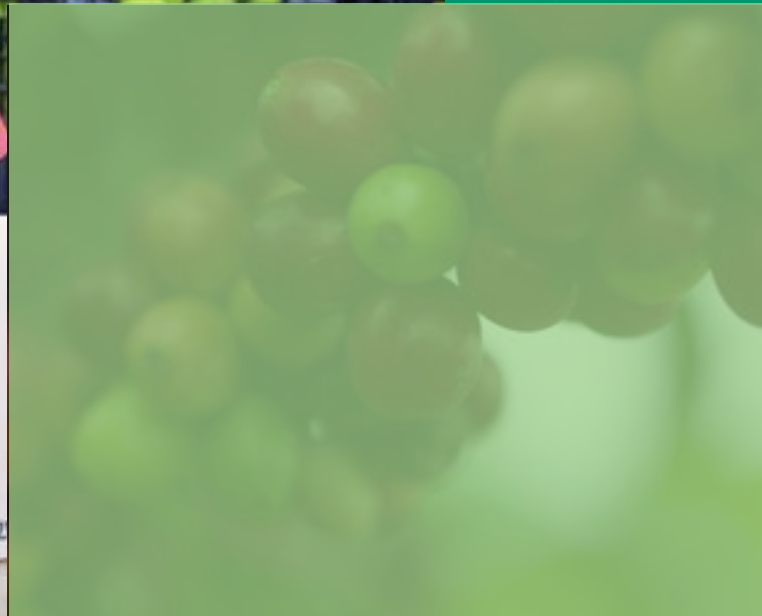


ANNUAL REPORT 2020



FIAN
INTERNATIONAL



WHO WE ARE

Hunger and malnutrition are nothing new and are a consequence of injustice and discrimination. Today they affect more than 3.9 billion people.

But, we believe that they are fully preventable.

Since 1986, FIAN International has been advocating for the right to food and nutrition. We support grassroots communities and social movements in their struggles against right to food violations. Through our national sections and networks, we work in over 50 countries around the world.

Through research, advocacy and campaigning, we work to eradicate the root causes of hunger and malnutrition. We fight against human rights violations. We support affected communities in their food struggles. Change unjust laws. Hold governments to account. Track and fight corporate abuse.

Check us out!
www.fian.org



CONTENTS

3	Foreword by the President and the Secretary General
4	PEOPLES´ STRUGGLES
5	Telling an Alternative Story of Hunger
6	Supporting Transformative Food Politics
7	Mobilizing for Democratic Food Governance
8	Alerting about Finance Capitalism
9	Monitoring the impact of Covid-19 on the Right to Food
10	Connecting Food, Human Rights and Nature
11	AROUND THE WORLD
12	Responding to the pandemic: Highlights
14	KEY PUBLICATIONS 2020
16	NUMBERS
17	Finances
18	Acknowledgements
19	Integrity Management

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FOREWORD BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Little did we know that a pandemic would paralyze our societies in 2020. We have seen countries in lockdown, empty streets, overflowing hospitals and faces covered for almost 12 months. We have witnessed children missing the most important meal of the day - if not the only one - following mandatory school closures, and millions of people working in street food vending who were forbidden to work, despite it being their only source of income.

And we have also seen how local farmers' markets were banned, leaving tons of food to go to waste, while supermarkets - which promote junk food that weakens our immune system - were strengthened.

According to preliminary estimates, the COVID-19 pandemic has added between 83 and 132 million people to the total number of those suffering from hunger.

But this comes as no surprise - at least not to hundreds of social movements, indigenous and peasant communities around the world who have been warning about the consequences of ecological destruction and structural injustices. COVID-19 has exposed the fragility of the dominant food system; a system based on a political economic model that promotes inequality and ignores planetary boundaries. This pandemic

is the result of this approach. The pursuit of profit through extractive activities and the expansion of agribusiness is destroying our ecosystems, and therefore favoring the transmission of pathogens from animals to humans - like COVID-19.

