

Combat Poverty Agency
Annual Report 2008
23 years working for
a poverty-free Ireland

About Combat Poverty

Combat Poverty is a state agency which develops and promotes evidence-based proposals and measures to eliminate poverty in Ireland.

It was established under the Combat Poverty Agency Act 1986 and its main statutory functions are to:

- > provide advice to the Minister on economic and social policies to tackle poverty in Ireland***



- > undertake and promote research on the nature, causes and extent of poverty in Ireland**
- > initiate measures to tackle poverty in Ireland and evaluate such measures**
- > promote public understanding of the nature, causes and extent of poverty in Ireland and measures needed to overcome poverty.**

Web: www.combatpoverty.ie

The Annual report is available, on request, in a range of formats, including audio tape, Braille and computer disk. The Annual Report is also available in the Irish language.

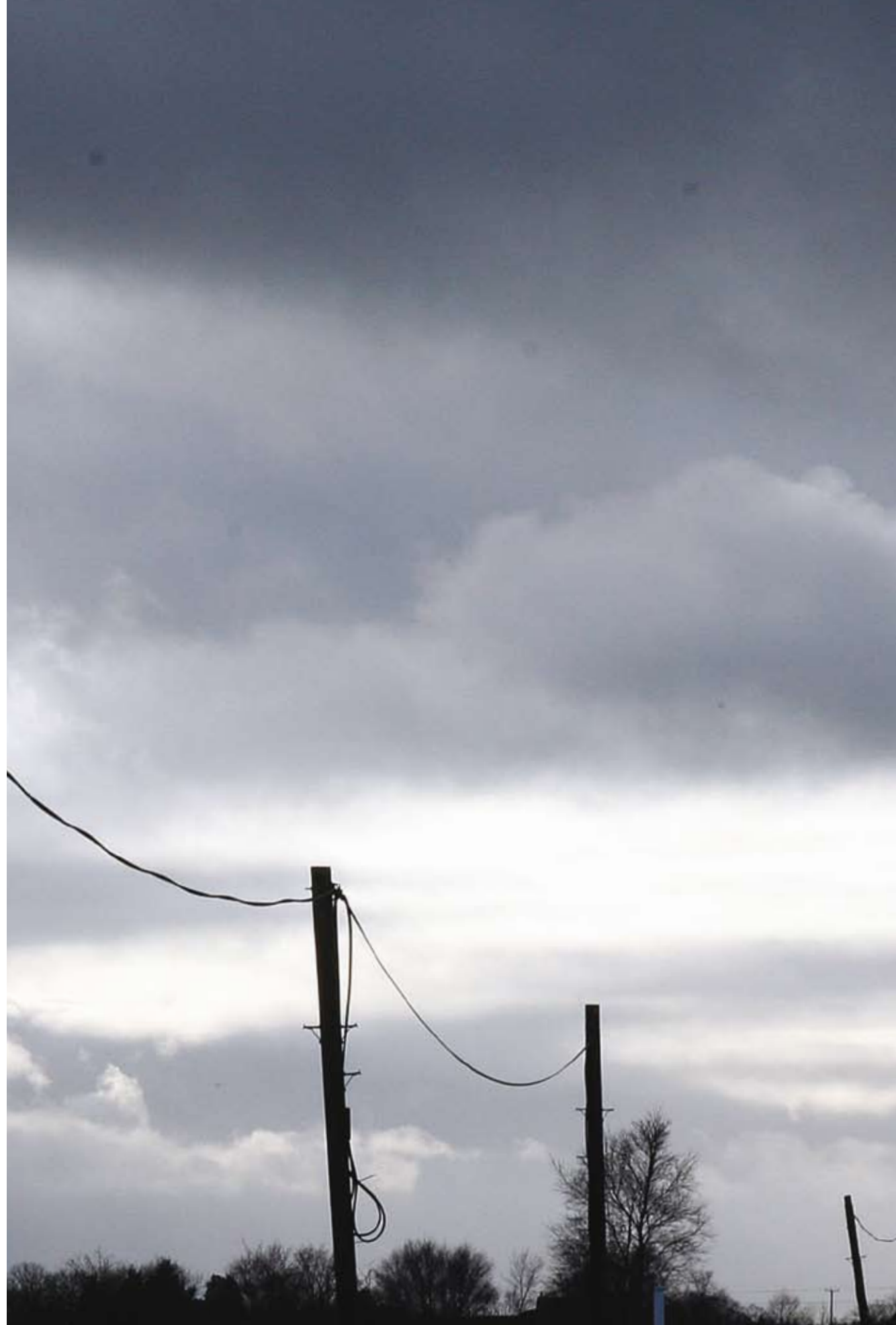


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***Board of Combat Poverty
31 December 2008***





Tony Lane



John Loughran



Catherine Hazlett



Brian Duncan (chair)



Brian Mahon



Anthony Gavin



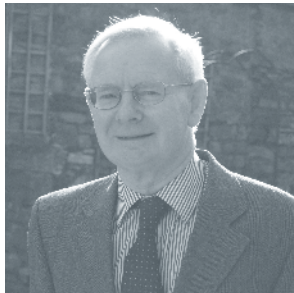
Maria Gorman



Kitty King



Peter McKeivitt



John Monaghan



Tony O'Callaghan



Sharon Keane



Eugene Russell

Chairperson's Foreword



It is with some regret that I present the 22nd and final report of Combat Poverty to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs.

Combat Poverty was established by the Government in 1987 in a very different Ireland. For over two decades the Board and Staff of Combat Poverty have worked tirelessly to address poverty and social inclusion issues by offering professional unbiased advice to successive governments. The work has contributed to significant changes in public expectations and political ambitions, resulting in new targets, strategies and investments to tackle issues such as child poverty, educational disadvantage, health inequalities and other issues.

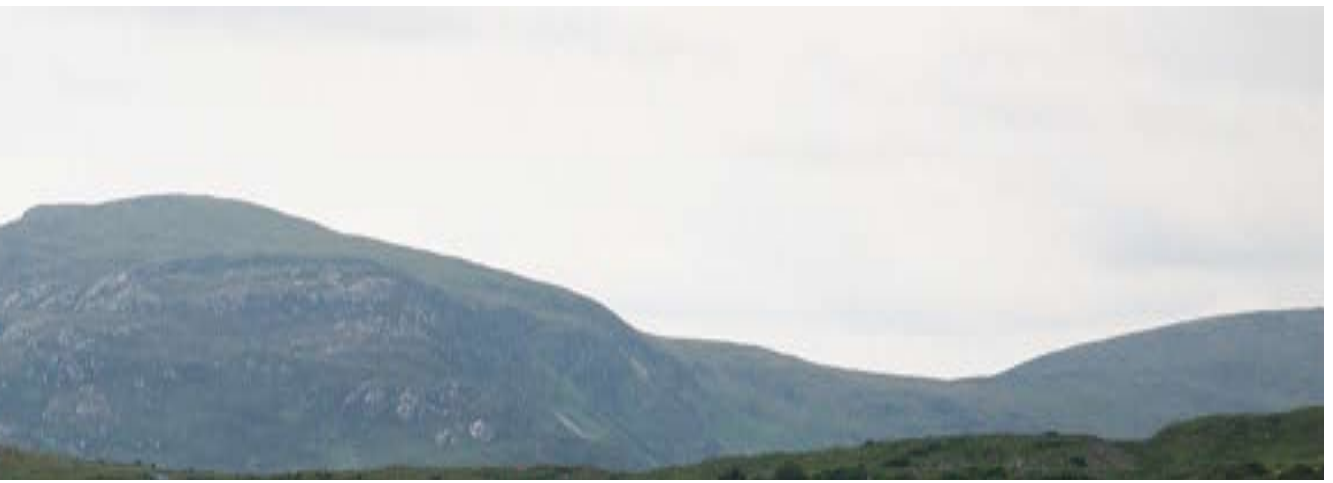
It is to the credit of successive governments that they supported the work, notwithstanding that we may on occasions have been seen as a strong critic of some policies and practices.

In October 2008, following a review of our role, the Government announced its intention to integrate Combat Poverty with the more recently established Office for Social Inclusion into a new Division within the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

I have to admit to mixed feelings on this development. On the one hand it will end our independence and our ability to speak out publicly on issues that cause and perpetuate poverty. I know many organisations, including those in the community and voluntary sector, share this concern.

On the other hand the integration of Combat Poverty and the Office for Social Inclusion offers the opportunity to devote more resources to address poverty issues. It also provides better access to key policy makers, which has proven a challenge for us in recent years.

Notwithstanding the loss of independence, our staff and board are committed to work with the Department of Social and Family Affairs to ensure that the new Division makes a genuine and lasting impact on poverty. While at the time of writing there are



still some key staff issues to be addressed, I am confident that it should be possible to achieve the benefits anticipated for the new Division.

We welcome the statements from Mary Hanafin, the Minister for Social and Family Affairs, that she is committed to ensuring that the new Division will consult freely with those experiencing poverty and those who are working to eliminate it. To copper fasten this commitment we have encouraged the Minister to set up a permanent advisory board, with representatives from Combat Poverty and the community and voluntary sector, to advise on the work of the new Division.

The Board also acknowledges that it has been a difficult time for staff as they came to terms with the implications of the Government's decision. Nevertheless, they have been working to ensure a successful integration into the new Division while, at the same time, maintaining a focus on delivering the quality work which has been a constant feature of Combat Poverty.

Highlights of the work undertaken last year included regular evidence-based policy advice on a range of issues such as tax and social welfare policy and financial inclusion while the Building Healthy Communities Programme drew to a close. Our focus on health continued through the establishment of a new initiative to support communities and groups experiencing poverty to be involved in the design and delivery of primary health services. This was established in partnership with the HSE Consumer Affairs Unit.

Our work to support local authorities to strengthen local responses to national goals on the reduction of poverty continued throughout the year.

To mark 2008 as the EU Year for Intercultural Dialogue, with a range of national, EU and international partners, we hosted a successful European Conference on Community Development and Interculturalism.



On behalf of the Board I want to acknowledge and thank Combat Poverty staff for their support, commitment and continuing professionalism throughout 2008. I am confident they will continue to make a significant contribution in the new Division.

I also want to thank Kevin O'Kelly who took on the role of Acting Director while our remit was under review. Jim Walsh then took over the challenge of leading the organisation while we prepared for the forthcoming integration. We were fortunate to have Jim, who has a long and distinguished association with Combat Poverty, to carry out this work while ensuring that we are still focussed on carrying out our strategic functions.

2008 was also significant as it brought to a close Combat Poverty's twelve year role as a partner in Border Action. Since 1996, Border Action (Pobal and Combat Poverty working in partnership) was involved in the implementation of measures of the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE I and PEACE II Programmes) in the border region and on a cross-border basis and the Interreg IIIA Programme. These Programmes have played an important role in building relationships within and between communities and in supporting grassroots social inclusion and peace-building activities.

Our partnership with Pobal worked successfully and I want to acknowledge the contribution of all those who were involved in this work.

I also want to thank the Combat Poverty Board members for their contribution to our work. The use of sub-committees, which enables board members to contribute, based on their areas of experience and expertise, is also an important focus in our work. I believe this is an aspect of state agencies which is not always properly appreciated and valued.



