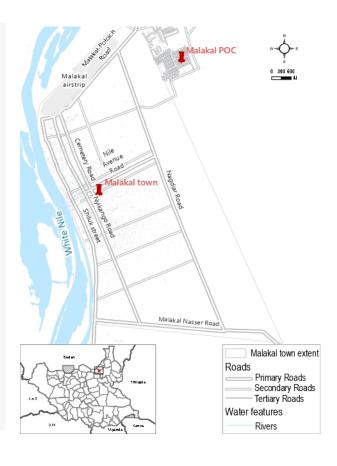
SUDAN CRISIS: AREA-BASED ASSESSMENT FOR MALAKAL POC SITE

August 2024 | South Sudan

KFY MFSSAGES

- Water Access: The Protection of Civilians (PoC) site experiences an overall shortage of water due to an insufficient number of water points. Although all (28) water points are reportedly functional, the low quantities of available water lead to long waiting periods. The community also cited a lack of containers as an impediment to fetching and storing water, while some mentioned the poor quality of the water supplied.
- **Sanitation:** Findings suggest that while most of the latrines in the PoC site are functional, most still need repairs, are close to being full and almost no functional handwashing facilities appeared to be available across the site. Most of the latrines and their surroundings are also unclean. All these can be considered alarming in terms of hygiene and security given the growing number of community members.
- Markets: The PoC site's markets are reportedly facing challenges such as high costs of items and safety issues, with most transactions occurring cash in local currency. Despite a variety of food items and food markets being available, customer numbers have generally declined recently due to related high prices of products.



CONTEXT & RATIONALE

Since the breakout of the civil war in December 2013, Malakal County has been home to thousands of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)¹. Located in Upper Nile State, Malakal County hosts the Malakal Protection of Civilians (PoC) site, located nearby Malakal Town as indicated on the map above. The PoC site, active since the beginning of the 2013 civil war under the protection of the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), currently shelters around 35,000 IDPs². Since the outbreak of the Sudan conflict in April 2023, Malakal emerged as a primary destination for newly arriving returnees coming from Sudan. The protracted volatility of the security landscape in and around the PoC³ site, the slow recovery response from the destruction caused by the 2013 conflict and the sudden influx of returnees all intensify pressure on sectors such as health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), markets and education.

In line with this, this assessment aimed to map and evaluate the existing services and facilities in Malakal PoC site to identify gaps which can inform a tailored and efficient planning of the many humanitarian organizations present on the ground. This factsheet presents key findings from the Area-Based Assessment (ABA) for which data was collected in Malakal PoC site in April 2024. The ABA was conducted with the aim to provide humanitarian actors and the government with information about the capacity of Malakal's PoC site to support IDPs and new arrivals as more people continue to make their way into Malakal from Sudan⁴.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

The ABA was achieved through a participatory mapping exercise of the existing capacities and the identification of service provision gaps in the sectors of health, WASH, education and markets. More information is found in the Methodology section below.

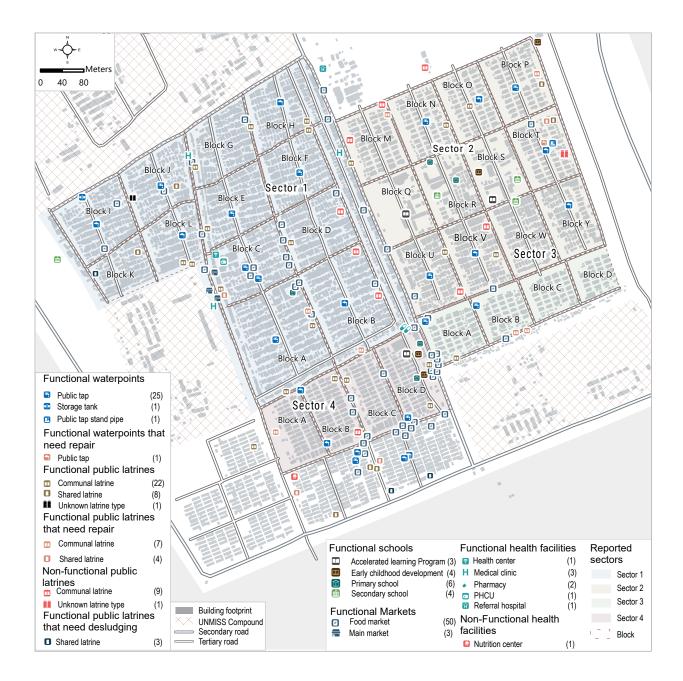
Findings from this assessment are indicative only - specific to the context of Malakal PoC site and not generalizable to other settlements in South Sudan.

