught in crossfire, and infrastructure is likely to sustain significant damage. Humanitarian partners are working to accelerate and expand site capacity in Hammam al Alil, Qayyarah and Haj Ali, and to support government efforts to expand displacement sites in Ja'dah and Al Salamiyah by providing water and sanitation services.

Since fighting began on 17 October 2016, more than 217,764 people have been displaced from the eastern sections of Mosul and surrounding areas, and 57,462 people have returned to their areas of origin, primarily to eastern Mosul city. On 19 February, 160,302 people were living in displacement. For the first time since mid-January, the new arrivals at camps have outnumbered the people returning to their area of origin. This has been largely attributed to increased insecurity in eastern Mosul city. The humanitarian situation in western Mosul continues to deteriorate, but humanitarian access around Mosul is improving.

**500**

**Households surveyed**

**37**

**Average age of respondents**



**19% IDPs**

**51% Returnees**

**30% Non IDPs**



**56% Own Home**

**37% Rental**

**5% Guest**

**2% Unfinished Building**



**93% Male**

**7% Female**

**37**

**Key informants called**

**28**

**Locations surveyed**



## Inadequate food consumption increases among returnees

In February, the mVAM survey covered three conflict-affected areas in Mosul district: Mosul city–liberated 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). This is particularly the case for Mosul city, where the percentage of poor and borderline food consumption decreased significantly.

IDPs, returnees and residents continue to exhibit different levels of food security. There was a significant drop in the percentage of IDPs with poor food consumption. However, inadequate consumption among returnees across the surveyed locations increased in February (Figure 2).

