Decentralization—an essential pillar of institutional reform—is of critical importance in developing countries, particularly in regard to democratization, effective development, and good governance. Uganda, since 1986 and the start of decentralization measures under Yoweri Museveni and the National Resistance Movement, has represented one of the most serious commitments in Sub-Saharan Africa. With the benefit of extensive fieldwork, Fumihiko Saito demonstrates how conflict resolution, information dissemination, and encouragement of the many and varied stakeholders to form partnerships are critical to successfully bringing services "closer to the people." Decentralization and Development Partnerships: Lessons from Uganda goes beyond theory to compare academic assumptions to the reality of decentralization implementation in modern Uganda. Although the process is by no means free of difficulties, Saito concludes that a "win–win" outcome is a real possibility.

This book provides the kind of on-the-ground look at the process and results of decentralization that we have been missing in the debates over “decentralization” and in efforts to plan for more effective meeting of people's needs through a process of devolved responsibility and financing, especially in Africa.

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(Contents overleaf)
# Decentralization and Development Partnerships

*Lessons from Uganda*

## Contents

1 **Introduction: Why Decentralization Matters?**
   1 Decentralization in Development Thinking
   2 Framework for the Research
   3 Case Study in Uganda
   4 Research Methodology
   5 Some Clarification of Concepts
   6 Main Arguments and Structure of This Study

2 **Decentralization Debate: Democracy, Development and Collective Action**
   1 Formation of the Modern State and its Spread into Africa
   2 Arguments over Merits and Demerits of Decentralization
   3 Discussion of Decentralization Debate
   4 Summary and Conclusion

3 **Evolution of Decentralization in Uganda: Opportunities, Perceptions and Constraints**
   1 Evolution of Local Government System
   2 Characteristics of Current Local Government System
   3 The Relationship between Leaders and Followers in the LC System
   4 Different Perceptions of Decentralization Processes
   5 Corruption as a Threat to Accountable Institution
   6 Lack of Sufficient Information
   7 Summary and Conclusion

4 **Poverty, Empowerment and the Local Council: Views from the Grassroots**
   1 Assessment of the LC System
   2 Participation in the LC System
   3 Poverty Reduction
   4 Empowerment of the Socially Weak
   5 Process of Local Consultation
   6 Outcomes of Consultations
   7 Responsiveness of the LC System
   8 Concluding Assessment

5 **The Representation of the Disadvantaged: Women, Youth and Ethnic Minorities**
   1 Women and the NRM
   2 The Youth and the LC System
   3 Ethnic Diversity
   4 Summary and Conclusion

6 **Fiscal Decentralization: Re-centralization by Other Means?**
   1 Central Government Transfers to Local Governments
   2 Participatory Budgeting Process
   3 Equity Concerns in Fiscal Decentralization
   4 Local Government Financial Management
   5 Data from Selected Local Governments
   6 Major Issues in Fiscal Decentralization
   7 Summary and Conclusion

7 **Decentralized Primary Education: Potential of Community Contributions**
   1 Background of Education Sector
   2 Major Achievements
   3 Urgent Issues in Primary Education
   4 Major Challenges in Decentralized Primary Education
   5 Conclusion

8 **Decentralization and Health Services: Challenge for Public Confidence**
   1 Background of Health Sector
   2 Limited Local Participation in Health Services
   3 Achievements in Health Services
   4 Unresolved Problems in Health Services
   5 Examination of Essential Issues
   6 Summary of the Health Sector
   7 Conclusion of Service Provisions

9 **Conclusions: The Way Forward**
   1 Strategic Partnership Formations
   2 Factors for Successful Partnerships
   3 Policy Lessons
   4 Concluding Remarks