



# MOSUL



**vam**  
food security analysis

## mVAM IRAQ: EMERGENCY UPDATE #9

**JULY 2017\***

### Key points:



Inadequate food consumption is high among displaced households in Sinjar.



In Mosul, food consumption levels are worse in east where the share of households engaging in negative coping strategies is on the rise



In western Mosul, access to food and markets has been slow to recover from a critical low reached in June; residents are relying heavily on food assistance and stocks of food



### Situation Update

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi arrived in Mosul on 10 July to announce the liberation of the city and congratulate the armed forces and Iraqi people on this victory. However, clearing operations by Iraqi security forces are still ongoing in a small area of the Old City in western Mosul. At least 3,000 civilians are believed to remain trapped in pockets under ISIL control inside Mosul, including people with limited mobility, the elderly and children who have not been able to leave.

Since the military campaign to retake Mosul began on 17 October 2016, 920,000 civilians have fled their homes. Close to 845,000 people are still displaced – nearly half are living in 19 emergency camps. A surge in returnees is expected over the coming weeks as displaced people go home. Injections of financial support from government social safety nets are expected to stimulate a market recovery. At the same time, extensive destruction – especially across western Mosul – and the presence of booby traps is likely to prevent significant numbers of people from returning to their homes for some time, which means the displaced populations will continue to need assistance. The UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, Lise Grande, has said that while fighting may be over, the humanitarian crisis is not, noting that the Humanitarian Response Plan for Iraq is only 43 percent funded.

**1,102**

**Households surveyed**

**37**

**Average age of respondents**



**38% IDPs**

**44% Returnees**

**30% Non IDPs**



**41% Own Home**

**33% Rental**

**26% Guest**



**95% Male**

**5% Female**

**37**

**Key informants called**

**21**

**Locations surveyed**

Source: WFP, OCHA and IOM

\*Food security data were not collected in June during Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting.



## Households in western Mosul rely on food assistance to meet their food needs

The humanitarian situation in Mosul remains severe for all inhabitants. In Mosul city, the percentage of households with inadequate food consumption in July was similar to that in May. The situation is worse in the east, where 22 percent of households were found to have poor or borderline food consumption compared with 16 percent in western Mosul (Figure 1). This difference is most likely due to the concentration of humanitarian assistance in the western areas that have just been retaken. Indeed, 22 percent of respondents in western Mosul reported receiving food assistance compared to just 8 percent in the east (Figure 2).

In July, mVAM data were also collected from the district of Sinjar in Ninewa governorate. Data from Sinjar show 37% of people have inadequate food consumption, where 10 percent have poor and 27 percent have borderline consumption (Figure 3). The food consumption of displaced households has deteriorated and almost half of the interviewed households reported having inadequate food consumption (Figure 4).

Figure 1. Households with inadequate consumption in eastern and western Mosul, July 2017

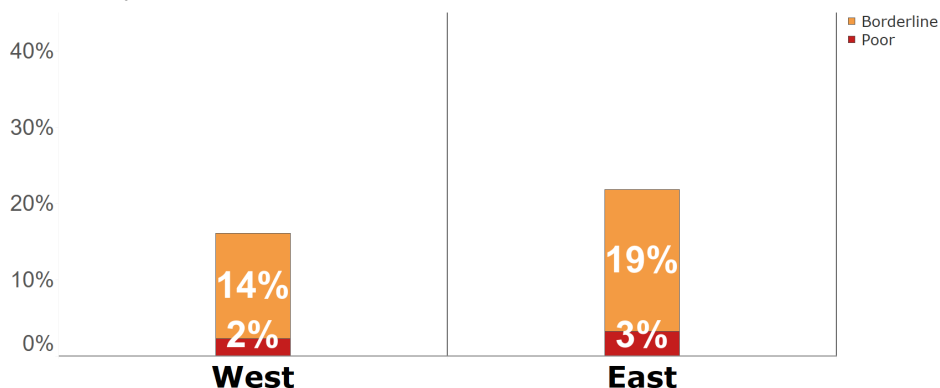


Figure 2. Households receiving food assistance in eastern and western Mosul, July 2017

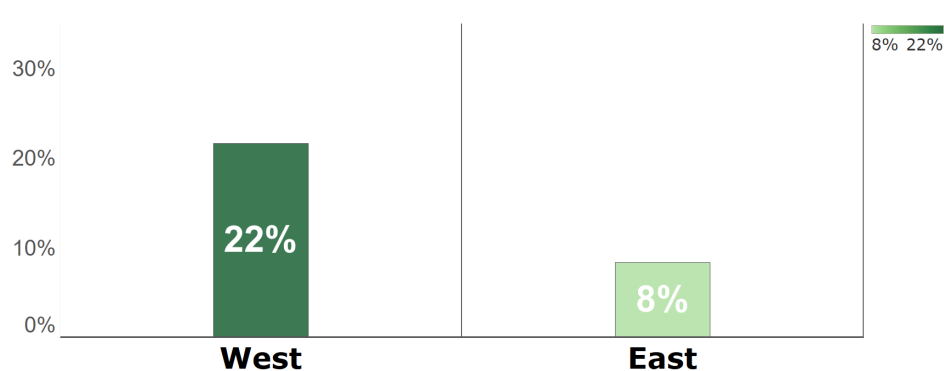


Figure 3. Households with inadequate consumption in surveyed locations, July 2017

