



Education Success Story from Malakal PoC, South Sudan: Elizabeth's Journey

Elizabeth, originally from Makal (commonly known as Malakal) in Upper Nile State, has faced considerable challenges due to the ongoing conflict in the region. The war, particularly severe in her hometown, has forced her to seek refuge in the Malakal Protection of Civilians (PoC) site since 2013.

Malakal, the capital of Upper Nile State, was once ranked as the second most populated city in South Sudan, only surpassed by Juba in both population and size. However, the civil wars that broke out in 2013 and 2016 led to considerable devastation and disruption, resulting in the establishment of the Malakal PoC site.

Despite losing her home and all her assets, Elizabeth's resilience has been remarkable. At 26, she is a mother to four children, and life in the PoC has been anything but easy. Nonetheless, she pursued her education with determination, enrolling in a War Child Canada (WCC)-supported school located within the PoC.

WCC's innovative *Breaking Barriers* project funded by 60 million girls, has played an important role in Elizabeth's educational journey. This project provides vital services in the schools, among them is the use of Mobile Learning Labs (MLL) equipped with tablets and RACHEL (Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education and Learning) servers, as well as a women's education forum, peer-to-peer groups, and childcare facilities. These resources have provided Elizabeth with access to valuable information, enhancing her classroom experience and empowering her to engage actively with her community.

Thanks to this project, Elizabeth has not only excelled academically, obtaining her South Sudan school certificate in 2023, but has also developed strong leadership skills. Through these interactions, she has become passionate about addressing women's concerns through sharing ideas and advocating for women's support and equal leadership roles in society alongside men.

Elizabeth's story is a testament to the power of resilience and the critical role of educational support in conflict-affected areas.



Elizabeth, a 26-year-old mother of four and resident of Malakal PoC since 2013, delivers a presentation at the women's education forum.

Success Story from Malakal PoC, South Sudan: Kate's Journey to Education

Kate, a 21-year-old mother in Malakal, South Sudan, knows the daily grind of collecting firewood, cooking meals, and putting family needs before her own. Education seemed like a distant dream, overshadowed by financial constraints. Yet, Kate's determination to build a brighter future for herself and her family led her to War Child Canada's innovative Mobile Learning Library (MLL) program, transforming her life in remarkable ways.

Born and raised in the town of Malakal, Kate's life revolved around providing for her large family. Selling firewood provided a limited income, but it wasn't enough to cover basic needs, let alone school fees. This financial burden weighed heavily on Kate. "It made me feel so sad," she recalls, "because some of my children couldn't attend school."

When a family member introduced Kate to the *Breaking Barriers* project, a glimmer of hope appeared. Through the program, she gained access to a tablet loaded with educational resources. With dedication, Kate mastered the device, learning to navigate the platform and access valuable learning materials. Most

importantly, the program unlocked the world of literacy. "I learned to read from the phonetic lessons on the tablet," Kate says with a newfound confidence.

Kate's story is a testament to the transformative power of education. With the support of War Child Canada, she is no longer just a young mother juggling daily chores. Kate is a student, a leader in her household, and an inspiration to her children. The project not only equipped her with literacy skills but empowered her with knowledge that will pave the way for a brighter future, impacting not just her life but her entire family's.



Kate, a 21-year-old mother from Malakal, South Sudan, engaged in War Child Canada's Breaking Barriers project.

Success Story from Malakal PoC, South Sudan: From Frustration to Future Leader - Sarah's Journey

Sarah, a 24-year-old resident of Malakal PoC, South Sudan, exemplifies the resilience and determination fostered by War Child Canada's *Breaking Barriers* project. Sarah juggles the responsibilities of a part-time teacher, homemaker, and aspiring leader, proving that even in challenging circumstances, education can be a powerful tool for growth.

Before displacement, Sarah's life in Khartoum, Sudan, revolved around computer training and aspirations for a bright future. However, limited electricity and expensive internet dashed her hopes of continuing her studies. Discouraged, Sarah felt her path to a better future was blocked.

When introduced to the *Breaking Barriers* project by a friend, Sarah discovered a wealth of educational resources. The project wasn't just about access to information; it ignited a passion for learning within her. Science lessons improved her personal hygiene practices, while stories of women leaders sparked a desire to become a leader herself. She actively participated in the Women's Education Forum, a platform created by the project, and discovered her own leadership potential.

Inspired by the project's focus on women's leadership, Sarah dreams of becoming a leader in her community. Yet, her ambitions soar further. The *Breaking Barriers* project empowered Sarah with knowledge and confidence, equipping her to overcome challenges and embrace a brighter future.

Sarah's story is a testament to the impact of the Breaking Barriers project. It's not just about education; it's about empowering young women like Sarah to overcome challenges, embrace leadership, and carve their own unique paths to a brighter future.



Sarah, a 24-year-old resident of Malakal PoC, thriving as an aspiring leader, thanks to the Breaking Barriers project.

Childcare Services – Community Impact

The childcare services introduced by War Child Canada have been met with overwhelming approval from the community, particularly benefiting young mothers engaged in MLL classes. Young mothers were able to continue their education, knowing their children were being cared for during class hours.

The community has warmly welcomed the establishment of these childcare centers, appreciating that the children are consistently involved in enriching activities. This initiative has been particularly praised for keeping children actively and productively engaged while their mothers are in classes.

The community has emphasized the critical importance of the childcare services provided at the four targeted schools in Malakal town and the Malakal PoC site and they frequently testified to War Child Canada's commitment as a child-centered organization, detailing the exemplary care and attention that children receive in WCC-supported schools.



Children at the childcare center in one of the schools in Malakal PoC.