



# MOSUL



**vam**  
food security analysis

## mVAM IRAQ: EMERGENCY UPDATE #8

**MAY 2017**

### Key points:



Inadequate food consumption and negative coping is on the rise among displaced households.



Households in eastern Mosul continue to buy food on credit and to rely on support from their social networks.



Food prices have increased and wage rates have fallen in retaken areas of Mosul.



Access to food assistance and PDS rations has deteriorated considerably.



### Situation Update\*

The humanitarian conditions of civilians trapped in Mosul's old city have worsened in the past week, with water unavailability a significant concern. People have continued to be displaced from the western side of Mosul city. On Thursday 18 May, the number of people fleeing western Mosul hit a peak when 16,100 individuals passed through the Hammam al Alil screening site. This is the largest official daily movement of people since the Mosul operation began on 17 October 2016.

Currently, 523,941 people are displaced from western Mosul; a reported 34,841 people had returned to the area by 16 May. Figures from 21 May show that 200,000 civilians are still living in Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)-controlled areas of Mosul's old city. The majority of IDPs continue to move to east Mosul where they stay with relatives, in rented accommodation or in unfinished buildings.

Water continues to be a major humanitarian concern in Mosul city – particularly in the west – as many people reportedly continue to drink from unsafe and untreated water sources .

**501**

**Households surveyed**

**37**

**Average age of respondents**



**30% IDPs**

**40% Returnees**

**30% Non IDPs**



**46% Own Home**

**42% Rental**

**12% Guest**



**93% Male**

**7% Female**

**37**

**Key informants called**

**21**

**Locations surveyed**



### More IDPs report having inadequate food consumption

Seven months into the military operations to retake Mosul city from ISIL, humanitarian needs remain significant. Needs are most severe among displaced families, both in and out of camps, and among vulnerable residents in newly accessible areas. Residents in recently retaken areas are as vulnerable as those who have been displaced, as there is a severe shortage of basic services in most locations. As humanitarian access becomes possible in urban areas of Mosul city, the delivery of first-line emergency assistance to all people in need – particularly vulnerable residents – is key. Trauma casualties need to receive prompt specialized treatment.

Guaranteeing access to safe drinking water is a priority across Mosul city, together with food assistance. It is crucial to re-establish a functioning city-wide water network, as limited access to safe water poses a risk for outbreaks of water- and vector-borne diseases.

mVAM data for May show that the mean food consumption score (FCS) for Mosul city is slightly higher (53.5) than in April (52.3). However, as shown in Figure 2, the proportion of displaced households with inadequate (poor or borderline) food consumption was higher in May (33 percent) compared to April (26 percent).

Figure 1. Households with inadequate consumption in Mosul city, February to May 2017

