

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



FIAN
INTERNATIONAL



CONTENTS

3	FOREWORD
4	WHO WE ARE
7	WHAT WE DO
9	HOW WE WORK
10	RESISTING THE CORPORATE CAPTURE OF FOOD
13	COAL POWER ECOCIDE IN THE BALKANS Q&A with FIAN International policy officer Yifang Slot Tang
14	DIGITALIZATION AND SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND NUTRITION Q&A with FIAN International policy officer Philip Seufert
17	PUBLICATIONS
18	FINANCES
18	INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT
19	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Editors:

Tom Sullivan
Wilma Strothenke

Contributions:

FIAN International Secretariat

Layout design:

Harjot Khalsa

Illustrations:

Natasha Devanand Dhanwani
Harjot Khalsa

Published by:

FIAN International e.V.
Willy-Brandt-Platz 5
69115 Heidelberg, Germany
www.fian.org

Dear FIAN supporters,

Looking back on 2023, it is hard not to be struck by how food was weaponized in so many conflicts.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 disrupted global food supplies and added another layer to the global food crisis. It continued to dominate media headlines until the Hamas attack on Israel in October last year and Israel's counterattacks on Gaza – both part of a protracted conflict in which access to farmland, food and water has been a major component.

These were not the only conflicts displacing record numbers and pushing millions to the brink of starvation. In terms of sheer numbers, both were dwarfed by Sudan's civil war that began in April. Our State of the Right to Nutrition report in March highlighted that 70 percent of people live in areas affected by conflict, according to WFP figures. It examined how powerful economic and political actors use conflict, occupation and war to maintain dominance, including over food systems. FIAN has consistently called for an end to hostilities, including the use of food as a weapon.

We joined forces with other food sovereignty voices to advocate for an end to corporate capture of the UN and global food governance. This included a campaign for greater accountability from the July UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment, a corporate-dominated follow-up to the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. We also targeted the corporate capture of the FAO's World Food Forum in October, which gathered youth organizations and other interest groups – many with strong corporate ties – under the theme of transforming agrifood systems for climate action.

In October, we once again joined food sovereignty and human rights allies advocating for a UN binding treaty to regulate transnational corporations and other businesses, successfully resisting attempts by some states to derail the process and arguing for an explicit reference to environmental protection. This ninth year of negotiations saw notable progress as states finally got down to negotiating the opening articles of a treaty rather than simply debating its legitimacy.

There were other positive developments. The UN Human Rights Council recognized the risks associated with digital technologies, which FIAN had highlighted during the year.

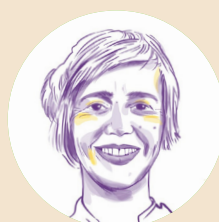
Further good news came in the form of a UN special procedure on the Declaration of the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP) – a pivotal milestone in raising the status of peasants and other people working in rural areas. The new UNDROP working group will provide an important space for building better public policies for food sovereignty, agroecology, climate justice and agrarian reform – and for pushing back against the criminalization of struggles.

During 2023, FIAN continued to support longstanding grassroots struggles, including the West African Caravan for the right to land, water and peasant agroecology, a feminist school with the Latin American Alliance for Food Sovereignty, and EU and UN advocacy by communities affected by natural resource exploitation in Senegal, Bosnia, Serbia and Colombia. With FIAN staff based in Brussels and Geneva, supported by our international communications team, we facilitated meetings with decision makers and amplified grassroots advocacy via traditional and social media.

As always, we were inspired by the great work of our national Sections around the world, such as FIAN Sri Lanka's successful defense of the rights of street vendors and FIAN Brazil's advocacy against the temporal framework bill which denies the land rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We also took advantage of synergies with our Sections to mount an International Human Rights Day campaign in December, focusing on hunger, conflict, ecological destruction and the rights of future generations.

These affirmations of grassroots and international solidarity will continue to fuel our dedication to fighting for agroecology, food sovereignty and the right to food and nutrition in the year ahead.



Priscilla Claeys
President



Sofia Monsalve
Secretary General

WHO WE ARE

FIAN International [was founded](#) in 1986 and was the first international human rights organization to advocate for the realization of the right to food and nutrition. Shortly afterwards, national sections and groups were founded and our network now covers 23 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America. FIAN also has members and partners in more than 60 countries.

Our secretariat is based in Heidelberg, Germany and we have a permanent representation in Geneva. FIAN has consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council and works closely with the international human rights system, notably the UN Human Rights Council and the special rapporteurs.

Our funding comes from state and non-state donors as well as membership fees.

FIAN International members meet in the International Council and elect the [International Board](#). All members work according to principles and methods laid down in our [Statutes](#).

FIAN International's overarching goal, as expressed in our international [Strategic Plan 2018 – 2024](#), is to strengthen people's struggle for the right to food and nutrition and related human rights, working towards the vision of a world free from hunger and malnutrition, in which every person fully enjoys all human rights in dignity and self-determination.

