



# Focus on conflict-affected groups in Ninewa, Diyala, Erbil and Kirkuk



**vam**  
food security analysis

## mVAM IRAQ: EMERGENCY UPDATE #15

JANUARY 2018

### Key points:



Inadequate food consumption is on the rise among displaced households.



Widespread use of negative coping strategies in Kirkuk.



Purchasing power continues to improve in Mosul.



### Situation Update

According to the last IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, in mid-January the number of registered returnees (3.2 million) exceeded the number of people displaced (2.6 million) for the first time since the beginning of the Iraq displacement crisis in December 2013.

As the security situation has improved in retaken areas, many internally displaced Iraqis have returned to their places of origin, mainly to Anbar (with 38 percent of the returnees; over 1.2 million people), Ninewa (30 percent of returnees; nearly 975,000 people), and Salah al-Din (14 percent of returnees; nearly 460,000 people). These three governorates were those worst affected by the ISIL occupation, and they account for 86 percent of the current displaced population in Iraq.

On 11 January, the government issued a statement strongly emphasizing the voluntary nature of the returnee process, while maintaining its plan to see all displaced people return to their areas of origin by May, ahead of the planned parliamentary elections. However, concern remains that some displaced people may be unwilling or unable to leave areas of displacement.

Source: WFP, OCHA and IOM



**1236** households surveyed



**36** average age of respondents



**34%** IDPs  
**55%** Returnees  
**11%** Non IDPs



**44%** Own Home  
**29%** Rental  
**18%** Camp  
**6%** Guest  
**4%** Unfinished building



**92%** Male  
**8%** Female

**24**

Key informants called

**19**

Locations surveyed



## Borderline food consumption rises in Ninewa

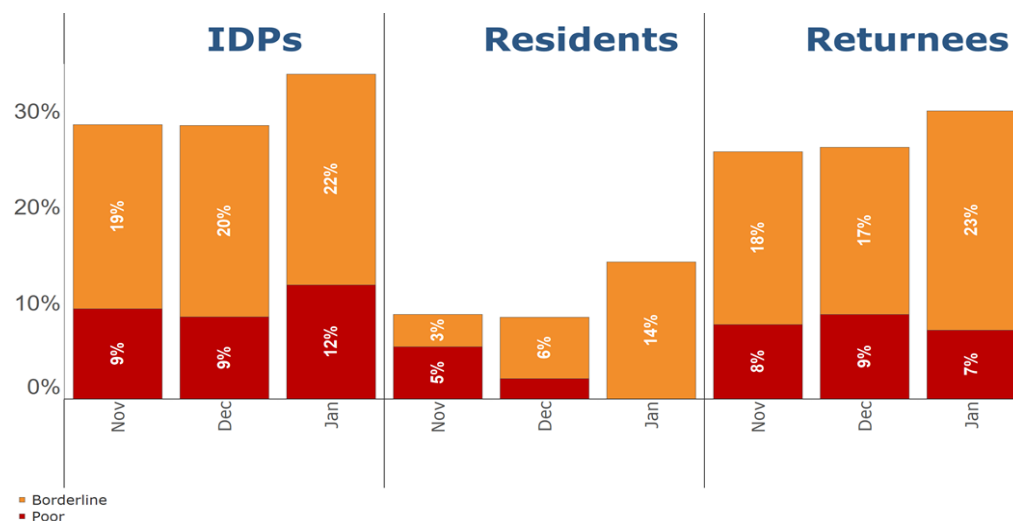
In January, mVAM interviewed IDPs, returnees and resident households affected by the conflict in Erbil and Kirkuk, as well as in selected districts of Ninewa (Telafar, Sinjar, Mosul, Tilkaif and Hamdaniya) and Diyala (Muqdadiya).

The results show an improvement in food consumption among surveyed households in Diyala, where 7 percent were found to have poor or borderline food consumption compared with 32 percent in December. The share of households with inadequate food consumption in Diyala is now significantly below that in Ninewa (30 percent). Erbil and Kirkuk, only included in the survey for January, both recorded a 27 percent share of households with inadequate food consumption (Figure 1).

