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External evaluation of the project:
Strengthening the Right to Adequate Food
FIAN

Project 7F-09181.01 and 7F-09181.02

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Table of Contents

Executive summary	1
1 Introduction.....	3
1.1 General context.....	3
1.2 Evaluation of the project.....	3
1.3 Methodology.....	4
2 Review of achievements.....	6
2.1 Relevance of the activities.....	6
a) Relevance in the context of SDC's strategic framework	6
b) Relevance for the needs and capacities of rights-holders and duty-bearers	7
c) Relevance in a changing context	7
d) Relevance at national level	7
2.2 Effectiveness of the activities.....	8
a) Utilization of global and regional spaces and mechanisms.....	9
b) Use of the People's monitoring process and the RtFN WATCH	11
c) Facilitation of the participation of rights-holders	12
d) Effectiveness at national level.....	13
2.3 Impact of the activities	14
a) Strengthening monitoring and accountability at global and national level	15
b) Policy coherence in standard-setting processes	16
c) Impact of the activities at national level	16
2.4 Efficiency of the activities.....	17
2.5 Sustainability of the activities	18
a) Sustainable participation of right-holders in international processes	19
b) Specific sustainable participation of women	19
c) Sustainability of standard-setting processes.....	20
3 Case studies	20
Case study 1 – Cross-country analysis on the project impact on the strengthening RtFN-based legal and policy frameworks.....	20
Case study 2 – UNDROP	23
Case study 3 – Cooking Up Political Agendas	25
4 Lessons learnt and conclusions	28
5 Recommendations for SDC's and other actor's future engagement	30
Annex 1. List of interviewees	32
Annex 2. Master Interview Guidelines – FIAN.....	34

Acronyms

ACHRPR:	African Commission on Human and People's Rights
CEDAW:	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discriminations against Women
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CFS:	Committee on Food Security
CSOs:	Civil Society Organizations
CSM:	Civil Society Mechanism
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FTE:	Full Time Employment
FIAN:	Food First International and Action Network
GNRTFN:	Global Network on Right to Food and Nutrition
GPFS:	Global Programme Food Security
HRC:	Human Rights Council
ICESCR:	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
IPC:	International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty
OHCHR:	Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights
RtFN:	Right to Food and Nutrition
SDC:	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SR on the RtF:	United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food
TNC:	Trans National Corporations
UNDROP:	United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas

Executive summary

The present report is an external evaluation of the SDC-funded FIAN International Project “Strengthening the Right to Food and Nutrition toward Democratic Governance & Sustainable Access to Nutritious Food” was launched in 2015 with two phases of implementation (January 2015 – December 2017 and January 2018 – May 2021). The findings of the evaluation are based on the analysis of qualitative data and discussions with knowledge carriers as a means to reveal a “**contribution story**”.

The project is **highly relevant** to promote progress for global governance for food security and nutrition. It is relevant to develop an inclusive approach to standard-setting mechanisms. Furthermore, the project breaks down international law to the level of tools tailored for people outside of the UN. It contributes to enhance the articulation of people, specifically women in international, regional and national spaces. Last but not least, the project has gained in relevance in COVID-times whose impact increased tension on the RtFN situation of the most vulnerable communities.

With regard to the project **effectiveness**, FIAN methodology has crystallized the know-how about ensuring space for people to advocate for their own rights. In the RTFN global and regional processes, the project’s achievements are the results of FIAN unique role of support and advice with strong technical expertise, in addition to FIAN’s deep understanding of the RtFN in all dimensions paired with an effective methodology and inclusive approach towards other CSOs, coalitions and movements.

The major **impacts** of the project at global and regional levels were produced through the concentration on gender-sensitive and inclusive methodology: the people’s monitoring processes have led to strong RtFN recommendations and soft law amendments. The proof of the project’s impact is also the adoption of such methodology by others. Furthermore, the project is highly efficient through the strategic choices taken in terms of where to unroll activities, with whom, for which expected outcome.

The project’s **sustainability** can be ensured through a) specific capacity development of rights-holders at national level to raise their autonomy in integrating international negotiation processes; b) specific support of the gender-transformative approach to reach sustainable food security and nutrition and c) specific support of the international standard-setting organs to ensure the consolidation of the normative framework and global governance on the RtFN.

The project reveals transferable **lessons learnt** about how to contribute to the realization of the RtFN, essentially through a bottom-up approach. To put this approach into practice, capacity development, facilitation of processes, visibility of rights-holders, participative learning methodologies and direct work with local communities and authorities are all key – and were central to the project and effectively carried out by FIAN International.

The evaluation also confirms the **need for external support** in strengthening RtFN national frameworks, such as technical support to FIAN national sections, permanently ensure the inclusion of women in national and international processes, strengthening international coalitions, such as the GNRTFN, in an increasingly fragile multilateral system, ensuring recognition of global south rights holders, in ensuring spaces for critical dialogue about the role of the private sector, ensuring climate change impact is systematically and coherently addressed in RtFN global, regional and national discussions.

The evaluation concludes with recommendations for **SDC’s and other actors’ future engagement** in favour of the RtFN, to support:

- a) multilateral processes and institutions, in particular the work of CFS with substantial support to the RtFN Unit at FAO;

- b) the participation and capacity development of rights-holders, including both direct support and through structures of support;
- c) inclusive and participatory methodologies and structures, such as the GNRTFN;
- d) improvement of women's rights and women's access to rights mechanisms;
- e) long-term and flexible strategies to strengthen national normative and policy frameworks.

1 Introduction

1.1 General context

The FIAN International Project “Strengthening the Right to Food and Nutrition toward Democratic Governance & Sustainable Access to Nutritious Food” was launched in 2015 with two phases of implementation (January 2015 – December 2017 and January 2018 – May 2021). As stipulated in the Terms of Reference of this evaluation: “the project provides an important contribution to SDC’s portfolio as it focuses specifically on access to food, while traditionally the portfolio of GPFS (Global Programme Food Security) has been more focused on food production and availability”.

The Strategic Frameworks of GPFS 2013 – 2017 and 2017 – 2020 have identified different components to address the challenge of global food security among which one is causally linked to the work of FIAN: “**Regulatory frameworks conducive to food security and nutrition**”. Within this component, GPFS has elaborated 4 thematic priorities in the actual strategic framework with two directly corresponding to the area of expertise of the project implementer, the human rights organization FIAN International:

- 2.1: Global governance for food security and nutrition
- 2.2: Secure tenure and access to land

FIAN’s activities towards the implementation of the Right to Food and Nutrition (RtFN) correspond to the strategic orientations of GPFS through people’s-based contribution to international policy and norm setting, contribution to policy dialogue, and advocacy for land governance¹.

Furthermore, FIAN’s activities correspond to the approach of rule of law of the Swiss International Cooperation Strategy 2021 - 2024² promoting democratisation and accountability of states. The Swiss government considers the safeguard of multilateral engagements as guarantee for international order. Therefore, a strategy focus for the Swiss government lays on reforms for the strengthening and promotion of international rules and norms, together with an improvement of the coordination of the activities of various organisations³.

The global challenge 4 identified by the Swiss government in its strategy is the **right to food and the rights of peasants**⁴, which is at the core of FIAN expertise. The strategy points out the need for human rights protection and acknowledges the expertise of civil society organisations who need to be strengthened, together with democracy, human rights, and social cohesion.

This is the context in which FIAN has elaborated the SDC-funded project under evaluation.

1.2 Evaluation of the project

The overall objective of the second phase of this project is to contribute to the promotion of sustainable access to nutritious food for the most marginalized and excluded groups affected by hunger and malnutrition, especially women and girls, through a more democratic national and international governance of food security and nutrition. It builds on the objectives of the first phase which was: “Enhanced right to food policy coherence, implementation and accountability, in particular towards small-scale food producers and women, leads to more sustainable access to diversified and nutritious diets for all”.

At the end of the first project phase, an **internal evaluation** found out that FIAN had contributed to the strengthening of the international normative and policy framework and increased knowledge of human rights instruments among rights-holders and duty-bearers. The evaluation also identified the need for technical support to FIAN country offices on gender analyses, monitoring, and accountability.

¹ Global Programme Food Security – Strategic Framework 2017 – 2020, p. 12, 19, 21 ff.

² DE_Botschaft IZA-Strategie 2021 – 2024, p. 32

³ Ibid., p. 33

⁴ Ibid, p. 46

At the end of the second phase of the project, an external evaluation has been commissioned. The objectives of the evaluation correspond to 3 areas of assessment:

- **Objective 1:** Review and assessment of the project's achievements at national and global level in terms of relevance, effectiveness and impact, efficiency, and sustainability over the last six years: **Assessment of the results.**
- **Objective 2:** Based on the review and the changing context at national and global level, draw lessons learnt and conclusions that might be of interest to a wider audience working on food related human rights issues: **Assessment of the learnings.**
- **Objective 3:** Based on the review make recommendations for SDC's future engagement to address food-related human rights issues over the next ten years (new project selected in the frame of a Call for Proposal on "Human Rights in Food Systems" to be started in 2021): **Assessment of the long-term integration of food related human rights issues within SDC.**

1.3 Methodology

The evaluation approach selected for this evaluation is a "Theory-Based Approach", meaning a thorough analysis of the **theory of change**. The participative reconstruction and visual representation of the results model from the projects' log frame with the international secretariat of FIAN unfolded with the general impact hypothesis for the SDC engagement as a starting point:

"Ensuring participation of rights-holders in food security and nutrition policies and governance mechanisms is fundamental, particularly the effective inclusion of those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition. "Nothing about us without us" is one of the keys principles towards more democratic, human rights compliant, sustainable, and resilient agri-food Systems. Within this, understanding that where the RtFN is threatened or violated, women and girls are often specifically or more severely affected, with implications for all -women and girls, men, and boys – means that women's rights, gender equality, and women's participation need to be at the centre. Monitoring of policies is vital to identify gaps in compliance with human rights standards and obligations, and thereby contribute to the adoption of corrective measures ensuring accountability and policy coherence with human rights."

The specific hypotheses developed by FIAN for the advancement of the RtFN in the context of the SDC-funded project expressed during the Theory of Change workshop could be summarized as follows:

- 1) Knowledge imparted and discourses elaborated through seminars and publications lead to a higher engagement of people and communities in RtFN matters, specifically of women and of marginalized groups, who are then more able to claim their RtFN at national, regional, and global level. Therefore, the monitoring of the RtFN is strengthened.
- 2) Direct documentation of RtFN violations of communities and supporting people in their RtFN activities not only enhance knowledge but also strengthen awareness-building on human rights violations and how and where to bring the claims to the duty-bearers. Therefore, support for advocacy and lobby processes leads to increased knowledge and use of human rights standards by policymakers, thus strengthening national RtFN legal and policy frameworks.
- 3) Cooperation with organizations demanding new instruments, and bringing in human rights expertise and methodology leads to bridge-building and to strategizing of participative processes, thus facilitating processes for people's and communities' voices to be heard, especially women's voices. This contributes to the inclusion of rights-holders in drafting processes of international instruments, which in turn contributes to the strengthening of policy coherence in the context of the RtFN.

