



Focus on conflict-affected groups in Ninewa



vam
food security analysis

mVAM IRAQ: UPDATE #19

June-July 2018*

Key points:



In Mosul City, the percentage of households with inadequate food consumption remained unchanged compared to April.



During the reporting period, the percentage of households that relied on negative coping strategies increased significantly in Ninewa especially among IDPs and returnees.



Purchasing power in western Mosul is extremely lower compared to eastern parts of the city.



WFP/Sally Haydock

Situation Update

The International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix has recorded as of 30 June 2018 just over two million displaced persons, while the number of returnees has increased reaching 3.9 million. The largest number of returnees was found in Ninewa governorate (almost 1.5 million), followed by Anbar governorate (almost 1.3 million), and Salah al-Din governorate (over 0.5 million).

According to the Iraq Internally Displaced Persons Call Centre many displaced people are reluctant to return home due to the limited provision of services and livelihood opportunities as well as insecurity in the areas of origin.

As of late June, the Governorate Returns Committees (GRCs) have been operationalized in Anbar, Kirkuk, and Salah al-Din governorates and partly in Ninewa governorate, where some preparatory work has been initiated by the UN, NGOs and the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center. The GRC in Baghdad remains to be operationalized.



1150 households surveyed



35 average age of respondents



16% IDPs
26% Returnees
59% Non IDPs



57% Own Home
30% Rental
7% Camp
5% Guest
1% Unfinished building



93% Male
7% Female

24

Key informants called

19

Locations surveyed

Source: WFP, OCHA and IOM

* Data was not collected during the month of Ramadan. This bulletin is based on data collected from 5th June to 26th July.



Food consumption remain unchanged in Mosul City

In June-July, mVAM interviewed IDPs, returnees and resident households affected by the conflict in Ninewa. mVAM data shows a decrease in the percentage of households reporting having a borderline food consumption in Ninewa from 17 percent in April to 12 percent in June-July (Figure 1).

At a district level, inadequate food consumption decreased particularly in Sinjar and Telafar, driven by a drop in the percentage of households with borderline food consumption compared to April: from 16 percent in April to 11 percent in June-July in Sinjar and from 17 percent in April to 14 percent in June-July in Telafar. On the other hand, in Mosul city, the share of households with borderline food consumption remained unchanged from April to June-July (Figure 2).

In Ninewa, a significant decrease has been noticed in the percentage of returnee and resident households with borderline food consumption. The food consumption of IDP households in June-July remains similar compared to April (Figure 3).

Figure 1. Households with inadequate food consumption in Ninewa governorate, December 2017 to June-July 2018

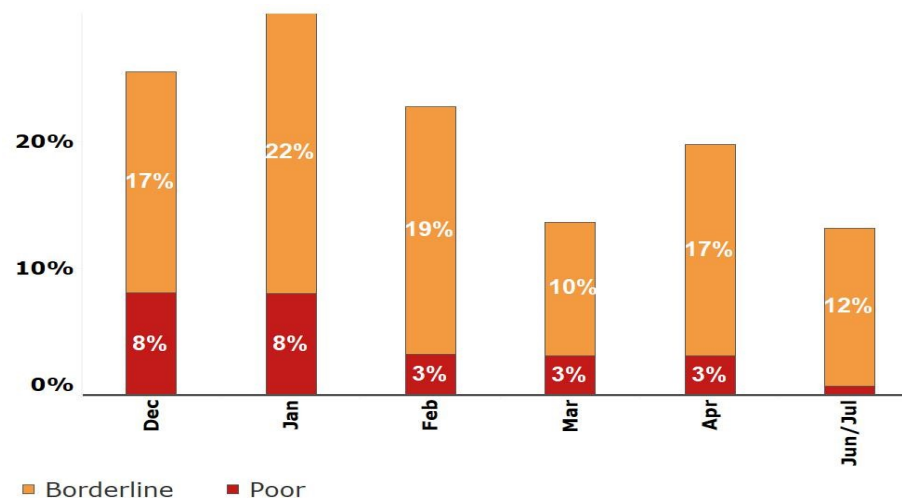


Figure 3. Households with inadequate food consumption in districts of Ninewa by respondent status, December 2017 to June-July 2018

