

The Danish Union of Teachers in Zanzibar

Partner in Zanzibar	<p>Zanzibar Teachers' Union, ZATU, organises all teachers from pre-school to university level. ZATU has approx. 5,500 members out of a potential of approx. 12,000 teachers.</p> <p>ZATU was established in 2002 as a politically independent trade union and it is the only professional teachers union in Zanzibar. Before 2002, the government prevented the teachers from forming their own independent union.</p>
Development goal	<p>The goal of the project is to build a democratic and effective trade union that strengthens the members professionally and socially. The project also aims at making ZATU a recognised social partner vis-à-vis the Zanzibar authorities.</p>
Time frame and budget	<p>The project began in 2003 and is in its third phase, which ends in 2011. The project is largely financed by Danida through the LO/FTF Council, which is the Danish trade union council for international development co-operation.</p>
Country facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zanzibar consists of the main islands Unguja and Pemba as well as a few minor islands off the eastern coast of Africa. Zanzibar is a semi-autonomous part of the United Republic of Tanzania since 1964, but with its own Parliament that to a large extent decides on most domestic issues, e.g. the labour market and educational sector.• Zanzibar has 1 million inhabitants and the population density is one of the highest in Africa.• 99 per cent of the population are Muslims.• The majority of the population are employed in the agricultural sector.
School situation	<p>Zanzibar has introduced 10 years of compulsory schooling for all children, starting at age 7. This has led to lack of qualified teachers, and a quarter of the educators at the primary level do not have a recognised teaching degree. Crowded classrooms and lack of teaching materials are also a problem, however, in a lesser degree compared to the rest of the United Republic of Tanzania.</p>
Background and project development	<p>The cooperation between ZATU and DLF aims at capacity building and also at recruiting more teachers to the union. Further to strengthening the school representative system.</p> <p>Parallel to this programme is support to less qualified teachers through a professional training programme. This part is directly financed by DLF Branches.</p> <p>The Tanzania Teachers Union, TTU – the mainland teachers union - has assisted ZATU training its local leaders.</p> <p>This cooperation corresponds with the principle of south-south cooperation where the most developed countries and organisations help and assist the lesser developed ones. ZATU has held a series of conferences with participation from central and local authorities. Pedagogical development, labour market/ public sector legislation and the relationship between teachers and government have been the main issues discussed. The conferences have contributed to the authorities having a better understanding and appreciation of the role of ZATU.</p>

