



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



**vam**  
food security analysis

## mVAM IRAQ: UPDATE #17

**MARCH 2018**

### Key points:



In Ninewa, the share of households with poor or borderline food consumption fell for the second consecutive month.



In Sulaymaniyah, use of food-based coping strategies increased.



In Mosul, while all key informants reported that all assessed items were available in the marketplace, purchasing power continued to be low especially in the western parts of the city.



WFP/MENA

### Situation Update

In a joint announcement, published on 6 March, the Government of Iraq, the United Nations and its partners launched their 2018 humanitarian plans for Iraq: the Government's Plan for Relief, Shelter and Stabilization of Displaced People and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The humanitarian community is appealing for US\$ 569 million through the HRP to respond to the needs of the 3.4 million most vulnerable people in Iraq. This year, approximately 8.7 million people, nearly half of them children, will require some form of humanitarian assistance while as many as two million displaced Iraqis are expected to return. The Food Security Cluster is targeting 1 million people with the aim of ensuring that the most vulnerable food-insecure families have access to essential food and livelihoods support.

According to the latest IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix report, around 3.3 million people remain displaced in Iraq. The top three reasons preventing families from returning to their homes are unsafe conditions in the areas of origin, occupied or damaged/destroyed houses, and lack of basic services. Retaken areas have not been fully cleared of explosive hazards, and infrastructure has been heavily damaged from ground fighting and airstrikes. Furthermore, road and neighbourhood closures, checkpoints, curfews, and military attacks are reportedly creating serious security challenges for displaced, resident and returning populations.



**1528** households surveyed



**37** average age of respondents



**22%** IDPs  
**36%** Returnees  
**42%** Non IDPs



**56%** Own Home  
**31%** Rental  
**8%** Camp  
**2%** Guest  
**3%** Unfinished building



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

**24**

**Key informants called**

**19**

**Locations surveyed**



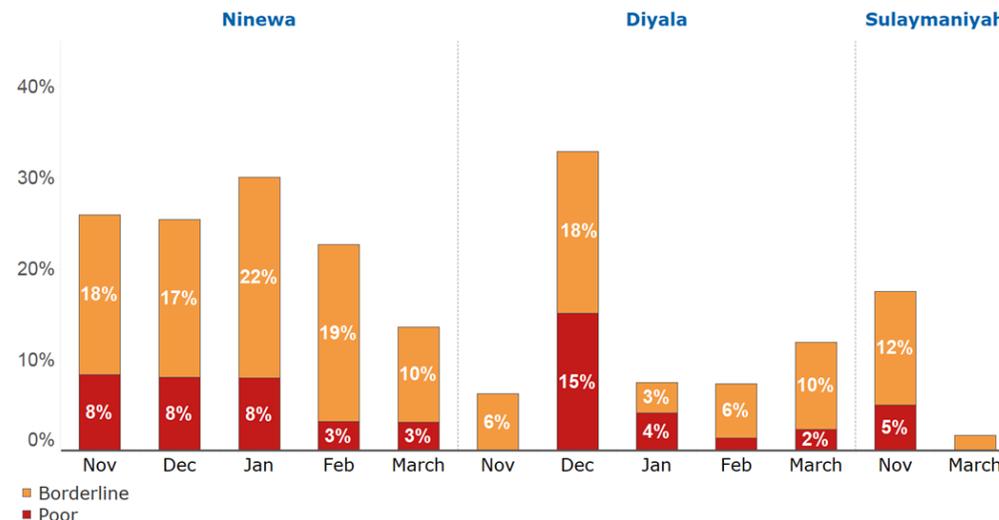
**Food consumption continues to improve across surveyed governorates**

In March, mVAM interviewed IDPs, returnees and resident households affected by the conflict in Diyala, Ninewa and Sulaymaniyah.

The results continue to show a monthly improvement in food consumption among surveyed households in Ninewa and Sulaymaniyah where the percentage of households with poor and borderline food consumption fell between February and March (Figure 1).