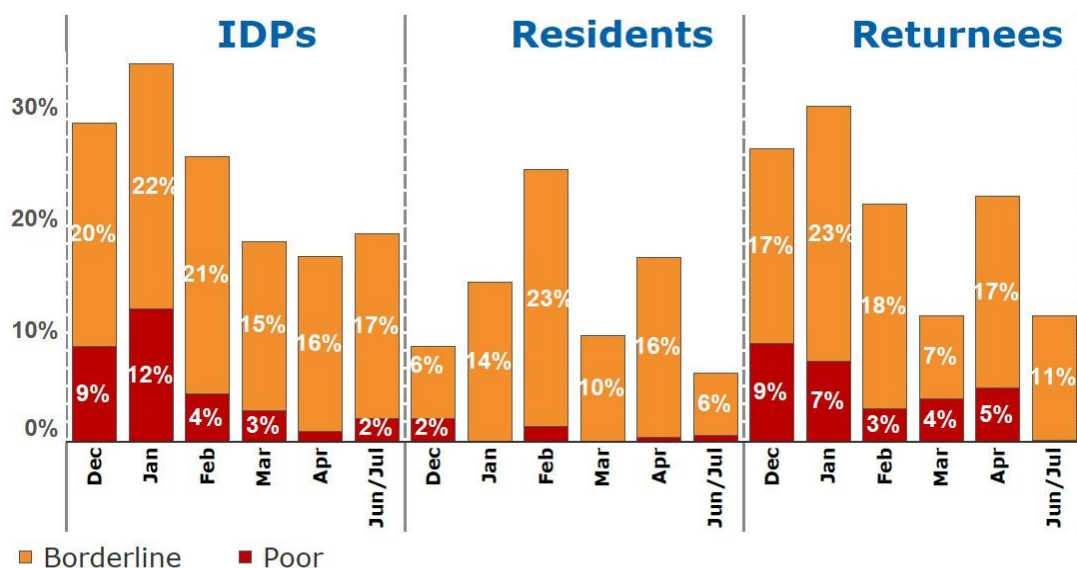
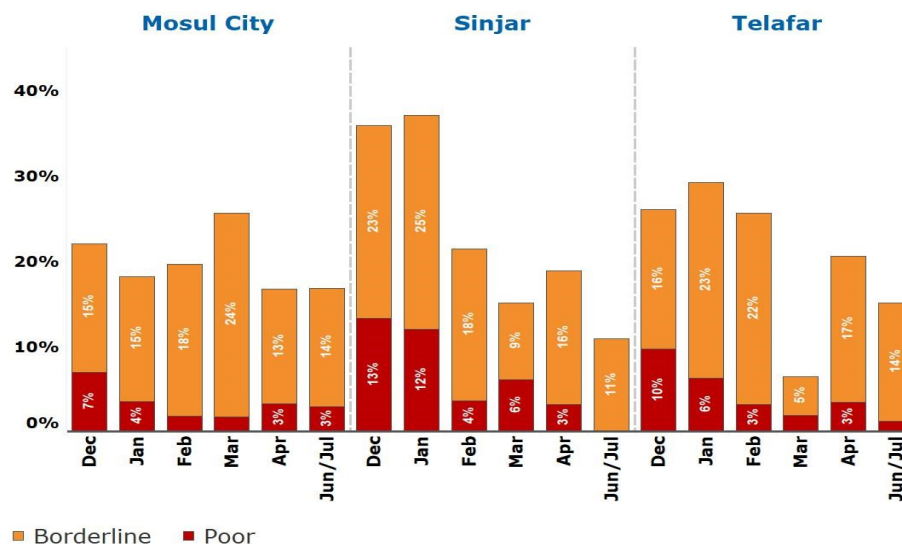


Figure 2. Households with inadequate food consumption in districts of Ninewa, December 2017 to June-July 2018





Negative coping strategies increased dramatically in Ninewa among IDPs and Returnees

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 increased in Ninewa from 25 percent in April to 41 percent in June-July, the highest percentage in the past six months (Figure 4).

At district level, the share of households who reported using food-related coping strategies increased in all the surveyed districts by 16 percent on average. The highest increase was recorded in Mosul City where 43 percent of the surveyed households reported using food based coping strategies in June-July compared to 23 percent in April. However in Sinjar more than half of the surveyed households said that they relied on coping strategies in the week before the survey (Figure 5).

In Ninewa, the use of negative coping strategies increased dramatically among IDPs from 27 percent in April to 41 percent in June-July and among returnees from 25 percent in April to 43 percent in June-July (Figure 6).

