

FIAN International ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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. The struggle for adequate nutrition is a critical component to the right to food, moving the debate beyond medicalized interventions and towards food systems that support healthy diets and ecosystems.

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 has UN representation in Geneva, Switzerland.

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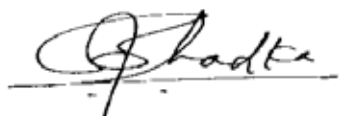
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Foreword by the President

FIAN International has completed 2017 with enriching experiences that have empowered people and their struggles for right to food. This year has seen many positive developments, like the participation of more than 300 civil society groups and social movements in the negotiation towards a UN binding instrument to regulate business activities, but there is still a long way to go: despite food being fundamental for human survival, there are millions of people living on empty or half-filled stomachs. It is not because the world does not possess the required resources, but because the dominant governance systems make them unavailable or scarce. States are obliged to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of all the citizens living within and beyond their territory, but too often they fall short of meeting their promises.

I take over the presidency of FIAN International this year, fully aware of how much needs to be done in Asia, my home. Of the six inhabited continents of the world, right to food violations are historically more serious in Africa and Asia. And although Africa is always making the headlines on this issue, populations in Asia are also and equally struggling: as Asia is the largest continent in terms of population, the proportion of poverty and hunger is also the greatest. Our continent is home to more than 500 million hungry people, which represents a major portion of the world's nearly 800 million humans who do not have enough to eat or means to access adequate food. With this, they are not only facing malnutrition, but also humiliation.

Gainful employment opportunities at home are bleak and the rights of migrant workers are almost non-existent. The imminent dangers of climate change to agriculture are frightening peasants and small holder farmers, as its impacts are already destroying everything in its wake. We cannot forget that corporations, mainly of transnational nature, are responsible for some of the incumbent challenges. Business activities are increasingly involved in right to food abuses and state players are failing to ensure the protection of their own citizens. Access to productive resources is further curtailed by increasing events of land grabbing by these corporations. I could list so many more examples.



Sarba Khadka

But the good news is that the human rights movement is building up across Asia to face these challenges. I see how civil society groups and communities are increasingly organizing in countries such as Nepal, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Indonesia, and are synergizing efforts at the regional and international levels to gain ground in their common fight. And FIAN International is honored to be giving its two cents by building bridges and connecting social struggles. The global human rights movement will partly depend on what happens in Asia and so it is crucial we all support the efforts of our fellow Asians. I believe, that we can overcome any hurdles, no matter how big they seem, if we fight them together.

FIAN International will continue to strengthening the right to food and food sovereignty movements in Asia and the rest of the world. And it will do it under the premises of a new strategic plan that more than 50 FIAN delegates across regions and generations discussed and approved at the International Council - which we were happy to host in Asia, for the first time! For both emerging and long-term challenges, we need to synergize the struggles and build people's power. This would not be possible without our committed members, staff, and partners for moving the organization in this direction, whom I am very much thankful to. Special appreciation goes to the Secretary General of FIAN International, Ms. Sofia Monsalve, under whose dynamic leadership and guidance, the international secretariat has been performing excellently.



Message from the Secretary General

It has been a very eventful year, where the global political scenario has led us to raise important questions on the future of human rights and to further enhance mobilization and coordination among civil society. Amidst turmoil, there is also unity, and the synergies that have been formed in this time to halt corporate influence and control over our lives and resources were a good example of this. As a case in point, even though some states attempted to derail the negotiations for a UN Treaty on transnational corporations (TNCs) and human rights, hundreds of civil society representatives came together to fight a common cause at the Human Rights Council last October. It is that duality of unity and diversity that has brought us so far: not only are states increasingly engaging in negotiations, but more and more support is coming our way.

Still, big challenges lie ahead. This brings me to a worrying trend that FIAN International has been following throughout 2017: the financialization of land. With a global rush for land now the prevailing reality, we have been increasingly investigating the intricacies behind this complex phenomenon, which is connected to new forms of creating value whilst dispossessing the most excluded. Since the 2008 multidimensional crisis, the instances of turning farmland into a financial asset have multiplied rapidly and profoundly the world over. With it, a big movement of capitals and investments by states and companies in rural areas has accompanied increasingly violent expropriation of traditional populations from their land, leading to devastating environmental consequences and dire human rights violations.

With our mission to northeastern Brazil (known as Caravana MATOPIBA), we not only witnessed the far-reaching impacts of financialization, but also how challenging it is to uncover the entire business web behind it. If you are living in Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, or the US, perhaps you would be shocked to learn that your own pensions may be fueling land grabbing in the region. This is why it is pivotal that states monitor and regulate business activities within and beyond their borders and why enforceable international instruments such as the UN Treaty on TNCs must go ahead.



Sofia Monsalve

Inadequate regulation and the dominant rationale of “profit as a priority” are indeed extremely dangerous. As a matter of fact, these two factors are resulting in the erosion of peasant seed systems, which so far have ensured the maintenance of biodiversity. As further corroborated by a mission to Burkina Faso with the Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition and the Global Convergence for the Land and Water Struggles, there is a wide range of mechanisms through which governments and seed companies promote the privatization and commoditization of seeds. Existing laws and policies are not only undermining the autonomy of peasants, as well as their right to culturally acceptable and nutritious food, but also destroying the diverse and healthy food systems that peasants keep alive. This will be a clear priority issue for us in 2018.