It is time to change course. If we want to address social and environmental challenges and ensure that people have adequate food, we need to look to a food system that is based on the realization of human rights. If not, the COVID-19 pandemic will only be the beginning of one of the many global crises that await us.

Instead of addressing the structural reforms needed to bring about a profound transformation of industrial food systems, many states prefer to rely on technological solutions to address issues of ecological sustainability that are compatible with the interests of transnational corporations. The Food Systems Summit, which will take place in 2021, is the best example of an escapist policy that creates the illusion of doing a lot for the common good, when in reality it ignores and evades the worsening hardship that COVID-19 has imposed on so many people.

To paraphrase the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Michael Fakhri, thousands of communities are tired, sick and

hungry. In this context, FIAN International will continue to monitor and denounce violations of the right to food around the world, often perpetrated with impunity.

We will stand with all those who are weaving new relationships and bonds of solidarity to support those who produce our food agroecologically. We will continue working to enable the urban unemployed to feed themselves healthily, to foster evenly distributed care work, and to protect the land, rivers and forests that give us life.

This is the transformation of food systems that we need.



Alicia Carriquiriborde
Avila
PRESIDENT



Sofía Monsalve
SECRETARY GENERAL

PHOTO BY: ALEX DEL REY / FIAN INTERNATIONAL



PEOPLE'S STRUGGLES



PHOTO BY: BENJAMIN KUMPF



TELLING AN ALTERNATIVE STORY OF HUNGER

Behind hunger and malnutrition rates, there is much more than numbers. There are stories of people who live and fight against different forms of discrimination and exclusion. These people are the real experts: they give insights of the structural causes and alternative solutions to today's food struggles.

Yielding on the success of previous editions, we launched together with more than 40 organizations the [2020 State of the Right to Food and Nutrition](#). This sought to complement the emblematic UN State of Food Security and Nutrition (SOFI) report by looking beyond numbers, and reflecting the views of communities, social movements and civil society organizations working on the ground.

This powerful tool tells an alternative story of hunger. In a year where COVID-19 has shaken the world, the report sheds light on decades of failed policies that cut people's social and labor rights, leaving them at the mercy of food banks and other

charities.

But it also shows how communities and local governments are already actively transforming food systems, such as in Gaza where urban and peri-urban agriculture practices have become strategies for achieving food sovereignty in a context of protracted crisis. Spain's Balearic Islands are another example, where the local government has used its procurement policy to buy fresh food products from small-scale local food producers for food aid as well as for hospital and public school meals. The report also presents examples of progress at national and regional levels: from Paraguay's [Law on the Defense, Restoration and Promotion of Peasant Family Farming](#), to the inclusion of agroecology and the promotion of native seeds in Honduras' national climate adaptation plan, to the [resolution of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Right to Food and Nutrition](#).

Decades of failed policies have cut people's social and labor rights, leaving them at the mercy of food banks and charities.



SUPPORTING TRANSFORMATIVE FEMINIST POLITICS

Women's rights continue to be central to all spheres of our work; more so, in the year of the pandemic, which has threatened to stall and even roll back on women's rights and gains on gender justice. In 2020, FIAN International actively engaged with the *Feminists for a Binding Treaty*, a collective of organizations working together to integrate a gender perspective into a legally binding instrument on the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises. Concretely, the group made detailed recommendations on key aspects of the second draft of the Treaty, such as access to justice, reparation, remedy mechanisms, and gender-based and sexual violence. These recommendations were presented during the sixth session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group (OEIGWG) for the Treaty and were at the core of the successful digital campaign [#Feminists4BindingTreaty](#). Women do politics and engage in acts of resistance everyday around the globe that are essen-

tial to counter the regression of their human rights. This is why we actively supported women's organizations and individuals to advance transformative feminist food politics. Inspired by the historical resistance of women around the community pot, and developed by human rights practitioners and workers in rural areas, we launched the guide '[Cooking up Political Agendas](#)'. This guide evokes the emancipation of women through collective organizing and it provides practical guidance on how to build a right to food and nutrition agenda based on recent international human rights law standards. It comes with a [series of materials](#) to facilitate capacity-building exercises that have already supported the struggle of dozens of local and national women's groups across Latin America, Europe and Asia.