FIAN works closely with partner civil society organizations, social movements and other social justice actors at global, regional and national level and runs the technical secretariats of the [Global Network on the Right to Food and Nutrition](#), and the [ETO Consortium](#).

INTERNATIONAL BOARD



Ammar Bahadur Air /
Nepal



Angela Mulenga
Zambia



Cristopher Mbazira
Uganda



*Denisse Córdova
Montes* / USA



Hayu Dyah Patria Astuti

Indonesia



Juana Camacho Segura

Vice President / Colombia



Priscilla Claeys

President / Belgium



Rebecka Mosquera Jalvemyr

/ Sweden



Thomas Albert Wolfer

Treasurer / Germany

STAFF AT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT



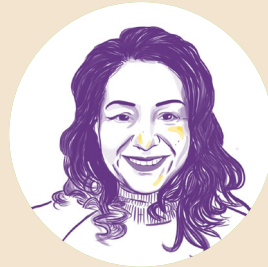
Amanda Córdova Gonzales

Digital Communications



Charlotte Dreger

Sustainable Food Systems



Angélica Castañeda Flores

Justiciability / Dismantling of
Democracy / Latin America



Ayushi Kalyan

Corporate Accountability /
Justiciability / Asia



Ana María Suárez Franco

Accountability & Monitoring
Executive Coordination Team



Clara Roig Medina

Digital Communications



Emily Mattheisen

Accountability,
Monitoring & Advocacy



Glory Lueong

Natural Resources/ Africa



Jannette van Poppel
Project and Finance /
Administration



Laura Michéle
Nutrition and Food Systems



Martin Gerdemann
Finance & Projects
Executive Coordination Team



Martin Wolpold-Bosien
Advisor



Philip Seufert
Natural Resources /
Financialization



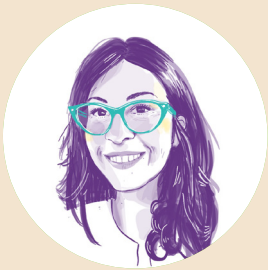
Sabine Pabst
Environmental & Climate
Destruction/ Asia



Sofia Monsalve
Secretary General
Executive Coordination Team



Stephan Backes
Extraterritorial Obligations
Europe



Teresa Maisano
Gender and Food Systems



Tom Sullivan
Communications & Campaigns



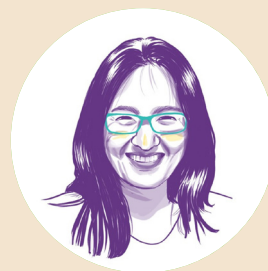
Sibylle Dirren
Accountability, Monitoring
and Advocacy



Valentin Hategekimana
Africa Coordination



Wilma Strothenke
Organizational Development
Executive Coordination Team



Yifang Slot-Tang
Case Work & Research / Asia
Executive Coordination Team

WHAT WE DO

Our commitment is to people around the world struggling to end hunger. We stand with them and strive to eradicate unjust and oppressive practices that prevent communities and individuals from feeding themselves. Our vision is of a world free from hunger and malnutrition, in which every person can live with dignity, enjoying all human rights and self-determination.

The full realization of women's rights is a pre-condition for the realization of the right to food and nutrition. Women produce most of the world's food and perform most of the unpaid care work. They also account for most of the world's hungry, own less than 2% of the land and have limited access to education and decision-making. Their rights and priorities are not properly addressed in legal frameworks, policies and programs, which impacts on everyone's right to food and nutrition, including children.

Our priorities are grouped into five main struggles:

1

ADEQUATE FOOD AND NUTRITION AND HEALTHY DIETS IN SUSTAINABLE AND LOCALIZED FOOD SYSTEMS

We prioritize the rights and demands of the most marginalized who are affected by violations of the right to food and nutrition as a result of industrial food systems. Agricultural and other food systems workers face the worst food insecurity and are often exposed to toxic substances.

Governments subsidize low quality “junk” food, leading to forms of hidden hunger including obesity and chronic health conditions like cancer, diabetes and heart disease. Ultra-processed foods are increasingly linked to serious health issues. In rich and poor countries alike these products are mainstreamed into emergency food systems, amplifying public health risks particularly among low income and groups and people living in poverty.



PEOPLES' SOVEREIGNTY OVER FOOD SYSTEMS AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE PROMOTION OF AGROECOLOGY

2



Land, oceans, rivers, forests, and all of nature are much more than a means of production. They are the very basis of life, culture and identity, and fulfill crucial social, cultural, spiritual and environmental functions. We work for the respect and promotion of the rights of peoples, communities and groups to self-determination, which includes their respective forms of self-organization, and governance of their lands, natural resources, common spaces and territories.

