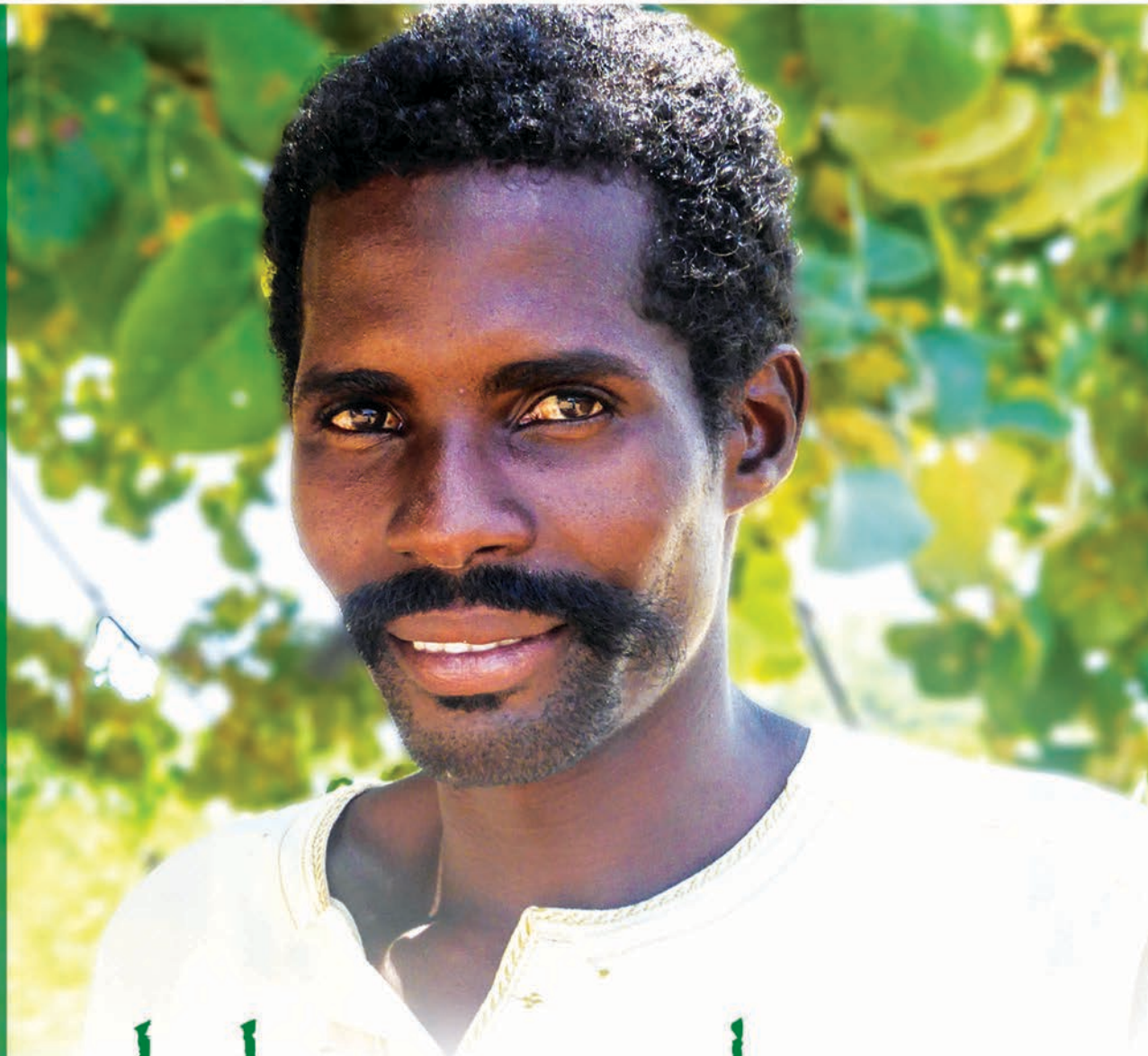


Awad (32 yrs) spent 3 years in Chad following his forced migration in 2013 from Central Darfur, Sudan; but throughout, he always had the feeling that he wanted to go home. "I am married with 7 children, and I did not want my children to grow up in foreign land without a sense of belonging, without a history and without the kind and loving community I left behind... We were treated well in Chad—we received support in terms of food, NFIs and health-care. Our children also had access to school. But home is home!" stated Awad continuing to add, "Sudan is where we feel we belong and where we want to be." When the government of Chad decided to relocate Awad and his family 100km further from the Sudanese border, he saw that this was the right time to go back to Sudan and he decided that by the New Year (2016), he and his family would return home. They came back to Garaia village in Um Dukhun locality, Central Darfur in January 2016, but he was not prepared for the shock. "The village had been destroyed in the 3 years since I had been away. There was nothing left! No homes, no wells, no farms! I thought we would find our home, but there was not even a stone standing in its place" said Awad. Even worse was the situation of water. They had no place to get clean water and they had to walk very far to collect water from the open wells. With the rainy season coming, Awad was very scared for his family, wondering how he would manage with the little children in the rain and the cold, "You cannot imagine our relief when we heard that an INGO (Triangle Generation Humanitaire) received a grant from USAID through the Rapid Response Fund managed by IOM, to build new water systems and latrines" said Awad. Within a few months clean water was supplied nearby to their village and they were even provided with a new shelter! The rains are good this year and now Awad is farming. He hopes that safety and security continue in Garaia so they can settle permanently and he can provide a good future for his children.

The Rapid Response Fund is a USAID/OFDA emergency response fund, managed by IOM since 2013. It is designed to respond quickly and efficiently to the needs of displaced communities in Sudan. IOM works with INGOs to reach the most vulnerable families, who may otherwise not receive any assistance.



Home at last

Awad, 32 years



The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Agency for International Development or the U.S. Government.