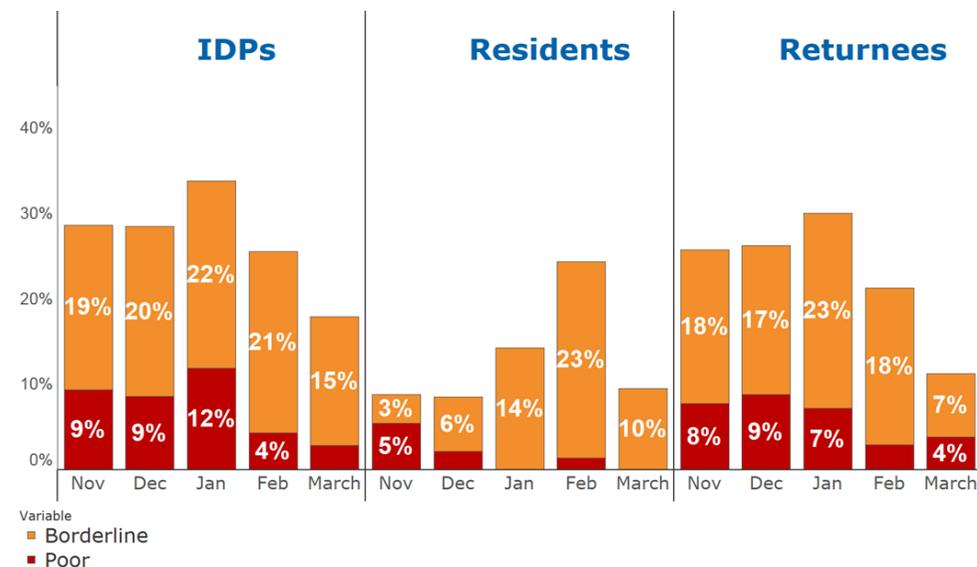
In Ninewa, the share of households with inadequate food consumption dropped from 22 percent in February to 13 percent in March. Inadequate food consumption decreased in all surveyed districts apart from Mosul city, where it increased from 20 percent in February to 26 percent in March. In Sinjar, the share of households with borderline food consumption was halved between February and March and in Telafar it dropped from 22 percent in February to 5 percent in March (Figure 2). Inadequate food consumption also fell among displaced and returnee households in Ninewa (Figure 3).

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

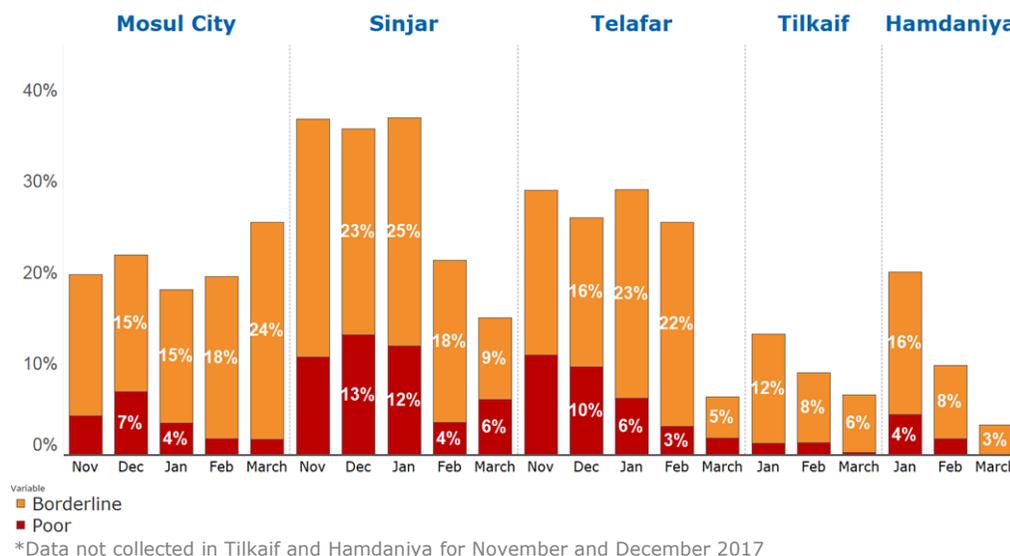


\*Data not collected in Sulaymaniyah December 2017, January and February 2018.