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

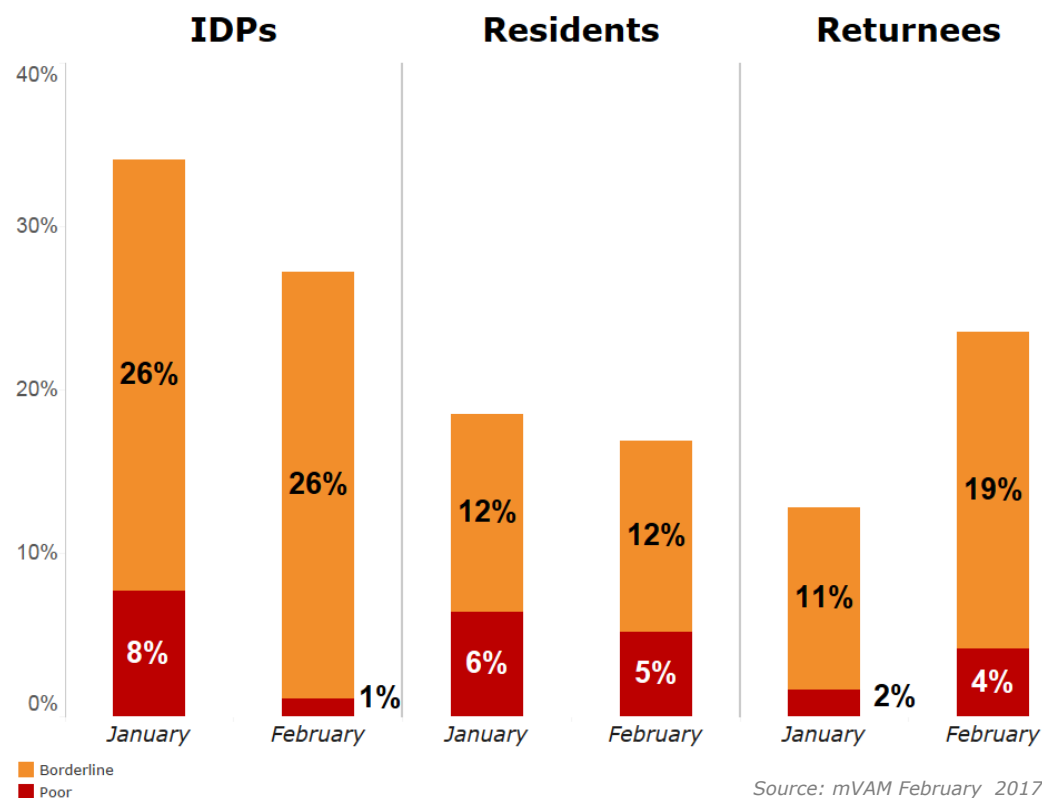
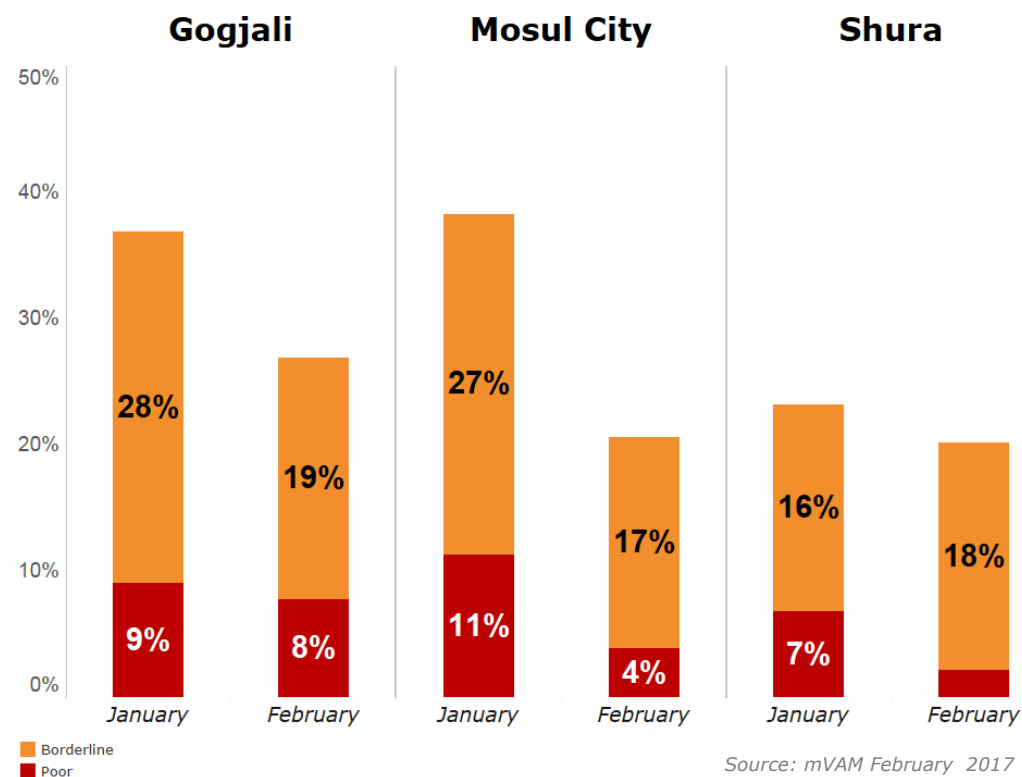


Figure 2. Households with inadequate consumption by respondent status, January to February 2017





### 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. In a continuation of last month's trend, the percentage of households who reported using food-based negative coping strategies in Mosul liberated areas fell from 45 percent in January to 36 percent in February (Figure 3). Negative coping strategies are still more commonly used by IDP and returnees households than by resident families. Compared to January, a higher proportion of IDPs and returnees adopted negative coping strategies in February (Figure 4).

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. In Shura, 43 percent of respondents said they had had access to food assistance in February compared to 37 percent in January. The security situation in the east has improved, and a semblance of normal life is starting to emerge, with people returning from displacement sites and camps in their thousands. Humanitarian access has improved markedly and distributions made by government and humanitarian partners are reaching people in the city and other newly accessible areas.

Returnee households continued to have better access to food assistance in February than IDPs and residents (Figure 5). However, the percentage of residents receiving food assistance doubled, with 42 percent reporting that they had received food assistance in February compared to 20 percent in January.

