



**FIAN**  
UGANDA

FIAN UGANDA NEWSLETTER, JANUARY – JUNE 2021



**ONWARDS AND UPWARDS:  
*THE JOURNEY THUS FAR***

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## 1. WORD FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



It has been an action packed six months for us at FIAN Uganda, in spite of the crippling effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on various facets of our lives. Operating with strict adherence to the Standard Operating Procedures, we have managed to undertake various initiatives and projects aimed at advancing the right to adequate food and nutrition in Uganda. Conducting stakeholder dialogues, training and seminars UPR parallel reporting as well as following up on the 20-year-old 'Kaweeri Case' involving the eviction of peasant households from their lands in Mubende. We do hope that this newsletter paints a fairly representative picture of our efforts to advance the right to adequate food and nutrition in Uganda, as well as what challenges stand in the way.

From me and the team at FIAN Uganda, the message is to stay safe, stay healthy!

Prof. Christopher Mbazira,

Chairperson, Board of Directors,

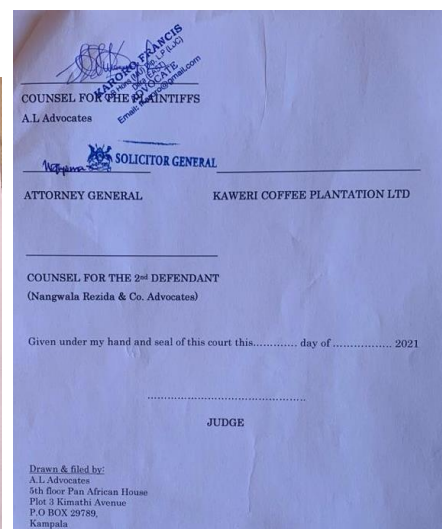
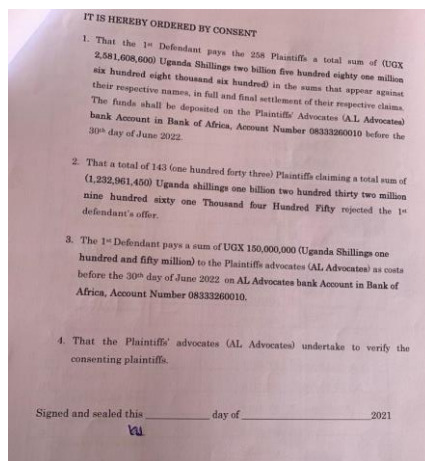
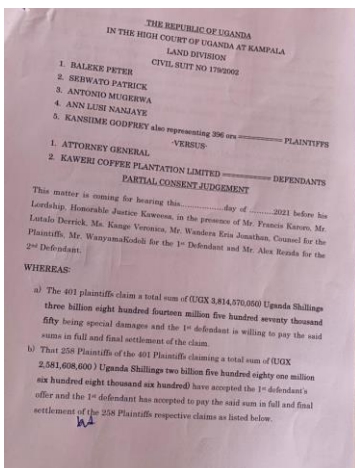
FIAN Uganda

## 2. ACTIVITY ROUND-UP



### A. Update on the Kaweri case

Of the 401 plaintiffs involved in the Kaweri case, 258 accepted the settlement offer made by the government while 143 rejected it and opted to go for full trial. The consent settlement for the former group



has been signed and the terms concluded on. Court is yet to fix a date to endorse the consent agreement and also provide guidance on the way forward regarding those opting for full trial. FIAN Uganda remains committed to following up this case to its logical conclusion and seeing to it that the victims obtain justice.

## B. Legal experts for the right to Food

FIAN Uganda organised a Legal Experts Meeting in February 2021, drawn from civil society, public service and private practice. The meeting helped to equip lawyers with appropriate skills to advocate for the right to adequate food and nutrition. After opening remarks were made by the chairperson of FIAN Uganda's Board of Directors – Prof. Chris Mbazira, a keynote address was delivered by the Vice President of Uganda Law Society – Ms. Diana Angwech. The training thereafter commenced in earnest, with Mr. David Kabanda facilitating the module on legal strategy while Mr. Emmanuel Mutaizibwa – an investigative journalist with Nation Media Group – facilitated the module on media strategy. Employing a legal and media strategies was greatly recommended. It was agreed that there is need to improve cooperation and partnership between lawyers and local communities affected by hunger and malnutrition. The team also agreed that media should be engaged to further highlight the exploitation of local people especially by corporations. This would help to trigger interventions such as holding the perpetrators accountable. The partners involved including FIAN Uganda, NETPIL, CEFROHT and others will explore possible options of further implementing the strategies identified. The meeting also strengthened the idea of the formation of the right to food cluster of the Uganda Law Society.



