



Focus on conflict-affected groups in Ninewa and Diyala



vam
food security analysis

mVAM IRAQ: EMERGENCY UPDATE #14

DECEMBER 2017

Key points:



Inadequate food consumption is on the rise in Khanaqin district in Diyala governorate.



More households resorted to negative coping strategies in December, especially returnees.



Household purchasing power in Mosul improved in December as falling food prices coincided with a rise in unskilled labour wages.



Situation Update

On 9 December, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced the complete liberation of Iraq from extremist groups, including areas near the Iraqi-Syrian border. The official end of the conflict brings to the fore priorities such as holding general elections, which are scheduled on 12 May 2018, and the voluntary, safe and sustainable return of displaced families to their homes.

In a press release published on 13 December, IOM announced that more than 2.84 million displaced Iraqis have returned to their areas of origin, mostly to Anbar and Ninewa governorates. However, more than 2.78 million people remain displaced, and hundreds of thousands are living in camps and improvised shelters. While IOM findings indicate that 90 percent of displaced Iraqis are determined to return home, displaced people report an ongoing lack of security as the main obstacle to returning to their places of origin, whether because of continuing conflict, or the presence of unexploded ordnances, landmines and militias. Concerns over economic security also persist, with 80 percent of displaced people and 63 percent of returnees citing access to employment as one of their top needs.

Source: WFP, OCHA and IOM



891 households surveyed



37 average age of respondents



33% IDPs
51% Returnees
16% Non IDPs



44% Own Home
34% Rental
14% Camp
8% Guest



92% Male
8% Female

24

Key informants called

19

Locations surveyed



Food consumption deteriorates in Khanaqin district in Diyala

In December, mVAM interviewed IDPs, returnees and resident households affected by the conflict in selected districts of Ninewa (Telafar, Sinjar, Mosul and Makhmur) and Diyala (Khanaqin).

The results show a deterioration in the food consumption of surveyed households in Diyala, where 32.7 percent were found to have poor or borderline food consumption compared with just 6.3 percent in November. The share of households with inadequate food consumption in Diyala currently exceeds that in Ninewa governorate (25.4 percent) (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Households with inadequate consumption in surveyed governorates, November and December 2017

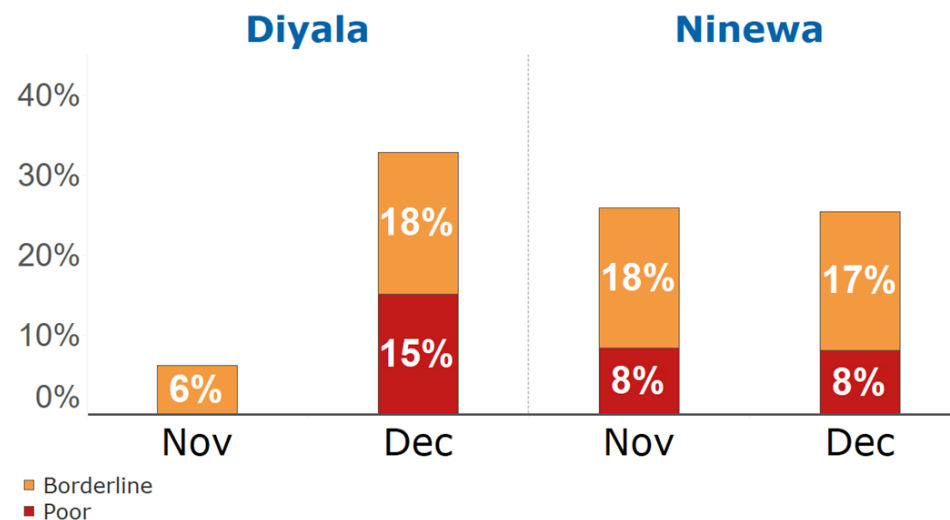
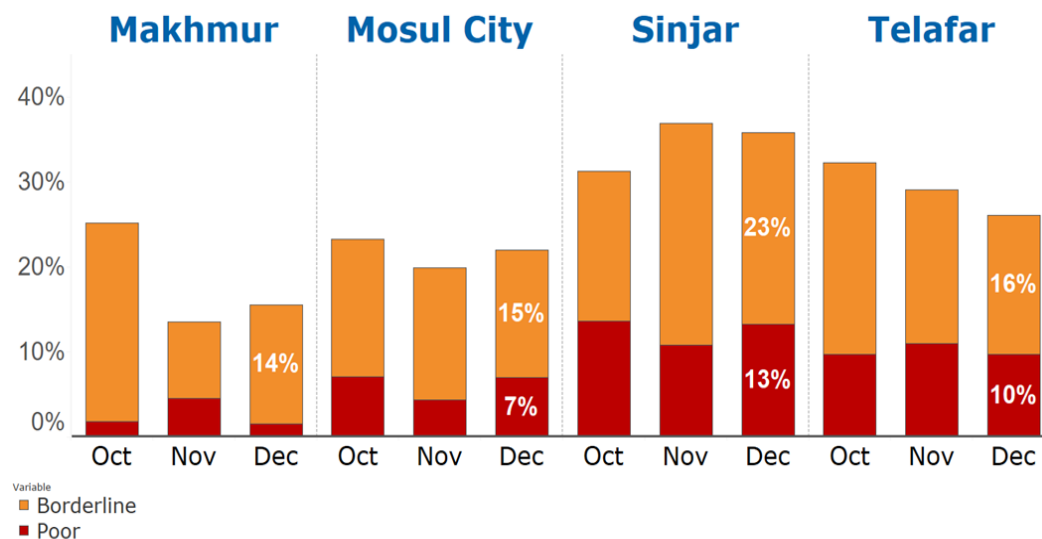