In the coming year, we will continue digging into the broader aspects of nutrition, an inherent component of the right to food. Current trends are leading our children and adolescents to a path of obesity and non-communicable diseases, reaching epidemic proportions in regions like the Americas. Our colleagues in Colombia have been doing excellent work in putting some of the root causes under the spotlight: the publicity and marketing of ultra-processed food and the imposition of food patterns on our youngest. Right to food and nutrition violations are structural and manifest in many different ways. We are determined to keep working on all fronts.



Areas of Action



Woman holding some harvest —Burkina Faso Photo: Daniel Fyfe/FIAN International

Fighting Violations of the Right to Food

Backing marginalized communities against social injustice and holding governments accountable, together with thorough monitoring and documentation, are core for our case work.

Among a long list of interventions, FIAN International increased its efforts to further analyze the structural impacts of land grabbing and shed light on the scheming of land-based business, particularly in the Brazilian northeast region of MATOPIBA, where high human and environmental costs have been recorded. The issue of seeds, including their commodification and genetic transformation, continued to be a priority for the organization and led to a thorough research mission in Burkina Faso with national, regional and international grassroots and civil society organizations. Moving to Asia, the intensive effort put into an emblematic case of a Gandharva community in the South of Nepal paid off: after more than 7 years of intensive advocacy, the government granted families access to land and decent housing.

A **twelve-day fact finding mission (FFM) in the MATOPIBA region** witnessed the gravity of structural violence against the communities and nature. MATOPIBA, a term that refers to the northeastern region of Brazil comprising the state of Tocantins and neighboring areas in the states of Maranhão, Piauí, and Bahia, has been a target for agribusiness as well as foreign investments in the last years. This has been leading to appalling living conditions for communities living in the region (i.e. destruction of homes, loss of livelihoods, pesticide contamination, health problems, and dwindling water supplies) and the destruction of biodiversity. The FFM concluded its mission with a series of public hearings and high-level meetings in Bom Jesus, Teresina, and Brasilia, where the delegation urged Brazilian authorities to take immediate action to improve the living conditions of affected communities and to take measures to counter irregularities with land titling in the region. A strong media strategy by all participating organizations brought the issue to national and international attention as well as making it a social media topic trend (see section Awareness-raising and Campaigns). While **some actions are being taken by the Brazilian Public Prosecutor's Office**, FIAN International has been coordinating a second mission in January 2018 to investigate the other side of the spectrum: the European investments behind land grabbing, including pension funds.

Along with Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition (GNRtFN) and the Global Convergence of Land and Water Struggles – West

Africa, FIAN International carried out participatory research on the transformation of seed systems in Burkina Faso and West Africa. An international FFM to Burkina Faso in May was at the center of the process. The research team conducted interviews with 21 communities to document the use of different types of seeds by peasants as well as the consequences of the introduction of commercial seeds and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) into their farming practices and food systems. The research also uncovered the mechanisms through which governments and seed companies promote the privatization and commoditization of seeds. In particular, the results shed light on the role of current policies and laws, which promote commercial seed systems that are based on intellectual property rights. This happens at the expense of communities' livelihoods, as it hinders their access to and use of peasant seeds, which constitute the basis for the realization of their right to food and nutrition. A set of policy recommendations to protect and advance peasants' right to seeds were developed during a workshop in November and presented to policymakers. A detailed report on the research will be published at the beginning of 2018.

Taking the example of Nepal, people's mobilization towards the realization of human rights in Asia is bearing fruit. Subjected to **appalling discrimination** on the grounds of caste for a long time, Gandharva families – skilled musicians in Nepali classical music – **have obtained land certificates as well as access to decent housing**. In addition, the government has been organizing skill development programs, such as organic agriculture, knitting, and tailoring, which are favoring the integration of the community as well as increasing its self-reliance. This is a clear example that people's mobilization and coordinated advocacy efforts -with a bottom-up approach- have the potential to bring about real change. With the human rights movement growing in the continent, and FIAN International's sections expanding across it, positive developments are expected on the right to food front in the coming years.

Access to and Control over Natural Resources

Supporting communities in the defense of and struggles for their lands and other natural resources has always been our motto.

Over the years, the organization has developed a thorough human rights framing of land and has contributed to advancing international standard setting, which recognizes access to and control over natural resources as a core element of the right to food and nutrition. In view of the current practices towards the land, which can be best exemplified with cases like in MATOPIBA (see section *Fighting Right to Food Violations*), FIAN International presented a [conceptual analysis on the human right to land in a position paper](#). In addition to providing an overview of the scope and elements of this right, the paper also highlights the new challenges and threats that lie in the increasing financialization of nature, particularly the growing power and influence of the finance industry and its way of operating.

As in previous years, FIAN International continued supporting communities and social movements of food producers, towards stronger international norms to ensure people's rights to natural resources. Great emphasis was put on the process towards a UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Living in Rural Areas at the Human Rights Council, which was initiated by the transnational peasant movement La Via Campesina. Last year saw the [fourth session](#) of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group (OEIWG) to negotiate the text of the document. The draft declaration includes the peasants' rights to land, water, and seeds as the basis for agroecology, and emphasizes the importance of collective rights. With the aim of further supporting this process and strengthening international advocacy, FIAN International co-organized the [International Congress on the Rights of Peasants](#) in Germany and continued the publication series *Peasants' rights briefings*.