Figure 4. Percentage of households using food-based negative coping strategies in Ninewa governorate, December 2017 to June-July 2018

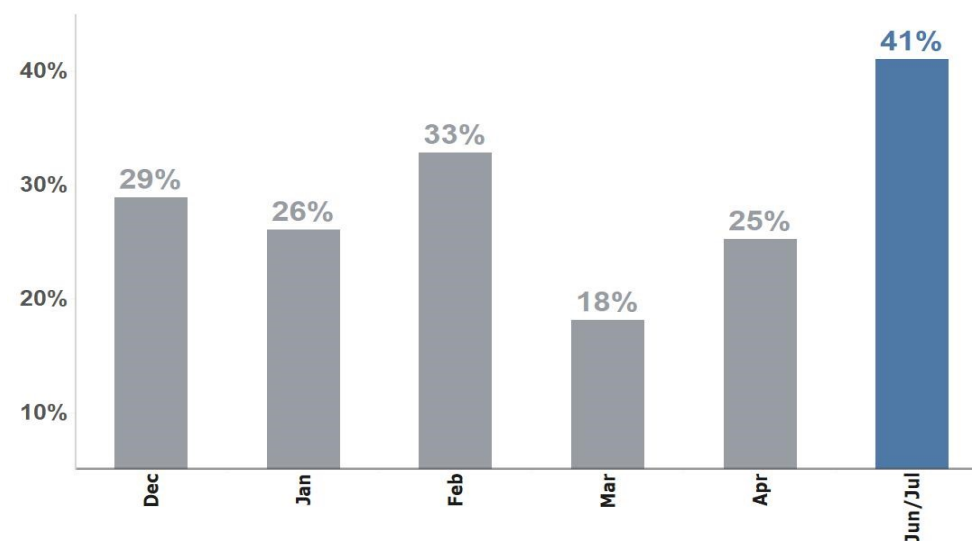


Figure 6. Percentage of households using food-based negative coping strategies in surveyed districts of Ninewa by respondent status, December 2017 to June-July 2018

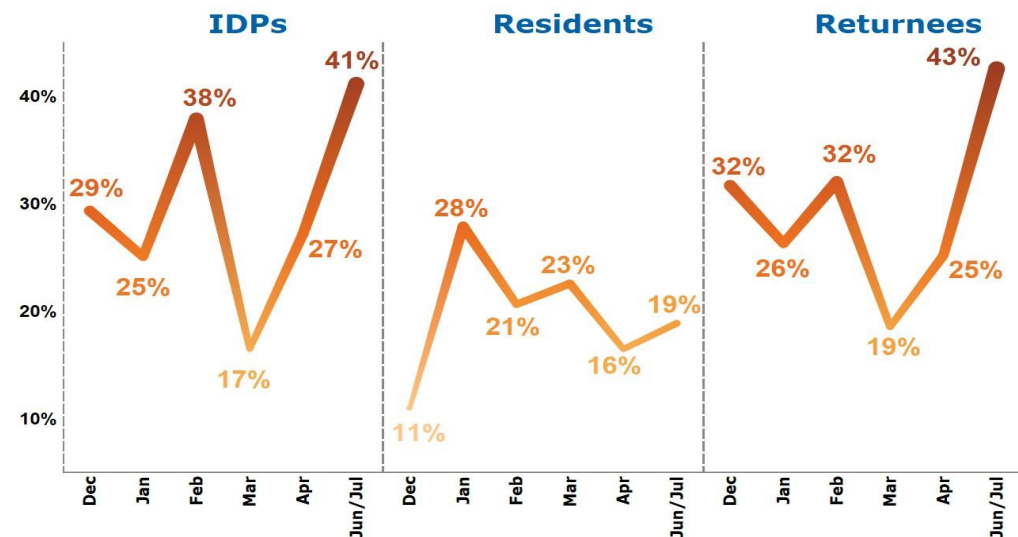
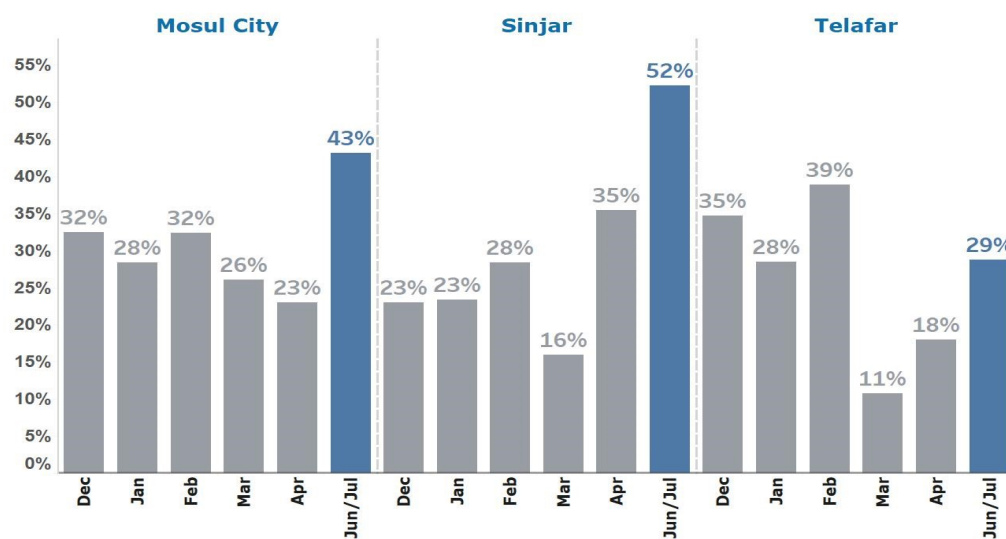