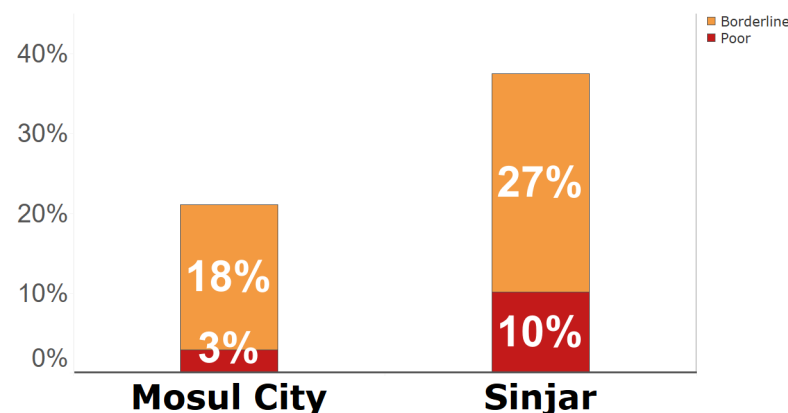
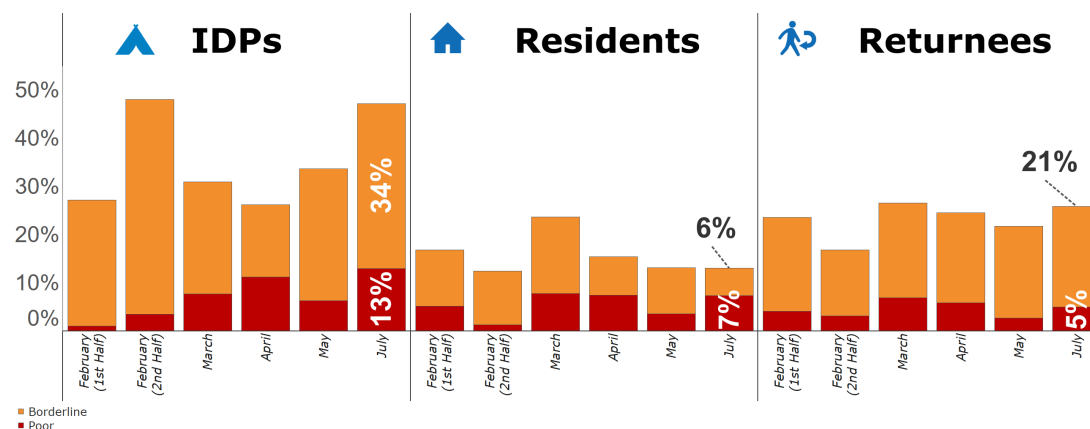


Figure 4. Households with inadequate consumption by respondent status, February to July 2017





### Increased use of food-based coping strategies, especially in eastern Mosul

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 Mosul and Sinjar, around a third of respondents reported resorting to consumption-based coping mechanisms. In line with food consumption findings, the percentage of households who reported using food-based coping strategies in western Mosul (25 percent) was lower than in eastern Mosul (34 percent) (Figure 5).

Negative coping behaviours are on the rise among displaced households: 41 percent of IDPs engaged in coping strategies in July (Figure 6). More households are restricting adult consumption so that children can eat; this is particularly true among returnee households, with 21 percent resorting to this practice in July compared with 8 percent in May.

Key informants in eastern Mosul reported better market access in July. However, people are still relying on buying food on credit and using their savings because job opportunities remain scarce. mVAM data confirm that most families are still not receiving PDS rations (Figure 7). Families who did receive it in July only got sugar and vegetable oil.

In western Mosul, key informants said that the situation was not back to normal even in retaken areas. Food items are still not available in the markets and residents are entirely reliant on humanitarian assistance. Minimal access to food, unsafe water, and no access to electricity or healthcare were reported to be the main challenges. Despite the poor security situation and few livelihood opportunities, IDPs are increasingly returning to western Mosul.

Figure 5: Percentage of households using food-based coping strategies in eastern and western Mosul, July 2017