Figure 2. Households with inadequate consumption in Ninewa districts, October to December 2017



Levels of inadequate food consumption in districts of Ninewa remained similar to November. Only Mosul showed a slight increase in poor consumption from 4 percent in November to 7 percent in December (Figure 2).

Similarly, no significant changes were seen between November and December in the food consumption of displaced, resident and returnee households in Ninewa.



Rising use of negative coping strategies in all surveyed districts

Surveyed households were asked if there were times in the seven days before the survey when they did not have enough food or money to buy food. The percentage of households who reported using food-related coping strategies rose in both Diyala and Ninewa in December (Figure 3). The share of households relying on food-related coping strategies increased in all surveyed districts of Ninewa compared with November and continues to be the highest in Telafar (35 percent) followed by Mosul (32 percent) (Figure 4).

Figure 3. Percentage of households using food-based negative coping strategies in surveyed governorates, November and December 2017

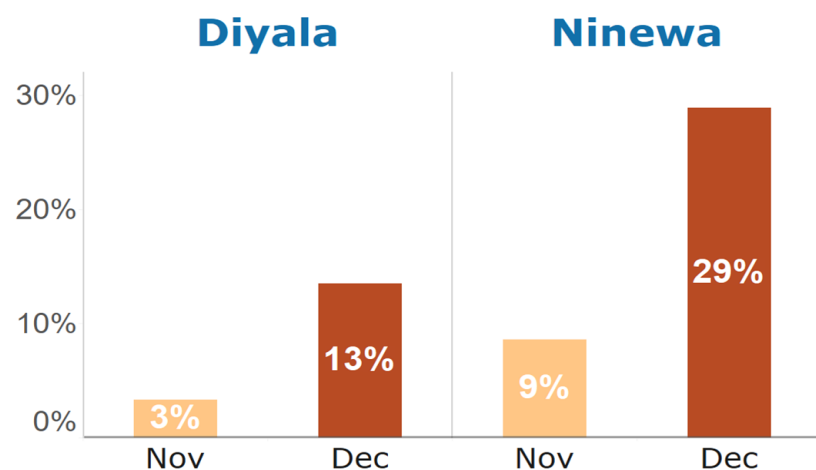


Figure 4. Percentage of households using food-based negative coping strategies in surveyed districts of Ninewa, October to December 2017