In the first phase of data collection, community leaders and experts participated in two Mapping Focus Group Discussions (MFGDs). The second phase involved Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) focused on facilities for water access (28 infrastructures), sanitation (55), healthcare (9), markets (53), and education (17). Data collection occurred from April 22 to May 2, 2024. For more information, please see the terms of reference (ToR).





Map 1: All assessed infrastructure in Malakal PoC Site across the sectors of WASH, markets⁵, education, and health:





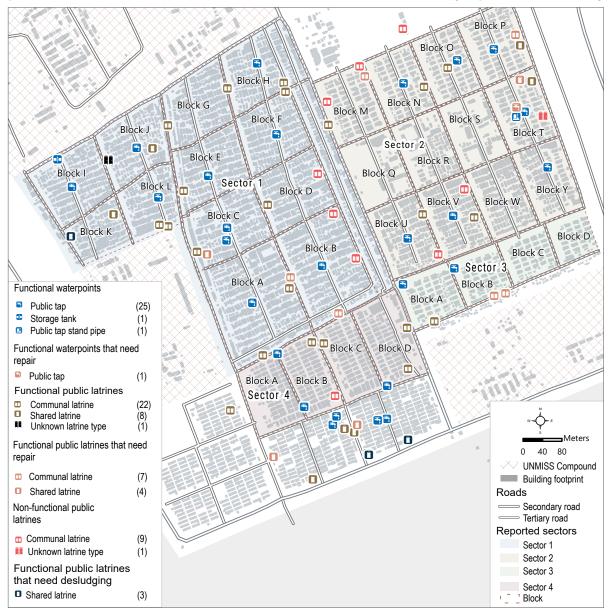


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WATER ACCESS

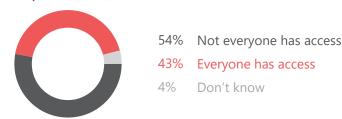
A total of 28 water points exist within the PoC site, mainly consisting of public taps, storage tanks, and standpipes as displayed in Map 2 below. Although all water points are reportedly functional (n=28), the vast majority of respondents (n=27) reported the water quantity they are able to collect to be insufficient in meeting their needs.

Map 2: The location of assessed WASH infrastructure in Malakal PoC Site by reported functionality:



The main actor providing access to water was the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which supplied all the water points in the PoC site and granted the community full ownership of these. While water is made available to community members without any request of payment, 12 KIs reported that not everyone in the community has access to it. Reasons reported on, regard water insufficiency (9/12), its poor quality (3/12), lack of containers (3/12) and perceived insufficient number of water points (10/12). Water in all water points (28) was sourced from distribution tanks. Reference was made to one block lacking access to water completely and one water point requiring maintenance.

Reported overall community members' accessibility to water points (n=28):



Reported walking and queuing time, to and from water points (n=28):





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WATER ACCESS

Reported reasons for water inaccessibility (n=25):

Insufficient number of water points	10/25	
Insufficient water quantity	9/25	
Insufficient number of water containers	3/25	
Poor quality of water	3/25	

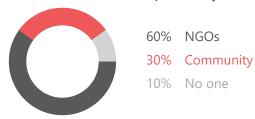


SANITATION

A total of 55 latrines were identified and assessed, as depicted in Map 2. Access to latrines is mainly supported by IOM, which provides access to 96% of the site's latrines. The remaining latrines are provided by the government (1) and other external agencies (1). Among the available latrines, 45 (82%) were reportedly functional, although nearly a quarter of them (24%) needed repairs, and the rest required desludging. Among the non-functional latrines (n=10), 1 remained unrepaired due to lack of funding, 4 were reported to be damaged and out of use due to usage and damages during the conflict. Two thirds of the respondents (69%) reported the available latrines to be communal, while the rest are shared among multiple households.

Maintenance of latrines was largely seen as the responsibility of NGOs (60%) and partly that of the community (30%). Notably, some Kls (10%) indicated a lack of responsible entities, leading to negligence and poor maintenance of the facilities. In terms of cleanliness, the majority of respondents (n=45) reported the latrines (89%) and their surroundings (73%) to be unclean.

Latrines' maintenance responsibility (n=11):



Only a minority of respondents (9%) reported the presence of handwashing facilities at the latrines and only 2% (1 KI) reported them to be functional. The data showed that water was the only available handwashing material at the functional handwashing stations. The majority of respondents (98%) reported that the latrines were communally owned, with only 2% (1 KI) reporting a facility owned by NGOs. All latrines in the PoC site can be freely accessed by community members living within the PoC site.