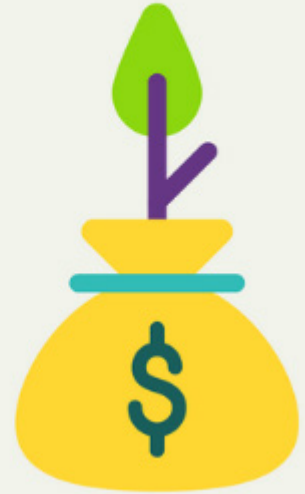
Sustainable livelihoods depend upon small-scale, diversified and agro-ecological production. This is how most of the world is fed. We build alliances with communities struggling to control their lands, water, forests and fisheries and advocate for the rights of Indigenous Peoples, peasants and other rural dwellers.

3

CORPORATE TAKE-OVER OF THE FOOD SYSTEMS AND FOOD GOVERNANCE, AND FINANCIALIZATION AND COM-MODIFICATION OF RESOURCES

Transnational corporations (TNCs) disrupt local and national patterns of food production, markets and economies. Alongside global financial and multilateral institutions, they increasingly monopolize public spaces of food governance. Governments have relinquished the capacity and formal authority to shape the limits of transnational business practices associated with land concentration and territorial dispossession, the deterioration of food quality, and the erratic behavior of international markets.

We oppose financialization – the growing power and influence of the finance industry over our economies and societies – including the placing of monetary value on nature itself. We join others in the struggle to dismantle corporate power and establish binding mechanisms to regulate TNCs and other business monopolies. We will fight for the democratization of food systems to overcome the concentration of food markets.



DISMANTLING OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS, BOTH INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE, AND THE CRIMINALIZATION OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STRUGGLES AND ACTORS

4



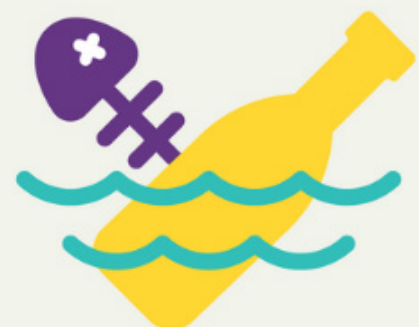
FIAN International fights the obstruction of public accountability and the dismantling of the democratic promise that governments will respect, protect and fulfill human rights. The intentional weakening of public institutions responsible for social wellbeing and redistribution of wealth exacerbates inequality and destabilizes social peace. Chronic poverty, structural violence and internal and cross-border conflicts result in migrants and refugees, destroy the social fabric and the belief of the youth in a decent life.

Resistance to these injustices has been criminalized and met with brutal repression, and the realization of a human right to adequate food and nutrition has been severely compromised.

5

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE DESTRUCTION

FIAN International opposes extractive activities, contaminating manufacturing, and industrial agriculture that pollute and degrade water, soils, air, and biodiversity. Fertile land has been lost and fisheries decimated. The synergistic effect of these practices ruin the reliability of the earth's ability to heal itself. They directly contribute to greenhouse effects, disrupt ecological interactions, and destroy the integrity of sustainable environments that sustain human livelihoods.



HOW WE WORK

We **promote** human rights education and raise awareness about the human right to food and nutrition (RtFN).



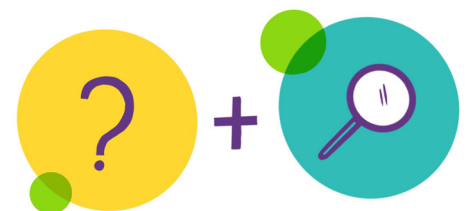
We **respond** to requests to research, analyse and **document** specific violations of the RtFN and support advocacy.

We **advocate** for the inclusion of the RtFN within national legal and political frameworks and **hold governments** and other actors **accountable** for their obligations. This includes **monitoring** public policies, advocacy and recourse to the law in close cooperation with people struggling for their rights.



We **contribute** to strengthening legal instruments and developing new instruments for the protection of human rights and related state accountability within the United Nations system and other legal regimes.

We identify and **analyze** global causes, policies and challenges which pose a threat to the full enjoyment of the RtFN and advocate for alternatives in line with a human rights based approach.



We **build strategic alliances** to strengthen organizations working on transitions towards more sustainable and equitable food systems and promote the convergence of struggles across constituencies and issues.

RESISTING

THE CORPORATE CAPTURE OF FOOD

Our action against the corporate capture of global food governance continued last year, with a [follow up](#) to our campaign against the [controversial 2021 UN Food Systems Summit](#), and a critical view on FAO's [World Food Forum](#). Both initiatives were part of an ongoing agenda to replace human rights-based, democratic decision-making processes at the UN Committee on World Food Security and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with “multistakeholder” public-private partnerships. These further entrench existing power imbalances and promote corporate-driven, industrial food systems.

FIAN continued to advocate with an [international alliance](#) of peasants, farmers and Indigenous Peoples – rooted in grassroots movements to argue for greater accountability from governments and UN institutions.