Women do politics and engage in acts of resistance everyday around the globe that are essential to counter the regression of their human rights.



MOBILIZING FOR A DEMOCRATIC FOOD GOVERNANCE

The UN Summit on Food Systems, scheduled for the end of 2021, caused much controversy throughout 2020. From the very beginning, FIAN International has taken a critical stance on the way the Food Systems Summit has been organized, as it has been strongly influenced by the corporate sector to the detriment of people's interests, needs and human rights. Together with other organizations and movements, we took swift action and expressed these concerns [in a letter addressed to UN Secretary General António Guterres](#). Despite being endorsed by more than 500 organizations and widely featured by media, this letter never received a response and the preparations of the summit kept developing in a very problematic way. This is why we actively supported the [launch of an open call for engagement to challenge the Summit](#) by the Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples' Mechanism and played an active role in fostering discussions

between movements and organizations across the globe to create a strong and united front. Our goals for 2021 and beyond are clear, but not easy: advance human rights and food sovereignty, dismantle corporate power and democratize public institutions.

In parallel to these developments, we have been feeding into the [negotiations on the Guidelines on Food systems and Nutrition in the Committee on World Food Security](#). For the Guidelines to have a positive impact on the 2 billion people that are today food insecure, food systems must be considered a matter of public interest and embrace truly transformative pathways such as agroecology. Without human rights, food systems will fail to serve the public interest.

Without human rights, food systems will fail to serve the public interest.



ALERTING ABOUT FINANCE CAPITALISM

When the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the world in early 2020, financial markets plunged, prompting government interventions to approve stimulus packages to stabilize them. We have got used to hearing about stock markets' response to events, shocks and crises, and the need to take measures. This is an expression of the increasing dominance of global finance over our economies and societies, a process which is often referred to as financialization. However, when looking more closely at how investment firms, banks, pension funds, transnational corporations, ultra-wealthy individuals and other financial actors operate, another term seems more appropriate: rogue capitalism.

As echoed in our publication '[Rogue capitalism and the financialization of territories and nature](#)', financial actors use trillions of dollars gambling with land and other natural resources to make a profit. They operate through a small number of tax

havens and offshore financial centers to avoid regulation and taxation. Rural and urban communities around the world pay a big price for the activities of these financial actors. From US and European pension funds investing in soy monocultures in Brazil, to Chinese funding of huge infrastructure projects in Sri Lanka, we see the detrimental impact of these actions. Even projects that come under the label of development, such as the recent case in Zambia where German development cooperation has been inciting corporate investments, are further evidence of this worrying trend.

The consequences for people are very real: dispossession, destruction of their ways of life, human rights violations, ecosystem destruction and new levels of wealth concentration. Together with social movements and grassroots organizations, we are resisting and putting forward proposals for a human rights-based recovery and a just transition to a different future.

Financial actors use trillions of dollars gambling with land and other natural resources to make a profit.

MONITORING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD

Soon after the first lockdowns were announced, FIAN International received a host of testimonies by communities most severely affected by restrictions to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. Their stories ranged from the impacts of closing down peasants markets, to the lack of food for children losing their school meals, and to the increasing violence faced by women. As a result, FIAN International conducted further research and launched a [preliminary report on the impacts of COVID on the right to food and nutrition](#).

