



FIAN ZAMBIA, DECEMBER 2024

**ADVANCING THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND
NUTRITION IN ZAMBIA**

ISSUE NO. 6. 4TH QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

Message from the Country Coordinator: a dim light on the right to food in Zambia.

As we come to a close of a transformative year, I am filled with gratitude for the collective effort that has powered our mission. In the fourth quarter of 2024, FIAN Zambia has witnessed the struggle of local communities, households and people to feed themselves. This has been caused by the drought experienced in 2024. The situation has been worsened by the heavy dependency of our food systems on maize, industrial methods of production and exclusion of indigenous crops and food from production, distribution and consumption. In the year 2024 numerous cases of land grabbing forced evictions and displacements were recorded by FIAN Zambia. These cases have disturbed the way the communities sustain their livelihood, through agriculture, fishing, animal husbandry among other's.

In the same context, the policy framework to support realisation of the right to food in Zambia is inadequate and further challenged by the absence of legal recognition of the right to food in Zambia's constitution.

On a positive side some communities in Zambia are beginning to show resilience, adopting traditional knowledge inspiring innovation, and partnerships to transform food systems.

We write to thank our partners, allies, communities you for walking this journey with us!

“Food is a human right and not a business.” – Let's continue building a Zambia where no one sleeps hungry.

Vladimir Chilinya,

FIAN Zambia Country Coordinator.

Moments of Impact: Our 4th Quarter 2024 Journey

In the year 2024 FIAN Zambia, received support from Bread for the World, Southern Africa Trust (SAT), We Effect, Natural Justice, FIAN Germany. The views expressed herein do not necessary represent that of our funding partners.

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💰 NATIONAL BUDGET ANALYSIS FROM HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE



October 4th, 2024, FIAN Zambia in collaboration with ActionAid Zambia, ZCCN, Zambia Youth Parliamentary Caucus ZCCN and other partners, submitted a budget analysis focusing on the allocation for the Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Arts

CSOs analysing the National budget

As youth aged 19 to 34 represent 26.7% of Zambia's population, it is crucial that our government prioritizes meaningful budget allocations that directly address the challenges faced by our young people. While the 2025 budget allocation of K271.3 million shows a slight increase from the previous year, it remains insufficient in tackling high unemployment rates and the needs of marginalized youth, including those with disabilities and from rural areas.

Our report emphasized the need for a more balanced distribution of funds, with a greater focus on youth development and skills training. Currently, a significant portion of the budget is allocated to sports management, leaving crucial areas such as arts development and youth empowerment underfunded. This lack of

investment limits opportunities for talent recognition and job creation, perpetuating a cycle of challenges that many young Zambians face.

The government was urged to reconsider its budget priorities and invest in programs that foster entrepreneurship, enhance education standards, and support the overall well-being of our youth. By doing so, we can create a brighter future for the young generation, empowering them to contribute positively to our society.

SAVING ZAMBIA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE: SUPPORTING TRADITIONAL SEEDS AND FOOD.

As Zambia continues to face challenges such as extreme weather changes (Floods and droughts), policy inconsistencies and environmental degradation, cultural values, history, knowledge, biodiversity, and identity are under threat. At the heart of this battle is the preservation of traditional seeds and food, which are essential to Zambia's heritage.

The 2023/24 farming season highlighted the vulnerability of Zambia's food systems, with crop failures, livestock losses, and environmental degradation affecting many parts of the country. Furthermore, suggested policy changes threaten to restrict farmers' rights and erode biodiversity.

FIAN Zambia in collaboration with other CSOs are promoting agroecology as a holistic, inclusive, and environmentally friendly approach to food production. Agroecology works in tandem with nature, freeing farmers from dependence on expensive external inputs, rebuilding damaged ecosystems, and supporting crop and food diversity.

