Malakal Combined Assessment

I. Town head-count  —   II. Malakal town services   —    III. PoC Site Survey

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) conducted a combined assessment comprising a Village Assessment Survey (VAS) in Malakal Town and a complementary survey in the PoC site from 16 to 26 February 2018 to meet information gaps identified by the inter cluster working group (ICWG). The VAS tool has been used in South Sudan since 2007 and serves to identify critical gaps in available services in areas of high or potentially high return. Findings are presented in sector-specific sections for easy reference. The survey conducted in Malakal's Protection of Civilian (PoC) site complements VAS findings by gauging the potential interest of the displaced population to return to the town to make use of the assessed services. Please note that the town's current population is primarily composed of relocated households from a variety of origins.

Formerly the second largest city in South Sudan, Malakal Town has been destroyed by the conflict beginning in December 2013. The town is known for having changed hands between the government and opposition several times in three years, resulting in multiple displacement of residents and leaving the majority of its infrastructure destroyed. Most areas are now covered in tall grass with only rusty remains of metal structures indicating the presence of a once bustling town. Malakal County's population was estimated at 126,500 individuals during the 2008 census but was speculated to have grown in subsequent years before conflict erupted. According to the VAS head-count, the population measures only nine per cent of its pre-conflict size.

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

PoC Site

Population: 24,417

Most common reason for displacement: conflict

Recent influx from Fashoda because of conflict

96% intend to remain or are unsure about the future

Improvement of security combined with assurance from government on safety figure as the top pre-condition for return

Malakal PoC site population according to biometric registrations*

*Please note that stagnating figures can be due to the intervals in which the data is collected.
Malakal Town comprises six payams, namely Malakal North, South, East Central and two sparsely populated payams that remain inaccessible (Ogod and Lelo). Excluding the inaccessible payams and Malakal PoC site, the identified population of the remaining four payams, making up Malakal Town, amounts to 11,573 individuals.* The reduced population figure and concomitant diminished public service needs should be taken into account when considering current state of the town’s infrastructure.

In contrast, the PoC site’s population had peaked at just under 48,000 individuals in August 2015, having now shrunk to half that population size according to the most recent registration undertaken in August 2017. The site population remains twice as large as the adjacent town’s and Flow Monitoring (FM) findings indicate that since June 2017, 92 per cent of permanent gate crossings were directed into as opposed to out of the site. FM data mirrors survey results according to which the vast majority of site residents do not have any immediate plans to leave the PoC site mostly due to security concerns. The relative calmness returning to Malakal Town should be understood against this backdrop.

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*According to the DTM Headcount. The boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan or IOM. This map is for planning purposes only. IOM cannot guarantee this map is error free and therefore accepts no liability for consequential and indirect damages arising from its use.
I. MALAKAL TOWN HEAD-COUNT

Scope: 4/6 payams (Ogod and Lelo remain inaccessible).

In order to estimate the number of individuals currently present in Malakal town, DTM enumerators visited all accessible shelters and for inhabited shelters took note of the household composition including age and sex of all household members present at the time of assessment.

The most populated payam was found to be Malakal South (4,505 individuals) and the least populated Malakal North (661 individuals). Fifty-one per cent of all individuals were female and 49 per cent were male. Heads of households were more commonly female (57%). The demographic make-up did not differ too drastically from payam to payam. The average head of household age was 38.4 (max 90 and min 15).

The average household size was 7.2 individuals with households in Malakal South being slightly larger and those in Malakal North being slightly smaller.

Nearly half of all households were found to be living separated (46%) with one or more family members not living in Malakal Town. This proportion was similar to the PoC site's household set-up, where 44 per cent of families reported household members currently staying elsewhere. Both within the PoC site (according to the complementary survey) and in town, the percentage of children (under the age of 18) is 59 per cent. Nearly a quarter (23%) of the town population were found to be under the age of five. This compares to 34 per cent of the PoC site population being under the age of six.
II. MALAKAL TOWN SERVICES (VAS)

The objective of the VAS is to map needs and critical service gaps in areas of return to help national authorities and partners better plan and target transition and recovery activities. The VAS methodology comprises of four complementary and integrated questionnaires: Boma Questionnaire, Payam Authorities Questionnaire, Health Technical Questionnaire and Education Technical Questionnaire. A mixed methods approach of key informant interviews, focus group discussions and direct observation was utilized to collect and triangulate data throughout the data collection process. The data collection teams physically visited each of the Bomas/ residential areas, villages and health and education facilities, consulting key informants such as local administrators and authorities, as well as staff in educational and health facilities.