Along the same lines, an international fact-finding mission (FFM) to Burkina Faso, (see *Fighting Right to Food Violations*) was carried out to shed light on the privatization and commoditization of seeds. Incentivized by companies, these practices pose a huge risk for peasant seed systems, which are not only unprotected but are also the source of food for rural communities.

Supporting communities to use the existing human rights instruments is another important part of FIAN International's work. A new tool, which FIAN developed in collaboration with the UN Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO),

provides a learning curriculum and a set of modules for civil society organizations on how to use the Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Water and Forests. This [learning guide](#) has been developed and used for trainings with social movements and CSOs in more than ten countries. It is based on a methodology that takes the realities of the lives of communities as a starting point, considering that no governance instrument implements itself automatically and that people need to be the drivers of measures to improve their lives and advance their rights. The learning guide is based on the People's Manual, which was developed under FIAN's coordination by the working group on land and territory of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC). This work was combined with the support of FIAN to small-scale fisher movements to use the Tenure Guidelines together with the FAO Guidelines to Secure Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries.

Understanding that accountability is a key element to asserting people's rights to territories, the organization was strongly involved in research about bottom-up accountability strategies against land grabbing in four African countries (Uganda, Mali, South Africa, and Nigeria). As part of this initiative, CSOs from these countries have released a series of materials, including video diaries to document how they have used the Tenure Guidelines in their advocacy strategies.

Another example of FIAN's efforts to hold states accountable for human rights violations is the presentation of a [study on the role of European actors in global land grabbing](#) at the European Parliament (EP). Available data show that the involvement of EU-based companies and financial actors in land grabbing, is significant in scale and reach. EU actors, private and public, are involved in land grabs through different mechanisms and at different points in increasingly complex investment webs. The EU has responded to land grabbing through a variety of policies and initiatives, but these have been insufficient so far, to meet its obligations in protecting human rights beyond borders. Drawing from the study's conclusions, the EU needs to take action in order to address land grabbing and proactively contribute to the universal realization of human rights. The [EP's subcommittee on human rights has taken up the issue and will follow up](#) several of the recommendations made in the study.



Fisherfolk at sunset—Mali Photo: Philip Seufert/FIAN International



Villager holding two bottles, including one with polluted water—Piauí, Brazil Photo: Rosilene Miliotti /FASE

Income, Nutrition and Related Policies

Facilitating the engagement of civil society and social movements in global nutrition policy processes, as well as building bridges between different groups and policy spaces, remain key lines of action.

The joint coordination of the broad civil society platform that formed around the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) has been a crucial part of our work. Together with other civil society groups, we continued to engage with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (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 44 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 influential 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



Women's Forum Photo: FAO/Alessandra Benedetti



FIAN International's representative to the UN, at an expert panel—Geneva, Switzerland Photo: Alex del Rey/FIAN International



Indigenous woman representative at UN negotiations at the Human Rights Council—Geneva, Switzerland Photo: Alex del Rey/FIAN International

Stepping up Accountability

Cooperating with other organizations and social movements to fight against the shrinking of policy spaces for civil society and the criminalization of right to food defenders were main goals in accountability and justiciability work.

The organization strengthened its work at the UN by supporting the links between the local and national human rights struggles and international accountability and standard settings. Understanding the importance of policy coherence throughout institutions, our efforts in Geneva were moreover synergized through our advocacy with the FAO and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

Amid the consolidation of the peace process in Colombia, FIAN International supported its section in the country, as part of a large platform of civil society organizations, during the reporting process to the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). The platform pointed out that both the peace process and economic model in Colombia need to be strongly rooted in ESCR in order to guarantee long-term stability. These advocacy efforts led to encouraging recommendations by the CESCR on access to land and the State's national food security and nutrition policy, which should be firmly human rights-based. This recommendation is a strong advocacy tool to support the approval of a draft bill on the marketing of ultra-processed food for children and adolescents. As a result of FIAN Sri Lanka's active engagement, the CESCR also issued **important recommendations** towards more human rights-based approaches to food and nutrition. In particular, the Committee recommended for Sri Lanka to accelerate its constitutional reform process as a way of ensuring the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights as well as of urgently addressing the nutritional insecurity of its population.

Moving to our work with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), FIAN Burkina Faso participated in the review of the country, drawing attention to the disproportionate impacts on women's rights in the displaced communities of Essakane and in Kounkoufouanou, a case where communities were forcefully evicted from their land. In its recommendations, the Committee made clear references to both of these cases calling for the State to provide for full recovery for the losses, which the women in these communities more severely faced. Along the same lines, FIAN Germany brought the Mubende case (see *Africa* under the section *FIAN around the world*) to the attention of the committee during the review of Germany in March 2017, shedding light on the impact of land grabbing on rural women's and girls' rights.

As every year, we engaged with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. FIAN supported its Ecuadorian section, accompanied by the President of the Association of Montubios in the Colimes Canton (ASOMAC), in bringing the case of the Montubio community, who were expelled from their land, their main source of water and food. Similarly, FIAN and its Brazilian section took part in a **joint advocacy effort** with other Brazilian civil society organizations during the UPR review of Brazil, where they listed the legal barriers indigenous peoples face for their land to be effectively demarcated. Key recommendations were made by several states to this effect calling on Brazil to address the socio-economic situation of indigenous peoples as well as to protect them.

