# Focus on conflict-affected groups in Ninewa and Diyala

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## mVAM IRAQ: EMERGENCY UPDATE #12

## OCTOBER 2017

### Key points:

- Levels of inadequate food consumption rise in Ninewa governorate for the second consecutive month
- Displaced households in Makhmur district report the highest use of negative coping strategies
- In Mosul, food prices decreased in October but wages continued to fall, eroding household food access. Basic goods are still not available in surveyed markets in western Mosul


### Situation Update

Iraqi Security Forces have made a series of advances over the past week in the Kirkuk region. Kirkuk, Sinjar and northern Diyala are now fully under the control of the Iraqi Government, and Peshmerga forces have withdrawn from several positions in Ninewa governorate. The Erbil-Mosul and Erbil-Kirkuk roads remain blocked.

On 21 October, a WFP mission to assess food security in Kirkuk and camps in the surrounding areas showed that while Kirkuk is relatively stable, outlying areas are still tense. More than 60,000 people have reportedly left Kirkuk and join host families and relatives. Since Iraqi forces and allied militias moved into disputed areas previously held by the Kurdistan Regional Government, an estimated 175,000 people have been displaced from the governorates of Ninewa, Kirkuk, Erbil and Diyala.

Source: WFP, OCHA and IOM

**798** households surveyed

**34** average age of respondents

**30%** IDPs
**52%** Returnees
**18%** Non IDPs

**47%** Own Home
**32%** Rental
**12%** Camp
**9%** Guest

**94%** Male
**6%** Female

**29** Key informants called

**26** Locations surveyed

Source: mVAM, October 2017

## Food consumption has been deteriorating in Ninewa since August

In October, mVAM interviewed population groups affected by the conflict in the districts of Mosul, Makhmur, Sinjar and Telafar in Ninewa, and in the district of Khanaqin in Diyala. Food consumption levels varied among the districts. In Sinjar and Telafar, over 30 percent of households reported having poor or borderline food consumption. Inadequate food consumption levels were slightly lower in Makhmur (25 percent) and Mosul (23 percent) (Figure 1). In Khanaqin (Diyala), more than 80 percent of households reported acceptable food consumption.

Across Ninewa, the food consumption of IDPs and residents deteriorated for the second consecutive month, especially that of IDPs (Figure 2). In general, IDPs appear to have a fairly diverse diet, and access to different food groups is similar in the surveyed districts. Even so, IDPs in Makhmur are consuming far less protein than those in other districts (Figure 3).