## Mosul City

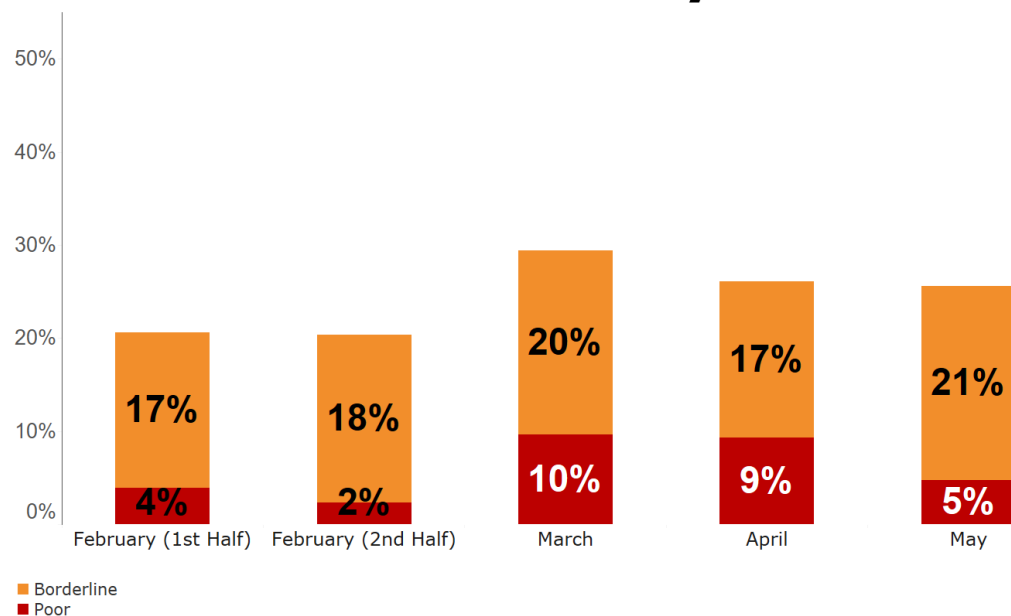
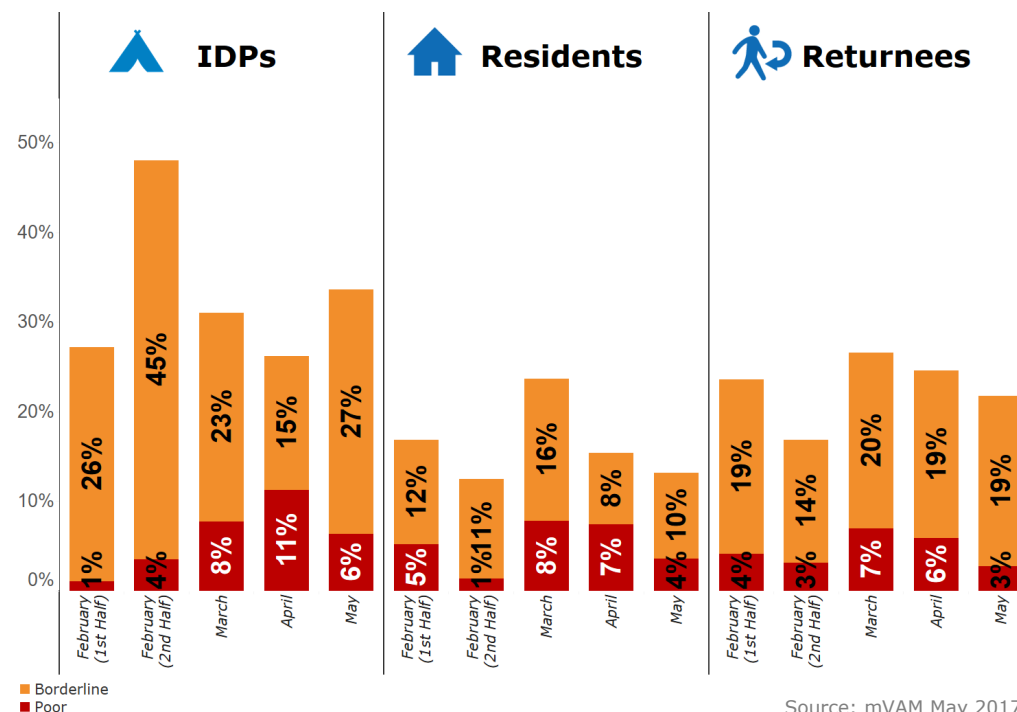


Figure 2. Households with inadequate consumption by respondent status, February to May 2017



Source: mVAM May 2017



### Households in Mosul city continue to buy food on credit and rely on assistance from their social network

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 line with FCS, the percentage of displaced households who reported using food-based negative coping strategies slightly increased in May compared to April (see Figure 3). Overall, more households were eating less food at mealtimes in May compared to April, particularly IDP households – 99 percent engaged in this strategy in May compared to 83 percent in April. Negative coping behaviour is also on the rise among households led by women: 42 percent engaged in negative strategies in May compared to 26 percent of households led by men (Figure 4).