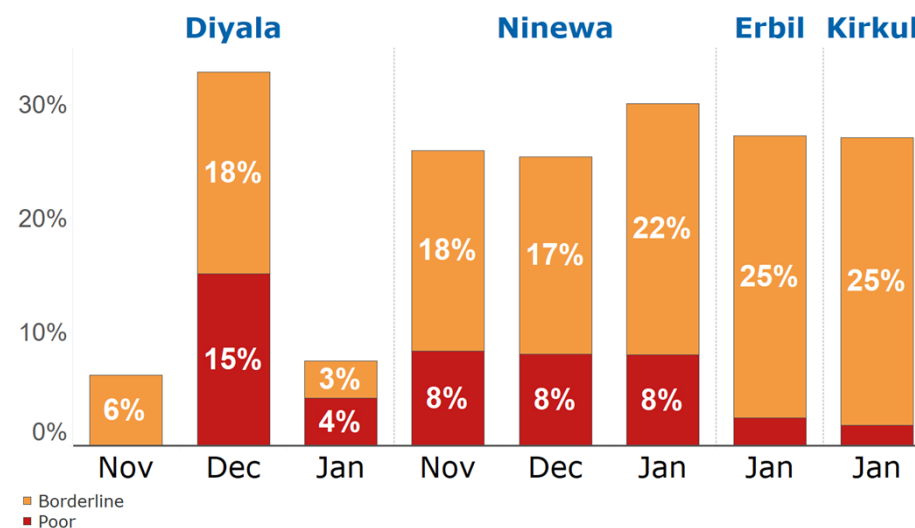
In Ninewa, the number of households with inadequate food consumption rose from 25 percent to 30 percent. This increase was mainly driven by higher rates of borderline food consumption, which in Sinjar rose from 23 percent to 25 percent, and in Telafar, from 16 percent to 23 percent (Figure 2). In Mosul, Sinjar and Telafar, fewer households recorded poor food consumption.

Borderline food consumption is rising among displaced, resident and returnee households in Ninewa. Although the number of households with poor food consumption fell for residents and returnees in January, all groups saw an increase in the number of households with inadequate food consumption (Figure 3).

**Figure 3. Households with inadequate consumption in districts of Ninewa by respondent status, November 2017 to January 2018**