**Figure 1. Households with inadequate consumption in surveyed districts, October 2017**

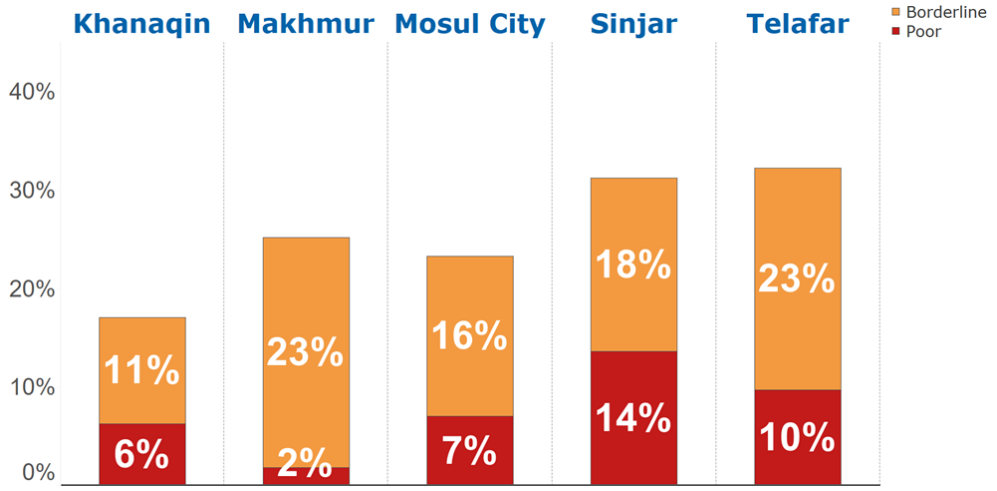



**Figure 2. Inadequate food consumption by respondent status in surveyed districts of Ninewa, April to October 2017**

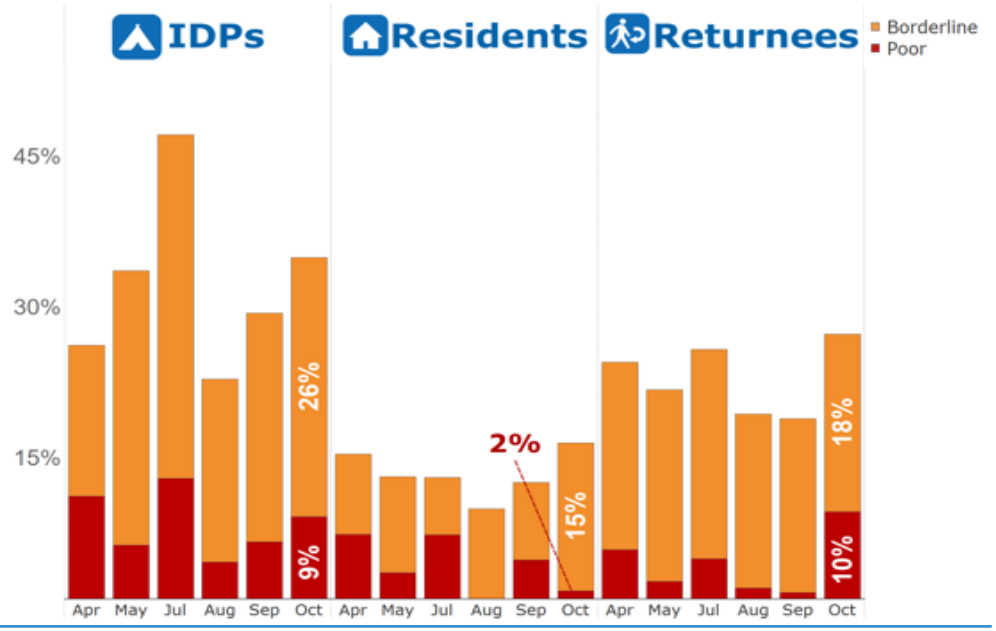



**Figure 3. Dietary diversity of displaced households in surveyed districts of Ninewa, October 2017**

| | Mosul City | Sinjar | Telafar | Makhmur |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Proteins | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.2 |
| Fruits | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Pulses | 2.5 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 2.9 |
| Staples | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.5 |
| Vegetables | 4.2 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.3 |
| Dairy | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.1 |

Source: mVAM, October 2017

## Use of negative coping strategies is highest in Makhmur

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 Khanaqin (Diyala), only 9 percent of surveyed households reported using negative food-related coping strategies. Their access to food and income-generating activities is likely to be better than that of households in Ninewa, where the share of households using negative coping strategies was 10 percent in Sinjar, 14 percent on Mosul, 15 percent in Makhmur and 21 percent in Telafar in October. In Ninewa, the use of negative coping behaviours continues to decline among residents but remained relatively stable among IDP and returnee households (Figure 5). Displaced households in Makhmur recorded the highest levels of negative coping (23 percent) of all surveyed IDPs in Ninewa (Figure 4).

In October, around 30 percent of displaced households in Ninewa reported receiving food assistance compared with just 5 percent of the resident population.

**Figure 4. Percentage of displaced households using food-based negative coping strategies in surveyed districts of Ninewa, October 2017**