FIAN continued to be active in two additional standard-setting processes aimed at clarifying states' human rights obligations when it comes to holding transnational corporations accountable. In coordination with a number of members of the ETO Consortium, we closely engaged in the process towards the adoption by the CESCR of General Comment No. 24 on States' obligations under the ICESCR in the context of business activities. The General Comment represents another important source of international human rights law which reaffirms States' extraterritorial human rights obligations.

The 3rd session of the Open-Ended intergovernmental Working Group (OEIGWG) on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights marked the beginning of the negotiation phase of the treaty on the matter. As a core member of the Treaty Alliance and the Global Campaign to Dismantle Corporate Power, FIAN was present with some other 300 representatives of civil society, who had mobilized to increase the pressure on States. **FIAN took this opportunity to point to the impact of TNCs on different stages of food systems**, from investment funds involved in land-grabbing operations to the commercialization of ultra-processed foods causing obesity and diabetes.



Awareness-raising initiative #TekohaisLife Photo: Luané Parracho



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

Awareness-raising and Campaigns

Bringing the root causes of the ongoing food crisis under the spotlight is an increasing focus for the organization to counter mainstream narratives.

Marking its tenth anniversary, 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 'The World Food Crisis: The Way Out', the 2017 issue took stock of the last decade, when the world food crisis brought the number of hungry to a peak.

The Watch illustrates the ongoing multifold crisis that we are still trapped in with ten articles and ten key images. From climate change to unfair global trade rules through the agribusiness megamergers, the role of women in transforming food systems and the right to food in emergency situations, the Watch sheds light on the intricacies behind the crisis.

The publication was launched internationally at UN FAO, Rome, and at the UN Headquarters in Geneva, as well as regionally, including at the EU institutions. It was endorsed by representatives of the human rights and political spectrums, including Jamesina E. L. King, Commissioner and Chairperson of the Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, as well as Soledad García Muñoz, Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). A coordinated social media campaign under #RtFNWatch, supported by allies and members of the Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition, brought key findings to the wider public and media outlets. This reach was combined with the strategic distribution of 8,000 copies in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese to academia and policymakers and communities most affected by human rights violations, in nearly 70 countries.

Building on years of supporting the indigenous peoples Guarani and Kaiowá, in Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, FIAN International launched #TekoháIsLife. This initiative aims to shed light on the struggles of the Guarani and Kaiowá to regain access to and control over their ancestral lands. As we live in a world increasingly alienated and disconnected from nature, #TekoháIsLife aims to boost the understanding of non-dominant and more sustainable approaches to mother earth, with the human rights of its peoples at its heart. The initiative puts their challenges and realities under the spotlight through a series of audiovisual materials collected on the ground.

As in previous years, intensive campaigning work was conducted around the third session of the

Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group (OE-IGWG) on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Respect to Human Rights, held in Geneva in October 2017. As a member of the Treaty Alliance and Dismantle Corporate Campaign, FIAN International actively participated in media actions throughout the year under the headings of #StopCorporateAbuse and #BindingTreaty, with the latter becoming a social media trend in Europe. Negotiations were reported live via Storify, illustrating the dynamism and teamwork of the more than 300 civil society representatives that attended the session.

Fully committed to women's rights and increasingly involved with feminists groups, the organization contributed to #Feminists4BindingTreaty, intended to raise awareness of the specific impact of big business on women and girls. While also becoming a Twitter trend, the initiative brought an issue that often remains invisible to the table, becoming a very effective advocacy tool: "Show you are a women's rights champion by supporting the Treaty".

As was the case last year, FIAN International focused its awareness raising on shedding light on the linkages of the right to food and nutrition and the realization of other rights. Examples include the production of information and social media materials around women, land and collective rights. These efforts were complemented by exposing the human rights abuses and environmental destruction caused in the name of profit. More particularly, the fact-finding mission (FFM) in the Brazilian region of MATOPIBA (see section Fighting Right to Food Violations) was reported live on social media throughout. Under the heading of #CaravanaMatopiba and #BrazilLandGrab, the participating organizations gave updates to the public about their visits and findings on the ground, as well as their exchange with national authorities. Making headlines in international and national media, the mission uncovered the involvement of international capital from Europe, Canada and the US in large-scale land grabbing, which result in huge human and environmental costs.

With renewed efforts to consolidate global and regional campaigning strategies, FIAN International and its sections held several workshops across Asia and Europe to more effectively bring the voices of those most marginalized and increase states' accountability. At a time where human rights are increasingly threatened, efforts towards this goal will continue in other regions throughout 2018.

Supporting the Struggle Worldwide



Guarani and Kaiowá indigenous people at traditional ritual before local gathering—Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil Photo: Alex del Rey/FIAN International

Africa

FIAN Burkina's support for the mining-affected communities in Essakane and the forcibly evicted community of Kounkoufouanou continued throughout 2017. In parallel to national and international advocacy, the West African section conducted several visits to these communities to monitor the latest developments. Civil society efforts bore fruit and media's pressure on the situation of Kounkoufouanou has pushed the President of Burkina Faso to make resettlement pledges for this community.

