

### Building resilience through Community Savings Associations in Uganda



Photo: DENIVA

In Namabasa, Uganda, the community members identified that recurrent floods are their main priority, regularly causing losses of property, lives and crops. DENIVA, a network of indigenous populations, worked with STEP-UG to undertake the surveys and organised a community feedback session to design a local action plan. The 200+

meeting participants, which included women, children and youth, and persons with disabilities, identified that a lack of local funding was holding back risk reduction actions. Therefore, as a group they decided to form two village savings associations to collect money to be used to prepare for floods in emergencies. Each Saturday when community members deliver their savings of UGX1000 (around US\$0.35), they take the opportunity to chat about issues affecting the community and potential solutions. Through the savings, communities have been able to purchase seeds for storm resistant plants and plant local tree species to act as a barrier to storms.

“We did not know that there are certain things we can do on our own to reduce disaster risks. But with training from STEP-UG and DENIVA we realised that if we planted trees we would reduce the blowing away of our roofs whenever storms come.” Community member

It has further opened the minds of the community in terms of using their own local resources to respond to their day to day threats without necessarily waiting for government or development partners. With a clear plan and drawing on each other’s skills, the community has been able to cause change.