

The Danish Union of Teachers in **Kenya**

Partner in Kenya	The independent teachers' union Kenya National Union of Teachers, KNUT, organises all teachers from pre-school to secondary level. KNUT has more than 200,000 members out of a potential of 260,000.
Development goal	KNUT has already consolidated its position in the Kenyan society and as a trade union it has an extended network of school representatives (shop stewards) all over the country. The current project supports the ongoing process of continuing and maintaining the training of the new school representatives.
Time frame and budget	The Danish Union of Teachers, DLF, began the cooperation with KNUT in 1982 and the current phase of the programme ends in 2011. Approximately half of the project-funding comes from Danida through the LO/FTF Council, which is the Danish trade union council for international development co-operation. The remaining amount is financed by KNUT.
Country facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kenya is situated in East Africa and has a population of 40 million inhabitants. Approximately half of the population live below the poverty line on \$2 per day and unemployment is currently at 40 per cent• Kenya has more than 40 different ethnic groups and most political parties are based on ethnicity• GDP pr. capita is 680\$ (2008)• 85 per cent of the adult population in Kenya can read and write• A presidential election was held in 2007, where members of Parliament were also found. President Mwai Kibaki is in power together with Prime Minister Raila Odinga.• Kenya had a new constitution in August 2010. This constitution abolishes the position of prime minister, which was created in 2008, and prepares the way for establishing a senate, decentralising the power to the local authorities and limiting the president's authority.
School situation	Kenya has eight years of free and compulsory school. After taking exams, the students may continue on to four years of secondary school. After finishing secondary school, students may study for a university degree, which usually takes four years. Kenya has a surplus of fully educated teachers. However the government has put a freeze on employment of new teachers, so the classrooms have often 50 – 100 students and only one teacher.
Background and project development	<p>The cooperation between DLF and KNUT focuses on the development of a school representative system for the Kenyan schools. All 19,000 basic schools have democratically elected school representatives and most of these have completed union training.</p> <p>KNUT's members pay two per cent of their income in member fees, which provides very good chances for the system of school representatives to continue without external financing in the future.</p> <p>KNUT shows solidarity with its sister organisations in the neighbouring East African countries and helps them develop democratic unions.</p>