Reported levels of latrine sludge (n=45):

Almost full (75%-99%)	64%	
Half full (50%-74%)	20%	
Full (100%)	16%	

Functional status of the latrines (n=45):



Reported facilities available in the latrines (n=45):

Don't know	56%	
Menstrual hygiene bin	20%	
Disabled ramp access	11%	
Handwashing station	9%	
Prefer not to answer	4%	

All latrines had iron sheets as roofing material. The flooring material was reported to be made of plastic by the majority of KIs (62%), with the remaining KIs reporting it to be made of wood (36%) or iron sheets (2%). The walls are reportedly made of metal (82%) and iron sheets (18%). Nearly all respondents reported the presence of gender-separate latrines on the site. However, the majority of KIs (56%) reported that the latrines are lacking lockable doors, and 22% reported that the doors are not functional.

Reported characteristics of latrine conditions (n=45):

98%	Latrines separated by gender	
78 %	Latrines with functional doors	
44%	Latrines lockable from inside	
4%	Latrines with surrounding lighting	I
2%	Latrines with functioning handwashing facilities	
0%	Latrines with inside lighting	





HEALTH

A total of 9 health facilities were assessed in Malakal PoC site as depicted in map 3 below. Key informants (KIs) involved in the assessment included doctors (3), pharmacists (3), a cleaner and a nutrition officer from the facilities assessed. These facilities comprise both private health facilities (5) and public health facilities (4), with one public facility reportedly non-functional due to lack of funding.

Nutrition services are provided by 7 out of the 8 functioning facilities, including Stabilization Centres, Outpatient Therapeutic Care Programmes (OTP), Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programmes (TSFP), Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programmes (BSFP), and Wet Feeding Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF).

KIs reported that 5 of the facilities charge for their services, while the remaining are freely accessible. Half of the respondents (4) reported that the facilities have a lockable drug store, and 5 of them reported that the facility they work at lacks stock of vaccines. Managerial challenges were reported at one facility, involving financial, economic, and staffing issues. Additionally, three private facilities reportedly do not have access to water, while those that do (5 out of 8) source it all from the river.

Average numbers by facility:

4 rooms ranging between 0-15

9 beds | ranging between 0-38

10 health workers ranging between 2-20

Type of health facilities addressed (n=9):

Medical Clinic	3/9	
Pharmacy	2/9	
Health Centre	1/9	
Nutrition Centre	1/9	
Primary Health	1/9	
Care Unit (PHCU)	1/9	

Average cost of health facilities' services:

3,500 SSP Admission

2,667 SSP Lab test

2,333 SSP Medication









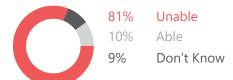
MARKETS

A total of 53 individuals were engaged to investigate the food item stalls (50) and main markets (3) available in the PoC site as depicted in map 4 below. No livestock market was reported to be available within the site. The three main markets and an additional six food stalls were reported to be open at night. Food markets reportedly provide access to a wide variety of foods, with the most commonly mentioned items available being rice, milk products, sugar, oils, and cereals.

The vast majority (93%) of the markets only accept cash in local currency as payment method. Informal credit and barter payments are accepted alternatives in 6% of the markets, and one market also accepts goods as an alternative to cash. Findings show that the high cost of items is the main barrier to market access.

The majority of KIs (70%) reported a decrease in the number of customers over the course of the month preceding the assessment's data collection, while the others stated that the number had remained constant (9%) or increased (11%). Incidents of safety issues in the markets were reported by 11% of the KIs. These incidents included theft of goods, theft of cash, and verbal harassment of traders.

Reported ability of all population groups to access markets in the PoC site (n=53):



Market functionality

In June 2024, the Malakal PoC Site's market remained highly functional with a score of 87.1, according to REACH's JMMI data.6 However, it saw the sharpest monthly increase in the Multi-Sectoral Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (MSSMEB) value among 74 markets surveyed in South Sudan, rising by 117%. The cost of the food basket also surged by 132% compared to May. These increases are due to the broader challenges of SSP depreciation, high fuel prices, and specific local issues like high checkpoint costs and poor road conditions.

Map 4: The location of assessed markets in Malakal PoC Site by reported functionality:



customer levels over the 30 days prior to data

9%

4%





E EDUCATION

A total of 17 educational facilities were identified and assessed in the Malakal PoC site as depicted in map 5 below. All schools have mixed classrooms accommodating both male and female students.

The schools in the PoC site enroll returnees, IDPs, elderly individuals, and people with disabilities. The main reported access barriers to these facilities were high fees and lack of transport.

Type of educational facilities addressed (n=17):



Average numbers by facility:

10 Classrooms | ranging between 1-22

18 Educators | ranging between 3-43

None of the educational facilities were reported to have an emergency shelter or provide a feeding program. Only two of the schools were found to have a generator supplying power. Water supply is reportedly available at 14 of the schools and all of it is provided by distribution tanks.

Key informants (KIs) reported that 5 of the schools lack latrines. The remaining schools (12) reportedly have gender-segregated latrines, with an average of 5 latrines for male students and 5 latrines for female students in each facility.