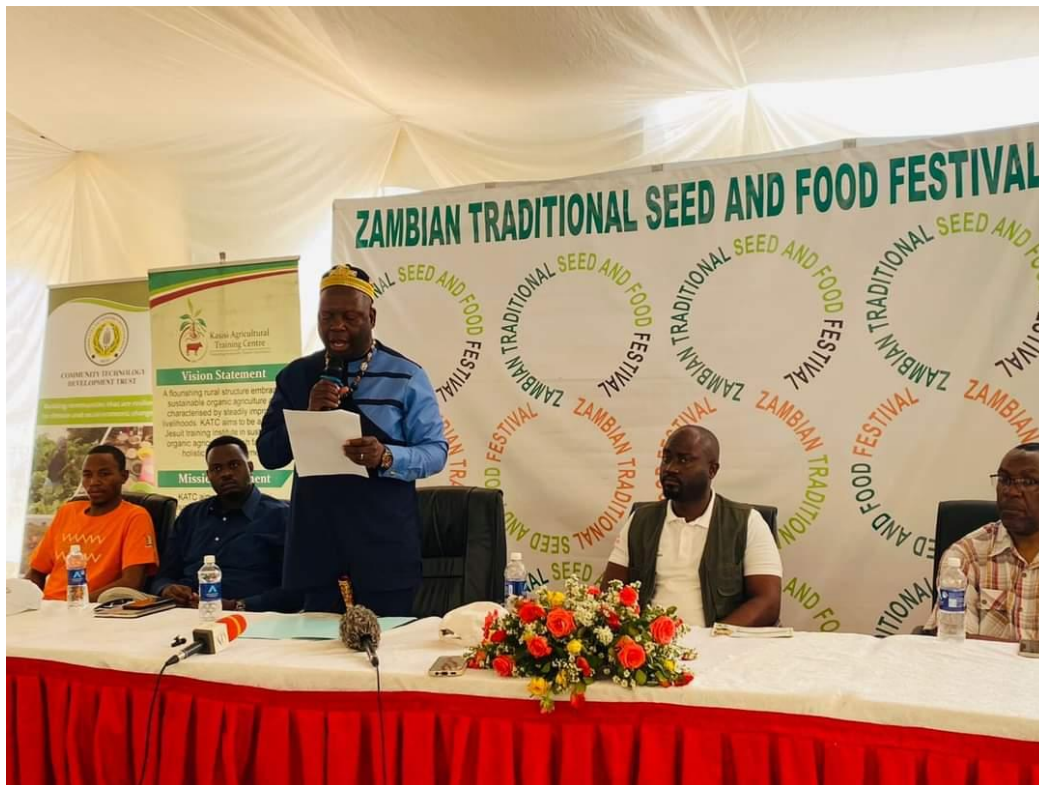


In the picture above, BROT staff and FIAN Zambia team members and farmers at the Zambia Traditional Seed and Food Festival 2024

The annual Zambian Traditional Seed and Food Festival, held alongside World Food Day, celebrates Zambia's cultural heritage and promotes awareness of the importance of traditional seeds and food. The 7th edition of the festival, held on October 11th and 12th, 2024, brought together actors from civil society, government, and the private sector to recognize the critical role of traditional seed and food systems.

The festival provides a platform for knowledge sharing, skill building, and policy discussions, with a focus on agroecology as a sustainable food production

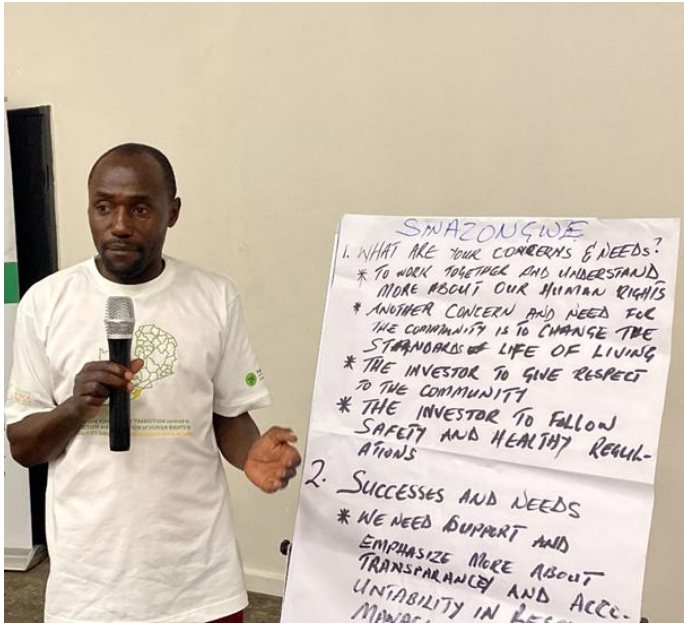
option. Participating organisations agreed to continue sensitizing communities on the importance of saving, sharing, and exchanging local seeds and traditional foods, and promoting agroecological practices.



