

PARTNERING TO MAKE BUDGETS WORK FOR THE PEOPLE

International Center for Human Rights Research – Guatemala (Centro Internacional para Investigaciones en Derechos Humanos, or CIIDH)

The International Center for Human Rights Research (CIIDH) in Guatemala was formed in 1993 to support and seek justice for victims of the Guatemalan civil war. CIIDH focused on investigating past human rights abuses and winning reparations for victims, as well as protecting political rights in the postwar era. The Guatemala City-based organization began budget work and policy advocacy in 1997, following negotiation of the Peace Accords. In addition to promoting political reconciliation under the Accords, CIIDH monitored military spending in Guatemala and has since expanded the scope of its work to include research and advocacy on fiscal policy, analysis of social spending, and the promotion of budget transparency and accountability in all of Guatemala.

CIIDH seeks to “contribute to the construction of a democratic, inclusive, just and equitable nation, with respect for human rights” with its Social Observatories (Observatorios), which monitor a wide range of issues in Guatemala and advocate for progressive solutions. Through the Social Expenditure Observatory, CIIDH has helped push for some significant reforms, including the passage of laws to reduce tax evasion and to guarantee access to public information.

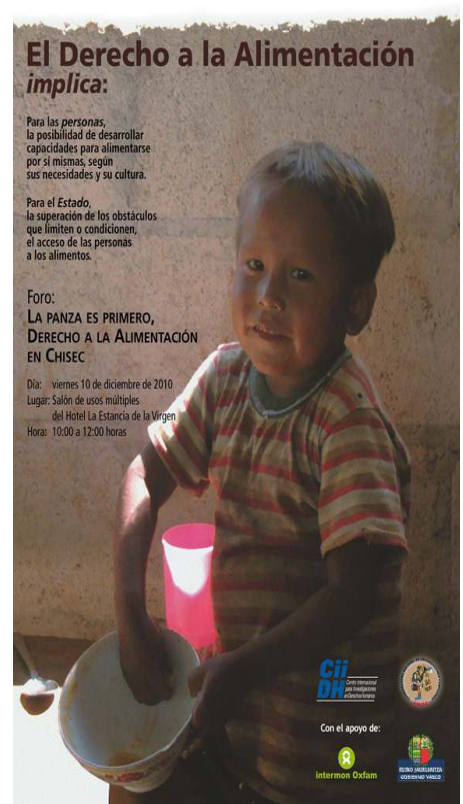
CIIDH Promotes Good Governance Through Observatorios Programs

CIIDH's Social Expenditure Observatory program was created in 2005 and has become an important actor in Guatemala's civil society movement. Through the work of the Observatory, CIIDH seeks to promote a public policy approach based on progressive taxation of private resources and equitable distribution of public ones. To make the more vulnerable sectors of the population a collective priority, CIIDH has campaigned for increased budget allocations, emphasizing support for health, education, and rural development. Advocacy on issues of government spending has made CIIDH a trusted source of objective analysis. The group is a point of reference for the Guatemalan media and receives requests for clarification from authorities in several government ministries.

CIIDH has developed and disseminated various proposals for tax reform, the reduction of special interest privileges, and improvements in tax administration. These initiatives are often highlighted in contributions to the journal Tax Dialogue and are published in CIIDH's own quarterly Social Expenditure Monitoring. The group was also active in strengthening a 2006 anti-tax evasion law. The bill in its original form was drafted by business interests and had no provisions to enforce tax compliance. To address this, CIIDH suggested amendments that led to the creation of an interagency commission to prevent tax evasion. By establishing a framework to crack down on lenient regulations, CIIDH's Social Expenditure Observatory helped the government uphold the rule of law and increase revenue for spending in the social sector.

Guatemala
Open Budget Index 2010
Overall Score: 50
Government provides some information to the public on how it manages public resources.

Availability of budget documents critical for effective public input:	
Pre-Budget Statement	No
Executive's Budget Proposal	Yes
Citizens Budget	No
Enacted Budget	Yes
In-Year Reports	Yes
Mid-Year Review	No
Year-End Report	Yes
Audit Report	Yes
www.openbudgetindex.org	



El Derecho a la Alimentación implica:


Para las personas, la posibilidad de desarrollar capacidades para alimentarse por sí mismas, según sus necesidades y su cultura.

Para el Estado, la superación de los obstáculos que limitan o condicionan, el acceso de las personas a los alimentos.

Foro:
LA PANZA ES PRIMERO, DERECHO A LA ALIMENTACIÓN EN CHISEC

Día: Viernes 10 de diciembre de 2010
Lugar: Salón de usos múltiples del Hotel La Estancia de la Virgen
Hora: 10:00 a 12:00 horas

Con el apoyo de:



CIIDH recently expanded its monitoring programs to include two new initiatives aimed at securing food access and promoting workers' rights. The Monitoring the Right to Food and Nutrition Security (ODSAN) project works to ensure that all Guatemalans have access to safe and affordable food and monitors the implementation of the National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security. During the 2007 budget negotiations, ODSAN successfully pressured the Finance and

Currency Committee, as well as the Minister of Education, to implement a school feeding program, which resulted in 1,500 schools receiving rations of milk powder and additional discretionary funding to support a supplemental nutrition program for poor children.

CIIDH's Labor Rights Observatory seeks to empower workers in their struggle for fair treatment and benefits. This initiative analyzes and monitors wage policies, the

judiciary, disputes and mediation, social security, and the institutions responsible for ensuring compliance with labor laws in Guatemala. The Labor Rights Observatory was recently part of a media campaign that successfully pressured the government into raising the minimum wage. By strengthening the rule of law regarding labor issues, CIIDH has helped promote good governance, as well as just and equitable treatment for workers.

CIIDH's Participation in the Partnership Initiative

The International Center for Human Rights research in Guatemala already has a strong relationship with the International Budget Partnership because of their participation as research partners in the biennial Open Budget Survey. CIIDH's collaboration with the Partnership Initiative focuses on MIFAPRO, or Mi Familia Progresá (My Family Makes Progress). MIFAPRO is a conditional cash transfer program that gives families nearly US\$37 a month in exchange for compliance with pre and postnatal healthcare, immunization, and school attendance requirements. The program began in 2008 and offers the transfer to heads of household with children under the age of 16.

MIFAPRO currently operates in 302 of the 333 municipalities in Guatemala and reaches over 900,000 families directly. The annual budget for the program is around US\$128 million, or just over 2 percent of the national budget. Despite being in high demand, the MIFAPRO program is met with skepticism in some communities. Its relatively large budget is administered through a trust fund (fideicomiso) that is not subject to the same formal accountability mechanisms as other budgeted programs. Access to information in this public-private partnership is severely limited, and its administration is handled through an already overburdened Ministry of Education.

CIIDH views MIFAPRO as an important mechanism for public investment in social policy and would like to ensure that the program is able to continue in a much more stable institutional environment. They hope to learn from other conditional cash transfer programs in Latin America and use this knowledge to develop policy proposals that improve transparency and strengthen MIFAPRO in Guatemala. CIIDH is working toward the consolidation of the program within the Guatemalan Public Administration through a guaranteed on-budget allocation and facilitating more open public debate about the program's future.

CIIDH

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International Budget Partnership

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The IBP's Partnership Initiative is a collaborative effort that seeks to enhance the impact of civil society budget work in selected countries of Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The initiative strives to contribute to the development of sustainable institutions; to increase public access to timely, reliable, and useful information; to enhance the effective participation of civil society in policy and budget processes; and to establish a platform of good practices on which future generations of civil society can build.