Finally, but most importantly, I want to formally acknowledge the contribution of many Board and staff members to the successful work of Combat Poverty over the last 22 years. It is important that their legacy is respected and retained in the new Division and that the strong commitment to addressing poverty and social exclusion is protected and developed.

Brian Duncan
April 2009

Report of Activities 2008





Some Key Developments: 2008



- » Policy proposals on carbon tax submitted to Commission on Taxation and on pensions in response to the Green Paper on Pensions
- » Policy proposals for Budget 2009 developed and submitted to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs
- » Policy statement on Financial Exclusion published.
- » Participation in the EU-wide Mutual Learning study on financial inclusion issues
- » Hosted national policy conference on Overcoming Barriers to Educational Disadvantage
- » Completed a programme of training on poverty and social inclusion with Social Inclusion Units in local authorities with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
- » Established an initiative, with the HSE Consumer Affairs Unit and the Directorate of Primary, Community and Continuing Care, to support the participation of communities and groups experiencing poverty and social exclusion in the development of primary health care services



- » With range of national, EU and international partners, hosted a European Conference on Community Development and Interculturalism as a contribution to the EU Year of Intercultural Dialogue
- » Combat Poverty's role as a partner in Border Action concluded. Since 1996, Border Action (Pobal and Combat Poverty working in partnership) was involved in the implementation of measures of the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE I and PEACE II Programmes) in the border region and on a cross-border basis and the Interreg IIIA Programme. These Programmes are now closed
- » The Review of the future of Combat Poverty, undertaken on foot of a Government Decision in June 2007, by the Department of Social and Family Affairs in association with other relevant departments, was concluded and submitted to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs
- » In October, the Government announced its decision to integrate Combat Poverty and the Office for Social Inclusion to form a new Division in the Department of Social and Family Affairs
- » In December, the legislative provision to give effect to the Government Decision was passed in the Oireachtas in the Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008

Context

Over the recent past, progress in reducing poverty has occurred in the context of economic growth. During this period, progress was achieved through a range of policy measures that resulted in, for example:

- » more people in paid employment;
- » increases in welfare payments;
- » expenditure on public services;
- » ongoing supports to disadvantaged communities.

Levels of consistent poverty fell from 6.5 per cent to 5.1 per cent between 2006 and 2007: www.cso.ie/eusilc. However, poverty data continues to highlight that the 'at-risk of poverty' rate did not significantly change between 2006 and 2007.

- » Children remain the age group most at risk of poverty.
- » Children have a higher consistent poverty rate than all other life-cycle groups and account for nearly 40 per cent of all those in consistent poverty.
- » Single adult households of working age, workless households, lone parent households and single older households are all at greater risk of consistent poverty than other household types.
- » Those living in accommodation that was rent-free or rented at below the market rate (i.e. local authority housing) were also at greater risk of consistent poverty compared to those in accommodation that was rented at the market rate or owner-occupied.
- » Data also shows the significant regressive effect of the SSIA income in 2007. When this income is removed, the 'at risk of poverty' rate falls between 2006 and 2007.

In 2008, as part of a wider global trend, Ireland experienced a rapid economic downturn. The consequences of this include:

- » rising unemployment – a high risk of poverty;
- » in-work poverty – wages and working hours may fall;
- » pressure on public finances may result in less resources directed towards poverty reduction strategies and, in particular, towards public services.

Against this changing economic landscape a number of other factors are also important to the challenge of reducing and preventing poverty and working for social inclusion. These include:

- » ensuring the full economic, social, cultural and political participation of minority ethnic groups;
- » the effects of climate change on low income households;
- » the persistence of educational disadvantage, which disproportionately affects children from poor families;
- » the disproportionate experience of health inequalities experienced by people living in poverty;
- » the impact of new technologies for the social inclusion of low income families and communities.

2008 - A Year of Transition

During 2008, reviews of Combat Poverty's statutory functions continued. These included the review of the research function (jointly commissioned by the Department of Social and Family Affairs and Combat Poverty) and the review of participation programmes. These commenced the previous year and were commissioned by the Department of Social and Family Affairs. A final report of the research review and a draft report of the participation review was produced.

The Review of the future of Combat Poverty, undertaken on foot of a Government Decision in June 2007, by the Department of Social and Family Affairs in association with other relevant departments, was concluded and submitted to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs. The terms of reference of the Review were to:

- » identify the extent to which newer developments or arrangements may duplicate, overlap or complement Combat Poverty's role;
- » report on the ongoing validity of the Combat Poverty remit;
- » bring forward proposals, as appropriate, for enhancement and/or rationalisation and make recommendations to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs.

The Review addressed the work programmes and operations of Combat Poverty in the context of efficiency and effectiveness and overall value for money, and against the background of the recent OECD review *Ireland: Towards an Integrated Public Service* (OECD 2008).

On 8 July 2008, the Government announced public spending measures which included a requirement from the Minister for Finance that state agencies should be reviewed by departments "to examine whether they can share services, whether it would be appropriate to absorb some of their functions back into their parent Departments or whether some agencies should be amalgamated or abolished." The Department of Social and Family Affairs indicated that the review of Combat Poverty, underway at the time of the Government announcement, should inform its response to the Government on this matter.

In October 2008, as part of Budget 2009, the Government announced its decision to integrate Combat Poverty and the Office for Social Inclusion (OSI) into a new Division in the Department of Social and Family Affairs. The Minister for Social and Family Affairs indicated that "a new strengthened Division will be created which will make best use of experience and expertise of both bodies and address weaknesses in relation to both."

Work Programme 2008

In light of the High Level Review, Combat Poverty was required to develop an annual work programme for 2008 that consolidated and built on activities under the last Strategic Plan (2005-2007).

The 2008 Work Programme also explored some new areas which might be incorporated into future work. It was framed within the statutory remit, as set out in the Combat Poverty Agency Act 1986, as follows:

- » advising and making recommendations to the Minister on all aspects of economic and social planning in relation to poverty;
- » the initiation of measures aimed at overcoming poverty in Ireland and the evaluation of such measures;
- » the examination of the nature, causes and extent of poverty in Ireland and the promotion, commission and interpretation of research;
- » the promotion of greater public understanding of the nature, causes and extent on poverty and measures necessary to overcome such poverty;
- » fostering and assisting projects on community development and activities to overcome poverty.

The activities in the work programme focused on the following objectives of the Strategic Plan (2005-2007):

- » to promote a fairer distribution of income and employment by providing evidence-based advice on tax, welfare and employment policies;
- » to develop and promote policy proposals for people in poverty to have access to quality health and education services;
- » to support local and regional responses to poverty, including border areas affected by the Northern Ireland conflict.

A number of supporting measures were also undertaken to fulfil Combat Poverty's statutory remit, meet governance requirements and ensure the effective delivery of its work programme.

» **Enabling Measures**

- Poverty Research Initiative;
- Compliance with best practice in corporate governance;
- Management and organisational development policies;
- Information technology policies.

All activities in the Work Programme 2008 meet the following cross-cutting principles:

- » **Thought Leadership** – The work of the Agency sought to add to the available knowledge base and contribute new thinking. Each project had the identification of new ideas to tackle poverty and social exclusion as its starting point.
- » **Evidence-based** – All projects sought to strengthen the existing evidence base. This included the identification of relevant data and information gaps with a view to informing and providing solutions to priority policy areas at both national and local levels.
- » **Policy Framework** – The work sought to support the effective delivery of national policies, in particular:
 - the implementation of policy thrusts in the *Developmental Welfare State*
 - the life-cycle framework agreed in the National Partnership Agreement *Towards 2016*, and reiterated in the NAP/inclusion 2007–2016
 - the *National Development Plan 2007–2013*
 - the *Programme for Government 2007–2013*.

The remainder of this report describes the achievements and developments under the 2008 Work Programme.

Monitoring Poverty Trends

Combat Poverty participated in and led a number of projects to monitor poverty trends and emerging issues during 2008.

Analysis of EU-SILC

EU-Survey of Income and Living Conditions (EU SILC) is the primary source of comparative poverty data at Irish and European levels. The survey is undertaken by the Central Statistics Office (CSO). The data is a valuable source of analysis of key trends that informs policy debates on a range of issues. Combat Poverty's access to the data facilitated the completion of two major analyses in 2008:

Low Income Working Families: A Research Working Paper has been produced and is due for publication in 2009. Findings included:

- » the prevalence of low-income working households and the working poor in the Border Mid-West region;
- » sector, age, work type and gender variations in the composition of the working poor and low income working households;
- » the effects of different policy interventions for addressing in-work poverty.

Medical Card Eligibility. An in-depth analysis of medical card and non-medical card holders amongst low-income households was also completed. This analysed the different characteristics between medical-card and non-medical card holders, in order to explore medical card eligibility and medical card coverage for households at-risk of poverty and in consistent poverty. The findings were used in a policy submission on medical card eligibility (see Health below). A Research Working Paper will be published in 2009.

Poverty Trends Report

Work continued on a scoping study to collate poverty data and trends across a number of themes and at different spatial levels. The aim is to produce an annual report on monitoring poverty trends.

Tax and welfare

Policy proposals on tax and welfare issues were developed on pensions reform, taxation, Budget 2009 and the Carers' Strategy.

- » The policy submission on the Green Paper on Pensions made proposals as to how the state pension could be enhanced to reduce poverty risks for retired people.
- » The policy submission to the Commission on Taxation examined the likely effect of a carbon tax on low-income households and in particular those experiencing fuel poverty and proposed various compensatory measures.
- » The submission on the development of a National Carers' Strategy made proposals on carers and employment; carers and social welfare and involving carers in the decision-making that affects them.
- » The submission on Budget 2009 made proposals on improvements in welfare benefits and on additional support for educational costs for low-income families.

The annual post-budget analysis of Budget 2008 was published. As in previous years a presentation on the analysis was made to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social and Family Affairs. The analysis used the SWITCH tax-benefit model to examine the poverty impact of the tax and welfare measures in the Budget.

Health

Developing responses to poverty and health inequalities continued to be a major theme for Combat Poverty during 2008. There is clear evidence that people in poverty have poorer health status and experience more difficulty in accessing quality health services on an equitable basis than those who are better off.

A Board Advisory Committee on health provides support and strategic direction (see Appendices for listing).

Building Healthy Communities

The Building Healthy Communities (BHC) Programme ended formally in 2007. In 2008, Combat Poverty continued to draw lessons from the Programme and to support mainstreaming of some of its elements. The formative evaluation of the programme, undertaken by CLES Consulting (Centre for Local Economic Strategies), was finalised and is now available on Combat Poverty's website.

A policy paper *Tackling Poverty: Tackling Health Inequalities* was drafted and was published in 2009. Area profiles on three area-based projects were finalised and were published in 2009.

Financial support was provided to assist projects to consolidate and develop mainstreaming strategies for their work. A number of networking events were supported. This element of the Programme was particularly valued by projects and a strong call was made for the establishment of a network to support work on community development and health. In response to this, Combat Poverty commissioned a feasibility study on behalf of the projects to assess the interest and viability of such a network. The study identified strong interest and support for the establishment of a network and recommended that Community Development and Health, Northern Ireland be resourced to extend its services to projects in the Republic of Ireland, in collaboration with a planning group drawn from BHC projects.