While some people in liberated 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, temporary employment and social safety nets. Around 10 percent of respondents said they were unemployed.

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

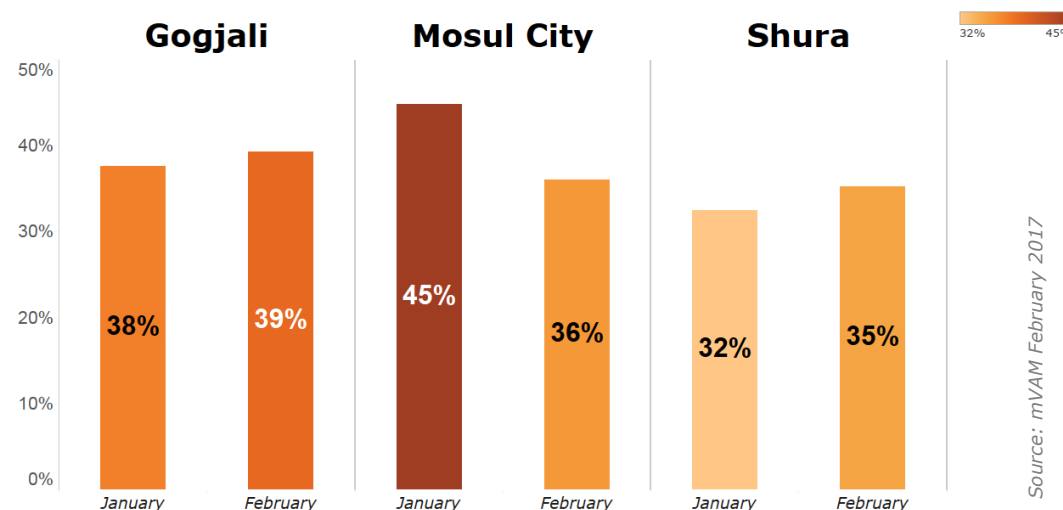


Figure 4: Percentage of households using food-based negative coping strategies by respondent status, January to February 2017