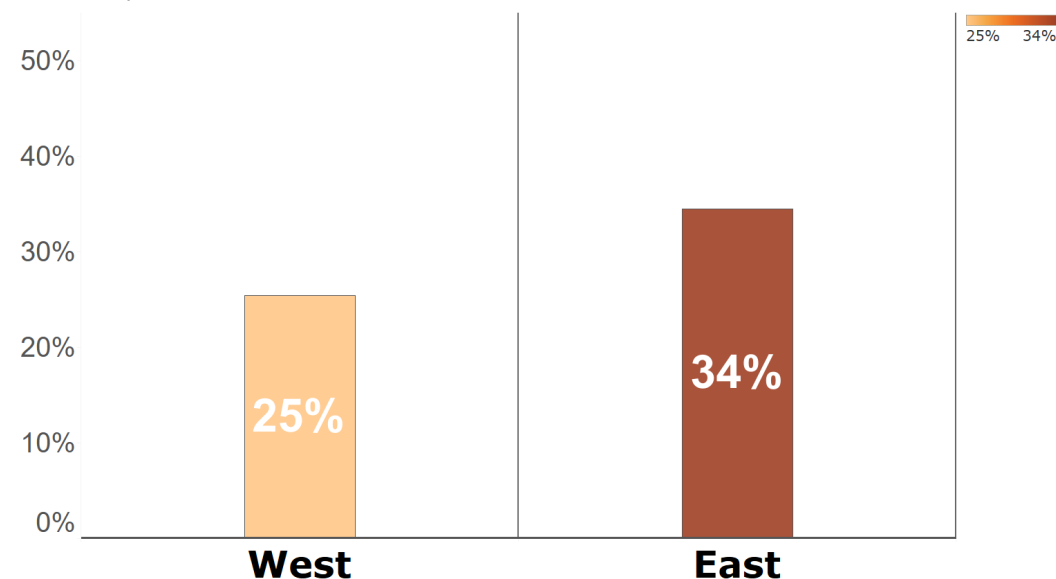
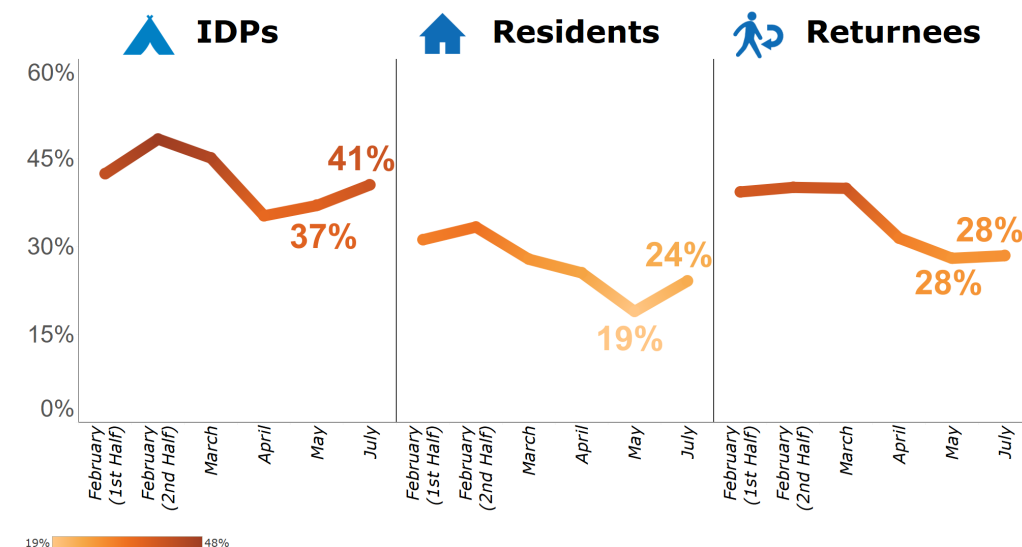


Figure 6: Percentage of households using food-based coping strategies by respondent status, February to July 2017





### Access to public distribution system improves but remains low

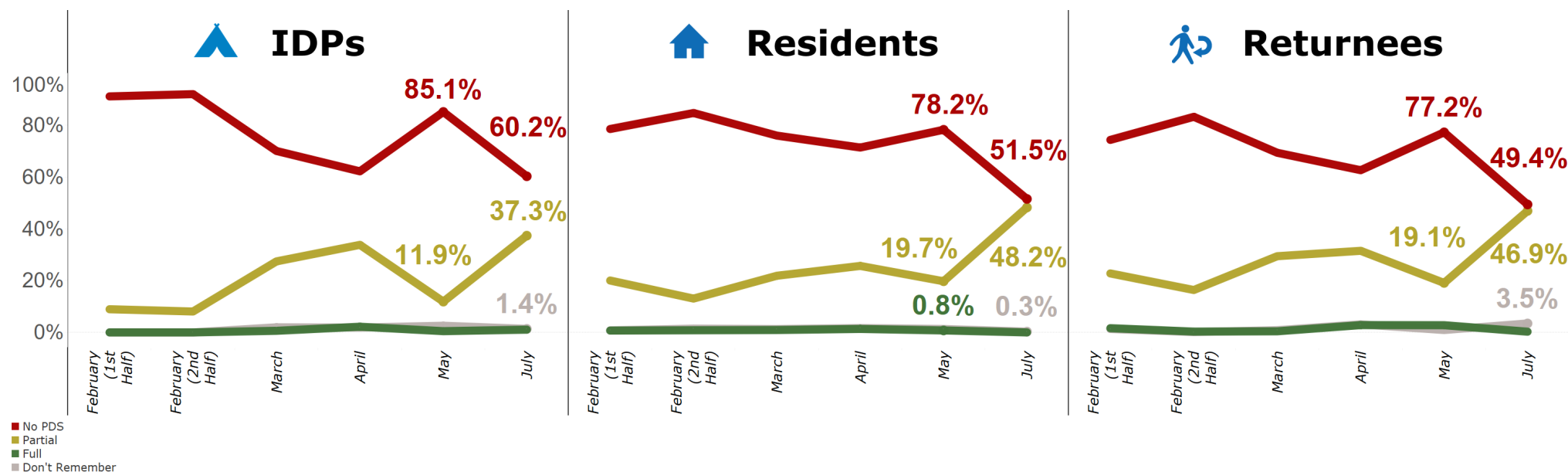
Public distribution system (PDS) access has improved but remains low in all surveyed locations: almost half the interviewed households reported not receiving the monthly ration in July. Almost 60 percent of respondents from Mosul said that they had not received PDS, and 37 percent had only received a partial ration of mainly sugar and vegetable oil. A similar situation was observed in Sinjar.