The Department of Health and Children nominated the Building Healthy Communities Programme for the World Health Organisation (WHO) technical consultation on poverty and health. At the request of the WHO, Combat Poverty developed a case study on the Programme for inclusion on their web-site. The Lifford/Castlefinn project, which was supported by the BHC Programme to develop a model of community participation in primary care, also developed a case study for inclusion as a model of work in tackling health inequalities and poverty.



Community Participation in Primary Care

The *National Strategy for Service User Involvement* in the Irish Health Service was published by the Department of Health and Children and the Health Service Executive (HSE) in May 2008. The strategy prioritises the participation of socially-excluded groups in involvement initiatives and identified enhanced involvement in primary care teams as a priority action. A high level goal in the *National Action Plan for Social Inclusion* is the development of 500 primary care teams by 2011. In this context, the HSE requested Combat Poverty to work with them to give effect to these commitments.

Subsequently, Combat Poverty, the HSE Consumer Affairs Unit and the Directorate of Primary, Community and Continuing Care worked to develop a joint initiative to support the participation of communities and groups experiencing poverty and social exclusion in the development of primary health care services. Nineteen groups are funded to support initiatives undertaken jointly by community based groups and health service staff responsible for the development of primary care services. It is anticipated that the initiative will demonstrate approaches which can inform the implementation of the Primary Care Strategy.

Policy Submission to Medical Card Review Group

Qualitative research, facilitated by BHC projects, provided evidence of experiences of people in or at-risk of poverty accessing medical cards. It formed the basis for a Combat Poverty submission to the Inter-Departmental Group established to review medical card eligibility.

Health Resources and Publications

A number of publications on poverty and health were commissioned and/or published in 2008. They were:



- » *Tackling health inequalities: an all island approach to social determinants* Farrell C., McAvoy H., Wilde J., and Combat Poverty (2008). This report was developed and published jointly with the Institute of Public Health and has been widely disseminated on an all-Ireland basis.
- » *Tackling poverty: Tackling health inequalities* was commissioned and was published in 2009.
- » *Voices of Poverty*, an audio recording of the lived experience of health inequalities among low income groups was finalised and published.
- » *Model of a Community Health Worker* was finalised and was published in 2009.

Strengthening Social Inclusion Within Local Authorities

Combat Poverty continued work to strengthen social inclusion within local authorities, with particular reference to their role in national and local anti-poverty and social inclusion strategies.

Supporting Local Government Social Inclusion Units

Support for the nine new social inclusion units in local authorities was a key element of work in 2008. Support included:

- » contributing to a training programme, in collaboration with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government;
- » provision of technical support to individual units on key aspects of their work, e.g. poverty profiles.

A formative evaluation was commissioned. This captured key issues and lessons from the work of the units and supported their initial development. Two policy papers were also commissioned on *Getting*

Social Inclusion Into the Corporate Plans and The Role and Potential of Research in Local Authorities.

Local Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion Strategies

Combat Poverty's guide to developing a local anti-poverty and social inclusion strategy (LAPSIS) was updated and disseminated. The guide outlines the key steps involved in undertaking a LAPSIS and is available on Combat Poverty's website. Regional workshops to promote the development of strategies were also undertaken. Technical support to develop strategies continued to be provided to a number of local authorities working with anti-poverty interests in their areas.

Local Government Social Inclusion Steering Group

Combat Poverty continues to participate in and contribute to the work of the Local Government Social Inclusion Steering Group (LGSISG). This provides a strategic co-ordinating mechanism to support the implementation of the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion at local level. The group is chaired by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Combat Poverty continued to contribute to the planning of the Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network and organised an event in Waterford to showcase examples of good practice initiated by the social inclusion units.

A report with examples of good practice in addressing poverty and social exclusion within local government was commissioned and will be published in 2009.

National Strategic Reference Framework

Combat Poverty continued to participate in and monitor social inclusion within the two Regional Operational Programmes (OPs), as well as the Rural Development and Human Capital Investment Operational Programmes.

Supporting Peace and Reconciliation

Combat Poverty and Pobal, through Border Action, jointly implemented measures of the European Union Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation 2000-2008 (Peace II Programme) in the border region of Ireland and on a cross-border basis. The overall strategic aim of the EU Peace Programmes was to, “reinforce progress towards a more peaceful and stable society and to promote reconciliation.” Target communities and groups include victims and their families, ex-prisoners, displaced persons, ex-security forces and other minority communities.

The main focus of work during 2008 involved bringing projects to completion and facilitating the closure of all remaining Peace II project files. By December 2008 all activity, reporting and financial verification had been completed on 640 of 664 projects supported. While the remaining 24 have completed their activity, there are a number of financial verification and reporting requirements still being addressed and this will be completed by the end of March 2009.

Significant outcomes have been achieved by projects supported by Border Action over the duration of the Peace II Programme. Almost 900 jobs have been created in the border region and Northern Ireland since 2000 and more than 16,000 people have received training in basic skills. Sixty-three thousand people received training which enabled them to progress in employment or education, with 20,000 receiving accreditation. A further 1,500 people received accreditation exclusively in the area of reconciliation/conflict resolution/mediation. On a cross-border basis over 160,000 people participated in cross-community activities between 2000 and 2008. These achievements are an indication of the overall depth of support within the border region as well as Northern Ireland for addressing the legacy of the conflict and taking opportunities arising from peace. The 664 projects supported by Border Action 2000-2008 have played an important role in developing relationships within and between communities in order to create a stable and tolerant society.

Supporting Anti-Poverty Approaches

Having Your Say

A number of actions, initiated as part of the Having Your Say (HYS) Programme (2005–2007) were finalised during 2008. This included the final evaluation report of the Programme, which is available on Combat Poverty's website. A research study: *Out of Sight, Out of Mind*, commissioned in 2007, was finalised. It provides analysis and case studies on a number of groups that experience difficulty in participating in community-based activity.

A policy paper on the participation in policy of people experiencing poverty and the organisations that work with them was finalised. It was published in 2009 and is entitled *People, Poverty and Participation*. It draws on lessons from the HYS Programme, other work undertaken by Combat Poverty and international experience.

One of the publications from the Having Your Say Programme was an educational resource on *Economics and Poverty*. A series of initiatives was supported to promote the publication to key audiences. These included:

- » a dissemination programme undertaken by the National Women's Council of Ireland;
- » a dissemination programme undertaken by the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed;
- » a training day for trainers commissioned to support the practical use of the resource in community-based settings.

Two policy training workshops were held in Limerick and Dublin to support community and anti-poverty groups to engage with the annual national budgetary process.

Integrating Ireland, a national network of minority ethnic groups was also supported to promote an educational resource for community-based groups: *Integrating Policy into Work Planning*. This was published in English, Russian and French in 2007. Integrating Ireland undertook a dissemination to Russian and French speaking organisations concerned with community development, poverty and social exclusion.

Community Development

Combat Poverty promotes and supports community development as a way of tackling poverty. Key actions are outlined below.

- » An evaluation of SPEAK, an electronic strategic planning and self-evaluation framework used within the National Community Development Programme, was finalised. The review was commissioned by Combat Poverty at the request of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
- » Combat Poverty updated and published *A Directory of Community Development Courses in Ireland*.
- » A policy paper on community development education and training was commissioned.
- » Combat Poverty participated in and supported an all-Ireland consortium developing occupational standards for community work. A report entitled *Towards Standards for Quality Community Work: An All-Ireland Statement of Values, Principles and Work Standards* was published in 2008 with a poster and leaflet on how to use the standards. These are available from the Community Workers Co-operative.
- » A pilot study of community workers was undertaken to test and assess the potential for a national study. The study involved issuing questionnaires to paid workers, unpaid workers and participants in community-based projects in County Donegal and analysing the results. The study, which was informed by a National Advisory Committee, as well as an Advisory Group based in Donegal, will be disseminated in 2009.

Combat Poverty with Irish, European and international partners hosted an international conference *Together in Diversity* to mark the European Year on Intercultural Dialogue. Partners included community development organisations, the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions and the International Association for Community Development. The conference used the theme of intercultural dialogue to:

- » explore contemporary migration and poverty within the EU;
- » explore the role of community development in this context;
- » promote the role of community development in challenging racism and in shaping an intercultural and equal society;
- » include a focus on poverty and social inclusion among migrants and ethnic and indigenous communities within the EU;
- » share experiences and network with others working on intercultural and community development issues across the EU.

The conference proceedings are published on Combat Poverty's website.

Participation and the Practice of Rights

Combat Poverty continued to participate as a partner in the Participation and the Practice of Rights (PPR) Project, a cross-border initiative that is testing the application of human rights-based approaches to tackling poverty within disadvantaged communities. The other partners in the Project are:

- » Representative community groups from across North Belfast and North Inner City Dublin
- » Committee on the Administration of Justice
- » Irish Council for Civil Liberties
- » Irish Congress of Trade Unions and
- » Community Foundation NI.

The main focus of the work has been on health and housing.

Combat Poverty continued to support the evaluation of the Project, which will be available in 2009.

Financial Exclusion and Overindebtedness

Access to financial services is a key policy objective under the EU Social Inclusion Strategy and Combat Poverty has become one of the lead actors in providing policy advice and research on financial inclusion. This has involved attendance at numerous work shops and network events at European level, participation in the EU-wide Mutual Learning study, which disseminates good practice on financial inclusion issues and working with the National Payment Implementation Programme (NPIP) and the MABS National Advisory Committee.

Work to progress the introduction of basic bank accounts is ongoing with a range of stakeholders.

In 2007, in conjunction with NPIP Team we initiated a study on *Managing a Low Income in the Electronic Economy*. A report will be published in 2009.

Fuel Poverty

Fuel poverty refers to the inability to provide adequate heat in the home due to a combination of low income and energy inefficient housing. Combat Poverty and Sustainable Energy Ireland undertook a study to evaluate the effectiveness of the Warmer Homes scheme, which retro-fits homes with measures including improved insulation to improve energy-efficiency. Post-intervention surveys with a sample of homes in Cork and Donegal were completed in late 2008. The final report for this study will be published shortly and presented to the Interdepartmental Group on Energy Affordability.

Education

School Books Scheme

A study on the effectiveness of the administration of the School Books Scheme and its impacts for low-income parents was jointly undertaken with the Department of Education and Science. The fieldwork included collection of quantitative data, as well as focus group interviews with parents; one-on-one interviews with principals and others involved in the administration of the scheme;

and interviews with other stakeholders involved in supporting low-income families. Data analysis was delayed due to technical difficulties and the study will now be published in 2009.

Overcoming Barriers to Educational Disadvantage

A national policy conference was held in June. It was addressed by Sean Haughey TD, Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science and a number of international speakers on various aspects of educational disadvantage. The need to support parents in engaging in their children's education was a key message from the conference. The proceedings are published on www.combatpoverty.ie.

Early Childhood Care and Education

A policy discussion paper that explored the role of early childhood care and education from a child poverty perspective was published. The potential benefits of early childhood services were examined and a number of policy recommendations proposed.

Healthy Food For All

Combat Poverty is a partner in the *Healthy Food for All Initiative* (HFFA), a multi-agency initiative that promotes availability and affordability of healthy food for low-income groups. In 2008 support was provided to HFFA to carry out the first year of its three-year development plan (2008-2010).

Council of Europe Study on Low Income Workers

Members of Combat Poverty were invited to participate in a Council of Europe study on low-income workers, for which they produced a country report and good practice guidelines. We were also involved in a range of workshops and networking events around financial exclusion and overindebtedness, including a seminar and presentation on Social Experimentation in Grenoble.