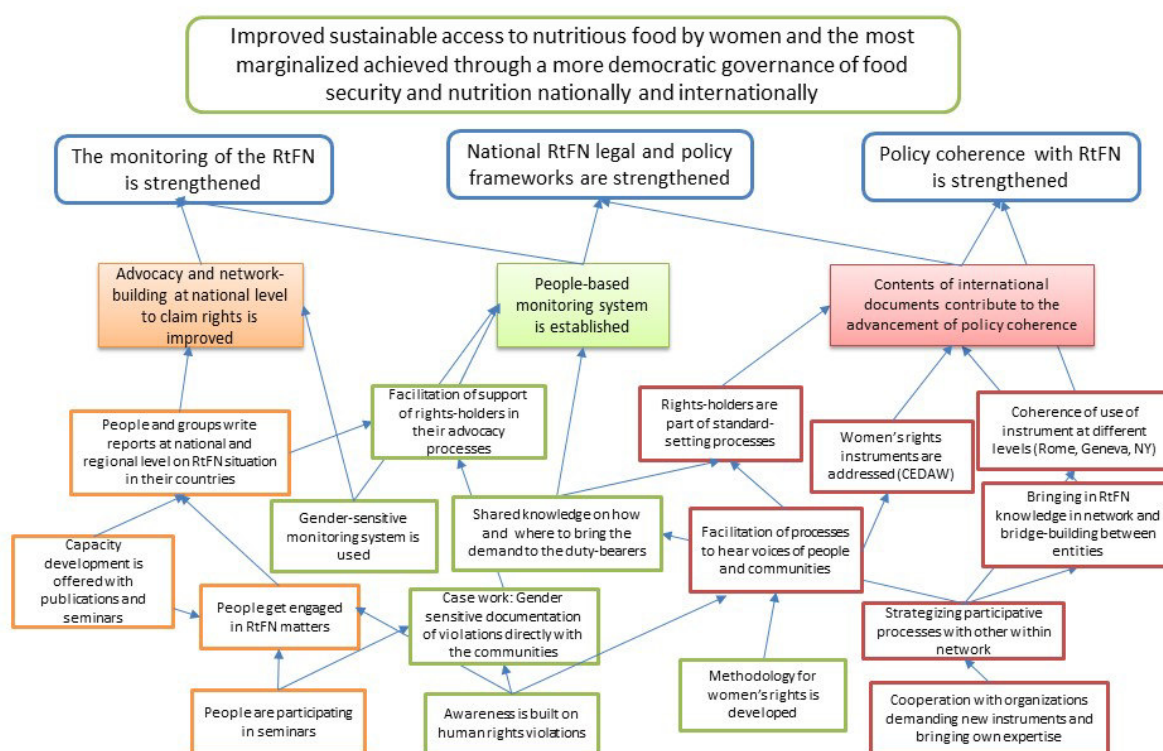
In light of these hypotheses, the evaluation design consisted in analysing qualitative data provided by FIAN, carrying out a desk review, considering of relevant international regulatory frameworks and conducting discussions with knowledge carriers as a means to reveal a "**contribution story**". The

elaboration of case studies is based on desk review, online research, and interviews, in particular with FIAN Sections. Due to the COVID-19, all the activities have been carried out in distance through virtual meetings.

The evaluation applied the method of triangulation, using semi-structured interviews based on a set of evaluation questions (see annex 1) and conducted a focus group discussion with 5 members of FIAN International Secretariat for program theory reconstruction. In this line, 27 interviews were conducted with 29 interviewees (see annex 2), including FIAN Sections, international civil society networks, representatives of the CSM, FAO, OHCHR, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food.

The design lays out how the interventions have caused or contributed to the desired advancement of the Right to Food and Nutrition along the lines of the results' model.

The results' model represented here shows the systemic approach and conjunction of interventions developed in the context of the project to reach the 3 goals.



4

The assessment of the project's results followed the OCDE/DAC evaluation criteria, along with the SDC questions laid out in the ToRs. Taking into consideration the global challenges, every DAC evaluation criteria has been considered for a) achievements at global level, b) specific perspective of rights-holders c) connections between national and global achievements, d) specific achievements at local level and e) focus on women's rights.

The assessment also led to the redaction of 3 case studies, which are placed after the chapter concentrating on the OECD/DAC criteria.

The evaluation chapters follow the above-mentioned objectives of the evaluation.

2 Review of achievements

2.1 Relevance of the activities

Main highlights on relevance
How well was the project aligned with SDC's GPFS Strategy 2017-2020?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → High level of adaptation to the SDC thematic priorities 2.1 and 2.2 → Contribution to “regulatory frameworks conducive to food security and nutrition” through the capacitation of rights-holders in autonomous policy discourse with duty-bearers → High level of relevance for the strengthening of soft law through dissemination of legal contents in daily language → Relevant for the promotion of an inclusive approach to standard-setting processes → Specifically relevant in COVID times with the loss of public spaces

a) Relevance in the context of SDC's strategic framework

The criterion relevance looks at to what extent the interventions carried out in the context of the project contribute to the achievement of the SDC strategic framework. The SDC strategic framework mentioned in the above chapter has a focus on “Regulatory frameworks conducive to food security and nutrition” including 4 thematic priorities. The priorities 2.1 on “Global governance for food security and nutrition” and 2.2 “Secure tenure and access to land” are at the heart of the activities carried out by FIAN in the context of the project.

The project is implemented in a context in which global governance and principles of multilateralism are increasingly at stake with a number of states inclined to withdraw from international governance frameworks. As case in point, the Right to Food Unit within the FAO has gradually lost funding and its genuine human rights human resources have been reduced to 1.5 FTE.

In that tense global context, FIAN through the project acts both as a watchdog and a driver in normative standard-setting processes. The documentary review and the interviews with key stakeholders have pointed out how the project has led to achievements corresponding to the SDC strategic framework:

Global Governance for Food Security and Nutrition:

During the project, FIAN has played a key role in the configuration and in the further development of normative contents and guidelines, for instance during the process towards the adoption of the *United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Living in Rural Areas* (UNDROP) (See case study 2). Still on-going is the negotiation process for the *United Nations Treaty on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights*, in which FIAN takes up a cross-regional coordinating role of CSOs and movements contributing to the negotiation processes. In the same line, FIAN made a unique contribution to the development of Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition, by facilitating the elaboration of common vision and proposal by civil society, through the CSM.

Achievements towards secure access to land:

The *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forest in the Context of National Food Security* were adopted by the FAO in 2012, prior to the project. Through the project, FIAN contributed actively to the *People's Manual on the Guidelines on Governance, Land and Forests*, which was published with the technical support of the FAO in 2018. The manual is an implementation instrument for food security stakeholders at all levels. Furthermore, the participation in the UN General Discussion on Land in the International Covenant for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2019) contributed to clarify the human rights dimensions of the access to land.

FIAN project has directly contributed to increased international scrutiny for secure access to land, in particular by the CESC and CEDAW. As a result, the increased treaty bodies' jurisprudence on access to land strengthened the RtFN-based approach to land tenure. The concluding observations of the CESC (Burkina Faso, Colombia, Mexico, Ecuador) on secure access to land and of CEDAW (Ecuador, Mexico, Nepal) for gender-based secure access to land strengthen the position of right-holders towards duty-bearers at national level. Under use of the concluding observations, rights-holders can enter in critical dialogue with the duty-bearers and provide practical advice on implementation mechanisms.

"We were already organised within the civil society before the project, but through the shadow reports, we were really heard differently. It really means something to our government, when an international organisation (UN) criticizes its actions".

Interview statement

The project has also led to achievements towards gender equality, through the substantive contribution to the CEDAW general recommendations 34 on the rights of rural women.

The FIAN methodology leading to such achievements is further explained in the chapter on effectiveness.

b) Relevance for the needs and capacities of rights-holders and duty-bearers

The evaluation question concentrates on the congruence of the intervention with the needs and capacities of rights-holders and duty-bearers. FIAN has developed an approach in the context of the project which has proven to be highly relevant.

The major obstacle to the participation of rights-holders in international processes is their felt lack of technical knowledge and ability of articulation, meaning people's ability to describe their RtFN situation and to demand adequate measures for the implementation of their RtFN (See case study 2). Capacity development in the context of the project has led to an increase in competences in that respect, starting with trainings on right to food and nutrition combined with the development of a methodology to articulate the rights: In the context of the project, FIAN has developed a people's-based monitoring system which has led to the improvement of the capacity of articulation of the right-holders: People can explain the case and actively contribute to processes within civil society articulation processes. Gender equality is a constitutive element of the approach and in that respect, the general active participation of women and women's constituencies at global and regional space has been promoted. This was achieved through the creation of safe space for discussion and the use of the rights-holders own's language.

One specific asset of FIAN's methodology has been crucial for the project fulfilment of the relevance criterion: The rights-holders speak for themselves at regional and global space and FIAN translates the messages into the UN terminology. Through the encounter with the rights-holders, the personnel of international institutions learn their language, so that progressively a direct policy dialogue between rights-holders and UN bodies has become possible.

c) Relevance in a changing context

The sudden surge of the COVID pandemic in 2020 has rendered the project more relevant, meanwhile a strong adaptation in the means of actions has become necessary. Advocacy activities built around the presence of the rights-holders have stopped through the relocation of UN sessions in virtual settings. At the same time, people and communities face increased violations and threats to their RTFN because of the closing of markets. The only source of income through market sells is lost and people without formal bank account and credit cards cannot purchase food. The situation represents an accumulation of crises for the most vulnerable ones. In the framework of the project, FIAN has adapted its methodology. The effective use of the virtual world for lobby and advocacy in COVID time and the effective adaptation of methodology are explained in chapter 2.2.

d) Relevance at national level

The component of the project which has contributed to the adoption of UNDROP proves relevant for rights-holders and CSOs at local level (see case study 2). They are the key-stakeholders for the national standard-setting processes implementing the SDC strategic framework “regulatory frameworks conducive to food security and nutrition”. Meanwhile UNDROP is a UN Declaration, thus soft law, national hard law can be developed recurring on standards set at international level. The project is relevant to advise the government on how to reach the goals of the SDC strategic framework through dialogue, lobby and advocacy processes.

Concerning the secure access to land, the project has proved his relevance since it has contributed to shadow reporting processes on various continents. Although the reporting is brought to international or regional spaces, the drafting process of the reports is configurated at national level. It proves highly relevant to promote the cohesion and cooperation among civil society organisations. These can use the UN concluding observations to enter in a stronger critical dialogue with their national authorities.

Sum-up of the relevance

The project is relevant to promote progress and when necessary gatekeeping for global governance for food security and nutrition. It is also relevant to develop an inclusive approach to standard-setting mechanisms. Furthermore, the project breaks down international law to the level of tools tailored for people outside of the UN mechanisms. It contributes to enhance the articulation of people, specifically women in international, regional and national spaces. Last but not least, the project has gained in relevance in COVID-times with increased tension on the RtFN situation of the most vulnerable people and communities.

2.2 Effectiveness of the activities

The criterion effectiveness looks at to what extent the project was effective with its interventions for the realization of the projects’ objective. The project has been highly effective in reaching the objective: “Nothing for us without us”.

Main highlights on effectiveness
<i>Utilization of global and regional spaces and mechanisms for increased RTFN advocacy, standard setting and monitoring and accountability?</i>
→ Parallel use of HRC, CSM, Interamerican Human Rights System, also creation echo and appropriation process by others
<i>Use of the People’s Monitoring process and RTFN Watch being used in different settings and by different actors?</i>
→ Diverse and complementary use of instruments from the level of right-holders to international forum and spaces
<i>Facilitation of the participation of right-holders in international policy processes related to the RTFN?</i>
→ Structured process of capacitation, mobilization, confidence-building and access to articulation spaces
<i>Challenges and obstacles in supporting right to food advocacy, standard setting, accountability, and policy coherence at global and regional level / Effective strategies?</i>
→ Switch from multilateralism to “multi-stakeholderism”: multi-fold coalition building with own voices and claims. Suggestion for FIAN to explore potential of critical dialogue with the private sector.
→ Support of existing networks and inputs in terms of methodology and channels of articulation

a) Utilization of global and regional spaces and mechanisms

During the project implementation, FIAN systematically used the UN spaces in Geneva (HRC) and in Rome (CFS) for increased RtFN advocacy, standard setting, monitoring, and accountability. Furthermore, FIAN was active at the level of the Inter-American Human Rights System and of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights. Through SDC support, FIAN further elaborated its methodology, which leads the organisation to being highly recognized as the reference organisation for the RtFN in various policy spaces. The methodological approach renders the organisation able to meaningfully use the UN complaint procedures. The collaboration with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food (SR on the RtF) has been slow at first while becoming more dynamic during her second term.

Interviews with experts at UN level or within international organisations and civil society networks have characterised the effectiveness in various ways, revolving around two major factors which are the strong case-based human rights analysis and the facilitation methodology. Through the SDC support, FIAN has been able to assemble the required expertise from the major stakeholders in specific fields to ensure informed negotiation processes. The respect of the visions and organisational structures of its partners enhances the effectiveness of FIAN in advocacy, accountability, monitoring setting processes.