Among its conclusions, the report pointed out that some restrictions were oblivious of the different realities of countries and regions, and that there was a clear predisposition to favour supermarkets - which foster the consumption of ultra-processed products - before local and peasant markets, which were immediately shut down. In addition, the report underlined that it was not COVID-19 on its own that had brought

devastation to the world, but it was also the accumulation of multidimensional, non-resolved crises emanating from the current political and economic system. After all, the transmission of zoonotic pathogens, like COVID-19, to humans, comes as a result of decades of intensive activity of extractive industries.

The positive response of this report made us realize it was key to support communities, local and legal organizations in doing their own monitoring work. This is why we launched a [legal tool to help guide legal processes and advocacy efforts on the right to food vis-à-vis the pandemic](#). Our research throughout 2020, reflected in [follow-up reports](#), revealed that a transformation of the industrial food system is essential, not only to face multiple local food crises, but also to prevent future pandemics.

It is not COVID-19 on its own that has brought devastation to the world, but also the accumulation of multidimensional, non-resolved crises emanating from the economic system.



CONNECTING FOOD, HUMAN RIGHTS AND NATURE

Dominant policies have treated humans and the rest of nature as two separate and independent spheres. This artificial separation has led to domination and exploitation of the natural world by humans with dire environmental and social consequences. If we want to tackle today's ecological crises and prevent future pandemics we must reconnect nature and human rights. And food, where our connection with the rest of the living world is most evident, is the perfect starting point for doing so.

Our work on this area was strengthened throughout 2020 with a clear objective: foster the connection between food, nature and human rights. With this in mind, we conducted analysis of the international environmental and climate landscapes and worked on a conceptual framework to bridge human and environmental rights law. As a result, we published the paper [‘The Right to Food and Nutrition as Part of Environmental and Climate Justice’](#).

This was followed by the [2020 Right to Food and Nutrition Watch](#) and an [online event](#), which explored the links between the COVID-19 pandemic, ecological crises and modern food systems. We launched this publication as a collaborative project with more than 40 member organizations of the [Global Network on the Right to Food and Nutrition](#), which also see the need to re-think how our societies are shaped and interact with nature.

Food, where our connection with the rest of the living world is most evident, is the perfect starting point for doing so.



AROUND THE WORLD





RESPONDING TO THE PANDEMIC: HIGHLIGHTS

On the ground, FIAN responded to the pandemic and its impacts on the right to food and nutrition through the work of its national sections. One of the most fundamental challenges of lockdown measures, has been the increasing violence against women. In many parts of **Uganda**, women have been able to survive financial shocks by becoming resourceful workers in the informal sector - as street food vendors, agricultural or fishing workers - and by helping one another in organized groups. As a result of their survival abilities and growing self-sufficiency, some have been accused of witchcraft and have been a target of 'witch-hunting'. Such accusations have stripped them of their lands, homes, sources of livelihood and left them facing acute social exclusion. This intense persecution of women comes on top of the resource grabbing, the climate crisis - and now COVID-19 - that rural communities are facing. FIAN Uganda, together with local organizations, has