Poverty Research Initiative

Combat Poverty's Poverty Research Initiative supports independent, policy-relevant research to promote public understanding of poverty and inform the development of policy frameworks to tackle poverty, especially the National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016. There are four components to the initiative: research awards; research fellowships; research internships and research promotion events.

Research Awards

In 2008, 11 Research Working Papers were published on our website. Five new awards were made in 2008.

Research Fellowships

A six-month Visiting Research Fellowship commencing in 2009 at the Policy Institute, Trinity College Dublin was awarded to Georges Gloukiewzoff.

Civil Society/Egalitarian World Initiative Scholarships, University College Dublin were awarded to Matthew Seebach, Youthwork Ireland, and Pamela Chiseri, Women of Multi-Cultural Balbriggan. A PhD Fellowship was awarded to Paula Brudell, Trinity College Dublin, for her work on community participation in urban regeneration.

Post-graduate Internships in Combat Poverty

Two post-graduate internships were awarded in 2008: Declan Markey, University College Dublin, who worked on the Costs of School Books; and Niamh Kirwan, Dublin Institute of Technology, who worked on the monitoring poverty trends study.

In 2008, the name of the Senior Research Internship strand of the Poverty Research Initiative was changed to Senior Research Fellowships in Combat Poverty. Two Senior Fellows were appointed: Tricia Kielthy, who completed a study on medical card eligibility using EU-SILC; and Stuart Stamp, who is working on the Managing Low Income in an Electronic Economy Study and reports on overindebtedness.



Research Promotion Events

Research Promotion Events provide an opportunity to facilitate the public dissemination of research outputs under the Poverty Research Initiative and foster exchanges of learning.

Three events were funded in 2008:

- » the National Women's Council of Ireland's launch of *Pensions: What Women Want: A model of pensions that guarantees independence* in May 2008
- » the Dublin Institute of Technology's seminar on *Poverty, Social Exclusion and Holidaying – Experience and Policy in an Irish and European Context* in October 2008
- » One Family's seminar on *Lone Parents and Employment* in November 2008.

Communications and Public Education

Combat Poverty's communications and public education work comprises a number of elements:

- » Publications including a quarterly magazine *Action on Poverty Today*;
- » A library and information service including website;
- » Education and awareness initiatives;
- » Conferences and events.

Publications including *Action on Poverty Today*

Combat Poverty's capacity to independently publish information on poverty, research and evaluation findings, poverty data and best



practice on tackling poverty is key to communicating new knowledge about poverty and solutions to poverty.

During 2008 over 30 publications were published in hard and soft copy and are available through www.combatpoverty.ie.

Action on Poverty Today is well established as a regular source of information and debate on:

- » new knowledge about poverty;
- » policy developments and issues relating to poverty;
- » social exclusion and effective ways of tackling poverty.

Three issues were published in 2008.

Library and Information Service

Combat Poverty Library and Information Service is a specialised collection of resources on poverty, social exclusion and Irish and international social policy. It is available for loan to staff and for reference to external library users.

www.combatpoverty.ie is a key information source where Combat Poverty titles can be downloaded or purchased.

The Library and Information Service and website continued to be developed as key communication tools throughout 2008.

Education and Awareness Initiatives

Combat Poverty's post-primary education programme has established a unique expertise in the incorporation of learning on poverty and social exclusion in second level syllabi and curricula. It is proposed that this continues as an active engagement with particular reference to work within:

- » Leaving Certificate Applied Programme
- » Transition Year (Senior Cycle)
- » Social and Political Education (Senior Cycle)
- » Home Economics (Senior Cycle)
- » Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE in Junior Cycle)
- » Religious Education (Junior and Senior Cycle)
- » Social and Personal Health Education (Junior and Senior Cycle).

A particular highlight was the development of an educational resource for use in Transition Year entitled *A Level Playing Pitch?*. The unit aims to position community work within an analytical framework to help students understand the structural causes of poverty. In 2008 the Unit was validated by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment.

Combat Poverty also continued as a partner in the Young Social Innovators Award (YSI). Under the YSI, Combat Poverty sponsors an annual award to a school who best meets the challenge of *Making Our Country Poverty Free*. At the annual, national event, 5,000 transition year students come together to showcase the YSI projects. In 2008 the award was presented to St. Leo's College Carlow.

United Nations (UN) Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Funding of €30,000 was allocated to seven organisations to organise local or national activities to promote awareness of the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October. The groups funded were: Thurles Action for Community Development; Arklow Parish Pastoral Council – Peace and Justice Sub Group, Wicklow; ATD Fourth World; Knockanrawley Resource Centre, Tipperary; Donegal Travellers Project; Pléaráca Teo, Galway and Shannon Family Resource Centre. The initiatives organised by the groups included a 10 minute documentary; an art and craft exhibition; a brochure and website to highlight UN Day; poverty awareness workshops; a photographic exhibition; work with local primary schools and a local radio discussion.

Conferences and Seminars

Conferences and seminars are important platforms for Combat Poverty to facilitate policy discussions and engage with policy makers. There were three national conferences held in 2008:

- » Overcoming Barriers to Educational Disadvantage
- » Local Government Social Inclusion Unit Showcase, in conjunction with the Institute of Public Administration
- » Together in Diversity: A European Conference on Community Development and Interculturalism.

Combat Poverty hosts an annual poverty research seminar series to promote new knowledge about poverty to policy makers, researchers and anti-poverty interests. In 2008, 16 seminars were held. Event details and seminar presentations are posted on our website www.combatpoverty.ie.

Combat Poverty-funded research working papers, presented during the series, are also published online at www.combatpoverty.ie

Providing Evidence-Based Policy Advice

The provision of evidence-based policy advice is at the core of Combat Poverty's work. The Agency's policy advice is underpinned by research and lessons drawn from innovative projects. It is promoted through the communications programme, which during 2008 comprised the following:

Policy Liaison Programme

Regular contact was maintained with Government ministers, politicians, officials in Government departments, agency staff and elected representatives at local government level. The policy liaison programme included one-to-one meetings, presentations to Joint Oireachtas Committees, participation in working groups and the establishment of collaborative projects.

Policy Statements and Submissions

During 2008, the following policy statements were published:

- » *Tackling Financial Exclusion in Ireland*
- » Combat Poverty Advice to Budget 2009 (submission to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs on Budget 2009)

In addition, the following submissions were made by Combat Poverty in response to external consultations:

- » Submission to the HSE and the Department of Health and Children on *A Strategy for Service User and Community Involvement with the HSE*
- » Submission to the Departmental and Sectoral Working Group on Fuel Poverty
- » Submission on Local Government Green Paper - *Stronger Local Democracy* - Options for Change
- » Submission in response to the Green Paper on Pensions
- » Submission to the Comptroller and Auditor General on the examination of the Money Advice & Budgeting Service (MABS)
- » Submission on the development of a new National Drugs Strategy
- » Submission to the Commission on Taxation: *A proposal for recycling revenue from a carbon tax to tackle poverty*
- » Submission on the Criminal Justice (Money Laundering) Bill 2008
- » Submission to the Department of Social and Family Affairs on the development of a National Carers' Strategy
- » Contribution to the consultation on the new European social agenda

Advisory Groups

Combat Poverty participated in the following advisory groups in 2008:

- » Local Government Social Inclusion Steering Group, convened by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government
- » Health Service Executive National Implementation of the User Involvement Strategy
- » Technical Advisory Group to National Action Plan on Poverty and Social Inclusion convened by the Office for Social Inclusion
- » Selection Panel for new Family Resource Centres, convened by Family Support Agency
- » National Development Plan 2007-2013 Border Midlands and West and South and East Monitoring Committees
- » Monitoring Committee of the NDP Rural Development Strategy 2007-2013
- » National Payments Implementation Programme National Advisory Group, convened by Department of An Taoiseach

Organisational Effectiveness and Efficiency

Combat Poverty continued to uphold good practice in all our activity relating to the management and allocation of our financial, human and material resources and our ways of working, including our engagement with outside bodies and groups.

Human Resources and Staff Development

Constraints on filling core vacancies continued during the year. Following the completion of the High Level Review, Kevin O'Kelly's role as Acting Director ended with effect from the end of October 2008. The post of Director remained unfilled and in mid-December, Jim Walsh, Policy and Research Analyst, was made Interim Team Leader for the duration of the transition period leading to the integration with the Office for Social Inclusion.

Where other vacancies occurred in permanent positions, only temporary appointments were made, given the imposed constraints arising from the High Level Review.

Development and Training

A comprehensive Development and Training Programme was prepared and implemented during the year. Compared with 2007, there was a slight reduction in development and training activity with 3.44 days per employee, based on total expenditure on development and training in 2008 of just over 4.2 per cent of payroll costs.

Information and Communication Technologies

A major programme of work designed to improve electronic and paper records management resulted in the preparation and implementation of a new Classification Scheme, a training manual with policies and procedures and a staff handbook. The new system was introduced in August 2008.

High quality IT support was in place in 2008 through the combined effectiveness of internal systems management, user guidelines and external support services.

Financial Management

The 2007 Financial Statements were prepared and then submitted, along with the Annual Report, to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs in June. The Financial Statements in the 2007 Annual Report were audited by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Financial records were maintained in respect of all staff and consultants and statutory tax records were supplied as part of standard financial and employment procedures.

The financial records included all transactions carried out for that section of the Peace II, Peace II Extension and Interreg IIIA Programmes for which Combat Poverty is liable as part of the joint management agreement with Pobal.

Quality Customer Services

Accessibility

Due to competing pressures during 2008, little further progress was achieved on Combat Poverty's participation in and commitment to the Excellence Through Accessibility (EtA) Scheme organised by the National Disability Authority. There was a deferral of any further commitments in relation to the implementation of audit findings under the EtA Scheme on customer services, information technology and the physical environment.

Combat Poverty continued its participation as a member of the Department of Social and Family Affairs Monitoring Committee on compliance with Part 5 of the Disability Act 2005.

Customer Service

Combat Poverty's Customer Service Action Plan was updated and promoted during the year, taking account of the feedback from the audits carried out under the EtA Scheme.

Governance

Combat Poverty continued its commitment to the terms of the *Towards 2016* social partnership agreement, in particular through its Modernisation Action Plan. This Plan was updated and monitored by the Combat Poverty Partnership Committee, which met four times during the year. Satisfactory progress on the agreed actions was subsequently verified by the Secretary General of the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

During the year, we continued to comply with tendering and procurement guidelines and procedures as well as applying the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

Throughout 2008, the Board provided strategic input to the operations of the Agency through a number of Board sub-committees and

advisory committees (consisting of Board members, Combat Poverty staff, and in certain cases, external experts).

Board members were also represented on two Peace Programme committees along with staff from Combat Poverty, Pobal and Border Action and representatives from associated organisations involved in the Peace Programmes.

In June, the Resource Management Committee approved an updated Impact Assessment Report on Decentralisation which was submitted to the Department and the Decentralisation Implementation Group. In August, the Committee agreed a major cost and savings review in response to the Government request regarding measures to cut expenditure for the rest of 2008 and for all of 2009.

The Audit Committee, liaising closely with the internal audit, staff and management, oversaw a continuous programme of work during 2008. In February, PricewaterhouseCoopers were retained for a further period as internal auditor.

