

The Danish Union of Teachers in Rwanda

Partner in Rwanda	The teacher union in Rwanda, SNEP, organises teachers from the public primary level. SNEP was established in 1996 and have approximately 8500 members. SENJOUSMEL organises about 3000 teachers from the private sector. It was established in 2001. SYPERWA is the third teacher union in Rwanda with some 2500 members.
Development goal	The goal of the project in Rwanda is to strengthen the organisations' capacity and increase the membership. The project also aims to strengthen the social dialogue. The overall objective is to improve the teachers' conditions of life and the quality of education.
Time frame and budget	DLF began the cooperation with Rwanda's teacher unions in 2009 – funded by the DLF members' fees. A 4-year project from 2011 – 2015 has been approved with a budget of DDK 285,000 (\$55,126) for the first two years. The project is financed by Danida.
Country facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rwanda is located in the Great Lake Region bordering DR Congo, Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda. Rwanda has a population of roughly 10m inhabitants• In 2010 President Paul Kagame was elected for second time. During his presidency, focus on economic growth and the private sector has increased• Collective bargaining is permitted but limited in practice• At least 1/3 of the seats in the parliament must be held by women• Rwanda has decided to change their language from French to English, which is a major challenge for the justice- and educational sector.• The GDP per capita is \$460, and 57 per cent of the population has to survive below the poverty line.• 80 per cent of the population are employed in the agricultural sector.• Rwanda's long-term development goals is to transform into a knowledge-based, service-oriented economy by 2020• In 2009, Rwanda gained the highest improvements on the World Bank's "Doing Business" indicator.
School situation	The six years of elementary school are free and compulsory. The rate of children in school has increased from 50 per cent in 2001 to 100 per cent in 2008. This has enhanced the need for trained teachers in Rwanda and the number of teachers has doubled from 14,000 to 28,000 in the same period. There is also lack of basic supplies in schools.
Background and project development	<p>After the genocide in 1995 the country faced a huge task in consolidating and uniting the people of Rwanda. One of the most important tools is to develop and strengthen the school system. The national change in language from French to English is a huge task, not least for the teachers.</p> <p>The project goal is to strengthen the teacher unions in Rwanda by analysing the organisations' capacities, strengths and weaknesses. The unions' policies and strategies will be developed further and budgets adopted. SNEP constitution will be discussed and strategies to increase the membership will be further developed.</p>