The majority of residential areas have become safely accessible. The population of Malakal town is mainly composed of IDPs that moved out of the PoC site in 2016, relocated individuals from Central Equatoria who arrived via Juba in 2017 and relocated households from Melut and Khor- Adar who were to return to Bailet in 2017 but who opted to settle in Malakal due to the lack of basic services in Bailet. IDPs were more prevalent in Malakal South than in other areas of the town. Payam authorities expect more individuals to arrive in town in the following months. The infrastructure in Malakal North is more severely damaged in comparison to the other three payams.

Land is most commonly individually owned as opposed to ancestral or informal land tenures and shelters are usually made of mud with iron sheet roofing (brick in Malakal Centre).

The presence of unexploded ordnances (UXOs) were reported in Malakal South (Assossa, Bulukay and Bam), Malakal North (Hai Mathan) and Malakal Centre (Mudiria, Hai Jalaba and Rei el Mesiri).

Main livelihood needs: tractors, ox-ploughs and fishing equipment. Livestock- and crop farming as well as fishing are practiced in all payams except for Malakal North. Rain is the primary water resource and the most common crops are sorghum and maize. Seeds are used from previous harvests (East), the market (Centre) or received from NGOs / FAO distributions (South). Livelihood shocks have been common due to conflict and crop diseases. The population copes by reducing meals and by relying on humanitarian food distributions.

The mobile network coverage in Malakal is weak to non-existent, especially since the suspension of VivaCell’s operations in March 2018.
EDUCATION

Whilst only seven (5 primary and 2 secondary school) out of 42 schools (17%) were found to be operational, this number should be understood in the context of the decreased population size which amounts to only about 10% of the pre-conflict population. The 35 non-operational educational establishments closed around December 2013, when the conflict broke out and key informants reported insecurity (19 establishments) and damaged or destroyed infrastructure (12 establishments) as most common reasons for closure. Five out of seven operational educational facilities are UN / NGO supported and the other two are private (one primary and one secondary school). Among closed educational establishments, DTM found 20 primary schools, nine secondary schools, five nursery schools and one university (Upper Nile University). Please note that the state of closed educational establishments ranges from unused buildings to fields with ruins in the form of scattered metal structures.

With an overall average of 34 students per teacher in Malakal Town, Sobat Secondary School employed the most instructors (7 students / teacher) and Good Shepherd Primary School the least (60 students / teacher). However, only seven teachers for a total of approximately 3,000 pupils were trained, making up 8 per cent of the total teaching staff. The urgent need for trained teachers was also cited by boma representatives.

According to enrolment data at seven operational schools, 39 per cent of the town's student cohort is female. Boma representatives cite early marriage and family decisions as main reason for this lack of gender balance. Physical disabilities including visual and hearing impairments are only specifically catered for at St. Andrew’s Primary School.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

1. Malakia Boy Primary School
   Semi-permanent building – not safe and secure
   • Primary school (year 1-6); year 7 & 8 completed elsewhere
   • New South Sudan curriculum in English
   • Unable to accommodate all children from area
   • Children from other areas present
   • 395 students enrolled (50% female)
   • 16 teachers (2 female): 6 are untrained and 7 volunteers
   • 25 students / teacher
   • No fees – UN / NGO supported

   Number of class rooms | Insufficient
   School furniture       | Insufficient
   School latrines        | Sufficient
   Drinking water         | Not present
   Non-drinking water     | Not present

   Comment: the building is severely damaged; no benches for students to sit on, complete lack of water access

2. Bender Girls Basic School
   Semi-permanent building – not safe and secure
   • Primary school (year 1-8)
   • 2 schools in 1 building - evening shift: Alfa Primary
   • New South Sudan curriculum in English
   • Unable to accommodate all children from area
   • Children from other areas present
   • 78 student (15% female)
   • 24 teachers (1 female) of which 20 are volunteers