“The cooperation with FIAN allows to create coherent cohesion around broad issues with them concentrating uniquely on the human right to food.”

Interview statement

Key elements/aspects of effectiveness within the UN system and with international experts:

- Specific ability to convene different organisations around one topic, thus ensuring a holistic understanding necessary to the drafting of comprehensive normative documents and guidelines
- Unique network allowing FIAN to advise the SR on the RtF, about the key CSOs and rights-holders network to engage with in country visits. Facilitation of exchange processes between?? UN experts and rights-holders with a strong gender-based approach and strongly structured around specific RtFN topics
- Concrete and high-quality RtFN analysis allowing evidence-based standard-setting as well as monitoring and accountability processes
- Case-based analysis of the RtFN issues constructed around the interdependence and the indivisibility of rights
- Unique ability to translate cases of violations of the RtFN into institutional language to be incorporated into international legal documents .

The major examples of effective use of FIAN approach are:

- **UNDROP (2018)**: Common influence of the whole negotiation process together with La Via Campesina. Meanwhile La Via Campesina was the major mobilization partner focussing on seeds, FIAN proposed the RtFN analysis and the advocacy methodology (See case study 2, section 2)
- **CEDAW General Recommendations 34 (2016)**: Negotiation on contents and systematic inclusion of the individual right to land and natural resources into the General Recommendations
- **Resolution on the Right to Food in Africa (2018)**: Year-long engagement and capacity development of members of the ACHRPR to improve the national RTFN legal frameworks
- Contribution to the setting-up of the “Friends of the Right to Food” within the CFS in 2016 to which 20 governments pertain to ensure that the RtFN stays on the agenda despite the increasing reluctance of states.

Key aspects of effectiveness in cooperation with CSOs:

- Contribution to increased knowledge and understanding of the RtFN as an interdependent component of global governance together with central issues being biodiversity, seeds, food sovereignty, and climate change

- Methodology building-up the understanding of the RtFN and ensuring participatory research learning and co-construction of knowledge on food and nutrition related issues
- Ability of FIAN to translate the contents and demands of CSOs into FAO/CFS language to be incorporated into declarations and guidelines
- Ability of FIAN to facilitate working groups within the CFS for monitoring and accountability purposes while taking up the role of promoting policy coherence
- Methodology coordinated among CSOs to translate normative contents into toolkits for action for CSOs and communities:
 - **People's Manual on the Guidelines on Governance, Land and Forests (2018):** FIAN has taken a coordinating role within the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) ensuring a convergence of approaches and contributing to the transformation of perspectives into a practical instrument.
- Facilitation support brought about by FIAN opening the doors for participation into the superstructure of international civil society networks for local and national CSOs
- Close cooperation with other organisations ensuring federation of valid approaches with equal recognition of inputs of all participants in negotiation process. FIAN is recognized for its coordination role in lengthy negotiations and drafting processes.
 - **UN Treaty on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights:** FIAN takes a civil society coordinating function for world regions (Latin America, Asia and Africa).
- Ability of FIAN to negotiate with official country delegations in order to keep the rights of peasants on the agenda within the HRC and at FAO level
- Methodology allowing the meaningful participation of rights-holders through connection and coordination with other organisations, including in one's original country

However, the effectiveness of the project could have been enhanced in some instances by identifying and presenting good practices in international negotiations as well as to accountability mechanisms.

Questions of effectiveness in COVID times

The above-mentioned effective use of global and regional spaces has been impeded because of the relocation of international and regional events to virtual spaces. As interviewees have pointed out, effective organisation of side events, during international Committee Sessions for instance, with the presence of right-holders are more difficult to organise since on the one hand remote rural areas do not necessarily possess internet access and on the other hand UN personnel are less inclined to participate in extra-sessions after a full day in virtual meetings. Nevertheless, the accumulation of crises experienced by most vulnerable people and communities is analysed in the project line of activity of country reports, and is strongly perceived in the global and regional spaces since the COVID situation is highly understandable for all.

At the same time, the COVID pandemic leads to unintended positive effects: Firstly, the rights-holders are more pushed into articulating themselves which highly develops their long-term lobby and advocacy ability. The rights-holders contribute to the further development of methodology and to the characterisation of topics to be brought to the duty-bearers, for example in pandemic times, the influence of speculation both on food producers and food consumers. This promotes the evidence-based policy dialogue. Secondly, the rights-holders start own coalitions across countries to draft national reports on RtFN and COVID to be put together in the context of the project. Thirdly, people and communities with good internet connections where RtFN is at stake can directly and thus more strikingly be present in events at global or regional level, presenting cases of violations of the RtFN with direct viewing of the case. Lastly, the virtualisation of advocacy can be beneficial for women's participation. In traditional contexts, it proves difficult for women to travel or to speak in international sessions, because of their care work as much as because of reluctance of some peasants' organisations to give them the floor, which consequently leads women in many contexts to not train their articulation in public spaces. Through the direct access to their physical location via internet, this obstacle can be broken.

Effectiveness for women's rights

The project is effective in enhancing the articulation capacity of women in public spaces through following lines of intervention: trainings specifically for women, facilitation of their participation in global and regional spaces, organisation of side events during UN Sessions, elaboration of toolkits specifically adapted to the inclusion of women in advocacy and lobby processes. Furthermore, the development of a gender-sensitive methodology for cases of violations of the RtFN puts women's rights high on the agenda of any RtFN advocacy process. Most notably, the toolkit "Cooking Up Political Agendas" elaborated in the context of the project is remarkably effective for the implementation of women's RtFN (see case study 3).

"FIAN is one of the very few organisations who proactively ensure that women participate in official events. At first they were quite shy, then they start articulate themselves. Their language is different from ours. Now we have adapted to each other. Through them, we (UN) can understand better the situation".

Interview statement

There is however a caveat to the effectiveness for women's rights: the facilitation role of FIAN and the respect of the visions of all organisations included in coordinated negotiations and drafting processes partly led to the loss of specific articles promoting women's rights in the adopted text of UNDROP: A certain amount of organisations, specifically those stemming from regions, where society and religion view women's rights as secondary or even a threat have opted out certain articles of the Declaration.

In that respect, remedies developed by FIAN in the context of the project have been on one hand the fundamental use of a gender-sensitive approach in any shadow reports at for CESCR and CEDAW, and on the other the creation of a women's group within the Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition (GNRTFN). Actual areas of work of the group is for instance the issue of women in fisheries and the systematic interpretation of UNDROP in line with CEDAW GR 34.

b) Use of the People's monitoring process and the RtFN WATCH

The project implemented by FIAN was effective in strengthening the monitoring of the RtFN and the policy coherence with the RtFN. The major instruments developed in that respect are the People's monitoring process and the RtFN WATCH.

Effectiveness of the people's monitoring processes:

FIAN International together with representatives from sections has drafted a monitoring methodology for FIAN sections and communities facing cases of violation of the right to food. Following the capacity development processes, the persons and communities with RtFN cases sketch the analysis according to their own needs and understanding of the situation, document the violation and present the cases at regional and/or global level. The constitutive participation at all steps of the process increases the ownership of the groups and communities for their cases and allow them to take a proactive part in the resolution process. The People's monitoring process is still developing: the groups and communities are advising FIAN international on how to amend the monitoring guidelines to be more precise and more user-friendly.

During interviews, representatives of UN mechanisms confirm the effectiveness of the process, allowing them to reach an authentic and unfiltered comprehension of the RtFN situation in specific areas as experienced by specific groups. Representatives of CSOs consider the people's monitoring process to be most effective to understand RtFN cases and situations: common language is used instead of legal wording. Other organisations can then join in the efforts to reach policy coherence on RtFN matters.

Examples of effective use of the People's monitoring process are:

- The national reports on the impact of closing on markets due to COVID-lockdown. Most effective in that context is the parallel use of the methodology allowing to gather evidence from different countries and platforms at the same time: Brazil, Paraguay, Honduras, Asian

Task Force. The COVID reports were presented to the CSM at FAO and shared with OHCHR and national authorities.

- In Colombia, around 70 women organisations have used the monitoring process to come up with a harmonized interpretation of UNDROP, thus reinforcing the women's rights movements throughout the country. The presentation of the report in Geneva shed light on aspects particularly affecting women's rights, e.g., unpaid care work, financialization of access to food and land and more.
- Shadow reports for CESCER and CEDAW written jointly by FIAN and external organizations all using the monitoring methodology leading to the adoption of concluding observations specifically addressing the RtFN issues reported by these shadow reports.
- Topical events around UN sessions in which various organisations use the monitoring methodology, thus allowing for coherence in argumentation, presentation and definition of priorities. This proves particularly effective for the articulation of clear RtFN messages.

Effectiveness of the Right to Food and Nutrition WATCH:

The project supports the publication of the WATCH which is an effective vehicle to strengthen RtFN policy dialogue and legal frameworks. The WATCH concentrates in each issue on one specific topic of relevance for the right to food in specific areas. According to recipients, who consider the publication as a proof of professionalism of FIAN, the major advantages of the WATCH are:

- Offers strong knowledge on one specific issue in a well-understandable language for politician and non-jurists – thus giving educated ground for discussions across constituencies: It explains the legal problem without the jargon
- Concentrates on issues at the forefront of international discussions and offers insights into issues inviting jurists to dig deeper into a topic from a legal point of view
- Drafted in a participatory process among knowledgeable people leading to coherent contents stemming from different perspectives on one overarching issue
- As a vehicle, the WATCH is used to launch discussions on “non-traditional” RtFN issues (for instance digitalisation) with various stakeholders, raise interest and increase knowledge
- Provides a proof that CSOs can launch thematic discussions in very structured manner and without restriction to partisan views.

The WATCH is considered by many as a dialogue keeper in times of clustering and echo-rooms. It is also used by young academics to enter legal discussions.

c) Facilitation of the participation of rights-holders

FIAN international in collaboration with networks, in particular GNRTFN, CSM and the IPC has regularly facilitated the participation of rights-holders in international policy processes related to the RtFN.

FIAN approach is considered highly effective by representatives of the UN system, international CSOs as well as by the right-holders themselves. The main argument brought about is that it brings the relevant issue to the right space, using the rules and the rhetoric of the said UN space but articulated by the people and communities themselves. The rights-holders become actors of a change process instead of being recipients of changes.

At the level of the HRC and the FAO, the effectiveness of the project approach is linked to the structured methodology used for its implementation. The holistic methodology developed by FIAN allows for a meaningful participation rights-holders through the coordination with other organisations, both internationally and from the country itself of the rights-holders. FIAN proactively organises (side-) events around specific issues and let the rights-holders be at the forefront. The events around UN sessions raised attention on RtFN issues, presented the interrelatedness of the RtFN with other human rights, including the principle of indivisibility of human rights and ensure that the right-holders deliver the messages. During the project period, events were organised during UN sessions focusing on:

- Small-scale farming
- Small-scale fishing
- Gender equality
- Forced labour
- Governance
- Nutrition
- Corporate accountability

Such events have proven to be another effective avenue for the inclusion of demands in concluding observations of CESCR and CEDAW reports; they are also effective for official negotiating parties of standard-setting documents since it presents the parties with the reality of specific threats to the RtFN in the context of the normative document. Generally speaking, the participation of rights-holders is authentic and widens the frame of discussion within the UN system. The major effect is to create a proposition capacity from the primary stakeholders which are the right-holders themselves within the normative framework.

At regional level, the project has supported the participation of rights-holders in different spaces, for instance the participation of farmers' organisations in the African Commission Expert Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the participation of right-holders in the Inter-American Human Rights System.