Industrial food failure

Joining forces with other civil society groups, we sought to highlight the urgency of the global food crisis and the failure of the industrial food system to respond. A variety of tools were used to get the message across, including [op-ed articles](#), seminars, [advocacy reports](#), social media campaigning and direct engagement with participants in UN fora.

The main aim was to rally activists and inform decision-makers about the alarming growth of corporate control over food and global decision-making, highlighting for example that:

A handful of agribusinesses control [more than 70%](#) of the world's farmland while smallholder farmers, fisherfolk, pastoralists and Indigenous Peoples feed 70% of the world's population with just 10% of global farmland.

Agriculture is responsible for [nearly 40 percent](#) of [global greenhouse gas emissions](#), almost [90 percent](#) of [deforestation](#) and [80 percent](#) of [biodiversity loss](#), the bulk of which can be attributed to industrial agriculture.

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization receives [less than a third of its USD 3.25 billion budget](#) from governments, making it dependent on “voluntary contributions”, including from corporations and their proxies.

Food systems change



Ahead of the [UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment](#) in July, FIAN issued a [report](#) calling for deep food systems change, based on respect for human rights and care for people and planet.

It highlighted the ongoing struggle between attempts to further democratize multilateralism – as advanced with the reform of the UN Committee on World Food Security – and attempts to replace it with multistakeholderism. This approach disregards democratic principles and perpetuates power imbalances by including corporations as equal partners to governments and food producers in discussions on the future of food systems.

A [second research report](#) with the NGO [Corporate Accountability](#) in October, focused on the FAO's [World Food Forum](#) and revealed that 40 percent of so-called Cooperation Partners had some form of corporate relationship.

These publications led to a lively dialogue with youth participants to the WFF, who were eager to debate and expand their knowledge of the issues. For some youth representatives from the global south, the experience was highly frustrating due to the poor conditions for participation, notably the lack of interpretation and proper food and accommodation.

FIAN's also highlighted positive developments, notably the promotion of diverse, locally sourced ecological food.

Developed within the [Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition](#), a new FIAN study entitled [The Role of Local Governments in Constructing](#)

[Human Rights-based Food Systems](#) highlighted examples of local governments around the world which have adopted progressive policies and laws around food systems and explored the potential for local authorities to do more.

Looking ahead

The world is facing a stark choice between unsustainable, exploitative, corporate-controlled food systems and diverse, locally sourced human-rights based ecological food production.

Transnational corporations are answerable only to shareholders and cannot be expected to promote the general interest of society. Public institutions must be protected from their growing influence.

FIAN will continue to monitor and oppose corporate capture of global food governance, building ever stronger alliances and joining forces to expose and denounce undue corporate influence and promote democratic and right-based approaches to food justice.



COAL POWER ECOCIDE IN THE BALKANS

The Western Balkans has some of Europe's highest air pollution levels. Both Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina are heavily dependent on fossil fuel energy sources – especially low-grade domestically produced coal. Both show little regard for its impact on local communities.

The expansion of coal power has forced communities to relocate and left many living a precarious existence. Thousands have been affected by land erosion, flooding and worsening air quality. Smallscale farmers struggle with dwindling crop yields, health problems and crumbling properties.

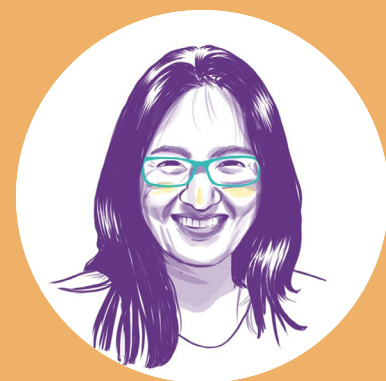
Supporting local civil society

During 2023, FIAN International has worked with local civil society groups and affected communities fighting for justice, and demanding relocation, fair compensation and legitimate environmental impact assessments.

FIAN joined forces with the [Center for Ecology and Sustainable Development](#) in Serbia and the [Center for Environment](#) and the [Aarhus Center](#) in Bosnia and Herzegovina to compile a report entitled [Coal Power Ecological Destruction in the Western Balkans](#). The report [investigated the impacts](#) of coal mining and related activities on people's right to adequate food and nutrition and to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

One farmer in eastern Serbia summed up how his [livelihood has been devastated](#) by mining-related pollution:

“There are diseases on fruit trees that were not there before. Pears, apples, all became ... scabby,” said Novica Milenkovic. “Hazelnuts also will not grow ... there are peaches, we could only eat a few. The others were all rotten.”



Yifang Slot-Tang coordinated FIAN International's work in the Western Balkans, which aimed to support local advocacy groups to increase their voice in European Union and United Nations bodies.

International advocacy

A delegation of Western Balkan civil society activists and farmers joined FIAN colleagues in Brussels for a series of targeted meetings with EU Commission officials and Members of the European Parliament. The aim was to raise awareness of key officials and MEP's working on their countries' accession to the EU.