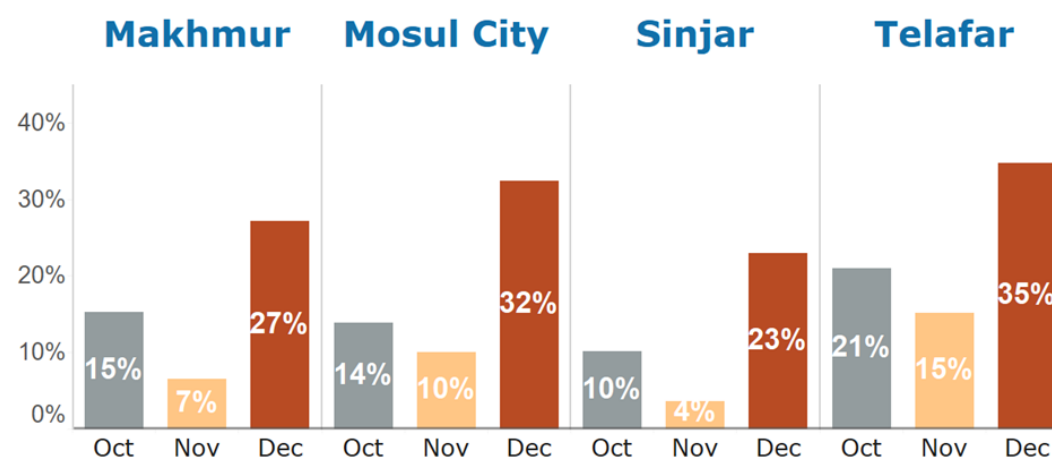
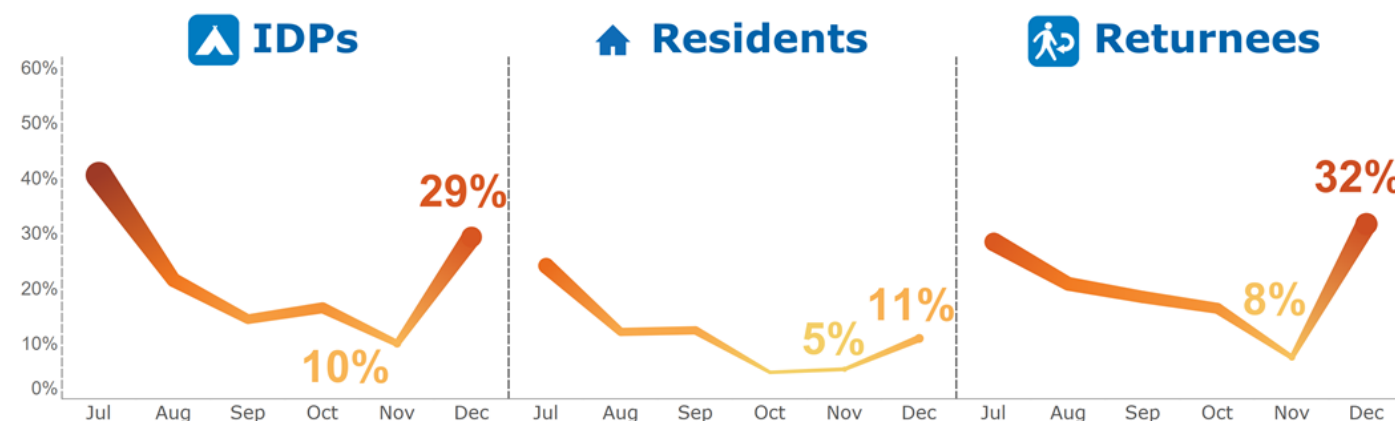


Figure 5. Percentage of households using food-based negative coping strategies in surveyed districts of Ninewa by respondent status, July to December 2017



In Ninewa, the use of negative coping behaviours increased after a month of decline among IDP, resident and returnee households. The increase was particularly significant for IDPs and returnees (Figure 5).



Access to the public distribution system deteriorates in Diyala but improves in Ninewa

In December, household access to the public distribution system (PDS) was similar in the two surveyed governorates. The worst access was in Diyala, where 80 percent of households said they had not received rations in December compared with 63 percent in November.

In Ninewa, around 70 percent of all surveyed households did not receive PDS in December. PDS access has improved in Ninewa among IDPs, residents and returnees, with fewer households reporting that they did not receive rations in December compared with November. Significantly more displaced households reported receiving full or partial rations in December (Figure 7).