Key informants in retaken areas of eastern Mosul reported improved market access in May. However, people are still relying on food assistance through gifts from relatives/friends or buying food on credit. Most families are in debt and some have had to sell their assets and personal belongings to cope. Although the electricity supply has reportedly improved, access to clean water remains an issue.

In western Mosul, key informants said they are living in very difficult conditions and basic food items are still not available in the markets. Even when food is available, it is very expensive. They also mentioned it was difficult to go outside.

Figure 3: Percentage of households using food-based negative coping strategies by respondent status, January to May 2017

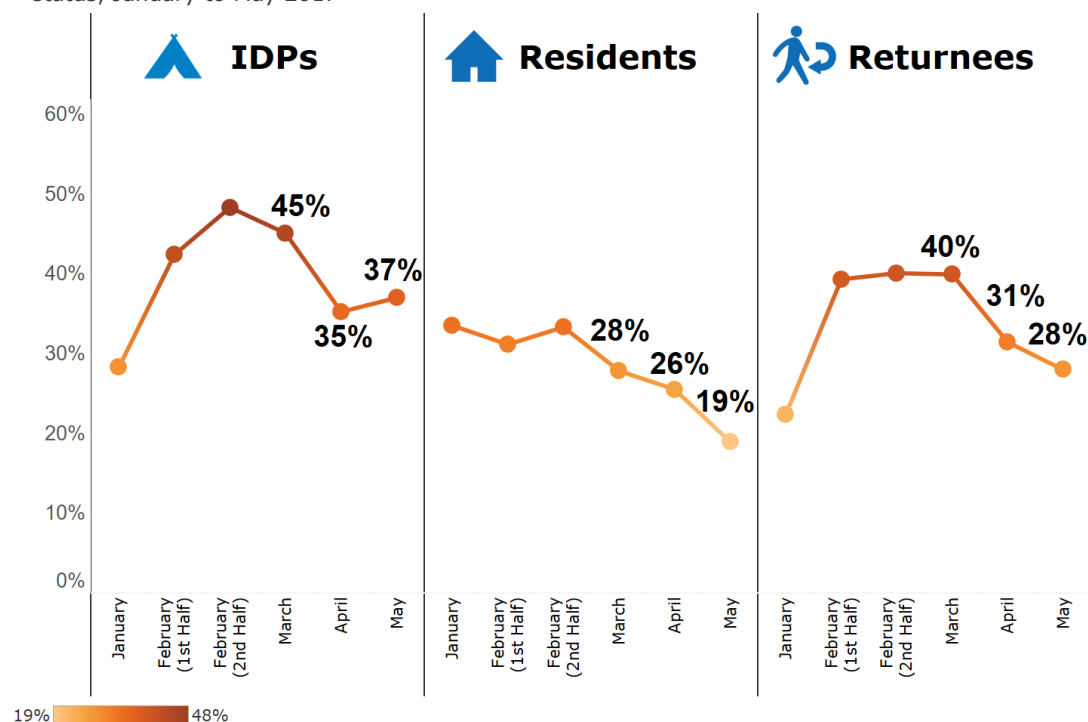
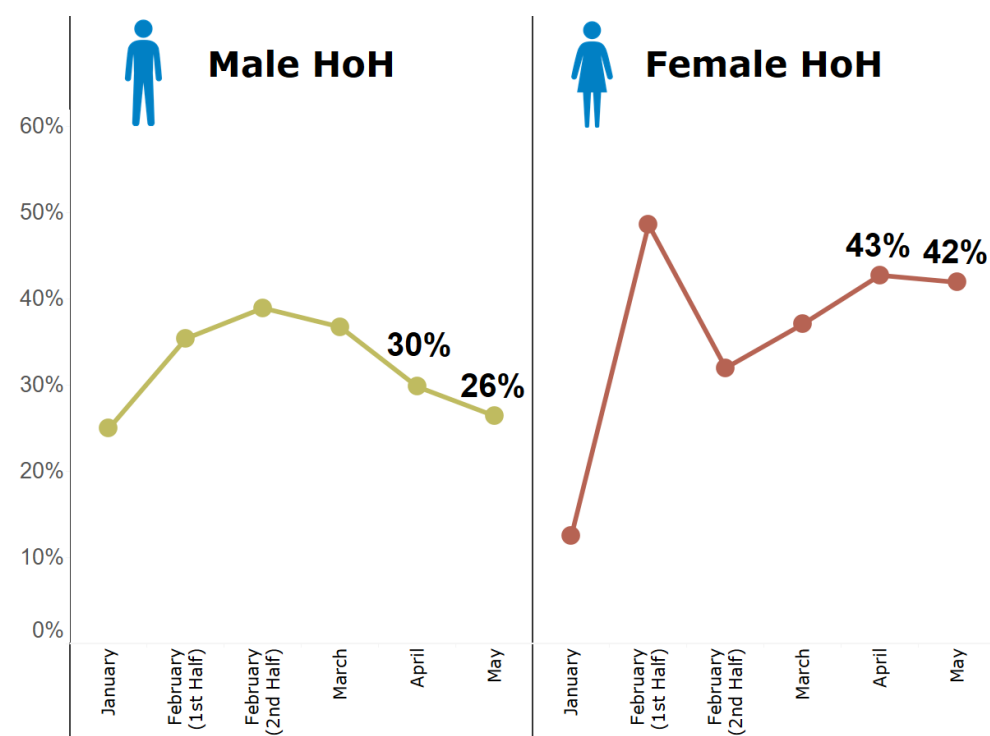