In the picture above the Guest of honour delivering a speech during the Zambia Traditional Seed and Food Festival

PROJECT INCEPTION MEETING; STRENGTHENING PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS 15 AND 16 OCTOBER 2024

Supporting a Just Energy Transition Centered on Protection and Promotion of Human Rights for Communities Living in Mineral Resource Areas of Zambia is a project implemented by FIAN Zambia with support from Southern Africa Trust (SAT).



The inception meeting brought together community members from Chililabombwe, maamba and Siavonga, Civil society representatives from Lusaka, media and human rights experts. ,

Snapshot: A farmer from Sinazongwe district shared the concerns and needs of the community.

At the meeting, participants made a number of recommendations aimed at fostering a just and sustainable energy transition in Zambia's mineral resource areas.

➤ **Strengthen Corporate Accountability and Workers Protections:**

Advocate for policies requiring mining companies to uphold international human rights standards, with penalties for non-compliance. Develop and enforce labor laws that prioritize miners' health and safety, ensuring fair wages and adequate protective equipment. Encourage companies to engage in historical reconciliation initiatives, addressing past injustices like displacement and environmental harm through reparative actions.

➤ **Implement Fair Benefit-Sharing Mechanisms and Environmental Safeguards:**

Establish policies to ensure that communities directly benefit from mineral wealth, such as through community development funds supported by mining revenues. Integrate stringent environmental

protection measures into mining policies, emphasizing sustainable practices in transition minerals extraction. Encourage local mineral processing to create job opportunities and stimulate local economic growth.

- **Ensure Community Involvement in Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA):** Make community consultations a mandatory aspect of ESIA processes, allowing locals to voice concerns before project approval. Introduce periodic audits to monitor ESIA compliance, especially in environmentally sensitive regions. Build community capacity to monitor environmental and social impacts by providing training and resources.
- **Empower Communities in Water Resource Management:** Create frameworks that enable local communities to manage water resources, with legal provisions to hold mining companies accountable for pollution. Supply communities with water testing kits and training for regular monitoring, helping to detect pollution early. Formulate community company water stewardship agreements, where mining companies contribute to clean water initiatives and invest in water infrastructure for local communities.
- **Strengthen Protections and Support for Displaced and Vulnerable Groups:** Establish clear compensation policies for communities affected by mining, ensuring fair and transparent relocation support. Enhance protections against child labor and gender-based discrimination, with

legal consequences for violations. Conduct regular awareness campaigns to educate communities on their rights, providing resources and channels for reporting abuses.

CAPACITY BUILDING ON CRITICAL MINERALS AND HUMAN RIGHTS: BUILDING KNOWLEDGE FOR ACTION

Land availability and use vary across Zambia's provinces, influenced by population density, soil fertility, and access to water resources. For example, In **Southern Province**, where cattle rearing is common, farmers may use larger hectares of land for mixed farming practices. Mineral deposits recently discovered in Southern Province threaten displacements of farmers.

To prepare and empower community members in Siawaza and Sianzovu village, Maamba district of Southern Province who are facing potential displacement due to mining activities, FIAN Zambia conducted capacity training for farmers, miners, traditional leaders and ward councillors on 20th to 24th October, 2024. FIAN Zambia trained 237 participants (131 males and 106 females) from Siawaza and Sianzovu villages.

The participants:

- Were provided with knowledge of global energy trends and the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, energy transition, human rights, land rights, environmental rights, and water rights and empower them to advocate for their rights and make informed decisions to support sustainable community development.

