

Danish Union of Teachers in *East Africa*

Partners in East Africa

- KNUT, Kenya, 200,000 members
- TTU, Tanzania, 203,000 members
- ZATU, Zanzibar, 6,500 members
- UNATU Uganda, 80,000 members
- STEB, Burundi, 15,000 members
- SNER and SYNEDUC, Rwanda, 40,000 and 6,000 members, respectively

The East African teacher trade unions have established the Federation of East African Teachers' Unions, **FEATU**, who represents the East African teachers towards the governments' representatives in the East African Community, EAC.

Development goal

The regional project has national as well as regional elements. The national elements are described in the factsheet about the country in question. The regional elements consist in 1-2 regional annual conferences for all the teacher unions dealing with themes such as education policy, strategy development, teachers' working conditions, service to the members, quality in education etc.

Time frame and budget

The current phase started in 2014 and will be concluded in December 2017. The annual budget for the project is 650,000 DKK (87,000 €) and is financed by Danida through the LO-FTF Council

Facts about the region

- East African Community, EAC, is a free trade area covering Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. The next phase of the East African integration is a common currency, followed by a political union.
- EAC was formed in 2000 by the governments of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, and in 2007 Rwanda and Burundi became members as well.
- The EAC countries have a total of 132m inhabitants and cover an area of 1.8m square metres, which is equivalent to half of the area of the USA.

School situation

The school situation is different from one country to another, but there are also many similarities. The class sizes in the urban areas are often 50 – 75 pupils and in some schools that are over 100 pupils in a class. In many schools there are not enough tables or chairs for the pupils. There is lack of teaching materials, pencils and note books and often there are only a few text books, two or three, for a whole class. Special subject rooms are practically non-existent. However it is a big progress that over 90 per cent of all children go to primary school (1st – 7th grade).

Background and project development

The cooperation with KNUT started in 1982, the TTU cooperation in 1995 and the cooperation with ZATU and UNATU started in 2003. The project has been regional since 2008, implying that the teacher unions share knowledge and experiences, and support each other in south-south cooperation. UNATU has chosen only to participate in the regional cooperation.

When Rwanda and Burundi became members of EAC the DLF initiated cooperation (2009) with the teacher unions in both countries, financed by DLF's own membership fees. The aim was to strengthen the unions and to prepare the young and relatively unexperienced teacher unions for being included in the regional project cooperation. Since 2011 the cooperation with the teacher unions of Rwanda and Burundi has been financed by Danida through the LO-FTF Council.