   Number of class rooms | Insufficient
   School furniture       | Insufficient
   School latrines        | Insufficient
   Drinking water         | Sufficient
   Non-drinking water     | Sufficient

   Comment: need for additional classrooms, furniture and latrines
### EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

#### 3. St. Andrew Primary School
**Safe and secure permanent building**

- Primary school (year 1-8)
- New South Sudan curriculum in English
- Unable to accommodate all children from area
- Children from other areas present
- 600 students enrolled (43% female)
- 10 teachers (2 female): 3 untrained, 1 volunteer
- 60 students / teacher
- No fees - private school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of class rooms</th>
<th>Insufficient</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Insufficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School latrines</td>
<td>Insufficient</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drinking water</td>
<td>Not present</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-drinking water</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Comment:** accelerated learning programmes provided by religious organisation, efforts to reduce barriers faced by disabled students

#### 4. Dr. John Garang Boys Primary School
**Safe and secure permanent building**

- Primary school (year 1-8)
- New South Sudan curriculum in English
- Unable to accommodate all children from area
- Children from other areas not present
- 895 students enrolled (41% female)
- 22 teachers (4 female) of which 4 volunteers
- 41 students / teacher
- No fees – UN / NGO supported

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Drinking water</td>
<td>Sufficient</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-drinking water</td>
<td>Sufficient</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comment:** accelerated learning programmes provided by an NGO; building renovated by UNICEF; staff salaries were paid by NGO until December 2017

#### 5. Good Shepherd Primary School
**Semi-permanent building – not safe and secure**

- Primary school (year 1-8)
- New South Sudan curriculum in English
- Unable to accommodate all children from area
- Children from other areas present
- 600 students enrolled (43% female)
- 10 teachers (2 female): 3 untrained, 1 volunteer
- 60 students / teacher
- No fees - private school

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<tr>
<td>Non-drinking water</td>
<td>Not present</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Comment:** crumbling mud walls, latrines in need of repair

#### 6. Vision Academy Secondary School
**Unsafe structure, temporary tukul**

- Secondary school (year 1-4)
- New South Sudan curriculum in English
- Able to accommodate most children from area
- Children from other areas present
- 386 students enrolled (35% female)
- 12 teachers (4 female) of which 4 volunteers
- 32 students / teacher
- Parents pay fees - private school

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<tr>
<td>Non-drinking water</td>
<td>Not present</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comment:** safe and secure building lacking

#### 7. Sobat Secondary School
**Safe and secure permanent building**

- Secondary school (year 1-4)
- Kenyan curriculum in English
- Able to accommodate most children from area
- Children from other areas present
- 92 students enrolled (23% female)
- 13 teachers: 2 untrained, 6 volunteer
- 7 students / teacher
- No fees – UN / NGO supported

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**Comment:** high dropout rate because of conflict, lack of water
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Out of a total of ten healthcare facilities, DTM found four to be currently operational. Operational establishments are composed of one hospital, one Primary Health Care Centre (PHCC) and two Primary Health Care Units (PHCU). The six closed establishments have been closed since the onset of the conflict end of 2013. All functional establishments are operated by aid organisations and report to the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDS), the Ministry of Health or the Health Management Information System (HMIS). The only two doctors in town were found at Malakal Teaching Hospital PHCC.

**HEALTH FACILITIES**

1. **Malakal Teaching Hospital Outpatient Department**  
   Safe and secure, permanent building

   Most urgent assistance needed:
   1. More staff  
   2. More beds  
   3. More drugs

   • UN / NGO supported  
   • Vehicle for referral available  
   • Services available free of charge  
   • Garbage disposal: open bag, burned in open area

   ![Medical Staff, Malakal](chart)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Doctors</th>
<th>Medical Assistants</th>
<th>Nurses</th>
<th>Trad. birth assistants</th>
<th>Laboratory assistants</th>
<th>Pharmacists</th>
<th>Maternal child health workers</th>
<th>Midwives</th>
<th>Vaccinators</th>
<th>Community health workers</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

   Services:
   • Health education  
   • Outpatients  
   • Maternity ward  
   • Psycho-social support  
   • Feeding Centre  
   • Laboratory  
   • Full schedule of immunization for children (WHO)

   Health education sessions for catchment area provided:
   • Hygiene and sanitation  
   • Transmissible diseases  
   • Malaria

