



# MOSUL



vam  
food security analysis

## mVAM IRAQ: EMERGENCY UPDATE #6

MARCH 2017

### Key points:



Food consumption deteriorates among resident households, especially in Mosul city.



Most households in Eastern Mosul are without income and are going into debt to pay for essential food items.



In the non-liberated areas of Western Mosul, households are becoming increasingly vulnerable as food and water supplies run out.



Food prices increase in Mosul non-liberated areas as compared to previous months.



### Situation Update

The cumulative number of IDPs from the beginning of the Mosul Operation on 17 October 2016 has exceeded 330,000 people. With an estimated 72,000 people having returned to their places of origin, some 270,000 people are still displaced across the Mosul area.

Since the military operation to retake Western Mosul began on 19 February 2017, over 167,000 people have been displaced from Western Mosul and the surrounding areas; 45,000 of these were displaced from 11-19 March, an increase of more than 22 percent from the previous week. An estimated 500,000 civilians remain inside Western Mosul. Reportedly Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) have retaken about 60 percent of Western Mosul. The Government has informed the UN Humanitarian Coordinator (UNHC) that the expected number of people displaced from Western Mosul and the surrounding areas may go up from 250,000 to 400,000. Camps in the south and East of Mosul have reached full capacity and authorities have been transporting families to Gogjali in Eastern Mosul and Qayyarah south of Mosul to reside with relatives or with host communities. To cater to the growing influx of IDPs, UNHCR is planning on expanding the camp in Hammam Al-Alil 1 and establishing a new camp (Hammam Al-Alil 2) 10 km south of it.

The main supply route into Western Mosul remains cut since mid-November and there is a critical shortage of food in markets. Water and electricity supplies have also been cut and medicines are running out.

600

Households surveyed

37

Average age of respondents



24% IDPs

36% Returnees

40% Non IDPs



51% Own Home

39% Rental

10% Guest



95% Male

5% Female

21

Key informants called

31

Locations surveyed

Source: WFP, OCHA and IOM



**Inadequate food consumption increases in re-taken areas of Mosul City**

In March the mVAM survey covered three conflict-affected areas in Mosul district (Mosul city–retaken areas, Gogjali and Shura) and one area in Tilkaif district (Tilkaif city).

March mVAM data showed that food consumption deteriorated in all surveyed locations in Mosul district after the improvements seen during February. Overall, the percentage of respondents with inadequate food consumption increased compared with the first and second half of February (Figure 1). This is evident in Mosul city–retaken areas and Shura where the percentage of households with poor food consumption increased by 8 and 6 percent respectively. This deterioration of consumption can be related to unemployment and lack of income especially of displaced and returnee households.