The facilitation of the participation of rights-holders has changed due to the COVID-pandemics. FIAN plays a key role in maintaining access to UN processes with innovating digital advocacy processes, as mentioned above in the sub-chapter on questions of effectiveness in COVID times.

d) Effectiveness at national level

The effectiveness of the project is visible in different settings and regions by making use of national mechanisms:

- **Colombia:** The project activities have contributed to the inclusion of the RtFN in the legislative processes following the peace agreement in the country. The major challenge is to reach the enshrining of the right to adequate food in the national Colombian law (See case study 1, sections 3 and 6). A significant result of the project input is to reach the participation of the FIAN section in control organisms to support the legislative processes. Following SDC activities, FIAN Colombia contributes to the Technical Committee for Food Security at city level (Cartagena) linking right to food, consumers' rights and the promotion of sustainable short circuits on food that is locally and with neighbouring countries (See case study 1, section 3).
- **Nepal:** The lobby and advocacy activities in the context of the project at national level have led to the inclusion of Right to Adequate Food clauses in the national legislation. Through the project, the critical dialogue has evolved into the recognition of FIAN as consultation partner for the resolution of right to food issues, first at national level and then, subsequently at district level and then community level. Besides the stakeholders' consultation, the effectiveness of the project has been produced through the capacity building of right-holders at local and district levels, who take over parts of the monitoring process.
- **UNDROP:** The UNDROP process now slowly start to be transferred to the national level with international events taking place to promote the implementation at national level. The strategy includes for instance a national event with OHCHR representatives and national peasants' leaders in Colombia. The project shows effectiveness through the implementation of a multi-layer approach with early achievements in Colombia and Ecuador (See case study 1, sections 5 and 6).

"When I started working with FIAN, I thought it was unfair to let peasants speak for themselves in such spaces. I thought it would be overwhelming for them, because they do not speak the UN language and they are not used in reading lengthy documents. That's why we have created our organisation – to represent them –, but then I had to realize that it perfectly works out, the peasants themselves were willing and able to take up the stage. That is what I have learnt from FIAN".

Statement from CSO interview

- **People's monitoring process:** The monitoring process drafted at national level demands the informed mobilization of rights-holders and CSOs to address national issues. Therefore, the effectiveness of the projects' activities in international and regional spaces depend on the articulation and drafting capacities of these right-holders and CSOs which have been thoroughly strengthened through the project.

In its first phase, the project intended to engage in 60 countries. FIAN learned the need for prioritization and for clarifying its country strategies tailored to specific contexts. Therefore, in the second phase, FIAN reduced the number of countries from 60 to 20. Furthermore, within these 20 countries, FIAN established three categories of countries according to their context: 1) Conducive legal and political environment for the RtFN; 2) Mixed environment with elements of the RtFN or positive political context and 3) Lack of political and environment for the RtFN. This process allowed FIAN to better conceptualized strategies tailored to evolving national contexts, including regressive policies where FIAN strategy mainly aimed at preserving the status quo from deterioration, preserving civic space and adopting an increased engagement at the local and community level (See case study 1, section 2 and 6 on Brazil and Colombia). **Sum up of the effectiveness**

FIAN methodology, further elaborated during the project, has crystallized a know-how about ensuring space for people to advocate for their own rights. In the RTFN processes at global and regional level, the project's achievements are the results of FIAN's unique role by being an organization of support and advice with strong technical expertise.

What majorly contributes to the achievement of the project's objective is FIAN's deep understanding of the RtFN in all possible dimensions paired with an effective methodology and an inclusive approach towards other CSOs, existing coalitions and movements.

Besides the high internal contribution to the achievement of the objectives based on the holistic approach described above, the high level of achievement of objectives stems also from the contribution of external partners supporting their own processes and FIAN processes at the same time, which is rendered possible through the multi-pronged approach developed in the context of the project.

Moreover, FIAN has demonstrated its capacity to build on lessons learned, by rationalizing its approach to country work, by focusing resources on a reduced number of countries based on strategies tailored to evolving contexts.

2.3 Impact of the activities

The evaluation of the impact of the project means to assess to what extent primary outcomes have been used to induce changes towards the higher implementation of the RtFN at international and regional level: It means to assess the contribution of the project to reaching strengthened monitoring and accountability at international and regional level as well as increased policy coherence in standard-setting processes.

Main highlights on impact
<i>Contribution of FIAN in collaboration with its partners to the wider policy coherence with the RtFN in global standard-setting processes?</i>
→ Multi-layer trickle-down and adoption of FIAN methodology and contents: HRC, CSM, within institutions and movements
<i>Particular benefits of the project for women?</i>
→ Higher level of articulation within community, within CSO/movements and higher perception at level of international organisations
<i>Evolution of the mobilization of key actors and right-holders in the course of the last years?</i>
→ Higher level of recognition of right-holders as such, higher articulation potential of right-holders while tenser situation for human rights defenders

a) Strengthening monitoring and accountability at global and national level

Through the project, FIAN has implemented a multi-layer approach consisting of directly supporting people's articulation within their communities, facilitating policy dialogue from local to global level, and bringing lobby and advocacy to the regional and global spaces. This chain of results is a precondition to change towards strengthened monitoring and accountability processes for the implementation of the RtFN. The project has contributed to an impact for the right-holders as monitoring and accountability entities and has contributed to the autonomous further development of instruments by these primary stakeholders.

Strengthened monitoring and accountability at the level of rights-holders

The comprehensive knowledge by rights-holders of their RtFN situation and their ability to report and present the situation of threats and violations in a manner understood by duty-holders and international organisations leads to the perception of the rights-holders as stakeholders in monitoring and accountability processes at UN level. This in return leads to inform CESCR and CEDAW concluding observations when examining countries progresses towards the realization the RtFN. The concluding observations reflect the monitoring results of the rights-holders, whose position is then strengthened when advocating for the implementation of their rights with their own government and institutions. Besides having their demands reported in official international documents, the stakeholders have developed their ability to conduct advocacy processes at national level through the project.

The annual reports of FIAN to SDC provide evidence of increased number of reports on violations of the RtFN in which rights-holders have played an increased role and developed their abilities to independently form coalitions with like-minded CSOs, together with the increased number of national advocacy processes following the CESCR and CEDAW concluding observations, prove the positive impact of the project.

Further elaboration of gender-sensitive monitoring and accountability instruments

Rights-holders organised within their communities or within CSO were already monitoring situations of violations of the RtFN in their country before the project started, and were already forming coalitions with others, yet with less impact. In the course of the project, the methodology comprising trainings and co-creation of monitoring instruments has been widely used and has incorporated a fundamental gender-sensitive approach with the potentially equal participation of women in drafting processes, the promotion of women presenting their monitoring and accountability results (reports) at global and regional spaces, including CESC and CEDAW. According to interviews with UN officers, the innovative approach of having (women) rights-holders directly presenting at UN level has raised the credibility of their demands, enhanced the understanding of the specific threats to the RtFN they face and is now expected by some to be the standard procedure.

Through the development of the articulation ability of rights-holders of different genders and the promotion of the cohesion of CSOs within monitoring and accountability platforms, results were reached at global level as presented in the subchapter on effectiveness. An impact is the effective use of the instruments developed in the context of the project (see below), that are not only used by FIAN sections but also by other CSO, indirectly linked to FIAN. A case in point is FIAN Ecuador support to the national network of rural women in Ecuador (See case study 3, section 3).

Furthermore, through the project, stakeholders at grass-roots level have gained confidence and started to contribute proactively to the further elaboration of monitoring and accountability instruments. This is the case with the two following instruments:

- Further elaboration of the People's Monitoring Guidelines to which rights-holders and CSO contribute proactively
- Further adaptation of the feminist guide "Cooking Up Political Agendas", which women in certain areas optimize according to their needs and contexts in order to carry out successful lobby and advocacy processes from the local to the international level.

The limitations to impact for the strengthening of such processes at global level are:

- The methodology for the roll-out of the feminist guide was carried out in Latin America, therefore in Spanish and local languages. Other regions where a feminist methodology for the RtFN could be developed would require a regional roll-out effort. Language is therefore a limitation to simultaneous impact creation at global level.
- Instruments like the People's monitoring guidelines are in the process of being redrafted in order to be nearer to the reality of right-holders. At the same time, actual multi-fold threats to global governance and multilateralism demand another adaptation of methodology including a higher understanding of global political tendencies.

b) Policy coherence in standard-setting processes

Interventions in the context of the project have contributed to the evolution of normative contents of the RtFN as presented in the chapter on effectiveness. The impact of the project is measurable in the coherence of normative contents on related issues like seeds, biodiversity, or climate change. Processes like the negotiation and drafting of UNDROP to which representatives of most diverse CSO and rural movements contributed and which were partly coordinated by FIAN in the context of the project have led to a higher policy coherence through the inclusion of various perspectives.

The impact is also measurable in the simultaneous or consecutive transformation of normative contents at the level of the UN with implementation guidelines at the level of the FAO. A good example in that respect is the People's Manual on the Guidelines on Governance, Land and Forests (2018) supported by the FAO. It ensures the coherent implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure (2012) which in return corresponds to the UN normative contents of the ICESCR on access to an adequate standard of living (part 3 of the International Covenant).

Furthermore, the ability of people and communities to use the normative contents and the new instruments for their purposes in their contexts shows the impact of the project. For instance, the autonomous setting-up of platforms and coalitions to ensure policy coherence like the GNRTFN show that the project has strengthened the capacity of the civil society stakeholders to autonomously participate in standard-setting processes.

There is however one caveat to the policy coherence in standard-setting processes at global level. The stepping-out of countries out of global governance processes constitutes an increasing threat. Therefore, even if there have been tangible advancements in the last years, a long-term impact of the project could already be the non-deterioration of RtFN norms at global and regional level. This will require a renewed strengthening of the position of civil society stakeholders.

In some instances, the impact of FIAN's approach in the context of the project could have included a stronger dialogue approach and negotiation's techniques with stakeholders holding different views.

"Meanwhile most organisations do not have enough means, FIAN has a federating role, therefore it is easier to get an audience, within international organisations but also with the own government."

Interviewee

c) Impact of the activities at national level

The impact of the activities at national level is visible if results of the project are further developed and utilized to strengthen positions in national contexts. The project's activities have contributed to the reassertion of the RtFN in different settings:

- **Burkina Faso:** There was already a mobilization against threats and violations of the RtFN in the country linked to access to water and forced evictions in the context of mining activities prior to the project. The national mobilization had led to structured documentation and analysis, together with lobby and advocacy at national level. Through the project, the methodology of the people's monitoring process was introduced, linking international and national lobby and advocacy process. The civil society has gained expertise in how to use a multi-layer approach to create an impact.

- **Women's rights at national level:** In Ecuador and Colombia, women associations have taken up the feminist guide as a starting point to develop their own mobilization strategy, enhance the guide with own tools adapting an effective methodology to reach a local impact (see case study 3).

Sum-up of the impact:

The major impacts of the project at global and regional level can be produced through the concentration on gender-sensitive methodology and the fundamental integration of women and vulnerable groups into the process. Furthermore, the people's monitoring processes have led to strong recommendations for the implementation of the RtFN and have contributed to the amendment of soft law. The proof of the impact of the project is also the adoption of methodology by others even in contexts in which FIAN does not play a role. At the national level, FIAN contributed to increased knowledge of rights-holders about RtFN related international standards, such as UNDROP, CEDAW GR 34 and CFS guidelines (see case studies 1, 2 and 3), strengthening of civil society and rural women networks (see case study 2 and 3), and the incremental strengthening of legal and policy national frameworks on the RtFN in several countries (see case study 1).

2.4 Efficiency of the activities

The evaluation of the efficiency of the project means to assess to what extent the financial support was allocated in the most efficient way to reach the project objectives. In the course of the project, evidence-based choices were taken in terms of where and how to implement activities to reach the maximum results. Efficient intervention at global, regional and enshrined with the national level is reached through a strategy elaborated around specific criteria.