As EU candidate countries, both Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina must respect national international environmental and human rights obligations, which civil society groups argue is not happening. They want the EU to do more to address the issue of coal power and to implement the [European Union Green Agenda for the Western Balkans](#), including a phase-out of coal power.

FIAN also worked with Serbian rights groups to [alert the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) to China's failure to respect the human rights of people affected by highly polluting Chinese businesses in Serbia, which is home to one of Europe's [biggest copper mining operations](#).

Looking forward

While FIAN initiated this work, there is a continued need to engage with partners and communities, supporting them in monitoring the situation themselves. In the longer run, although a just transition to renewable energy is one solution for phasing out coal, the communities also face new challenges posed by renewables: for example, fertile agricultural land being appropriated for solar panels. A just transition cannot be justified if it infringes on the human rights of small-scale farmers.

Why was this work important?

Climate change and environmental destruction do not respect national borders. What happens in the Western Balkans has a direct impact on air, land and water pollution – as well as the health of people across Europe and beyond.

I believe that our work contributed to a better understanding of the linkages between the energy-food-environment nexus and the direct and indirect impact of coal power on local communities and small-scale farmers. It also helped to highlight governments' obligations and their lack of action in this case.

Also, the Western Balkans as a region is not discussed so much at the UN in Geneva, nor are issues related to the impact of coal on human rights, so it was important to bring this to the attention of UN bodies.

What made this different to other areas FIAN usually works on?

It was the first time we worked in the Western Balkans and it was new for us to work on the connection between food, energy and the environment.

It is also the first time we looked so closely at the cycle of coal, from the perspective of the interconnectedness of human rights, pinpointing government breaches in respecting, protecting, and fulfilling their human rights obligations.

What do you think FIAN and the Balkans partners achieved?

One of the main outcomes was a series of UN recommendations on coal and climate change mitigation. In particular, we managed to get a [strong recommendation from the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(CESCR\)](#) calling for China (which has funded Balkans coal power expansion) to honor its pledge to phase out investments in coal-fired power plants.

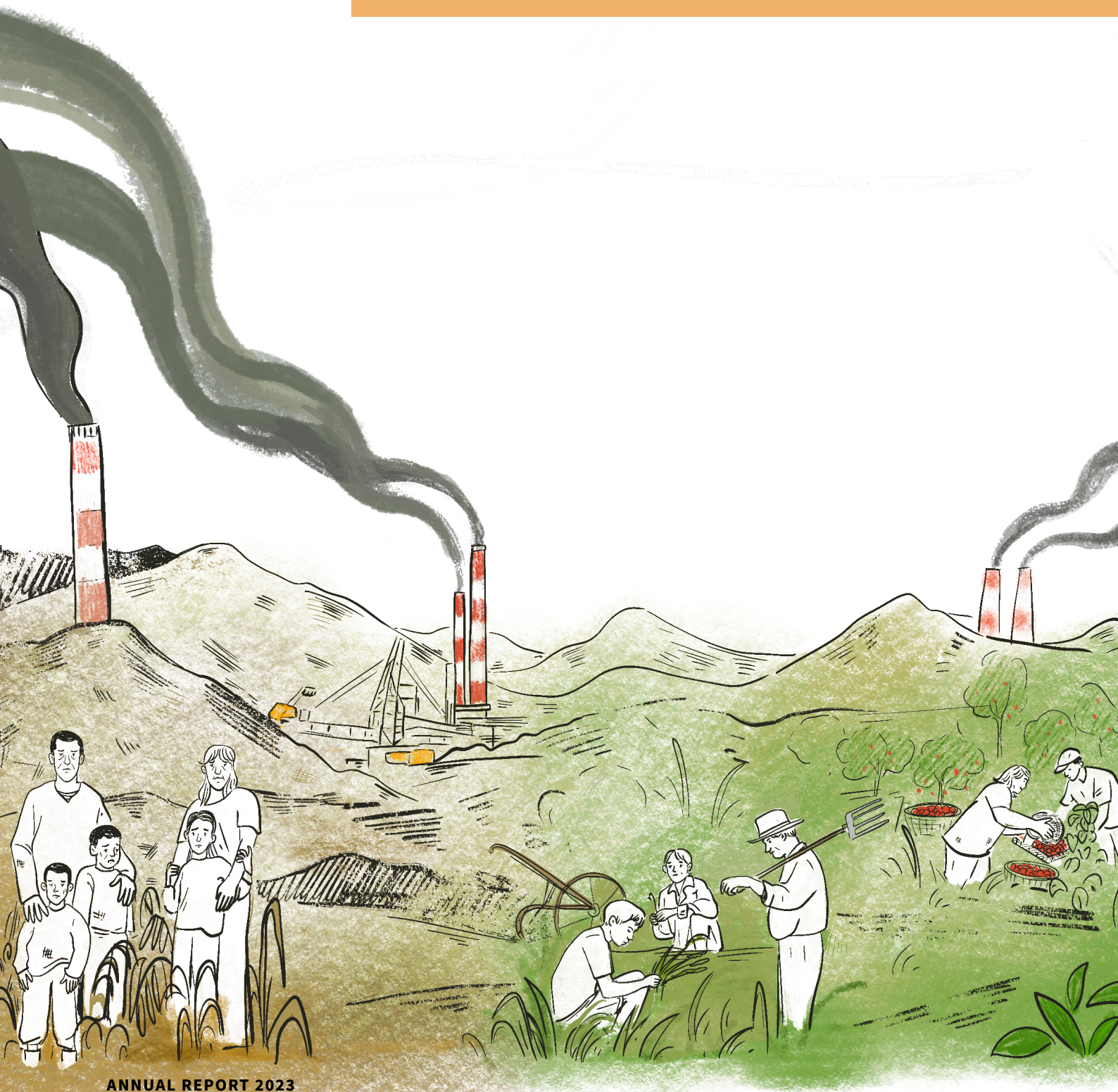
Importantly, the CESCR also recommended that China holds companies accountable for human rights abuses and ensures access to justice and reparation for victims – not only at home but also abroad.

