

# *The Danish Union of Teachers in* **Nepal**

Partner in Nepal	The Teachers' Union of Nepal (TUN) is a joint organisation for the five teacher's organisations in Nepal. TUN was established in 2004 and the five teachers' organisations have a combined membership of 150,000 from a potential of 200,000 teachers.
Development goal	The goal of the project is to strengthen TUN democratically as well as on the organisational level, which will enable them to engage in social dialogue as an equal partner with the Ministry of Education and Sports. The project also aims to train the employees at TUN's head office in order to strengthen their administrative capacity.
Time frame and budget	The project began in 2007 and ends in May 2010. The budget is approx. DKK 1M (€134,246) and it is financed by Danida through the Project and Advice Centre, which is the platform for Danish civil society organisations.
Facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nepal has a population of 28M. The official language is Nepali and Hindus constitute 86 percent of the population</li><li>• In 1996 the Maoists declared war on the king and the government, and a civil war lasted until 2006, when a peace agreement was signed. The country has been run by an interim government since April 2007. In 2008 the king was dethroned and Nepal was declared a democratic federal republic. A president and a prime minister were later elected and today the government consists of a six-party coalition with the Maoists as the leading party.</li><li>• More than half the population over the age of 15 is illiterate</li><li>• The majority of the population is employed in the agricultural sector and almost 40 percent of the population lives on less than \$1 per day</li><li>• The GNP of Nepal is \$1100 per capita</li></ul>
School situation	For many years, the educational sector has received extensive support from Denmark through the Ministry of Education and Sports in Nepal. This has increased the number of students in the Nepali school system significantly. However, the quality of education has suffered. More than 50 percent of the teachers are without a teaching degree and random testing have indicated that only few teachers are able to pass a sixth grade test.
Background and project development	<p>Societal disparities based on location and economic class are yet to be eliminated in Nepal and the geographic and social realities contribute to the challenges of educational development in the country.</p> <p>The current project is based on a previous assignment carried out by the Danish Union of Teachers for Danida from 2005-2007, which was aimed at strengthening the social dialogue between the teachers' unions and the Ministry. When working with social dialogue, focus is put on a number of things: Involving school representatives (shop stewards) in the planning and realisation of educational policies by the Ministry, examining the teachers' need for supplementary training, initiation of working groups in specific areas as well as joint management training in negotiation and communication.</p>



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