Main highlights on efficiency
<i>Allocation of money to efficiently reach project objectives?</i>
→ Choice of spaces of discourses where FIAN sections are active, CSO mobilization is plausible and there is an opportunity to use fora
→ Setting-up of own events with strategy to maximize the potential
→ Fundamental active participation in well-chosen processes
→ Consistent use of methodology including creation of platforms (FIAN corporate identity)
→ Use and further elaboration of instruments

- **Efficient choice of spaces of discourses:** The active presence of FIAN during UN sessions is depending on the countries examined and the topics discussed during such sessions. If the country report procedures do not correspond to countries in which FIAN has sections or is part of an active network, then FIAN will not present a shadow report. Following the same strategy, the organisation of topical side-events depends on the main subject discussed during the official sessions. Active participation in global or regional spaces is correlated with the maximum potential impact of the participation.
- **Configuration of events with maximized potential:** Through SDC support, FIAN has organised side-events increasing the RtFN advocacy and accountability during the sessions of the Human Rights Council and Treaty Bodies in which rights-holders have negotiated their rights by themselves. The self-articulation of rights-holders in international and regional spaces ensures a maximisation of the use of space for lobby and advocacy purposes. This together with FIAN's methodology of directly emailing and contacting the persons invited to the events, and the parallel appearance in social media increases the visibility of the event.
- **Taking up an active role in international processes:** In negotiating and drafting processes like for instance UNDROP (See case study 2), the People's Manual, or the TNC treaty, FIAN takes up a coordinating role, creates platforms of discussion and ensures the incorporation of a great number of perspectives, including the ones of right-holders. The participation in

processes is always efficiently linked to potential contribution to the implementation of the RtFN.

- **Consistent use of methodology:** The methodology participatively developed with the rights-holders and with CSO platforms can be used beyond the scope of the project, it creates an agreed-upon language for lobby and advocacy, and serves both as a strengthening of capacities of right-holders and as a tool the same can carry on using outside of the project's boundaries. It is easily adaptable to local contexts thus enhancing its efficiency.
- **The WATCH'S efficiency:** The publication is generally soon out of print, proving that the demand of an interested readership exceeds the supply. Furthermore, the publication is used by different stakeholders for different purposes, thus showing its versatility. As mentioned above the readership reaches from CSOs, to employees of the UN system and academics. The clear language enhances the accessibility of the contents to a broad readership.
- **Platform creation:** In the context of the project, platforms were created to reach coherence in standard-setting processes, such as the GNRTFN. Such platforms allow the project to draw benefits from the variety of inputs and actions taken over by other members who complement the work for the RtFN. The project can focus completely on activities linked to the achievement of goals. Furthermore, the platforms can also be considered as spaces for co-construction of knowledge and mutual enhancement of competences. The CSOs and groups within the platforms receive capacity development on the human rights approach in the context of food security and nutrition meanwhile FIAN develop its competences in food related issues like for instance seeds (see case study 2), biodiversity, and climate change, learning directly from the experiences of rights-holders.
- **Guidelines and instruments promoting stakeholders' autonomy:** The instruments elaborated in the context of the project which are now further elaborated with and through right-holders and grassroots CSOs bear a high level of efficiency, since the documents are produced without intermediaries. The "Cooking up guide" provides an illustrative example of such process of autonomy building at national level (See case study 3).

"The WATCH on Digitalisation really opened my eyes. I had never made the relation between food and digitalisation before. It brought me to look for legal background on the topic."

UN jurist

Sum-up of the efficiency:

The project is highly efficient through the strategic choices taken in terms of where to unroll activities, with whom, for which expected outcome. FIAN international benefits from a global outreach through its national sections, its international networks and established local partners. For instance, the GNRTFN includes regional and international networks through which enables FIAN outreach across the globe.

2.5 Sustainability of the activities

The evaluation of the sustainability of the project means to assess to what extent the project results are sustainable in terms of participation of right-holders in international policy processes and in terms of sustainability of standard-setting processes. It means also assessing if the capacities of the stakeholders can be sustained after the phasing out of the project.

Main highlights on sustainability

Sustainable use of the people's Monitoring process and RTFN Watch in different settings and by different actors?

- Further elaboration of people's monitoring process semi-autonomously
- Expectations towards the Watch

Sustainable participation of right-holders in international processes related to RtFN (in collaboration with networks, GNRTFN, CSM, and IPC)?

- Use of methodology spreads and articulation develops but financial aspect is crucial and unsolved
- Danger of decreasing access to multilateral platforms

Sustainable application and implementation of RtFN at national level?

- Sustainable where the project has led to constructive dialogue structures in pre-existing enabling environment (Nepal)

Sustainable capacity of women to make duty-bearers accountable?

- Mix of general methodology without gender focus and specific instruments (Cooking-Up guide) being further elaborated by primary users themselves according to their needs

a) Sustainable participation of right-holders in international processes

The project has developed a methodology allowing the meaningful participation of rights-holders in international processes through capacity development, active contributions to the international process and feeding-back of the results at international level into the national mobilisation processes. The use of this methodology has proved effective for the realisation of the RtFN through connection and coordination with other organisations, including in one's original country.

The rights-holders have developed their ability to set up mobilization processes. However, the long-term effectiveness of the project can only be reached if the rights-holders are still able to create coalitions with other CSOs at national and international level, to carry out lobby and advocacy and physically contribute to negotiations and presentation processes after the phasing out of the project. Most rights-holders are vulnerable people and communities, living in remote areas. Therefore, they still require capacity development on how to present projects to receive financial support for active participation in international processes, and on how to raise their visibility to be invited to international conferences. This is the precondition to be able meaningfully contribute to the realization of the RtFN.

The sustainable participation of rights-holders in international processes also depends on the finalization and adoption of the People's Monitoring Guidelines adapted to the language of the rights-holders and the local language of the duty-holders.

The financial aspect and the guide's finalization pose a threat to the long-term sustainability of the project.

b) Specific sustainable participation of women

As mentioned in this report, the project has raised the ability of women to participate in international processes and advocate for their own agenda. However, the question of the sustainability is posed on several grounds.

Meanwhile there is a higher awareness and understanding for a gender-transformative approach at global and sometimes national level, there is also a recrudescence of negation of women's rights, most notably characterized very recently by the stepping out of Turkey out the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, the so-called "Istanbul convention". Furthermore, a certain number of CSOs of peasants and other people living in rural areas with influence at national and/or international level are reluctant to embrace gender equality in their lobby and advocacy work. Due to their traditional values, gender-sensitive normative contents might be evicted from negotiations.

Therefore, the sustainability of the project's achievements depends on a longer-term support specifically of women, with a larger appropriation of the "Cooking Up Political Agendas" guidelines in various regional settings (see case study 3, section 7), together with the mainstreamed inclusion of the gender approach with the People's Monitoring Guidelines in all adaptation and adoption

processes at regional and national level. The development of a gender-inclusive culture within CSOs and at the level of communities whose RtFN is at stake is the precondition for the sustainable of the project's achievement.

c) Sustainability of standard-setting processes

This evaluation report has presented the actual threats to multilateralism, together with the dwindling support among states for the issue of access to food and nutrition as a human right. In that context, the relevance of the approach implemented by FIAN in the context of the project has been characterised as a “watchdog” or a “driver” for standard-setting processes. The challenge for sustainability faced with the termination of the project is that the withdrawal from international standard-setting processes by countries, e.g., USA, or China, can weaken the position of international organisations and standard-setting organs. Therefore, the position of civil society stakeholders, including rights-holders, needs to be strong. There is a need for support to the adaptability to the changing contexts.

The sustainability of the results reached through the project depends on a parallel support of the international standard-setting organs, enabling them to face the increasingly challenging developments.

Sum-up of the sustainability:

The sustainability of the result depends on:

- Specific capacity development of rights-holders at national level to raise their autonomy in integrating international negotiation processes
- Specific support of the gender-transformative approach to reach sustainable food security and nutrition
- Specific support of the international standard-setting organs to ensure the consolidation of the normative contents linked to the RtFN and to global governance.

3 Case studies

Case study 1 – Cross-country analysis on the project impact on the strengthening RtFN-based legal and policy frameworks

1. Contribution to establishing, strengthening and preserving RtFN national frameworks

The project aimed at contributing to the strengthening of normative and policy national frameworks on the RtFN that are in conformity with international normative instruments.

At the outset of the project, FIAN established a baseline for these indicators, with three countries where RtFN global framework were incorporated at national level (Nepal, Brazil and Burkina Faso) and 9 countries where national policy discussion took place.

In 2019, FIAN reported significant achievements in countries where there is a FIAN Section, notably in Burkina Faso (legislation on access to genetic resources for food and agriculture); Nepal (Law on the RtFN) and Colombia (draft law on healthy food environment). FIAN also reported achievements in situation of dismantling of national legal and policy framework on the RtFN, such as in Brazil.

2. Illustrations of FIAN country work

FIAN Colombia prepared the draft law and carried out advocacy work with legislators and external actors to promote its consideration by the Congress. FIAN has drafted the whole bills, with input from FIAN IS, and liaised with other actors for the work with legislators and communication work.

FIAN Colombia held around a hundred of meetings with legislators and other actors to prepare opinions and technical briefs for the legislative debate.

In Burkina Faso, FIAN section has carried out activities to include RtFN related provisions in the process of two draft laws. In 2015, FIAN Burkina Faso participated along with a broad civil society network in the legislative process on a new mining law to advocate for integrating provisions recognizing the RtFN. FIAN Burkina carried out activities to raise awareness on the need for the protection of traditional seeds, including thematic reports.

Since 2015, FIAN Nepal leads a participatory process and the Right to Food Network, while carrying out RtFN analysis of domestic legislation in 2016 and 2017. Since 2018, FIAN Nepal carries out monitoring and facilitates consultation processes on the RTFN at the provincial level.

In Brazil, the FIAN section participated in the National Conference on the RTFN – a civil society platform to counter the dismantling of the public structure in charge of food policies (CONSEA). In the context of the pandemic, FIAN Brazil successfully contributed to the adoption of a bill that maintains the budget assigned to school feeding to be used for family subsidies. FIAN Brazil participated in an online training for local organizations (approx. 200 participants) to facilitate the local implementation of the bill. However, the universal distribution of these subsidies faces gaps at the local level.

FIAN International provided legal support to national civil society organizations. For instance, in Spain, FIAN international provided technical support to Urgenci in efforts to promote national and regional legislation on the RTFN. Notably, FIAN provided a document on the RTFN international legal framework that was passed on to allied legislators.

3. FIAN's achievements in strengthening national frameworks

FIAN Colombia has been able to place draft laws on the agenda of the legislative branch during the course of the project. Despite setbacks on the two first draft laws, FIAN Colombia has achieved to place a new draft law on the RTFN on the Congress agenda, currently under discussion after two debates.

At the local level, FIAN Colombia carried out advocacy work in the city of Cartagena directly contributing to the adoption of a policy on healthy food in schools (Acuerdo 021), which includes the prohibition of unhealthy food. FIAN Colombia is part of the technical committee in charge of developing and implementing the policy. The process was scaled up to the department level, where a similar development takes place.

In Burkina Faso, FIAN directly contributed to the incorporation of RtFN dimensions in the 2015 legislation on mining as well as to the recognition of peasants' rights in the 2018 draft law on access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, notably in relation to the right to traditional seeds.

In the context of the pandemic, FIAN Brazil successfully contributed to the adoption of a bill that maintains the budget assigned to school feeding to be used for family subsidies.

4. Challenges

Common challenges essentially relate to political contexts, whether governments are in favour of rights-based policies and whether there is an enabling environment for civil society or forms of restriction or repression. For instance, in Ecuador, the lack of openness in the political system, combined with forms of criminalization of social movements, strongly limit FIAN's Ecuador capacity to promote RtFN national frameworks, whether via draft legislation and alliance building.

5. Lessons learned

There are factors enabling the impact of FIAN's country engagement. In Nepal, the civil society and government supporting relationship facilitates FIAN Nepal promotion of the RTFN in law and policies. Moreover, the engagement of the FAO facilitated the development of a national legal and policy framework in line with the RtFN, such as in Burkina Faso and Nepal.

Furthermore, the openness of the political system, existence of allies in civil society as well as in the legislative branch and a governmental progressive agenda all separately or combined have offered greater opportunities for contributing to a RtFN robust national framework.

In the absence of these enabling factors, FIAN has nonetheless carried out its work with adapted strategies, including in the context of the pandemic, notably by working at the local level and supporting the needs and claims of communities by engaging with local authorities, with a potential for scaling up like in Colombia, or territorial implementation of RtFN legislation, like in Nepal.

In Colombia, the RtFN draft bills have unintentionally triggered a public attention about the role and responsibilities of the private sector in the food sector, which did not exist before.