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

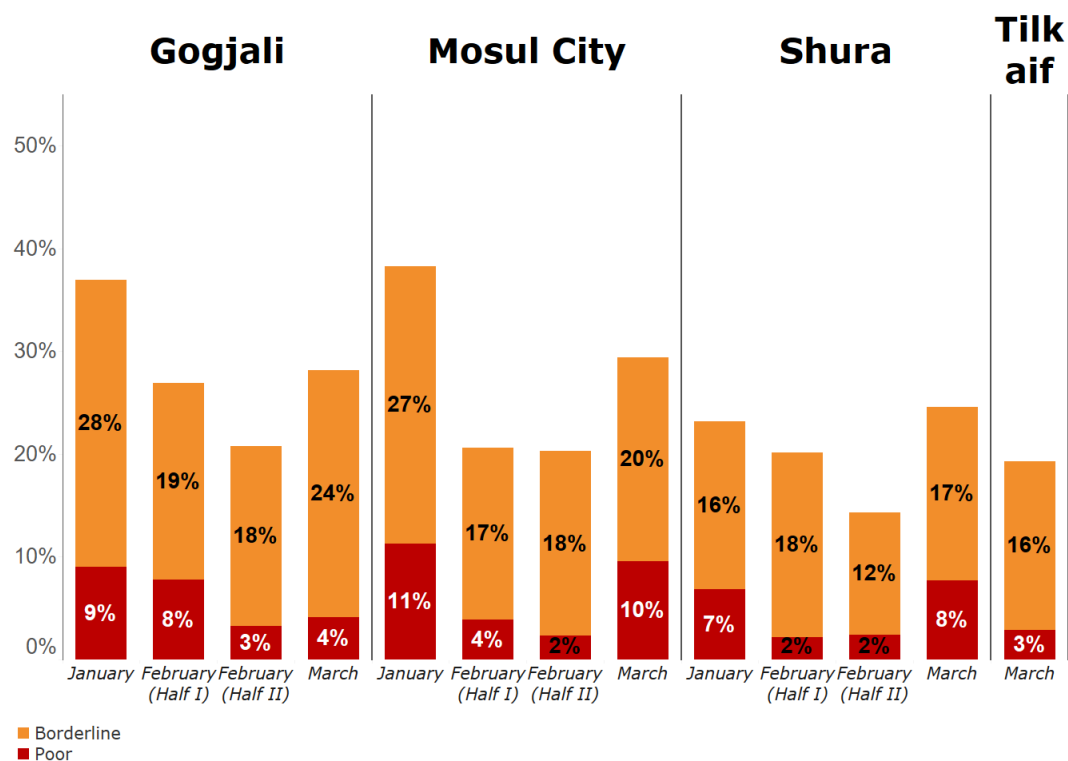
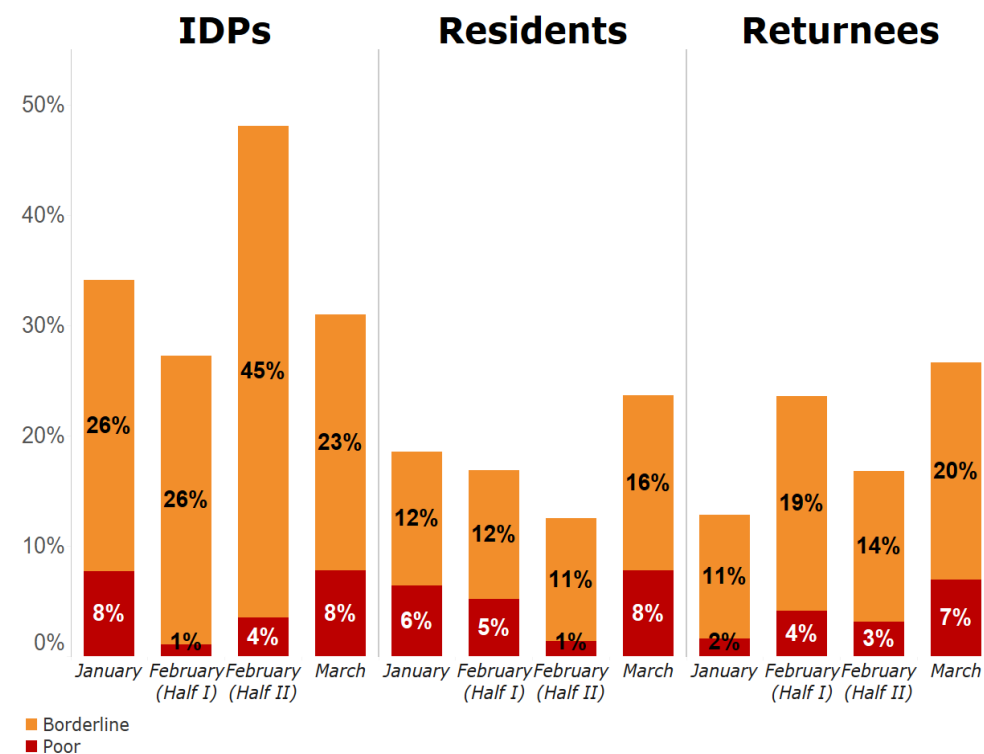


Figure 2. Households with inadequate consumption by respondent status, January to March 2017



Source: mVAM March 2017



**In West Mosul most people are eating one meal a day and food is prioritized for children and the elderly**

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. More than a third of the households in the surveyed location reported using food-based negative coping strategies with the highest use of coping strategies recorded in Shura and Tilkaif city (Figure 3). Particularly, in March, trends of food insecurity appear to be worrying in Shura; both the percentage of households resorting to negative coping (40%) and having inadequate food consumption (25%) is the highest reported in the last three months.

Negative coping strategies are still more commonly used by IDP and returnee households than by resident families. Around 45 percent of the IDPs and 40 percent of the returnees said that they did not have enough food or money to buy food in comparison with 28 percent of resident households (Figure 4).

In retaken areas of Eastern Mosul, respondents reported that people are relying on food assistance provided by humanitarian organizations and those households who still have income are buying food from the market. Unemployment and lack of income are forcing households to buy food on credit or go into debt in order to purchase food and other essentials. Even where food is available in the markets, few households who can still count on saving can afford to buy.

In the non-liberated areas of Western Mosul, shortages of basic food items continue to be reported by key informants. People are surviving with what little is available in the market and with family stocks. This means that many households have had to reduce drastically the number of meals eaten per day and limit their consumption to only bread and vegetables. Key informants reported that an increased number of people are living in the streets as houses have been destroyed by the ongoing fighting or are occupied by fighters.