   Suspected likely outbreak: acute diarrhoea

   Past outbreak: whooping cough outbreak in October 2017 – met with increased vaccinations

2. **Assossa PHCU**  
   Permanent building - not safe and secure

   Most urgent assistance needed:
   1. Public health campaigns  
   2. Communication  
   3. Fridges for vaccines

   • UN / NGO supported  
   • Vehicle for referral available  
   • Services available free of charge  
   • Garbage disposal: burned in open area

   ![Medical Staff, Malakal](chart)

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<tr>
<td>0</td>
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</table>

   Services:
   • Outpatients  
   • Full schedule of immunization for children (NGO)

   Health education sessions for catchment area provided:
   • Reproductive health  
   • Malaria

   Suspected likely outbreak: malaria
### 3. Malakal Teaching Hospital PHCC
**Permanent building - safe and secure**

**Most urgent assistance needed:**
1. Solar power
2. Referral centre
3. Fridges for vaccines
   - UN / NGO supported
   - Vehicle for referral available
   - Services available free of charge
   - Garbage disposal: incinerated / burned in designated area

<table>
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<th>Professionals</th>
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<tr>
<td>Doctors</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med. Assistants</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal child</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health worker</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional birth assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midwife</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccinator</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab. Assistant</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community health worker</td>
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**Services:**
- Emergency Services
- Health education
- Inpatients
- Maternity ward
- Feeding Centre
- Full schedule of immunization for children (WHO)

**Health education sessions for catchment area provided:**
- Child nutrition
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- HIV/AIDS

**Suspected likely outbreak:** Malaria

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### 4. National Health Insurance PHCU
**Permanent building - safe and secure**

**Most urgent assistance needed:**
1. Training
2. Electricity
3. Referral centre
   - UN / NGO supported
   - Vehicle for referral unavailable
   - Services available free of charge
   - Garbage disposal: incinerated / burned in designated area

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**Services:**
- Health education
- Outpatients
- Full schedule of immunization for children (NGO)

**Health education sessions for catchment area provided:**
- Hygiene and sanitation
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- HIV/AIDS
- Malaria

**Suspected likely outbreak:** Malaria, cholera, meningitis, measles
The main government owned water treatment plant that supplied Malakal town remains non-operational since the outbreak of crisis in December 2013. All four identified water-points are bladder-tanks operated by World Vision treating Nile water. The majority of the population lives in the town’s centre, closer to the water-points, which are located along the river. Malakal East is located the furthest from the river and its water points.
III. MALAKAL PoC SITE COMPLEMENTARY SURVEY
Malakal Protection of Civilians Site: Prior Triggers, Current Perceptions and Intentions | February 2018

KEY FINDINGS

The majority of households arrived in the PoC site from Malakal Town because of political violence. Arrivals from Fashoda County are increasing in recent months and feature a higher percentage of people citing food as the main reason for displacement after conflict.

Nearly half of all households have family members living outside of the PoC site and of these, 64 per cent report that they have family members who plan to join them.

In line with low exit numbers recorded by DTM’s Flow Monitoring tool, only four per cent of interviewed households intend to return within the next three months. Reasons for planned departures are more commonly related to security concerns within the PoC than to improved conditions in areas of return.

BACKGROUND

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) began arriving at Malakal Protection of Civilians (PoC) site towards the end of December 2013 when the conflict erupted. There are currently 24,417 individuals registered in the site (August 2017). The majority of site inhabitants are originally from Malakal or Panyikang and most were previously living in Malakal Town.

METHODOLOGY & SCOPE

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) team conducted the complementary survey in Malakal PoC site between 20 and 28 February 2018. Enumerators visited shelters based on random sampling to conduct face-to-face interviews with household representatives. The sample size was equal to 1,088 households comprised of 9,184 individuals living within the PoC site. With a current total population size of 9,186 households (24,417 individuals), this allowed for a confidence level of 99 per cent while maintaining a margin of error of 3.7%.

1,088 households interviewed comprising 9,184 individuals

DEMOGRAPHY

Half of all individuals were female (50%). Eighty-six per cent of respondents speaking for their household were female and three-quarters of these were also the head of household. The majority of heads of household were female. Thirty-four per cent of all household members were under the age of five. Adult women between the ages of 18 and 45 outnumbered their male counterparts with 1,454 to 1,096 individuals.

