

"I still remember the day we fled to Chad...it was the peak of summer; April 2013. After the conflict we were in a new land with new rules and I longed for home. The longing never left- in Chad we were foreigners and did not have the familiarity of the land, neighbors and community to support us and our 6 children," says Kawther [34 years]. So when the Government of Chad decided they should be relocated 100km further from the Sudanese border, Kawther and her husband decided it was time to bring their family home. With their 6 children, they arrived back in their village Garaia in Central Darfur in February 2016, excited at the prospect of rebuilding their futures back at home. But she was not prepared to find that everything had gone... "The past conflict had destroyed all our homes, our wells, hand pumps, clinics, schools... everything I remembered", said Kawther. They were forced to stay with their relatives, as the rainy season had started and their old home no longer existed. Kawther explained, "It was a depressing period- all my hope was gone. We had no privacy and I could feel how much of a burden we were on my relatives, although they never said anything". She had lost motivation and did not know how they would ever recover from this situation. A month later, the INGO Triangle Generation Humanitaire (TGH) approached them, having received her family details from the IOM registration data. "They told us that they received a grant from USAID through the Rapid Response Fund managed by IOM, and they had come to verify my details". She was selected to receive a kit of non-food items, which included sleeping mat, blankets, mosquito net, kitchen set, and other important things. TGH were also building new water systems and latrines through the RRF. "This day changed my perspective. I realized that if there are people who care about us, then we should care about ourselves. I changed my outlook and started a farming activity." Kawther was able to build her own home, and her hope is now for the future of her children. She would like them to have a good education and hope that the schools in Garaia will soon be rebuilt.

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 I/NGOs to reach the most vulnerable families, who may otherwise not receive any assistance.



Home at last

Kawther, 34 years



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