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

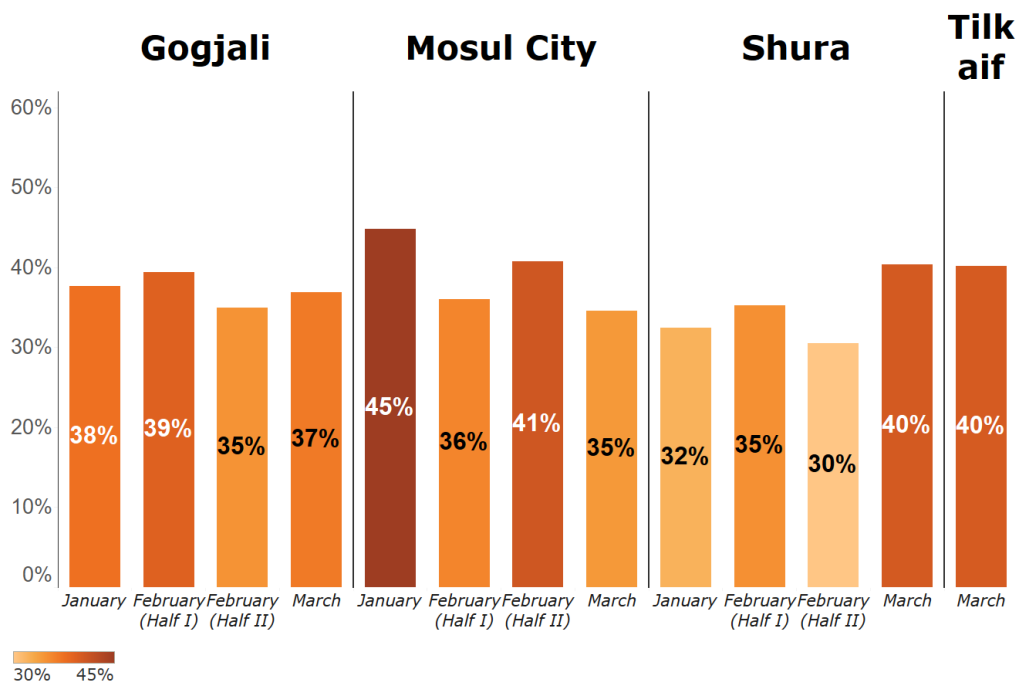
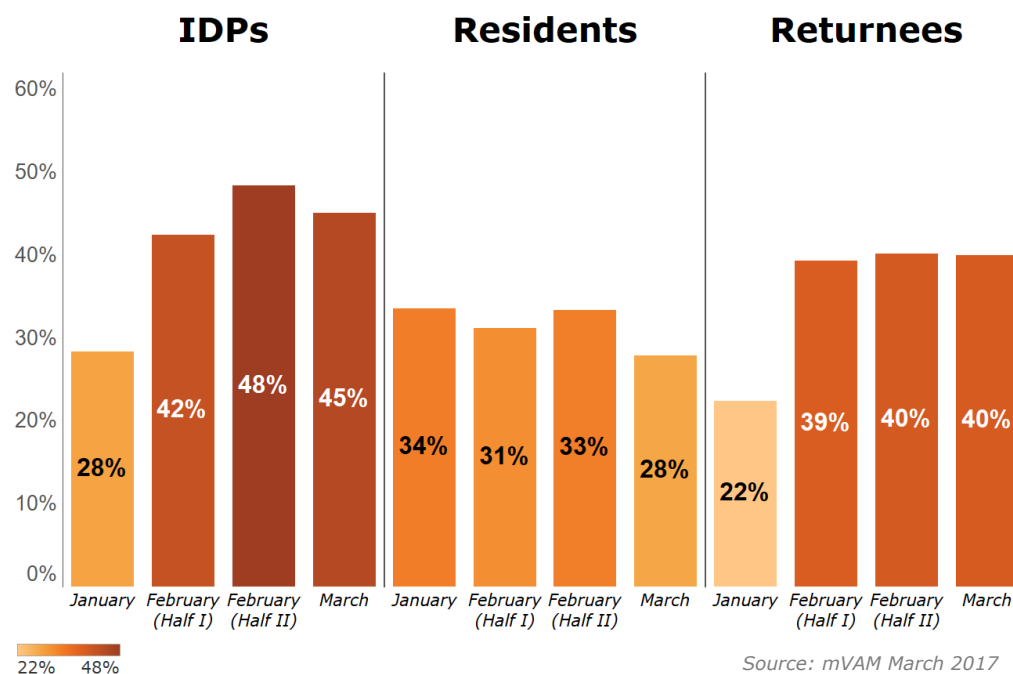


Figure 4: Percentage of households using food-based negative coping strategies by respondent status, January to March 2017



Source: mVAM March 2017

More than a third of interviewed households in all three locations reported having received food assistance from organizations in the 30 days before the survey, regardless of their residency status (Figure 5). Returnee households, particularly, reported having received more external food assistance than IDPs and residents (Figure 6). In March, the percentage of IDPs and residents receiving food assistance decreased in comparison with the previous rounds.

