

# Danish Union of Teachers in *Bolivia*

Partners in Bolivia	DLF cooperates with the two independent national teachers' unions in Bolivia, CONMERB and CTEUB, who represent the teachers in the rural and urban areas respectively. The main reason for this division is that the teacher training for rural and urban teachers are not alike, and the same goes for their pay and working conditions. CONMERB has some 56,000 members, of whom 75% are women and CTEUB has some 80,000 members, of whom 50% are women.
Development goal	The project's short term goal is to strengthen both organisations individually, and to strengthen the cooperation between the two organisations, hoping that the two unions in the long term will merge into one politically strong and financially independent organisations.
Time frame and budget	The project cooperation began in early 2013 and the first phase is expected to be finalized in 2017. The budget is 1m DKK annually (135,000 €), financed by Danida via the LO/FTF Council.
Country facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bolivia is twice the size of France and situated in the middle of South America without any coastlines. Geographically the landscapes vary from alpine highland to lowland rainforest.</li><li>• The country has approximately 10 million inhabitants, of whom 60% are Native Americans, which is the biggest share in all the Latin American countries. 95% of the Bolivians are Catholics.</li><li>• Bolivia is one of the poorest countries of Latin America and about 60% of the population live under the poverty line of 2USD a day.</li><li>• Approximately 18% of the public budget is spent on education in Bolivia – in comparison it is 8.3% in Denmark.</li></ul>
School situation	Bolivia has eight years of compulsory primary school (five years of primary and three years of youth school) and four years of secondary school. 95% of the children start in the school, but 10% drop out already after five years of primary school. A new education act was implemented in 2010 in order to give equal access for all to relevant quality education, and education in the mother tongue for the youngest pupils
Background and project development	<p>The new education act sets the stage for equalizing the curricula at the rural and urban schools as well as the teachers' pay and working conditions. When – and if – this will be implemented, the groundwork for a possible merger has been laid. Until then each organization will be fighting for the privileges of their members: The rural teachers earn 20% more than the urban teachers, who teach 20% less than the rural teachers.</p> <p>The objective of the present project phase is to support CONMERB and CTEUB in disseminating the knowledge of the new legislation among their members as well as to support the organizations in organizing joint social dialogue meetings with the education authorities about the implementation of the new education act.</p> <p>Another focus area is training of the representatives of CONMERB and CTEUB at regional and district levels, to enable them to have better insight in trade union work and provide better service to the members.</p>

