

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. It currently has more than 240,000 members from 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, first started cooperating with KNUT in 1982 and the current phase of the programme ends in 2010. Approximately half 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.
Facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kenya is located in East Africa and has a population of 35M inhabitants• Kenya has more than 40 different ethnic groups and most political parties are based on ethnicity• Approximately half of the population must survive on less than \$1 per day and unemployment is currently at 40 percent• A presidential election was held in 2007, where members of Parliament were also found. President Kibaki remained in power despite claims of electoral fraud from both national and international observers, and it was widely believed in the general population that the opposing candidate won. Since then, massive disturbances have erupted in Kenya• 85 percent of the adult population in Kenya can read and write
School situation	In Kenya, the eight years of elementary school are free and also compulsory. After taking exams, the students can continue on to four years of secondary school. After finishing secondary school, students may study for a university degree, which usually takes four years.
Background and project development	<p>The cooperation between DLF and KNUT focuses on the development of a system of school representatives for the Kenyan teachers. All 19,000 elementary schools have democratically elected school representatives and most of these have completed union training.</p> <p>KNUT's members pay two percent 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 countries and helps them develop democratic unions. KNUT has offered them access to its training materials for the school representatives and is also currently advising them on the production of teaching manuals.</p>