While many people continue to rely on food assistance provided by humanitarian organizations, markets are still the main source of food. According to the East Mosul Rapid Market Assessment conducted in March 2017 food is still a widespread need despite being available in most neighbourhoods, due to lack of purchasing power rather than supply. The ongoing lack of income, especially among displaced and returnees families, continues to pose a significant barrier to people’s efforts to rebuild their lives

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

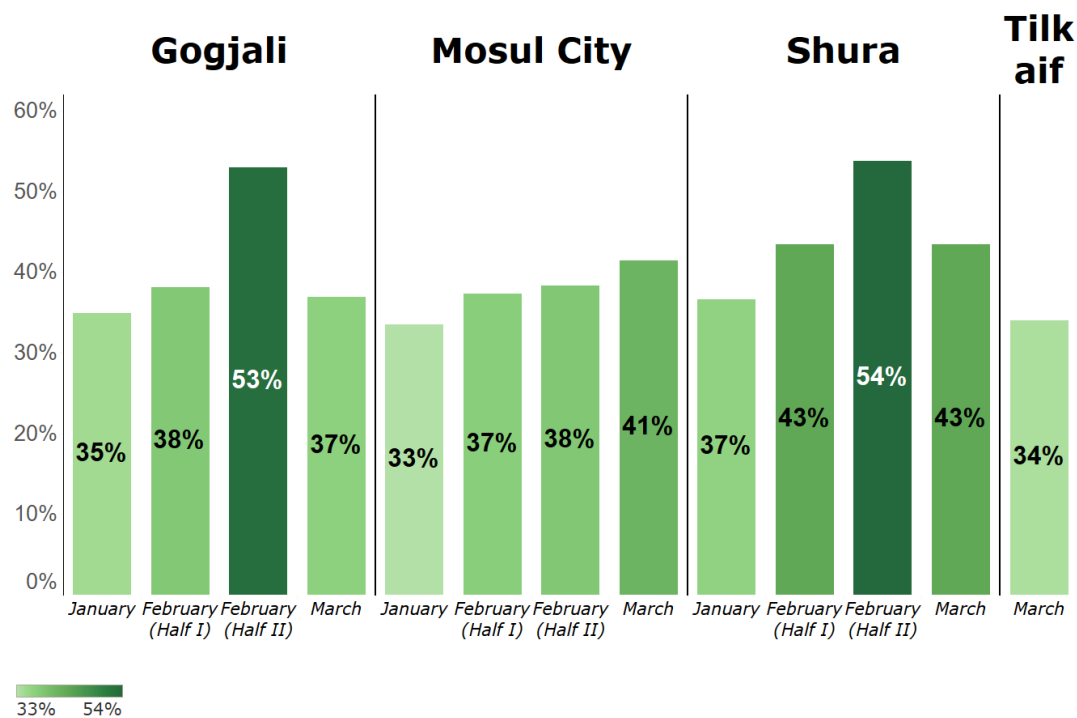
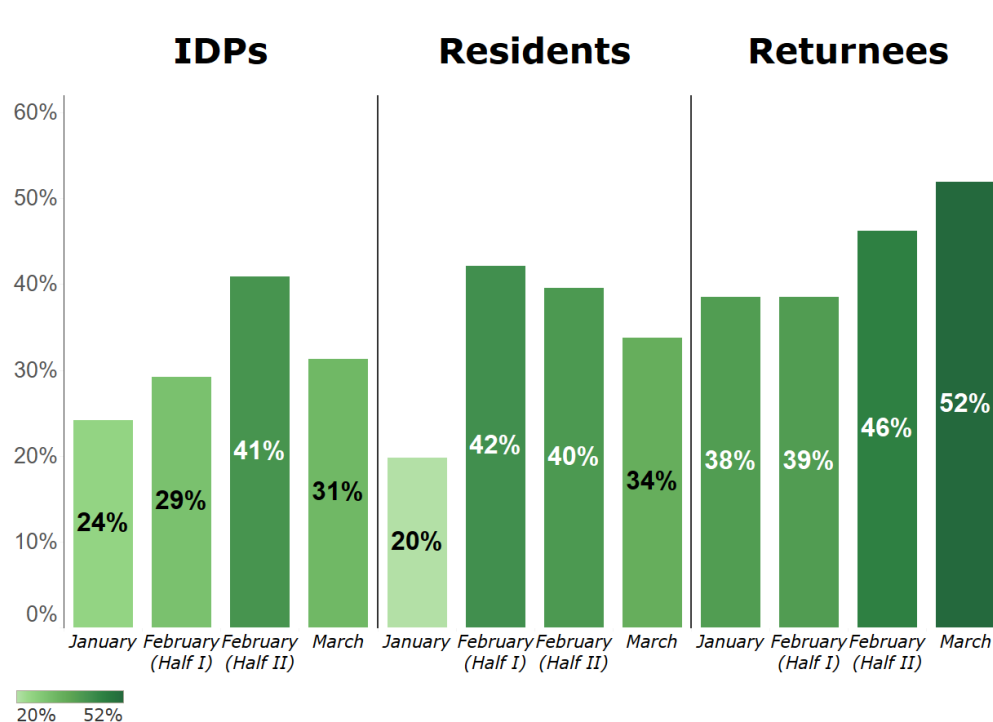