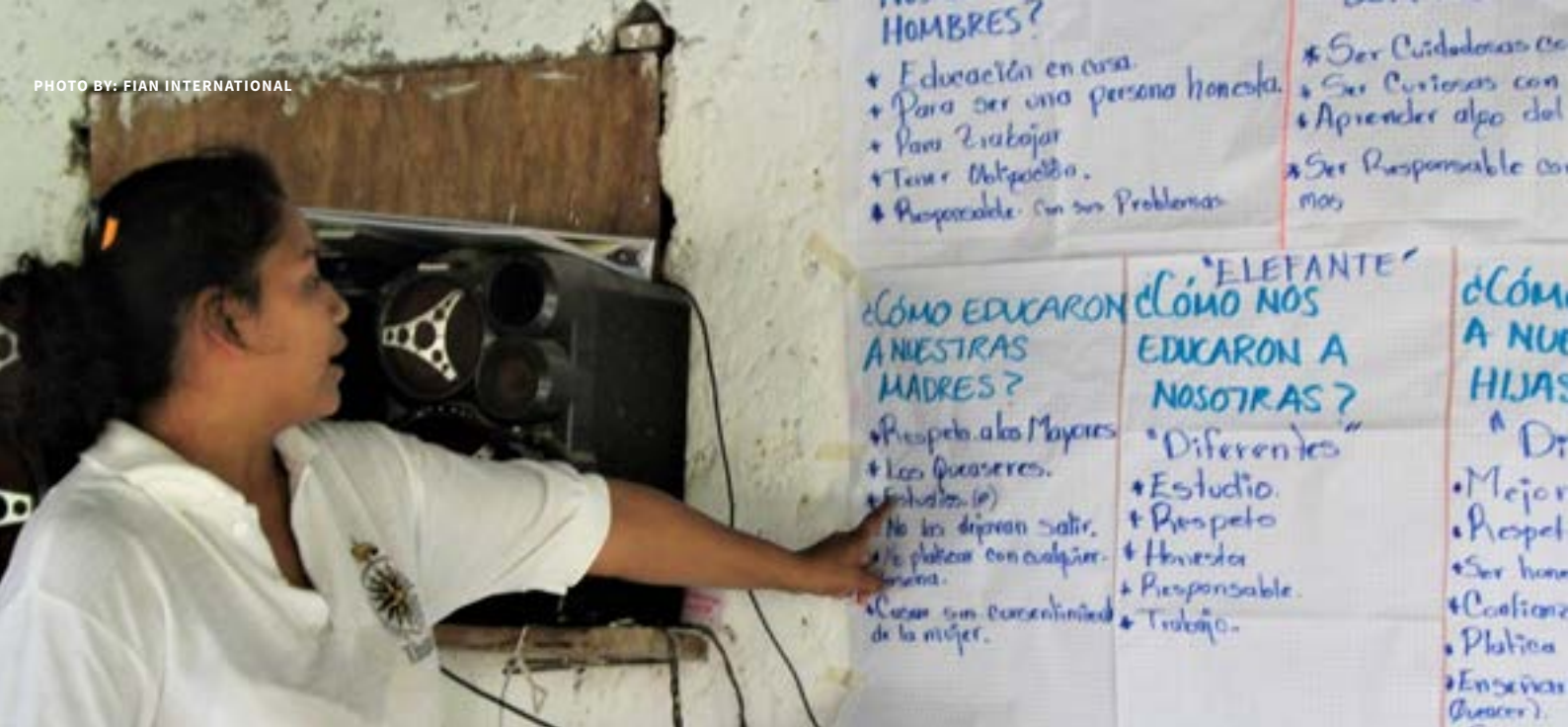
supported these women by mobilizing resources to ensure legal defense, while also addressing the structural factors responsible for the distress in rural communities in their advocacy work. At the beginning of the pandemic, many rural communities in **Colombia** did not have access to trusted information about COVID-19. FIAN Colombia quickly reacted to fill this gap by producing a podcast on community strategies to respond to the Coronavirus that sought to ensure communities' health and wellbeing. Besides providing guidance on key relevant aspects around COVID-19, the booklet emphasized the importance of healthy foods and plant medicines to strengthen the immune system. The podcast therefore provided essential information about nutrition and plant medicines that communities find in their ecosystems, as well as strong recommendations to drop junk foods from their diets.

FIAN Colombia also fostered a complaint mechanism to report speculation of food prices, and showcased solidarity donations of the peasantry in contrast to the food industry, which saw an opportunity in the pandemic to improve brand reputation through targeted food contributions. Similarly, our section in **Ecuador** embarked upon facilitating learning of agro-ecological methods of food production: after all, for several communities growing their own food was the response to the crisis. Likewise, FIAN Ecuador supported rural communities so they could directly exchange their produce, as a way to overcome disrupted food supply chains by lockdown measures. Dismantling social and environmental protections has paradoxically been the government's response to COVID-19 in many countries, including **Indonesia**. FIAN Indonesia has protested against the so-called Omnibus Law (now passed and known as Law

