

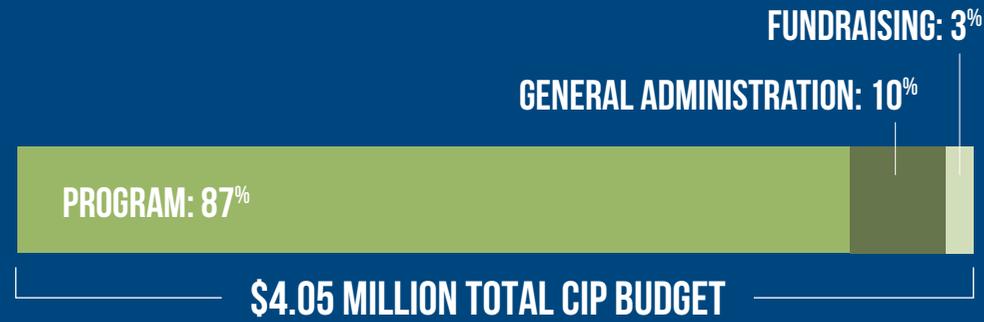
TURNING A CORNER

It is easy to be overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing our world today. Wars in the Middle East, Asia and Africa, climate chaos due to global warming and the widening gap between the super-rich and everyone else engender a sense of hopelessness.

But a closer examination of current trends reveals that we are making progress on all three issues. It is not Pollyannaish to suggest that the last five years have seen more progress in promoting peace, slowing climate change and curbing massive tax avoidance than we have seen in a generation.

CIP is working to build on this progress to make our world more peaceful, sustainable and just.

FISCAL YEAR 2012 EXPENSES



GIVE ONLINE: CIPONLINE.ORG



America's leading charity evaluator has again awarded 4 stars to CIP – the highest possible rating for the efficient use of donated money, sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency.



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Advancing a sustainable, just and peaceful world.



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PROGRESS IN PROMOTING PEACE

“The broad-based citizens’ movement we built in the run-up to the Iraq war remains our best insurance against another disastrous U.S. invasion and occupation.”

Former Congressman Tom Andrews, national director, Win Without War

U.S. combat troops are out of Iraq and we are winding down our involvement in Afghanistan. Once the bulk of foreign combat troops leave Afghanistan in 2014, negotiations promoted by CIP to end Afghanistan’s 35-year civil war are likely to resume in earnest. Americans have learned a costly lesson in Iraq and Afghanistan: don’t invade and occupy nations. At CIP we are doing our best to ensure that these lessons endure.

The decline in military spending is another reason for optimism. The sequester and efforts to reduce the federal budget deficit have prompted a rethinking of our entire military strategy.

In Colombia, CIP has been promoting negotiations to end the insurgency since 1999 when former CIP president Ambassador Robert White took the first congressional delegation ever to meet the FARC insurgents. Finally, late last year the Colombian government and the FARC began meeting in Havana to negotiate an end to the 49-year war.

In Cuba too there is reason for optimism since the Obama administration permitted Cuban-Americans to travel freely and send unlimited sums to their relatives on the island. This change has helped finance thousands of small businesses and fundamentally changed Cuba’s state-controlled economic model.



PROGRESS IN SLOWING CLIMATE CHANGE

There is even progress on the critical issue of climate change. Because burning forests put as much CO₂ into the atmosphere as all the world’s cars, trucks, airplanes, trains and ships, CIP has focused on halting the destruction of tropical forests.

“To reach Americans in their living rooms, we have teamed up with Showtime to produce a dramatic eight-part TV documentary series warning about the dangers of climate change.”

Jeff Horowitz, founder, Avoided Deforestation Partners

Ten years ago, the destruction of the world’s forests seemed out of control. Yet today Brazil’s deforestation, which was responsible for a third of the world’s forest carbon emissions, has been reduced by 70 percent below 2005 levels. That’s two billion tons of carbon emissions that are *not* going into the atmosphere. In May 2013, the Indonesian government extended for another two years a 2011 ban on clearing primary rain forests.

In spite of progress in curbing emissions from deforestation and in raising public awareness, the news that the CO₂ in the atmosphere had reached 400 parts per million, the highest in 5,000 years, underscores the need for urgent action to halt global warming.



Photo credit: Wegelin & Co.

PROGRESS IN CURBING MASSIVE TAX EVASION AND MONEY LAUNDERING

CIP serves as the secretariat for the Financial Transparency Coalition, a global alliance of 150 civil society organizations and 12 governments that have been pressing leaders to crack down on money laundering and tax evasion, which robs governments of trillions in tax

revenues, exacerbates disparities between the rich and the poor, and allows terrorists, drug cartels and criminals to freely move funds beyond the reach of any governments.

Last year, members of the coalition helped pass legislation in Congress requiring U.S. banks and financial institutions to exchange information about income earned on funds held by foreign nationals with their home countries. This spring, ten European nations followed the U.S. lead and adopted automatic tax information exchange policies. This is an enormous step toward ending massive tax avoidance.

Feeling the pressure from the U.S. and Europe, in April British Prime Minister David Cameron called on European leaders to “break through the walls of corporate secrecy” that facilitate tax avoidance, money laundering and corruption. British possessions, especially the Cayman Islands, Bermuda and the British Virgin Islands, are some of the world’s biggest offshore tax havens, so Cameron’s call for a public registry of company ownership is beginning to crack open the secret world of shell companies and hidden offshore money.

“In a world where illicit money moves across continents with the click of a mouse, only a global alliance of activists can hope to stop tax evasion and money laundering.”

Porter McConnell, manager, Financial Transparency Coalition