Figure 6. Percentage of households receiving food assistance by respondent status, January to March 2017



Source: mVAM March 2017



**Households' access to the Public Distribution System improved in Mosul city**

Access to Public Distribution System (PDS) rations remained very low in all the surveyed locations and most of the surveyed households reported not receiving the monthly ration. In Mosul city-retaken areas following the improvement in the humanitarian access, more households (21%) reported receiving partial PDS ration in March (Figure 7) – this marks the highest percentage reported in the last three months.

IDPs' access to PDS has also improved in March. As shown in Figure 8, 27 percent of the IDPs reported receiving partial PDS ration, a significant increase in comparison with February when only 8 percent received rations from the government.

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

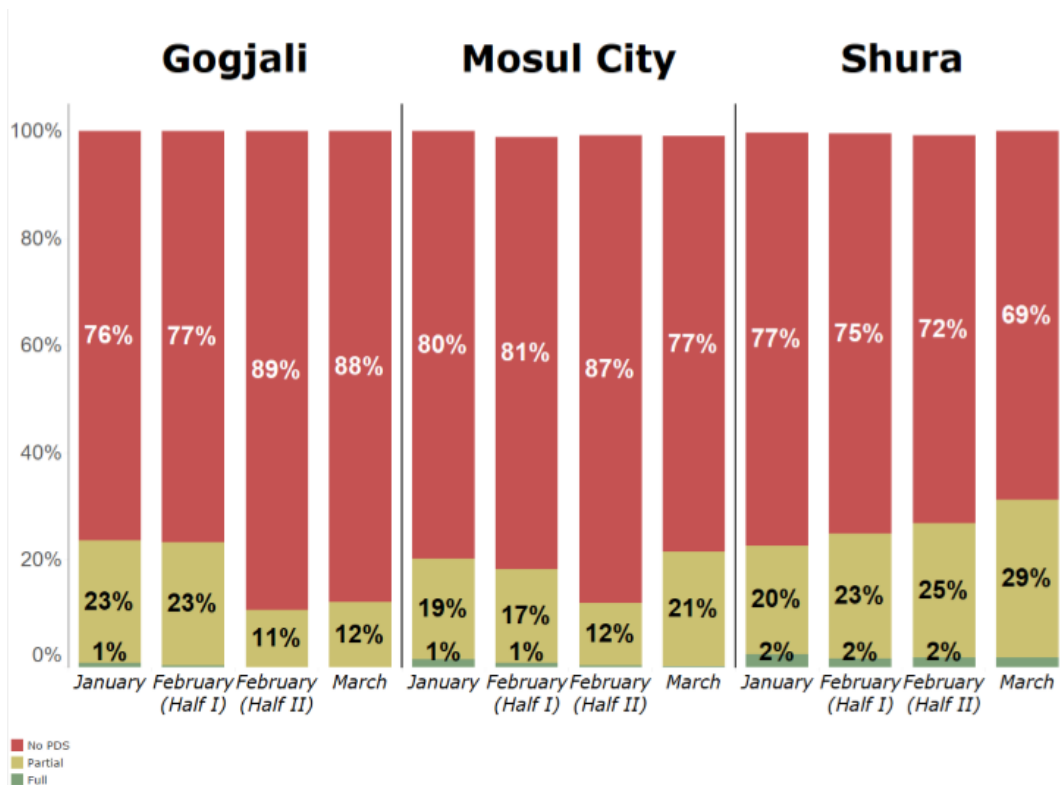
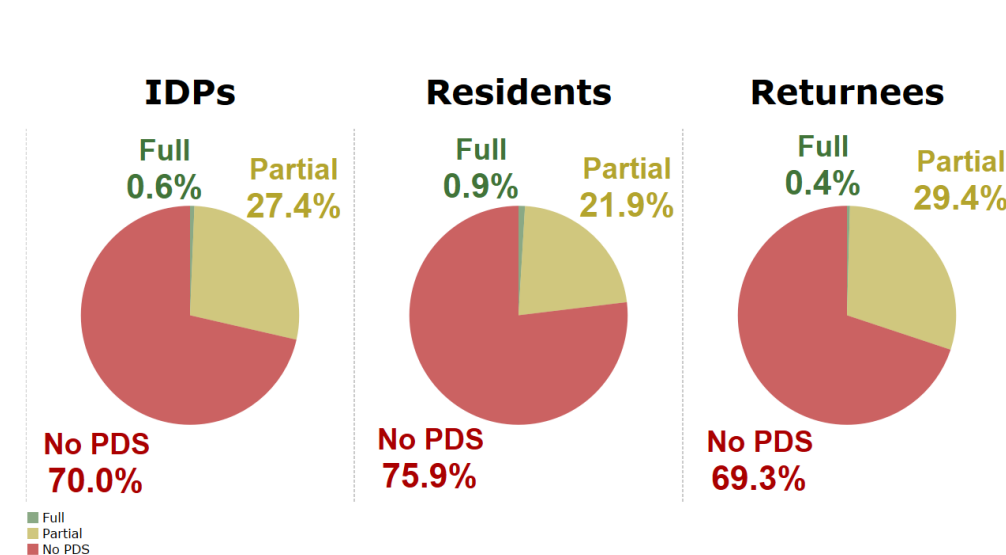