I think our joint campaigning proves that human rights principles are strong tools to hold states accountable.

What more needs to be done?

There needs to be more monitoring by local communities themselves of the impact of coal. Our interaction was a good start but not enough. Civil society organizations on the ground could also be supported to expand their international advocacy.

And despite the political weight UN recommendations carry, there are of course challenges when it comes to how states respond to them. Local civil society groups play a critical role in sharing them with the wider public in their country and working within their communities to promote respect for human rights at the local and national level.



DIGITALIZATION AND SAFEGUARDING

THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND NUTRITION

Data has become an immensely important and valuable resource and digital technologies – such as gene sequencing, robots, digital land registries and remote livestock monitoring – are increasingly used in food production.

Some policy makers, corporate lobbyists and researchers claim that digitalization and artificial intelligence are necessary to make farming more productive, efficient, and sustainable. In recent years, several of the world's leading agribusiness companies have [partnered](#) with large technology companies such as Alphabet, Microsoft, and Amazon. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization has also established “[digital agriculture](#)” as a priority area.

Media attention on the rapid growth of AI in 2023 helped to put a spotlight on the wide-ranging implications of data-based technologies. However, discussions around risks have focused mainly on civil rights issues such as data protection, privacy and freedom of expression. This has obscured the fact that these technologies increasingly mediate access to services and control over resources – with major implications for the right to food and nutrition.

Analyzing implications for peasant farming and agroecology

During 2023, FIAN International documented the [impacts of digital technologies on small-scale food producers](#), including how [digitization of land registries](#) has created new forms of dispossession and the new frontier of biopiracy opened up by digitized gene sequences which undermine peasants' and Indigenous Peoples' right to seeds.

In Colombia, FIAN and the Movement for Agroecology in Latin America and the Caribbean (MAELA) investigated the consequences of digital carbon trading on small-scale coffee farmers. These carbon credits are traded on a Microsoft platform established by the Netherlands-based multinational Rabobank. Peasants are required to share their farm data and consent to remote monitoring of farming operations but receive no guarantees regarding payments or their rights to autonomous decision-making.

Around the world, small-scale food producers and Indigenous Peoples are developing strategies to defend their rights in the context of digitalization. FIAN International has contributed to this process, helping to create urgently needed spaces for discussion and [unpacking](#) the deeper implications.



Philip Seufert led FIAN International's work on the impact of digitalization and artificial intelligence on agriculture and the right to food and nutrition.



Towards human rights-based governance of digitalization and technology

The issues raised by digitalization are inherently political and require strong human rights-based governance frameworks to ensure that technologies contribute to making our societies more just rather than reproducing patterns of exclusion and discrimination. In 2023, FIAN contributed to two major advances in this regard.

In July, we successfully advocated to include economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to food and nutrition, in a Human Rights Council [resolution](#) on “new and emerging digital technologies and human rights.” It explicitly recognized the potential risks to human rights, including the rights of marginalized groups such as Indigenous Peoples and people living in rural areas. And it called on states to prevent, mitigate, and remedy the adverse effects of digital technologies, as well as regulating the activities of technology companies.

Another landmark decision took place in October when the UN Committee on World Food Security adopted policy [recommendations on the collection and use of data](#) which recognized Indigenous Peoples and small-scale food producers as [rights holders over their data and related knowledge](#), with the right to an equitable share of any benefits generated from that data.

The way ahead

Digital technologies are often touted as a silver bullet to solve the interconnected crises of food, climate and biodiversity. But the reality is much more complex. Their development, distribution and use are inextricably linked to economic and political interests, cultural meanings, different types of knowledge and social and ecological relationships.