IDPs continue to report the worst access to PDS compared with resident and returnee households. IDPs face difficulties in accessing PDS, jobs, public services and legal representation because of a lack of civil documentation and residency, which reduces their capacity to deal with their displacement.

As shown in Figure 7, the share of respondents receiving partial PDS has increased, even if they have received just one or two of the commodities that make up the ration. Nonetheless, this is highest percentage of delivery for the past six months following the improved security access after the liberation of Mosul.



Figure 7. Percentage of households receiving PDS by respondent status, February to July 2017





### Food prices in western Mosul fall after liberation

Mosul markets have seen price spikes for some foods: in June, vegetable oil was 110 percent more expensive in Mosul than in the rest of Ninewa governorate, and rice was 67 percent more. This made the food basket 28 percent more expensive than in the neighbouring districts. These price increases are likely a reflection of the first data coming in from western Mosul after the liberation.

At the sub-district level, the prices of main foods have behaved very differently in eastern and western parts of the city. In June, a food basket in eastern Mosul cost IQD 723, making it even cheaper than in the rest of Ninewa (IQD827) and almost four times cheaper than in western Mosul (IQD 3,501). When looking at single commodities in western Mosul, June prices were particularly divergent for meat (787 percent more than in the east), onions (568 percent more) and wheat flour (163 percent more). According to the Rapid Market Assessment conducted by WFP in western Mosul in June, this is mainly driven by insecurity which has hampered the supply chain, leaving traders unable to keep enough stock to respond adequately to increases in demand.

Figure 9. Cost of the food basket in Mosul city and Ninewa governorate, June 2017

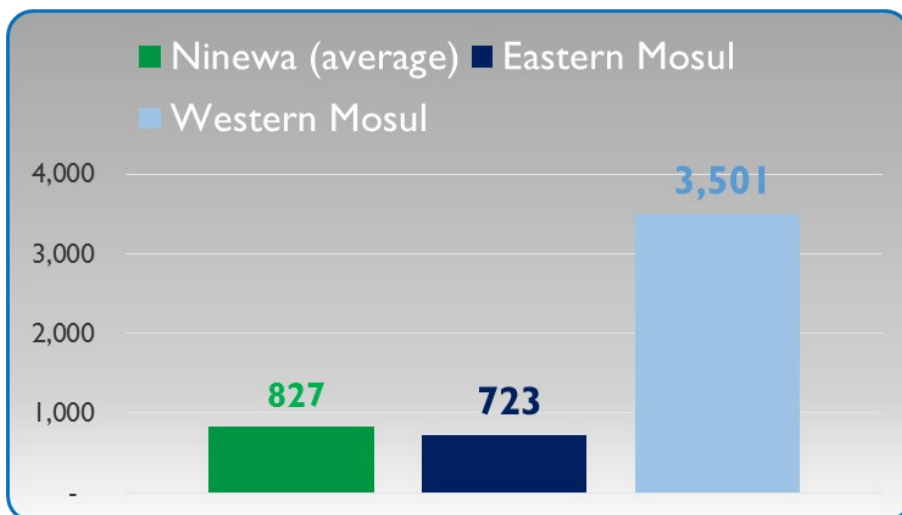
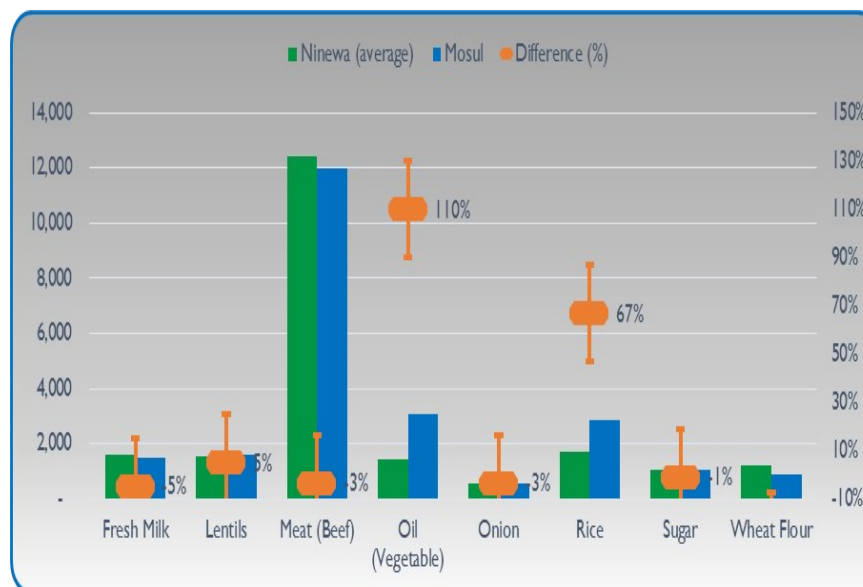


