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
Critical analysis, mobilization and action: These have been at the heart of our work throughout 2019. And despite rising authoritarianism and increasing corporate capture of public policy spaces, our resolve has been strengthened, as have our joint efforts with social movements and the wider civil society to overcome multiple crises.

Nowhere has the damaging effect of authoritarianism on human rights been more clearly illustrated, than President Bolsonaro’s drastic measures in Brazil. Not only is the country returning to unprecedented rates of hunger through public policies that undermine human rights and benefit corporations and elites instead, but it is also exacerbating sentiments of discrimination of all sorts towards the most marginalized groups within the Brazilian society.

The closure of the National Council for Food Security and Nutrition (CONSEA) - a shining example of people’s engagement in defining food policies - has been a big blow for right to food supporters. So too, placing personalities with strong links to profit-mongering corporate agribusiness in positions to defend the interests of vulnerable people – look at Marcelo Xavier da Silva as new head of the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI). This is why we have been actively engaging with different movements and wider civil society to bring this issue to regional and international human rights bodies. In parallel, we are also shedding light on how the rise of authoritarianism is one of the biggest threats to the right to food in modern times.

We hope that our findings in the report ‘Authoritarianism, Hunger and Denial of Rights” will act as a warning to other societies of what can easily happen if we don’t consciously mobilize against this trend. Speaking of some recent trends, this brings us to another concerning issue of the corporate capture of public policies. In June 2019, we received the shocking news that a Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) between the UN Secretary General and the World Economic Forum (WEF) had been signed. On the surface, some may ask “well, but what is the problem?” Well, the agreement grants transnational corporations’ preferential and deferential access to the UN system, and this comes at the expense of the public interest and human rights. In other words, it moves the most significant international public body towards a privatized and undemocratic format of global governance. We didn’t – nor will we – stand idly by. Under our collective leadership, together with the Transnational Institute, hundreds of civil society organizations are mobilizing to end the SPA through advocacy, media and street actions. We will keep defending peoples’ sovereignty and human rights everywhere.

For this same reason, we will keep increasing our efforts to ensure climate justice. The climate crisis is a real emergency with dire human rights consequences. By having allowed the current market-led production and consumption systems go unchecked for so long, we are on the brink of environmental disaster. What world are we leaving to our children and future generations? The last question links very well to the current pandemic of COVID-19, which has widely spread while making the final touches of this report. This pandemic and the measures to counteract it, is marking the beginning of a looming food crisis, where the lives of millions are at stake. The destruction of wild ecosystems, exacerbated by industrial agriculture and extractive industries, is increasing the risks of diseases originated in animals – like the one that is just happening - while accelerating climate change. We need to react quickly and design innovative responses that are anchored in human rights and social justice. As the famous quote says “problems cannot be solved by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them”. If there is a clear message that we can draw from this pandemic and other “pandemics” such as hunger, malnutrition and discrimination, is that to overcome the crisis we cannot just go back to normal.

This is why we will continue to work to make sure that the voices and the solutions of those communities most affected by food insecurity and the climate crisis are heard in climate, biodiversity, food policy discussions - and in any other that aims to tackle this crisis! FIAN International will contribute to “greening” human rights through the UN Declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. There is an inextricable link between climate, the environment, and the right to food and nutrition that must be thoroughly addressed. This is why the adoption of agro-ecology as a framework to transform food systems and address ecological destruction will be paramount in our work.

To a 2020 of inspiring struggles!

Sarba Khadka
President

Sofía Monsalve
Secretary General
WHY WORK ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD?

- 3.9 billion people facing hunger & malnutrition
- 10 companies controlling the global food chain
- 99 killings of food and environmental defenders
- 1/4 of 2019 CO2 emissions were generated by agroindustrial food production
PEOPLE’S STRUGGLES
In June 2019, the influence of corporations in public policy-making took a step forward with the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) between the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the UN Secretary General. Promising to “accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, the agreement grants transnational corporations preferential and deferential access to the UN System. In practical terms, this formalizes corporate capture. The response by civil society worldwide came swiftly by issuing an Open letter to the UN Secretary General António Guterres and by launching numerous media actions. Led by FIAN International and Transnational Institute, the letter was endorsed by more than 400 NGOs and 40 networks. The message was clear: no privatized and undemocratic governance. Advocacy work requesting the termination of such agreement is still ongoing. Under the lead of FIAN International, hundreds of organizations are working together towards the adoption of UN effective mechanisms that prevent conflicts of interest. As these organizations underline, “the UN should strengthen peoples and communities as the real human rights holders, while at the same time build a stronger, independent, and democratic international governance system.”