An updated review by PwC of Internal Financial Controls was presented in January 2008, as was a follow-up to the 2005 Value for Money review on the Use of External Consultants. A review of IT controls and procedures was completed in September.

In 2008, the following Board committees were in place:

» **Board Sub-Committees**

- Resource Management Committee
- Audit Committee
- Tax and Welfare Committee
- Transition Committee

» **Advisory Committees**

- Research Advisory Committee
- Health Advisory Committee
- Communications Advisory Committee
- Local Government Advisory Committee
- Board-Staff High Level Review Advisory Committee

» **Border Action Management Committees (including Combat Poverty representation)**

- Joint Management Committee (Peace/Interreg Programmes)
- Consortium Management Committee (Cross Border Peace Programme)
- Research Committee

Health and Safety

Under the guidance of the Agency Healthy and Safety Committee, Combat Poverty management and staff continued to fulfill their obligations under health and safety at work legislation.

Combat Poverty Board

Sharon Keane was appointed to the Board in February as Staff Board representative. Three vacancies remained on the Board at year end.

The Board met 12 times in 2008, with two special meetings solely related to the Review of the Agency. In April, the Board meeting was held in Ballymun. In September, the Board convened in Limerick. These meetings included briefings on and visits to local projects involved in the ongoing Regeneration Programmes in both Ballymun and Limerick.

Appendices





Appendix 1 – Board, Sub-Committees and Staff

Participation on various Board Sub-Committees and related activity is outlined in this section of the report.

Member Attendance (meetings held)	Number of meetings attended	Number of meetings eligible to attend (12)
B Duncan	12	12
A Gavin	11	12
M Gorman	10	12
C Hazlett	12	12
S Keane	10	10
K King	12	12
T Lane	12	12
J Loughran	8	12
P McKeivitt	9	12
B Mahon	9	12
J Monaghan	12	12
T O'Callaghan	10	12
E Russell	12	12

Fees and Expenses

Fees payable to Board Members are set by the Minister for Social and Family Affairs and are currently €10,500 for the Chairperson and €7,000 for individual members¹. Expenses are paid in accordance with Civil Service Regulations on Travel and Subsistence.

¹ The Minister's Appointee from the Department of Family & Social Affairs does not receive a fee.



Board Sub-Committees (as at 31 December 2008)

In addition to attending Board meetings, members continued to play an active role on sub-committees and advisory committees. A number of the advisory committees included staff and/or nominees from a number of relevant outside bodies. Board members and members of other organisations who participated in these Committees are detailed below.

Resource Management Committee (incorporating Decentralisation Committee)

Anthony Gavin (Chair), Brian Duncan, Sharon Keane, Peter McKeivitt, Catherine Hazlett.

Audit Committee

John Loughran (Chair), Eugene Russell, Brian Mahon

Tax and Welfare Committee

Tony Lane (Chair), Maria Gorman, John Loughran, John Monaghan

Health Advisory Committee

Maria Gorman (Chair), Peter McKeivitt, Ivan Perry, Frank Mills, Cecily Kelleher, Sheilagh Reaper Reynolds, Maire O'Leary, Dave Reynolds, Triona NicGiolla Choille, Pat Bennett, Anna May Harkin, Fran Keyes, Helen McAvoy, Barbary Cook, Cecilia Forrestal, Julie Howley, Diarmuid O'Donovan

Research Advisory Committee

John Monaghan (Chair), Catherine Hazlett, Des McCafferty, Claire Hickey, Ruth Tallion, Paddy Hillyard, Aideen Mooney, Clare Duffy, David Madden

Communications Advisory Committee

Tony O'Callaghan (Chair), Eugene Russell

Local Government Advisory Committee

Peter McKeivitt (Chair), Maria Gorman, Anne Costello, Brian Carty, Jerry Murphy, John Conway, Gabriel Foley, Tom McGettrick, Jim O'Donovan, Mark Callanan, Catherine Clancy, Frank Dawson, Liam Kenny

Joint Board/Staff Liaison Committee for High-level Review

Peter McKeivitt (Chair), Sharon Keane, Tony Lane, John Monaghan, Kitty King

Transition Committee

Anthony Gavin (Chair), Peter McKeivitt, John Monaghan

Border Action Joint Management Committee

Brian Duncan, Kevin O'Kelly, Tony O'Callaghan, Eugene Russell

Border Action Cross-Border Management Committee

Brian Duncan, Kevin O'Kelly, Tony O'Callaghan

Combat Poverty Staff (as at 31 December 2008)

Vacant	Director
Jim Walsh	Interim Leader and Policy & Research Analyst

Organisational Management & Development

Seán Mistéil	Head of Organisational Management & Development
Eileen Scanlon ¹	HR Manager
Maria O'Neill ¹	Finance Manager
Ann Riordan ²	Corporate Services Executive
Noelle Regan	Financial Administrator
Vacant	Receptionist / Customer Services Assistant
Anne Hallinan ²	Temporary Administrative Assistant

Projects

Liz Sullivan	Head of Projects
Joan O'Flynn ²	Programme Manager
Julie Smyth ²	Programme Manager
Elaine Houlihan	Projects Officer
Vacant	Projects Officer
Louise Beirne	Projects Officer
Niamh Kelly	Executive Officer
Elaine Hynes	Clerical Officer

Research

Kasey Treadwell Shine	Head of Research
Jim Walsh	Policy Analyst
Caroline Corr	Research Officer
Joanne Mulholland	Acting Research Officer
Vacant	Research Administrator

Communications & Public Affairs

Vacant	Head of Communications and Public Affairs
Sharon Keane	Policy Liaison Officer
Margaret O'Gorman	Communications Officer
Jean Cassidy	Library and Information Officer
Elaine Byrne	Executive Officer
Grace Kennedy ⁵	Executive Officer (Acting)
Eufemia Solinas ²	Acting Publications Assistant
Nadine Cooney ^{3&4}	HR and Communications Assistant
Órla Ní Cheallacháin ⁵	Acting HR & Communications Assistant

Internship

Stuart Stamp	Senior Research Fellow
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1 Part time

4 On Special Leave

2 Work share

5 Temporary covering

3 Shared with OMD Section

Appendix 2 – Projects Funded by Combat Poverty

Public Awareness Funding for the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2008

Organisation	€
ATD Fourth World	5,000
Thurles Action for Community Development	4,098
Pléaráca Teo, Rosmuc, Co. Galway	5,000
Arklow Parish Pastoral Council	3,500
Donegal Travellers	2,850
Shannon Family Resource Centre, Co. Clare	2,100
Knockanrawley Resource Centre, Co. Tipperary	5,000

Primary Health Care Initiative

Organisation	€
West Offaly Partnership	15,000
Paul Partnership	15,000
Bere Island Project Group	15,000
County Leitrim Partnership	15,000
Lifford/Cloneigh Resource Centre	15,000
South Tipperary Community & Voluntary Forum	14,956
Blakestown CDP	12,500
Corduff CDP/Blanchardstown Development Project	12,500
Equal Access CDP	10,000
Wolfe Tone CDP	10,000
Follain Community Health Project	10,000
Pavee Point	10,000
North West Roscommon CDP	10,000
Monaghan Community Forum	10,000
Mayo Intercultural Action	10,000
Iorras le Cheile	10,000
Finglas South CDP	10,000
Fatima Regeneration Board	10,000
Westmeath Community Development Ltd.	10,000



Building Healthy Communities

Organisation	€
Irish Deaf Society	12,500
CAN	12,500
Galway Refugee Support Group	12,500
Galway Traveller Support Group	12,500
West Offaly Partnership	10,000
Fatima Groups United	10,000
OPEN	10,000
Fettercairn (SPLTU)	10,000
Women Together Network	10,000

Supporting Social Inclusion Measures

Organisation	€
CANDO	14,000
Aonad Family Resource Centre Galway	1,411
Kilkenny Community Action Network Ltd.	14,500
Sligo LEADER Partnership Co.	14,500

Research Infrastructure

Flagship Research Projects Awards [paid in 2008]

Awarded 2008	€
<i>Extending In-work Transfers in Ireland: Impacts on Labour Market Participation and Poverty.</i> School of Economics & Geary Institute, UCD.	5,856
<i>The Influence of Educational-related Beliefs on Persistence versus Drop-out from Secondary School</i> School of Psychology, UCD.	8,491
<i>Poverty and the Life-Cycle in 20th Century Ireland: A Childhood-Centred Analysis</i> Dept. of Sociology, NUI, Maynooth	6,000

Awarded 2007	€
<i>Revisiting the Cost of Children: Theory and Evidence from Ireland</i> School of Economics & Geary Institute, UCD.	6,650
<i>Where next? Mapping and Understanding the Post-First Degree Destinations of Mature Disadvantaged Students in Three Higher Education Institutions</i> Dept. of Adult and Community Education, NUI Maynooth.	12,500
<i>A Comparative Study of Policies to Tackle and Prevent Poverty and Social Exclusion among Children</i> Dept. of Applied Social Studies, NUI Maynooth.	6,500
<i>Progress and Problems in Social Housing Estates: A Ten-Year Follow-Up Study (Phase 1 and 2)</i> UCD	40,000 13,300

Awarded 2005	€
<i>Exploring the Potential of a Rights-Based Approach to Addressing Food Poverty in Ireland</i> School of Biological & Environmental Science, UCD.	976
<i>Linguistic Difference & Educational Disadvantage</i> Mary Immaculate College, Limerick	1,000

Awarded 2004	€
<i>Pension Reform and Poverty</i> Dept of Economics, NUI Galway.	3,000
<i>Social Exclusion Policies, the EU and Ireland</i> University of Limerick	5,150

Awarded 2003	€
<i>Young Carers in Cork</i> University College Cork	4,777
<i>Cost of Living for Different Social Groups in Ireland</i> NUI, Galway	1,800

Awarded 2002	€
<i>Affordable Housing</i> Dept. of Regional and Urban Planning, UCD.	3,750

Specialist Research Projects Awards [paid in 2008]

Awarded 2008	€
<i>Engaging People in Active Citizenship in Dublin's Docklands – Testing the Key Conclusions of the Education and Training for Governance and Active Citizenship in Europe (ETGACE) Research Project Within an Irish Context. 3 instalments.</i>	3,000 3,000 6,000
Research & Graduate Studies, National College of Ireland, Dublin.	