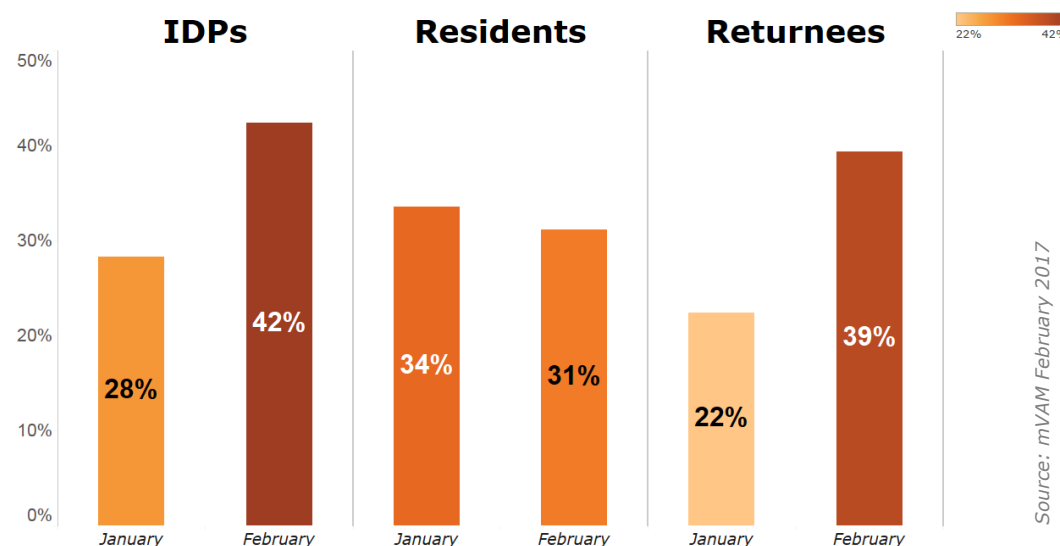
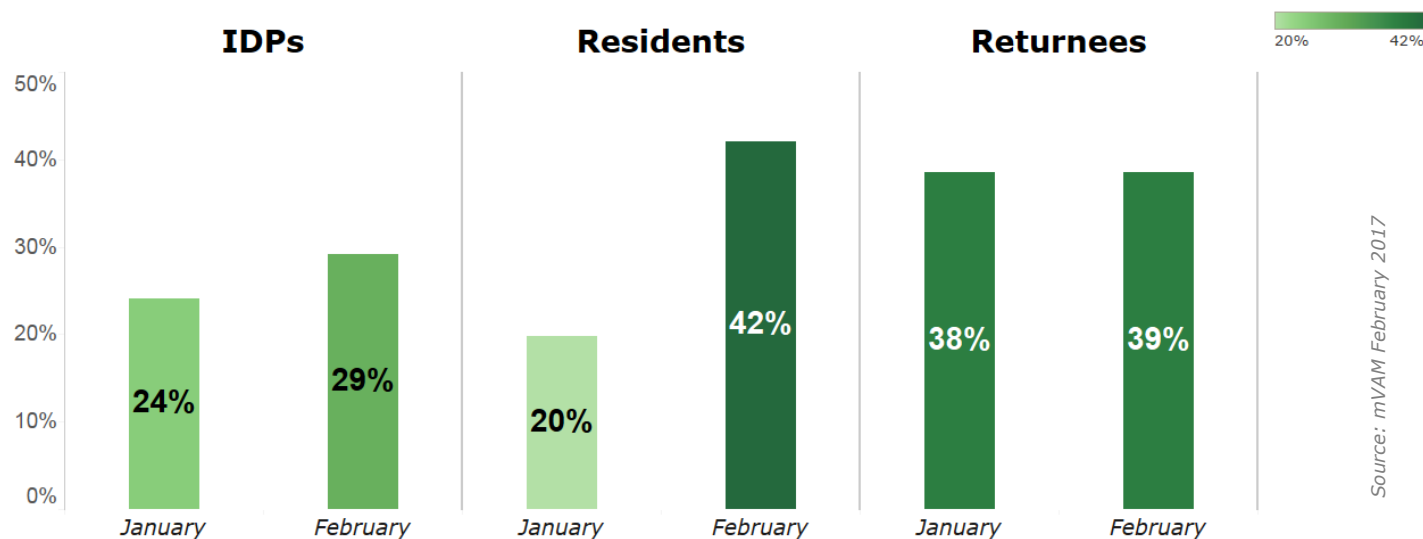


Figure 5. Percentage of households receiving food assistance by respondent status, January to February 2017