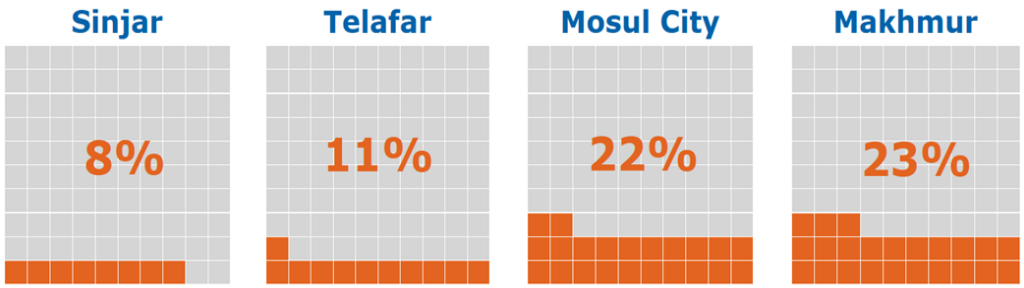
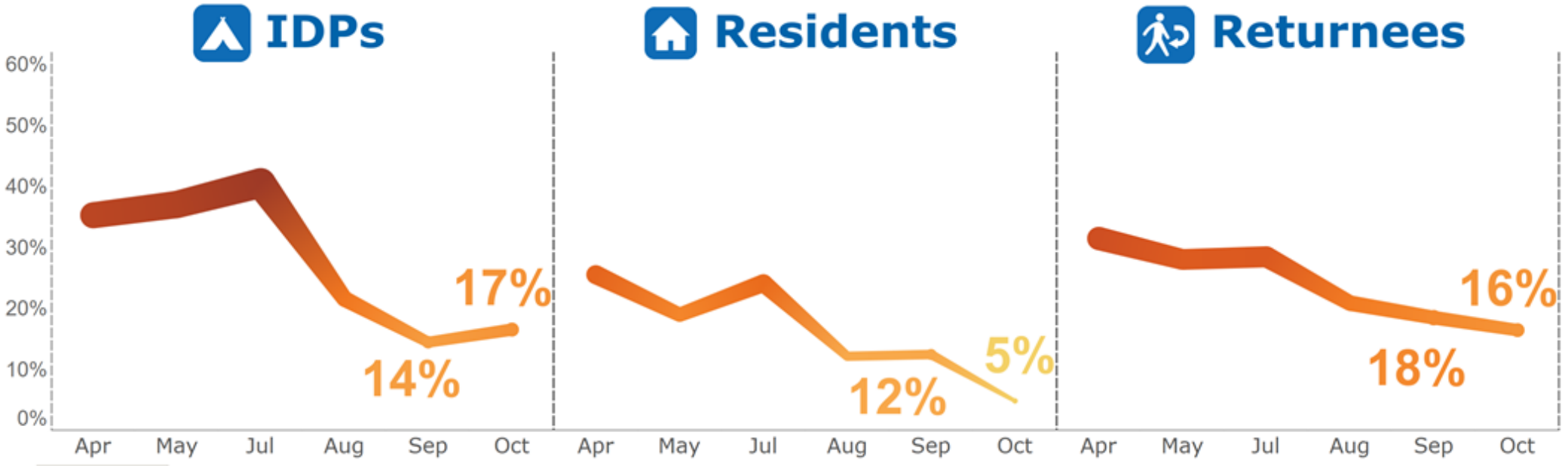



**Figure 5. Percentage of households using food-based negative coping strategies in surveyed districts of Ninewa by respondent status, April to October 2017**




Source: mVAM, October 2017

## Access to the public distribution system improves across Ninewa

In October, household access to the public distribution system (PDS) was similar in all surveyed districts. More than half of all households reported not receiving PDS in September (Figure 6).

Nonetheless, PDS access has improved in Ninewa among IDPs, residents and returnees, with more households receiving full or partial rations (mainly wheat flour, vegetable oil, rice and sugar) (Figure 7).