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



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



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



**Negative coping strategies increase in Sulaymaniyah**

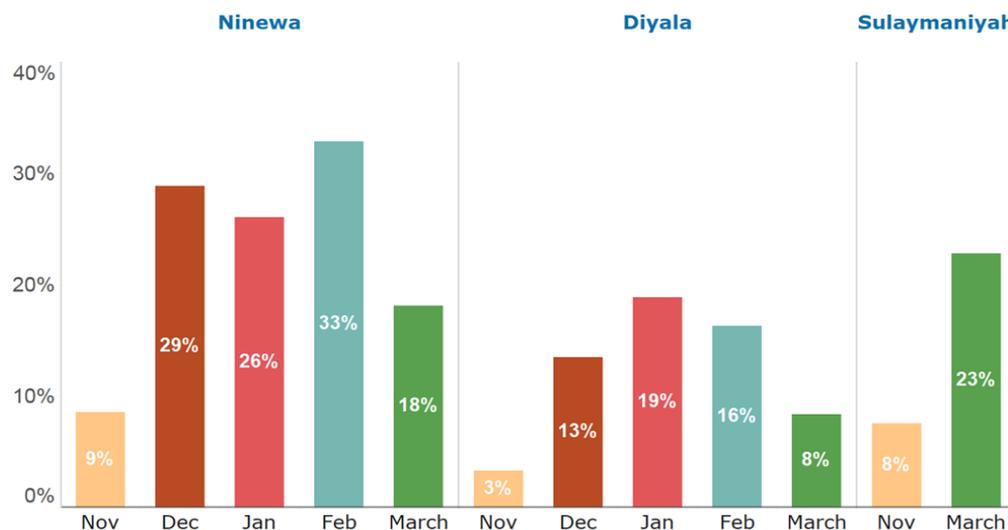
Surveyed households were asked if there were times in the seven days preceding the survey when they did not have enough food or money to buy food.

The percentage of households who reported using food-related coping strategies fell from 33 percent to 18 percent in Ninewa and from 16 percent to 8 percent in Diyala. However, it rose from 8 percent to 23 percent in Sulaymaniyah in March (Figure 4).

In Ninewa, the same trend was recorded among surveyed districts with a marked drop in Telafar, where the share of households relying on food-related coping strategies fell from 39 percent to 11 percent (Figure 5).

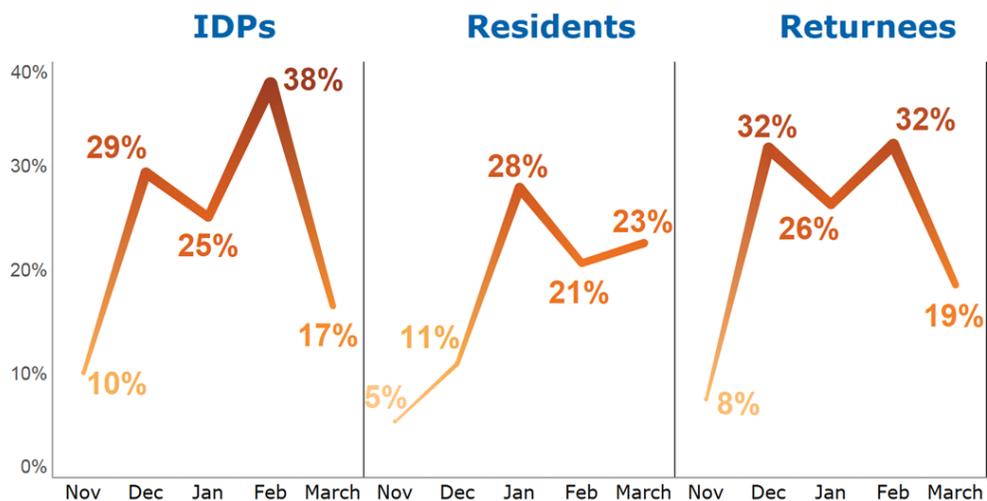
The use of negative coping strategies decreased among IDPs and returnees in Ninewa (Figure 6). In March, fewer of these households reported having to buy less expensive or less preferred food, restricting adults' food consumption so children could eat, or limiting portion sizes and/or number of meals per day.

