



MOSUL



vam
food security analysis

mVAM IRAQ: EMERGENCY UPDATE #10

AUGUST 2017

Key points:



As food assistance reaches displaced households, food security indicators improve among IDPs.



Access to monthly rations from the government-led Public Distribution System improves among IDPs but deteriorates among returnee households.



In Mosul, access to food and markets has stabilised; however, unemployment and low wages persist, suppressing household purchasing power.



Situation Update

After almost nine months, major military operations have ended in Mosul. The crisis surpassed the worst-case planning scenarios foreseen by humanitarian agencies, displacing almost 1 million people from Mosul. By the end of August, almost 100,000 people from west Mosul and villages on the western bank of the Tigris returned to their homes, according to Iraqi government figures. Returnees are mainly moving to the outskirts of town, as the Old City has been too badly damaged for people to return in the near future. Almost 11 million tons of debris still need to be cleared from Mosul city, according to preliminary estimates from UN Habitat. Clearance operations by Iraqi authorities and stabilization partners are underway, facilitating returns to less-damaged areas of Mosul. Military operations to retake Telafar from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) began on 20 August. Telafar, the capital of the district of the same name in Ninewa governorate, represents one of the last three ISIL holdouts in Iraq since Mosul was secured by security forces. There has been little access to the area, which has been under the control of ISIL since June 2014. By the end of August, 43,000 people had been displaced from the district.

Source: WFP, OCHA and IOM

1,100

Households surveyed

37

Average age of respondents



40% IDPs

43% Returnees

17% Non IDPs



40% Own Home

32% Rental

28% Guest



95% Male

5% Female

21

Key informants called

15

Locations surveyed

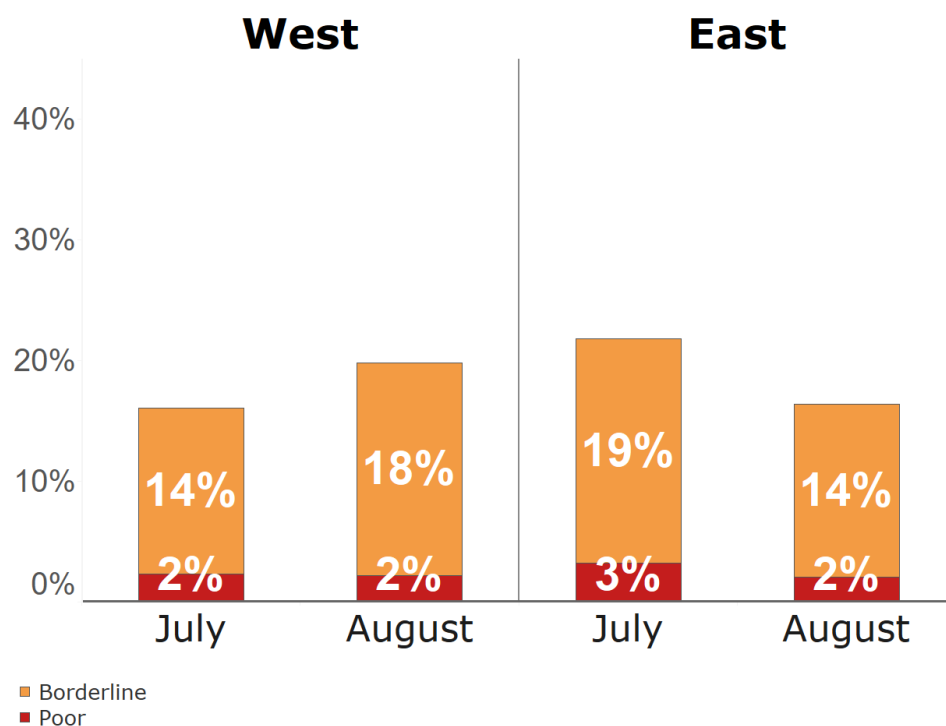


Food consumption improves in surveyed districts

In Mosul city, around 20 percent of households reported having poor or borderline food consumption in August, the same as in July. In both east and west Mosul, 2 percent of households had poor food consumption. Borderline food consumption was reported by 14 percent of households in the east and 18 percent of those in the west (Figure 1).