34% under the age of 5
LOCATIONS OF PRE-DISPLACEMENT AND ORIGINS

The vast majority of households came from within Upper Nile State (98%). The three most common locations from which households were displaced and from which households originated were Malakal, Panyikang and Fashoda. Whilst 62 per cent of all households were living in Malakal Town before moving into the PoC site, only 36 per cent originated from the town. Nineteen per cent arrived from Panyikang. About one-third of households originated from Malakal and Panyikang respectively (36% each).

TIME & REASON FOR DISPLACEMENT

Apart from the site’s inception end of 2013, a notable spike in arrivals occurred in quarter three of 2015. The most common reason for displacement overall has been political conflict (64%) followed by communal clashes (19%) and access to food (15%). While these were chosen as main triggers for displacement, the reader is reminded that displacement drivers remain complex and inter-linked in South Sudan.

The PoC site’s population having arrived from Fashoda is the most recent – half of this group arrived in 2017 (20%) and 2018 (19%) as opposed to those having arrived from Malakal Town (2% in 2017 and 2% in 2018). The reason for arrival for this group equally differs from the Malakal and Panyikang arrivals by having a larger proportion citing access to food as main motivation for arrival: 28 per cent as opposed to 15 and 7 per cent for Malakal and Panyikang arrivals respectively.
Overall respondents reported to have chosen Malakal PoC site rather than other locations to flee because it was deemed safer (55%) and because of access to services (26%). When broken down by counties of pre-displacement, Fashoda arrivals cite access to services in higher proportions than arrivals from Malakal or Panyikan.

DTM’s Flow Monitoring data confirms that Fashoda arrivals have been on the rise since October 2017 representing nearly half of all new arrivals (48%). Overall, the top reason for recent entries has been family reunification (43%) whilst that for Fashoda arrivals has been food shortages (52%), confirming the survey’s findings.

Overall respondents reported to have chosen Malakal PoC site rather than other locations to flee because it was deemed safer (55%) and because of access to services (26%). When broken down by counties of pre-displacement, Fashoda arrivals cite access to services in higher proportions than arrivals from Malakal or Panyikan.

 Reasons for Displacement across top three pre-displacement locations proportional to respective population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Panyikang</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malakal</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fashoda</td>
<td>48%</td>
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</table>

 Reasons for choosing Malakal PoC site over other locations: top three pre-displacement locations proportional to respective population

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<td>54%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malakal</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fashoda</td>
<td>37%</td>
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 SEPARATED HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Forty-four per cent of households reported household members currently living elsewhere. The most commonly cited reason for living apart was security concerns with regards to the route separated household member would have to take or the location these individuals are currently living in (39%). Others stated that they were separated when fleeing. For 20 per cent the reason for separation was schooling (11%) and employment related (9%).

Are some of your household members currently staying elsewhere? (n=1,088 HHs)

- Yes, 44%
- No, 56%

Why did you and the missing household members separate? (n=476 HHs)

- Lack of safety (en route or current location): 39%
- Separated when fleeing: 26%
- Schooling: 11%
- Employment: 9%
- Other: 14%
For those with household members located outside of the PoC site, Upper Nile State locations including Fashoda (26%), Panyikang (22%) and Malakal (21%) remain the most cited but a sizeable share of separated household members also live in other counties like Manyo (14%) and Renk (13%). Whereas 98 per cent of the site’s population was displaced from within Upper Nile State, over a third (36%) have family members located in other states. Juba is especially prominent in this regard.

**Where are other family members residing now?**

- **Upper Nile**: 64%
- **Central Equatoria**: 28%
- **Other**: 8%

**Upper Nile State locations of other household members**

- **Fashoda**: 26%
- **Panyikang**: 22%
- **Malakal**: 21%
- **Manyo**: 14%
- **Renk**: 13%
- **Other**: 3%

**MULTIPLE DISPLACEMENT**

More than half of all respondent households reported having been displaced at least once before the current instance. IDP households displaced from Malakal were the most prone to cases of multiple displacement (63%).