**Figure 4. Percentage of households using food-based negative coping strategies in**

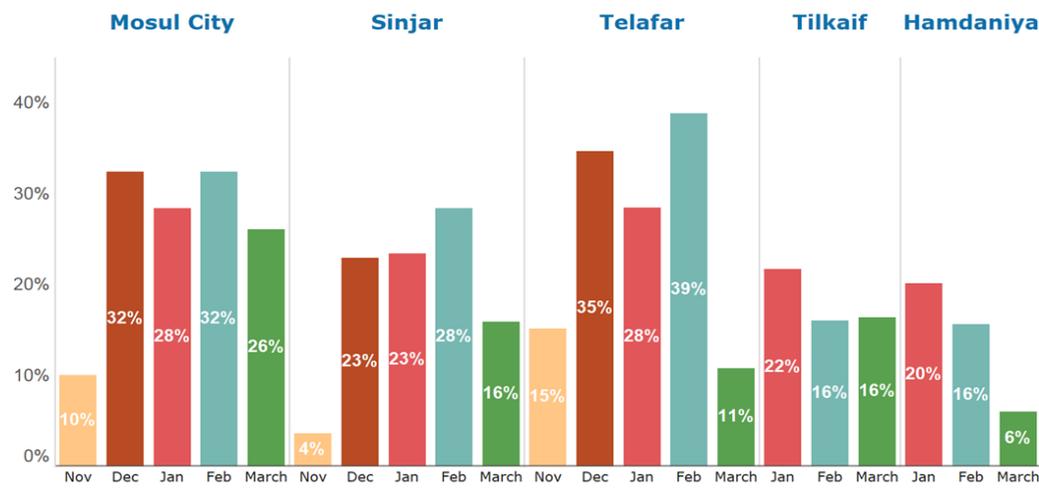


\*Data not collected in Sulaymaniyah during December 2017, January and February 2018.

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



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



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



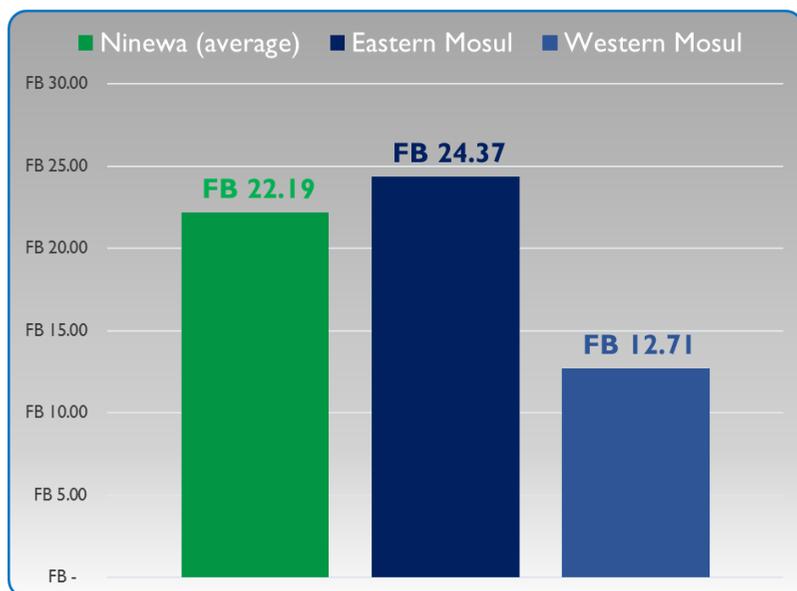
**Purchasing power continues to decrease in western Mosul**