In August, data were also collected from the district of Sinjar in Ninewa governorate. mVAM found that 20 percent of households in Sinjar had poor or borderline food consumption (Figure 2).

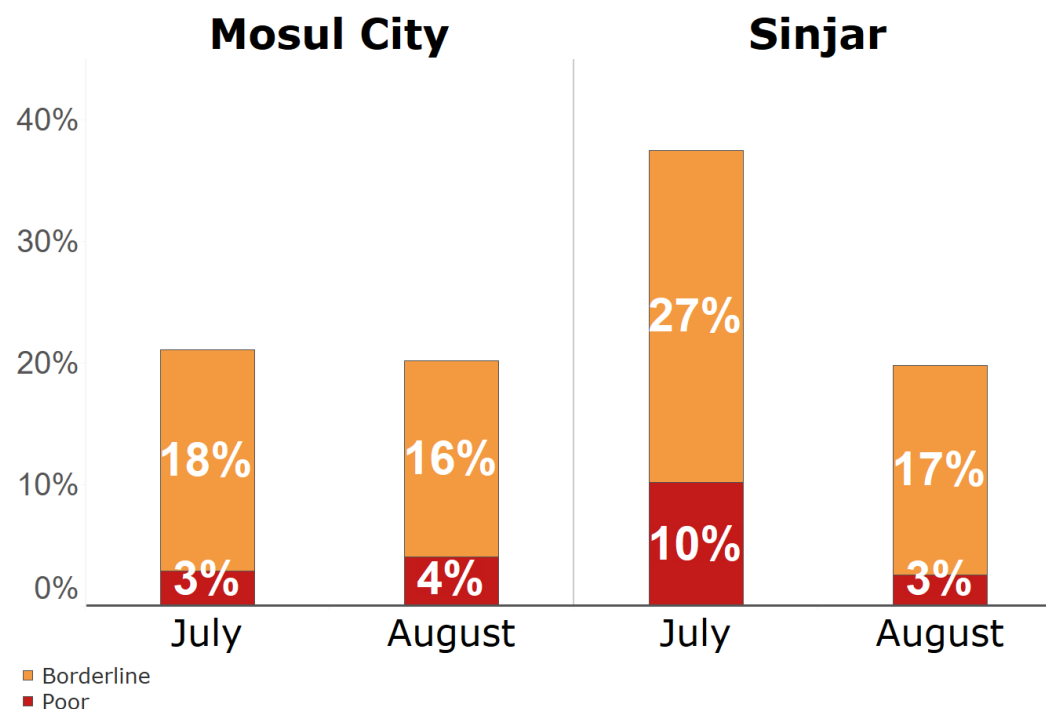
Figure 1. Households with inadequate consumption in eastern and western Mosul, July - August 2017



Methodology – mVAM remote data collection

In August 2017, mVAM conducted household food security monitoring using telephone interviews. Data were collected from a sample of 1100 respondents via Korek, a major mobile network operator, between 8 and 31 August 2017. WFP monitored respondents living in several locations in Mosul including Mosul City (36 neighbourhoods in the east and 13 in the west), as well as the district of Sinjar (three sub-districts) 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, 21 key informant interviews were conducted covering 13 locations in eastern Mosul and 2 locations in western Mosul.

Figure 2. Households with inadequate consumption in surveyed locations, July - August 2017





Food consumption improves in surveyed districts

The food consumption of displaced households improved in August, with inadequate consumption at its lowest level in six months. A similar trend was observed among residents and returnees, with a smaller share of the population recording poor or borderline food consumption than in July (Figure 3). In general, access to vegetables, dairy products and pulses – especially among displaced households – improved in August compared with July (Figure 4). Around 40 percent of the IDPs interviewed in Mosul confirmed having received food assistance in August.