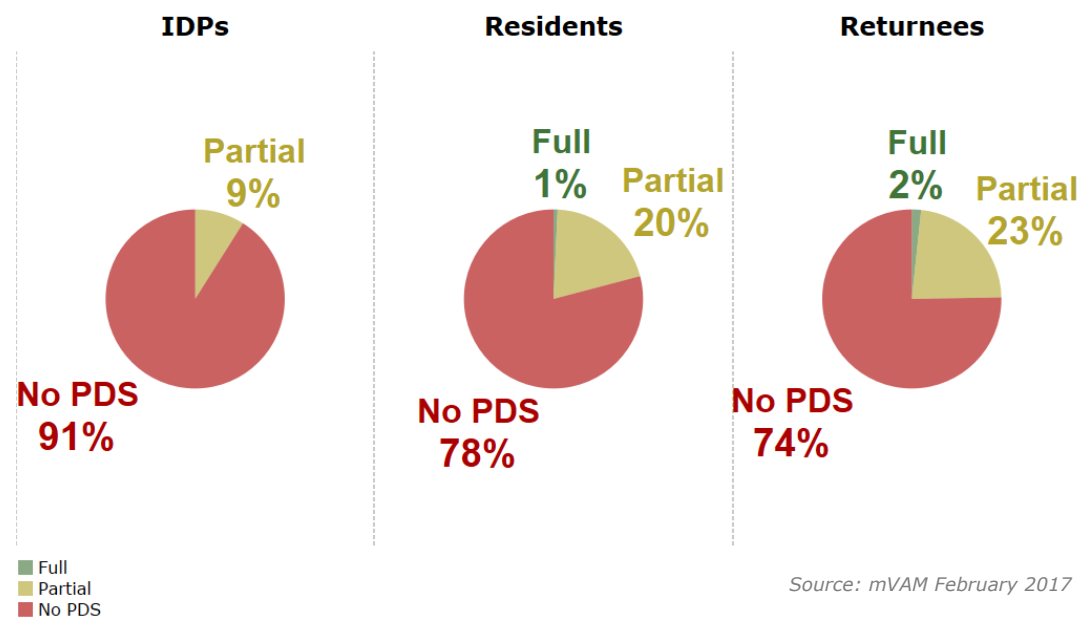


### Households in Mosul have no access to the Public Distribution System

February data shows that access to Public Distribution System (PDS) rations remained very low, especially in Mosul where 81 percent of respondents reported not receiving PDS. Around 77 percent of respondents in Gogjali and 75 percent in Shura did not receive any food items from the PDS in February.

PDS access in conflict-affected locations has been extremely intermittent, especially for IDPs. As shown in Figure 6, only 9 percent of displaced households received partial rations; 20 percent of resident households and 23 percent of returnee households received partial rations in February

Figure 6. Percentage of households receiving PDS by respondent status, February 2017

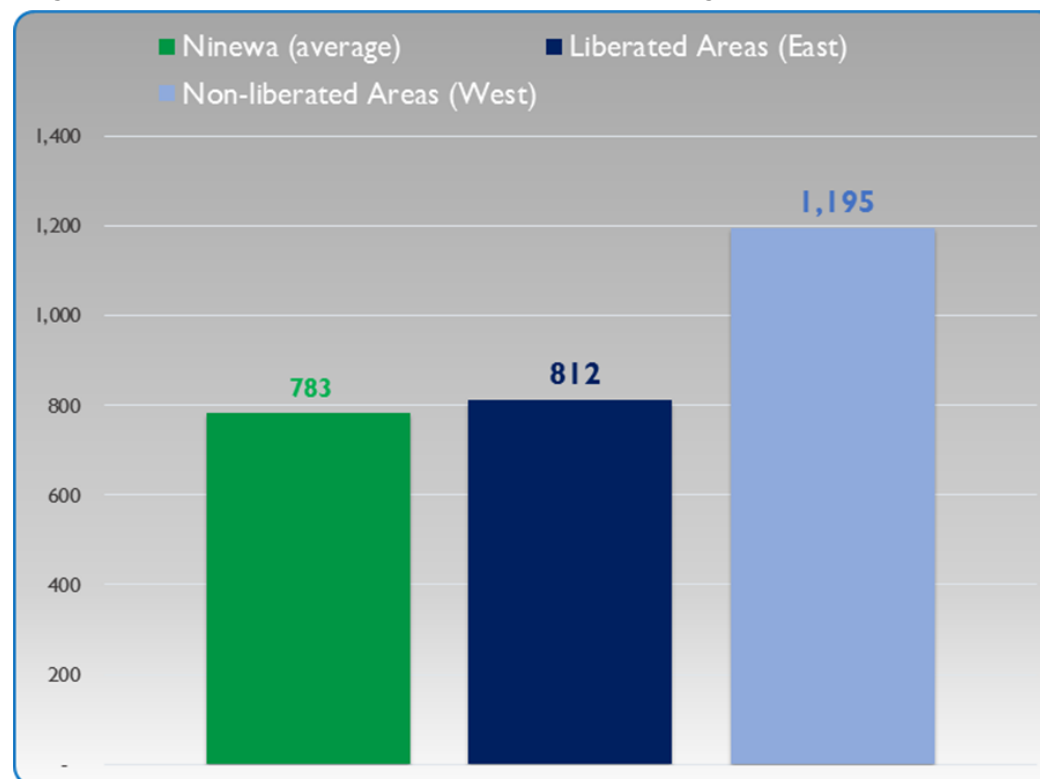


## Rising food prices and falling purchasing power

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 7). However, the difference in prices was less in February than in January – prices are returning to normal, confirming a trend that has been seen before in other liberated areas.

