

Issues in Social Development
and Local Governance
in Uganda

Edited by
NICHOLAS AWORTWI & AUMA OKWANY

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Printed in The Netherlands.

ISBN 978-90-423-0398-0

Shaker Publishing BV
St. Maartenslaan 26
6221 AX Maastricht
Tel.: 043-3500424
Fax: 043-3255090
[http:// www.shaker.nl](http://www.shaker.nl)



Contents

<i>Contributors</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>Foreword</i>	<i>ix</i>
Introduction: Issues in Social Development and Local Governance <i>NICHOLAS AWORTWI AND AUMA OKWANY</i>	1
1 Bringing Services Closer to the People? Explaining the Proliferation of Local Government Districts in Uganda <i>NICHOLAS AWORTWI, A.H.J (BERT) HELMSING AND EMMANUEL OYUKU-OCEN</i>	17
2 Does Sequence of Decentralisation Matter in the Promotion of Local Self-Governance? A Comparative Study of Decentralisation Trajectories of Ghana and Uganda <i>NICHOLAS AWORTWI</i>	64
3 Manifestation of Corruption-Poverty Nexus: A Study of Kampala City Council <i>LAWRENCE TWEHEYO AND ALFRED TWINAMATSIKO</i>	105
4 Universal Primary Education and Social Exclusion in Kenya and Uganda <i>AUMA OKWANY</i>	131
5 Extending Downwards: Universalising Early Childhood Development in Uganda <i>ARTHUR MUHANGI & AUMA OKWANY</i>	157
6 Rethinking the Role of the State in Health Care Financing: Can Community-Based Health Insurance Show the Way? <i>MUGISHA M. MUTABAZI & FIRMINUS MUGUMYA</i>	178

- 7 Little Voices, Loud Actions: Learning from Experiences of
Children in Confronting Ill-Health in Rural Uganda 212
JAMES WASIKE MANGENI BYANASAYE
- 8 Justice on Trial: Children and the Law in Uganda 231
EDDY J. WALAKIRA
- 9 Gender Dynamics, Conflict and Food Insecurity: Lessons
from Northern and Eastern Uganda 259
ERIC AWICH OCHEN, PAUL BUKULUKI AND FIRMINUS MUGUMYA



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Foreword

This volume is the second edited book that has come out of the project that aims at building up the institutional capacity of Nsamizi Training Institute of Social Development (NTISD). The Institute provides training in social development to enhance socioeconomic wellbeing and contribute to national development in Uganda. The project was funded by the Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education (Nuffic) and executed by the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University in The Hague, the Netherlands. The research component of the project aims at nurturing budding researchers working at, or affiliated with, NTISD to undertake research with the aim of publishing their findings for wider circulation and thus encouraging and sustaining a research culture. NTISD faculty members appreciate the learning process that culminated in this volume. To those whose papers appear in this volume I congratulate you for your efforts.

The current research programme of NTISD tries to address two fundamental issues in higher education in Uganda. First, in many tertiary institutions there is limited emphasis on research as compared with teaching. This is evidenced by the insignificant amount of funding devoted to it. Other factors inhibiting a research culture are the government's mistrust of researchers and lecturers' penchant for short-term consultancy jobs that reflect donor priorities rather than analytical research that concerns local issues. These inadequacies have not only contributed to shortages of policy choices available to the government, but are also leading to further weakening of research institutions in academia. Second, where, through efforts of others, a research programme is initiated and grants awarded, emphasis has been placed on economic policy and political transformation, while social development research has lagged behind. The need to understand social policy in its embedment in

a country's contexts underlies this volume. It attempts to remedy these two fundamental issues by supporting enhancement of the research capacity and culture of an institution of social development studies in Uganda.

The collection of papers in this volume, *Issues in Social Development and Local Governance in Uganda*, examine a wide range of research findings on contemporary topics in social development in Uganda. The studies explore socio-cultural, institutional, human and legal aspects of social development policy and practice and the ramifications thereof in the country.

I would like to express my gratitude to Nuffic for providing the financial support for this project. The difference between NTISD today and what it was at the inception of the project in 2004 is clear testimony of what committed organisations from North and South can do collaboratively.

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