Figure 3. Households with inadequate food consumption by respondent status, March to August 2017

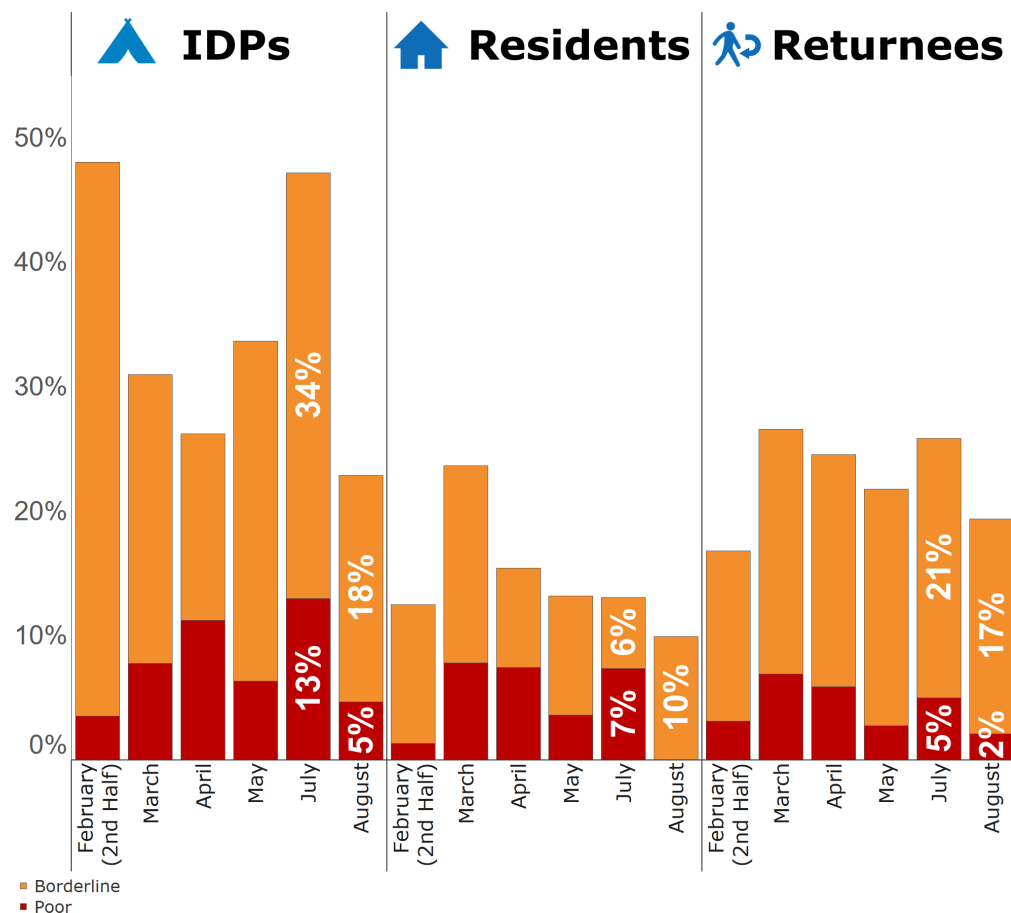
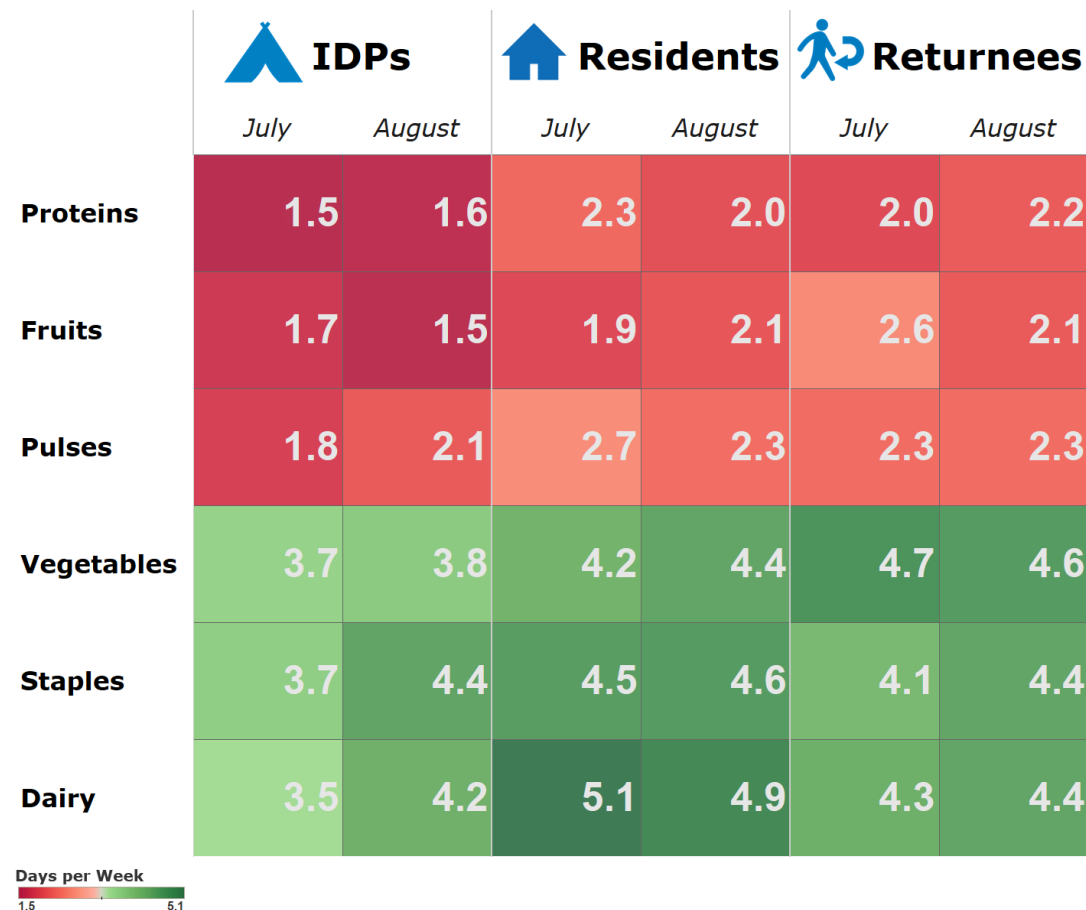