**Figure 6. Percentage of households receiving PDS in surveyed districts, October 2017**

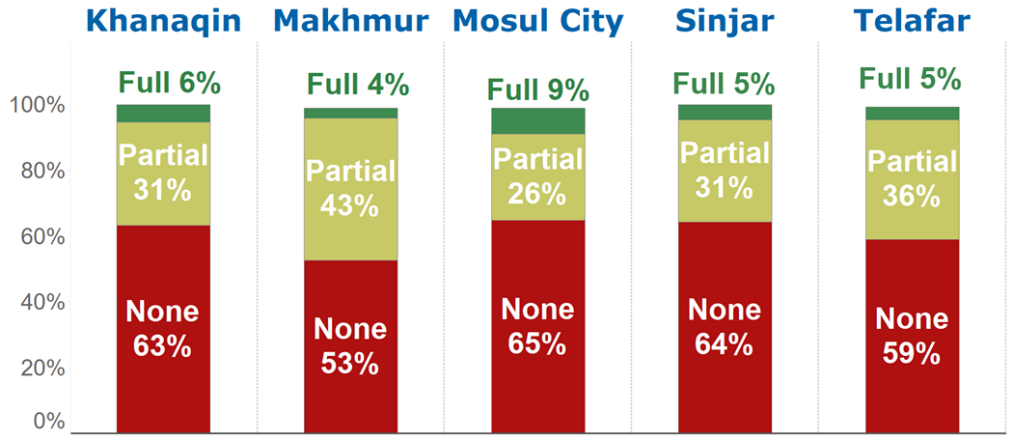
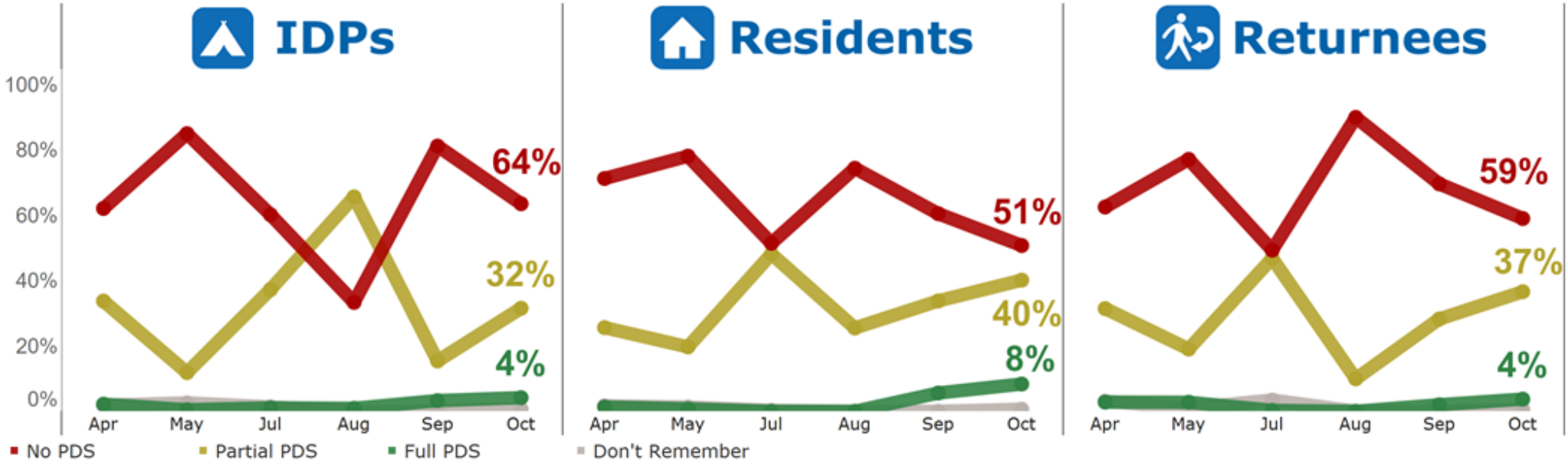



**Figure 7. Percentage of displaced households receiving PDS in Ninewa by respondent status, April to October 2017**



## Terms of trade remain poor for households in Mosul

In October, all monitored foods were cheaper in Mosul than in the rest of Ninewa, making the food basket 14 percent cheaper in the city than elsewhere in the governorate. In Mosul, rice prices fell 20 percent and onion prices dropped 8 percent between September and October.

Within Mosul, the prices of main foods are generally behaving similarly in the east and west. Meat was 21 percent cheaper in the west in October but wheat flour cost 16 percent more and sugar 9 percent more than in the east. The food basket in eastern Mosul (IDQ720) was cheaper than in western Mosul (IQD737) and markedly cheaper than in the rest of the governorate (IQD839).