How worried should we be about the digitalization of agriculture?

Technology does not develop in a bubble but is shaped by money and power, both of which are currently highly concentrated in a few large companies and a few countries. As such, the current push for digitalization in the context of food and agriculture is very concerning, as the digitalization of agriculture is set to mainly benefit a small number of powerful actors, while small-scale food producers, Indigenous peoples, and other marginalized groups risk losing out.

That said, we should be careful to not simply buy into narratives according to which “digital farming” is unavoidable. Especially in the context of peasant farming, digitalization is not as far advanced as some powerful actors want to make us believe. But questions of actual technical feasibility aside, the real question is whether the tech future that is presented to us is desirable at all.

What is the biggest risk?

That these technologies serve to further entrench power and money in the hands of a handful of corporations, while the knowledge and farming systems that have ensured the survival and well-being of people throughout history – namely peasant agriculture – are increasingly marginalized.

Is it all bad?

No, technology is not good or bad per se. Potentially, small-scale food producers and marginalized groups can benefit from digital technologies. However, we must remember that these technologies are deployed in a context of global inequalities of access to essential goods and services, as well as to information and digital technologies.

Moreover, the fact that most platforms and digital infra-structures are controlled by just a few corporations risk undermines any efforts to develop “inclusive” apps and digital tools. The real question is what kind of innovation and technology we need to achieve food sovereignty and a just transition of food systems to agroecology. And this requires taking into account the rights, needs and aspirations of those who actually feed the world – peasants, Indigenous Peoples, small-scale fishers, pastor-alists, forest people, urban farming communities etc.

How can FIAN make any difference in this area?

Biodigital technologies and simplistic data-driven processes increasingly shape key decisions about food and farming. It is more important than ever to preserve and promote peasant innovations and ways of knowing about farming and agroecology which can help tackle local and global challenges.

In the year ahead, FIAN will continue to work with small-scale food producers, Indigenous Peoples and communities to safeguard their rights in the context of digitalization and large-scale data extraction, challenging corporate narratives and identifying entry points for advocacy.

The right to food and nutrition provides a good framework to address questions that arise from the increasing use of digital technologies in the context of food and agriculture.

Starting from the acknowledgement that the implications of digitalization go beyond data protection and privacy and directly impact equity and the distribution of resources and wealth – as well as human rights – can help to find answers to important questions. For example, how should the applications and impacts of digital technologies be monitored and assessed? How should these technologies be governed and regulated for the public good?

In addition to this, FIAN's work with organizations of small-scale food providers and Indigenous Peoples allows us to challenge the dominant narrative that equates innovation with (Western) technology, and to give visibility to the importance of peasant and indigenous ways of knowing.



PUBLICATIONS



State of the Right to Food and Nutrition Report 2022
Report



Turning the Tide Towards the Realisation of Small-Scale Fishing Rights
Report



FIAN International Annual Report 2022
Report



The Land Struggles Series - We Belong to the Land
Website



Multistakeholderism and the Corporate Capture of Global Food Governance
Report



EU Must Act to Stop Coal Power Ecocide in Western Balkans
Briefing



Free School Meals Sourced from Small-Scale Farmers: a Win-Win for Food Systems Transformation
Briefing



Power Imbalances, Dispossession and Rising Inequality
Report



Food Systems Transformation: in Which Direction?
Report



Coal Power Ecological Destruction in the Western Balkans
Report

ADVOCACY NOTE ON THE PROMOTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNDROP (UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF PEASANTS AND OTHER PEOPLE WORKING IN RURAL AREAS)

INTRODUCTION:

Peasants and other people working in rural areas are the most important food producers in the world. They feed the global population – according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), they provide between 70% and 80% of the global food supply – yet they are alarmingly affected by poverty and hunger. Peasants, who account for up to 70% of people living in extreme poverty, often work under hazardous and exploitative conditions.

Hundreds of millions of peasants and other people working in rural areas, such as small farmers, pastoralists, artisanal fishers, landless rural workers, nomads and indigenous Peoples working the land, have historically faced, and still face, multiple forms of discrimination, marginalization, and systematic human rights violations. Because they are categorized as independent workers, they are systematically excluded from labor rights protection and social security systems, making them more vulnerable to exploitation, repression, and climate hazards and disasters.

Peasants and other people working in rural areas are particularly affected by the multiple current crises. The climate crisis, the environmental degradation and the food crisis threaten the livelihoods of millions of peasants globally. However, peasants play a crucial role in preserving biodiversity and ecosystems, and in responding to the climate crisis. The industrial food system, on the other hand, is a major driver of the climate emergency, and of social disruption in rural areas.

Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) is a powerful instrument to safeguard and strengthen peasants' rights. This means that the implementation of UNDROP, both at national and international levels, is a key element in addressing the impacts of these multidimensional crises.