Figure 4. Dietary diversity by respondent status, July-August 2017





Use of negative coping strategies falls, especially among IDPs

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 all three surveyed locations, the percentage of households who reported resorting to food-based coping strategies fell significantly in August (Figure 5).

In line with food consumption findings, similar percentages of households used food-based coping strategies in eastern Mosul (20 percent) and western Mosul (23 percent) in August (Figure 6).

Overall, negative coping behaviours decreased, especially among displaced households: 22 percent of IDPs engaged in coping strategies in August compared with 41 percent in July (Figure 7). Fewer displaced households are borrowing food or relying on help from relatives and friends, and restricting adult consumption so that children can eat. This is also true for returnee households.

Key informants in eastern Mosul said that the main source of food is the market; however, people are still having to buy food on credit and use their savings because job opportunities remain scarce and prices high.

In Hazraj and Sarjxana in western Mosul, key informants said that the situation is critical: entire neighbourhoods have been destroyed and people are struggling to rebuild their homes and lives. However, most areas have not yet been cleared of improvised explosives, and people are afraid as the number of trauma casualties continues to rise.

Figure 5: Percentage of households using food-based coping strategies in surveyed locations, July - August 2017

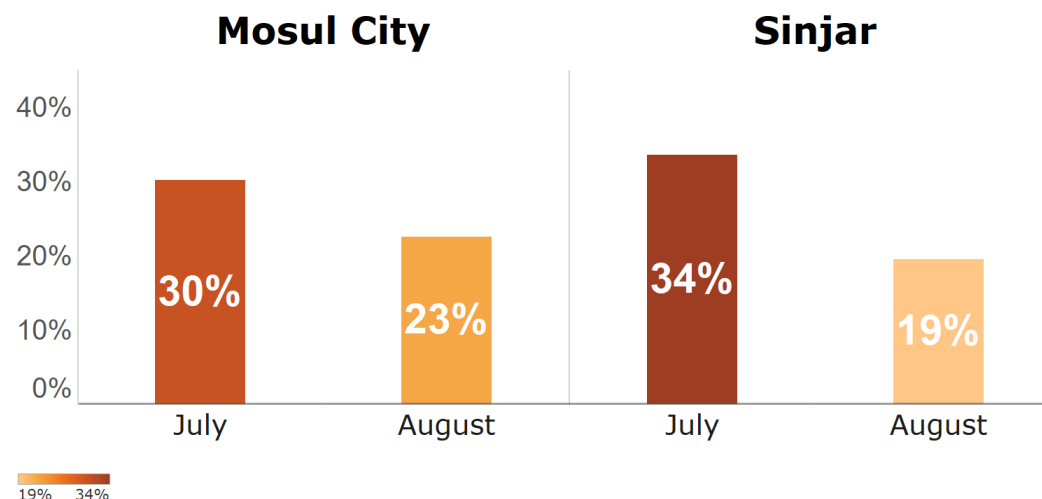


Figure 6: Percentage of households using food-based coping strategies in eastern and western Mosul, July - August 2017

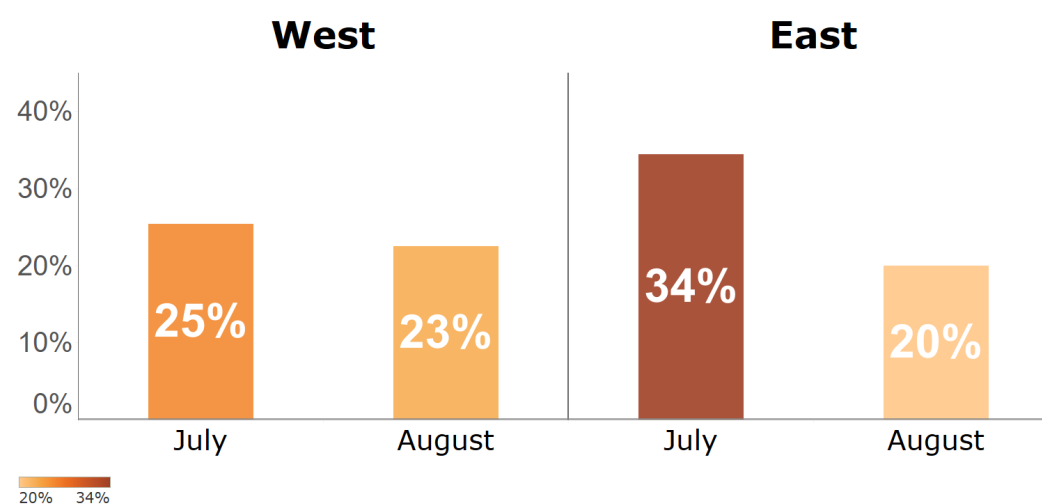
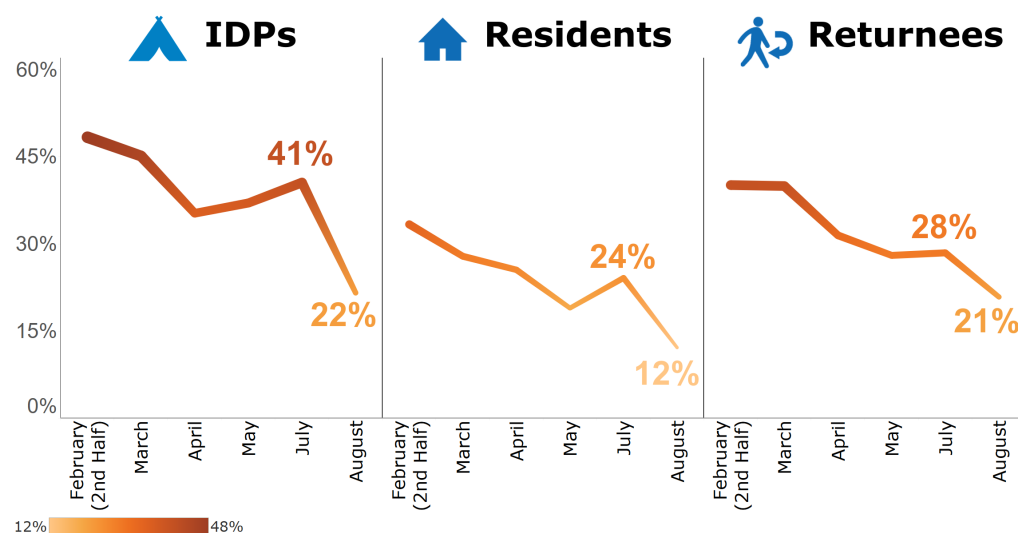


