

# *The Danish Union of Teachers in Rwanda*

Partner in Rwanda	The teachers' union in Rwanda, SNER, organises teachers of the public primary level. SNER was established in 1996 and has approximately 40,000 members. SYNEDUC organises the teachers of the private sector and has existed since 2001. SYNEDUC has approximately 6000 members.
Development goal	The goal of the project is to strengthen the organisations' capacity and to increase the membership. The project also aims at improving the social dialogue. The overall objective is to improve the teachers' living conditions and the quality of education, in general.
Time frame and budget	DLF began cooperation with Rwandan teachers' unions in 2009 using DLF's own resources. The present phase of the project runs from 2014 to 2017 and has an annual budget of approximately 54,000€ (400,000 DKK), financed by Danida through the LO-FTF Council.
Country facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rwanda is located in Central Africa in the Great Lake Region and has a population of 11.5m inhabitants</li><li>• The GNI per capita is 700 USD, and though Rwanda has a significant economic growth, still half of the population live below the poverty line of 2 USD a day</li><li>• 70 per cent of the adult population can read and write</li><li>• Rwanda has decided to change their official language from French to English, which is a major challenge for the justice and educational sectors</li><li>• Since Paul Kagame was elected president in 2003, the country's focus has been on economic growth and developing infrastructure and ICT, as well as the agriculture, and to create incentives for private investment</li></ul>
School situation	<p>Rwanda has introduced 9 years of free and compulsory school. This has resulted in a doubling of the children in the schools, and that the number of pupils in the classrooms has increased considerably – in particular in the urban areas. So the need for teachers has increased and the number of teachers employed has been doubled since 2003.</p> <p>Rwanda has introduced a so-called “One Laptop per Child” programme. This programme demonstrates that the government finds it important that the Rwandan children become familiar with ICT to get a job in a globalised world.</p>
Background and project development	The project cooperation has its main focus on strengthening the Rwandan teachers' organisations by analysing the unions' capacity, and based on that to develop and describe their policies – followed by working out strategies and budgets in order to carry out the organisations' policies. This development work is carried out by holding workshops and courses: First, for the national and local leaders of SNER and SYNEDUC, and currently for the school representatives (shop stewards) from all over the country. On this background, SNER has succeeded in increasing its membership by 10,000 members since 2014.



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