In March, the price of assessed food commodities in Mosul continued to be lower than the average in Ninewa governorate (Figure 8). In Mosul district, prices continue to decrease compared to the period following the retaking of the city. In particular, fresh milk was 19 percent cheaper and wheat flour was 25 percent cheaper in Mosul than elsewhere in the governorate. For this reason, the cost of a food basket was cheaper in Mosul (IQD693) than in the rest of Ninewa (IQD764).

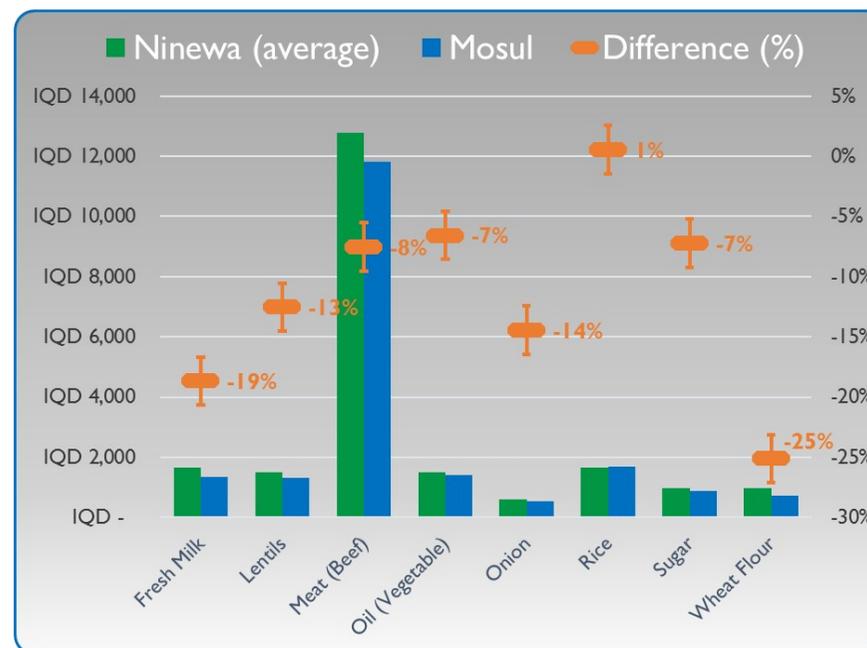
In March, unskilled labour wages were 12 percent lower in Mosul than in the rest of Ninewa. In March the unskilled labour wages in western Mosul were 17 percent lower compared to February, in addition, wage rates were 65 percent lower in the west than in the east of the city. The daily wages of an unskilled labourer could buy fewer food baskets in western Mosul (12.7) than in the eastern part of the city (24.3) (Figure 9). This suggests that despite goods being available at a lower price than governorate average prices, consumers in western Mosul may not have purchasing power to access them.

In March, prices were quite consistent across the marketplaces in both the east and the west of Mosul (Figure 10). However, meat and fresh milk continued to be cheaper in the west while rice and sugar were cheaper in the eastern part of the city. Overall, like in previous rounds of survey, the food basket was cheaper in eastern Mosul (IDQ678) than in western Mosul (IQD787).

