

# FIAN International ANNUAL REPORT 2016



## Who is FIAN International?

FIAN International was founded in 1986 as the first international human rights organization to advocate for the realization of the right to food and nutrition. Holding a consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, FIAN is active in more than 50 countries, through national sections and seeds groups, which account for 25 of these, as well as individual members and international networks.

With no religious or political affiliation dictating our work, we expose violations of people's right to food and related rights wherever they may occur and stand up against undue and oppressive practices that prevent people from feeding themselves. By holding governments accountable, FIAN strives to secure people's access to and control over natural resources and means of subsistence, crucial to ensure a life of dignity, now and for future generations. Nutrition, as an inherent component of the right to food, and a fundamental act of food sovereignty, remains a core objective in our work.

As the struggle against gender discrimination and other forms of exclusion is an integral part of our mission, we work with and in favor of the most marginalized and affected groups. Our vision is of a world free from hunger, in which every woman, man, boy and girl can fully enjoy their right to food, as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.

FIAN International's Secretariat is based in Heidelberg, Germany, and Geneva, Switzerland.

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## Foreword by the President

Thirty years after the creation of FIAN International and fifty after the adoption of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights, FIAN keeps supporting the struggle for the human right to food and nutrition. And it does it by continuing a genuine process of growth; last year we welcomed three new sections, from the Americas and Asia. After committed human rights activism in their own countries, FIAN Colombia, FIAN Ecuador and FIAN Indonesia stepped into FIAN's family with an upgraded status. FIAN's growth does not stop here: there is a score of seed groups (as the term might suggest, those who are at an early stage of development) in the pipeline all over the world.

But in historical terms, thirty years is "nothing". No matter, how much work we have conducted, FIAN is still young and it will always be. As FIAN's founder Rolf Künneemann has mentioned on several occasions, "FIAN always starts somewhere anew. With every new case; in every new country; with every group coming together; with every new idea that takes roots in this organization. It always is the same story of people rejecting injustice, oppression, brutality and apathy as the end result and start ing to follow their own path: the path of their heart."

The support of civil society, social movements and local communities are forceful resources in our common fight to end hunger, and lie at the core of shaping and strengthening our political standing. Together, as a part of an extensive global network, we have become powerful. We might even argue that we became a threat to those some would refer to as our "enemies" (we do not have enemies, but we certainly fight against perpetrators of social injustice). Contrary to potential first impressions, we do not have "a thing" against the private sector, or more in particular transnational corporations. All societal actors have their own role and the moral and legal obligation to respect people's human rights. And that's precisely the issue: people's human rights must always come first, and we are in times where profit is prioritized over rights. By the same token, policymaking is the

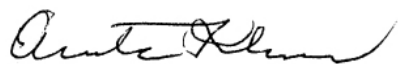
*business* of the State and the people who are directly affected by it. Policies need to meet the needs of the peoples, but we are observing more and more how these are being replaced by the interests of the private sector.

Despite growing support, facing our opponents is becoming more challenging. In a move to pursue their interests, they instrumentalize human rights language in order to confuse the masses. Their strategies are constantly changing and we need to move faster. We have to mobilize our forces and fine tune our moves as if this was about an international chess game.

Big words and ambitions, considering they are playing in another league when it comes to economic resources. And that's the crux of the issue: to consolidate our plans, we need more funding.

We have followed with deep concern the political and recently-overcome financial crises of the Inter-American Commission and Inter-American Court of Human Rights. As we underlined, the situation could risk the only existing binding human rights mechanisms in the region. The reality is, there is less financial support (willingly) available from traditional sources to back human rights work.

This gives us a warning signal and demands us to be innovative in seeking support for those who need it most. We have to widen our horizons, be creative and keep our goals as our guiding star. That's certainly not easy, but nor is it impossible.



Anita Klum



## Message from the Secretary General

2016 is perhaps the best example I can find to illustrate the times of change we live in. At its broadest scope, last year was about awakening, transformation and revolution. For some, 2016 meant a rude awakening from the dream of democracy and social solidarity, as they further realized that not only is the ongoing political crisis not new as they thought, but that its impacts have been manifesting for generations in different parts of the world. From far-reaching policymaking to minor political moves, the truth is that the system has tended to prioritize profit over peoples' rights.

It was a year of transformation, as alternative ways of thinking, for better or worse, emerged stronger than ever, shaking the foundations of what some considered stable systems. Unfortunately, in some countries, the loudest voices have often triggered *revertism* and the weakening of human rights. With the coup in Brazil, the "new" administration has already cut social programs, and the criminalization of social movements has worsened unimaginably. And all that happened despite the former government making historic advances on social inclusion, the fight against poverty as well as on food and nutrition security. As things stand now, not only does advancing human rights seem challenging, but the progress made is on the line. And this is precisely why we need to take action.

With greater motivation, we have strengthened our work with and for more effective human rights system. Brazil is indeed a meaningful example, as the government is hindering the access to the ancestral lands by the Guarani and Kaiowá indigenous peoples even more than before. Together with the Guarani and Kaiowá, as well as local partners, we have stepped into the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights submitting a petition which, I am confident, will be crucial to reinforce the struggle of the Guarani and Kaiowá to maintain control of their lands.

With the same conviction, a memorandum of understanding with the African Commission on Human and People's Rights is in the works. Especially in turbulent times, we need to boost convergence and establish common lines of action. And of course, we will continue to move towards

more human rights-based national frameworks, as we are currently doing in Nepal for a Right to Food Bill.