Figure 6. Percentage of households receiving PDS in Diyala, November to December 2017

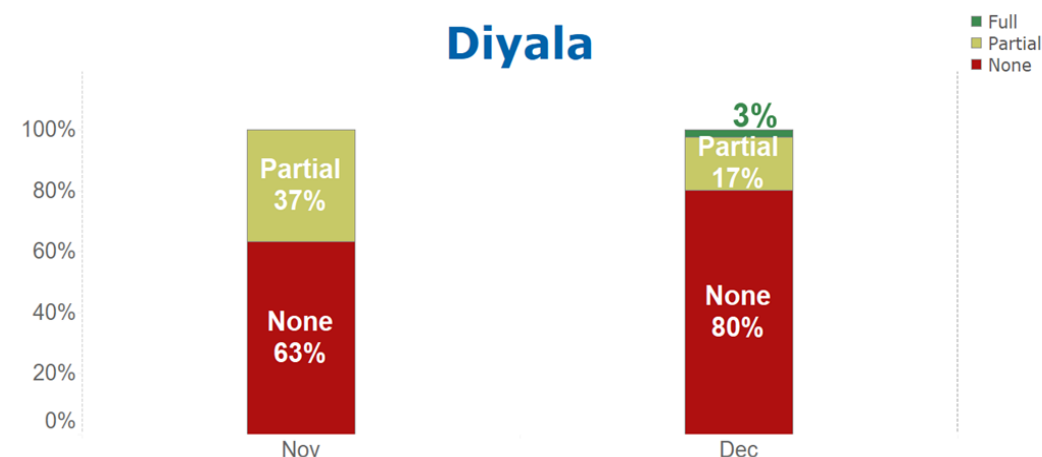
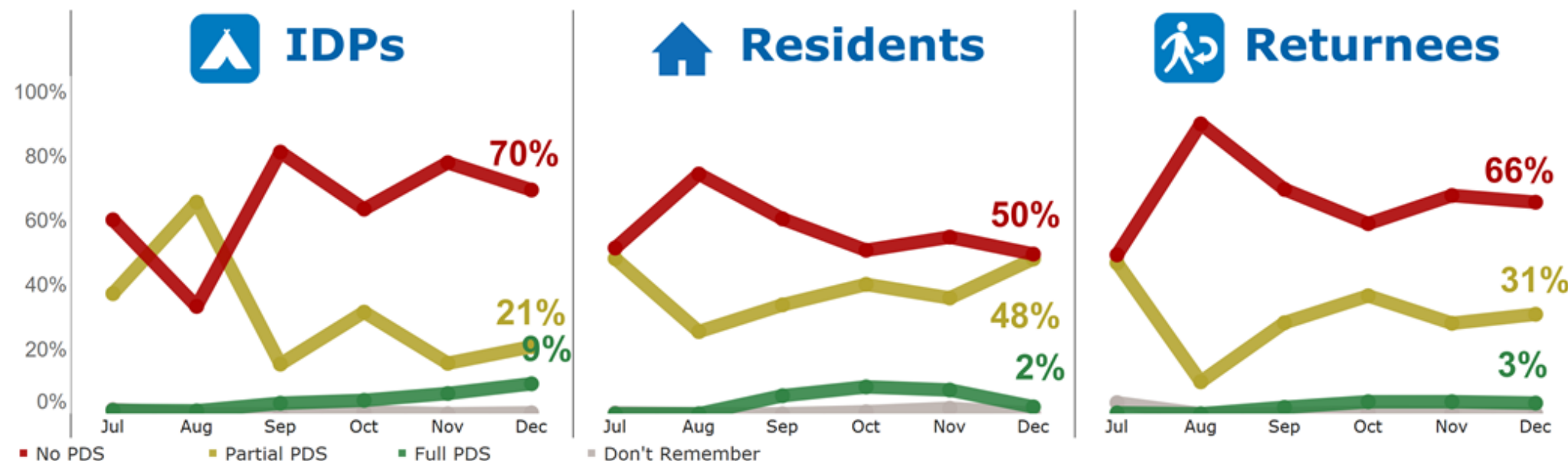


Figure 7. Percentage of displaced households receiving PDS in Ninewa by respondent status, July to December 2017