Figure 8. Percentage of households receiving PDS by respondent status, March 2017



Source: mVAM March 2017



**Slight decrease in food prices in Mosul re-taken areas**

In Mosul, respondents reported that prices of certain commodities have decreased compared to previous months. Specifically, meat (beef) and lentils were cheaper to obtain in Mosul than the rest of the governorate. Average food prices of fresh milk, onion, sugar, rice, and wheat flour are lower in the governorate compared to Mosul (East and West) (Figure 9). There is no significant difference between the average price of vegetable oil in Mosul compared to the rest of the governorate.

The food basket in Mosul retaken areas (IQD755) in March 2017 was 1.5 percent more expensive than in the rest of Ninewa (IQD744), a considerable improvement compared to previous periods. Furthermore, the food basket in Mosul retaken areas is 78 percent cheaper than the food basket in non-liberated areas (IQD1,342), a significantly larger spread compared to the previous round of survey (Figure 10). Specifically, the cost of the food basket in Mosul retaken areas decreased by 2 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 3 percent in Mosul non-liberated areas.

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

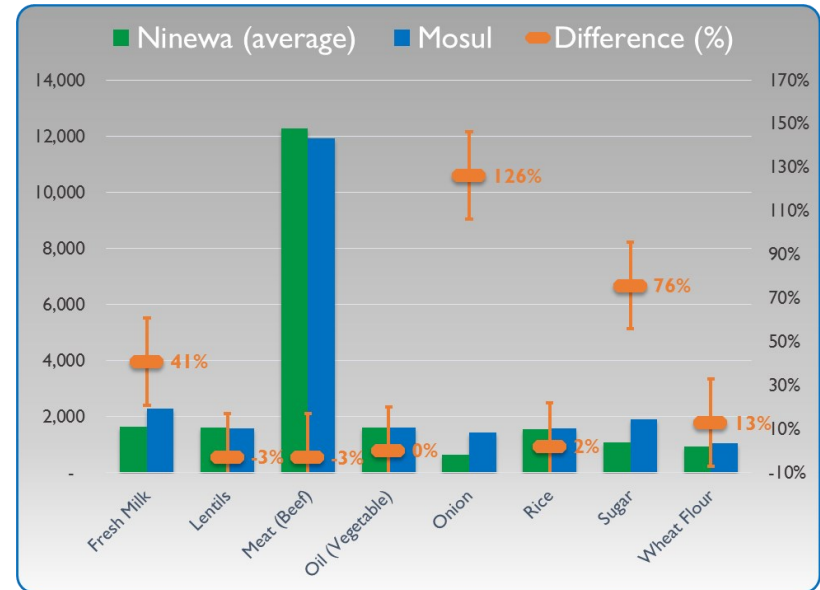
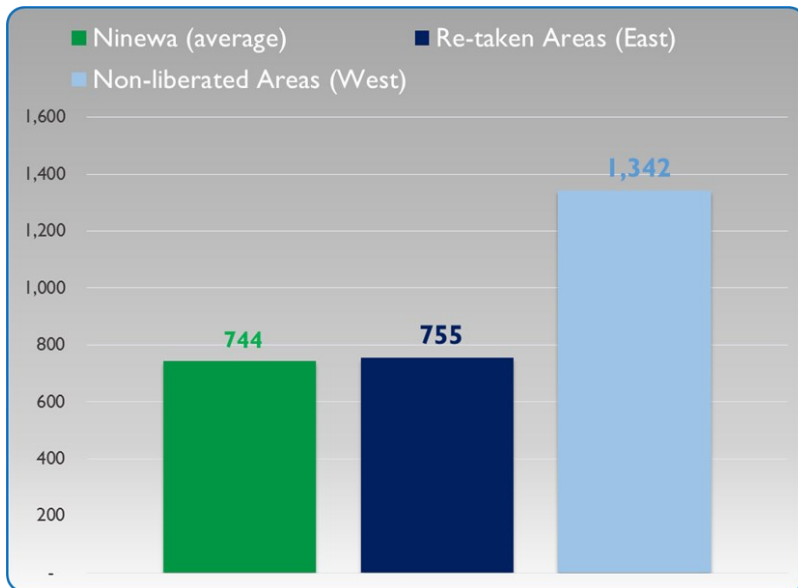