In addition, we increased our involvement towards a UN Treaty on transnational corporations and human rights by joining the 'Dismantle Corporate Power' global campaign, which also takes part in the far-reaching Treaty Alliance. The global campaign is a great opportunity to nurture mobilization and ensure that States participate in the negotiations within the UN Working Group in good-faith. It also follows our objective to build alliances that confront a systemic crisis by presenting alternatives that tackle extreme inequality and address a development model that destroys the sustenance of life and the basis of coexistence.

And on that note, 2016 saw some first steps towards revolution. People increasingly mobilized, raised their voices before their governments and called for real solutions. The Global Convergence of Land and Water Struggles is one of those emerging movements that is truly stimulating. Coinciding with the 30th anniversary of FIAN International, it was symbolic to join the emblematic Convergence caravan across West Africa to mobilize, engage and advocate for the realization of the right to food and all related rights. Their drive and experience are certainly inspiring our moves in building up our work in other African countries like Togo and Benin.

So to capture the message in a few words, despite current global turmoil there are glimmers of hope and potential for "good" and "real" change. It is our responsibility to support all inspiring movements and struggles towards a world where the rights of the people are, once and for all, put first.



Sofia Monsalve



# Areas of Action



Farmer in Kakardari —Uttar Pradesh, India Photo: Marit Erdal / FIAN Norway

## Fighting Violations of the Right to Food

Among a long list of interventions, the organization increased its efforts to support the Guarani and Kaiowa (GK) indigenous peoples in Brazil and the neglected Camotán communities (Guatemala) suffering from undernourishment. FIAN International also maintained its intensive support for the thousands of evictees in Mubende (Uganda) and those affected by the human-made constructions at the Indo-Nepal border.

Although a number of achievements were met in 2016, the access to the ancestral lands for the GK in Mato Grosso do Sul is still challenging. Throughout the year, FIAN International supported the indigenous communities, together with FIAN Brazil and the Conselho Indigenista Missionário (CIMI), by monitoring national parliamentary commissions of inquiry which intended to criminalize the struggle. Thanks to significant advocacy work, the case counted on the backing of EU representatives: in November, the EU Parliament approved a [resolution on the GK](#). This breakthrough was preceded by a 2-week European tour of GK leaders to raise awareness of their struggle, which included their participation in the session of the Human Rights Council (HRC). On that occasion, the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Rights presented the report on her last visit to Brazil, which stressed “[disturbing absence of progress](#)” as well as the “escalation of violence against the GK”. As the year drew to a close, a petition drafted by FIAN International and its Brazilian section, as well as the GK leaders Aty Guasu, CIMI and Justiça Global, was [handed over to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights \(IACHR\) during its 159th session in Panama City](#).

In Africa, FIAN continued to support the forcibly-evicted communities of Mubende, whose traditional lands were leased to the Kaweri Coffee Plantation Ltd., a 100% subsidiary of the German Neumann Kaffee Gruppe (NKG), based in Hamburg. [Despite 15 years of mobilization and legal struggle](#), the evictees have not yet seen justice and still suffer the collateral consequences of the violent eviction. Their situation, worsening in all areas of life including health, housing and education, as well as their ability to feed themselves, has been reflected in a [documentary by Deutsche Welle](#), facilitated by FIAN International and FIAN Germany. The case was also brought to the attention of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), thereby giving greater visibility to the 4000 affected people who have seen no remedy after more than a decade. Furthermore, in a parallel report to the Committee, FIAN International highlighted the role of Germany in failing to comply with its extraterritorial obligations, as it failed to regulate the activities of Neumann Kaffee Gruppe through its subsidiary company.

Moving to the Asian Indo-Nepal border region, FIAN International has been monitoring the situation of the thousands of families affected by the human-made con-

structions of Laxmanpur dam, Kalkalwa Afflux and a border security road. A documentary on the case produced by FIAN Nepal, highlights the calamitous situation of people, whose houses, lands and lives are drowned in recurring floods. As a result they are abandoned and left to their fate without housing, sustainable income possibilities and access to sufficient food and other basic rights. The persistent advocacy by the affected communities and FIAN International and its section in Nepal, led to the conduction of a survey on the loss of crops and other properties by responsible Nepalese authorities as well as the Nepal-India Joint Commission. An early warning system was established and is now running effectively. The issue has also been brought to the attention of the Prime Minister of Nepal on the occasion of his visit to India in 2016. As a follow up, [FIAN International headed a research mission](#), with the support of delegates from Nepal, India, Norway and Germany which entailed visits to affected areas in both India and Nepal. The mission included a series of meetings with high-level responsible authorities in both countries and led to significant commitments to address the demands of the affected communities.

Back in Latin America, FIAN International has been involved in the case of Camotán, Guatemala. Guatemala has the highest levels of children undernutrition in the region, with rural and indigenous communities being most affected due to historic marginalization and discrimination. In 2011, four women from the municipality of Camotán, located in the Dry Corridor in Eastern Guatemala, sued the State of Guatemala for the violation of the right to food and nutrition of five of their children (three girls and two boys) who were affected by undernutrition. In 2013, the [responsible departmental court declared that the State had indeed violated this fundamental human right and other economic, social and cultural rights \(ESCR\)](#), and dictated comprehensive measures to fully reconstitute the five children’s rights. Even though some national institutions challenged the departmental court’s sentences, the Guatemalan Constitutional Court reaffirmed them in 2015 and 2016, giving them an even higher legal status under domestic jurisprudence. In coordination and cooperation with national and local partners working closely with the families, Campaña Guatemala Sin Hambre and Asociación Nuevo Día, FIAN International has supported the case through specific monitoring, advisory and advocacy actions. In March 2016, on International Women’s Day, the [role of women and their rights was presented](#) by a Guatemalan partner at an event organized by FIAN International and other organizations in Geneva. Furthermore, a monitoring visit was carried out in Guatemala in November to assess the implementation of the judicial sentences, which had been deficient over the years. A report will be launched in 2017 with the goal of giving visibility to the case and holding the State accountable for the realization of its human rights obligations.