Figure 7: Percentage of households using food-based coping strategies by respondent status, February to August 2017





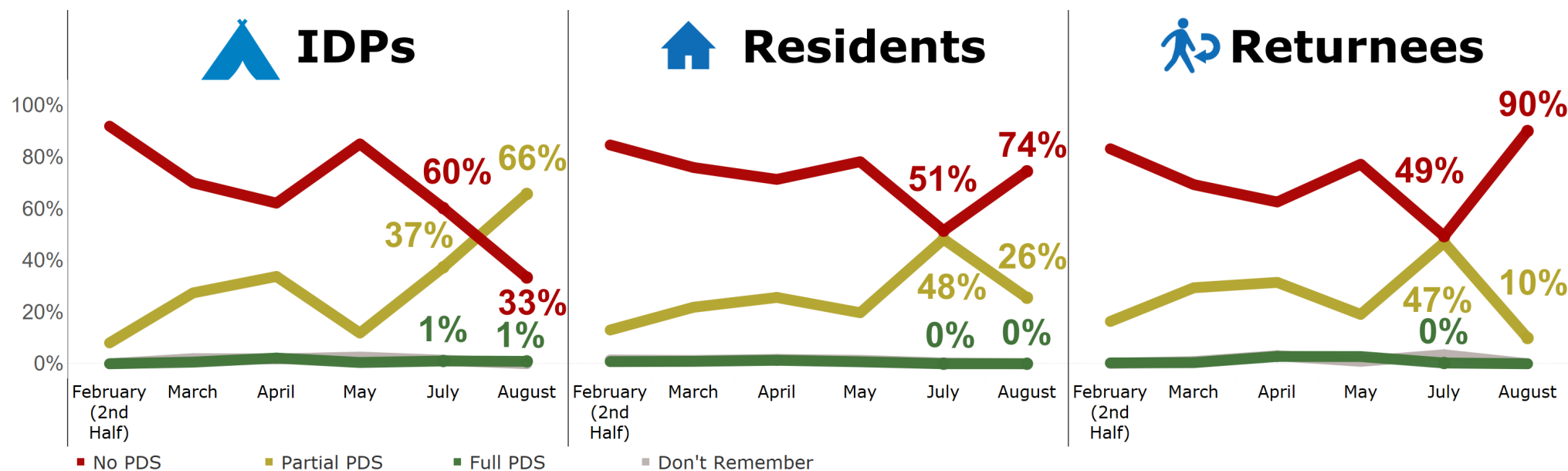
Access to public distribution system deteriorates for residents and returnees

Public distribution system (PDS) access has improved among IDPs: 66 percent of households reported receiving a partial ration (mainly wheat flour, vegetable oil, rice and sugar), the highest delivery rate of the past six months. The percentage of displaced households who reported not receiving PDS continued to fall in August.

The situation for residents and returnees was different, as – according to those surveyed – access to PDS decreased in August. Fewer households reported receiving partial rations, and more households said they had not received any of the ration.



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





Food prices stable in Mosul after liberation

In August, commodity prices returned to their pre-conflict levels, following a trend that has been seen in other liberated areas. The August food basket was an average 13 percent cheaper in Mosul than in the rest of Ninewa, with prices in Mosul showing higher market integration (IQD783 in Ninewa and IQD687 in Mosul). Only onions remain slightly more expensive in Ninewa than in Mosul, and the price of lentils is the same. A combination of increased demand from the high number of displaced people and a concentration of food assistance is likely to have played a role in pushing up food prices in the governorate.

