



Fighting to reduce inequality

Currently, the minimum wage is 327 US dollars. It is 53 US dollars short of the basic food an average family requires to survive each month. This is not even taking into consideration other needs such as transport, accommodation and clothing. Nearly 94% of rural workers receive less than the minimum wage. Unions have complained that even in the public sector this right is not respected. Employers and conservative parties stand in the way of increasing the minimum wage, claiming that unemployment will rise if workers earn enough to purchase the most basic goods.

Organise, organise, organise

Workers are organising in one of the most important sectors of the economy: bananas. Since 2013, the union of Izabal banana workers (SITRABI) has developed initiatives to increase the scope and impact of collective bargaining by training their members.

In addition to formal workshops, organising activities are in progress in seven plantations with non-unionised workers. The strategy is to consolidate the progress in the East, before embarking on organising workers in the South, where more than 40,000 non-unionised workers await a chance to organise.



Call to action

If you would like more information on how to support Guatemalan workers to raise their standards and stem the tide of violence, please contact the ITUC Human and Trade Union Rights Department:

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