**Figure 9. Main food prices in Mosul, September and October 2017**

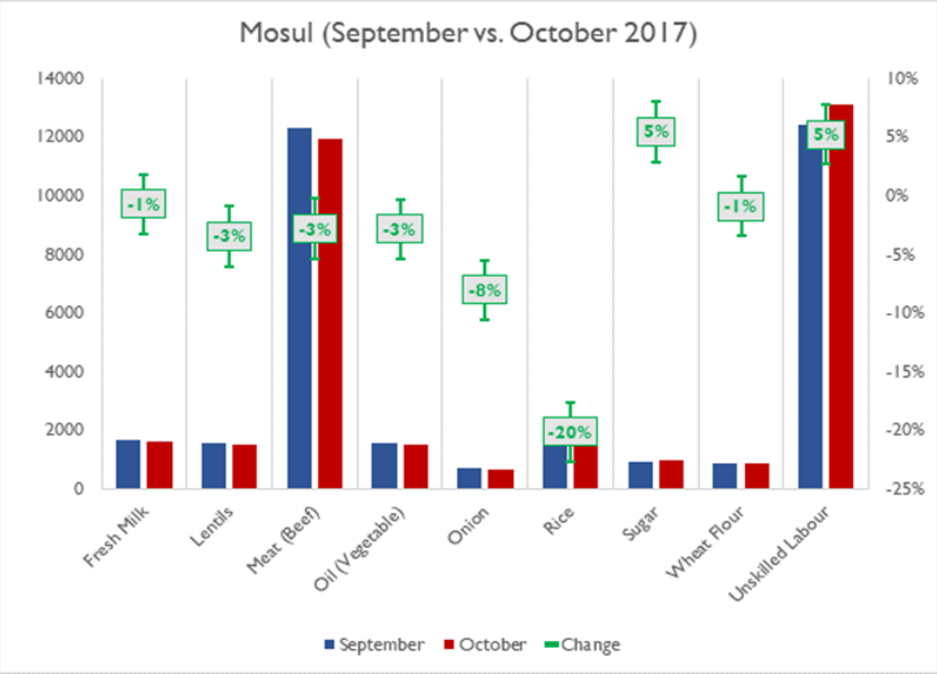
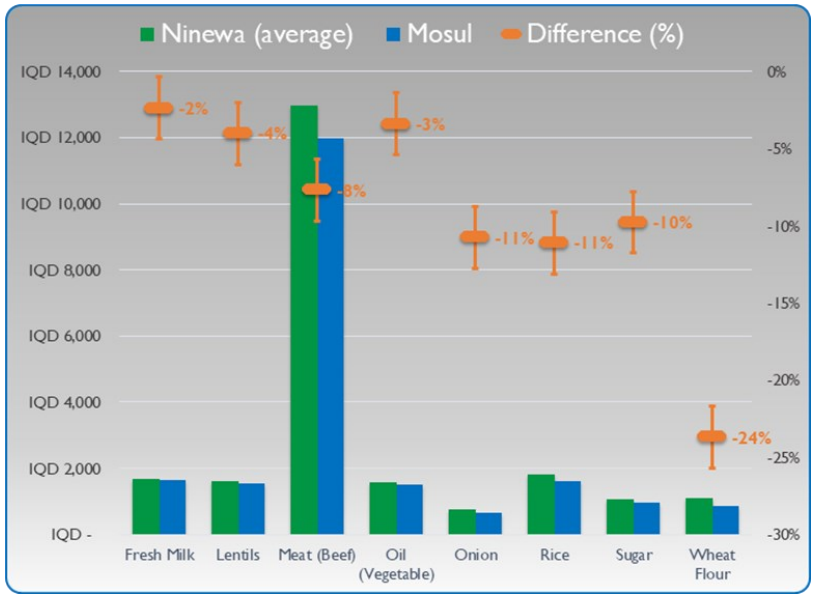



**Figure 8. Main food prices in Mosul compared with Ninewa governorate, October 2017**




| Commodity | Unit | Mosul | | Ninewa (average) | | Difference (%) | Relevance of difference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Sep-17 | | Sep-17 | | | (+/-5%) |
| Fresh Milk | 1 L | IQD | 1,635 | IQD | 1,675 | -2% | |
| Lentils | 1 Kg | IQD | 1,534 | IQD | 1,598 | -4% | |
| Meat (Beef) | 1 Kg | IQD | 11,962 | IQD | 12,958 | -8% | |
| Oil (Vegetable) | 1 L | IQD | 1,512 | IQD | 1,565 | -3% | |
| Onion | 1 Kg | IQD | 669 | IQD | 750 | -11% | |
| Rice | 1 Kg | IQD | 1,625 | IQD | 1,828 | -11% | |
| Sugar | 1 Kg | IQD | 971 | IQD | 1,076 | -10% | |
| Wheat Flour | 1 Kg | IQD | 846 | IQD | 1,109 | -24% | |
| Unskilled Labour | 1 Day | IQD | 13,090 | IQD | 18,696 | -30% | |
| **Food Basket** | | **IQD** | **725** | **IQD** | **839** | -14% | |
| **ToT** | | **FB** | **18.04** | **FB** | **22.28** | -19% | |

[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.