Figure 5. Percentage of households using food-based negative coping strategies in





Update on expected drought areas

In March, WFP started to collect information from households living in areas that are expected to be affected by droughts. In June-July, mVAM interviewed resident households in Hilla (Babylon), Shatt El-Arab (Basrah), Samawa and Rumaitha (Muthanna), Kut (Wassit) and Diwaniya (Qadissiya) districts that are exposed to the risk of drought.

Late and poor rains in parts of Iraq had a negative impact on still dormant or semi-dormant cereals. Beneficial precipitations in January improved soil moisture in northern Iraq, while soil moisture deficits are still significant in southern Iraq. However, the good precipitation in spring compensated the soil moisture deficit observed in previous months. According to FAO GIEWS Brief, harvesting of the 2018 winter season barley crop, which started in late April, finished end of June. The wheat harvest started in mid-May and finished in early July. The conflict and lack of inputs continue to hamper agricultural activities in Iraq, with serious consequences in terms of planted area and yields.

Among surveyed households in expected drought areas it is noticed that Diwaniya district included the highest percentage of households with borderline food consumption followed by Kut district. However, Samawa and Rumaitha both in Muthanna governorate, showed the highest percentage of households with poor food consumption driven by a low consumption of meat, dairy and pulses (Figure 7). These two districts are also reporting the highest percentage of households reporting the use of food based negative coping strategies (Map 1).

Map 1. Percentage of households using food-based negative coping strategies in expected drought areas, June-July 2018