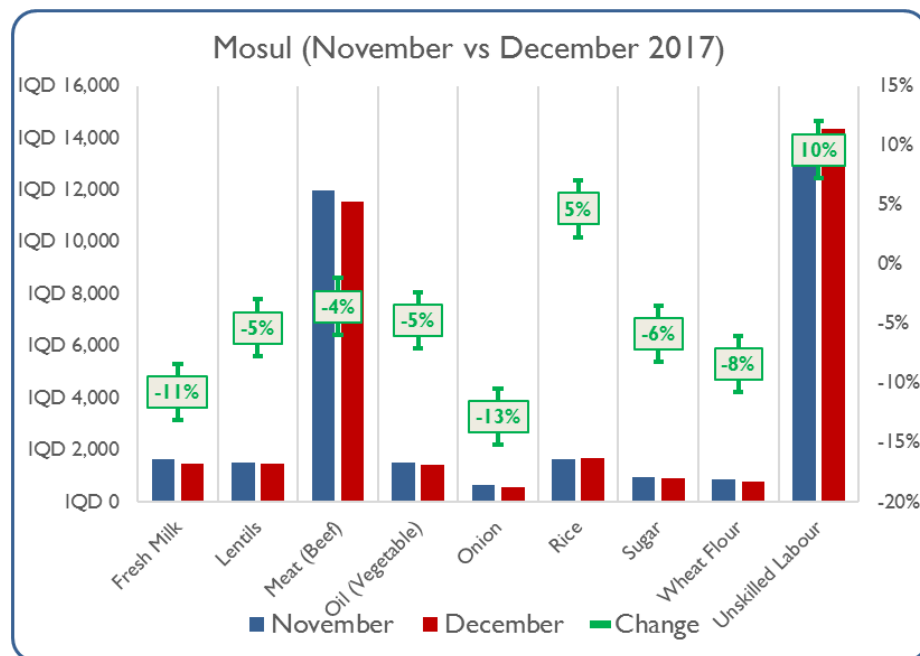


Purchasing power improves in Mosul

In December, all monitored foods continued to be cheaper in Mosul than in the rest of Ninewa (Figure 8), making the food basket 13 percent cheaper in the city. In particular, wheat flour was 26 percent cheaper in Mosul than elsewhere in the governorate.

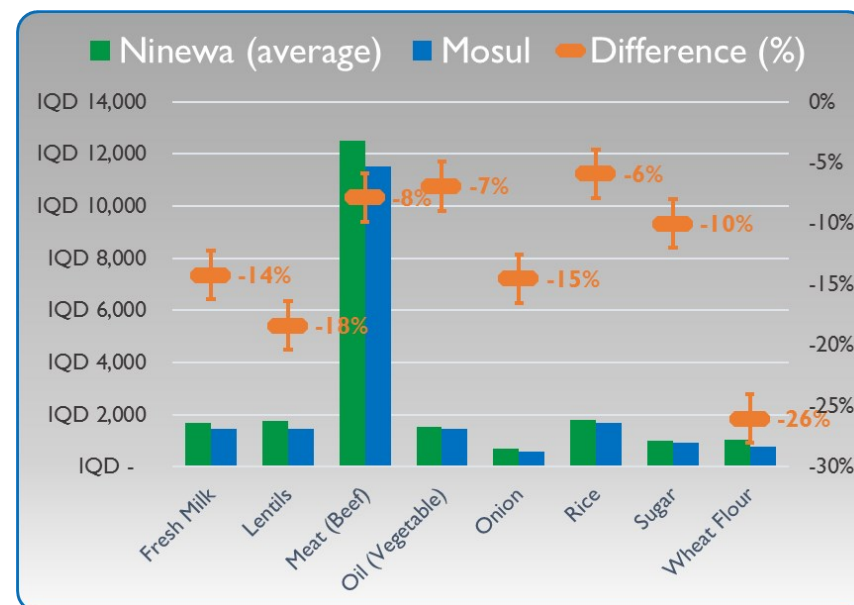
In Mosul, the prices of all surveyed foods fell in December except for rice, which became 5 percent more expensive. At the same time, the price of unskilled labour rose by 10 percent (Figure 9). Inside the city, food prices are generally behaving similarly in the east and the west (Figure 10) although meat is still 18 percent cheaper and fresh milk 14 percent cheaper in the west. Overall, the food basket is cheaper in eastern Mosul (IQD711) than in western Mosul (IQD730) and cheaper than in the rest of Ninewa (IQD829).