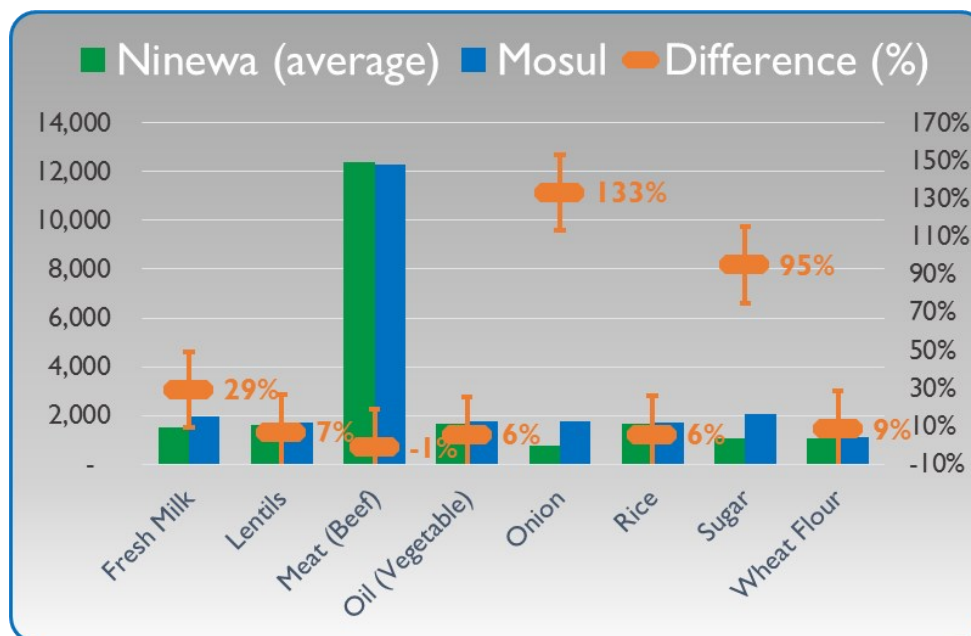
The food basket in Mosul liberated areas (IQD812) in February 2017 was 4 percent more expensive than in the rest of Ninewa (IQD783) but 47 percent cheaper than the food basket in non-liberated areas (IQD1,195) (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Cost of the food basket in Mosul district and Ninewa governorate



<sup>1</sup> The minimum food basket monitored by WFP contains five food commodities. The quantities are adjusted against the survival caloric intake needs. The five commodities are wheat flour, sugar, rice, vegetable oil and onion.

