

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. KNUT has approximately 200,000 members out of a potential of 260,000 teachers. |
| 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 restructuring of the finance department at central level and the introduction of ITC in the union. Further it seeks to consolidate the social dialogue – in Kenya as well as in the East African Community, EAC. |
| Time frame and budget | DLF began the bilateral cooperation with KNUT in 1982 and has continued to 2014. The cooperation has now developed into a regional cooperation all the East African teachers unions of FEATU (Federation of East African Teachers Unions). |
| Country facts | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kenya is situated in East Africa and has a population of 43 million inhabitants. Approximately half of the population live below the poverty line of \$2 per day, and the unemployment rate is currently at 40 per cent• Kenya's GNI pr. capita is US\$ 860 (2012)• 85 % of the adult population in Kenya can read and write.• After having adopted a new Constitution in 2010, a presidential election was held in March 2013. Uhuru Kenyatta of the Party of nariawas elected as president. Uhuru Kenyatta got 50.03 per cent of the votes in the first round of the election thereby surpassing the threshold of 50 per cent to be elected president. It is a controversial choice of president given that he is indicted with charges of causing the riots after the election in 2007 at the International Criminal Court.• Kenya got a new constitution in August 2010. The constitution limits the president's power and contains paragraphs on the right to establish unions, the right collective bargaining and strike. |
| School situation | Within the past few years the country has employed an additional 10,000 trained teachers. Together with other trained professions, the teachers form part of Kenya's growing middle class. |
| Background and project development | <p>The cooperation between DLF and KNUT has focused on the development of a school representative system for the Kenyan schools, during the previous phases of the project cooperation. All 19,000 public schools in Kenya have democratically elected school representatives and most of these now have completed union training.</p> <p>KNUT's members pay two per cent of their income in membership fees, which provides very good chances for the system of school representatives to continue without external financing in the future. The system is decentralised, which means that the branches pay for the training.</p> <p>KNUT has reached a point of development that allows them to provide solidarity assistance to the teacher organisations in the neighbouring countries in their struggle for building democratic teachers unions. This is done by giving them access to KNUT's training materials and by offering advice about the production of training manuals.</p> |