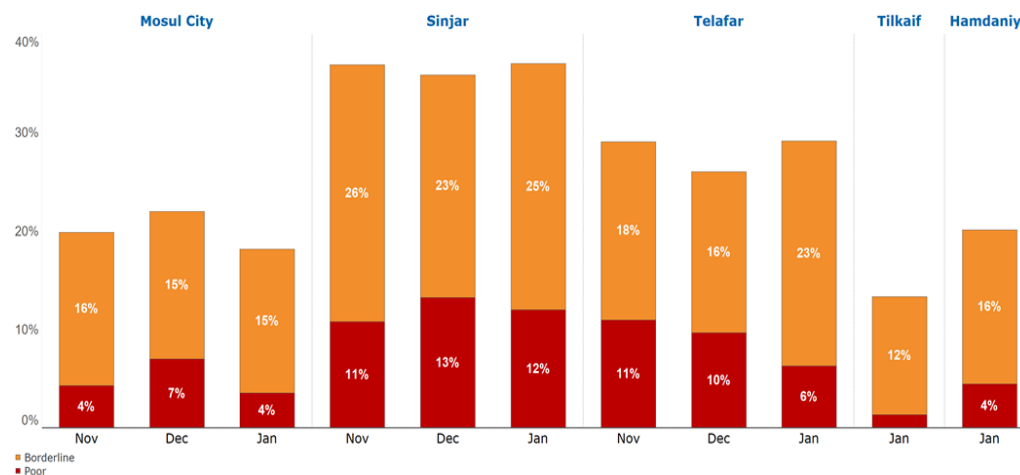


**Figure 1. Households with inadequate consumption in surveyed governorates, November 2017 to January 2018**



\*Data not collected in Erbil and Kirkuk for November and December 2017

**Figure 2. Households with inadequate consumption in districts of Ninewa, November 2017 to January 2018**



\*Data not collected in Tilkaif and Hamdaniya for November and December 2017



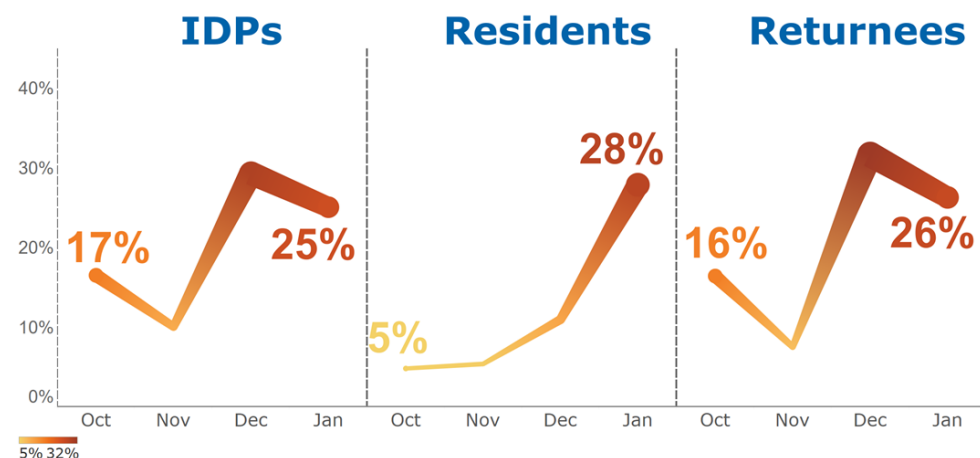
## Negative coping behaviour decreases in parts of Ninewa

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 from 13 percent to 19 percent in Diyala and fell from 29 percent to 26 percent in Ninewa in January (Figure 4). In Erbil, 28 percent of households resorted to negative food-related coping strategies; in Kirkuk, the proportion was as high as 39 percent.

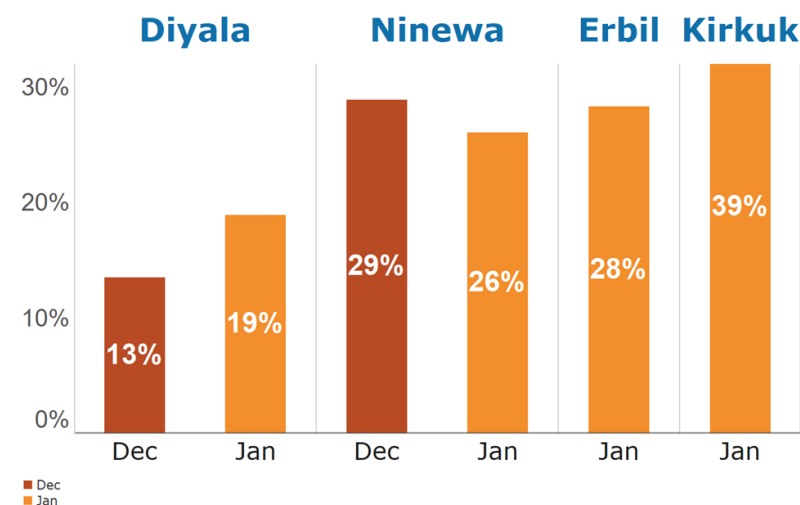
In Ninewa, the share of households relying on food-related coping strategies fell from 32 percent to 28 percent in Mosul, and from 35 percent to 28 percent in Telafar (Figure 5). Even so, Mosul and Telafar continue to have the highest rates of negative coping behaviour of all surveyed districts in Ninewa.

In Ninewa, the use of negative coping strategies decreased for IDPs and returnees, but it rose significantly for residents (Figure 6).

**Figure 6. Percentage of households using food-based negative coping strategies in surveyed districts of Ninewa by respondent status, October 2017 to January 2018**

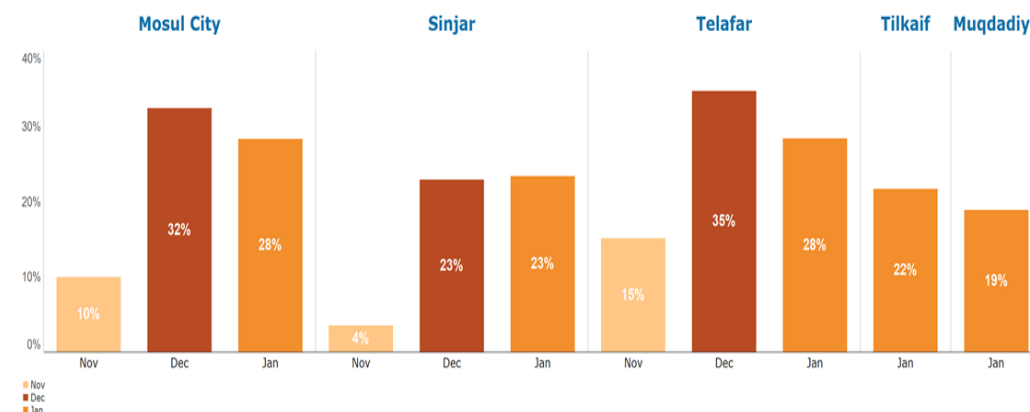


**Figure 4. Percentage of households using food-based negative coping strategies in surveyed governorates, December 2017 and January 2018**