6. Conclusions and recommendations

The experience in Colombia illustrates the need for continuing and intense advocacy work with legislators during a long period that include work with external actors (media and ministries), and the importance of strong partnerships (the organization in charge of communication).

The experience in Colombia shows that the strategy to promote the national framework of the RTFN can be articulated both at the national level (legislation) - as a long-term strategy in an unfavourable environment, and the local level (specific policies both in Barracabermeja and in Cartagena) with the potential of replication and scaling up.

The experience in Nepal underscores the need for continuing advocacy after an RtFN legislation is passed, to ensure its effective implementation. This includes advocacy and monitoring work for the adoption of provincial or local acts.

The process leading to the adoption of the national law on the RtFN in Nepal confirms the need for long-term capacity to engage on a multilayer strategy of knowledge generation and dissemination, alliance building and joint advocacy. Similarly, the adoption of the Zero Hunger Bill in the Philippines has been the result of perseverance, commitment and continuing negotiations of the members of the National Food Coalition with allies in Congress.

As country experience to promote the RtFN, such as in Burkina Faso and Nepal, suggests that the collaboration with FAO country offices, is an enabling factor for the strengthening of the RtFN legal and policy national frameworks, such collaboration should be replicated.

In contexts of regressive policies and shrinking civic space, FIAN strategies has included the preservation of existing RtFN frameworks, such as the Brazilian national council on food security and subsidies programs and the focus on local work with communities and local authorities, like in Colombia, with the cities of Cartagena and Barrancabermeja.

Case study 2 – UNDROP

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP)

1. Towards the recognition and enjoyment of the human rights of peasants and other peoples working in rural areas

FIAN international project sought to improve policy coherence with the right to food and human rights in specific global standard setting processes, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other Peoples Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP).

With regard to UNDROP, the project logframe included indicators about the number and types or relevant right to food references in the UNDROPⁱ (project 1st phase) and about the adoption of versions of UNDROP (2nd phase)ⁱⁱ. With the adoption of UNDROP in 2018, the project focus shifted from standard-setting to supporting the implementation of UNDROP nationally as well as in the context of other RTFN-related regional and global processesⁱⁱⁱ.

2. Engagement with the negotiation process

During the negotiation process, FIAN has facilitated the participation of rights-holders, taking up a facilitation and consensus building role while providing direct contribution to drafting proposals. In particular, FIAN facilitated the participation of members of the GNRTFN.

During the negotiation process, FIAN has undertaken, at the country level, awareness- raising about the draft Declaration and the negotiation process itself. FIAN sections have organized awareness-raising events with peasant's organizations and rural communities.

3. Initial steps for UNDROP implementation

At the global level, FIAN has been promoting the use of UNDROP in the work of human rights mechanisms, in particular treaty bodies and the African working group on ESC-Rights. FIAN has promoted the use of UNDROP as a normative framework for preparing shadow reports to treaty bodies.

FIAN has also been proactive to promote UNDROP in the context of the African human rights instruments and mechanisms, notably by proposing to the African Working Group on ESC-Rights to update its guidelines on economic, social and cultural rights^{iv}.

In the context of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the peasants members of the ad-hoc technical group on peasant's rights are using UNDROP to sustain their claims and views in the work of the technical group.

At the national level, there are many activities to promote UNDROP implementation. For instance in Mali, UNDROP contents has been disseminated in local languages in various regions of the country. Moreover, UNDROP has been used to sustain the claim for reviewing the legislation on seeds to include the recognition and support to the right to traditional seeds systems.

Furthermore, FIAN sections have already taken steps to promote the national implementation of UNDROP. FIAN Colombia held meetings with the OHCHR Colombia to plan and coordinate joint activities to promote UNDROP in Colombia; FIAN Nepal has carried out activities of dissemination of UNDROP, while Burkina Faso received funding from the Canton of Geneva for a vulgarisation process of UNDROP. Similarly, FIAN partners, such as the African Centre for Biodiversity, la Via Campesina or the WFFP, plan to promote UNDROP implementation, in collaboration with FIAN.

4. FIAN's contribution to the adoption of UNDROP

FIAN has had a prominent role in the process of negotiations on the draft text as well as in ensuring the political support for the adoption of UNDROP. FIAN capacity to advocating for complex issues, such as the right to seeds, is recognized by its partners and external actors.

The adoption of article 19 on the right to seeds is considered as a significant achievement. The role of FIAN is here widely recognized by „thematizing“ the issue and for its ability to build consensus and support within civil society as well as among States, for the adoption of this article.

FIAN’s role in facilitating the active participation of rights holders representing various rural workers constituencies is widely recognized as a contribution to civil society participation – including by providing a well appreciated technical support for understanding the rules of procedures allowing for the participation in UN processes, for learning how to undertake advocacy work in such settings and for translating their demands into legal language for drafting proposals- in order to ensure local claims reflected in UNDROP.

FIAN had direct role in ensuring the policy coherence of UNDROP provisions on the right to land with the RTFN normative framework, in particular with CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

“FIAN International played a direct and prominent role in the adoption of UNDROP. It is one of FIAN International great achievements.”

- Interviewees

5. Early achievements in UNDROP implementation

FIAN awareness-raising activities in countries combined with the support to rights-holders’ participation during the negotiations contributed to the ownership of UNDROP by rural workers organizations, willing and able to use it for their own actions. Immediate use of UNDROP in the defence of the RTFN, through amicus brief and shadow reports to UN accountability mechanisms, such as CEDAW. FIAN directly contributed to the incorporation of UNDROP in CEDAW jurisprudence. For instance, as suggested in FIAN shadow report on Colombia, the CEDAW adopted a concluding observations recommending Colombia to incorporate UNDROP in its national legal and policy framework:

(e) Consider incorporating the principles contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas in legal and policy instruments regarding rural women. (CEDAW/C/COL/CO/9, para. 42 (e))

FIAN Ecuador: early national results of promoting UNDROP

The use of UNDROP by FIAN Ecuador illustrates early results in strengthening rural workers’ organizations, conducting assessment of rural workers’ rights and asserting the constitutional provisions on the rights of rural workers.

In the Coast region, the promotion of UNDROP had the effect to facilitate the mobilization and alliance among civil society organizations representing peasants and rural workers. UNDROP offers a common normative framework to peasants and rural workers who are from different ethnic groups.

FIAN Ecuador used UNDROP as the normative framework to assess and give visibility to the rights of peasants and rural workers, in its report on the human rights impact of COVID-19. FIAN Ecuador initiated a similar process to report on the situation of rural workers in the Coast region.

In 2019, FIAN Ecuador co-organized a public forum in Quito with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The forum provided a public recognition that many provisions of the Declaration are domestically binding, as they are already reflected in the Constitution, therefore already incorporated in the domestic legislation.

6. Lessons learned

The adoption and promotion of UNDROP strengthens FIAN's work in the areas of legal defence in domestic and international accountability mechanisms. In particular, FIAN is successfully using UNDROP to gather and analyse information on the situation of rural women's human rights for national and international scrutiny, in particular with the country reviews carried out by CEDAW.

UNDROP strengthens the protection of the right to land and offers an additional normative instrument to reassert the right to land at the domestic level through case work and strategic litigation. In carrying out this work, local partners recognize that FIAN expertise is essential.

The enabling factors include the recognition of FIAN's legal expertise and approach in working with rights-holders' organizations, in support to their claims and in respect to their organizational cultures and modalities, as opposed to supporting an issue-based agenda. FIAN's ability to foster participation as well as alliance and consensus among civil society actors – while achieving political support on complex issues, were key factors in the adoption of UNDROP and its ownership among rights-holders – a key factor for its effective implementation.

7. Challenges

In the negotiation phase, specific articles on the rights of rural women were not included, partly due to the lack of gender equality among civil society organizations among themselves, preventing therefore a consensus, beyond the non-discrimination provision under article 4 of UNDROP.

Moreover, In the implementation phase, challenges may arise in relation to issues that were not included in the final draft, in particular specific articles on women or territories or „dematerialization“ in the context of seeds. Furthermore, the tension between the traditional systems of seeds and the systems based on intellectual property will remain a complex, potentially controversial, issue globally with differences according to regional and national specificities.

8. Conclusions and recommendations

With its work in the negotiations and adoption of UNDROP, FIAN international gained a key position to support its effective implementation, owing to its technical knowledge of UNDROP and its engagement with States as well as key rights-holders networks throughout the negotiation process.

In-person participation of rights-holders who suffered RtFN violations was essential in the negotiation process, and such participation should continue to be supported in – even more so in the current context of online work and meetings – in international processes as well as in the national and local implementation of UNDROP.

UNDROP should be promoted as the minimum standards to ensure the protection and enjoyment of the rights of peasants and other rural workers in all area of international and national law and policies. It is therefore important to maintain UNDROP on the international agenda, in particular on the agenda of the Human Rights Council, the CFS and treaty bodies.

UNDROP, as an international human rights instrument endorsed by over 120 States, is a powerful tool for social movements,. However, not all rights-holders in all regions are aware of its existence and content. Therefore, broad dissemination and knowledge of its content, including legal guidance, should be a priority objective to ensure the full transformative potential of UNDROP.

Case study 3 – Cooking Up Political Agendas

“A feminist guide on the right to food and nutrition for women in rural areas”

1. Towards women’s rights, gender equality and women’s participation.

„The full realization of women’s and girls’ rights is a key pre-condition for the full realization of the RTFN since around 70% of those suffering hunger and malnutrition are women“^v

FIAN has placed the RTFN of women and girls at the centre of the project since its beginning. The project recognizes that women and girls face discrimination and, as a result, disproportionate impact of hunger and malnutrition.

In the 2014 project proposal, the overall objective stated that the project „aims to contribute to the promotion of sustainable access to nutritious food for all, with a particular focus on small-scale food producers, women, and girls, and to inclusive global governance on food security and nutrition through the strengthening of RTFN implementation, accountability and policy coherence“.

In SDC credit proposal for phase one, it is recognized that „where the RtFN is threatened or violated, women and girls are often specifically or more severely affected, with implications for all - women and girls, men and boys - means that women’s rights, gender equality, and women’s participation need to be at the centre” of the participation of rights-holders in food security and nutrition policies and governance mechanisms. ⁱ

In phase 1, the project sought to promote gender equality through each of its three specific objectives^{vi}. In that regard, the internal evaluation recognized FIAN’s achievement in supporting the adoption of the CEDAW General Recommendation No. 34 on rural women. The internal evaluation also reported that FIAN sections and partners saw the need for guidance on operationalizing a gender approach to country engagement^{vii}.

In 2020, FIAN International coordinated the publication of a specific guide to work on the RTFN of women and girls: the „Cooking Up Political Agendas: A feminist guide on the right to food and nutrition for women in rural areas“. The guide is the product of the GNRTFN, FIAN Sections and FIAN partners.

2. A participatory process

The elaboration of the “Cooking-Up Political Agendas” guide started at the meeting of the Global Network on the Right to Food and Nutrition in Mexico in June 2019. As part of the meeting, FIAN facilitated the organization of an international workshop with the participation of international and regional human rights organisations, peasants and fisheries movements, and feminist organisations. One of the specific objective of the workshop was:

To develop a guiding tool to facilitate the implementation of public policies addressing women in rural areas, particularly based on the new standards of CEDAW GR. 34 and UNDROP^{viii}.

The workshop participants, mainly women, facilitated the identification - based on their life experience - of complex issues and proposals about the key elements to be included in the guide methodology. The participants formed a working group through a WhatsApp Group, and collectively systematized the proposals and drafted the Guide, before the design work. The Guide was issued in 2020.

3. The Guide in practice

In 2020, FIAN Colombia applied the guide methodology to promote the development of a local policy on rural women in the City of Barrancabermeja. FIAN used the guide in facilitating two workshops to promote a rights-based approach, one with the municipal authorities (the duty-bearer) and with women leaders (rights-holders). Despite the pandemic, the process is ongoing.

In 2020, FIAN Ecuador promoted the use of the Guide by its partners as a methodology for the preparation of a [report on the situation of rural women](#). As a result, the report follows the framework provided by the CEDAW General Recommendation No.34, illustrating the use of international human rights standards by rural women (rights-holders) in RTFN national assessment.

