



A Publication of the Global Campaign on Urban Governance AND

DECENTRALIZATION

IN EAST AND

SOUTHERN A FRICA

Experiences from Uganda, Kenya, Botswana, Tanzania and Ethiopia

# LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND DECENTRALIZATION IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

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#### **FOREWORD**

Decentralization entails a set of policies that encompasses fiscal, political, and administrative changes that can impact virtually all aspects of development. The structure of intergovernmental relations affects everything from the efficiency and equity of service delivery, the social safety net, and poverty alleviation programmes to the development of the financial sector and macroeconomic stability. The division of power and responsibility between levels of government also raises issues of institutional capacity, as well as corruption and governance. Unfortunately, the far-reaching implications of



decentralization are often overlooked, as the literature and specialists tend to focus on specific dimensions. Top policymakers in decentralizing countries are often the only ones who address the full range of issues.

The links between good governance and development are inextricable. Multi-party elections, effective institutions and constitutions that protect human rights and promote the rule of law are all recognized as essential for creating the conditions necessary for growth, justice, investment and peace. What is particularly encouraging about recent developments in Africa is that the pressure for good governance is no longer coming from one side or the other, but from peoples and leaders alike. A spirit of democratic empowerment is challenging all leaders to live up to the ideals of independence and to deliver the freedoms, rights and opportunities that their peoples deserve.

In view of the global trend towards democracy and decentralization, UN-HABITAT has been working on decentralization issues, reviewing current literature, and studying the varied regional and country experience with decentralization. This publication is part of the contribution to our work in this field.

The country papers presented in this volume are designed to highlight the broad range of issues that need to be considered with regard to local democracy and decentralization in East and Southern Africa. They are intended to provide brief overviews of decentralization processes in five selected countries in the East and Southern Africa region and to provide a summary of the many different aspects of decentralization summarizing key issues that need to be considered by practitioners. In this volume, readers are encouraged to consider the cross-cutting nature of decentralization and the importance of a comprehensive approach. A key lesson emerging from these country reports is that the impact of decentralization will depend greatly on the many factors related to design. Simply put, with decentralization, as with many complicated policy issues, the "devil is in the details." The outcomes of effective decentralization will depend on myriad individual political, fiscal, and administrative policies and institutions, as well as their interaction within a given country.

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Dr. Anna K. Tibaijuka Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

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#### **Acronyms**

AACA Addis Ababa City Administration
AARA Addis Ababa Road Authority
AAU Addis Ababa University

AAWSA Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Authority
ADLI Agricultural Development Led Industrialization
ALAT Association of Local Authorities in Tanzania

ALGAK Association of Local Government Authorities in Kenya

CBO Community Based Organization
CBOs Community Based Organizations

CSA Central Statistical Office DC District commissioner

DDC District Development Committees
DDP District Development Project
DWD District Water development

EEPCO Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation

EPRDF Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Democratic Front

ETC Ethiopian Telecommunication Corporation

FAP Financial Assistance Programme

FDRE Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

GCE General certificate of Education
GDP Gross Domestic Product
GER Gross Enrolment Ratio
GoB Government of Botswana
GPT Graduated Personal Tax

HIPC Heavily Indebted Poor Countries IEG Imperial Ethiopian Government

I-PRSP Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper ISS Institute of Social Studies, The Hague

KANU Kenya African National Union

KARENGATA Karen Lang'ata Residents Association
LADP Local Authorities Development Programme

LGFA Local Government Finance Act LGLB Local Government Loans Board

LGSM Local Government Service Management

MEDAC Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operation

MOF Ministry of Finance

MOFED Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

MOLG Ministry of Local Government

MWLE Ministry of Water Lands and Environment

NDP National Development Plan

NICD Not Enrolment Datio

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