Awarded 2007	€
<i>Re-thinking Child Poverty and Social Exclusion – Two instalments</i> Trinity College Dublin	6,479 6,479
<i>Poverty amongst Migrants in the Private Rented Sector – 2 instalments</i> Threshold	6,300 6,300
<i>An Asset Based Approach to Skills Banking within Respond Communities – 2 instalments</i> Respond Housing Association	3,333 6,667
<i>Poor & Alone: The Living Alone Allowance as a Policy Response to Tackling Poverty – 2 instalments</i> Age Action Ireland	6,368 6,368
<i>To Develop a Model of Pension Policy in Ireland that Advances the Elimination of Poverty of Older People and Advances Women's Equality Objectives</i> National Women's Council of Ireland	6,666

Awarded 2006	€
<i>Evaluation of the Credit Union and MABS Services in terms of their Impact on the Financial Capability of Low-Income Groups</i> Centre for Co-operative Studies, University College Cork	7,923
<i>Ensuring that the Built Environment Enhances Child Well-Being in Social Housing</i> Trinity College Dublin	3,309
<i>Direct Provision and the Habitual Residence Condition in the Context of Government Policies and of National and International Law</i> Free Legal Advice Centre	3,300
<i>Private Sector Involvement in Regenerating Social Housing Estates: Worthwhile and Workable?</i> UCD	6,667

Awarded 2005	€
<i>Health Status of Family Carers</i> Care Alliance Dublin	5,000
<i>Effectiveness of Primary Healthcare Service for Homeless People</i> Merchants Quay Ireland	4,000

Research Promotion Events [paid in 2008]

Awarded 2008	€
<i>Poverty, Social Exclusion and Holidaying – Experience and Policy in an Irish and European Context</i> Tourism Research Centre, Dublin Institute of Technology, Dublin	1,989
<i>Lone Parents and Employment – What does Research and Experience tell us? 2 instalments.</i> Cherish/One Family, Dublin	13,300 5,000
<i>Launch of Report: ‘Pensions: What Women Want – a Model of Pensions That Guarantees Independence’</i> National Women’s Council of Ireland	5,000

PhD Fellowships [paid in 2008]

Awarded 2006	€
<i>The Role of Ability Grouping in Educational Disadvantage</i> Allison Dunne, Dept. of Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute	7,500
Awarded 2008	€
<i>The Incorporation of Dissent in the Renewal of Dublin Inner City: A Study of Engagements between Inner-city Communities and the Local State in the Implementation of Urban Renewal Schemes</i> Paula Brudell, Dept of Geography, UCD	15,000 {award} 2,901 {fees}

Visiting Research Fellowship at the Policy Institute, Trinity College Dublin [paid in 2008]

Awarded 2008	€
<i>Financial Exclusion and Policy in Ireland</i> Georges Gloukoviezoff, Trinity College Dublin	13,500

Civil Society Research Scholarship at UCD/EWI [paid in 2008]

Awarded 2008	€
<i>Exploring the Policies and Practices of Access to Third/Higher Level Education and how they Impact on Social Inclusion for Immigrant Irish Resident Parents of Irish Citizen Children</i> Pamela Chiriseri, Women of Multiculture Balbriggan (WOMB)	10,000
<i>Identifying and Clarifying the Role of Rights-based Approaches and Active Citizenship in Youth Work to address Social Inclusion and Equality</i> Matthew Seebach, Youth Work Ireland	10,000

Appendix 3 – EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation Grants paid in 2008

Combat Poverty and Pobal, through Border Action, jointly implemented measures of the European Union Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation 2000-2008 (Peace II Programme) in the border region of Ireland and on a cross-border basis. Target communities and groups include victims and their families, ex-prisoners, displaced persons, ex-security forces and other minority communities. In 2008 the payments detailed below were made by the Special EU Programme Body.

Measure 1.5 Positive Action for Women

Reference No.	Promoter/Applicant Name	Total Paid	Total Paid	ROI Element	NI Element
		STG	€	€	€
0301-0399	Sligo LEADER Partnership Company		-4,669.10	-4,669.10	
029526X	Sligo County Enterprise Board Ltd.		65,453.50	65,453.50	
029631X	Workers Educational Association		116,733.15	116,733.15	
029874X	North Leitrim Women's Centre CDP		21,367.48	21,367.48	
035427X	South West College		45,025.72	45,025.72	
035619X	Donegal County Enterprise Board		29,843.67	29,843.67	
			273,754.42	273,754.42	0.00



Measure 2.1 Reconciliation for Sustainable Peace

Reference No.	Promoter/Applicant Name	Total Paid STG	Total Paid €	ROI Element €	NI Element €
0204-0225	North Leitrim Glens Development Co.		4,113.98	4,113.98	
029122X	County Monaghan Community Network Ltd.		95,435.37	95,435.37	
029228X	Donegal Travellers Project		96,055.71	96,055.71	
029389X	Curriculum Development Unit		51,793.75	51,793.75	
029558X	Manorcunningham Community Development Association		48,647.15	48,647.15	
029661X	Raphoe Economic Development Group Ltd.		64,043.21	64,043.21	
029726X	Letterkenny Women's Centre		33,356.48	33,356.48	
030705X	Drogheda Community Forum Peace Initiatives		76,180.66	76,180.66	
031185X	White Oaks Housing Association Ltd.		0.00	0.00	
032196X	National University Ireland, Galway		22,661.14	22,661.14	
034844X	Organisation for Ex-servicemen and Women Teoranta (ONET)		6,040.13	6,040.13	
035177X	Donegal County Council		20,951.78	20,951.78	
035536X	Worker's Educational Association		66,838.13	66,838.13	
035608X	Inch Island Community Association		50,532.56	50,532.56	
036678X	Dundalk Institute of Technology		141,906.03	141,906.03	
			778,556.08	778,556.08	0.00

Measure 2.4C / 2.4 Pathway to Inclusion, Integration & Reconciliation of Victims

Reference No.	Promoter/Applicant Name	Total Paid STG	Total Paid €	ROI Element €	NI Element €
0111-0019	Clones Development Society Ltd.		-53,785.24	-53,785.24	
0111-0020	Radio Pobal Inis Eoghain		-2,000.00	-2,000.00	
0111-0028	Donegal Travellers Project		-10,551.16	-10,551.16	
0111-0032	Abhaile Arís Teo		-2,475.40	-2,475.40	
0111-0045	Expac Ltd.		5,721.49	5,721.49	
0208-0317	GROW		-503.78	-503.78	
0301-0393	LOCUS Management		5,244.42	5,244.42	
0306-0544	Tús Nua Sligeach		-451.00	-451.00	
029604X	GROW		3,885.55	3,885.55	
029789X	Tús Nua Sligeach		102,862.22	102,862.22	
031278X	Cavan Family Resource Centre		87,747.64	87,747.64	
031569X	Expac		84,375.84	84,375.84	
032664X	Iar Chimí Liatroma Teo		85,963.71	85,963.71	
033076X	Failte Chluain Eois		92,183.84	92,183.84	
033622X	Abhaile Arís Teo		128,265.51	128,265.51	
034528X	Fáilte Abhaile		140,985.90	140,985.90	
035614X	Expac Ltd.		54,976.92	54,976.92	
036088X	Mullaghmatt Cortolvin Community Development		50,226.10	50,226.10	
037141X	Migrant Rights Centre Ireland		7,047.64	7,047.64	
			779,720.20	779,720.20	0.00

Measure 2.7 Developing Weak Community Infrastructure

Reference No.	Promoter/Applicant Name	Total Paid	Total Paid	ROI Element	NI Element
		STG	€	€	€
0111-0033	Dunfanaghy Community & Family Resource Ltd.		-1,000.00	-1,000.00	
029274X	Assoc for the Development of Pettigo & Tullyhommon		74,203.30	74,203.30	
029826X	Community Workers Co-operative - Donegal Network		57,457.17	57,457.17	
030853X	Clones Community Forum Ltd.		91,162.96	91,162.96	
031230X	County Monaghan Partnership		25,185.82	25,185.82	
032097X	Killeshandra Community Council		56,237.94	56,237.94	
032243X	Donegal Local Development		30,926.37	30,926.37	
033332X	Cooley Development Association		8,000.00	8,000.00	
033509X	One Parent Exchange and Network		63,807.73	63,807.73	
033899X	Dunfanaghy Community & Family Resource Ltd.		94,232.66	94,232.66	
034025X	Border Minority Group		67,647.69	67,647.69	
035486X	County Leitrim Community Forum		51,886.10	51,886.10	
036191X	Monaghan and Cavan County Development Boards		79,707.98	79,707.98	
036487X	Tuath c/o Business Development Centre		24,024.80	24,024.80	
036787X	Quigley's Point Community Centre Ltd.		38,314.23	38,314.23	
036828X	Cranmore Community Platform		70,377.41	70,377.41	
036937X	Second Chance Education Project for Women		86,240.41	86,240.41	
037013X	Cavan County Council (Dept of Comm & Enterprise)		102,850.72	102,850.72	
037020X	Convoy and District Development Association Ltd.		48,935.15	48,935.15	
			1,070,198.44	1,070,198.44	0.00

Measure 5.3 Developing Cross-border Reconciliation & Understanding

Reference No.	Promoter/ Applicant Name	Total Paid STG	Total Paid €	ROI Element €	NI Element €
0111-0083	Rural Mental Health		2,326.69	1,058.64	1,268.05
0111-0113	Ballincollog Senior Citizens		1,293.03	588.33	704.70
0111-0114	Dundalk Counselling Centre		-2,211.17	-1,006.08	-1,205.09
0112-0127	Boomerang Theatre Company		-3,743.28	-1,703.19	-2,040.09
029147X	An Teach Bán: Centre for Peace Building		207,927.19	116,439.23	91,487.96
029179X	Glencree Centre for Reconciliation		-27,774.14	-15,553.52	-12,220.62
029236X	Upstate Theatre Company		23,747.70	13,298.71	10,448.99
029291X	Glencree Centre for Reconciliation		68,066.17	38,117.06	29,949.11
029358X	Cumann Gaelach Chnoc na Ros Doire		60,470.36	33,863.40	26,606.96
029778X	Kiltycashel Cross Border Development Company Ltd.		83,300.82	46,648.46	36,652.36
029830X	Monaghan Neighbourhood Youth Project		38,822.13	21,740.39	17,081.74
029850X	Riverstown Enterprise Development (Sligo) Ltd.		96,855.96	54,239.34	42,616.62

Reference No.	Promoter/ Applicant Name	Total Paid STG	Total Paid €	ROI Element €	NI Element €
030017X	Larne Enterprise Development Company (LEDCOM)		3,581.86	2,005.84	1,576.02
030023X	Co. Monaghan Community Network		270,927.70	151,719.51	119,208.19
030031X	Imeall Trá Teo		71,507.06	40,043.95	31,463.11
030643X	The Organic Centre		32,504.98	18,202.79	14,302.19
030754X	NIPPA - The Early Years Organisation		81,468.78	45,622.52	35,846.26
030778X	Donegal YMCA		47,064.58	26,356.16	20,708.42
031904X	Boomerang Theatre Company		79,499.41	44,519.67	34,979.74
032013X	The Shaylyn Group Ltd.		58,897.37	32,982.53	25,914.84
034231X	Co-operation Ireland		187,217.33	104,841.70	82,375.63
035662X	Inishowen Partnership Company		114,131.39	63,913.58	50,217.81
038060X	Omagh College		135,421.09	75,835.81	59,585.28
0204-0247 NIVT	NIACAB	-€124.25	-180.16	-81.97	-98.19
029165 CFNI	Derry Well Woman	€133,272.35	193,244.91	108,217.15	85,027.76
029169 CFNI	Derry and Raphoe action	€127,478.55	184,843.90	103,512.58	81,331.32
029385 CFNI	Coiste na nIarchimí	€72,844.21	105,624.10	59,149.50	46,474.60
029437 CFNI	Community Visual Images	€93,553.02	135,651.88	75,965.05	59,686.83
029514 CFNI	Mediation Resource Centre	€49,772.97	72,170.81	40,415.65	31,755.16