## Access to and Control over Natural Resources

FIAN International supported the far-reaching West African Caravan for Land, Water and Peasant Seeds, organized by the Global Convergence of Land and Water Struggles in the region. The caravan travelled from Burkina Faso to Senegal, through Mali, **mobilizing thousands of people across West Africa in March 2016**. The organization was deeply involved in the preparations, from the sponsoring of a workshop on the rights of peasants in Bamako, Mali, to supporting the elaboration of the 'Convergence Green Book'. The Green Book was the main advocacy tool used during the caravan, which called on West African governments to protect natural resources from the exploitation of transnational corporations and other actors. In this regard, mobilization did not stop with the end of the Caravan but continues on the basis of a work plan that the West African platform of the Global Convergence developed during and after the Caravan, and which FIAN International fully supports.

Still in Africa, FIAN has been strongly involved in a research project about bottom-up accountability strategies against land grabbing in Uganda, Mali, South Africa and Nigeria. Through this project, it supports CSOs in the four countries in applying the Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (commonly known as *Tenure Guidelines*) in both research and advocacy strategies.

2016 saw the **publication of the People's Manual on the Tenure Guidelines**. FIAN International facilitated the collective effort of organizations representing different constituencies (including peasants, indigenous peoples, fishers and pastoralists) from around the world to develop this capacity development tool, as part of its facilitating role in the working group on land and territory of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC). Based on the popular education methodology of the People's Manual, FIAN developed a learning curriculum and a set of materials to undertake training on the Tenure Guidelines. The modules contained in this Learning Guide, which will be published together with FAO, allow communities, individuals and grassroots organizations to develop frameworks and interventions based on their own distinct values and customary practices, as well as their conceptions of social justice. Both the People's Manual and the Learning Guide have been used for capacity development workshops in Nepal, Guatemala and Colombia. On this note, FIAN International has also supported fishers' movements on how to use the Tenure Guidelines together with the FAO Guidelines to Secure Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries.

FIAN has also continued to use the Tenure Guidelines as a key reference for analysis and interventions in the context of natural resources-related conflicts. Indeed, land and natural resources are at the heart of the large majority of cases that FIAN gets involved with.

Among others, the organization supported and participated in a strategy meeting in Mozambique on the ProSavana project, in support of an alliance of Mozambican organizations struggling against this mega land grabbing project in the North of Mozambique, which involves the governments of Japan and Brazil.

Four years after the approval of the Tenure Guidelines, the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) held a Global Thematic Event (October 2016) to monitor the implementation of this international standard. FIAN coordinated the elaboration of a Civil Society Monitoring Report on the Tenure Guidelines, which is based on the inputs from social movements and CSOs. The report gives visibility to how social movements are using the Guidelines as a tool for their struggles, while also identifying major challenges in order to ensure that States implement the Guidelines in line with their human rights obligations. A major issue which was formally recognized by the CFS is the increasing violence against human rights defenders working on tenure-related issues. On this issue, FIAN has been intervening in cases of harassment, disappearances and killings in Nigeria, Honduras and Pakistan.

The process towards a UN Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people living in rural areas at the Human Rights Council entered a new stage: the third session of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group (OEIWG) opened up the actual negotiation of the text of the Declaration, based on an advanced draft. FIAN International **kept up its support for this process with conceptual and advocacy work** before, during and after the session. This included the continuation of a series of briefings on key articles of the declaration, intended to provide solid arguments as a subsidiary input for the advocacy work. In order to strengthen awareness-raising and advocacy work on the matter, the organization also contributed to capacity building and expert seminars about difficult aspects of the draft Declaration, some of which were specifically addressed to staff of missions in Geneva and government officials.





People from across West Africa demonstrate in support of the Caravan—Kaolack, Senegal Photo: Agence MediaPro



FIAN International's Secretary General speaking on the use of the Tenure Guidelines at CFS 43 side event —Rome, Italy Photo:FAO/Giuseppe Carotenuto

## Income, Nutrition and Related Policies

FIAN continued to play an important role in facilitating civil society and social movement engagement in global nutrition policy processes, as well as in building bridges between different groups and policy spaces, particularly those related to health and food.

One important aspect of this work is the joint coordination of the broad civil society platform that formed around the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). Civil society continues to engage with the World Health Organization (WHO) and Food and Agriculture Organization of (FAO), as well as other UN bodies, in the follow-up to ICN2 and the recently proclaimed 'Decade of Action on Nutrition'. The group held several meetings throughout the year to share information, reorganize around a common vision, and respond to policy developments.

Central emphasis has been placed on advocacy of key principles such as that of nutrition policy and programmes must be grounded in human rights and address the structural causes of malnutrition through a holistic and horizontal approach. Nutrition governance, moreover, must be firmly in the hands of governments who, while allowing meaningful spaces for participation of civil society and particularly groups most affected by hunger and malnutrition, must protect public policy spaces against **undue corporate influence and conflicts of interest**. The group is currently working on a joint manifesto and intends to hold a broader civil society forum early 2017 to strategize on action around the Decade and further strengthen collaboration and synergies across policy spaces and networks, and between the international and national level.