Figure 7. Comparison of main food prices between Mosul district and Ninewa



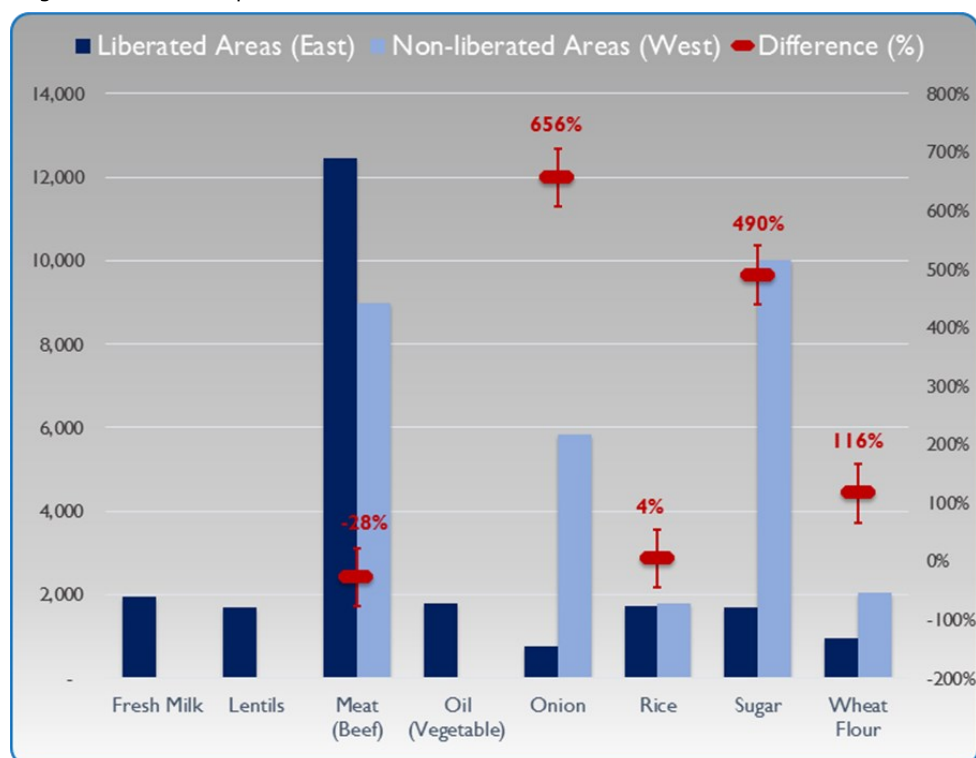
Commodity	Mosul	Ninewa (average)	Difference (%)	Relevance of difference
	Feb-17	Feb-17		(+/-5%)
Fresh Milk	1,933	1,494	29%	↑
Lentils	1,702	1,591	7%	↑
Meat (Beef)	12,286	12,409	-1%	↓
Oil (Vegetable)	1,774	1,680	6%	↑
Onion	1,750	750	133%	↑
Rice	1,730	1,635	6%	↑
Sugar	2,073	1,063	95%	↑
Wheat Flour	1,128	1,040	9%	↑
Unskilled Labour	8,000	19,205	-58%	↓
<b>Food Basket</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>11%</b>	↑
<b>ToT</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>-62%</b>	↓

Source: mVAM, IMST February 2017

### Rising food prices and falling purchasing power

Food prices in liberated parts of Mosul are significantly higher than in non-liberated parts except for meat/beef, which is more expensive in eastern Mosul and rice, which costs the same in both eastern and western parts (Figure 9). Onions, sugar and wheat flour are 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.

Figure 9. Main food prices in liberated and non-liberated areas of Mosul



Commodity	Liberated Areas	Non-liberated Areas	Difference (%)	Relevance of difference
	Feb-17	Feb-17		(+/-5%)
Fresh Milk	1,933	-		
Lentils	1,702	-		
Meat (Beef)	12,450	9,000	-28%	↓
Oil (Vegetable)	1,774	-		
Onion	774	5,850	656%	↑
Rice	1,726	1,800	4%	→
Sugar	1,695	10,000	490%	↑
Wheat Flour	945	2,045	116%	↑
Unskilled Labour	8,000	-	-100%	↓
<b>Food Basket</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>1,195</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>↑</b>
<b>ToT</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>		