The message of hundreds of CSOs worldwide is clear: no privatized and undemocratic governance.
Reclaiming women as political subjects and recognizing their place in the frontline of the struggle for the right to food continued to be the premise for 2019. The 2019 edition of the the Right to Food and Nutrition Watch ‘Women’s Power in Food Struggles’, highlights women’s perspectives and experiences mobilizing for social justice. Published by FIAN International, as part of the Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition, the publication tackles the gendered effect of the predominant food production model and its links to authoritarian and right-wing policies in India, Philippines, Brazil, UK, Central America and Northern Syria. In an attempt to raise visibility of women’s radical political agency, the Watch also brings forward the ways in which women are actively organizing to resist the status-quo and build alternative food systems. In addition to this powerful tool, FIAN International worked together with feminists the world over as part of the platform #Feminists4BindingTreaty during the 5th session of the UN Open-ended intergovernmental working group on Transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights. Thanks to the campaigning efforts of these strong advocates, women’s rights was thoroughly tackled during the negotiations.

FIAN International was also part of a large group of feminists and organized women from around the world meeting in Mexico to discuss about the implementation of rural women’s rights. After exchanging successful experiences, we designed together a series of strategies and practical tools to give a strong push to the right to food for women in the rural areas.

Women are actively organizing to resist the status-quo and build alternative food systems.
As the latest reports have confirmed, the number of people facing hunger in the world has been steadily growing in the last years. To counter this tendency, FIAN International has been bringing together lawyers and legal experts willing to carry out legal strategies against hunger in their countries. More than 50 lawyers have met in Buenos Aires and Jakarta throughout the last years to collectively discuss what are the legal strategies, law initiatives and lobby work to contribute to advancing the right to food in Latin America and Asia. Concretely, FIAN International has already supported a number of amici curiae – which stands for an expertise file presented before national Constitutional Courts and regional Human Rights Courts. The aim is to put the right to food at the forefront in cases that might set relevant precedent. These go from the protection of seeds as commons in Honduras, to the right of indigenous peoples to territories before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and before the Brazilian Supreme Court. The implementation of the Nepali “Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act”, a great accomplishment from movements in organizations in the country – including our section in Nepal – is the next challenge for this group of committed lawyers. There is a path full of trials and legal initiatives ahead of them to be supported. They are key steps for the realization of the right to food of those mostly affected by socio-economic and environmental crises and advancing legal frameworks is definitely one of them!

There is a path of trials and legal initiatives ahead to advance the right to food of those most affected by socio-economic and environmental crises.
Since the new government took office in January 2019, public policies around food security and food sovereignty have been systematically dismantled. As one of his first actions, Bolsonaro shutdown the National Council for Food Security and Nutrition (CONSEA), a notable example of people’s engagement in defining food policies and a significant role model for many countries across the globe.

FIAN International, together with FBSSAN (Brazilian Forum of Sovereignty and Food Security) started an international petition to denounce it, reaching more than 35,000 signatures from all corners of the world. In addition, FIAN International and FIAN Brazil submitted a petition to the UN Human Rights Council and several UN Special Rapporteurs to step in. This led to an official communication by the UN to the Brazilian government requesting clarification about its actions. Despite numerous calls and mobilization, the authoritarian government went ahead with its plans. Yet, the struggle for the realization of the right to food in Brazil has become stronger than ever.

On this note, FIAN Brazil launched a report exposing how the ruling of a far-right government has endangered the right to food of millions in just a couple of months. Entitled, ‘Authoritarianism, Hunger and Denial of Rights’, the report will help anticipate other possible similar cases happening around the world.

The far-right government endangered the right to food of millions in just a couple of months.
Biological diversity is declining at an alarming rate worldwide. Together with climate change, the current mass extinction is part of the environmental crisis that threatens humanity’s survival and wellbeing. Biodiversity and healthy ecosystems are crucial for the realization of the right to food and nutrition. Peasants and indigenous peoples are key actors to preserve and further develop biodiversity. Through their agroecological practices and innovations, they constantly adapt their seeds and breeds to changing conditions. However, they can only play their roles as stewards of biodiversity if their rights are fully recognized and protected.