Furthermore, two alternative reports were presented to the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), as well as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), scheduled for April 2018. In its observations, the Committee has expressed concerns over the violations of women's rights in these communities and recommends that Burkina Faso ensures redress and full compensation.

Additionally, FIAN Burkina Faso contributed to the revitalizing of the national platform of the Global Convergence of Land and Water Struggles. As part of this, FIAN Burkina Faso was heavily involved in the participatory research on the transformation of seed systems in Burkina Faso and West Africa (see Fighting Right to Food Violations).

Moving to Uganda, the FIAN International's section in the country completed a study on the right to food of subsistence fishing communities in Buleebi and Gerenge in Mukono and Wakiso districts. The study revealed a lack of understanding of food as a human right in the country, as well as rampant land and water grabbing in fishing communities, and unawareness of the existing laws.

Likewise, FIAN Uganda provided technical support to the emblematic Mubende case through evidence gathering. In 2001, nearly 4,000 people lost their traditional lands (accounting for 2,524 hectares) to a commercial coffee plantation that is 100% subsidiary of a German company, through brutal and forced evictions. Despite 16 years of mobilization and legal struggle, the evictees have not yet seen justice and still suffer the collateral consequences of the violent eviction.

Thanks to the support of FIAN International and FIAN Germany, a parallel report on the case was submitted in 2016 to the UN CEDAW, highlighting both the specific impact on women that the eviction led to, as well as the role of Germany in failing to comply with its extraterritorial human right obligations. As a result, the committee recommended that Germany strengthens its legislation governing the conduct of corporations registered or domiciled in within its territory, including requiring those corporations to con-

duct human rights and gender impact assessments prior to making investment decisions. Likewise, the Committee deems necessary that Germany introduces effective mechanisms to investigate complaints filed against those corporations, with a mandate to receive complaints and conduct independent investigations and incorporate a gender perspective into the National Action Plan (NAP). Last but not least, Germany should adopt concrete measures, including a redress mechanism to facilitate access to justice for women victims of human rights violations and ensure that judicial and administrative mechanisms are in place that take into account a gender perspective. In addition to following the developments of the trial, FIAN International and its sections in Germany and Uganda will monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the committee.

Together with civil society and communities, FIAN International participated in research about bottom-up accountability strategies against land grabbing in Uganda, Mali, South Africa, and Nigeria. The aim has been to document how they have used the Tenure Guidelines in their advocacy strategies (see Access to and Control over Natural Resources).

As part of the organization's ongoing work on extraterritorial obligations, two cases of land conflicts in Zambia were re-visited by FIAN Germany and the FIAN's seed group in the country. In the visits, it was observed that some investments coming from Germany in large-scale land acquisition are hindering food production at the local level. Likewise, land resettlements are not always providing the adequate environment for families to grow their own nutritious food, nor grazing land to keep their cattle. The organization's monitoring of these cases will continue throughout 2018.

Asia

In the Philippines, a country where 20% of children under 5 years old are underweight and more than 13.7 million undernourished, the work of FIAN Philippines was essential to support those most affected by hunger. FIAN continued to work on the emblematic cases of [Hacienda Luisita](#) and [Hacienda Matias](#), while documenting on more recent cases such as the Bayug Claim, the [Marawi Crisis](#) in Mindanao and the oil palm and banana plantations.

Based on the policy review on the Legal Framework on the right to food, FIAN Philippines initiated the formation of the National Food Coalition (NFC), which drafted the Zero Hunger Bill. Besides, a [nation-wide campaign on the bill](#) through universities and colleges was launched together with a signature campaign, which gathered 10,000 signatures to push for its approval.

Moving to India, FIAN India organized a national consultation with other civil society organizations to discuss how to implement the concluding observations and recommendations by the CEDAW. Held in Delhi, the consultation took stock of the current situation of women's right to food and nutrition as well as their political participation, in addition to critically examining the implementation of the concluding observations and recommendations by the State of India. In doing so, civil society identified key emerging challenges, but also the areas for collaboration to exert pressure on the Indian government. Meanwhile, the FIAN section also embarked on an internal organizational development process aiming to bring the different FIAN India chapters across the country close, and to strengthen their vision as a unified entity.

As one of our youngest Sections, FIAN Indonesia concentrated in the process toward section-building and was engaged in the finalization of its study on the legal framework of the right to food and nutrition in [Indonesia](#). Locally organized by the Indonesian Traditional Fisherfolk Union (KNTI), FIAN International facilitated, together with Transnational Institute (TNI), a workshop on how to use the FAO Tenure Guidelines and Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines in combating human rights violations, specifically right to food violations faced by small-scale fisheries.

2017 welcomed the partial or full completion of 11 cases, out of the 23 that FIAN has been supporting throughout the last years in [Nepal](#). This includes some financial compensation to the communities affected by the construction of the Laxmanpur dam and Kalkalwa Afflux by India, as these exacerbate the floods during the monsoon season, destroying everything in their wake. In addition, the Nepalese government has initiated the [construction of a barrier to stop the floods](#)— so far 5km, which will take overall some 10 years.