**Have you ever been displaced before?**

- **No**: 45%
- **Yes**: 55%

**Top three counties of pre-displacement**

- **Panyikang (183 HHs)**: 58% No, 42% Yes
- **Malakal (696 HHs)**: 38% No, 62% Yes
- **Fashoda (130 HHs)**: 52% No, 48% Yes

Overall, more people had been displaced twice (42%) than once (31%) before the current instance of displacement and 27 per cent had been displaced three times or more.
SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Half of all respondents reported the use of radio as main source of information (49%). Radio Miraya and Nile FM broadcast in the area at the time of the assessment. A quarter relied on word of mouth to acquire information and a further seven per cent on public announcements. Communal meetings, local authorities or church authorities were only very scarcely cited to figure as main source of information.

What is your main source of information? (n=1,089 HHs)

- Radio: 49%
- Word of mouth: 25%
- Public announcements: 7%
- Church authorities: 5%
- Other: 13%

What type of information would like to receive through your main source of information? Information about...

- Security and safety: 52%
- Health in PoC: 47%
- Livelihood in PoC: 42%
- Education in PoC: 42%
- Vocational training in PoC: 30%
- Complaints feedback mechanism: 16%
- Education outside PoC: 10%
- Health outside PoC: 10%
- Agricultural facilities outside PoC: 8%
- Livelihood outside PoC: 8%
- Market facilities outside PoC: 8%

OUTLOOK FOR RETURN

Very few households indicated an intention to return in the near future. Out of 1,088 households, only four per cent (44 households) intend to leave Malakal PoC site within the next three months. The majority (87%) reported they did not know when they would return when asked about their intentions.

DTM’s Flow Monitoring confirms that very few people have been leaving the PoC site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Entries</th>
<th>Exits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2018</td>
<td>948</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2018</td>
<td>953</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For comparison, 1,610 individuals left Bentiu PoC site and 665 entered the site in February. Please note that exits are often only temporary.

Reasons for leaving were frequently linked to tensions within the PoC site as opposed to other living conditions or pull-factors at intended destinations.

However, improved security in intended destinations was mentioned by over two-third (68%) as one of the reasons informing decision to leave the site. Half of the families intending to return planned to leave partially only, mainly because of a lack of resources. Twenty-nine families (66%) intend to return to their location of pre-displacement, 7 families (16%) to a distinct place of origin and eight households to a new location (18%).
Many interviewed households seemed unaware of conditions in Malakal Town. Forty-one per cent of responding households believed Malakal Town to be safe and 53 per cent did not know.

Regarding questions on the status of the town’s infrastructure, more than half of all respondents reported to not know. Access to critical infrastructure such as police stations, healthcare centres or primary schools was more commonly believed to be insufficient than sufficient.

In your perception, is there / is it...

- sufficient access to police stations in Malakal Town?
  - Yes: 11%
  - No: 37%
  - I don’t know: 51%
- sufficient access to health centres in Malakal Town?
  - Yes: 11%
  - No: 37%
  - I don’t know: 52%
- sufficient access to primary schools in Malakal Town?
  - Yes: 11%
  - No: 37%
  - I don’t know: 52%
- sufficient access to water points in Malakal Town?
  - Yes: 7%
  - No: 41%
  - I don’t know: 52%
- sufficient road maintenance in Malakal Town?
  - Yes: 6%
  - No: 42%
  - I don’t know: 52%
- is it safe in Malakal Town?
  - Yes: 5%
  - No: 41%
  - I don’t know: 53%

Please mark the highest priority pre-condition for return (single answer)

- Access to work / school / critical facilities and infrastructures in area of return
  - 25%
- General improvement of security situation in area of return
  - 24%
- Humanitarian support
  - 11%
- Assurance from government on safety
  - 10%
- Resolution of Housing/Land/Property issues
  - 9%
- Sufficient access to police stations in Malakal Town
  - 6%
- Other
  - 8%
- Don’t know
  - 7%

Whilst few indicated an intention to return, the survey found that pre-conditions for potential return were not only linked to safety but also to access critical infrastructure. A combined 35 per cent of highest rated pre-conditions for return concerned safety and security*, namely “general improvement for security in area of return” (24%) and “assurance from government on safety” (10%). A quarter of households rated access to work, school and other critical facilities and infrastructure in areas of return higher than security-related concerns (24%).