Figure 4: Percentage of households using food-based negative coping strategies by sex of head of household, January to May 2017



Source: mVAM May 2017



## Decline in access to public distribution and food assistance

In May, the proportion of households who reported receiving food assistance from humanitarian organizations in the 30 days before the survey dropped considerably, reaching 18 percent (Figure 5).

Similarly, respondents reported less access to the public distribution system (PDS) than in March and April. Almost 80 percent of respondents in Mosul city reported not receiving PDS rations, while 17 percent said they had received partial PDS.

IDPs continue to report the worst access to PDS compared to resident and returnee households. As shown in Figure 6, there has been a large drop in the share of IDPs receiving partial PDS, and a similar increase in the proportion of IDPs who did not receive PDS at all. Key informants who received PDS reported receiving mainly wheat flour and vegetable oil.

### Methodology – mVAM remote data collection

In May 2017, mVAM conducted household food security monitoring using telephone interviews. Data were collected from a sample of 501 respondents via Korek, a major mobile network operator, between 18 May and 11 June. WFP monitored respondents living in several locations in retaken areas in Mosul district (Mosul City – retaken areas and Gogjali) and around 14 neighbourhoods on the western bank 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, 95 key informant interviews were conducted covering 12 locations in eastern Mosul and 5 locations in western Mosul.