- understanding of how these shifts impact Zambia and their community's economic and environmental future was enhanced. This encouraged community involvement in supporting sustainable practices, advocating for renewable energy, and exploring potential benefits from the global energy transition, ensuring they are better equipped to navigate upcoming challenges.



Picture above of participants and FIAN Zambia team in Sianwaza Village

During the training, the participants were also taught that rights move hand in hand with responsibilities and Governments have the responsibility to fulfill, protect and promote the rights of citizens.

FIAN Zambia used the training toolkits, UDHR, UNDROP and international treaties as references of the human rights. As evident from the participation, the trainees were equipped with knowledge, tools and skills that enabled them to effectively hold government and mining companies accountable.

FACT FINDING MISSION ON THE VIOLATION OF RIGHTS IN MAAMBA DISTRICT

FIAN Zambia undertook a mission to document human rights violations caused by mineral resource exploration in their areas. During the visit it was observed that participation and involvement in decision making, lack of food, lack of information, and lack of clean water are among the challenges that affect the communities. The following were the main findings:

1. Community members have limited awareness of natural resource governance.
2. There is an absence of an organized mechanism for community members to share grievances.
3. Communication between village headmen and sub-headmen is insufficient.
4. Community members are unsure where to report rights violations by investors or personnel conducting mineral explorations in the area.
5. Community members report a lack of support from local leaders, including councillors and members of parliament.
6. Community members are unaware of human, land, environmental, and water rights.
7. The areas are reported by community members to be rich in minerals, including amethyst, tantalite, aquamarine, lithium, white quartz, tin, blue sky, manganese, copper, and coal.

8. Community members reported land degradation resulting from investor exploration of arable agricultural land. Current coal mining activities have caused drying and water levels in natural rivers to drop due to soil dumping from excavations, which has also depleted fish species in these rivers. Additionally, water pollution from mining effluents has led to livestock losses and increased disease in the project area.
9. It was established that majority of the people of Siawaza and Sianzovu have been occupants of their land from the time they were born up to now but have no title deeds.
10. Government through Ministry of Mines and Mineral development has been issuing exploration license to companies to conduct explorations in Siawaza and Sianzovu villages but these companies do not engage the traditional leadership. The exploration companies are subject community members to harassment with the recent one of sending 12 Government soldiers to go and surround the house of senior head man Sianzovu to warn him and intimidate him on the mining activities his subjects were doing in sites marked for exploration. One of the community member had his field grabbed by Selemani Exploration Company after discovering that the field had lithium deposits. The field was grabbed without the engagement of the local head man or discussions for possible compensation.

CIVIL SOCIETY COP 29 PREPARATIONS

On November 5th, 2024, FIAN ZAMBIA delivered a presentation on the current state of the right to food following the drought at the National Civil Society Organizations' COP 29 Preparatory Meeting. The event, held at the Grand Palace Hotel in Lusaka, brought together stakeholders to develop a comprehensive national position paper for COP 29 in Baku.

The presentation focused on three critical issues within Zambia's agriculture sector, providing actionable recommendations for addressing these challenges within the context of Zambia's climate priorities. The discussion centered on Climate Finance and Loss and Damage, key themes of COP 29.

The meeting provided a valuable opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to the development of Zambia's national position paper. The event was well-attended, with participants engaging in meaningful discussions and debates.

The outcomes of the meeting informed Zambia's position at COP 29, ensuring that the country's key issues and concerns are represented at the global climate negotiations.

CLIMATE SOLUTIONS SHOULD FOCUS ON PEOPLE-LED SOLUTIONS AND HOLDING PERPETRATORS ACCOUNTABLE

FIAN Zambia joined hundreds of other civil society organisations advancing solutions to the current climate crisis at COP 29.

Hosted by a major fossil fuel producing country, Azerbaijan COP29 was dubbed “money conference”. FIAN Zambia participated at the panel discussions during the sidelines of COP 29 titled, addressing loss and damage reparations

and climate debt, human rights obligation not a charity. During the event FIAN Zambia presented climate change impact in Nyimba district of Zambia.