Meanwhile on the policy front, FIAN Nepal is monitoring the process behind the still-pending approval of a [Right to Food Bill](#) by the Ministry of Agriculture and Development. The section also supported the process of amendment of the National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act, towards ensuring the access to natural resources by vulnerable communities living in buffer zones of protected areas. Besides, FIAN Nepal also supported the finalization of the District Food Security Plan in Bajhang, Banke, Surkhet and Makwanpur.

In an effort to strengthen FIAN's work in Asia, Kathmandu hosted a two-day workshop where FIAN sections and seed groups representatives in [Bangladesh](#), [Pakistan](#), the Philippines, [Sri Lanka](#), India, and Nepal exchanged the challenges their countries face for the realization of the right to food. Culminating with an [exposure visit in the South of Nepal](#), the gathering allowed the exchange of experiences and successful advocacy strategies that could be replicated in other Asian countries.

Europe

Showing that diverse food systems and peasants' rights are also a crucial issue for countries of the Global North, FIAN International's sections in the region were actively advocating for the UN Peasants' Rights Declaration. As a part of the advocacy strategy, FIAN's sections, together with Hands on the Land Alliance, launched a **Europe-wide campaign** to both raise awareness of the ongoing process and increase pressure on decision makers to engage in the negotiations. A petition launched within the campaign accounted for more than 10,000 signatures, which shows the process is steadily gaining further engagement.

Likewise, FIAN European sections followed up closely the negotiations, at both national and UN levels, towards a Treaty on transnational corporations and human rights. These efforts were complemented by their involvement in the fact-finding mission of MATOPIBA (see section *Fighting Right to Food Violations*), where investments coming from pension funds from Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden are involved in land grabbing activities. FIAN International's European sections will continue to monitor the fulfillment of States' human rights obligations within and beyond borders.

In view of the increasing privatization and commodification of seeds, FIAN Germany carried out

substantial work on the protection of peasant seed systems. The section led several seminars on the issue and participated in '**Wir haben es satt**', a mass demonstration in Berlin, in addition to carrying out advocacy and **awareness-raising activities** across Germany against the Bayer-Monsanto merger.

In addition to contributing to FIAN International's work on the cases of Mubende (Uganda) and the Guarani and Kaiowa (Brazil), FIAN Germany visited several communities in Zambia that are facing eviction (see *Africa* under this section), whose situation was picked up by TV channel ARD in a **documentary**. Likewise, FIAN Germany continued supporting activities to raise awareness on sugar plantations in Cambodia and backed the organization of advocacy speakers tours from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador and Sierra Leone.

Besides deepening in the issue of malnutrition, FIAN Austria conducted a study that uncovers the alliances between governments, UN-institutions and corporations of the agri-food industry, which come at the cost of people's health and environment. In return to financial support in form of investments, countries of the global south apply their nutrition and health policies in line with corporate interests. Laws and policies, which promote genetically modified food,



Small plot of land from a member of the Ngambwa community, who is facing eviction—Zambia Photo: FIAN Germany

lead to the suppression of free exchange of seeds for peasants, erosion biodiversity and malnutrition. In addition, the section released a [study on agroecology](#) arguing it can contribute to stopping hunger and protecting our environment.

At national level, FIAN Austria is fighting poverty in the country (a trend that is increasing, thereby accounting for more than half a million of affected people), together with other organizations through the Austrian platform *Armutskonferenz*. In parallel, the Austrian section is monitoring the fulfillment of social rights in Austria, to report the current status in the next Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR).

In Switzerland, FIAN remained engaged in two national campaigns for legislative changes regarding mandatory human rights due diligence of transnational corporations (the [Responsible Business Initiative](#)) and the inclusion of food sovereignty in the Swiss constitution ([popular initiative for food sovereignty](#)). In addition, the swiss section became a member of the coordinating group piloting an independent evaluation of the fundamental rights in the constitution of the canton of Geneva with the participation of a large civil society network.

For its part, FIAN International's section in Belgium continued to support the struggle of the local communities in Malen Chiefdom, in Southern Sierra Leone. The Malen communities are facing land grabbing and human rights abuses by a transnational corporation based in Belgium. With the aim of raising awareness, a speakers tour was organized in March 2017, where representatives from the affected communities had the opportunity to meet with policy-makers and journalists from across Belgium, France and Germany. As a result, Belgian national authorities announced that a national dialogue between communities and the different stakeholders should take place to find peaceful solutions to the conflict. This is a first step in the right direction, but communities are still waiting for concrete measures to put an end to human rights abuses. In alignment with the organization's commitment to defend peasant's rights, FIAN Belgium also launched a new ambitious mobilization project called '[Brigades d'actions paysannes](#)', where hundreds of activists signed on, to participate in public actions.

In the Netherlands, the Dutch section closely followed up on the conclusions of Nyéléni Forum, held in Romania in 2016, and fed into discussions with the national platform *Voedsel Anders* (Food Otherwise) to further its food sovereignty agenda in the Netherlands.

Moving to the Scandinavian region, the Swedish section continued to work on the right to food at

many different levels: from working with grassroots movements in India, Brazil and Ecuador to liaising to national and international policymaking institutions.