Source: mVAM, IMST, October 2017

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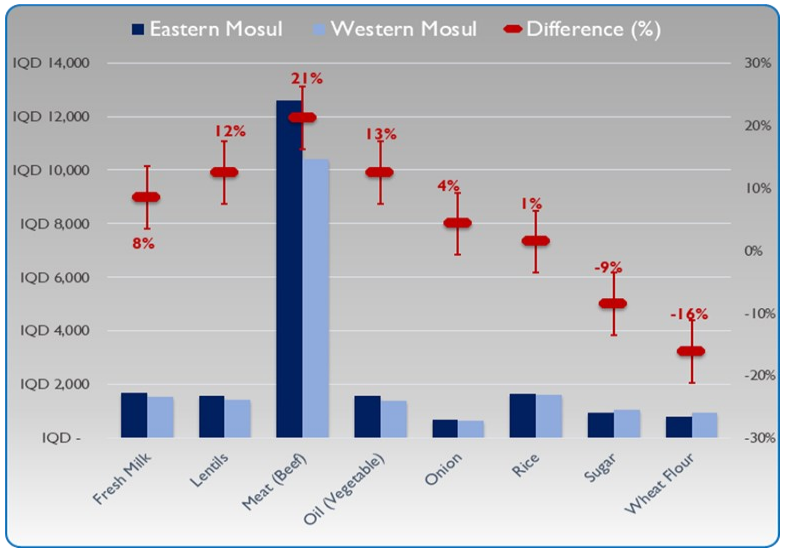
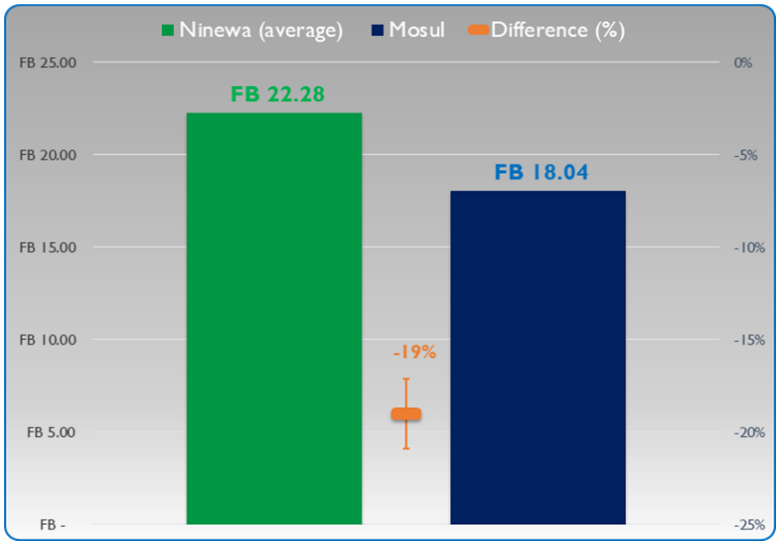
Within Mosul, the prices of main foods are generally behaving similarly in the east and west. Meat was 21 percent cheaper in the west in October but wheat flour cost 16 percent more and sugar 9 percent more than in the east. The food basket in eastern Mosul (IDQ720) was cheaper than in western Mosul (IQD737) and markedly cheaper than in the rest of the governorate (IQD839).

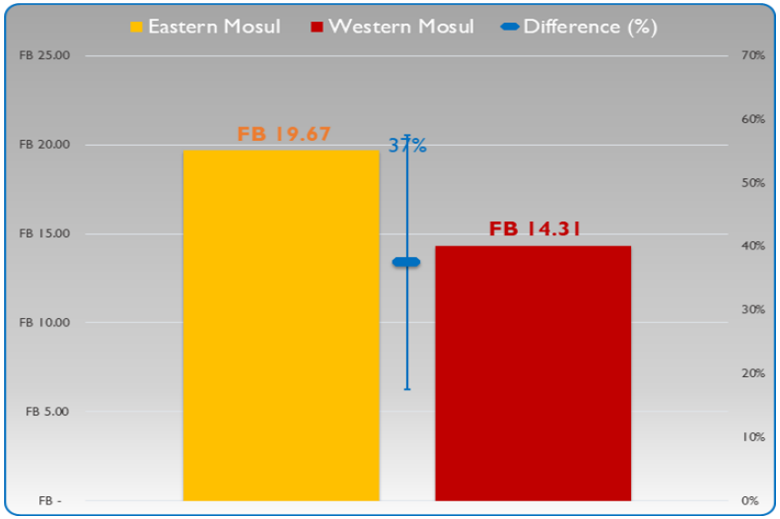
**Figure 10. Main food prices in eastern and western Mosul city, October 2017**