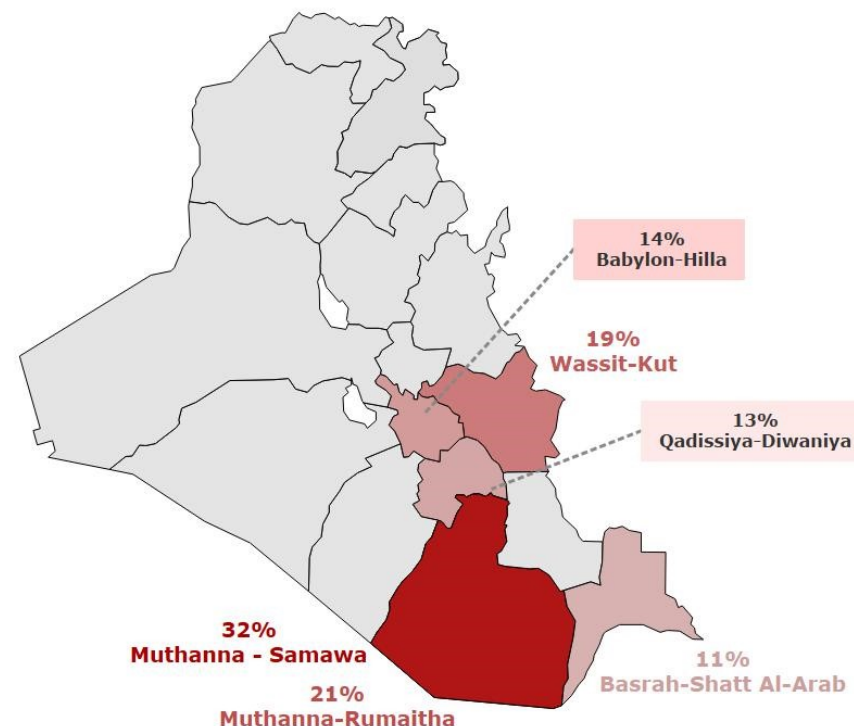
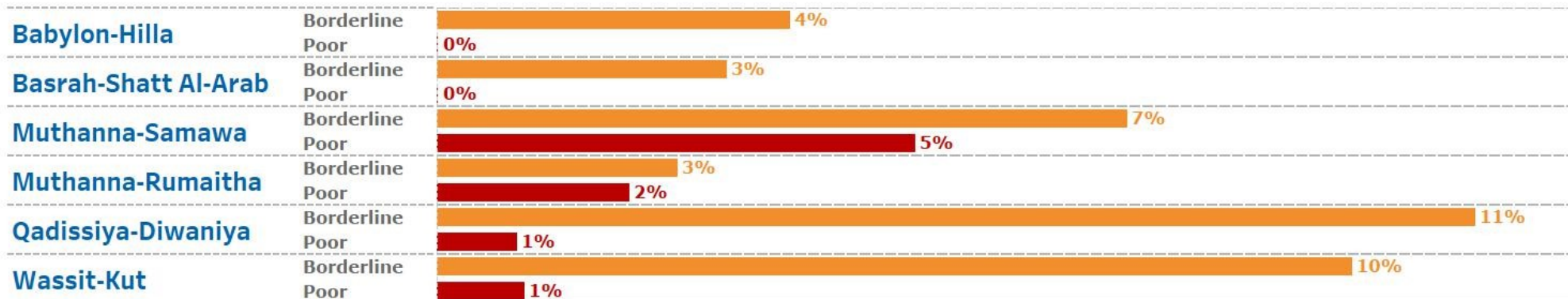


Figure 7. Percentage of households with inadequate food consumption in expected drought areas, June-July 2018.





Purchasing power in western Mosul is extremely low comparing to eastern bank.

In June, the price of assessed food commodities in Mosul continued to be lower than the average in Ninewa governorate except the price of rice that was approximately the same. In particular, fresh milk was 21 percent cheaper and onion was 24 percent cheaper in Mosul than elsewhere in the governorate. The average cost of a food basket was consequently 8 percent cheaper in Mosul than in the rest of Ninewa (Figure 8).

In June, prices in Western Mosul were 29 percent higher for wheat flour and 13 percent higher for lentils and rice than prices in Eastern Mosul, while prices in Eastern Mosul were 12 percent higher for meat and 5 percent higher for fresh milk than prices in Western Mosul (Figure 10 page 5).

In June, the daily wages of an unskilled labourer could buy fewer food baskets in western Mosul (11.94) than in the eastern part of the city (22.69) (Figure 11) as a result of the lower cost for food basket in eastern Mosul (702 IQD) comparing to the western bank (838 IQD) (Figure 9) and the lower purchasing power in the western parts of the city.

Figure 9. Average cost of one food basket in Mosul and in Ninewa governorate, June 2018