Figure 8. Main food prices in Mosul and Ninewa governorate, June 2017



Commodity	Unit	Mosul	Ninewa (average)	Difference (%)	Relevance of difference
		Jun-17	Jun-17		(+/-5%)
Fresh Milk	l L	IQD 1,508	IQD 1,583	-5%	⬇️
Lentils	l Kg	IQD 1,621	IQD 1,542	5%	⬆️
Meat (Beef)	l Kg	IQD 12,000	IQD 12,417	-3%	⬇️
Oil (Vegetable)	l L	IQD 3,061	IQD 4,458	110%	⬆️
Onion	l Kg	IQD 565	IQD 583	-3%	⬇️
Rice	l Kg	IQD 2,848	IQD 4,708	67%	⬆️
Sugar	l Kg	IQD 1,034	IQD 1,042	-1%	⬇️
Wheat Flour	l Kg	IQD 880	IQD 1,208	-27%	⬆️
Unskilled Labour	l Day	IQD 11,586	IQD 16,667	-30%	⬆️
<b>Food Basket</b>		<b>IQD 1,062</b>	<b>IQD 827</b>	<b>28%</b>	⬆️
<b>ToT</b>		<b>FB 11</b>	<b>FB 20</b>	<b>-46%</b>	⬆️

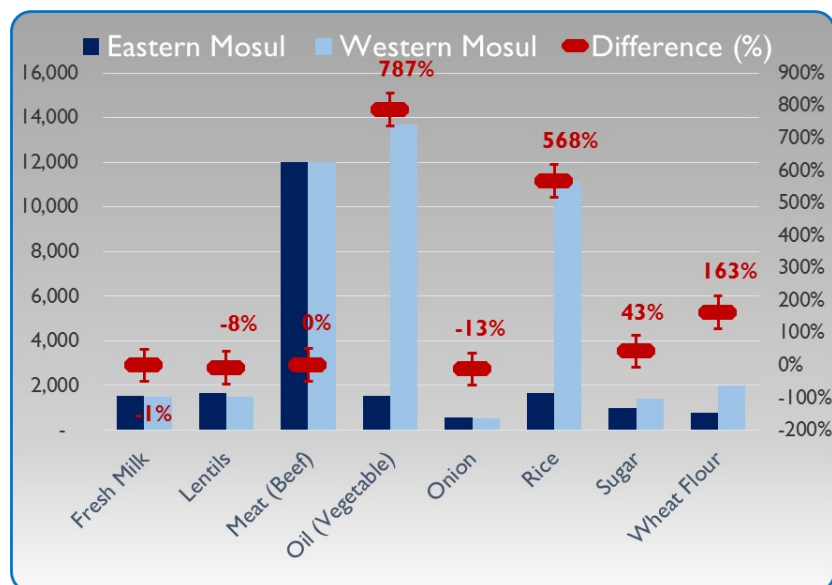
<sup>1</sup> The minimum food basket monitored by WFP contains five foods: wheat flour, sugar, rice, vegetable oil and onions. The quantities are adjusted against the survival caloric intake needs.





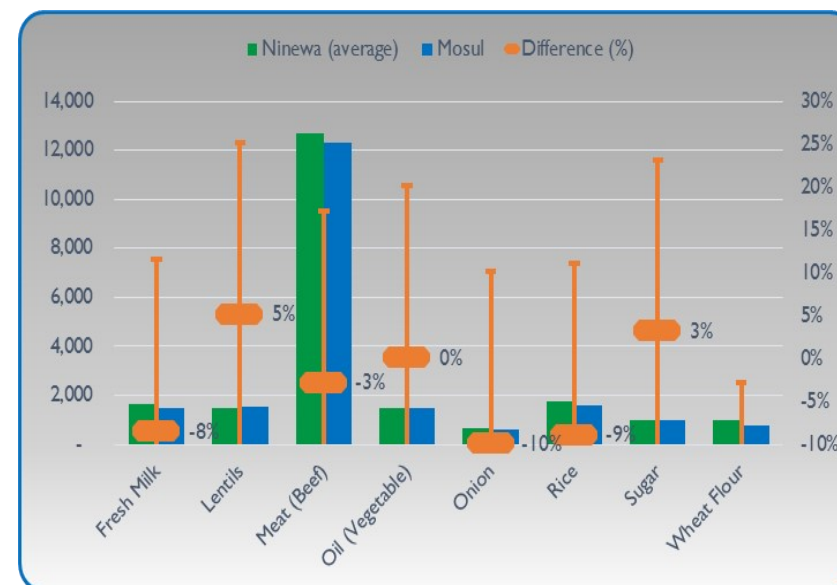
### Food prices in western Mosul fall after liberation

