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.

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.

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.

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).

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.