Figure 10. Cost of the food basket in Mosul district and Ninewa governorate



Commodity	Mosul	Ninewa (average)	Difference (%)	Relevance of difference
	10-31 Mar 2017	10-31 Mar 2017		(+/-5%)
Fresh Milk	2,298	1,629	41%	↑
Lentils	1,574	1,618	-3%	—
Meat (Beef)	11,935	12,288	-3%	—
Oil (Vegetable)	1,622	1,618	0%	—
Onion	1,429	632	126%	↑
Rice	1,593	1,559	2%	—
Sugar	1,919	1,091	76%	↑
Wheat Flour	1,063	941	13%	↑
Unskilled Labour	15,577	13,448	16%	↑
<b>Food Basket</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>↑</b>
<b>ToT</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>↑</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

Source: mVAM, IMST March 2017

Food prices in retaken parts of Mosul are significantly lower than in non-liberated 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 and vegetable oil were reported non-available in the non-liberated areas. Having a large difference of prices between the liberated and non-liberated area suggests a low level of integration where commodities are not flowing across the dividing lines.

**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. Unlike previous surveys, findings do not show significant differences in terms of trade between Mosul retaken areas (19) and Ninewa governorate (18), reflecting lower purchasing power in Ninewa (Figure 12). The wage rates in Mosul increased to IQD 15,577 from IQD 10,536. Noticeably, average reported wages in Ninewa are considerably lower compared to the previous surveys, when the reported average was IQD 17,647 and now IQD 13,448. Purchasing power in Mosul remains low however, returning communities and authorities have called for an increased focus on livelihood assistance to help boost household income and restart the economy of the city. In Mosul non-liberated areas, respondents did not report wage rates as most people are not working.