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*Assembling lawyers in one room to speak about the right to food is a great achievement that should be celebrated. If we continue at this rate, the future for the right to food in Uganda is bright” Diana Angwech, Vice president, Uganda Law Society*

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### C. Parallel reporting

As Uganda prepares to submit its State reports under the United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR) where all UN Member states are reviewed every 5 years, FIAN Uganda is preparing its parallel report for the UPR for submission by 01 July 2021: <https://www.upr-info.org/en/review/Uganda> as well as for CEDAW; [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/SessionsList.aspx?Treaty=CEDAW](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/SessionsList.aspx?Treaty=CEDAW)

### D. Advocating for a better Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill, 2020



*Photo by KWDT*

Following a plan by the Ugandan parliament to pass the Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill 2020, FIAN Uganda, in partnership with Katosi Women's Development Trust (KWDT), held a stakeholder's meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April, 2021 to assess the implications of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Bill, 2020 on small-scale fishers if passed in its current state. The dialogue drew participants from civil society, private legal practice and local leaders from some of the potentially affected communities.

As a result, a position paper was drafted and submitted to the Committee of Fisheries in Parliament, highlighting some of the potentially problematic areas of The Bill.

In addition, an Urgent Action letter was drafted and shared with various members of FIAN International who submitted it to the Ugandan Authorities for their consideration.

*In its current form, the Bill poses threats to various human rights of both a civil and political nature such as freedom from torture and the right to a fair hearing, as well as those of an economic, social and cultural nature such as the right to adequate food.*

FIAN Uganda is mobilising resources to further engage both parliamentarians and members of fishing communities to understand the Bill and its implications so as to ensure their effective participation in the management of fisheries resources in the country.

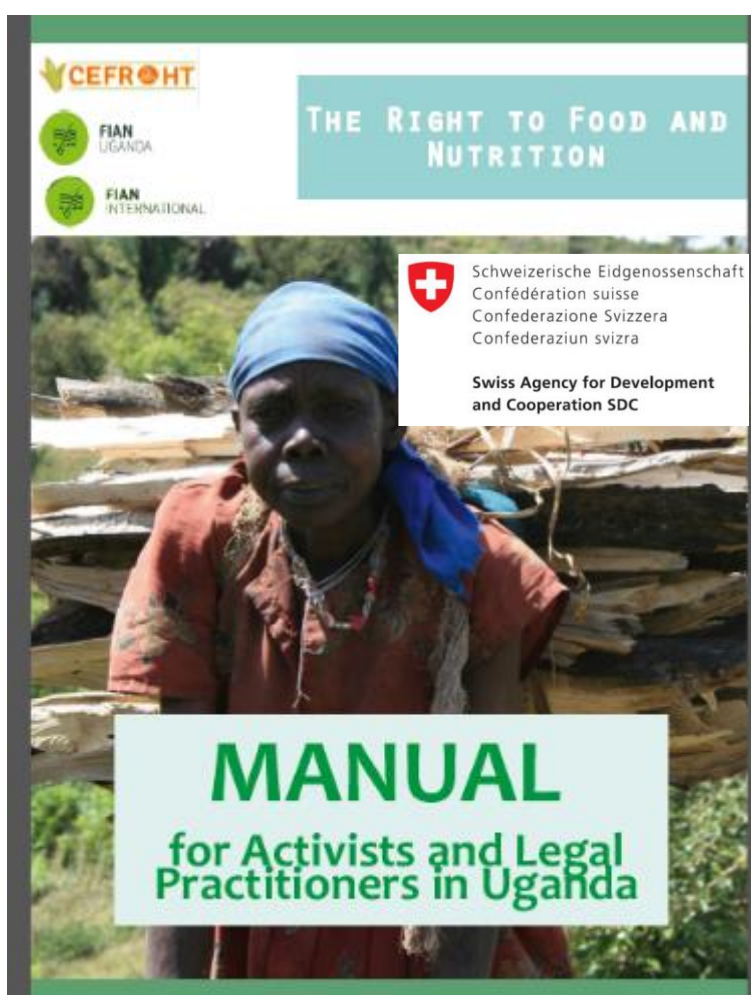
### E. Awareness of Human Rights for Fisher communities



FIAN Uganda, alongside KWDT and Network of Public Interest Lawyers (NETPIL), continues to empower vulnerable communities in Mukono through human rights training and community sensitization programs. A new series of trainings being supported by FIAN German with funds from the Germany Federal Foreign Office commenced in June 2021 and will continue to December 2021. These are conducted jointly by a team of facilitators from the three organisations. The trainings especially empower women to understand the scope and nature of their rights, how to identify human rights violations and where to seek redress.