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

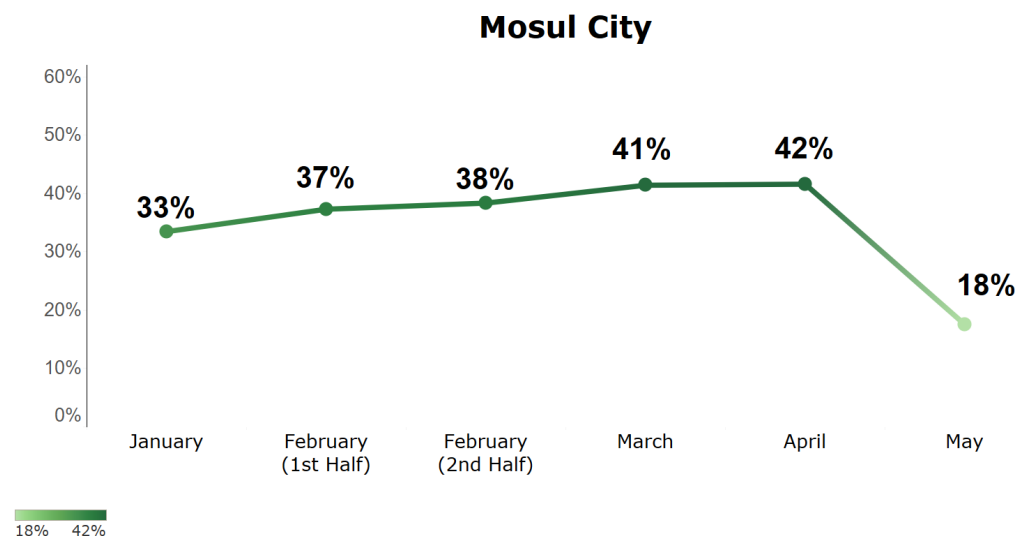
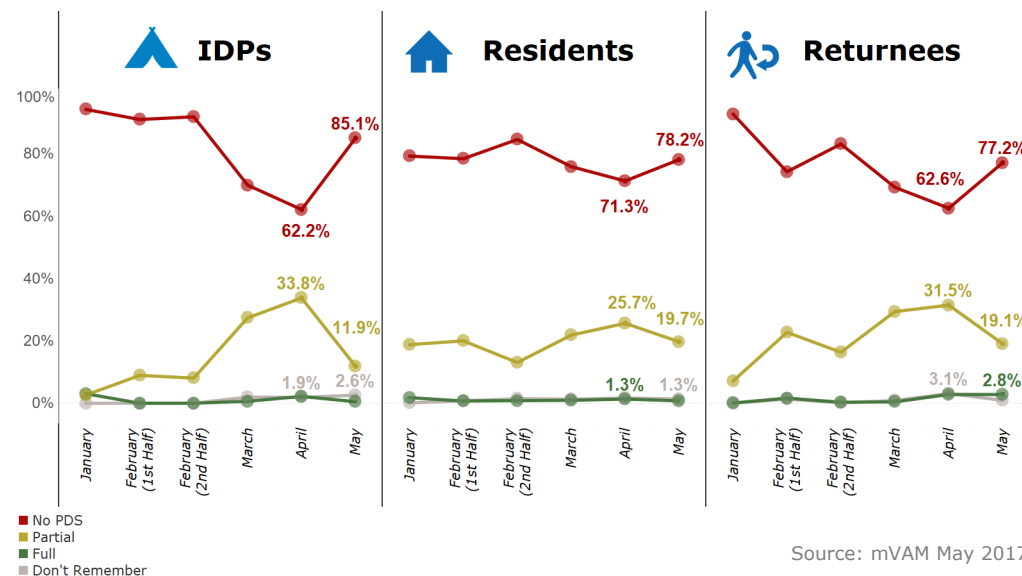


Figure 6. Percentage of households receiving PDS by respondent status, January to May 2017