FIAN continued to co-facilitate the Nutrition Working Group of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). Throughout the year, the Group has extensively contributed to an Open-Ended Working Group process to develop a proposal for the CFS engagement in nutrition. The involvement of the CSM has been crucial in pushing for a strong role of the CFS in nutrition governance. It has made use of its coordination function and mandate to promote policy convergence and coherence vis-a-vis the right to food.

The advocacy work has born fruit and the proposal adopted by member States during CFS 43, recognized that malnutrition must be addressed in all its forms through a holistic and cross-sectoral approach that takes into account its complex and multi-dimensional causes.

The nutrition working group has also played an important role in initiating a debate around conflicts of interest within the CFS, and organized a side event on the issue during the plenary session which caught substantial attention among CFS participants.

In parallel to the CFS nutrition work stream, FIAN International also become **actively engaged with WHO processes**. Currently, the organization is starting to play an important role in bridging the food and health policy spaces. It was influ-

ential in founding the **Geneva Global Health Hub (G2H2)**, which was created to facilitate and catalyse civil society advocacy processes towards the WHO Executive Board and the World Health Assembly, and strengthen the work around corporate accountability.

FIAN continued its advocacy on workers' rights to food and nutrition. In March 2016, the preliminary findings of a fact finding mission that was carried out under the umbrella of the Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition (GNRtFN) and visited tea plantations in Assam and West Bengal were presented in a side event of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The **mission report** was launched, together with the International Union of Food Workers (IUF), on International Workers' Day, May 1. The findings were also brought to the attention of the respective Special Rapporteurs devoted to the right to food, violence against women, and housing. Given the grave situation of plantation workers, particularly women workers, the organization ensures further dissemination through several international events. These included a workshop on indigenous peoples RtFN during the World Public Health and Nutrition Association (WPHNA) global congress in Cape Town; the Policies against Hunger Conference and its civil society pre-conference in Berlin; and the annual plenary session of the CFS in Rome.

The work of the organization was also devoted to reporting the violations of the right to food and nutrition of children and women, as these groups are often most affected by inefficient policies and lack of policy implementation. On this note, FIAN International presented a written report on the occasion of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) review of Burkina Faso. Based on FIAN's case documentation in Essakane, the report highlighted violations of women's and children's right to food and nutrition in the context of displacement. The organization also contributed to a Day of General Discussion of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) with an input on children's right to food and nutrition, drawing on case examples from India, Burkina Faso and Guatemala.



Female tea plucker—West Bengal, India Photo: Kai Horstmann



Affected communities by mining activities —Essakane, Burkina Faso Photo: Claudia Berker



Internationally renowned judges hearing witnesses and experts on Monsanto's activities—The Hague, Netherlands Photo: Monsanto Tribunal



Second session of the UN Working Group towards the Binding Treaty—Geneva, Switzerland Photo: Alex del Rey/FIAN International

## Stepping up Accountability

While the current political and economic system is leading to hunger and malnutrition across rural and urban areas, forced migrations arising out of the grabbing of natural resources and climate change are increasing. We observe how the ruling food system is dictated by transnational corporations (TNCs) which as they are weakly regulated, impose harming consumption patterns.

Intensive advocacy for the implementation of the right to food and nutrition, holistically speaking at both national and international levels, is therefore a must, particularly at times of growing criminalization of human rights defenders.

Within this context, FIAN International supported its Honduran section and a large coalition of national NGOs to report to the [Committee of Economic Social and Cultural Rights \(CESCR\) on land grabbing, as well as on the criminalization of land and environmental rights defenders in the country](#). This joint work led to key recommendations in favor of the Bajo Aguan communities and human rights defenders. Similarly, [FIAN's ESCR report on Burkina Faso](#), which focused on the impact of extractive industries in the Essakane and Kounkoufouanu prompted significant recommendations. As [malnutrition continues to be a major issue in Bangladesh](#), particularly for women and girls, FIAN International reported on the issue to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The parallel reports on the Philippines presented to CESCR and CEDAW drew attention to the devastating consequences land grabbing poses to indigenous peoples. As the reports underlined, these communities face numerous hurdles to access and control the lands where former generations grew up and flourished. The right of indigenous peoples to feed themselves cannot be fulfilled under any circumstance unless the access to and control over their ancestral territory is ensured and an appropriate environment guaranteed

Monitoring activities in Geneva have gone hand in hand with the intensive work at the Committee on Food Security, which included the active participation in the monitoring, land and nutrition working groups of the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM). Furthermore FIAN began a new initiative, entitled "Peoples Monitoring for the Right to Food and Nutrition", which seeks to generate support materials, information and analysis that assists organizations and social movements to compile national level accountability processes and reports. The main aim of this initiative is to produce an alternative narrative to the quantitative and results-based monitoring currently pushed with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Furthermore, this process, done in consultation with members of the [Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition \(GNRtFN\)](#), and other social movements and support organizations, seeks to link understanding of monitoring efforts across Geneva and Rome, and to better understand how to

best leverage the energy and resources that will be placed in national SDG reviews.

The criminalization of right to food and land defenders was underlining any advocacy endeavor. This included reports to the UN treaty bodies, letters to pertinent national authorities as well as the European Parliament and the Special Procedures of the UN, together with oral interventions at UN sessions. We were involved in cases of human rights defenders in Brazil, Spain, South Africa, Pakistan, Honduras, the Philippines, Colombia, to mention just a few.

Emphasizing that social accountability mechanisms can be helpful to denounce violations when the existing legal system is incomplete, FIAN participated in the Peoples' Assembly and Monsanto Tribunal to draw attention to States obligations where Monsanto carries out activities. With an underlining reference to the right to food and nutrition as recognized by international human rights law, FIAN outlined the territorial and extraterritorial human rights obligations that States must comply with, when it comes to protecting against harm by companies.