To this end, FIAN International has been supporting the struggles of West African peasant organizations for public policies that recognize and protect farmer seed systems. Successful advocacy needs ideas and FIAN International has been contributing to capacity development and research towards developing proposals that ensure the recognition of peasant seed systems. As a result, Mali is about to adopt a revised seed policy, and Burkina Faso has recently approved a law that recognized peasants’ rights to save, use, exchange and sell their seeds. In order to support local struggles, we also engaged in global governance spaces such as FAO’s International Seed Treaty, countering the corporate push for intellectual property rights over seeds and patents over genetic information.

Agroecology is a real solution to the current crises that is being lived by millions of peasants and indigenous peoples all over the world. Backing their struggles also means making visible the significant role of rural women and men maintaining biodiversity, and their contribution to advance the right to food and food sovereignty.

“Our peasant seed systems produce three quarters of the food available worldwide. It is time to protect our collective rights over our seeds,” says Alimata Traoré, peasant woman from Mali.
In 2001, the Uganda People’s Defense Force stormed the villages of Kitemba, Luwunga, Kijunga and Kiryamakobe in Mubende, Uganda, forcibly evicting thousands of people to pave way for Kaweri Coffee Plantation, a 100% subsidiary of the Neumann Kaffee Gruppe (NKG), based in Hamburg/Germany. After years of mobilization and legal struggle, the evictees are still waiting for redress and suffering the consequences of this brutal act.

FIAN International and FIAN Germany, in collaboration with other constituencies in Uganda and beyond, have been supporting the evictees in their claims, including the compensation of damages and the provision of new land for 401 families.

In parallel, we have been working intensively to bring the case to public awareness in order to increase pressure on both the German and Ugandan governments. Thanks to these efforts, a study on the case has been widely reported by German and Uganda media last year.

2019 also saw some progress with the judge of the High Court Kampala ordering a mediation towards an amicable settlement. Unfortunately, the request of the evictees in terms of compensation - consisting of 10 hectares of land for each family - was not accepted by the government of Uganda, which was only willing to compensate the damages caused by the eviction. Meanwhile, the human rights defender and evictees’ spokesperson Peter Kayira Baleke was imprisoned (a move that was seen as attempt of intimidation). Thanks to numerous FIAN International’s supporters and others, Baleke was released and remains free as of beginning of 2020.

While a number of the evictees, disheartened after 19 years of judicial process and with no trust in the Ugandan judicial system, have accepted the compensation offer of the government, others, with the support of FIAN International, are fighting for a fair conclusion of the case.

After years of mobilization and legal struggle, the evictees are still waiting for redress and suffering the consequences of this brutal act.
AROUND THE WORLD
Our work towards reinforcing the right to food across Africa paid off. After years of advocacy at the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR), the Resolution on the Right to Food and Nutrition in Africa was approved. This resolution calls on states to foster local and organic food production and consumption by banning GMOs and regulating the promotion and marketing of industrialized and highly processed foods. It is a powerful tool to recognize and legally protect peasant seed systems, crucial to ensure biodiversity and diversified and healthy food and nutrients.

On a similar note, FIAN International provided comments on the ‘Background Study on the Operations of the Extractive Industries Sector in Africa and its Impacts on the Realization of Human and Peoples’ Rights under the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights’. The study is the product of the ACHPR Working Group on Extractive Industries, Environment and Human Rights Violations in Africa (WGEI). More concretely, we made sure the study highlighted the importance of considering the views of those directly affected by extractive activities, including community members, artisanal miners and human rights defenders.

At country level, the deterioration of security linked to armed groups’ attacks has undermined certain aspects of case work in Burkina, including the frequency of field visits. Nevertheless, the section remained most active in two particular cases: Essakane (where communities have been displaced due to mining activities) and Kouankoufouanou (a case of forced eviction and land grabbing). On this note, FIAN Burkina Faso has been working towards a tripartite meeting for negotiations between affected communities in Essakane, the ministry of mining and the mining company involved (IAMGOLD). As for the Kouankoufouanou case, FIAN Burkina submitted a complaint to the National Commission on Human Rights. In parallel, FIAN Burkina Faso has been collaborating with other constituencies to promote the recognition and legal protection of peasant seed systems and against GMOs.

In Uganda, our work on the Kaweri case (where approximately 4000 people were forcibly evicted in 2001) intensified since July, when the judge issued a court order for mediation towards an amicable settlement between the evictees and the Kaweri Coffee Plantation, a 100% subsidiary of the Neumann Kaffee Gruppe (NKG), based in Hamburg/Germany. The court proceedings are moving in different directions and it seems like 2020 might see some evictees being compensated based on the mediation process and others opting for the continuation of the legal battle (see under ‘People’s Struggles’).

