

Annual Report 2007

FIAN Sweden



GENERAL OBJECTIVES AND MAIN ACTIVITY AREAS 2007

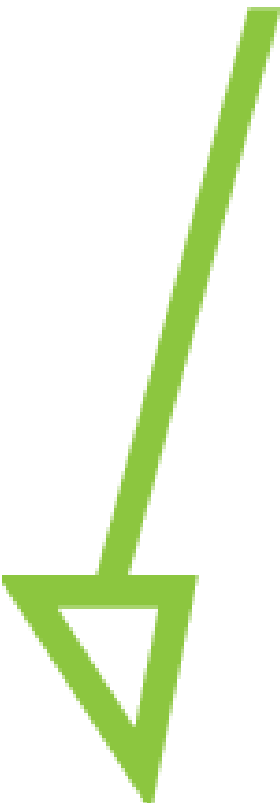
FIAN Sweden has three main objectives:

- To defend the right to food, access to resources and the right to feed oneself by providing information and fighting violations of these rights,
- To enhance knowledge about economic, social and cultural rights in general and about the right to food in particular,
- To recruit and activate members in order to develop the organisation and strengthen its capacity.

The thematic focus of the organisation's activity in 2007 were related to 4 thematic programmes. The programmes were developed within the framework of the Strategic plan for FIAN International for the years 2006-2010. FIAN Sweden decided in 2006 to work with the following programmes:

- Peasant's access to land and agricultural resources from the human rights perspective, with special focus on trade justice and the right to food in Latin America
- Extraterritorial states obligations
- The Right to Water
- Justiciability of the economic, social and cultural rights, with special focus on the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights (OP-ICESCR)

In 2007, much effort was made to start up two new information and awareness raising projects funded by the European Commission. Mainly, the implementation of the project activities were related to the four programmes mentioned above.



The first project is a joint project together with the Swedish partner organisation UBV (Education for Development) with the overall objective to raise awareness of the causes of poverty and hunger, and increase the European public's commitment to all people's right to adequate food. The general thematic focus of this project is trade justice and the right to food in Latin America but the project has an annual thematic focus. In 2007 specific attention was put on EU agriculture, trade and development policies and the impact on the right to food for small scale farmers, agriculture workers and indigenous people.

The second EC funded project is a cooperation with FIAN International and European FIAN sections in Austria, Belgium, France and Germany as well as with the partner organisation GAIA Foundation in Hungary and with FIAN Andhra Pradesh in India, FIAN Ghana and FIAN Brazil. The project has two main objectives: (1) to contribute to the implementation of the second part of the 1st Millennium Development Goal to eradicate poverty and hunger, which aims to reduce the proportion of hungry and malnourished persons by at least 50% by the year 2015 and (2) to contribute to a reduction of violations of the right to food in India, Brazil and Ghana and to a better compliance of these States with their obligations under the human right to food. The campaign is called Face It Act Now – with human rights against hunger.



FIAN SWEDEN'S ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2007

The annual general assembly was held on April 15 in Uppsala with 9 participants. The following board was elected:

Minja Peuschel, Chair person (re-elected)
Ulrika Wickelgren, Vice Chair person (re-elected)
Lena Klevenås, Vice Chair person
Karen Marie Slunge Buus (re-elected)
Elin Sundqvist
Anna Nilsson
Lazarus Kulaba Malingha, treasurer

The following election committee was elected:

Lisa Jonsson
Kristina Jelmin

MEMBERS

At the end of 2007 FIAN Sweden had 90 paying members.

EMPLOYEES

During 2007 FIAN Sweden had two fulltime employees with responsibility to implement the project activities and to run the day to day work in the organisation's office. Some short term employees were hired for specific purposes, such as to work on the web page, elaborate a graphic design and to facilitate and interpret seminars during information tours with international guest speakers.

OFFICE

In January 2007, FIAN Sweden moved its office in order to get some more space. This was necessary to be able to provide an additional working space for the new employee. The new office is situated in the same building as before, in the Solidarity House in Stockholm.



ACTIVITIES 2007

URGENT ACTIONS AND POST CARD CAMPAIGNS

Throughout the year, FIAN International's Urgent Actions and Emergency Network (protest letter campaigns) were distributed to FIAN Sweden's members. In total, six actions were sent to all members by mail and a further four actions were sent to some of the members by e-mail.

Two post card campaigns were also carried out in 2007. Signatures were collected among members and during several events such as seminars and information stands. Around 150 postcards with individual signatures were sent to the president of Paraguay to support the Yakye Axa case and 200 postcards were collected to support the Mubende case in Uganda. The Mubende campaign was still open at the end of the year and will continue in the beginning of 2008.

NEWS LETTER AND RIGHT TO FOOD MAGAZINE

One issue of the Swedish FIAN newsletter "FIAN-Nytt" was produced and

sent to all the members in March. A second issue of the newsletter was foreseen for November, but was postponed to 2008. In the summer, a special edition of a FIAN magazine was produced in cooperation with the Norwegian section. The magazine was sent to all members in August.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LOBBY WORK

- A letter was sent to the Minister of Agriculture in May regarding the Swedish position at the EU meeting on Agriculture in June 2007.