Increasing advocacy efforts on the matter were reflected in [FIAN's parallel report on Sweden to the CESCR](#). The report addressed the extraterritorial obligations (ETOs) of the country vis-à-vis the investments of pension funds affecting the peasants. The issue of ETOs was also presented in the General Day of Debate of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and discussed in a meeting with state missions in Geneva. With the work conducted under the umbrella of the ETO Consortium, FIAN International's work on ETOs is increasingly reflected in the discussions at the Human Rights Council.

Supporting the process towards a Treaty on Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises with Regard to Human Rights, [FIAN was deeply involved in all activities of the Treaty Alliance](#). As a member of this global civil society alliance jointly advocating for an international treaty that effectively addresses corporate human rights abuses, the organization contributed to the discussions during the inter-governmental debate, supported the advocacy work of a number of grassroots movements and facilitated the visit of those affected by business operations to Geneva.

The GNRtFN met in Dakar in the context of the West African convergence for land, water, and seeds. The collaborative discussions enabled the national, regional and international strategizing on key issues for RtFN and provided key [concrete grounding to the discussion of the Network](#). Support for the regional work has been integrated into the its work plan.



Supporting the struggle for the right to food and nutrition for 30 years—Ghana Photo: Sebastian Rötters



International event of the Right to Food and Nutrition Watch at UN FAO Headquarters—Rome, Italy Photo: FAO/Riccardo De Luca

## Awareness-raising and Campaigns

On the occasion of its 30th anniversary, and 50 years after the adoption of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, FIAN International launched 'The Struggle for the Right to Food and Nutrition' series, which looks into global right to food today. The series, composed of 12 issues released monthly, reviews the current policy and political trends of a challenging world, where the realization of the right to food must be interdependent with the fulfillment of all rights: from the access of indigenous communities to ancestral lands, to the freedom of sexual identity and orientation. The series illustrates an all-encompassing approach where the fulfillment of all rights is crucial to guaranteeing quality, culturally acceptable and quantity nutritious food for all.

For the ninth consecutive year, FIAN International coordinated the production and launch of the Right to Food and Nutrition Watch, an annual publication that gives visibility to peoples' struggles and monitors key policy processes. Entitled 'Keeping Seeds in Peoples' Hands', the 2016 publication exposed how business seeks to privatize, monopolize and control seeds by patenting and commodifying them at the expense of peoples' human rights and the maintenance of biodiversity. The Watch, which is a result of a collaborative effort by 24 civil society organizations and social movements around the world, is considered one of the most prominent monitoring tools on the right to adequate food in its most comprehensive conceptualization.

Its key findings, which pointed to an accelerated destruction of agricultural biodiversity and the appropriation of nature by industrial agriculture and corporations, were widely disseminated through the online campaign #RtFNWatch as well as through coordinated national, regional and international events across the world. A total of 7,800 copies in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese, as well as highlight articles in Arabic, were strategically distributed to academia and policymakers and communities most affected by human rights violations in nearly 70 countries. The release of the Watch was moreover timed to coincide with the launch of the brand-new website of the Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition (GNRtFN), as the publication is considered the most prominent monitoring tool of the network. Amid recent EU trade deals and controversial giant mergers of seed industry that risk taking away the power and autonomy of the people, regional and international media featured some key findings of the publication.

Held in UN FAO, the international launch gathered around 150 participants from across the policymaking and civil society spectrums ahead of the 43rd session of the Committee on World Food Security, thereby preparing the ground for discussion. More targeted advocacy efforts followed at the European Parliament with a discussion on the growing privatization of seeds and current EU legislation.

Intensive campaigning work was conducted around the second session of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group (OEIGWG) on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Respect to Human Rights, held in Geneva in October 2016.

As a member of the Treaty Alliance and Dismantle Corporate Campaign, FIAN International actively participated in media actions throughout of the year under the headings of #StopCorporateAbuse and #BindingTreaty, with the latter becoming a social media trend in Europe.

In its capacity as member of the Treaty Alliance, FIAN ensured that adequate coverage was achieved by supporting the organization of a press conference and reporting all developments live through social media platforms as well as by feeding and compiling key content on Storify, which illustrated the massive response and teamwork of civil society.

Due to the increasing criminalization of human rights defenders, and particularly those defending access to and control over natural resources as well as the environment, FIAN International stepped up its national and international campaigning efforts. Activities centered around reinforcing global calls to end impunity of perpetrators of human rights violations, strengthening protection of defenders and ensuring the appropriate functioning of the judicial system. Emblematic cases FIAN International took a stand against included the murder of Berta Caceres, the imprisonment and release of six land rights activists of the Malen region, in Sierra Leona, as well as the arrest of Mr. Saeed Baloch, Secretary General of the Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum (PFF).

# Supporting the Struggle Worldwide



Woman from a community affected by business operations—Sierra Leone Photo: FIAN Austria



## Africa

In Burkina Faso, the FIAN section pursued its work on Essakane where, as mining activities have been expanding, communities have been displaced and resettled in other areas negatively impacting their access to food and realization of human rights. Support was also provided to the community of Kounkoufouanou, which was forcibly cleared out by the Burkinabé state. As the community lives almost solely off agriculture, without their lands, their right to food and related rights are far from being satisfied. The situation of these communities was singled out in a parallel report on the occasion of the 58th session of the Committee on Economic and Cultural Rights (CESCR). As a result, the Committee has voiced concerns and **urged the country to guarantee all violated rights**.