Figure 10. Main food prices in eastern and western Mosul city, June 2017



Commodity	Unit	Eastern Mosul		Western Mosul		Difference (%)	Relevance of difference (+/-5%)
		Jun-17	Jun-17	Jun-17	Jun-17		
Fresh Milk	I L	IQD 1,509	IQD 1,500			-1%	⬆️
Lentils	I Kg	IQD 1,634	IQD 1,500			-8%	⬇️
Meat (Beef)	I Kg	IQD 12,000	IQD 12,000			0%	⬆️
Oil (Vegetable)	I L	IQD 1,543	IQD 13,688			787%	⬆️
Onion	I Kg	IQD 571	IQD 500			-13%	⬇️
Rice	I Kg	IQD 1,666	IQD 11,125			568%	⬆️
Sugar	I Kg	IQD 993	IQD 1,417			43%	⬆️
Wheat Flour	I Kg	IQD 760	IQD 2,000			163%	⬆️
Unskilled Labor	I Day	IQD 12,154	IQD 6,667			-45%	⬇️
<b>Food Basket</b>		<b>IQD 723</b>	<b>IQD 3,501</b>			<b>384%</b>	⬆️
<b>ToT</b>		<b>FB 17</b>	<b>FB 2</b>			<b>-89%</b>	⬇️

Figure 11. Main food prices in Mosul and Ninewa governorate, July 2017



Commodity	Unit	Mosul		Ninewa (average)		Difference (%)	Relevance of difference (+/-5%)
		Jul-17	Jul-17	Jul-17	Jul-17		
Fresh Milk	I L	IQD 1,487	IQD 1,625			-8%	⬆️
Lentils	I Kg	IQD 1,550	IQD 1,474			5%	⬆️
Meat (Beef)	I Kg	IQD 12,327	IQD 12,684			-3%	⬆️
Oil (Vegetable)	I L	IQD 1,475	IQD 1,474			0%	⬆️
Onion	I Kg	IQD 605	IQD 671			-10%	⬇️
Rice	I Kg	IQD 1,583	IQD 1,737			-9%	⬇️
Sugar	I Kg	IQD 1,005	IQD 974			3%	⬆️
Wheat Flour	I Kg	IQD 772	IQD 1,000			-23%	⬇️
Unskilled Labour	I Day	IQD 12,673	IQD 17,368			-27%	⬇️
<b>Food Basket</b>		<b>IQD 700</b>	<b>IQD 781</b>			<b>-10%</b>	⬆️
<b>ToT</b>		<b>FB 18.10</b>	<b>FB 22.25</b>			<b>-19%</b>	⬇️



### Food prices in western Mosul fall after liberation

In July prices are returning slowly to their usual levels, confirming a trend that has been seen in other retaken areas. The July food basket was on average 10 percent cheaper in Mosul than in the rest of Ninewa, with prices in western Mosul showing higher market integration.

The changes have been driven by a steep drop in prices in western Mosul, where in July a food basket cost IQD770 (compared with IQD781 in Ninewa and IQD698 in eastern Mosul). Some staple foods are still much more expensive in western Mosul than in the east, such as wheat flour (80 percent more expensive) and sugar (52 percent more).

Figure 13. Cost of the food basket in Mosul city and Ninewa governorate, July 2017

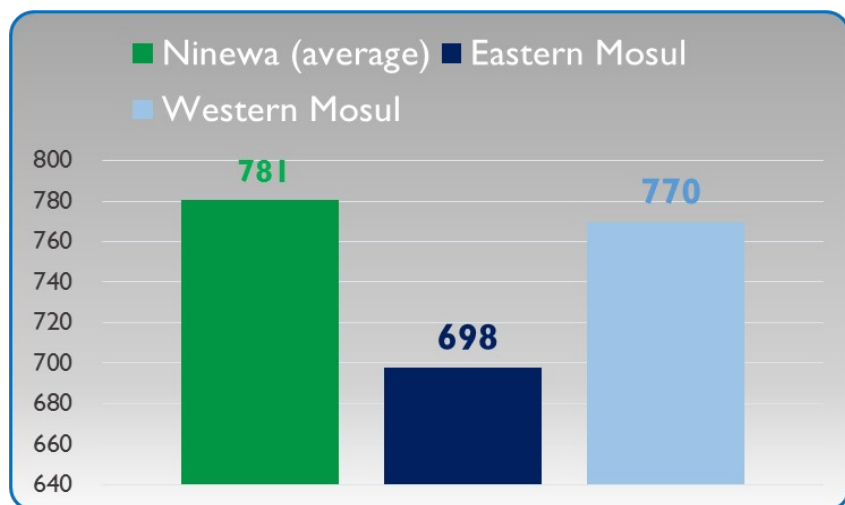
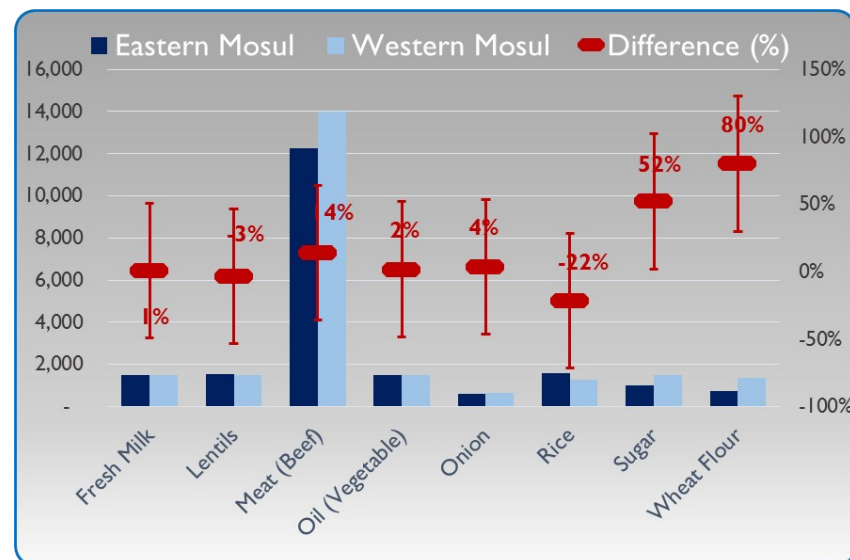