For instance In 2024 the drought crisis has led the Zambian government to repeatedly declare a national emergency. Drought has directly impacted agriculture, out of the 2.2 million hectares of maize planted nationwide, nearly half approximately 1 million hectares have been destroyed, affecting over a million farming households. As maize is a staple crop, its loss threatens food supplies and aggravates the already difficult conditions faced by many rural and urban communities.

One of the most affected areas is Nyalungwe Chiefdom in Eastern Province. Human dignity has been compromised as people struggle to feed themselves. The affected people do not have food, they lack water for household use and are constantly looking for food aid to feed themselves. In some other instances they have to sell their livestock, land in order to find food.

The problem is that accessing Finance for Loss and Damage and international Corporation: Climate change is causing human rights violations. Due to the scale of the problem it is impossible for the government of Zambia to address the situation. In line with international human rights law, those countries with historic responsibilities for the climate catastrophe have the obligations to provide adequate remediation and reparation for loss and damage comprising restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition. This includes debt cancellation and fundamental

reforms of the international finance infrastructure. More ambitious funding commitments and their implementation are urgently needed.

FIAN Zambia calls for the loss and damage fund to be operational! time to act is now!!



In the picture Vladimir Chilinya, FIAN Zambia Country Coordinator speaking at the Side event during COP 29

ZAMBIAN CSOS SIDE EVENT AT COP29

On 20th Nov AN Zambia, Zambia Alliance of Women, Centre for Technology Development Trust, Zambia Climate Change Network working with We Effect Zambia through the support of Swedish International Development Corporation Agency (SIDA) hosted a side event at the Zambian Pavilion.



The event focused on highlighting the impact of Loss and Damage (L&D) on the rights of communities, people and children in Zambia. FIAN Zambia highlighted the impact of the 2023/2024 drought on the lives of

people especially farmers and other people living in rural areas.

Climate change is impacting negatively on the right to food evident by the more than 6 million Zambians who do not have because of the destruction of more than one million hectares of crop land in the last agriculture season. Furthermore, thousands of children are facing severe undernourishment.

An energy deficit caused by dependency on hydro electricity is affecting thousands or millions of small businesses in major parts of the country.

All these factors are making it difficult for communities, households and people to enjoy their rights particularly the human right to Food as enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

Therefore COP 29 must deliver an agreement to operationalise the Loss and Damage Fund, and ensure the provision of public finance to support Zambia to deal with the challenges brought about by climate change.

Time to Act is Now!

LAUNCH OF 2024 COUNTRY SITUATION ANALYSIS ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD IN ZAMBIA.

December 5th, 2024, FIAN Zambia launched a report titled: “Country situation analysis on the right to food in Zambia” at the Urban Hotel in Lusaka. The report was produced under a SIDA funded project through We Effect. This significant event marked a crucial step towards advancing the right to food in Zambia, particularly for individuals, households and communities.

The event was attended by representatives from the media, project partners, government agencies, civil society organizations, and human rights defenders. The event was graced by His Excellency Swedish Ambassador to Zambia,

Human Rights Commissioner Laura Miti delivered a keynote address, highlighting the importance of protecting and promoting the right to food in Zambia. The event provided a platform for stakeholders to engage in meaningful discussions and debates on the way forward.

The country situation analysis is a critical tool for stakeholders to understand the complexities surrounding the right to food in Zambia. It is expected to inform policy decisions and interventions aimed at addressing the challenges faced by Zambians.

SUPPORTING PERMACULTURE

With support from Ubuntu, over 10 small holder farmers from Mumbwa district have been trained on permaculture. Hands-on sessions taught farmers how to produce organic manure using locally available resources, boosting soil health and crop yields. Participants received step-by-step guides and access to a follow-up support network.

DIGITAL ADVOCACY ON HUMAN RIGHTS DAY


On **December 10**, 2024, during the commemoration of the Human Rights Day, we published and populated statements on the digital space with engaging infographics, videos, and community stories under the hashtag #RightToFoodZambia. We also issued media statements on the current situation on the right to food in Zambia.

STAY CONNECTED

Follow us for updates, events, and calls to action:

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 **Social Media:** Facebook, Youtube, Twitter, LinkdIN: FAIN International
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