With a strong focus on extraterritorial obligations (ETOs) and the need for a binding instrument to regulate business activities, FIAN contributed to the legal framework of the pension funds in Sweden - as they are currently heavily invested in land deals- with a third written submission as well as advocated strongly for an ETOs perspective in the Swedish National Action Plan (NAP) on Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

For the second consecutive year, the Swedish section arranged the food sovereignty week, where Swedish CSO and smallscale producers come together to share knowledge and exchange views on the need for real change in dominant food systems, through seminars and workshops across the country. This endeavor was aligned with current efforts in building up the food sovereignty movement at national level.

The reluctance of Norway to ratify the Optional Protocol of the Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural rights was a priority line of action for the Norwegian section, who actively addressed the issue in a parliamentary hearing and brought the issue to media. FIAN Norway embarked on a new initiative to [address malnutrition in Norwegian nursing homes](#): the section organized digital storytelling workshops at nursing homes in an effort to empower elderly residents whose right to food is at risk, and to gain knowledge on how they experience their meals. The findings of this initiative will allow the section to provide recommendations on how the right to adequate food and nutrition can be fully fulfilled in Norwegian nursing homes.

Latin America

As part of its endeavors to ensure **adequate nutrition for future generations**, FIAN Colombia has been strongly lobbying the Congress of the Republic to pass a bill that regulates advertising of highly processed food products (*junk food*) that targets children and adolescents. The Americas are currently plagued by obesity and chronic non-communicable diseases associated with inadequate eating habits, on an epidemic scale.

During the negotiations to implement the peace agreements with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), FIAN Colombia drafted a statutory law for the right to food and designed a participation protocol for communities in the region. Both of these are included in the first point of the peace agreement: Comprehensive Rural Reform. As part of its commitment to the feminist struggle, FIAN Colombia also participated in and supported the coordination of the first meeting of the Latin America chapter of the feminist alliance. The right to food was declared a fundamental part of the regional agenda during this meeting.

Meanwhile, the Honduran section monitored various land grants solicited in order to develop photovoltaic projects, which would adversely affect 8,000 inhabitants of several communities in the municipality of Namasigüe, in the department of Choluteca. If this concession is granted, regional residents would lose access to water and the land they have traditionally occupied to cultivate basic grains and livestock on a small scale.

FIAN continued supporting capacity building activities in Honduras, by conducting a workshop on the Voluntary Guidelines for the Governance of Land Tenure, Forest and Fisheries. This workshop included participants from communities affected by mining and power plant concessions, environmentalists, fisherfolk and agro ecologists. In addition, this workshop was once again held with representatives from the Mayan-Chortí and Lenca indigenous organizations.

In Ecuador, FIAN focused on case work and lobbying to give greater visibility to the **forceful eviction** of the Association of Montubios in Colimes (ASOMAC), whose members were expelled from their lands and homes by an administrative resolution. FIAN Ecuador and ASOMAC participated in the **pre-sessions for the UPR**, and **toured Sweden and Germany** to raise awareness regarding the violations of the right to food and other rights of peasants and indigenous peoples. FIAN Ecuador also published the bi-monthly report on land entitled '**Trends in agrarian structure, rural inequality and the right to food and nutrition in post-neoliberal Ecuador**'. This publication analyzes inequality and inequity in terms of access to land and

territory, the effects of development projects in rural areas, and discriminatory practices which target the most vulnerable demographics, such as peasants and indigenous peoples.

In 2017, FIAN Brazil continued to monitor the cases of the **Guaraní and Kaiowá indigenous people** in Mato Grosso do Sul, in the Quilombola village of Brejos dos Crioulos and the traditional community of **Vale das Cancelas**. The latter group represents a paradigmatic case of rights abuses due to transnational operations. Along with more than 20 national and international organizations and social movements, the section in Brazil closely followed the MATOPIBA case (see section *Fighting against Violations of the Right to Food*). The active role of FIAN Brazil can be appreciated in the National Councils on Food and Nutrition Security and Human Rights, in their recommendations, training, research missions, and other activities. In order to draw attention to the recent setbacks for human rights in Brazil, FIAN Brazil developed a variety of informational materials on the right to food, such as the '**Prato do Dia**' column (*Dish of the Day*).

In Guatemala, FIAN provided follow-up and support for the **cases of child malnutrition in Camotán**. Upon hearing the unfortunate news that one of the girls involved in the case, Mavelita, had been **hospitalized due to a serious health condition**, FIAN conducted urgent advocacy activities aimed at national and international institutions. The girl, only 8 years old, underwent several surgical procedures to treat infections which were aggravated by the acute and chronic malnutrition she suffered, and as a result of other conditions that were not adequately treated. Mavelita was eventually transferred to a hospital in the Guatemalan capital where she died on August 14th. Her death demonstrates the lack of actual full compliance with judicial rulings, as well as the structural problems that impede the realization of the right to food of the rural and indigenous population in Guatemala. It is imperative that reparations are guaranteed, including reparations for the family, and the guarantee of non-recidivism for Mavelita's sister and family as beneficiaries of the court decision.

Finances of FIAN International

The Financial Summary includes income and expenditure account for the year 2017, from 1 January to 31 December 2017.

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 are not part of this financial report. All amounts are listed in Euros (€).