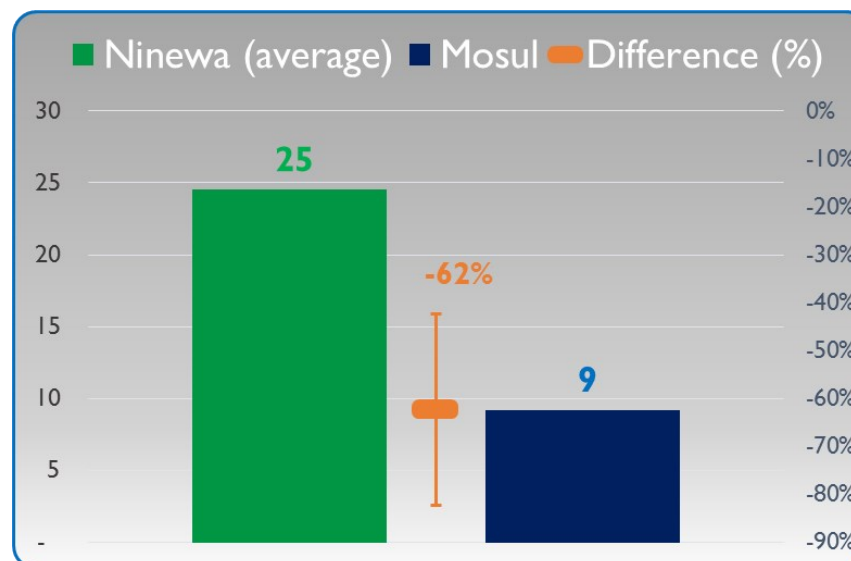
\*Due to lack of information, the food basket in unliberated areas has been calculated without taking into account lentils and vegetable oil

Source: mVAM. IMST February 2017

### 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 10). In Mosul non-liberated areas, respondents did not report wage rates as most people are not working.

Figure 10. Wage-to-food terms of trade in Mosul (liberated areas) and Ninewa governorate



Source: mVAM, IMST February 2017

### Many households are relying on humanitarian assistance

In liberated 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. A lack of electricity and water is pushing people to move to camps where humanitarian organizations are distributing food, which has become too expensive for households who have no income. Other families are relying on savings and on help from neighbours and relatives.

In the west part of Mosul, the lack of income-generating opportunities is compromising people's ability to meet household food needs, forcing households to resort to negative coping strategies. According to key informants, people are surviving with what is left in the market and with family stocks. Families are helping each other as the armed groups stopped distributing basic foods a few weeks ago. Reportedly, households are eating less and prioritizing children. Due to increased fighting, people are afraid to leave their homes, making it even more difficult to obtain essential food items.



## Food Shortages and Market Functionality

Respondents from eastern Mosul continue to report shortages of infant milk and 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. 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 west of the city, and commercially available stocks are exhausted, and prices are much higher than in eastern Mosul. Fresh products such as milk, fruit and vegetables are absent, except for onions and potatoes. Lentils, vegetable oil, rice and sugar are also not available or very scarce. Respondents are particularly concerned for the food security of children under 1 because of the lack of milk and baby formula.

## Methodology – mVAM remote data collection

In February 2017, mVAM conducted household food security monitoring using telephone interviews. Data was collected from a sample of 500 respondents via Korek, a major mobile network operator, from 1 to 19 February. WFP monitored respondents living in several locations in recently liberated 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), 37 key informant interviews were conducted in Mosul covering 16 locations in the eastern part of the city and 9 locations in western Mosul.

Figure 11. Availability Analysis – Mosul district

Areas	Commodity	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-amn	Hay Al-qahira	Shuqaq Al Khathar	Hay Al-zaitun
Liberated	Lentils	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
	Rice	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
	Wheat Flour	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-tayaran	Hay Al-risala	Wadi hajar							
Unliberated	Lentils	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	AV	Available					
	Oil (Vegetable)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	WAD	Widely Available					
	Rice	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	SAV	NA	NA	NA	SAV	Sporadically Available					
	Sugar	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	SAV	NA	NA	NA	MNA	Mostly Not Available					
	Wheat Flour	NA	AV	NA	NA	AV	SAV	AV	NA	NA	NA	Not Available					

Source: mVAM, IMST February 2017



## For further information:

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## mVAM Resources:

**Website:** [http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam\\_monitoring/](http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/)  
**Blog:** [mvam.org](http://mvam.org)  
**Toolkit:** <http://resources.vam.wfp.org/mVAM>



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