Figure 12. Main food prices in eastern and western Mosul city, July 2017



Commodity	Unit	Eastern Mosul	Western Mosul	Difference (%)	Relevance of difference
		Jul-17	Jul-17		(+/-5%)
Fresh Milk	I L	IQD 1,487	IQD 1,500	1%	⬇️
Lentils	I Kg	IQD 1,552	IQD 1,500	-3%	⬇️
Meat (Beef)	I Kg	IQD 12,264	IQD 14,000	14%	⬆️
Oil (Vegetable)	I L	IQD 1,475	IQD 1,500	2%	⬇️
Onion	I Kg	IQD 604	IQD 625	4%	⬇️
Rice	I Kg	IQD 1,595	IQD 1,250	-22%	⬇️
Sugar	I Kg	IQD 986	IQD 1,500	52%	⬆️
Wheat Flour	I Kg	IQD 750	IQD 1,350	80%	⬆️
Unskilled Labor	I Day	IQD 12,774	IQD 10,000	-22%	⬇️
Food Basket		IQD 698	IQD 770	10%	⬆️
ToT		FB 18.31	FB 13.00	-29%	⬇️



### Food prices in western Mosul fall after liberation

Unskilled labour wages were an average 30 percent lower in Mosul city than in the rest of Ninewa in June; they were 27 percent lower in eastern Mosul and 60 percent lower in western Mosul. In newly retaken areas, wages were extremely low in June, with unskilled labourers able to purchase just 2 food baskets with the wages from a day's work, compared to an average 20 baskets in Ninewa.

Figure 14. Wage-to-food terms of trade in Mosul and Ninewa governorate, June 2017

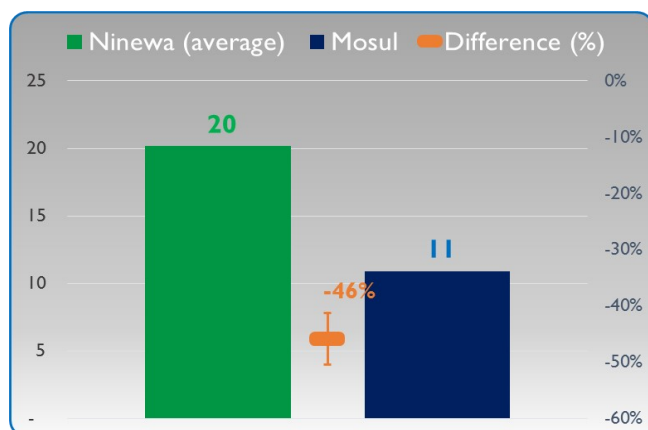
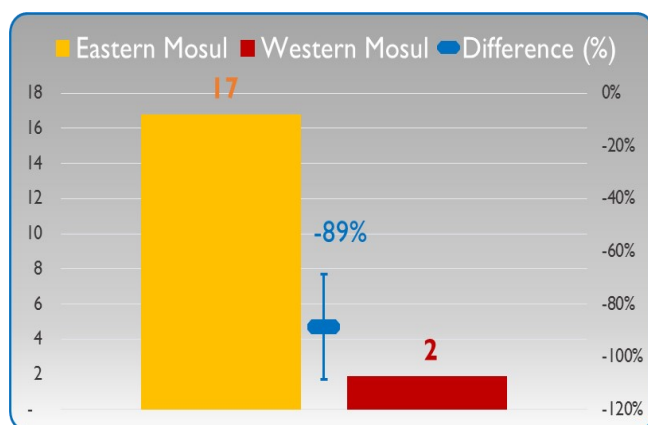


Figure 15. Wage-to-food terms of trade in eastern and western Mosul, June 2017



Despite the better situation in July, wages remained 27 percent lower in Mosul than in Ninewa and were almost 40 percent lower in western Mosul compared to the governorate average. As food has become cheaper in the west, the wage-to-food terms of trade have moved closer to those of eastern Mosul. With one day of work in July, an unskilled labourer could buy 22 food baskets in Ninewa, 18 in eastern Mosul and 13 in western Mosul.

