

The Danish Union of Teachers in Tanzania

Partner in Tanzania	The teachers' union Chama cha Walimu Tanzania / Tanzania Teachers' Union, TTU, was formed in 1993 as a politically independent union and it is the only teachers' union in Tanzania. Before 1993, the teachers' union was an integrated part of the Ministry of Education. TTU organises all teachers from pre-school to university level. TTU has approximately 203,000 members out of a potential of 220,000 teachers.
Development goal	The current regional project cooperation supports TTU and the other East African teacher organisations in establishing a social dialogue with the East African Community, EAC. TTU's goal is still to build and consolidate a democratic and efficient trade union that safeguards the working conditions and salary of the teachers at the same time as strengthening the quality of education. TTU has to be an active and strong negotiator and social partner, locally, nationally and internationally.
Time frame and budget	The project cooperation began in 1998. The current project phase is regional and runs from 2014 to 2017. The project cooperation is financed by Danida through the LO-FTF Council.
Country facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The United Republic of Tanzania is located in East Africa and has a population of 48m inhabitants. The country gained independence in 1961 and a democratic multiparty system was introduced in 1995.• 69 per cent of the population over the age of 15 can read and write.• 80 per cent of the population is employed in the agricultural sector, and approximately half of the population live below the poverty line on \$2 per day.• GNI pr. capita is \$930 (2014) and the annual economic growth is approximately 7 per cent. Life expectancy is 61 years.
School situation	Tanzania has introduced seven years of free and compulsory school education for all children from the age of 7. This has resulted in an average of 55 students per teacher, and classrooms that often hold over 100 pupils. There is a significant lack of trained teachers, classrooms and teaching materials.
Background and project development	<p>In 1998, TTU began training its leaders in union work in a series of workshops, in close cooperation with DLF. The development of a manual for trainers and a manual for school representatives (shop stewards), both written in Kiswahili and English, ensures a uniform and professional training of a nationwide network of school representatives. TTU trains 20,000 school representatives every 2 years. TTU believes that gender equity is of great importance and has permanent women representatives at all levels of the organisation. TTU also has a policy that includes handicapped teachers as TTU representatives.</p> <p>TTU has held a series of conferences with participation from the government, religious groups and NGOs. This has made the position and the policies of TTU visible and recognised within the community. In 2006, labour legislation in Tanzania opened up for direct negotiation between TTU and the employers/government in matters of salary and working conditions, but so far this only takes place on an ad hoc basis.</p>