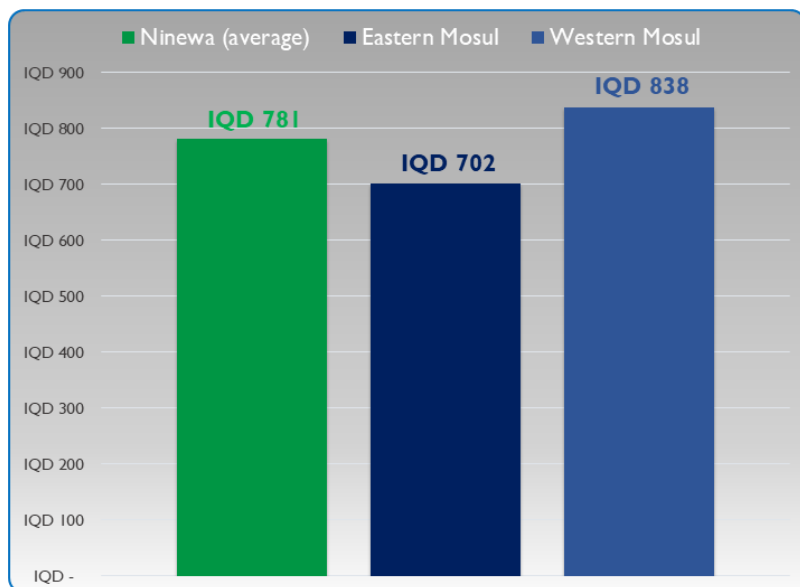
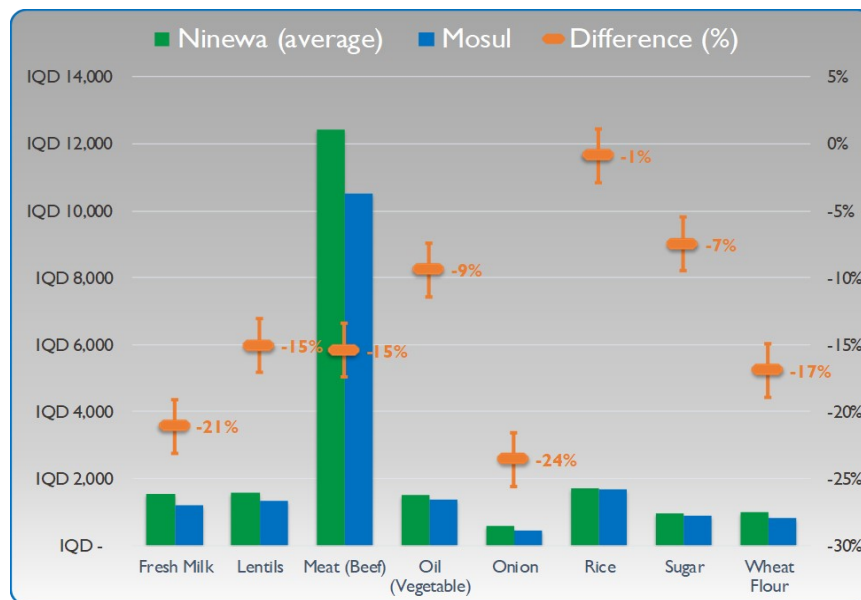


Figure 8. Main food prices in Mosul vs. Ninewa governorate, June 2018

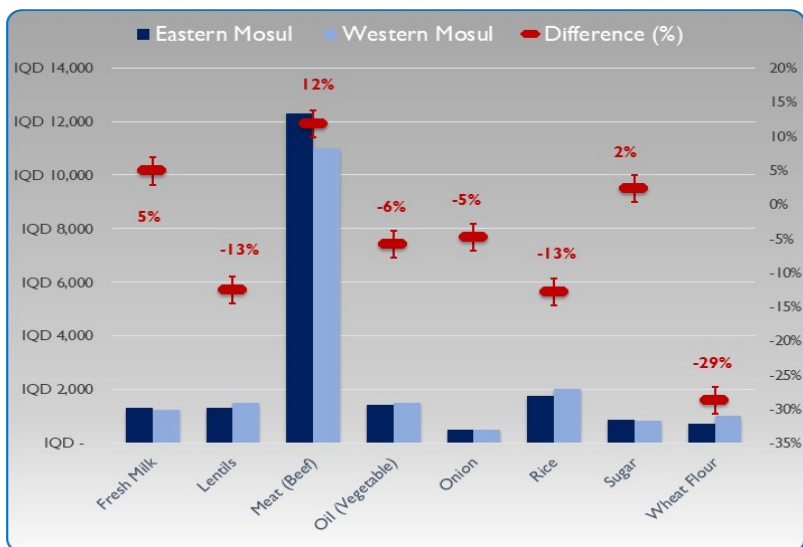


Commodity	Unit	Mosul		Ninewa (average)		Difference (%)	Relevance of difference (+/-5%)
		18-Jun	18-Jun	18-Jun	18-Jun		
Fresh Milk	l L	IQD 1,217	IQD 1,542	IQD 1,217	IQD 1,542	-21%	-21%
Lentils	1 Kg	IQD 1,327	IQD 1,563	IQD 1,327	IQD 1,563	-15%	-15%
Meat (Beef)	1 Kg	IQD 10,500	IQD 12,417	IQD 10,500	IQD 12,417	-15%	-15%
Oil (Vegetable)	l L	IQD 1,378	IQD 1,521	IQD 1,378	IQD 1,521	-9%	-9%
Onion	1 Kg	IQD 454	IQD 594	IQD 454	IQD 594	-24%	-24%
Rice	1 Kg	IQD 1,693	IQD 1,708	IQD 1,693	IQD 1,708	-1%	-1%
Sugar	1 Kg	IQD 896	IQD 969	IQD 896	IQD 969	-7%	-7%
Wheat Flour	1 Kg	IQD 831	IQD 1,000	IQD 831	IQD 1,000	-17%	-17%
Unskilled Labour	1 Day	IQD 13,615	IQD 16,429	IQD 13,615	IQD 16,429	-17%	-17%
Food Basket		IQD 718	IQD 781	IQD 718	IQD 781	-8%	-8%
ToT		FB 18.95	FB 21.04	FB 18.95	FB 21.04	-10%	-10%