In 2020 and 2021, FIAN Ecuador used the Guide to strengthen its capacity to support the national network of rural women, formed by 26 organizations of indigenous, women, montubios and rural women (Red de mujeres rurales). FIAN trained each organization on the Guide methodology, used then to facilitate exchange with each organization on the CEDAW GR 34 and UNDROP. The guide methodology was then used by the women organizations themselves. In 2021, the Latin American Coordination of Rural Organizations ensures the dissemination of the Guide at events organized for the international day of women in Argentina.

4. The Guide: achievements for women and girls' RTFN

FIAN has facilitated a participatory approach in the development of the guide ensuring both its relevance for and tailored methodology for rural women. FIAN Sections and partners highlighted that the process of elaboration itself has contributed to empowering women, by recognizing their specific challenges and the need for a specific space and methodology to claim rural women RTFN.

As pointed out by an interviewee, the Guide's highest value is to make legal instruments accessible to rural women, in particular CEDAW GR. 34 and UNDROP. The Guide also provides a methodology – adaptable to local context - for the mobilization for rural women. It therefore contributes to strengthen the capacities of rights-holders. As interviewees pointed out:

The use of the Guide's methodology empowers women and paves the way for awareness and mobilizations around the issues faced by women in the context of the RTFN and beyond.

The methodology is based on the idea to promote safe places for women to get together and speak about their issues, think about it and find ways specific and practical to the local level to address them, including in using human rights terminology.

Recent application of the Guide provides early evidence of its relevance, tailored but adaptable methodology and ownership by rural women. As a result, the Guide strengthens the visibility and position of rural women in their communities, in line with the overall objective to strengthen rural women's community participation and therefore contribute to the overall of the project second phase to improve sustainable access to nutritious food by women.

5. Lessons learned

The process of elaborating the Guide has been facilitated by several enabling factors. First, the existence of the GNRTFN as a hub of knowledge and participatory space made possible to develop the Guide on the basis of the needs and experience of rural women.

Second, the combination of expertise on international standards on the rights of rural women and on applying a participatory approach, enables FIAN to make complex legal issues accessible, in this case to rural women.

Third, the previous work of FIAN International and its partners for the elaboration of the CEDAW General Recommendation No. 34, the Working Group on Women of the CSM as well as the

process leading the 2019 Watch on Women's Power in Food Struggles contributed to the content of the Guide.

The process of elaboration has also generated unintended effects. First, the working group who prepared the Guide became a support group for its members and led to collaborations on other issues, such as intersectionality. Second, the process of elaboration has created a sense of recognition and identity among the group's members who felt „represented“ by the Guide's narrative.

6. Challenges

The future implementation of the Guide may also face challenges. For instance, the use of the Guide as methodology of mobilization to empower women at the regional or international level is untested and will have to address the obstacles of language barriers in international networks.

Besides, the use of the concept of feminism may need explanation for external audience, as it conveys different meanings and can be understood in different ways that may potentially generate resistance about the initiative. However, the use of the term is essential a means of self-identification and for the recognition of the differential impact of RtFN violations on women and girls.

In fact, the use of the concept has been proposed by rural women participating in its elaboration and was well received by their communities. According to the interviewees, the use of the term contributes to the recognition of the specific needs and role of rural women in their communities, which in itself contribute to their empowerment and autonomy.

7. Conclusions and recommendations

The Guide is not an end in itself, rather the beginning of a process of empowerment of rural women. Its contribution to improved access to nutritious food should therefore be assessed in the medium and long term. However, the Guide's success in transforming legal concepts into accessible language, its immediate effects in terms of empowerment and local mobilization leading to tangible outputs, sustain the plausible positive impact of the Guide.

4 Lessons learnt and conclusions

Highlights according to the evaluation questions

Challenges and obstacles in supporting right to food advocacy, standard setting, accountability, and policy coherence at global, regional and national level?

- Global questioning of multilateralism, spread of authoritarian ruling
- Natural and technological challenges (climate change, biodiversity, global use of technologies)

Learnings from the project on successful strategies in terms of capacity building and collective mobilization in particular?

- Multilayer approach and self-development of tools adapted to the context
- Increased need for support of collective mobilization

Best practices for women empowerment and other groups for the future?

- Elaborating on the discourse that women's rights do not naturally come when pursuing human rights strategies
- A specific focus on women's needs and situation is necessary and still a challenge
- Safe spaces for articulation processes of groups not part of the usual international but also CSO discourse

Repeated impact and scaling-up potential?

- Use of HRC space in its different setting
- Coordination of CSO processes

Unintended effects?

- Adaptation to language and pledges of rights-holders

Increasing threats to the work of human rights defenders

Meanwhile the first phase of the project led on one hand to the enhancement and further coherence of the international normative and policy framework of the RtFN, such as the inclusion of rural women constituencies in the drafting process of CEDAW's General Recommendation No. 34; and on the other hand to an increased knowledge and ownership on human rights instruments, such as the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) among local communities, national actors and members of the Global Network for the Right to Food and Nutrition (GNRtFN), the second phase of the project has been expected to produce following outcomes:

- Strengthened RtFN legal and policy frameworks in selected countries
- Strengthened RtFN accountability through human rights monitoring at all levels
- Improved policy coherence with the RtFN in global standard-setting processes

The evaluation demonstrate that advancements could be made towards the achievements of the outcomes through a fundamental bottom-up approach with rights-holders and their CSOs as the major drivers of the strengthening of the RtFN and the improved policy coherence. The hypotheses written down in the chapter on methodology have been confirmed.

Lessons learnt from the project are therefore:

- The needs of rights-holders and CSOs in terms of capacity development require clear identification and tailored-made interventions. Documentation, analysis and argumentation can be improved through such a project.
- Organisations like FIAN supported by the project to take up a facilitation role leading to the empowerment of the rights-holders and their CSOs, to their recognition and to the consideration of their contribution in global standard-setting processes.
- The exchange among platforms and the support of participation of rights-holders enhance the visibility of the rights-holders, who in return increase their ability to advocate autonomously for their cases.
- The SDC engagement has allowed to elaborate and further develop a methodology which allows individuals and groups to learn together and with other organisations to strengthen their own argumentation for the implementation of RtFN issues.
- The participative drafting of accountability methodology – for instance the People's Monitoring Guidelines requires long time: After the awareness-raising, the rights-holders and grass-roots CSOs need to express how they can best document and analyse RtFN in a manner understood by duty-bearers and in international spaces.
- The incorporation of methodologies – for instance the “cooking-Up Political Agendas” feminist guide into national CSOs processes are lengthy processes: It takes time to change working processes towards gender-sensitive approaches, even among women communities.
- The direct work with local authorities in order to create an enabling social context to bring up RtFN and food security issues at the direct level of the community is relevant.
- It is because activities were implemented parallelly through the project at national, regional and international level, and with a coherent methodology, that an improved policy coherence with the RtFN in global standard-setting processes could be reached.

Without the SDC engagement, such outcomes would not have been reached.

Outcomes concerning a strengthening of the RtFN in national frameworks still require external engagement on following grounds:

- The technical support to FIAN country offices on gender analyses, monitoring and accountability as need identified during the internal evaluation is still valid.
- The culture of equal inclusion of women in standard-setting processes with their gender specific demands to be equally taken into account requires learning and advocacy processes with the CSO movements.
- Critical issues to the RtFN have been taken up through the project, like seeds, biodiversity, climate change, or digitalisation demand long-time engagement to form a broad base of understanding and to create coherent actions.
- The increasing fragility of multilateralism and international standards require renewed investigation on how to build-up coalitions to face changes at global level.
- Rights-holders and their CSOs in the Global South need a longer-term support of their articulation processes in order to achieve full recognition in international spaces. This is a precondition to have a successful chain of effects leading to a strengthening of legal and policy framework at national level and policy coherence in global standard-setting processes.
- The increasing role of the private sector demands to enhance the critical dialogue in order to push for a renewed enhancement of normative contents.
- In a similar line of thinking, the climate change requires a reconsideration of the spaces and approaches best adapted to tackle the issue in relation with the RtFN.

5 Recommendations for SDC's and other actor's future engagement

Out of the evaluation's findings and the lessons learnt and conclusions, we can draw following recommendations for SDC's future engagement:

Current global context and implications for food related human rights work?

- Support directly international bodies supporting human rights work (CFS at al.)
- Support directly the right to food unit at the FAO
- Long-term support directly national efforts to implement food related human rights legislation.
 - Positive cases e.g., Nepal, to be used as show case for other country work
 - Support the work for the right to food against erosion of achievement e.g., Brazil

Other relevant human-right based issues needing to be tackled for the realization of the RtFN and relevant entry points?

- Support accountability mechanisms for corporations: support of coalition-building within civil society and contribution to the TNC treaty
- Support inclusive international processes and platform-building on impact of climate change for RtFN, specifically desertification, biodiversity, water

Potential strengthening at global and local level of new policy frameworks like the UNDROP, based on the learnings from the project?

- Direct access of right-holders to international spaces as key stakeholders in strengthening of policy frameworks
- Support of international events, side events and communication processes in which peasants, fisherfolks, and peasants' coalitions can promote their own right to land and food
- Support of facilitation processes including CSO and other actors and increase leading by rights-holders

- Support of national institutions in selected countries (few) to implement their own access to food and nutrition policy

Relevant lessons learnt from the project that are of relevance for SDC's future engagement in addressing food-related human rights issues?

- No silo work: Continue systemic interconnected approach for multiplying and self-developing effect
- Make a strategic choice according to own intervention areas with pilot countries and concentrate on very specific issues
- Strengthen the ability of women to monitor and advocate for their rights at national and international level until stability of recognition is reached
- Support specific lobby and advocacy activities for women's rights at international level
- Support gender-sensitive CSO processes at national level
- Facing new challenges linked to the right to food and nutrition
 - Expand the promotion of the RtFN in the increasingly pressing context of climate action and environmental law and policies while systematically addressing climate change and the ecological crisis in promoting and reporting on the realization of the RtFN
 - Support understanding and interventions on the linkages of RtFN and digitalisation
 - Support for ensuring spaces for critical dialogue about the increasing role of the private sector/corporate interference to preserve the right to food as an issue of public interest

Particularly efficient type of engagement to address food-related HR issues?

- Assess the possibility to set-up basket fund model with others (bi- and multilateral funding, through HR system) to strengthen FAO
- Strengthening Rights-holders based contribution to international processes is as such a very efficient type

Type of engagement particularly adequate to reach the further left-behind?