## F. Manual on the right to food and nutrition

With support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, FIAN Uganda in partnership with FIAN International and CEFHROHT have completed a training manual designed for advocates of the right to food and nutrition in Uganda. The manual is intended to enhance the knowledge and skills of the advocates to enable them to effectively ensure the realisation of the right to food and nutrition through litigation, advocacy and capacity building.





## 3. OTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON RIGHT TO FOOD IN UGANDA

### A. A dialogue ON GLYPHOSATE use in agriculture

FIAN Uganda participated in a discussion on alternatives to glyphosates in Uganda, organised by Center for Food and Adequate Living Rights (CEFROHT) and Southern and Eastern Africa Trade and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI). This came against the backdrop on the need to emphasize the call to the government of Uganda to ban the use of glyphosates and Glyphosate-Based Herbicides (GBHs) in the agricultural system as this threatens the right to adequate food, a clean and healthy environment and the right to life. The various actors present, invariably drawn from civil society, enriched the discussion with their critical analyses as well as recommendations for a way forward.

### B. CSO TRAINING ON HEALTHY DIETS

FIAN Uganda did also participate in a training organised by CEFROHT on promotion of healthy diets. This training was facilitated by experts in the various aspects, such as Dr Peter Rukundo who took participants through the human rights dimensions of nutrition and healthy diets. This was followed by a module on how to use advocacy and social mobilization as social accountability tools to hold duty bearers accountable. The latter part was facilitated by Mr. Peter Kimera, the current Board Chairperson of Food Rights Alliance.

### C. Rise in food prices pushes up inflation<sup>1</sup>

Headline inflation increased to 4.1% for the period ended March 2021 due to an upsurge in the price of food crops and related items, according to Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). This was a growth from 3.8% registered for the period ended February 2021. The increase signifies that the prices of some food items were relatively higher than they were in February. The increase was mainly driven by annual inflation for vegetables and fruits. The data, when disaggregated by districts, showed that Arua district registered the highest inflation of 7.3%, which was higher than the 5.7% in February. The Kampala High Income area followed, registering an increase to 4.9% in March. However, this was a reduction from the 5% registered in February. Inflation in Masaka rose to 3.4% from 2.7% while in Fort Portal it increased to 2.4% up from 2%. In Jinja, it rose 2.6% from 2.1% Gulu registered the least inflation recording a slight increase to 2% compared to 1.9% in February.

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<sup>1</sup> Martin L. Oketch, "Rise in Food Prices Pushes Up Inflation", Daily Monitor, March 31, 2021. Available at <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/business/commodities/rise-in-food-prices-pushes-up-inflation--3344078%3fview=htmlamp>.

#### D. Kenya clears air on toxic maize 'ban' after EAC partners condemn action<sup>2</sup>

Kenya has denied banning maize imports from Uganda and Tanzania over aflatoxin as the East African Community termed the decision not procedural. The Agriculture and Food Authority in a letter dated March 5 2021 said maize from the two countries have revealed high levels of mycotoxins *“that are consistently beyond safety limits of 10 parts per billion”*. But while Kenya’s ministries of the East African Community and Trade remained tight lipped, Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Peter Munya appeared to contradict the AFA letter when he denied banning maize imports. *“We have not stopped importation of maize from Uganda and Tanzania. What AFA has done is to check the quality of maize coming into the country,”* said Mr Munya. Uganda exports at least 90% of its maize to Kenya with a cumulative average of 330,620 tonnes. Besides aflatoxin, the gap between demand and production that has placed maize at the centre of the food security debate may have triggered the current trade wars.



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<sup>2</sup> Luke Anami, *“Kenya Clears Air on Toxic Maize ‘Ban’ After EAC Partners Condemn Action”*, The East African, March 15, 2021. Available at <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/business/kenya-clears-air-on-toxic-maize-ban-3323052>.