All this work was conducted in parallel to **supporting the grassroots-led West African Caravan**, which mobilized across several countries in the region for two weeks. Organized by the Global Convergence of Struggles for Land, Water and Seeds, the Caravan reached out to thousands of people through advocacy events and international media coverage.

In Sierra Leone, the Belgian section continued to provide support on the Malen case. An investment project by the Socfin Agricultural Company Ltd., a subsidiary of the Belgo-Luxembourg group Socfin, operates large-scale industrial palm oil plantations in Malen Chiefdom, Pujehun District in Sierra Leone that has deprived local dwellers from their access to farmland and related natural resources. The case has been marked by the **criminalization of community leaders and land rights activists**.

FIAN Belgium conducted a research visit, together with the Sierra Leonean NGO Green Scenery, which accompanies the affected communities (who are organized within the Malen Land Owners and Users Association – MALOA). However, they were impeded from accessing the communities and the project area under the guise of security concerns, in addition to being defamed by the local press. After the mission, FIAN Belgium together with the members of the Global Convergence, other international social movements and civil society organizations working on food sovereignty and related rights, as well as on the protection of human rights defenders, **sent two letters to the President of Sierra Leone calling upon the State to realize the human rights of the affected communities**. In parallel, FIAN Belgium pursued advocacy work with the Belgian government, recalling the extraterritorial human rights obligations of the State of Belgium.

Also in Sierra Leone, FIAN Austria facilitated a media visit to document the case Makeni, in cooperation with the Sierra Leone Network for the Right to Food (SiLNoRF) and Transnational Institute (TNI). The focus was to explore the real impact of business operations on local communities, who were uninformed and not consulted about

any decisions by the company. At the same time, FIAN Austria liaised with the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) regarding their involvement.

Throughout 2016, FIAN's work in Uganda was devoted to a study on the right to food situation for fishing communities in Uganda. The study is designed to review the legal and policy framework regulation on fisheries, as well as the enforcement mechanisms, particularly for small-scale fishing communities. This empirical work uses the experiences of sampled members of fishing communities at selected landing sites in Wakiso and Mukono districts, to document the extent to which the fishing laws and policies and their implementation is affecting the livelihoods of these communities.

## Asia

FIAN International kept growing in Asia by **establishing a long-awaited section in Indonesia**. Its work kicked off with the organization of the workshop entitled "Opportunities and Challenges on the Realization of the Right to Food in Indonesia". Greatly attended, the objective of the workshop was to strengthen the conceptual understanding of State representatives and CSOs on the right to food and jointly discuss the current political and economic climate in the country. FIAN Indonesia also participated in an exchange workshop organised by World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) and took part in a visit to the **Jakarta Bay Reclamation Project**. Furthermore, the Indonesian section is currently engaged in finalizing a study on the legal framework of the right to food and nutrition in Indonesia. This study aims to scrutinize the extent to which legal resources in the country can facilitate CSOs to advocate and lobby for this fundamental human right and to monitor its implementation by the State.

Throughout 2016, FIAN Nepal engaged in 23 cases where communities were affected by violations of the human right to adequate food. The organization conducted five workshops on the Tenure Guidelines to guide the country towards a good governance of tenure that benefits all people, and particularly those most marginalized. FIAN Nepal continued its involvement with the Right to Food Bill, whose preliminary draft has been published by Nepal Law Commission. Another key development was the Final Verdict of the Supreme Court of Nepal: in 2014, FIAN Nepal jointly with JuRI Nepal had filed a writ petition (PIL) demanding the state to be responsible for the livelihoods and social security of those most in need. A year and a half later, in June 2016, the Supreme Court of Nepal had made its final hearing and **issued a mandamus according to the demands of petitioners**.

In Sri Lanka a workshop on the right to adequate food was organized with the Movement for Land and Agricultural Reform (MONLAR) to discuss on issues related to the right to food and share experiences from Sri Lanka, Nepal and beyond. This capacity-building work was combined with advocacy efforts towards the inclusion of economic, social and cultural rights in to the constitution of Sri Lanka as well the engagement of Civil society in UN reporting mechanisms.

In India, FIAN chapters in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh continued to promote the right to food through their case work. Highlights of 2016 included the issuance of land titles to 82 indigenous families of the Araku Valley in Andhra Pradesh as well as the provision of regular water supply and installation of water pipes in the so-called unauthorized colony of Sanjay, in Delhi. In addition, FIAN India's work led to the receipt of food rations and rural employment guarantee cards by 62 families engaged in sand mining and the provision of diversified and healthy diet food items to children at the

"courtyard centre" (Anganwadi) in Jalalpur, Uttar Pradesh. In Maharashtra and Telangana, FIAN chapters conducted an action research on farmers' suicides in their respective states, while in Odisha, FIAN studied the impact of inadequate access of health care services on the right to food of fisher communities in Chilika Island. In Jharkhand, FIAN initiated a research on the impact of environmental degradation and land on children's right to food.

In September 2016, FIAN India contributed to the Day of General Discussion: "Children's Rights and the Environment" of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) through its submission highlighting three case studies. Furthermore, FIAN India participated in BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) People's Forum held in Goa and organized a panel discussion with the participation of Indian and Brazilian CSOs and activists. On this occasion, FIAN International called on the BRICS nations to protect the right to food and food sovereignty of small holders and indigenous peoples.