Figure 9. Main food prices in Mosul, November and December 2017



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.

Figure 8. Main food prices in Mosul vs. Ninewa governorate, December 2017



Commodity	Unit	Mosul	Ninewa (average)	Difference (%)	Relevance of difference
		Dec-17	Dec-17		(+/-5%)
Fresh Milk	l L	IQD 1,459	IQD 1,702	-14%	⬇️
Lentils	l Kg	IQD 1,452	IQD 1,779	-18%	⬇️
Meat (Beef)	l Kg	IQD 11,536	IQD 12,519	-8%	⬇️
Oil (Vegetable)	l L	IQD 1,441	IQD 1,548	-7%	⬇️
Onion	l Kg	IQD 584	IQD 683	-15%	⬇️
Rice	l Kg	IQD 1,701	IQD 1,808	-6%	⬇️
Sugar	l Kg	IQD 914	IQD 1,015	-10%	⬇️
Wheat Flour	l Kg	IQD 775	IQD 1,048	-26%	⬇️
Unskilled Labour	l Day	IQD 14,351	IQD 18,654	-23%	⬇️
Food Basket		IQD 718	IQD 829	-13%	⬇️
ToT		FB 20.00	FB 22.50	-11%	⬇️



Purchasing power improves in Mosul

In December, unskilled labour wages were an average 23 percent lower in Mosul than in the rest of Ninewa. They were 36 percent lower in western Mosul than in eastern Mosul. A 10 percent rise in unskilled labourer wages in Mosul and a simultaneous drop in the prices of main foods translated into better household purchasing power in December. An unskilled labourer's daily wage could buy almost the same number of food baskets in Mosul (20) as in rest of the governorate (22.5). However, an unskilled labourer could buy 22 food baskets in eastern Mosul and almost 16 in western Mosul because of lower unskilled labour wages in the latter part of the city (Figure 11).

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

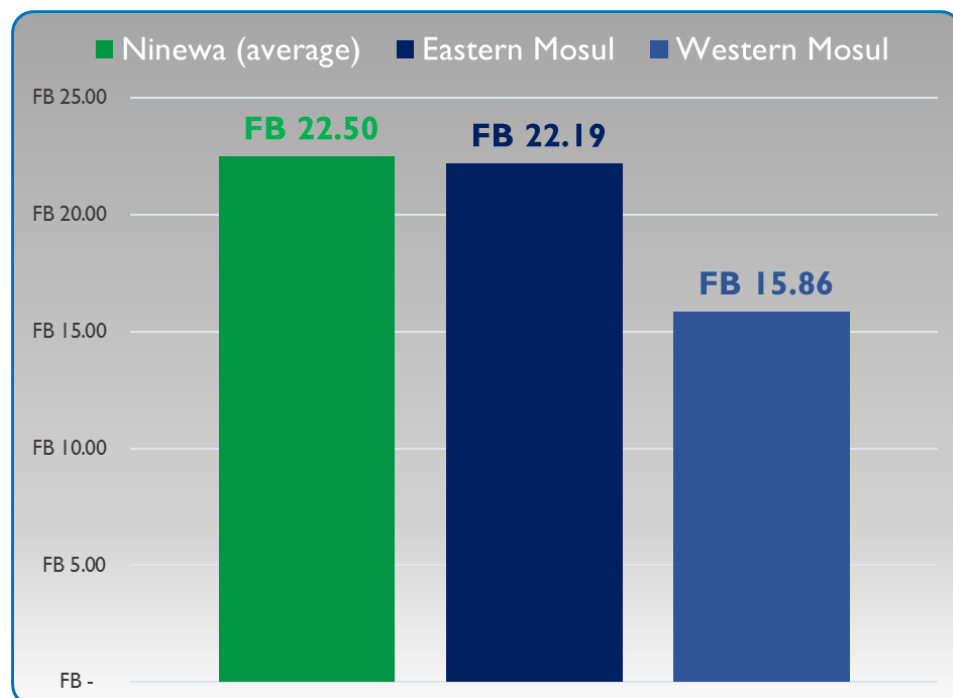
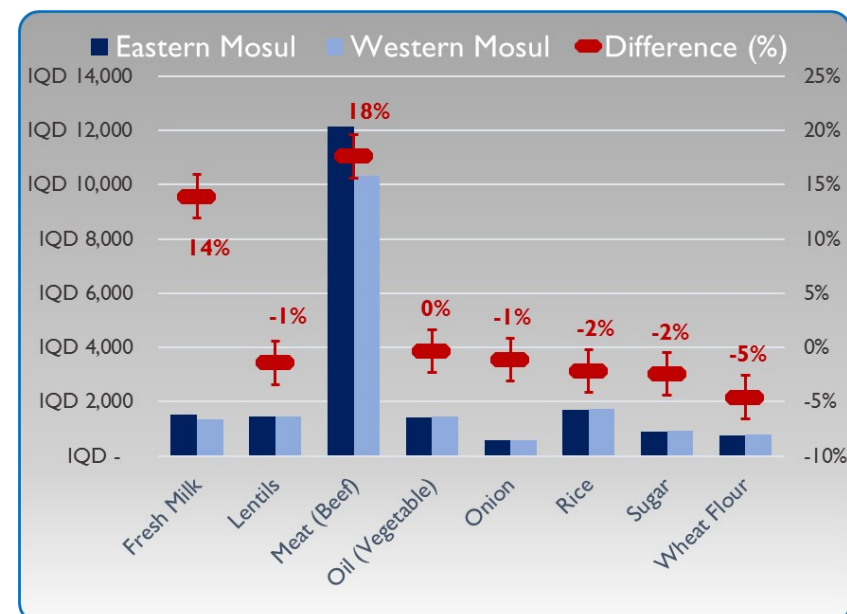