	2016 (in €)	2017 (in €)
Income		
Project Income	2.009.491,99	2.111.844,45
Membership dues	55.185,51	69.624,72
Miscellaneous	32.818,07	29.023,15
Donations	1.611,00	5.788,39
Sales	0,00	0,00
Interest income	0,00	0,00
Total income	2.099.106,57	2.216.280,71
Expenditures		
Personnel expenses	1.293.322,18	1.342.679,58
Transfer to sections	128.945,91	141.405,37
Travel expenses	238.250,44	297.140,36
Seminars / conferences	49.765,40	26.040,65
Publications	221.752,95	171.780,09
Office expenses	78.070,40	86.605,10
Rent	34.764,36	35.931,70
International Board meetings	22.886,10	25.002,00
Accounting Costs	6.861,16	6.660,34
Depreciation	11.007,00	20.666,00
Total expenditure	2.085.625,90	2.153.911,19
Result from ordinary activities	13.480,67	62.369,52
Flow to / from reserves	-13.400,00	-62.300,00
Result	80,67	69,52

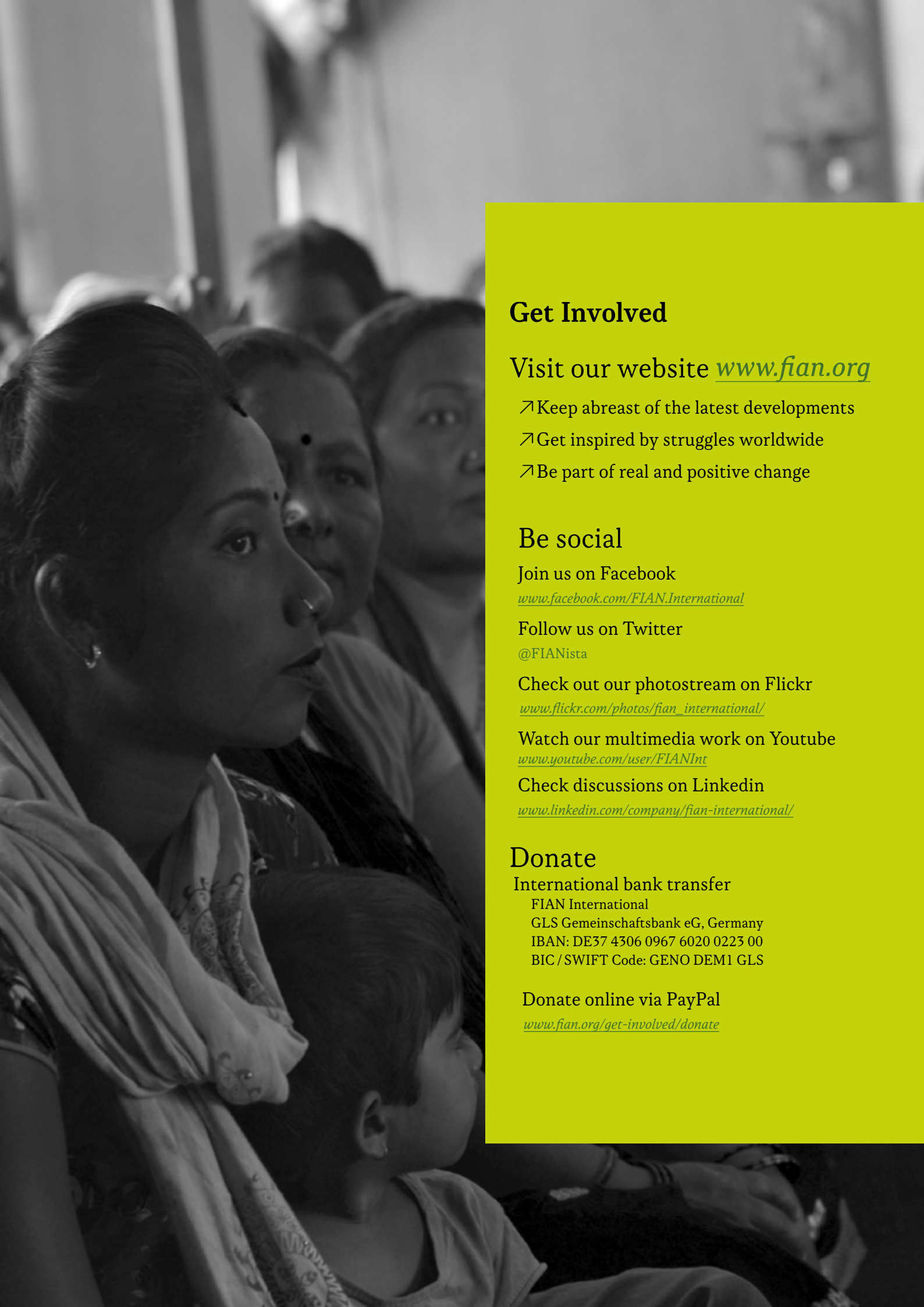
Acknowledgements

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 2017

11th Hour Project - The Schmidt Family Foundation - United States of America
Broederlijk Delen - Belgium
Brot für die Welt - Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst - Germany
European Commission
FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
FOSI - Foundation Open Society Institute - Switzerland
HEKS/EPER- Switzerland
ICCO - Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation - The Netherlands
IDRC - International Development Research Centre - Canada
MISEREOR - Germany
NORAD - Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation - Norway
SDC - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation - Switzerland
TNI - Transnational Institute - The Netherlands
Ville de Genève - Switzerland
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund - United States of America

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