\*Data not collected in Erbil and Kirkuk for November and December 2017

**Figure 5. Percentage of households using food-based negative coping strategies in surveyed districts of Ninewa, November 2017 to January 2018**



\*Data not collected in Tilkaif and Hamdaniya for November and December 2017



### Access to the public distribution system improves for residents and returnees in Ninewa

In January, household access to the public distribution system (PDS) was similar in Diyala, Ninewa and Kirkuk. The worst access was in Erbil, where 90 percent of households said they had not received rations in January. In Diyala, the share of households with no access to PDS fell from 80 percent to 69 percent. There was little change in Ninewa between December and January (Figure 7).

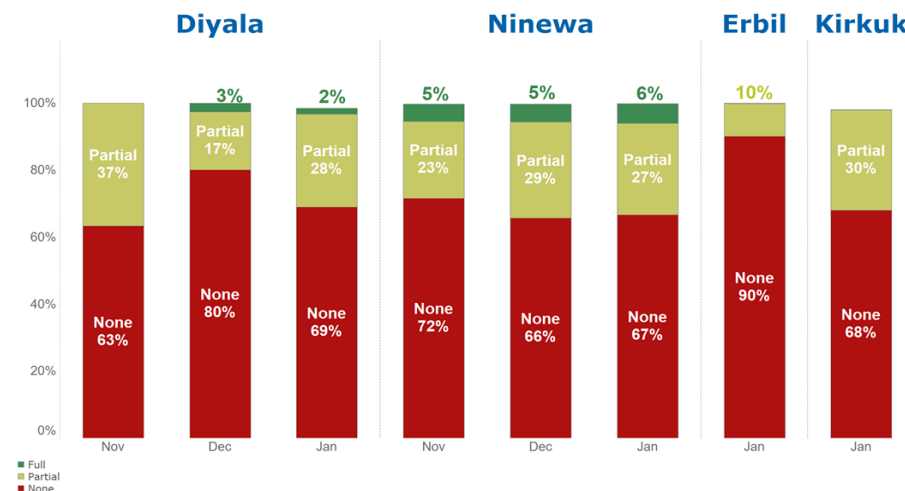
Between December and January, the share of households in Ninewa who received a full PDS ration rose from 3 percent to 6 percent among returnees, and from 2 percent to 10 percent among residents. However, fewer IDPs received a full ration in January, with coverage falling from 9 percent to 4 percent (Figure 8).

#### Methodology – mVAM remote data collection

In January 2017, mVAM conducted household food security monitoring using telephone interviews. Data were collected from 1236 respondents via Korek, a major mobile network operator, between 3 January and 7 February. WFP monitored respondents living in several locations in the governorates of Ninewa, Diyala, Erbil and Kirkuk. Respondents were drawn from Korek's database. The data were weighted by the number of mobile phones owned by the household.

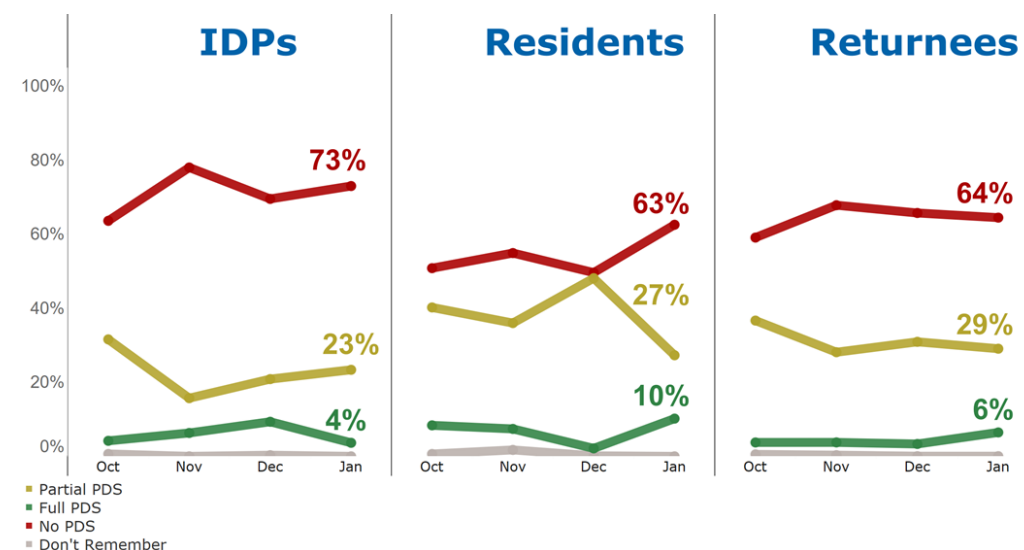
In addition, in collaboration with Islamic Relief Worldwide, key informant interviews were conducted, covering 12 locations in eastern Mosul and 7 locations in western Mosul.