Figure 10. Main food prices in eastern and western Mosul, December 2017



Commodity	Unit	Eastern Mosul	Western Mosul	Difference (%)	Relevance of difference (+/-5%)
		Dec-17	Dec-17		
Fresh Milk	l L	IQD 1,523	IQD 1,336	14%	⬆️
Lentils	l Kg	IQD 1,444	IQD 1,465	-1%	⬆️
Meat (Beef)	l Kg	IQD 12,156	IQD 10,333	18%	⬆️
Oil (Vegetable)	l L	IQD 1,439	IQD 1,444	0%	⬆️
Onion	l Kg	IQD 581	IQD 588	-1%	⬆️
Rice	l Kg	IQD 1,688	IQD 1,726	-2%	⬆️
Sugar	l Kg	IQD 906	IQD 929	-2%	⬆️
Wheat Flour	l Kg	IQD 763	IQD 799	-5%	⬆️
Unskilled Labour	l Day	IQD 15,781	IQD 11,576	36%	⬆️
Food Basket		IQD 711	IQD 730	-3%	⬆️
ToT		FB 22.19	FB 15.86	40%	⬆️



Food availability improved

Food availability improved in December in both western and eastern Mosul. All main foods were available or widely available in all surveyed locations in the city.

Table 1. Commodity availability analysis – Mosul district, December 2017

Areas	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	Mosul Al-jadida	Hay-Nablus	Hay-Alseha	Hay-Alskak	Al-Midan	Al-Rsala	Yarmok
Re-taken	Lentils	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	WAV	AV	AV	AV	WAV	AV	AV	AV	AV
	Oil (Vegetable)	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	WAV	AV	AV	AV	AV
	Rice	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	WAV	AV	AV	AV	AV
	Sugar	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	WAV	AV	AV	AV	AV
	Wheat Flour	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	WAV	AV	AV	AV	AV

Source: mVAM, IMST December 2017

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

Methodology – mVAM remote data collection

In December 2017, mVAM conducted household food security monitoring using live telephone interviews. Data were collected from 891 respondents via Korek, a major mobile network operator, between 11 and 31 December. 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, key informant interviews were conducted, covering 12 locations in eastern Mosul and 7 locations in western Mosul.



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mVAM Resources:

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