Source: mVAM May 2017

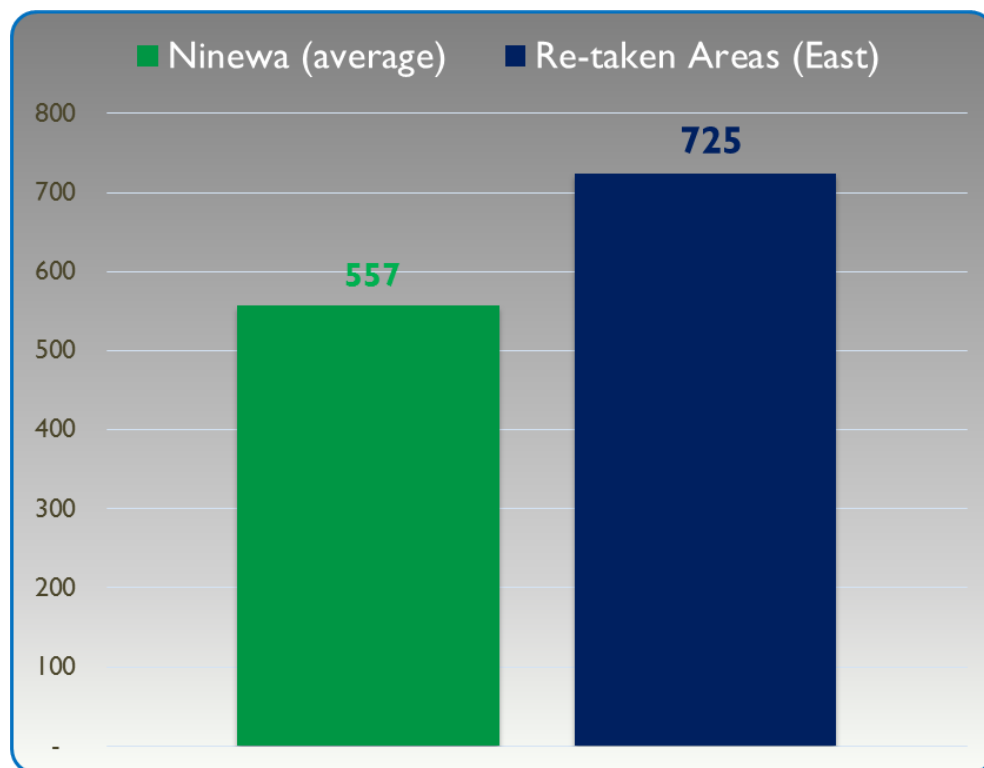


### Food prices increase in retaken areas of Mosul

In retaken parts of Mosul, respondents said that the prices of most basic foods were higher in May than in April. Although vegetable oil, fresh milk and sugar were cheaper in Mosul than in Ninewa, the other main foods such as lentils, wheat flour, beef and rice are more expensive in Mosul (Figure 7).

In May, the cost of the food basket<sup>1</sup> in Mosul retaken areas (IQD725) was 30 percent more than in the rest of Ninewa (IQD557)<sup>2</sup>.

Figure 8. Cost of the food basket in Mosul district (retaken areas) and Ninewa governorate



<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.

<sup>2</sup> As non-liberated areas are increasingly more difficult to reach, it was not possible to collect price data from key informants in these areas in May 2017.

Figure 7. Main food prices in Mosul district (retaken areas) and Ninewa governorate