**Figure 7. Percentage of households receiving PDS in surveyed governorates, November 2017 to January 2018**



\*Data not collected in Erbil and Kirkuk for November and December 2017

**Figure 8. Percentage of displaced households receiving PDS in Ninewa by respondent status, October 2017 to January 2018**



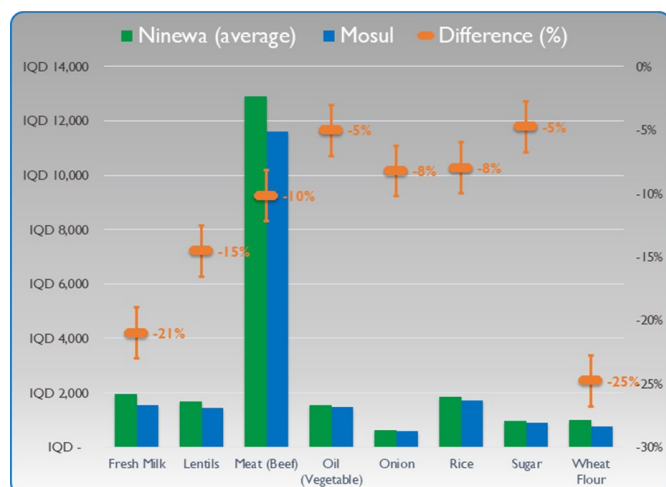


### Purchasing power improves in Mosul

In January, all monitored food prices continued to be lower 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 25 percent cheaper and fresh milk 21 percent cheaper than elsewhere in the governorate.

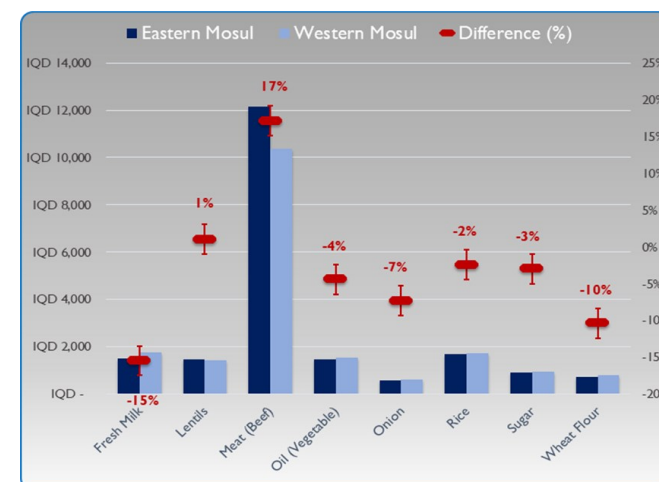
Very minor changes were recorded in the food prices monitored in Mosul between December and January. Prices are generally behaving similarly in the east and the west of the city (Figure 10). The only two foods that continue to be cheaper in the west are meat (17 percent cheaper) and fresh milk (15 percent cheaper). Overall, the food basket is cheaper in eastern Mosul (IQD701) than in western Mosul (IQD732) and cheaper than in the rest of Ninewa (IQD821).