Reference No.	Promoter/ Applicant Name	Total Paid STG	Total Paid €	ROI Element €	NI Element €
029793 CFNI	Cross Border Centre for Community Development		161,260.17	90,305.70	70,954.47
031195 CFNI	The Horizon Project (Ireland) Ltd.	€47,344.94	68,650.16	38,444.09	30,206.07
031267 CFNI	NICHS	€84,450.05	122,452.57	68,573.44	53,879.13
031907 CFNI	Shankill Community Association		31,891.46	17,859.22	14,032.24
031997 CFNI	The Nerve Centre	€71,828.67	104,151.57	58,324.88	45,826.69
032506 CFNI	Interaction Belfast	€78,678.31	114,083.55	63,886.79	50,196.76
032822 CFNI	Community Development Agency	€75,440.59	109,388.86	61,257.76	48,131.10
033703 CFNI	Maydown Youth Training Projects Ltd.	€73,545.26	106,640.63	59,718.75	46,921.88
034253 CFNI	Carlingford Community Development Ltd.		38,757.95	21,704.45	17,053.50
034993 CFNI	South Armagh Rural Women's Network	€40,446.46	58,647.37	32,842.53	25,804.84
035667 CFNI	Springboard	€58,926.56	85,443.51	47,848.37	37,595.14
0202-0173CI	Co. Museum Dundalk/Newry & Mourne Museums	€0.00	-57.68	-28.84	-28.84
0204-0267CI	Gallery of Photography	€0.00	12,065.56	6,032.78	6,032.78
029159 CI	Farsset Inishowen & Border Counties Initiative	€89,196.81	129,335.37	72,427.81	56,907.56

Reference No.	Promoter/ Applicant Name	Total Paid STG	Total Paid €	ROI Element €	NI Element €
029181 CI	Sandy Row Community Development Agency	£21,828.51	31,651.34	17,724.75	13,926.59
029290 CI	Plato Louth/Newry & Mourne	£64,180.65	93,061.94	52,114.69	40,947.25
029580 CI	PLATO Blackwater		63,261.29	35,426.32	27,834.97
029590 CI	The 1825 Project	£65,055.21	94,330.05	52,824.83	41,505.22
029617 CI	Ulster Community Investment Trust Ltd.		48,430.16	27,120.89	21,309.27
029843 CI	Dunfield Football Ltd.	£77,315.66	112,107.71	62,780.32	49,327.39
030029 CI	County Museum, Dundalk and Newry & Mourne Museum		3,000.00	1,680.00	1,320.00
030055 CI	Trojans Youth & Community Development Group	£41,733.65	60,513.79	33,887.72	26,626.07
030082 CI	Inishowen Rural Development Ltd.		93,764.27	52,507.99	41,256.28
030378 CI	New Border Generation Teoranta		87,186.38	48,824.37	38,362.01
030489 CI	Belleek & District Community Partnership	£63,112.52	91,513.15	51,247.36	40,265.79
030766 CI	Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency	£94,486.72	137,005.74	76,723.21	60,282.53

Reference No.	Promoter/ Applicant Name	Total Paid STG	Total Paid €	ROI Element €	NI Element €
031027 CI	Irish Trade Union Trust (ITUT)	€57,744.93	83,730.15	46,888.88	36,841.27
031409 CI	Ocean Youth Trust	€12,697.05	18,410.72	10,310.00	8,100.72
031807 CI	Tyrone / Donegal Partnership	€41,783.45	60,586.00	33,928.16	26,657.84
032808 CI	Ballymacarrett Arts & Cultural Society	€92,453.00	134,056.85	75,071.84	58,985.01
033047 CI	Workspace and WESTBIC	€67,581.99	97,993.89	54,876.58	43,117.31
033771 CI	Balor DCA/ Border Arts 2000	€95,512.44	138,493.04	77,556.10	60,936.94
034002 CI	MS Society of Ireland North West Region		32,321.80	18,100.21	14,221.59
034034 CI	Centre for Cross Border Studies	€53,946.83	78,222.90	43,804.82	34,418.08
034771 CI	Cavan and Fermanagh County Museums		52,421.17	29,355.86	23,065.31
035260 CI	The Centre for Cross Border Studies	€99,742.57	144,626.73	80,990.97	63,635.76
035466 CI	Irish School of Ecumenics Trust	€24,177.06	35,056.74	19,631.77	15,424.97
		€2,070,006.74	5,257,115.31	2,943,528.16	2,313,587.15

Note: The above payments made under the Cross-border Measure 5.3 comprise both the NI element and ROI element.

***Financial Statements for the
year ended 31 December 2008***





Statement of Members' Responsibilities

The Combat Poverty Agency was established in 1986 by order of the Minister for Social and Family Affairs made under the Combat Poverty Agency Act, 1986.

Section 10(1) of the Combat Poverty Act, 1986 requires Combat Poverty to keep, in such form as may be approved by the Minister for Social and Family Affairs with the consent of the Minister for Finance, all proper and usual accounts of all monies received or expended by it.

In preparing those financial statements, the Members of the Agency are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that Combat Poverty will continue in operation;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Members of the Agency are responsible for keeping proper books of account which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of Combat Poverty and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with Section 10(1) of the 1986 Act. The Members of the Agency are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of Combat Poverty and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Basis of Financial Statements

Combat Poverty Agency in co-operation with Pobal (formerly Area Development Management Ltd. (ADM Ltd.)) have set up a Joint Management Committee to administer the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in the six border counties. The transactions, for which Combat Poverty is liable on the basis of the joint management agreement, on its "core" operations, are consolidated in these financial statements.



Brian Duncan: Chairperson

Dated: 23 April, 2009



Anthony Gavin: Board Member

Chairman's Statement on Internal Financial Control

On behalf of the members of the Board of Combat Poverty Agency, I acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by Combat Poverty.

The system can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely period.

Key Control Procedures

The Board has taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment is in place by:

- establishing formal procedures through various committee functions to monitor the activities and safeguard the assets of the organisation;
- clearly defining and documenting management responsibilities and powers; and
- developing a strong culture of accountability across all levels of the organisation.

The Board is continuing its practice of:

- working closely with Government and various agencies and institutions to ensure that there is a clear understanding of Combat Poverty's goals and support for Combat Poverty's strategies to achieve those goals;
- carrying out regular reviews of strategic and work plans, both short and long term, and evaluating the risks to bringing those plans to fruition, taking account of the High Level Review of the future of Combat Poverty, which was ongoing for most of 2008;
- setting annual and longer term targets for each area of our operations, followed by regular reporting on the results achieved;
- establishing and enforcing extensive standard procedures and provisions under which financial assistance may be made available to projects, including compliance with tax, regulatory and reporting procedures; and
- provisions requiring repayment if the project does not fulfil commitments made by the promoter.

The system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information, administrative procedures, including segregation of duties, and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

- regular reviews by the Board of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against forecasts;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performances; and
- formal project management disciplines.

The Board's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control is informed by the work of the internal auditor and of the Audit Committee which oversees the work of the internal auditor, the Management Team who carry responsibility for the development and maintenance of the financial control framework, and comments made by the Comptroller and Auditor General in his management letter or other reports.

In 2008, PricewaterhouseCoopers continued as internal auditor and reported directly to the Audit Committee, which undertook an active programme of work and reported regularly to the Board. The Committee finalised with the internal auditor a work plan for the year and regularly monitored and reported on its progress.

Other key controls which were reviewed and implemented in 2008 under the auspices of the Audit Committee included:

- IT general computer controls;
- Governance and other issues arising from the High Level Review of Combat Poverty and the subsequent Government decision to dissolve Combat Poverty; and
- value for money/use of external consultants and expenditure controls.

Annual Review of Controls

I confirm that the Board, through the Audit Committee, reviewed the effectiveness of the system of financial controls in 2008.



Brian Duncan: Chairperson

Dated: 23 April, 2009

Statement of Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared using the accruals method of accounting, except as indicated below, and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles under the historical cost convention.

Financial Reporting Standards recommended by the recognised accountancy bodies are adopted as they become operative.

Going Concern

In December 2007 a review, on foot of a Government decision, of the future of Combat Poverty and its functions, was undertaken by the Department of Social and Family Affairs, in association with other relevant departments with a view to making recommendations to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs. The review was completed in September 2008. A Government decision was announced on 14th October 2008 to dissolve Combat Poverty as a separate entity and to integrate its functions with the Office for Social Inclusion within the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

In December 2008, legislation giving effect to this decision was passed as part of the Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2008. Under this legislation, a Commencement Order has to be signed by the Minister for Social and Family Affairs, setting the formal Integration date. A Transition Plan leading to the integration is underway. These Statements have been prepared on a going concern basis in the context of this transition process.

Oireachtas Grant-in-Aid

The income from this source represents actual cash receipts in the year.

EU Funding

Funding for the EU Special Programme for Peace and Reconciliation plus Technical Assistance funding to meet costs of administering the programme is taken to income to match expenditure incurred. The balances of receipts in excess of expenditure and/or of expenditure in excess of receipts are disclosed as Deferred Income and/or Debtors as appropriate.

Projects and Programmes to Combat Poverty

Expenditure represents payments made by Combat Poverty during the year. Ownership of capital items, purchased by project organisers, is vested in the parties who funded the project on a proportionate basis. The interest of Combat Poverty in such assets is not included in these financial statements.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed Assets are shown at original cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis at the following annual rates:

Furniture	12.50%
Equipment	20.00%
Computer Equipment	33.33%

Capital Account

The Capital Account represents the unamortised amount of income allocated for the purchase of fixed assets.

Superannuation

Combat Poverty operates a defined benefit pension scheme which is funded annually on a pay as you go basis from monies available to it, including monies provided by the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees in the period and are shown net of staff pension contributions which are refunded to the Department in accordance with Agency financing arrangements. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable, and offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments.

Actuarial gains and losses arising on scheme liabilities are reflected in the Statement of Recognised Gains and Losses and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the Department. Pension liabilities represent the present value of future pensions earned by staff to date. Deferred pension funding represents the corresponding asset to be recovered in future periods from the Department.

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December, 2008

	Notes	2008 €	2007 €
Income			
Oireachtas Grant-In-Aid			
Department of Social and Family Affairs		4,114,302	4,008,068
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	1a	892,523	911,832
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions	10c	497,000	476,000
Refundable Employee Contributions to DSFA	10d	(36,882)	(35,286)
Other Income	1b	84,862	230,705
		5,551,805	5,591,319
Transfer (to)/from Capital Account	6	28,581	(9,133)
Total Income		5,580,386	5,582,186
Expenditure			
Projects and Programmes to Combat Poverty			
Innovative Programmes	2a	822,959	865,120
Communications and Public Affairs		446,311	619,225
Research Promotion, Studies and Policy Analysis		514,096	493,317
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	2b	3,423	44,719
EU Mainstreaming Social Inclusion	2c	-	28,971
		1,786,789	2,051,352
Development, Support and Administration Costs			
Salary Costs and Expenses	3	2,229,659	2,276,065
Rent and Other Administration Costs	4	941,767	889,499
Pensions Costs	10d	463,118	449,714
Depreciation	5	31,381	48,974
		3,665,925	3,664,252
Total Expenditure		5,452,714	5,715,604
Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year		127,672	(133,418)
Surplus at 1 January		465,896	599,314
Surplus at 31 December		593,568	465,896

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 12 form part of these Financial Statements.