Moving to Southeast Asia, FIAN continued to advocate for land rights as well as to support and monitor land struggles of rural communities in the Philippines, **particularly women**, including those from Mindanao and Luzon as well as Hacienda Luisita and Hacienda Matias. Thanks to the submission of a FIAN-drafted parallel report to the CESCR on the occasion of its 59th session, the Committee recommended the immediate passage of the national bill on Zero Hunger in the country. With renewed momentum of lobby work led by FIAN Philippines in 2016, this Zero Hunger Bill has been deliberated and assigned to the Justice Committee in the Senate and to the Human Rights Committee in the House of Representatives.

## Europe

Advocacy and research activities marked FIAN’s work at regional and national levels. At the request of the European Parliament (EP) Sub-Committee on Human Rights, the organization drafted a study on the issue, together with the International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague. Entitled “Land grabbing and human rights: The involvement of European corporate and financial entities in land grabbing outside the European Union”, the study examines the implications of several land deals involving EU-based investors and their impact on communities living in areas where the investments are made.

FIAN also continued its engagement with the Hands on the Land Alliance for Food Sovereignty (HOTL), by ensuring advocacy and awareness-raising for land and water, seeds, bio-economy, markets and food systems as well as climate change and agroecology. Intensive work within the Alliance has led the EP Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development to developing a draft report on the topic of land concentration and land grabbing in the EU. The final version will be adopted in 2017 by the Committee and consequently by the plenary. This will be an important step forward to ensure access to land to small-scale producers.

FIAN European sections, namely FIAN Austria, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany and Sweden, FIAN’s European advocacy officer as well as the International sec-

retariat, were strongly involved in the preparations of the 2nd Nyéléni Europe Forum in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, the largest-ever European meeting on food sovereignty, which gathered 600 participants from Europe and Central Asia. Bringing this dynamic to the national realm, FIAN Belgium, together with 30 Belgian CSO and social movements co-organized the event “Agroecology in Action” gathering more than 700 activists to strategize about the future of the food sovereignty movement in Belgium. FIAN Sweden also organized the seminar “The global food system - solution or villain?”, which was arranged in cooperation with the Swedish Forum for Human Rights.

At the national level, activities by the Austrian section centered around corporate capture and access to land. Organized by FIAN Austria as part of the “Wir haben es satt” CSO platform, the conference “Human rights into the food system!” held key discussions between environmental organizations, trade unions and farmers across the country and beyond. The almost 180 participants emphasized the dangers of corporate capture and the importance of a human rights-based approach for the future of our food system.

FIAN Belgium continued advocacy work for a ‘UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other people working in rural areas’ (RoP declaration) by supporting a



Some of the 600 participants from across Europe and Central Asia at 2nd the Nyéléni Europe Forum—Cluj-Napoca, Romania Photo: Nyéléni Europe

peasant delegation during the 3rd round of negotiations at the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva. A series of sensitization tools, including a new [series of briefings on peasants' rights](#) and a [promotional video](#) (available in 5 languages) were also a highlight of the work of the Belgian section. In addition, supporting the struggle of the Malen communities in Sierra Leone (detailed in section *Africa*), FIAN Belgium, together with FIAN France, co-organized a two-day workshop in Bamako, Mali, to collect the views of peasants in West Africa to strengthen advocacy work towards the RoP declaration.

Besides playing an active role in the European tour of the Guarani and Kaiowá and conducting an extensive research mission to document land conflicts and human rights violations in Zambia, FIAN Germany contributed to the organization of a national monitoring event on the implementation of the UN Tenure Guidelines. The German section also celebrated its 30th anniversary of tireless work in an event in Berlin with the participation of representatives from FIAN Brazil and the German Institute of Human Rights (DIMR).

The UN process towards a Treaty on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Respect to Human Rights was a priority for some European

sections. FIAN Norway took the lead amongst Norwegian CSOs to advocate for [Norway's participation](#) in the UN's second session towards a binding treaty and organized an [event at Norway's biannual World Social Forum](#) to raise awareness about the process. FIAN Norway, furthermore, continued its engagement with the research and action network FoHRC (Food, Human Rights and Corporations), by co-organizing a seminar on [Investments and Land Rights](#), and a seminar on [Human Rights and Healthy Diets](#), at the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights.

FIAN Switzerland also closely followed the UN Treaty process from a national perspective. The Swiss section also created a [thematic webpage](#) and a [report](#) on the second session of the Intergovernmental Working Group, framing expectations about Switzerland's position and strategy.

FIAN Switzerland monitored the negotiations of the Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) and conducted considerable research on the [potential impacts of TISA on the rights to food and to water](#). The findings were presented and discussed at a public event with the head of the Swiss delegation and at a conference at the University of Berne.



Front cover of parallel report to CESCR —Honduras. Photo: Heriberto Paredes/Agencia Autónoma de Comunicación Subversiones

## Latin America

In Colombia, FIAN kept supporting the struggles of communities whose rights to food and nutrition and related rights have been violated as a result of business operations. These included the emblematic Consejo Comunitario Campesino Palenque Monte Oscuro, in Puerto Tejada, Cauca; Movimiento de Afectados y Afectadas por la represa Hidrosogamoso, in Santander, and the community El Hatillo, in El Paso, Cesar. The communities were supported with training, legal actions and lobby work before the CEDAW and strategic UN Special Rapporteurs.

As Colombia will be under scrutiny by the CESCR in 2017, the national section is contributing to the drafting of a parallel report by elaborating a chapter on the right to food situation in the country. The section has also actively participated in the Table on Human Rights and Business, which monitors the relation between the Colombian state and the private sector, and is also part of the National Alliance for Nutritional Health.

