



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.