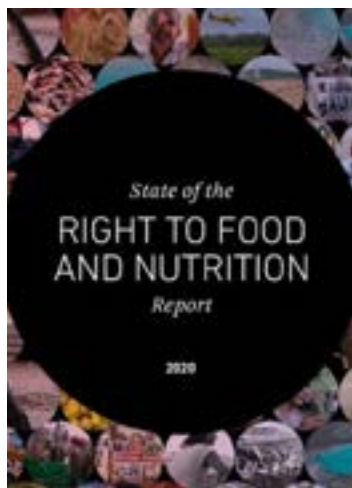


No. 11 of 2020 on Job Creation), which overrules more than 70 existing laws and regulations and contains problematic articles that threaten the right to food and nutrition. For example, it includes the relaxation of import restrictions on food (Law No. 18 of 2012 on Food) and the conversion of agricultural land and food for national strategic projects (Law No. 41 of 2009 on the Protection of Sustainable Food Crops Farmland). The controversial Food Estate Mega Project in Central Borneo, Indonesia, is one of the 2020-2024 national strategic project agendas that is to be implemented, with alleged disastrous impacts on biodiversity and local farming practice. Following some thorough research, FIAN Indonesia has warned authorities the execution of this project would entail cutting down peat forest, which is crucial for maintaining the water source in soil, and dictates that

local farmers must adjust to agricultural industrialization systems. Indigenous Peoples will be most affected by investment and land conversion fostered by this new law, as it will prevent Indigenous communities to execute their rights to cultivate, produce, and consume food in ways that have been passed on from generation to generation. Due to Covid's containment measures, many seasonal agricultural workers could not enter **Belgium** during the sowing and harvesting season. This revealed the dependency of Belgian farms on foreign (underpaid) workforce. Still some small-scale agroecological farms were left without workforce while the demand for local agroecological food increased. Thanks to FIAN Belgium's network Brigades d'actions paysannes (Peasant Action Brigades) FIAN Belgium was able mobilize volunteers to provide support to some agroecological farms.

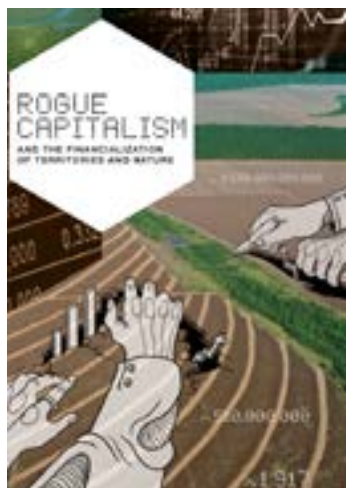


PUBLICATIONS



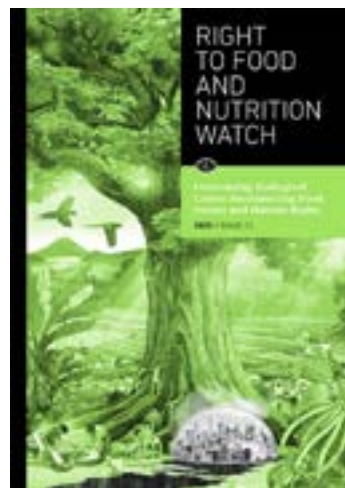
TITLE: State of the Right to Food and Nutrition Report 2020

PAGES: 62



TITLE: Rogue Capitalism and the financialization of territories and nature

PAGES: 114



TITLE: Right to Food and Nutrition Watch. 'Overcoming the Ecological Crises: Connecting Food, Nature and Human Rights'

PAGES: 59



TITLE: Right to Food and Nutrition Watch Supplement. 'Factors behind the Ecological, Food and Human Rights Crises'