In 2016, FIAN's section in Ecuador also continued to support diverse indigenous and peasants' organizations across the country, including Kimsacocha, la Toglla, Corporación de Organizaciones Campesinas e Indígenas de Flores (COCIF), Tierra y Vida and the Unión de Organizaciones Campesinas de Esmeraldas (UOCE). A great deal of FIAN Ecuador's work was centered around the Asociación de Montubios Agrícolas de Colimes (ASOMAC), which has been forcedly evicted from its own lands where 41 families lived and produced their own food. Among the actions taken, an [international research visit](#) was carried out in October, involving FIAN International and the sections of Colombia, Germany and Sweden. In the framework of the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito in October, the leaders of ASOMAC presented the case to the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing and at the International Conference on Lands and Territories in Bogotá. Besides, a report was submitted to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on Ecuador which focused on the right to food, housing and forced displacement, emphasizing the case of ASOMAC.

An unfortunate highlight of 2016 was the assassination of the Honduran human rights activist Berta Cáceres. FIAN International and FIAN Honduras [actively participated in global, regional and national initiatives](#) condemning this brutal act and calling on Honduras to invest all necessary resources to investigate, prosecute and punish those responsible as well as take appropriate remedy measures. Advocacy efforts were carried out throughout the year and extended to regional entities, [including the EU and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights \(IACHR\)](#).

The Honduran section also advocated against persistent violence and forced evictions in the Aguán region as well as contributed to the release of peasants illegally and violently imprisoned. On this note, the section followed up

progress made by the Honduran state which, in 2010-2011, committed to enabling socio-economic infrastructure for the region with the Movimiento Unificado Campesino del Aguán (MUCA). In parallel, FIAN Honduras played a very active role in the preparation of the [parallel report to the CESCR](#), as a member of the Plataforma EPU-Honduras, made up of over 50 civil society organizations. The production of this advocacy tool was complemented by the participation of the Honduran section in a speakers' tour in Europe, with Geneva and Brussels as main enclaves.

During 2016, the Mexican section has been focusing on the links between gender issues and the right to food in its work with peasant women in the province of Guerrero. The project "Cadena de Vida: Produciendo para compartir" (*Chain of life: producing for sharing*) keeps strengthening their struggles in order to build up alternatives to improve their living standards and to contribute to the bettering of the environment and biodiversity.

The Mexican section also supported the work of indigenous peoples by facilitating a regional preparatory fora for the Cumbre Múuch Tambal on indigenous experience: traditional knowledge and cultural and biological diversity. The event was attended by circa 100 representatives of indigenous, afro-descendant and peasants communities, sharing their experiences on sustainability. FIAN Mexico also represented Mexican civil society's position before parliamentarians during the "7th Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean".

The work of the organization in Brazil and Guatemala heavily focused on supporting emblematic cases of human rights violations, namely the Guarani and Kaiowá indigenous peoples and the Camontán community, detailed in the section *Fighting violations of the right to food*.

## Finances of FIAN International

The Financial Summary includes income and expenditure account for the year 2016, from 1 January to 31 December 2016.

The financial information summary presented hereby is an extract from the statutory accounts of FIAN International e.V. (Heidelberg, Germany), audited by an independent chartered accountant (PKF Riedel Appel Hornig GmbH). The budgets of FIAN International sections and co-ordinations are not part of this financial report. All amounts are listed in Euros (€).

	2015 (in €)	2016 (in €)
<b>Income</b>		
Project Income	1.926.148,34	2.009.491,99
Membership dues	55.437,65	55.185,51
Miscellaneous	41.991,45	32.818,07
Donations	3.379,07	1.611,00
Sales	0,00	0,00
Interest income	13,61	0,00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>2.026.970,12</b>	<b>2.099.106,57</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Personnel expenses	1.105.000,42	1.293.322,18
Transfer to sections	197.915,66	128.945,91
Travel expenses	260.693,79	238.250,44
Seminars / conferences	49.221,92	49.765,40
Publications	150.111,21	221.752,95
Office expenses	83.887,97	78.070,40
Rent	31.202,05	34.764,36
International Board meetings	25.062,27	22.886,10
Accounting Costs	6.107,91	6.861,16
Depreciation	23.541,85	11.007,00
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>1.932.745,05</b>	<b>2.085.625,90</b>
Result from ordinary activities	94.225,07	13.480,67
Flow to / from reserves	94.200,00	13.400,00
<b>Result</b>	<b>25,07</b>	<b>80,67</b>

## Acknowledgements

FIAN International's crucial work relies on a broad network of representative groups working across Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe, and on the various civil society organizations and social movements to fight for the defense of human rights. We owe our gratitude to the numerous activists and human rights defenders across the world who take action by spending their time and part of their financial resources as well as by educating others about the right to food and nutrition and related rights.

In addition, we acknowledge the following institutions and organizations that supported FIAN International's work in the year 2016

Action Aid - United Kingdom  
Broederlijk Delen - Belgium  
Brot für alle - Switzerland  
Brot für die Welt - Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst - Germany  
European Commission (EC)  
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (UN FAO)  
Fastenopfer - Switzerland  
Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen Schweiz (HEKS/EPER) - Switzerland  
Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO) - The Netherlands  
International Development Research Centre (IDRC) - Canada  
Misereor - Germany  
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) - Norway  
Open Society Foundations (OSF) - United States of America  
République et Canton de Genève - Switzerland  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) - Switzerland  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation - United States of America  
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Utrecht University - The Netherlands  
Ville de Genève - Switzerland

Thank you for your support!

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[www.youtube.com/user/FIANInt](http://www.youtube.com/user/FIANInt)

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