Figure 10. Cost of the food basket in Mosul city and Ninewa governorate, August 2017

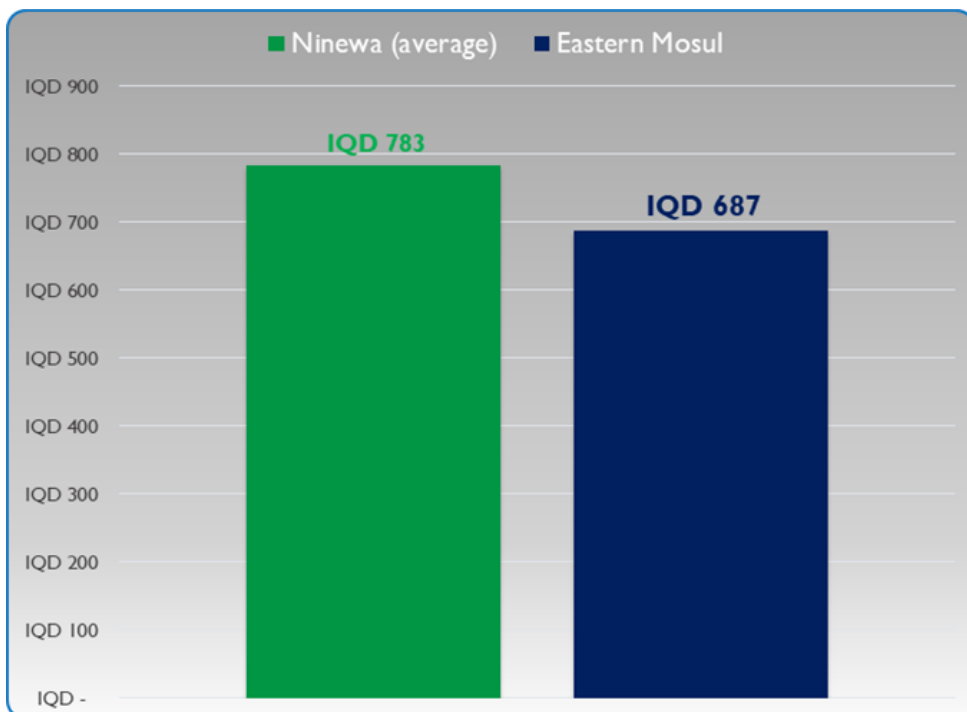


Figure 9. Main food prices in Mosul and Ninewa governorate, August 2017

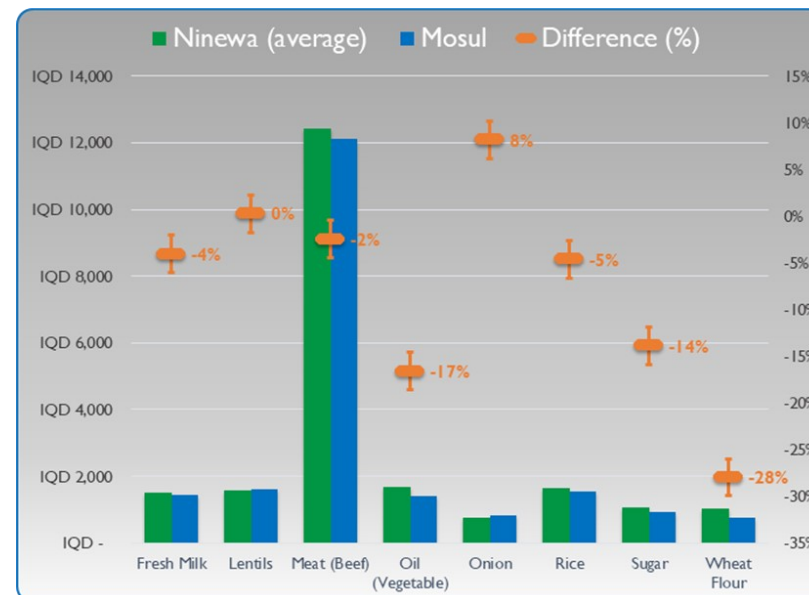


Table 1. Commodity prices Mosul and Ninewa governorate, August 2017

Commodity	Unit	Mosul		Ninewa (average)		Difference (%)	Relevance of difference
		Aug-17		Aug-17			(+/-5%)
Fresh Milk	l L	IQD	1,434	IQD	1,494	-4%	▢
Lentils	l Kg	IQD	1,595	IQD	1,591	0%	▢
Meat (Beef)	l Kg	IQD	12,104	IQD	12,409	-2%	▢
Oil (Vegetable)	l L	IQD	1,401	IQD	1,680	-17%	⬇️
Onion	l Kg	IQD	811	IQD	750	8%	⬆️
Rice	l Kg	IQD	1,559	IQD	1,635	-5%	▢
Sugar	l Kg	IQD	915	IQD	1,063	-14%	⬇️
Wheat Flour	l Kg	IQD	749	IQD	1,040	-28%	⬇️
Unskilled Labour	l Day	IQD	13,491	IQD	19,205	-30%	⬇️
Food Basket		IQD	687	IQD	783	-12%	⬇️
ToT		FB	19.63	FB	24.53	-20%	⬇️

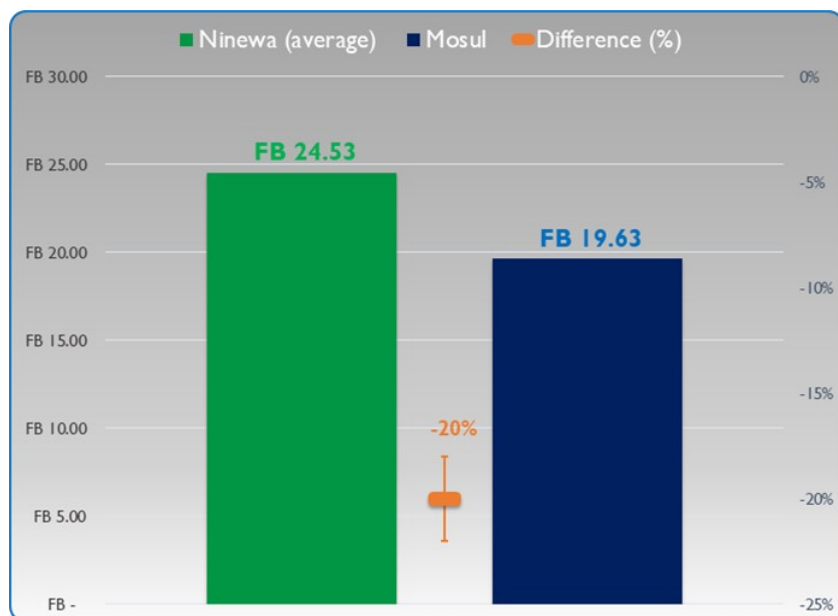
¹ The minimum food basket monitored by WFP contains five foods: wheat flour, sugar, rice, vegetable oil and onions. The quantities are adjusted against the survival caloric intake needs.



Food shortages persist in parts of western Mosul

During August, unskilled labour wages were on average 30 percent lower in Mosul city than in the rest of the governorate. For this reason, although food is cheaper in Mosul, the wage-to-food terms of trade is higher in Ninewa. With one day of work in August, an unskilled labourer could buy 24.5 food baskets in Ninewa compared with 19.6 in Mosul, such that purchasing power was 20 percent less in Mosul city than in Ninewa (Figure 11).

Figure 11. Wage-to-food terms of trade in Mosul and Ninewa governorate, August 2017



For further information:

Sally Haydock sally.haydock@wfp.org
Arif Husain arif.husain@wfp.org
Hazem Almahdy hazem.almahdy@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>



Food shortages and Market functionality

As prices have fallen in Mosul, food availability has improved in almost all markets except in Al-Qayara, where food availability was reported as stable over July and August. Xazraj and Sarjxana market in western Mosul where commodities were scarce in July - do not appear to be covered, and key informants reported that none of the main foods were available.

Table 2. Availability analysis – Mosul district, August 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	Xazraj	Sarjxana
Lentils	WAV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	NA	NA
Oil (Vegetable)	WAV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	NA	NA
Rice	WAV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	NA	NA
Sugar	WAV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	NA	NA
Wheat Flour	WAV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	NA	NA

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

Source: mVAM, IMST August 2017



THE BELGIAN
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



vam
food security analysis
wfp.org



Government of the Netherlands