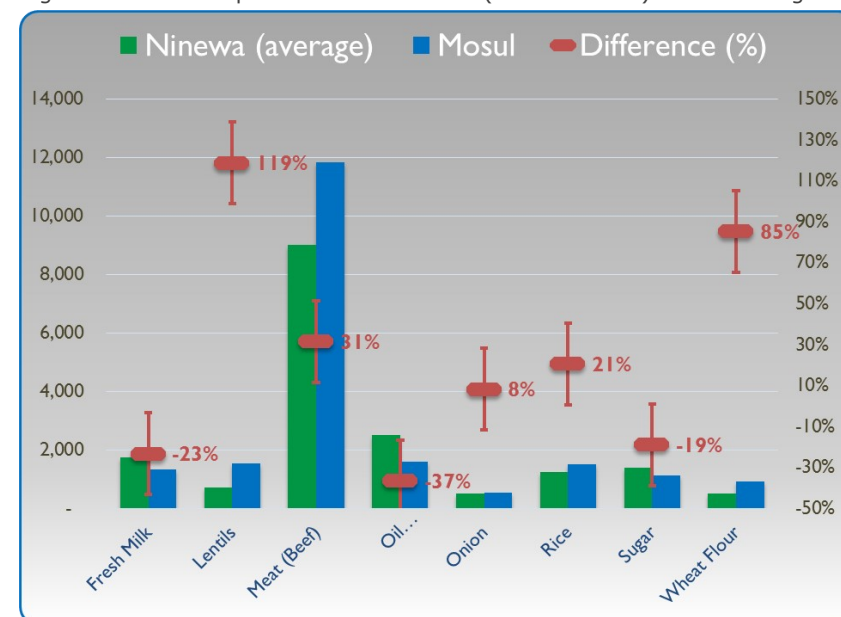


Table 1: Average price of basic commodities in Mosul and Ninewa in May 2017

Commodity	Mosul	Ninewa (average)	Difference (%)	Relevance of difference (+/-5%)
	May-17	May-17		
Fresh Milk	1,344	1,750	-23%	↓
Lentils	1,531	700	119%	↑
Meat (Beef)	11,828	9,000	31%	↑
Oil (Vegetable)	1,586	2,500	-37%	↓
Onion	541	500	8%	↑
Rice	1,508	1,250	21%	↑
Sugar	1,136	1,400	-19%	↓
Wheat Flour	927	500	85%	↑
Unskilled Labour	10,000	10,000	0%	—
<b>Food Basket</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>↑</b>
<b>ToT</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>-23%</b>	<b>↓</b>

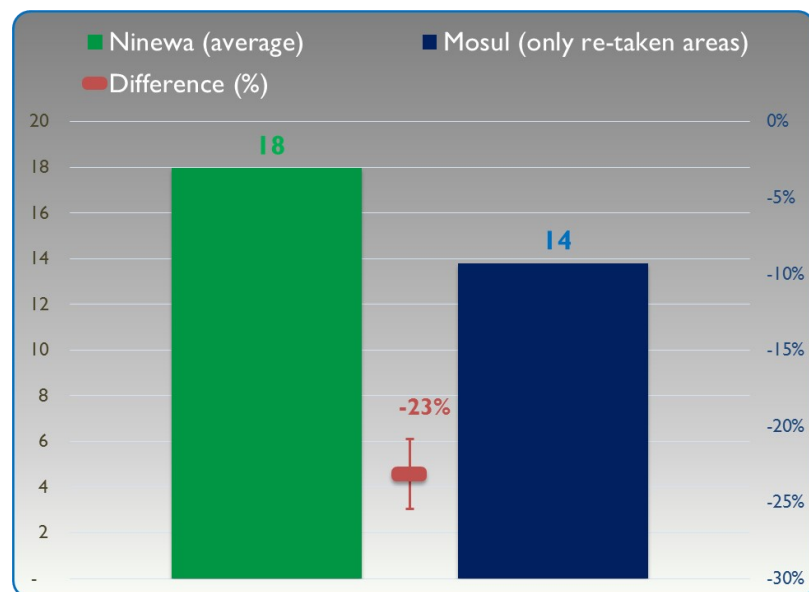
Source: mVAM, IMST May 2017

## Food Shortages and Market Functionality

### 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. As shown in Figure 9, terms of trade in retaken areas of Mosul (14 baskets) are lower than in Ninewa (18 baskets). Furthermore, terms of trade were lower in May than in April in retaken areas of Mosul as wage rates dropped from IQD14,138 to IQD10,000, reaching a similar wage rate to that in Ninewa governorate.

Figure 9. Wage-to-food terms of trade in Mosul (retaken areas) and Ninewa governorate



### 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>

Analysis shows that food is available in almost all of the surveyed locations in retaken areas of Mosul, except in Hay A-zahraa.

Figure 10. Availability analysis – Mosul district

Areas	Commodity	Al Qayara	Al Shurah	Al-qadisia	Al-qadisia althania	Al-qadisia alula	Hay Al-amn	Hay Al-axaa	Hay Al-jamia	Hay Al-Mshraq	Hay Al-qahira	Hay Al-samah	Hay Al-zaitun	Hay Al-zhur	Hay A-zahraa	Muthna
Re-taken	Lentils	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	WAV	AV	NA	AV
	Oil (Vegetable)	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	WAV	AV	NA	AV
	Rice	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	WAV	AV	NA	AV
	Sugar	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	WAV	AV	NA	AV
	Wheat Flour	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	WAV	AV	NA	AV

AV	Available
WAD	Widely Available
SAV	Sporadically Available
MNA	Mostly Not Available
NA	Not Available

Source: mVAM, IMST May 2017