Note: Each food basket contains 60 gr of lentils, 30 ml of vegetables oil, 2.25 kg of rice, 33 gr sugar and 2.25 kg of wheat flour.

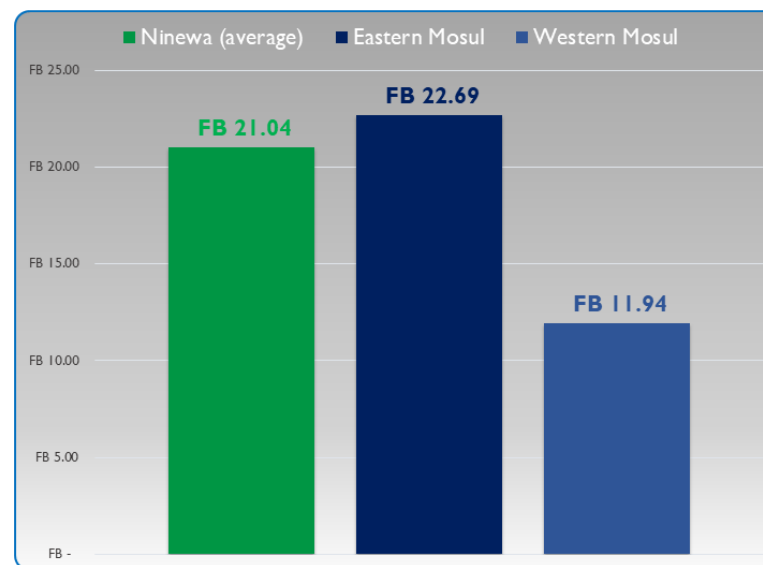
Source: mVAM, IMST, June 2018

Figure 10. Main food prices in eastern and western Mosul, June 2018



Commodity	Unit	Eastern Mosul		Western Mosul		Difference (%)	Relevance of difference (+/-5%)
		Jun-18	Jun-18	Jun-18	Jun-18		
Fresh Milk	l L	IQD	1,311	IQD	1,250	5%	⚖️
Lentils	l Kg	IQD	1,311	IQD	1,500	-13%	⬇️
Meat (Beef)	l Kg	IQD	12,297	IQD	11,000	12%	⬆️
Oil (Vegetable)	l L	IQD	1,412	IQD	1,500	-6%	⬇️
Onion	l Kg	IQD	476	IQD	500	-5%	⚖️
Rice	l Kg	IQD	1,743	IQD	2,000	-13%	⬇️
Sugar	l Kg	IQD	853	IQD	833	2%	⚖️
Wheat Flour	l Kg	IQD	712	IQD	1,000	-29%	⬇️
Unskilled Labour	l Day	IQD	15,919	IQD	10,000	59%	⬆️
Food Basket		IQD	702	IQD	838	-16%	⬇️
ToT		FB	22.69	FB	11.94	90%	⬆️

Figure 11. Wage-to-food terms of trade (in food baskets) in Mosul and in Ninewa governorate, June 2018



Methodology – mVAM remote data collection

In June and July 2018, mVAM conducted household food security monitoring using telephone interviews. Data was collected from 1150 respondents via Korek, a major mobile network operator, between 5th June and 26th July 2018. Using numbers drawn from Korek’s database, WFP contacted respondents living in several locations in the governorates of Ninewa, Muthanna, Basrah, Babil, Qadissiya, and Wassit. The data was weighted by the number of mobile phones owned by the household. In addition, in collaboration with Islamic Relief Worldwide, 24 key informant interviews were conducted, covering 12 locations in eastern Mosul and 7 locations in western Mosul.



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mVAM Resources:

- Website:** http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/
- Blog:** mvam.org
- Toolkit:** <http://resources.vam.wfp.org/mVAM>