**Figure 9. Wage-to-food terms of trade (in food baskets) in Mosul and in Ninewa governorate, March 2018**

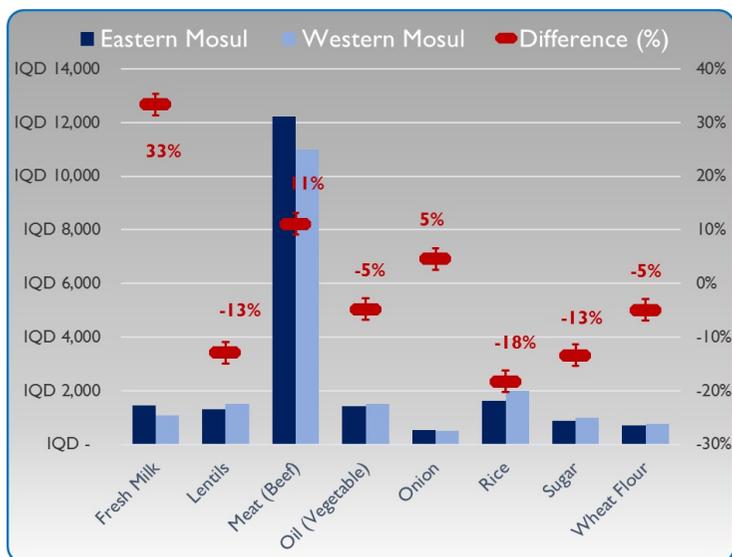


**Figure 8. Main food prices in Mosul vs. Ninewa governorate, March 2018**



Commodity	Unit	Mosul		Ninewa (average)		Difference (%)	Relevance of difference (+/-5%)
		Mar-18	Mar-18	Mar-18	Mar-18		
Fresh Milk	l L	IQD	1,344	IQD	1,653	-19%	↓
Lentils	l Kg	IQD	1,312	IQD	1,500	-13%	↓
Meat (Beef)	l Kg	IQD	11,814	IQD	12,778	-8%	↓
Oil (Vegetable)	l L	IQD	1,401	IQD	1,500	-7%	↓
Onion	l Kg	IQD	523	IQD	611	-14%	↓
Rice	l Kg	IQD	1,676	IQD	1,667	1%	↔
Sugar	l Kg	IQD	894	IQD	964	-7%	↓
Wheat Flour	l Kg	IQD	739	IQD	986	-25%	↓
Unskilled Labour	l Day	IQD	14,900	IQD	16,944	-12%	↓
<b>Food Basket</b>		<b>IQD</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>IQD</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>-9%</b>	↓
<b>ToT</b>		<b>FB</b>	<b>21.49</b>	<b>FB</b>	<b>22.19</b>	<b>-3%</b>	↔

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



Commodity	Unit	Eastern Mosul		Western Mosul		Difference (%)	Relevance of difference (+/-5%)
		Mar-18	Mar-18	Mar-18	Mar-18		
Fresh Milk	l L	IQD	1,444	IQD	1,083	33%	⬆️
Lentils	l Kg	IQD	1,307	IQD	1,500	-13%	⬇️
Meat (Beef)	l Kg	IQD	12,217	IQD	11,000	11%	⬆️
Oil (Vegetable)	l L	IQD	1,428	IQD	1,500	-5%	=
Onion	l Kg	IQD	523	IQD	500	5%	=
Rice	l Kg	IQD	1,635	IQD	2,000	-18%	⬇️
Sugar	l Kg	IQD	866	IQD	1,000	-13%	⬇️
Wheat Flour	l Kg	IQD	713	IQD	750	-5%	=
Unskilled Labour	l Day	IQD	16,522	IQD	10,000	65%	⬆️
<b>Food Basket</b>		<b>IQD</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>IQD</b>	<b>787</b>	-14%	⬇️
<b>ToT</b>		<b>FB</b>	<b>24.37</b>	<b>FB</b>	<b>12.71</b>	92%	⬆️

Source: mVAM, IMST March 2018



Alex Potter/IRC

Methodology – mVAM remote data collection

In March 2018, mVAM conducted household food security monitoring using telephone interviews. Data was collected from 1528 respondents via Korek, a major mobile network operator, between 6 March and 9 April. Using numbers drawn from Korek’s database, WFP contacted respondents living in several locations in the governorates of Ninewa, Diyala, and Sulaymaniyah. The data was 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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**Blog:** [mvam.org](http://mvam.org)  
**Toolkit:** <http://resources.vam.wfp.org/mvam>



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