Since the adoption of the Declaration, some States have advanced on the implementation of UNDROP at national level. However, there has been no monitoring of its implementation at the international level, while structural causes that led to the adoption of UNDROP such as various forms of discrimination, systematic human rights violations and historical disadvantages, continue to be ignored.

In light of this situation:

- It is high time that States systematically protect, promote and respect the rights enshrined in UNDROP by taking measures to translate its content into national legal frameworks, as well as to develop institutions, programs and policies accordingly, and thus implement its provisions.
- Peasant and rural organizations, together with allies from other civil society organizations (CSOs), must support a broader effort to take ownership of UNDROP through training and awareness raising efforts. They



A Just Transition to Agroecology
Briefing

Advocacy Note on the Promotion and Implementation of the UNDROP
Briefing



Rights not Charity: A Human Rights Perspective on Corporate-backed Charitable Food Aid
Briefing



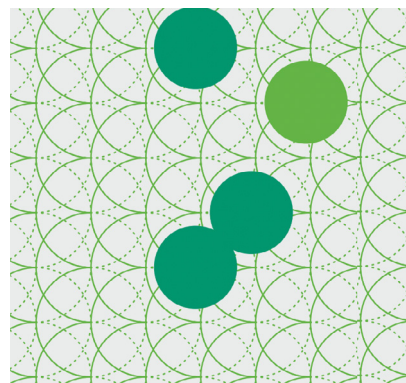
A World Food Forum Captured by Corporate Interests?
Report



The Role of Local Governments in Constructing Human Rights-based Food Systems
Report



Remote Control and Peasant Intelligence – On Automating Decisions, Suppressing Knowledges and Transforming Ways of Knowing
Report



Selling Nature or Protecting Rights? A Right to Food Perspective on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
Policy Paper

FINANCES

The Financial Summary includes income and expenditure account for the year 2023, from 1 January to 31 December 2023. 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 (€).

	2022 (in €)	2023 (in €)
Income		
Project Income	1.925.145,44	2.394.028,71
Membership dues	87.801,72	81.009,52
Miscellaneous	5.658,21	11.498,09
Donations	32.245,96	11.385,11
Sales	0,00	0,00
Interest income	0,00	0,00
Total income	2.050.851,33	2.497.921,43
Expenditures		
Personnel expenses	1.194.082,46	1.407.732,94
Transfer to sections/partner	421.718,18	691.828,56
Travel expenses	107.978,76	131.682,79
Seminars / conferences	48.547,10	33.962,98
Publications	108.914,08	86.928,64
Office expenses	82.519,97	80.176,57
Rent	31.650,80	26.046,52
International Board meetings	13.241,33	13.919,72
Accounting Costs	9.738,01	10.605,73
Depreciation	1.499,98	4.925,82
Total expenditure	2.019.890,67	2.487.810,27
Result from ordinary activities	30.960,66	10.111,16
Flow to /from reserves	- 30.900,00	- 10.100,00
Result	60,66	11,16

INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT

FIAN International strives to establish and uphold ethical standards throughout the whole organization.

The FIAN International Charter on Ethical Principles, adopted in 2017, specifies these ethical standards. The FIAN International conflict resolution mechanism, including a Standing Committee on Conflict Resolution, aims to safeguard and react on breaches of the Charter on Ethical Principles.

The FIAN International Handbook on Rules and Procedures includes all organizational Rules of

Procedures, policies and guidelines and is regularly complemented and updated. Within the International Secretariat, two ombudspersons serve as the point of contact for any confidential complaints from staff. Integrity advisors both at internal and external levels complement our integrity management.

In the reporting year 2023, no breaches of the FIAN International Charter on Ethical Principles, nor any cases of inappropriate behaviour were reported.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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 2023.

Thank you for your support!



11th Hour Project (USA)



Broederlijk Delen (Belgium)



Friends of the Earth Europe



Brot für die Welt (Germany)



Grassroots International (USA)



European Commission



Wellspring Philanthropic Fund (USA)



TMG (Germany)



Ministerium für Ernährung, Ländlichen Raum und Verbraucherschutz Baden-Württemberg



Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (Germany)



FAO



Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (Germany)



ECF (The Netherlands)



Ville de Genève (Switzerland)



HEKS / EPER (Switzerland)



New Venture Fund (USA)



Why Hunger (USA)



Climate Shift (USA)



(USA)



MISEREOR (Germany)



(Spain)

FOLLOW US



STAY INFORMED

Visit our website www.fian.org

DONATE

Click [here](#) to **donate online**

Donate using **Paypal**

International bank transfer

FIAN International

GLS Gemeinschaftsbank eG,
Christstraße 9, 44789 Bochum, Germany

IBAN: DE37 4306 0967 6020 0223 00

BIC / SWIFT Code: GENO DEM1 GLS

or scan the QR code below



CONNECT WITH US



Contact Martin at

✉ martin.gerdemann@fian.org

🗨 +49 15111124538