- A letter was sent to the Minister of Foreign affairs in June 2007 on the is-

sue of Sweden's position towards the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR at the 4th session of the open ended working group on the Optional Protocol.

- A meeting regarding the Optional Protocol to the ICESCR was held in November with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign affairs and Swedish civil society organisations.

- FIAN Sweden participated in two meetings with representatives from the Department of Commerce on the issue of the Association Agreements between the EU and Central America and the Andean union respectively.

- A seminar on EU policy coherence and the right to food in Latin America was held in Brussels in November with around 30 participants, mainly members of the European parliaments and representatives of different civil society organisations.

INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS

In 2007, FIAN Sweden hosted several visits from international guests.

In April and October, three guests from Chile and Ecuador were invited by FIAN Sweden and UBV to participate in information tours within the campaign on trade justice and the right to food in Latin America.

A representative of FIAN Ecuador was invited twice in 2007, in May and in November. The purpose was to hand over the Baba case to the local group in Stockholm and to participate in some seminars, such as a seminar on Gender and access to agriculture resources during the Human Rights Days in Stockholm in November.

A guest from Bolivia was invited by FIAN Sweden and some other Swedish organisations to participate at a seminar on the right to water.

Two guests were invited as guest speakers to the seminar on the Right to food in the Swedish Parliament on October 18, highlighting the World Food Day on October 16. One of the guests was Flavio Valente, the Secretary General of FIAN International. The other guest was Federica Donati, human rights officer at the ESCR Team of the UN Special Rapporteur for the right to food in Geneva.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

A majority of the activities in 2007 were organized within the framework of one of the two EC financed projects. Some highlights from the campaigns could be mentioned.

Trade Justice and the right to food in Latin America

- Both in the spring and in the autumn a country-wide information tour with speakers from Latin America was organized. In total 20 activities, such as workshops, open seminars, parties, information booths etc was organized in more than 10 different locations were carried out.

- One study tour and lobby trip to Brussels was organized in November with a total of 32 members from UBV and FIAN Sweden. (Eight of the participants were members of FIAN Sweden). In Brussels, FIAN Sweden was responsible for arranging one seminar in the European Parliament about the Policy coherence and the Right to food in Latin America. One guest from a Pan-American Network partner was invited as key speaker at this event. A representative of FIAN Sweden presented the annual report.

- An annual report "Mixed messages? On EU policy coherence and the Right to food in Latin America", was launched in October 2007. The report was mainly prepared as a desk study and

was based on recent studies on the report theme. The report was translated into English and Spanish. Cases documented by FIAN International was promoted in the report.

- An information brochure in Swedish and a Fact Sheet in English were produced as complementary information material beside the report.

The Face It Act Now campaign

- At the occasion of the World Food Day on October 16, the Swedish launch of the campaign took place. A street action was organized where the Exhibition was showed, information material distributed and signatures to a post card campaign on the Mubende case in Uganda were collected.

- An sms and email campaign was launched on the World Food Day to ask people to support the campaign and sign the call to action on the campaign web page.

- Four persons from FIAN Sweden participated in a European seminar in Hungary for Right to food promoters.

- In November, 10 persons participated in a national seminar for Right to food promoters in Stockholm.

LOCAL CASE GROUPS AND VOLUNTEERS

- In May, a new local group was formed in Stockholm. Some of the persons were former participants in a Folk high school course including a 3 months internship at civil society organisations in Ecuador. The group started to work on the Baba case in Ecuador, an hydro-electric dam which has threatened the right to food of people living along the riverside of the river Baba. Two protest letters were written and sent to the president of Ecuador and to the Commission of the development of the Baba river and its surroundings.

- Unfortunately, the local group in Brännö returned their case to the International Secretary in the summer, because of difficulties to find a local contact person to assist the group in the case work. The local group decided not to take up a new case.

- The local group in Gothenburg, working since many years with a land reform case in Monte Verde in Bolivia, received good news in the summer. The 2100 people of Chiquitano origin living in the San Javier and Concepción districts in the Monte Verde region finally received their land rights handed over to them during an official ceremony on 3 July.

- Three full time interns stayed between three and five months at the FIAN office during 2007. One of them stayed three months in FIAN Sweden and concluded her internship with another three months of internship in the FIAN section in Ecuador.

- Around 10 persons worked as voluntary translators of Urgent Actions and other FIAN documents from English to Swedish.

- In total, around 25 volunteers were actively involved in different activities throughout the year.

INFORMATION AND MEDIA WORK

- The report "Mixed Messages? On EU Policy Coherence and the Right to Food in Latin America", was launched in mid-October 2007. The report was mainly prepared as a desk study and was based on recent studies on the report theme. For the cases in the report partner organisations were involved through UBV staff working in Latin America. Cases documented by FIAN International was also promoted in the report.

- Another report giving an overview and analysing the EU bilateral trade agreements was elaborated in coordi-

nation with five other big Swedish NGO:s. The study will serve to deepen the understanding of these agreements among the members of our organisations, within other NGO:s and among a broader public. The report was launched in December.

