

The Danish Union of Teachers in Ghana

Partner in Ghana	The independent teachers' union Ghana National Association of Teachers, GNAT, was established in 1962 and it is the only teachers' union in Ghana. GNAT organises teachers from pre-school to secondary level and currently has 178,000 members.
Development goal	This project is an alliance project. From Denmark, the Danish Union of Teachers participates along with Ibis and the Ghana Developing Communities Association (Ghana Venskabsgrupperne), and from Africa; GNAT participates along with School for Life if GDCA and Ibis Ghana as well as ISODEC, NNED, BATCO, GES and DA's. The long-term goal is to increase the number of children attending school, increase the number of trained teachers and to gain support to schools in the local communities.
Time frame and budget	The project began in 2007 and the current phase ends in 2010. The budget is approx. DKK 20M (€2,685,000) and is financed by Danida.
Facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ghana is located in West Africa and has a population of 23 million inhabitants. Almost half the population is below the age of 15 and approx. 25 percent of the population over the age of 15 is illiterate• The official language is English, but many only speak one of the local languages. The GDP is \$1500; however, 40 percent of Ghana's adult population has to survive on less than \$2 per day• ILO reports of up to 2.7M child labourers in Ghana and more than half of these children work under dangerous conditions. It is illegal for children under the age of 15 to work• The northern part of Ghana is very poor and sparsely populated compared to southern Ghana. Many places are also without access to electricity and running water
School situation	The government of Ghana plans to introduce free compulsory basic education for all children by 2015 through the "Education for All" programme. At present, basic education is compulsory for all children aged 6-14, but it is not free. The parents pay for teaching materials and school uniforms and some schools also charge additional fees. Basic education is compulsory in Ghana, but only 65 percent of all children attend school – and for girls it is even less than 50 percent.
Background and project development	The project is limited to the northern part of Ghana, which has great difficulties in attracting teachers due to the primitive living conditions. The project aims at building 80 schools based on phonetic mother tongue teaching in the villages. These schools will serve as model schools for the other schools in the area in terms of teaching methods. The teaching in these model schools will use pedagogical methods to consider the needs of the pupils and society. This way, the community will see a clear benefit from sending the children to school instead of letting them work. The project aims to send an additional 4000 pupils to school, especially girls. One of the great challenges for the project is to ensure that the local authorities take over the established schools and ultimately, the financing. The teachers in the new schools have received special training in order to teach these new pupils. It is especially important for the DLF and GNAT that these teachers will reach the same level of education and salary as their colleagues in the public education system, which they will ultimately become a part of.



April 2009