PAGES: 9



TITLE: Cooking Up Political Agendas

PAGES: 34



TITLE: Legal Toolkit: the Right to Food and Covid-19. A List of International Legal Obligations

PAGES: 15



TITLE: Monitoring Report on the Right to Food and Nutrition during Covid-19

PAGES: 22



TITLE: Impact of Covid-19 on the Human Right to Food and Nutrition. Preliminary Monitoring Report

PAGES: 11



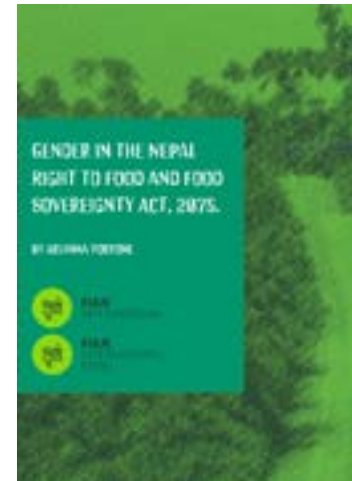
TITLE: Food crisis in Ecuador?

PAGES: 76



TITLE: From Those Who Feed Us

PAGES: 64



TITLE: Gender in the Nepal Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act 2075

PAGES: 23

PHOTO BY: SIMONE DALMASSO



NUMBERS



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FINANCES OF FIAN INTERNATIONAL

The Financial Summary includes income and expenditure account for the year 2020, from 1 January to 31 December 2020.

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 (€).

Income	2019 (in €)	2020 (in €)
Project income	2.003.890,91	2.222.388,43
Membership dues	69.336,52	68.984,78
Miscellaneous	34.831,54	12.332,32
Donations	8.421,80	5.564,37
Sales	0,00	0,00
Interest income	0,00	0,00
Total income	2.116.480,77	2.309.269,90

Expenditures

Personnel expenses	1.204.381,93	1.460.539,96
Transfer to sections/partners	295.003,08	457.988,65
Travel expenses	204.368,90	33.323,11
Seminars/conferences	58.836,61	25.889,65
Publications	103.458,56	127.154,56
Office expenses	82.405,78	96.575,99
Rent	34.395,84	34.797,75
International Board meetings	17.807,36	2.553,00
Accounting costs	6.130,59	9.130,73
Depreciation	5.596,85	11.338,76
Total expenditure	2.012.385,50	2.259.292,16
Result from ordinary activities	104.095,27	49.977,74
Flow to /from reserves	-104.000,00	-49.900,00
Result	95,27	77,74

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In addition to its sections, seed groups and members around the world, 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.

We acknowledge the following institutions and organizations that supported FIAN International's work in the year 2020.

Thank you for your support!



INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT

FIAN International strives to establish and uphold ethical standards throughout the whole organization, currently covering 20 countries.

A handbook compiling all FIAN International's Rules of Procedures, as well as policies and guidelines of FIAN International was handed out to all FIAN sections, International Board members and International Secretariat staff in 2017.

The FIAN International Charter on Ethical Principles was adopted in 2017 and was updated in 2020.

A FIAN International conflict resolution mechanism was adopted in 2018 with the aim to safeguard and react on breaches of the Charter on Ethical Principles. This was followed by a standing committee on Conflict Resolution in early 2019. Since 2016, within the International Secretariat, two ombudspersons have been elected as the point of contact for any confidential complaints from staff.

Complementary policies on Sexual Harassment and on Whistleblowing were approved at the beginning of 2020, as well as the establishment of integrity advisors at both internal and external level.

Sensitization Trainings were provided to staff members both from the International Secretariat as well as sections, in 2019: A webinar on Intersectionalities of Gender, Class, Caste, Religion and Sexual Minorities was provided to the International Secretariat and sections; International Secretariat staff participated in an online training on Security and protection

of human rights defenders and CSOs.

In the reporting year 2020, no breaches of the FIAN International Charter on Ethical Principles, nor any cases of inappropriate behavior were reported.



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