| Commodity | Unit | Eastern Mosul | | Western Mosul | | Difference (%) | Relevance of difference |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Sep-17 | | Sep-17 | | | (+/-5%) |
| Fresh Milk | 1 L | IQD | 1,671 | IQD | 1,542 | 8% | ↑ |
| Lentils | 1 Kg | IQD | 1,586 | IQD | 1,410 | 12% | ↑ |
| Meat (Beef) | 1 Kg | IQD | 12,596 | IQD | 10,395 | 21% | ↑ |
| Oil (Vegetable) | 1 L | IQD | 1,564 | IQD | 1,390 | 13% | ↑ |
| Onion | 1 Kg | IQD | 678 | IQD | 650 | 4% | - |
| Rice | 1 Kg | IQD | 1,632 | IQD | 1,610 | 1% | - |
| Sugar | 1 Kg | IQD | 945 | IQD | 1,033 | -9% | ↓ |
| Wheat Flour | 1 Kg | IQD | 800 | IQD | 955 | -16% | ↓ |
| Unskilled Labor | 1 Day | IQD | 14,170 | IQD | 10,550 | 34% | ↑ |
| **Food Basket** | | **IQD** | **720** | **IQD** | **737** | -2% | - |
| **ToT** | | **FB** | **19.67** | **FB** | **14.31** | 37% | ↑ |

**Figure 11. Wage-to-food terms of trade (in food baskets) in Mosul and in Ninewa governorate and eastern and western Mosul, October 2017**




Source: mVAM, IMST, October 2017

## Food shortages persist in parts of western Mosul

Food availability was similar in September and October. Shortages of food were recorded in Al-qadisia and Hay Al-axaa in eastern Mosul.

Among the markets surveyed in western Mosul – Hay Al-najar, Xazraj, 17 Tamuz, Hay Al-thawra and Sarjxana – food items have been scarce since July. These markets do not appear to have recovered, as key informants reported that none of the main foods were available in October.

### Methodology – mVAM remote data collection

In October 2017, mVAM conducted household food security monitoring using telephone interviews. Data were collected from 798 respondents via Korek, a major mobile network operator, between 23 October and 5 November 2017. WFP monitored respondents living in several locations in the governorates of Ninewa and Diyala. 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, 29 key informant interviews were conducted covering 14 locations in eastern Mosul and 12 locations in western Mosul.

**Table 1. Availability analysis – Mosul district, October 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 | Mosul Al-jadida | Hay Al-risala | Al-yarmuk | 17 Tamuz | Hay Al-thawra | Xazraj | Sarjxana | Hay-Nablus | Hay-Alseha | Hay-Alskak | Al-Midan |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lentils | AV | WAV | AV | WAV | AV | WAV | MNA | MNA | AV | AV | WAV | AV | WAV | WAV | NA | SAV | AV | AV | NA | NA | NA | NA | SAV | AV | AV | SAV |
| Oil (Vegetable) | AV | WAV | AV | WAV | AV | WAV | MNA | MNA | AV | AV | WAV | AV | WAV | WAV | NA | SAV | AV | AV | NA | NA | NA | NA | SAV | AV | AV | SAV |
| Rice | AV | WAV | AV | WAV | AV | WAV | MNA | MNA | AV | AV | WAV | AV | WAV | WAV | NA | SAV | AV | AV | NA | NA | NA | NA | SAV | AV | AV | SAV |
| Sugar | AV | WAV | AV | WAV | AV | WAV | MNA | MNA | AV | AV | WAV | AV | WAV | WAV | NA | SAV | AV | AV | NA | NA | NA | NA | SAV | AV | AV | SAV |
| Wheat Flour | AV | WAV | AV | WAV | AV | WAV | MNA | MNA | AV | AV | WAV | AV | WAV | WAV | NA | SAV | AV | AV | NA | NA | NA | NA | SAV | AV | AV | SAV |

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

Source: mVAM, IMST October 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:**

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