

**Impact story: CONDEG – combatting the forced labour of indigenous peoples in palm oil plantations in Guatemala**

*In memory of Santos Natalio Chic Us*

*Executive Committee member of CONDEG*

*grantee of UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery Fund*

*“The companies took the land of the indigenous farmers, expanded the production of palm oil... they started to hire people via contractors. The worker suffers, he has no protection equipment, like masks or gloves, to work with pesticides and fertilisers...They do not pay the minimum wage or employment benefits. When a worker complains, he is fired unfairly and is not paid compensation. This treatment amounts to exploitation and slavery”. Santos Natalio Chic Us*



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Since 2016, the UN Slavery Fund has provided project funding to CONDEG Consejo Nacional de Desplazados de Guatemala, an organization created in 1989 by indigenous peoples internally displaced by the armed conflict. CONDEG combats the practice of forced labour, a contemporary form of slavery, in palm oil plantations, cares for workers affected by the practice and holds the industry to account.

As a result of its efforts and the submission of a grievance report, in 2019 CONDEG achieved the suspension of palm oil purchases from the large transnational Palm Oil Trader to a national Guatemalan company. For more information: <https://www.carqill.com/page/direct-supplier-grievances>

[Video](#) of Mr Santos Natalio Chic Us during his participation in the 2019 United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights, and meeting with members of the Fund’s Board of Trustees and Secretariat. Credit line: Melanie Nielsen Emonton [www.drumbeatmedia.org](http://www.drumbeatmedia.org)