

The Danish Union of Teachers in Zanzibar

Partner in Zanzibar	<p>The teachers' union Zanzibar Teachers' Union, ZATU, organises all teachers from pre-school to university level. ZATU has approx. 5,000 members from a potential of approx. 12,000 teachers.</p> <p>ZATU was established in 2002 as a politically independent trade union and it is currently 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 seeks to strengthen the members professionally. The project also aims at making ZATU a recognised social partner for the Zanzibar authorities.</p>
Time frame and budget	<p>The project began in 2003 and is currently in its third phase, which ends in 2010. 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>
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 has been part of the United Republic of Tanzania since 1964 but Zanzibar has home rule in some respects.• Zanzibar has a population of 1.2M inhabitants and the population density is one of the highest in Africa.• 99 percent of the population is Muslim.• The majority of the population is employed in the agricultural sector.
School situation	<p>Zanzibar is part of the global "Education for All" programme and has introduced 10 years of compulsory schooling for all children, starting at age 7. This has led to a shortage of qualified teachers, and a quarter of the educators in the elementary school are without 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 within the union and also at attracting more teachers to the union. At the same time, the project seeks to support untrained teachers through professional training. This part of the programme is directly financed by DLF.</p> <p>Step one of the project is training the local leaders in terms of trade union activities. This is done in cooperation with the Tanzanian teachers union, Chama cha Walimu Tanzania. This procedure corresponds with the principle of south-south cooperation where the most developed countries or areas help the lesser developed ones. ZATU has held a series of conferences with participation from central and local authorities. Pedagogical development, labour market legislation and the relationship between workers and employers have been the main points on the agenda. The conferences have contributed to the authorities having a greater appreciation for the role of ZATU. It has also promoted social dialogue, which has been almost non-existent in the centralised country.</p>