- Stick to the model conscientization, capacitation, coalition-building and self-articulation: Proactive promotion of voices left out
- Support the creation and development of specific safe spaces for most vulnerable people to strengthen their capacities to defend their rights
- Foster alliances with consumers' organizations in order to address the specific challenges regarding the realization of the RtFN in urban areas and address the common root causes of the infringements of the RtFN in rural areas

Annex 1. List of interviewees

Internal

FIAN International Board Member 9 th March 15:00	Milton Yulán Morán	myulanm@gmail.com
FIAN International Staff 23 rd February 14:00	Yifang Slot-Tang	slot-tang@fian.org
	Ana Maria Suarez-Franco	Suarez-franco@fian.org
	Andrea Nuila	nuila@fian.org
	Valentin Hategekimana	Hategekimana@fian.org
	Sabine Pabst	Pabst@fian.org
	Emily Mattheisen	Mattheisen@fian.org
FIAN Nepal 8 th March 10:45	Tilak Adhikari	tilak.adhikari@fiannepal.org
FIAN Colombia 8 th March 20:00	Juan Carlos Morales	direccionejecutiva@fiancolombia.org
FIAN Ecuador 12 th March 20:00	Mario Macias, Gloria Holguín Reyes, Daniela Andina.	macias@fianecuador.org.ec
FIAN Burkina Faso 2 nd March 10:00 GMT	Lucien Silga	silgalucien@yahoo.fr

External

Katarungan 5 th March 10:00	Danny Karrantza	danny.carranza@gmail.com
African Center for Biodiversity	Mariam Mayet	mariam@acbio.org.za
Global Campaign 2 nd March 16:00 CET	Raffaele Morgantini	Raffaelemorgantini@gmail.com
Global Campaign 4 th March 14:00.	Fórum Brasileiro de Soberania e Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional – FBSSAN, Mariana Santarelli	msantarelli3@hotmail.com
Right to Food Campaign 9 th March, 10:00	Aysha Khan / Fr. Jothi	khan.aysha5@gmail.com
Urgenci 2 nd March 14:00	Isa Álvarez	isa.urgenci@gmail.com
WFFP 4 th March 17:00	Nadine Nembhard	nadine_nem@yahoo.com

FAO Right to Food Team 5 th March 1pm	Serena Pepino	Serena.pepino@fao.org
OHCHR	Stefania Triopodi	stripodi@ohchr.org

1 st March, 16:00		
African Commission on Human Rights and People's Rights 5 th March - 16:00	Hon. Jamesina Essie L. King, Commissioner	jamesinaking@yahoo.com
CSM Secretariat 28 th February	Martin Wolpold-Bosien	martin.wolpold-bosien@csm4cfs.org
Former Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food 5 th March, 14:00	Hilal Elver	elver@ucsb.edu

Focus groups with knowledge carriers in successful approaches for RtFN

The Cooking Pot Group 5 th March, 18:00	University of Miami, Denisse Cordova Montes	dcordova@law.miami.edu
The Cooking Pot Group 2 nd March 14:00	Urgenci, Isa Álvarez	isa.urgenci@gmail.com
Convergence (seeds) 9 th March, 09:00	Alimata Traoré, COFERSA Mali and/or Anne Berson Déna, COASP-Mali	alimaatou@yahoo.fr anne@bede-asso.org
Seeds (international processes) 4 th March 09:00	Guy Kastler, Confédération Paysanne/LVC	guy.kastler@wanadoo.fr
TNC & OBE Treaty process (includes feminists for the binding treaty) 11 th March 15:00	Alejandra Scampini (Poder – Latin-America)	Alejandra.scampini@projectpoder.org
TNC & OBE Treaty process 15 th March 9:00	Benjamin Traore (African Coalition for Corporate Accountability)	Sabenjamin.traore@up.ac.za

Individual Interview Partners (case-based)

UNDROP process 11 th March 10:00	Henry Simarmata	henry.advisory@gmail.com
IPC Land - The Latin American Coordination of Rural Organizations (CLOC) Member of LVC 9 th March 14:00	Angel Strappazon	angeltacko@gmail.com
IPES-Food 8 th March 16:00	Maryam Rahmainian, Vice-Chair	maryam.rahm@gmail.com

Annex 2. Master Interview Guidelines – FIAN

Nr.		
1.1 Review of the Assessment at global level		
Q	What has the project achieved (or not achieved) in terms of the utilization of global and regional spaces and mechanisms for increased RTFN advocacy, standard setting and monitoring and accountability?	
A		
Q	How is the People's Monitoring process and RTFN Watch being used in different settings and by different actors?	
A		
Q	How has FIAN International in collaboration with networks, in particular GNRTFN, CSM, and the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) facilitated the participation of right-holders in international policy processes related to the RTFN?	
A		
Q	How has FIAN International in collaboration with its partners contributed to the wider policy coherence with the RtFN in global standard setting processes?	
A		
Q	How well was the project aligned with SDC's GPFS Strategy 2017-2020?	
A		
Q	What has the project achieved in light of the new threats to democracy and defence of human rights through the development of new instruments and advocacy at global and regional level?	
A		
1.2 Review and Assessment at national level		
Q	What has the project achieved (or not achieved) at national level?	
A		
Q	Has the project succeeded in supporting local partners in the application and implementation of global Right to Food and Nutrition (RTFN) policy frameworks as well as in the establishing of monitoring and accountability mechanisms at the national level?	
A		
Q	Has the project succeeded in enhancing the participation of local partners in RtFN policy spaces at the national level?	
A		
Q	What have been the benefits of the project particularly for women?	
A		
Q	Has the project succeeded in enhancing the participation of local partners in RtFN policy spaces at the national level?	
A		
Q	To what extent has the mobilization of key actors and right-holders evolved in the course of the last years?	
A		

Q	Has the project succeeded in specifically enhancing the capacity of women to make duty bearers accountable for the realization of their RtFN at national level?	
A		
2 Lessons learnt and recommendations		
Q	What have been the challenges and obstacles in supporting right to food advocacy, standard setting, accountability, and policy coherence at global, regional and national level? What have been successful/less successful strategies?	
A		
Q	What can be learnt from the project on successful strategies in terms of capacity building and collective mobilization in particular?	
A		
Q	What are best practices in terms of empowering women and other groups for the future?	
A		
Q	What are unintended (positive or negative) results from which lessons can be learnt for the future of the project	
A		
3 Recommendations for SDC's future engagement		
Q	What is the current global context and what are implications for food related HR work?	
A		
Q	What are other relevant human-right based issues that need to be tackled for the realization of the RtFN? What are relevant entry points to address these issues?	
A		
Q	Based on the learnings from the project, how can new policy frameworks like the UNDROP be strengthened at the global and local level?	
A		
Q	What are relevant lessons learnt from the project that are of relevance for SDC's future engagement in addressing food-related human rights issues?	
A		
Q	Have the project's theory of change, log frame structure and the underlying hypotheses proven to be adequate? How should the theory of change be modified/adapted?	
A		
Q	Which strategies have showed repeated impact in a long-term perspective and can be replicated or scaled-up?	
A		
Q	Which type of engagement is particularly efficient to address food related HR issues?	
A		
Q	Which type of engagement is particularly adequate to reach the furthest left behind when addressing the lack of realization of the RtFN?	
A		
	Further remarks	

ⁱ Credit Proposal, phase 1. Annex 3. Logframe (Outcome 3).

ⁱⁱ SDC Logframe Structure (Outcome 3)

ⁱⁱⁱ 2019 report by FIAN International.

^{iv} Exact title: PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS IN THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS.

^v FIAN 2019 report to SDC, page 24.

^{vi} Idem.

^{vii} FIAN project document (phase 2) states: "the remaining challenge lies in the continuing need to provide technical support to FIAN country offices, members of the GNRtFN, and affected groups on how to apply a gender analysis and related international standards for the monitoring and accountability of their RtFN". Page 4.

^{viii} FIAN 2019 report to SDC, page 24.

Tool 7: Assessment Grid for the DAC Criteria

Assessment Grid for project/programme evaluations of the SDC interventions

Version: 30.06.2020

Note: this assessment grid is used for evaluations of SDC financed projects and programmes (hereinafter jointly referred to as an 'intervention'). It is based on the OECD Development Assistance Committee evaluation criteria.¹ In mid-term evaluations, the assessment requires analysing the likelihood of achieving impact and sustainability. All applicable sub-criteria should be scored and a short explanation should be provided.

Please add the corresponding number (0-4) representing your rating of the sub-criteria in the column 'score':

0 = not assessed

1 = highly satisfactory

2 = satisfactory

3 = unsatisfactory

4 = highly unsatisfactory

Key aspects based on DAC Criteria	Score (put only integers: 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4)	Justification (please provide a short explanation for your score or why a criterion was not assessed)
Relevance Note: the assessment here captures the relevance of objectives and design <i>at the time of evaluation</i> . In the evaluation report, both relevance at the design stage as well as relevance at the time of evaluation should be discussed.		
1. The extent to which the objectives of the intervention respond to the needs and priorities of the target group.	1	The objectives of the intervention are clearly linked to the needs and priorities of communities whose right to food and nutrition is at stake.
2. The extent to which the objectives of the intervention respond to the needs and priorities of indirectly affected stakeholders (not included in target group, e.g. government, civil society, etc.) in the country of the intervention.	2	The objectives of the intervention respond to the needs and priorities of indirectly affected stakeholders. However, authoritarian countries are reluctant to address these priorities for their population.
3. The extent to which core design elements of the intervention (such as the theory of change, structure of the project components, choice of services and intervention partners) adequately reflect the needs and priorities of the target group.	1	The intervention is well-designed to reflect the needs and priorities of the target group. Specifically, the choice (and place) of services and the co-setting up of partners' coalitions is highly adequate to successfully address the needs and priorities of the target groups.
Coherence		

¹ For information on the 2019 revisions of the evaluation framework see: Better Criteria for Better Evaluations. Revised Evaluation Criteria. Definitions and Principles for Use, OECD/DAC Network on Development Evaluation, 2019.

4. Internal coherence: the extent to which the intervention is compatible with other interventions of Swiss development cooperation in the same country and thematic field (consistency, complementarity and synergies).	1	The intervention is highly coherent with SDC thematic priorities 2.1 and 2.2. Therefore the results can be complementary to other SDC activities in the same thematic field. Synergies are used within the CSM work with FAO with the Swiss delegation.
5. External coherence: the extent to which the intervention is compatible with interventions of other actors in the country and thematic field (complementarity and synergies).	1	The intervention supports coalitions with like-minded actors at international level and whenever possible within the countries of intervention.
Effectiveness		
6. The extent to which approaches/strategies during implementation are adequate to achieve the intended results.	2	The approaches are adequate. However, during the first phase of implementation, the number of countries (60) was too high to yield the expected results. Therefore, it was reduced to 20 to better achieve the intended results.
7. The extent to which the intervention achieved or is expected to achieve its intended objectives (outputs and outcomes).	2	The intervention achieves expected results. However, the tightening of the general context with a tendency to less multilateralism poses an obstacle to the progresses of soft law development at international level and implementation at national level.
8. The extent to which the intervention achieved or is expected to achieve its intended results related to transversal themes.	1	The intervention is expected to highly achieve its intended results concerning the transversal theme of gender mainstreaming through the consequent equalitarian integration of women in all parts of the intervention and the specific capacity building for women.
Efficiency		
9. The extent to which the intervention delivers the results (outputs, outcomes) cost-effectively.	1	The intervention delivers the results with very high active participation of stakeholders in all processes. The organisation takes over coordinating roles in processes to maximize the cost effectiveness.
10. The extent to which the intervention delivers the results (outputs, outcome) in a timely manner (within the intended timeframe or reasonably adjusted timeframe).	1	The results are delivered in time according to deadlines, corresponding to the processes.
11. The extent to which management, monitoring and steering mechanisms support efficient implementation.	1	The direct working relation between the management through the international secretariat of FIAN and the sections, together with the participatory steering processes within coalitions strongly support the efficient implementation. The adequate reporting system and agreed upon logframe offer a conducive framework for efficiency.
Impact		
12. The extent to which the intervention generated or is expected to generate 'higher-level effects' as defined in the design document of the intervention.	1	The intervention is expected to have higher-level effects through the active contribution to soft law specifically in the context of UNDROP and voluntary guidelines related to the right to food and

Note: when assessing this criterion, the primary focus is the intended 'higher-level effects'. In the event that <i>significant</i> unintended negative or positive effects can be discerned, they must be specified in the justification column, especially if they influence the score.		nutrition. The capacity development of target groups at national level will lead to implementing soft law at national level.
Sustainability		
13. The extent to which partners are capable and motivated (technical capacity, ownership) to continue activities contributing to achieving the outcomes.	1	The partners are highly motivated and willing to continue activities. Ownership is strongly present in the civil society. The intervention has led to enhancing their technical capacity and autonomisation, which empowers them to carry on towards achieving the outcomes.
14. The extent to which partners have the financial resources to continue activities contributing to achieving the outcomes.	3	The poor financial situation of a number of countries in general in which the project is carried out, together with the difficult financial situation of communities in which the right to food is at stake can pose obstacles to the achievement of objectives. Furthermore, the tightening of the situation within FAO with countries withdrawing from international processes constitutes another hurdle towards the achievement of outcomes.
15. The extent to which contextual factors (e.g. legislation, politics, economic situation, social demands) is conducive to continuing activities leading to outcomes.	3	The increasing situation of repression in several countries counters the achievement potential. Furthermore, the increasing role of the private sector can reduce the strengthening of legislation and national mechanisms for the implementation of the right to food and nutrition.

Additional information (if needed): [Click here to enter text.](#)

Title of the intervention: Strengthening the right to adequate food FIAN. Project 7F-09181.01 and 7F-09181.02

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