- Several new information materials were published, such as one information brochure on the Global Campaign for Agrarian Reform and another one on ETO:s and the Right to food in Ecuador. FIAN Sweden also published, together with a few other Swedish NGO:s a publication on Food Sovereignty.

- One debate article was published in the biggest Swedish newspaper (Aftonbladet) on the International Peasants' Day on 17 April. The article highlighted that access to agricultural resources is a fundamental key for the fulfilment of many people's right to food, especially for the rural population in many developing countries.

- A seminar on the Right to food on 18 October, including a report presentation made by a representative from FIAN Sweden and a speech by the Secretary General of FIAN International was recorded and broadcasted by the Swedish Television (SVT 24) on October 24.

- Three radio interviews by local radio stations in Umeå, Gothenburg and Stockholm were made with FIAN Sweden members throughout the year.

- A new FIAN Sweden web page was launched in October. Two short term consultants were hired for this task. One person was mainly working on the technical side whereas the other person was working on the content side.

- A new graphic profile was elaborated in the April-June. A professional consultant was hired for this task.

OPEN SEMINARS

FIAN Sweden arranged a number of open lectures and seminars throughout the year. Many of these were organised when FIAN Sweden hosted international visits and in connection to one of the two major awareness raising campaigns.

- A seminar about the right to water and the impact on people's right to water due to privatisations was organised in Stockholm in May. It was a joint event together with Attac and ABF, UBV and NBV with a special guest from Bolivia, Oscar Olivera.

- FIAN participated at a seminar on Women's access to land at the Human Rights Days in Stockholm in November. A representative of FIAN Ecuador was invited as guest speaker.

- A seminar highlighting the World Food Day 16 October, which in 2007 had been announced by the FAO as the international right to food day was organized in the Swedish Parliament on October 18. This seminar was co-organised by FIAN Sweden and UBV/Latin America in collaboration with the FAO, the Green Party (Miljöpartiet), Swedish Water House, KSLA and the Church of Sweden. It attracted 117 participants, of which seven were MPs, one from each party in the Swedish parliament.

NETWORKING WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

- FIAN Sweden and UBV (Education for Development) started up a 3 year EC-financed project about EU agriculture and trade policies and the right to food of small-scale farmers, agricultural labour and indigenous people in Latin America.

- FIAN Sweden together with the

IS and several European sections of FIAN started up a 3 year EC-financed project Face It Act Now.

- FIAN remained member of the reference group to SwedWatch, a Swedish organisation working on corporate responsibility. During the year, FIAN Sweden was contributing with the human rights analysis to a report on a states' and companies' responsibility for human rights violations within the oil sector in Ecuador.

- A magazine on food sovereignty was produced in April by FIAN together with four other Swedish organisations: UBV, Svalorna India Bangladesh and Framtidsjorden.

- Amnesty, ICJ, the Human rights foundation formed a working group on the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. A meeting was appointed with the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in November.

- On the occasion of the World Food Day, FIAN Sweden co-organized a seminar on the Right to food in the Swedish Parliament together with the Green Party, FAO, a university (KSLA) and three other Swedish organisations: the Church of Sweden, Swedish Water House and UBV.

- FIAN Sweden and a few other organisations started up discussions to try to form a Swedish Alliance Against Hunger, part of the International Alliances Against Hunger (IAAH) with the main objective to contribute to achievements of the Millennium Development Goals, especially by strengthening national and global commitment and action to end hunger.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES AND MEMBER RECRUITING ACTIVITIES

- Efforts were made to recruit new members at several public events where FIAN participated, such as at seminars, and at the Human Rights Days in Stockholm in November.

- Specific membership recruitment efforts were made to target students at upper secondary high schools and folk high schools and universities. Information stands were held at Umeå University and Stockholm University.

- FIAN Sweden participated at a Christmas market in December where postcards and handicraft from Ecuador was sold.

- In April and October, FIAN and UBV arranged parties with one of the aims being to recruit more members and collect money.

ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Several capacity building seminars were organized within the two EC funded campaigns. For further information, see campaign activities.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FIAN-MEETINGS OR OTHER EVENTS

- One person from FIAN Sweden participated in the 9th NGO forum on Human rights in European policies in Lisbon, Portugal, in December.

- One person participated in steering group meeting in Heidelberg in February.

- Four persons participated in a European Right to food promoters seminar in Galgaheviz in Hungary in May.

- 8 persons from FIAN Sweden participated in a European capacity building seminar in Brussels in November.

FUNDING RESOURCES

FIAN Sweden received funds from three different sources; contributions from own members and income from sales and project co-financing grants from donors agencies and institutions. The support from the European Commission and Sida (the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) were the biggest contributors. Own income was equivalent to approximately 4,7 % of the overall budget.

BOARD OF FIAN SWEDEN MARCH 8, 2007

Minja Peuschel

Ulrika Wickelgren

Lena Klevenås

Karen Marie Slunge Buus

Elin Sundqvist

Anna Nilsson

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