Figure 8. Main food prices in Mosul vs. Ninewa governorate, January 2018



Commodity	Unit	Mosul	Ninewa (average)	Difference (%)	Relevance of difference
		Jan-18	Jan-18		(+/-5%)
Fresh Milk	l L	IQD 1,553	IQD 1,966	-21%	⬇️
Lentils	l Kg	IQD 1,444	IQD 1,690	-15%	⬇️
Meat (Beef)	l Kg	IQD 11,596	IQD 12,914	-10%	⬇️
Oil (Vegetable)	l L	IQD 1,465	IQD 1,543	-5%	⬇️
Onion	l Kg	IQD 578	IQD 629	-8%	⬇️
Rice	l Kg	IQD 1,713	IQD 1,862	-8%	⬇️
Sugar	l Kg	IQD 911	IQD 957	-5%	🟡
Wheat Flour	l Kg	IQD 746	IQD 991	-25%	⬇️
Unskilled Labour	l Day	IQD 15,009	IQD 18,448	-19%	⬇️
Food Basket		IQD 714	IQD 821	-13%	⬇️
ToT		FB 21.02	FB 22.46	-6%	⬇️

Figure 9. Main food prices in eastern and western Mosul, January 2018



Commodity	Unit	Eastern Mosul	Western Mosul	Difference (%)	Relevance of difference
		Jan-18	Jan-18		(+/-5%)
Fresh Milk	l L	IQD 1,479	IQD 1,750	-15%	↓
Lentils	l Kg	IQD 1,451	IQD 1,437	1%	→
Meat (Beef)	l Kg	IQD 12,160	IQD 10,382	17%	↑
Oil (Vegetable)	l L	IQD 1,450	IQD 1,517	-4%	→
Onion	l Kg	IQD 556	IQD 600	-7%	↓
Rice	l Kg	IQD 1,688	IQD 1,730	-2%	→
Sugar	l Kg	IQD 899	IQD 926	-3%	→
Wheat Flour	l Kg	IQD 717	IQD 800	-10%	↓
Unskilled Labour	l Day	IQD 16,861	IQD 12,026	40%	↑
Food Basket		IQD 701	IQD 732	-4%	→
ToT		FB 24.04	FB 16.44	46%	↑

<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 availability improved

In January, unskilled labour wages were an average 19 percent lower in Mosul than in the rest of Ninewa. However, wages are gradually increasing in Mosul, rising 5 percent between December and January. Wage rates are 40 percent lower in the west than in the east of the city. The daily wages of an unskilled labourer could buy almost the same number of food baskets in Mosul (21) as in rest of the governorate (22). However, the same labourer could buy 24 food baskets in eastern Mosul but only 16.5 in western Mosul because of the lower wage rates in the latter (Figure 11).

Food availability improved in January 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, January 2018**

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
Lentils	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	WAV	AV	WAV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV
Oil (Vegetable)	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	WAV	AV	WAV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV
Rice	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	WAV	AV	WAV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV
Sugar	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	WAV	AV	WAV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV
Wheat Flour	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV	WAV	AV	WAV	AV	AV	AV	AV	AV

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



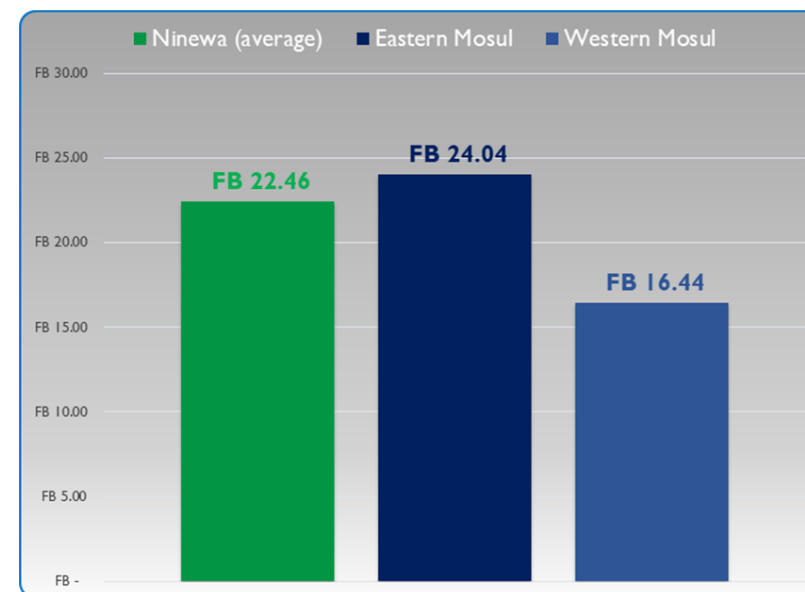
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## mVAM Resources:

**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 10. Wage-to-food terms of trade (in food baskets) in Mosul and in Ninewa governorate, January 2018**



Source: mVAM, IMST January 2018



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