Figure 16. Main food prices in eastern and western Mosul city, July 2017

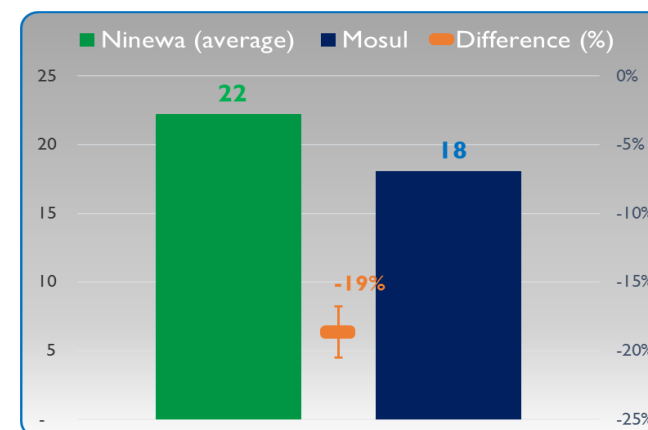
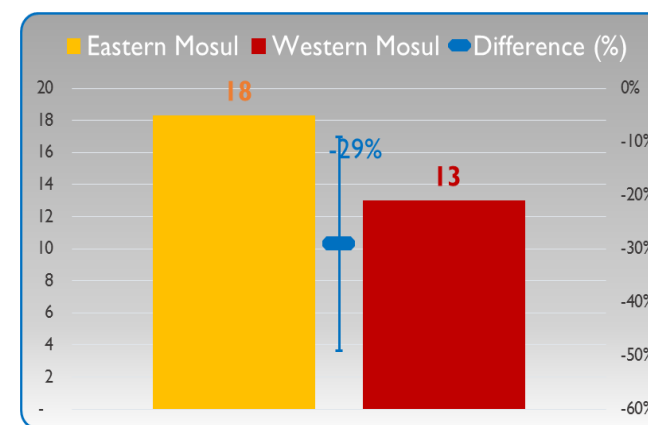


Figure 17. Wage-to-food terms of trade in eastern and western Mosul, July 2017







## Food shortages and Market functionality

The sharp price increases in western Mosul in June seem to be related to a lack of main food commodities in the market. Key informants reported the scarcity of all main foods in Xazraj, Sarjxana, Hay Al-Thawra, Hay Al-Najar and Muthna. In eastern Mosul, food was available in most sub-districts except in Al-Qadisia Alula and Hay Al-Amn.

Although prices have generally fallen in Mosul, food availability has not improved. Markets suffering scarcity in June do not appear to have recovered, except for Muthna where there are some signs of improvement. Respondents reported that 17 Tamuz markets were offering less food in July than in June; scarcity was also registered in Hay Al-Zaitun. Better – but not full – availability was reported in Al Shurah, Hay Al-Mshraq and Al-Qadisia Althania.

### Methodology – mVAM remote data collection

In July 2017, mVAM conducted household food security monitoring using telephone interviews. Data were collected from a sample of 1102 respondents via Korek, a major mobile network operator, between 2 July and 6 August. WFP monitored respondents living in several locations in Mosul including Mosul City (34 neighbourhoods in the east and 11 neighbourhoods in the west), as well as the district of Sinjar in Ninewa. Respondents were drawn from Korek's database. The data were weighted by the number of mobile phones owned by the household. In addition, in collaboration with Islamic Relief Worldwide, 70 key informant interviews were conducted covering 12 locations in eastern Mosul and 5 locations in western Mosul.



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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>

Figure 18. Availability analysis – Mosul district, June 2017

Commodity	Al Qayara	Al Shurah	Hay Al-jamia	Hay Al-zhur	Hay Al-samah	Al-qadisia alula	Al-qadisia	Hay Al-axaa	Hay Al-amn	Hay Al-qahira	Hay Al-zaitun	Hay Al-Mshraq	Al-qadisia althania	Muthna	Hay Al-najar	17 Tamuz	Hay Al-thawra	Xazraj	Sarjxana
Lentils	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	SAV	AV	AV	SAV	AV	AV	AV	AV	NA	NA	AV	NA	NA	NA
Oil (Vegetable)	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	SAV	AV	AV	SAV	AV	AV	AV	AV	NA	SAV	AV	NA	NA	NA
Rice	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	SAV	AV	AV	SAV	AV	AV	AV	AV	NA	SAV	AV	NA	NA	NA
Sugar	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	SAV	AV	AV	SAV	AV	AV	AV	AV	NA	NA	AV	NA	NA	NA
Wheat Flour	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	SAV	AV	AV	SAV	AV	AV	AV	AV	NA	NA	AV	NA	NA	NA

Figure 19. Availability analysis – Mosul district, July 2017

Commodity	Al Qayara	Al Shurah	Hay Al-jamia	Hay Al-zhur	Hay Al-samah	Al-qadisia alula	Al-qadisia	Hay Al-axaa	Hay Al-amn	Hay Al-qahira	Hay Al-zaitun	Hay Al-Mshraq	Al-qadisia althania	Muthna	Hay Al-najar	17 Tamuz	Hay Al-thawra	Xazraj	Sarjxana
Lentils	AV	WAV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	SAV	WAV	WAV	SAV	NA	SAV	NA	NA	NA
Oil (Vegetable)	AV	WAV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	SAV	WAV	WAV	SAV	NA	SAV	NA	NA	NA
Rice	AV	WAV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	SAV	WAV	WAV	SAV	NA	SAV	NA	NA	NA
Sugar	AV	WAV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	SAV	WAV	WAV	SAV	NA	SAV	NA	NA	NA
Wheat Flour	AV	WAV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	SAV	WAV	WAV	SAV	NA	SAV	NA	NA	NA

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

Source: mVAM, IMST June-July 2017

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