In other countries, including Zambia and Malawi, we are making sure to reinforce the promotion of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) and support national networks to advance the right to food with a bottom up approach.
As one of the youngest FIAN sections, FIAN Indonesia continued its internal consolidation amid rising political tensions and anti-government rallies and demonstrations in the country. Organized by FIAN Indonesia, the National Conference on the Right to Food brought together representatives from the government, civil society and the university research community, as well as farmers, to discuss an implementation strategy to uphold the right to food and nutrition in Indonesia. The section also hosted the 2019 International Meeting of the Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition (GNRTFN) as well as the first meeting of the Asia’s Legal Experts on the Right to Food and Nutrition.

In Sri Lanka, our section, established in 2018, strengthened cooperation with trade unions and its work towards the implementation of the SDGs. Despite an increasingly difficult political environment for civil society, FIAN Sri Lanka is successfully consolidating its work across the country and deepening ties with other CSOs, communities and social movements.

In Nepal, the process towards the practical implementation of the Right to Food and Food Sovereignty Act 2018 is progressing with the drafting process of related regulations. On this note, FIAN Nepal, together with other civil society organisations, has prepared and jointly submitted a draft to the responsible Ministry of Agriculture Development and Livestock for further consideration. In parallel, the section is increasing efforts around UNDROP - for which initial deliberations have been taking place throughout 2019.

On the ground, FIAN Nepal continued working with communities through case documentation and capacity development. The section also worked towards facilitating exchange with the government authorities so these communities can more easily claim their rights. As a case in point, FIAN Nepal has been supporting the Gajuri Rural Municipality – which has an inspiring declared vision of a Hunger Free area - in central Nepal in the process to formulate a Local Food and Nutrition Security Plan (LFNSP). A visible livelihood transformation has been possible after the successful claim of their right to water of villagers in a remote hilly part of Gajuri. The community used to face water scarcity, which was a year-round problem. Most village dwellers were waking up before sunrise every morning and walking for hours just for a bucket of water. Water for agriculture was a far-fetched dream. Thanks to advocacy efforts, the problem of water scarcity was solved through the provision of water pipelines by the government. “We are delighted with the changes in our village. There is sufficient water for everyone and thus vegetables in our gardens”, says Lal Bahadur Chepang, a villager.
On the occasion of its 30th anniversary, FIAN Austria led discussions with other national civil society organizations on the state of play and future of the right to food and economic, social and cultural rights. Furthermore, the section prepared a monitoring report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) on the country, together with local communities affected by human rights violations.

The case of land grabbing in Malen chieftdom, Sierra Leone, by the enterprise SOCFIN was FIAN Belgium’s most emblematic case throughout 2019. SOCFIN filed a complaint against FIAN Belgium and other allies due to FIAN Belgium’s in-depth report on the case and a mobilization action at the general assembly of SOCFIN enterprise in Luxembourg. As a result, FIAN Belgium’s activists were called to an examining magistrate in Luxembourg.

The section was also strongly involved in the Belgian network Agroecology in Action (AiA). Within the scope of the federal and region elections in May 2019, a collective memorandum with AiA was drafted to challenge local candidates. One major achievement from FIAN Belgium’s action was the completion of the reform of the law on farm leases in Wallonia.

As Switzerland’s review by the CESCR was due for 2019, our section in the country coordinated the CSO working group on the CESCR and the compilation of the civil society parallel report to the Committee.

The section also coordinated civil-society action to support the process for a UN treaty on Transnational corporations and human rights. On this note, FIAN Switzerland also co-organised a multipartite exchange between federal administration, civil society and academia.

FIAN Germany, in cooperation with FIAN Zambia, conducted a fact-finding mission to Zambia that examined investments of various German actors in the country. It collected evidence of a forced eviction in Mpongwe district, where the German Development Bank DEG was involved and human and labor rights abuses were perpetrated.

Through ReAlimentar (Portuguese network for food sovereignty and food security and nutrition), FIAN Portugal became involved in the development of law proposal on the right to food and nutrition. Furthermore, FIAN Portugal became a partner organization in the project “Alimentação é Direito!” (“Food is a Right”) which is funded by the Active Citizens Program (EEA Grants Fund).