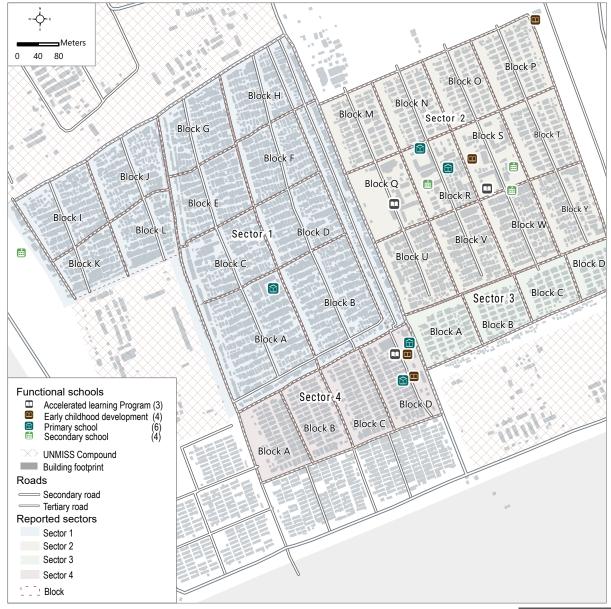
Managerial challenges commonly faced by 12 of the facilities include financial constraints, insecurity, and staffing issues.

Reported ownership of the educational facilities (n=17):

13 KIs Owned by the community

4 KIs Privately owned

Map 5: The location of assessed education infrastructure in Malakal PoC Site by reported functionality:







METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

This ABA utilized a mixed method approach. At a first stage, all Malakal PoC Site's facilities related to education, markets, health, and WASH services were mapped out through MFGDs. Secondly, these facilities were assessed by conducting KIIs with relevant KIs, applying a quantitative KI tool.

Mapping Focus Group Discussions

Two MFGDs were held in Malakal PoC site, one with female participants and the other with male participants. Each MFGD engaged 4 to 8 participants. Community leaders and experts were purposively sampled and mobilized with the support of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC). Throughout the discussions, the PoC Site community leaders worked with the REACH GIS officer to map infrastructure in the sectors of health, markets, education and WASH available and accessible to the various population groups in Malakal PoC Site.

The REACH GIS team supported the mapping exercise by surveying the satellite imagery of the area to be mapped and creating grids of 250 m by 250 m. These grids were loaded into Maps.me and made available to enumerators, who traversed each square of the grids to ensure coverage of all the infrastructures in the health, WASH, education, and markets sectors. When encountering an infrastructure point within the square, they used the Kobo Collect tool to register information such as GPS coordinates and the functionality of the facility.

Key Informant Interviews

Upon completion of the mapping exercise, the quantitative facilities assessment tool was deployed to gather additional data and to build on the information collected during the MFGDs. Precise GPS points were assigned to the locations and facilities identified during the MFGDs. This exercise was supported by the Kobo Collect application which integrated the geolocation of the sites of interest with KIIs on the functionality and accessibility of the facilities in the markets, health, education and WASH sectors. A total of 162 interviews were conducted with KIs possessing relevant knowledge on the accessibility and functionality of the infrastructure and their specific operational aspects. Specifically, the number of KIs conducted per sector were: 28 water access, 55 sanitation, 9 health facilities, 53 markets, 17 education.

The assessment was ran in both Malakal Town and Malakal PoC site. The same methodology and approach was used across the two locations.

ENDNOTES

- 1 International Organization of Migration (IOM), <u>Malakal PoC Brief</u>, 15 September 2021.
- 2 United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF), <u>Exploring the Struggles of Children Living in a Displaced Camp</u>, 13 October 2023.
- 3 United Nations, Influx of Returnees, Escalating Violence Thwarting Progress in Implementing South Sudan's Peace Accord, Special Representative Tells Security Council, 20 June 2023.
- 4 United Nations Office for the coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), <u>Situation Report: Malakal Conflict Induced Displacement due to violent clashes in Malakal PoC</u> (as of 23 June 2023), 26 June 2023.
- 5 Food markets refer tofood item stalls within the PoC Site.
- 6 REACH. Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) 2024.

ABOUT REACH

REACH is a leading humanitarian initiative that collects primary data and produces in-depth analysis to help aid actors make evidence-based decisions in support of crisis-affected people. With this in mind, our flagship research programmes aim to inform the prioritisation of aid according to levels of need - both crisis-level planning and targeted rapid response - as well as decisions around appropriate modalities of aid. Through our team of assessment, data, geospatial, and thematic specialists, we promote the design of people-centred research and set standards for collecting and analysing rigorous, high quality data in complex environments. Visit www.impact-<u>initiatives.org</u> and follow us @REACH_info.



