

The Danish Union of Teachers in **Nepal**

Partner in Nepal	The Teachers' Union of Nepal (TUN) is a joint organisation for the five teachers' organisations in Nepal. TUN was established in 2004 and the five teachers' organisations have a combined membership of 150,000 from a potential of 200,000 public teachers.
Development goal	The goal of the project is to strengthen TUN democratically as well as on the organisational level, which will enable them to engage in social dialogue as an equal partner with the Ministry of Education and Sports. The project also aims to train the employees at TUN's head office in order to strengthen their administrative capacity.
Time frame and budget	The project began in 2007 and is financed by Danida through the Project Advice and Training Centre, which is a platform for Danish civil society organisations. The second phase began in January 2011 and will end in 2014. The budget is approx. DKK 2.3m (\$421,600).
Country facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nepal has a population of 28m and lies between Tibet and India. The official language is Nepali, and Hindus constitute 86 per cent of the population• The majority of the population is employed in the agricultural sector and almost 40 per cent of the population live below the poverty line on \$2 per day.• The GNP of Nepal is \$340 per capita• More than half of the population over the age of 15 are illiterate• In 2008 the king was dethroned and Nepal was declared a democratic federal republic. Since then Nepal has not had a stable parliamentary Government.
School situation	For many years, Nepal's educational sector has received extensive support from Denmark through the Ministry of Education and Sports in Nepal. This has increased the number of students in the Nepali school system significantly. However, this support has decreased and the quality of education has suffered. More than 50 per cent of the teachers are without a teaching degree and random testing have indicated that only few teachers are able to pass a sixth grade test.
Background and project development	The project's first phase aimed at strengthening the social dialogue between the teachers' unions and the Ministry and to strengthen TUN's communication and information at district level. The current phase will maintain this work and try to make further development at district level, but also enhance to cover 15,000 teacher representatives at local level. TUN will publish a newsletter three times a year and a national conference with members from the Ministry of Education and Sports will be arranged.

