

# *The Danish Union of Teachers in Burundi*

Partner in Burundi	The teachers' trade union STEB organises teachers and administrative staff in the public primary and secondary school. STEB was established in 1992 and has approximately 15,000 members.
Development goal	The aim of the project is to strengthen the organisation's capacity and increase its membership base. The project's focus is on developing a better social dialogue in order to improve the teachers' working conditions and a higher quality in the education sector.
Time frame and budget	The first phase of the project began in the summer 2009 funded by DLF. From July 2011 the project activities in Burundi have been financed by Danida through the LO-FTF Council. The current project phase runs from 2018 to 2021 and has an annual budget of 16,500 USD (100,000 DKK).
Country facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Burundi is located in Central Africa in the Great Lake Region and has a population of 10 million inhabitants</li><li>• GNI per capita is 770 USD – one of the lowest in the world - and two thirds of the population live below the poverty line</li><li>• In 2005 Burundi had their first election after more than 12 years of conflict between Hutus and Tutsis</li><li>• The latest presidential election was in 2015. Pierre Nkurunziza was reelected for a third period after violent riots in the capital Bujumbura. International observers have reported of extensive irregularities in the elections.</li></ul>
School situation	<p>Burundi has introduced six years of free and compulsory school are for children starting from the age of seven, which has resulted in an increase of class sizes. Schools in urban areas often have 80 to 100 pupils in one class, and the country is in great need for trained teachers.</p> <p>The government of Burundi has established their own “trade unions”, so new teachers and teachers, who are already organised in STEB, have to enter the government's “teacher union”. The new teachers are informed that they can only get a job by joining the government's union, and present teachers have to resign their membership of STEB if they want to keep their jobs.</p>
Background and project development	The cooperation between DLF and STEB aims at strengthening the teachers' union as an organisation to enable STEB to provide service to its members and ensure better pay and working conditions, and at the same time improve the quality in education. This means that STEB will improve their negotiation and information skills, and also, that STEB will build a system of school representatives (shop stewards) to enable them to support the teachers at every school of the country. However, the country's grave situation has resulted in fewer project activities.



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