During 2019, FIAN Sweden strengthened its participation in strategic events to advance the right to food agenda, including the Swedish Food Sovereignty week. As a result of FIAN Sweden’s advocacy on the case of Matopiba (a region in Brazil where a Swedish state pension fund is involved in land speculation) the government announced that it would review investments.
Historically, Latin America has been the most progressive region in relation to human rights and right to food and nutrition related legislation and policies. However, these have not always fully translated into real changes on people’s lives and, with the rise of right-wing governments and the adoption of retrogressive policies, new setbacks are observed. Amidst these challenges, civil society and social movements continued to fight for the right to food and nutrition and food sovereignty in a variety of ways. In the face of the major structural violence and discrimination they face, strong actions were taken throughout 2019 to advance the rights of women living in rural areas. In Colombia, over 70 CSOs, under the coordination of FIAN Colombia, submitted the first specific shadow report on the rights of rural and peasant women to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (UN CEDAW), and conducted advocacy activities. Thanks to this, important recommendations were made to the Colombian State around enhanced political participation and incorporation of the principles of the newly adopted UNDROP. The greatest impact, however, was organizational, as a strong group of organizations defending women’s rights was consolidated for follow-up. On this note, an international working group – comprising FIAN sections, international feminist organizations as well as peasant, fisheries and indigenous movements – was launched in mid-2019 in Mexico under the umbrella of the GNRt-FN, also to advance the rights of rural women.

As the overweight and obesity epidemic is a major concern in Colombia, the fight continues to pass a law on advertising of junk food to children and adolescents, front-of-package labeling, and healthy school environments. Besides the policy and legal advocacy work, FIAN Colombia works with communities to foster critical engagement with food systems, and co-construct knowledge and capacities for claiming their right to food and nutrition. At the heart of this work is the strengthening of the voice and role of children, adolescents, and youth, as key actors in their communities. The struggle to keep natural resources in people’s hands goes on throughout the continent. In Honduras, after filing a recourse of unconstitutionality against the Law on Protection of New Plant Varieties in 2018, FIAN presented an amicus curiae in 2019, using the standards developed in the UNDROP, which among others recognizes the right to seeds. This law – aka the “Monsanto Law” – gives advantages to seed varieties coming from large industries and seriously limits farmers’ rights to save, sell, and exchange seeds. In Ecuador, our section presented a report to the UN CESC, whereby it highlighted the challenges faced by the rural communities in the realization of their right to land and seeds, and obtained useful recommendations from the Committee. The right to food and nutrition...
and other human rights are being severely undermined by Bolsonaro’s authoritarian regime and austerity measures in Brazil. To denounce this situation, FIAN Brazil has launched a report and, jointly with other partners, carried out advocacy activities with international and regional human rights mechanisms in Geneva and Brussels (see ‘People’s Struggles’). In November, the ETO Consortium, whose Secretariat is FIAN International, participated in a public hearing at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in Quito to denounce the impacts of financialization and external investment on the defense of human rights and the environment.

Finally, the concerning situation in Venezuela did not go unnoticed. In March 2019, nearly 50 organizations, including members of the GNRtFN, launched an open letter to denounce the use of food aid as a political weapon against the Venezuelan people and govern-
PUBLICATIONS

**TITLE:** State of the Right to Food and Nutrition Report 2019
**PAGES:** 57

**TITLE:** A View from the Countryside. Contesting and Constructing Human Rights in an Age of Converging Crises.
**PAGES:** 32

**TITLE:** Right to Food and Nutrition Watch. ‘Women’s Power in Food Struggles’.
**PAGES:** 60

**TITLE:** When the SUN casts a shadow.
**PAGES:** 82
SOME ACHIEVEMENTS

- Supported 54 women in Honduras to obtain land titles after 20 years of struggle.
- Ensured progress in 27 cases of human rights violations.
- Organized 21 trainings around the world to strengthen communities and social movements.
- Had an impact on right to food policies and activities in 60 countries.
- Engaged 400 CSOs to stand up against the corporate capture of the UN.
**FINANCES OF FIAN INTERNATIONAL**

The Financial Summary includes income and expenditure account for the year 2019, from 1 January to 31 December 2019.

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

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In addition to its sections, seed groups and members around the world, F IAN 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 2019.

Thank you for your support!
In the reporting year 2019, no breaches of the FIAN International Charter on Ethical Principles, nor any cases of inappropriate behavior were reported.

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

A FIAN International conflict resolution mechanism with the aim to safeguard and react on breaches of the Charter on Ethical Principles, was adopted in 2018. A standing committee on Conflict Resolution entered into force 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; Internal-
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