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

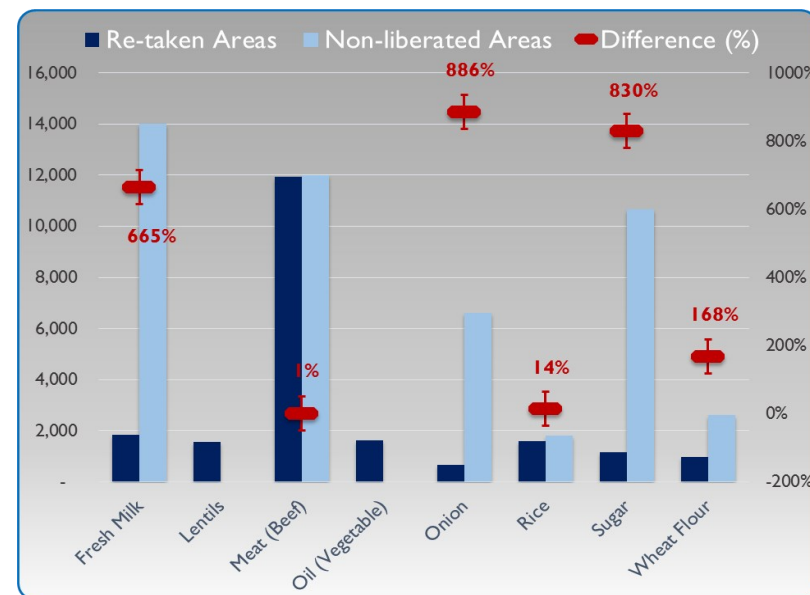
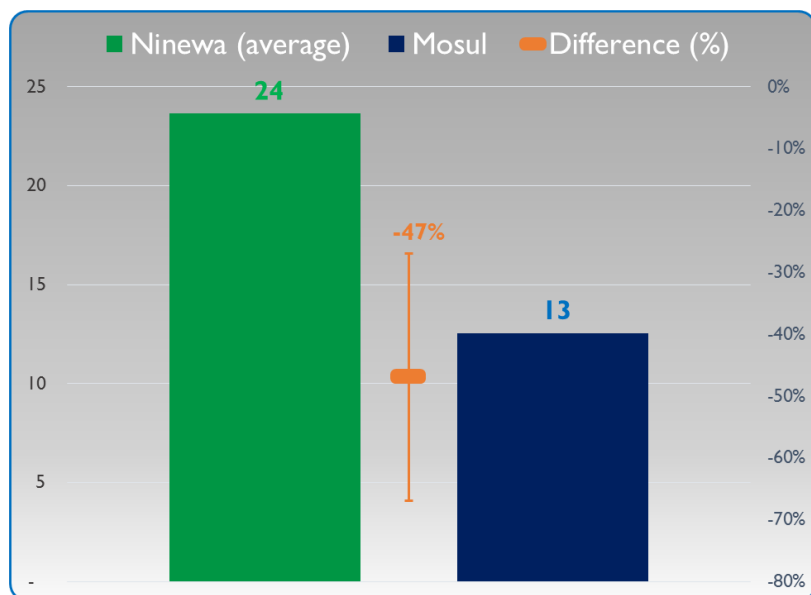


Figure 12. Wage-to-food terms of trade in Mosul (retaken areas) and Ninewa governorate



Commodity	Re-Taken Areas	Non-liberated Areas	Difference (%)	Relevance of difference (+/-5%)
	10-31 Mar 2017	10-31 Mar 2017		
Fresh Milk	1,830	14,000	665%	↑
Lentils	1,574	-	-	-
Meat (Beef)	11,933	12,000	1%	↓
Oil (Vegetable)	1,622	-	-	-
Onion	669	6,600	886%	↑
Rice	1,581	1,800	14%	↑
Sugar	1,147	10,667	830%	↑
Wheat Flour	970	2,600	168%	↑
Unskilled Labour	15,577	-	-	-
<b>Food Basket</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>1,342</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>↑</b>
<b>ToT</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</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 March 2017



**Food Shortages and Market Functionality**

Respondents from Eastern Mosul continue to report shortages of drinking water. Operations to retake the city have damaged water pipes and residents say they have resorted to pumping water from wells that may not be suitable for drinking. Reportedly food is now available in the markets except in Hay Aelam and Hay Azahraa where food commodities were scarce.

Differently in the West part of the city, most basic food items are not available or are sporadically available. Fresh products such as milk, fruit and vegetables are absent though onions and potatoes are available.

**Methodology – mVAM remote data collection**

In March 2017, mVAM conducted household food security monitoring using telephone interviews. Data was collected from a sample of 600 respondents via Korek, a major mobile network operator, from 12 March to 4 April. WFP monitored respondents living in several locations in recently retaken areas and two non-liberated neighbourhoods on the Western bank (Hay Al Najar and Hay Al-Rafaae), 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), 85 key informant interviews were conducted in Mosul covering 15 locations in the Eastern part of the city and 16 locations in Western Mosul (four of these are non-liberated - Tamuz, Hay Al-Rafaae, Hay- Al yarmuk, and Hay Al-Risala).

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-amn	Hay Al-qahira	Shuqaq Al Khathar	Hay Al-zaitun
		<b>Re-taken</b>	Lentils	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	SAV	AV	SAV	AV	AV
	Oil (Vegetable)	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	SAV	AV	SAV	AV	AV	AV	AV
	Rice	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	SAV	AV	SAV	AV	AV	AV	AV
	Sugar	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	SAV	AV	SAV	AV	AV	AV	AV
	Wheat Flour	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	SAV	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	Al-yarmuk	Al- Mansur	Dandan	17 Tamuz	Hay Al-sadam				
		<b>Non-Liberated</b>	Lentils	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				
	Rice	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	SAV	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA				
	Sugar	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	SAV	NA	NA	NA	NA	AV	AV	NA	NA				
	Wheat Flour	NA	AV	NA	NA	AV	SAV	AV	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 March 2017



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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>

