

Iraq

mVAM Methodology



Household survey:

The household data presented in the Mosul mVAM updates has been collected regularly since November 2016 through live telephone interviews conducted via Korek, mVAM's mobile network partner in Iraq. Participants were randomly selected from the database of mobile subscribers and were asked to complete a questionnaire that was comprised of questions on socio-demographic information, food consumption, coping behaviors, public distribution systems (PDS), and perceptions of food security.

As per standard survey procedures, respondents' consent was obtained prior to the interviews, and an airtime credit incentive of 1200 IQD (equivalent to approximately \$1 USD) was provided to respondents following completion of the survey. Providing a modest airtime credit incentive is in line with best practices for this form of data collection.

For security and safety measures, all respondents were identified with an anonymous ID.

Responses are likely to be biased towards younger, somewhat better off households who live in urban areas and have better access to electricity and phone-charging services.

Questions were asked in Arabic.

Key informants survey:

WFP is monitoring household food access and market information in re-taken and non-liberated areas in Mosul District. Market data is remotely collected in collaboration with Islamic Relief through telephone interviews. The questionnaire asks questions on food prices and availability, labour wage rates, and road access. The mVAM team calculates and analyzes the price of a standard food basket providing 2,100 Kcal/day, wage-to-food terms of trade, commodity price differentials, and trend analysis by food commodity in targeted locations. Overall, the information obtained allows WFP to track weekly changes in food prices induced by conflict and supply line disruption.

When interpreting results, readers are cautioned to note that sampling was purposive (limited by security conditions) and is not representative. Readers are also cautioned against extrapolating information from small sample sizes.

Food Consumption Score (FCS):

The food consumption score (FCS) is a proxy indicator for food security that measures the diversity of household diets, and how frequently food is consumed. The FCS is calculated using the frequency of consumption of eight food groups by a household during the 7 days before the survey using

standardized weights for each of the food groups reflecting its respective nutrient density, and then classifies households as having 'poor', 'borderline,' or 'acceptable' food consumption. The FCS results in Iraq are calculated using a universal adjusted set of thresholds taking into consideration the high consumption of oil and sugar in the region (poor \leq 28, 28.5<borderline \leq 42, acceptable $>$ 42.5). For more details on the food group composition, weighted values and FCS thresholds, please see [Food Consumption Analysis Technical Guidance Sheet](#).

Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI):

The reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) measures the frequency and severity of the behaviours households engage in when faced with shortages of food or financial resources to buy food. It assesses whether there has been a change in the consumption patterns of a given household. The

rCSI is calculated using standard food consumption-based strategies and severity weighting. A higher score indicates that households are employing more frequent and/or extreme negative coping strategies. For the purpose of this bulletin, mVAM calculates the mean rCSI of households.

For more details on the types of coping strategies considered and their respective severity weighting, please see the Coping Strategies Index Field Methods Manual.

Public Distribution System (PDS):

Iraq's food rationing system was established in 1995, and it entitles every Iraqi, irrespective of income level, to a monthly food ration for a nominal fee. mVAM results on household's access to PDS deliveries presented in the bulletins are based on responses to the mVAM live telephone interviews conducted during the first three weeks of each month, and therefore may not fully capture PDS rations received by respondents post-interview within the month of the respective reporting period.

Weighting Methodology:

The data was weighted by the number of mobile phones owned by the household.

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