Brian Duncan: Chairperson
Dated: 23 April, 2009



Anthony Gavin: Board Member

Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses

	2008 €	2007 €
Surplus /(Deficit) for Year	127,672	(133,418)
Experience (Gains)/Losses on Pension Scheme Liabilities	(47,000)	(226,000)
Adjustment to Deferred Pension Funding	47,000	226,000
Total Recognised Gain /(Loss) for the Year	127,672	(133,418)

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 12 form part of these Financial Statements.

Brian Duncan: Chairperson

Dated: 23 April, 2009

Anthony Gavin: Board Member

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2008

	Notes	2008 €	2007 €
Fixed Assets			
Furniture and Equipment	5	53,963	82,544
Current Assets			
Debtors and Prepayments		139,587	139,487
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation -Technical Assistance Receivable	1	110,115	-
Cash at Bank and on Hand		628,376	893,131
		878,078	1,032,618
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and Accruals		284,510	148,779
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation -Technical Assistance	1	-	417,943
		284,510	566,722
Net current assets		593,568	465,896
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities Before Pension		647,531	548,440
Deferred Pension Funding		3,700,000	3,250,000
Pension Liability		(3,700,000)	(3,250,000)
Net Assets		647,531	548,440
Represented By:			
Capital Account	6	53,963	82,544
Surplus on Income and Expenditure Account		593,568	465,896
		647,531	548,440

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 12 form part of these Financial Statements.



Brian Duncan: Chairperson

Dated: 23 April, 2009



Anthony Gavin: Board Member

Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 December 2008

	Notes	2008 €	2007 €
Net Cash (Outflow) from Operating Activities	7(a)	(277,349)	(800,836)
Returns on investments and servicing of Finance			
Interest received		15,521	33,333
Net inflow from returns on investments and servicing of finance		15,521	33,333
Investing Activities			
Purchase of fixed assets		(4,726)	(67,703)
Disposal of fixed assets		1,799	10,337
Net Cash Outflow from Investing activities		(2,927)	(57,366)
(Decrease) in Cash		(264,755)	(824,869)

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 12 form part of these Financial Statements.

Brian Duncan: Chairperson

Dated: 23 April, 2009

Anthony Gavin: Board Member

Notes to Financial Statements

1. Income

	2008	2007
	€	€
a EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation		
Programme Funding		
Deferred Income at 1 January	-	401,537
Funding via the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs	-	(449,037)
(Deferred Income) at 31 December	-	-
Income recognised	-	(47,500)
Technical Assistance		
Deferred Income at 1 January	417,943	442,961
Funding via the Special EU Payments Body (SEUPB)	364,465	934,314
Grants Receivable/(Deferred Income) at 31 December	110,115	(417,943)
Income recognised	892,523	959,332
Overall Total	892,523	911,832

ESF/ERDF funding received from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs comprises 25% Exchequer and 75% EU funding.

To meet the administration costs of the various Measures of the Special EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, 75% of Technical Assistance funding is provided by the EU and 25% by the Irish and British Governments. The British Government contribution relates to Measure 5.3 and is 13.5%. Income is recognised to match expenditure of €3,423 for Support Costs and Administrative Costs of €889,100 (see Note 2 b).

From 2005, funding from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs was transferred directly to the Special EU Programmes Body which was responsible for making payments to projects through its central payments unit. Therefore this is not reflected in the Financial Statements.

1. Income (continued)

	2008	2007
	€	€
b Other Income		
Fuel Poverty Initiative		
Sustainable Energy Ireland	25,000	-
Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government	20,000	-
Interest Earned on Deposit Accounts	15,521	33,333
Sales of Publications	12,151	19,111
Fees Received	5,415	1,842
Eurofound - Conference on Community Development and Interculturalism	4,000	-
Miscellaneous Income	2,775	2,440
Health Service Executive - Building Healthy Communities	-	110,000
EU Social Exclusion Programme - EU Commission	-	63,979
	84,862	230,705

2. Projects And Programmes To Combat Poverty

a Innovative Programmes

One of the functions of Combat Poverty is to initiate and evaluate measures aimed at overcoming poverty. In line with this function Combat Poverty supports a limited number of projects and programmes in both urban and rural areas which seek to pilot strategies aimed at tackling the underlying causes of poverty. The programmes and innovative projects supported in 2008 have focused on local and regional responses to poverty; community participation in primary health care (jointly with HSE); seeking mainstream support for the Building Healthy Communities Programme which ended in 2007 and Supporting Anti-Poverty Work. Combat Poverty also supports other projects and programmes by organising training and networking (in the form of seminars, conferences, meetings and publications). Amounts spent under the main headings are as follows:

	2008	2007
	€	€
Health Programme	459,668	467,167
Local and Regional Responses to Poverty	189,737	93,517
Supporting Anti-Poverty Work	173,554	304,436
	822,959	865,120

2. Projects And Programmes To Combat Poverty (continued)

b EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation

Combat Poverty Agency along with its partner Pobal (Border Action) has responsibility for 10 measures of the EU Peace II and Peace II Extension Programme concentrating on the 6 southern border counties.

The Partnership also has responsibility for 2 other cross border measures along with its Northern partners, the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland and Co-operation Ireland. In total Border Action has responsibility for €139,737,479 aimed at reconciliation and social inclusion.

Border Action, in partnership with Co-operation Ireland, has responsibility for implementing Measure 3.1 of the EU Interreg IIIA Programme. This Measure contains €10,336,667 aimed at projects which target social inclusion and are cross border in structure.

The expenditure of Combat Poverty under the Peace II Programme for 2008 is summarised below:

Expenditure	2008 €
Support Costs*	3,423
Administration**	889,100
	892,523

*Support costs expenditure for the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation covers programme promotion, project support and development, external appraisals, research and strategic development.

**Administration expenditure for the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, which covers administration staff salaries, travel, subsistence, training, printing, postage, rent, maintenance, legal fees etc. is included in the figures set out in notes 3,4 and 5 below.

From 2005 payments to Peace II and Interreg IIIA projects were made by the Special EU Programmes Body through its central payments unit on the recommendation of Border Action and therefore is not reflected in the Financial Statements.

In accordance with the scheduled ending of the Peace II Programme, Combat Poverty's financial involvement with Border Action will formally cease with effect from 31 December 2008.

c EU Social Exclusion Programme

In 2006, Combat Poverty received funding under the EU Social Exclusion Programme to undertake a transnational exchange project, Evaluation of Mainstreaming Social Inclusion. Work on this project came to an end in early 2007. €28,971 represents payments made under the programme together with all the administration costs associated with the programme in 2007.

3. Salary Costs and Expenses

	2008 €	2007 €
Staff Salary Costs*	1,887,952	1,869,549
Temporary Employment Agency Costs	69,391	41,721
Members' Fees	86,525	97,472
Staff Training and Other Expenses	64,111	64,763
Travel and Subsistence		
- Staff	63,917	73,791
- Members and Sub-Committees	40,316	29,571
Staff Recruitment	8,472	59,766
Board and Staff Initiatives	3,120	9,091
Combat Poverty Seminar	5,855	30,341
	2,229,659	2,276,065

* The cost of core staff employed by Combat Poverty in 2008 was €1,390,369 (2007: €1,319,537). The average number of core staff (full-time equivalent) employed by Combat Poverty in 2008 was 27 (2007: 26).

The figures given here include Combat Poverty's liability in respect of the remuneration of the 28 staff members in the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.

4. Rent And Other Administration Costs

	2008 €	2007 €
Rent and Rates	292,437	295,610
Postage and Telephones	62,545	84,185
Insurance	20,918	28,384
IT and Office Equipment Maintenance	49,863	38,582
General Maintenance	62,855	82,087
Consultancy Costs	32,142	78,779
Records and Archive Management	45,738	4,855
Printing, Stationery and Office Supplies	27,910	31,862
Light and Heat	21,283	21,551
Consortium Partners Technical Assistance*	234,336	162,772
Outreach Offices Support	9,164	11,140
Internal Audit Fees	21,165	14,312
External Audit Fees	17,750	17,750
Sundry**	15,250	10,159
Legal/Professional Fees	28,411	7,471
	941,767	889,499

* The Consortium Partners comprise Community Foundation for Northern Ireland and Co-operation Ireland.

** Includes loss on disposal of assets of €127

5. Fixed Assets

	Furniture €	Office Equipment €	Computer Equipment €	Total €
Cost or Valuation				
Balance at 1 January				
- at Cost	185,515	203,482	135,221	524,218
Additions at cost	-	3,381	1,345	4,726
Disposals at cost	(8,123)	(25,770)	(10,938)	(44,831)
Balance at 31 December	177,392	181,093	125,628	484,113
Accumulated Depreciation				
Balance at 1 January	167,256	153,488	120,930	441,674
Charged in the year	3,592	18,499	9,290	31,381
Disposals	(6,892)	(25,115)	(10,898)	(42,905)
Balance at 31 December	163,956	146,872	119,322	430,150
Net Book Value - 31/12/08	13,436	34,221	6,306	53,963
Net Book Value - 31/12/07	18,259	49,994	14,291	82,544

6. Capital Account

	2008 €	2007 €
Balance at 1 January	82,544	73,411
Income applied to purchase fixed assets	4,726	67,703
Amortised in the year in line with asset depreciation	(31,381)	(48,974)
Released on disposal of fixed assets	(1,926)	(9,596)
Transfer (to)/from Income and Expenditure Account	(28,581)	9,133
Balance at 31 December	53,963	82,544

7. Cash Flow Reconciliation

	2008 €	2007 €
a Reconciliation of surplus/(deficit) for the year to Cash from Operating Activities		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	127,672	(133,418)
Adjustment for non operating items		
Interest Receivable	(15,521)	(33,333)
Profit on Disposal	-	(744)
Loss on Disposal	127	3
Movement on Capital Account	(28,581)	9,133
Adjustment for non cash items		
Depreciation	31,381	48,974
(Increase) in Debtors	(110,215)	(1,338)
(Decrease) in Creditors	(282,212)	(690,113)
Cash (Outflow) From Operating Activities	(277,349)	(800,836)

b Analysis of Balances of Cash and Cash Equivalent Movements During the Year

Balance at 1 January	893,131	1,718,000
Net cash (outflow)	(264,755)	(824,869)
Balance at 31 December	628,376	893,131

8. Contingent Liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities at 31 December, 2008.

9. Commitments

- a** There were no capital commitments at 31 December, 2008.
- b** Funding commitments of €341,960 existed at 31 December, 2008 (2007, €485,893) for Combat Poverty in respect of Commissioned Work and funding to Research Projects.
- c** Combat Poverty Agency has commitments up to the year 2017 in respect of the lease of office accommodation at Bridgewater Business Centre, Islandbridge. The rent on foot of this lease is €228,000 per annum which is subject to review on a five yearly basis.

10. Superannuation

- a The Combat Poverty Agency Main Superannuation Scheme 1997, and the Combat Poverty Agency Spouses' and Children's Contributory Pension Scheme 1997 have been established, to take effect from 1 January 1987, in accordance with Section 14 of the Combat Poverty Agency Act, 1986. These Schemes are defined benefit superannuation schemes for its employees and are operated on a "pay as you go" basis.

The results set out below are based on an actuarial valuation of the pension liabilities in respect of serving and retired staff of the Agency as at 31 December 2008. This valuation was carried out by a qualified independent actuary for the purposes of the accounting standard, Financial Reporting Standard No. 17 – Retirement Benefits (FRS 17).

b Valuation Method

	2008	2007	2006
	%	%	%
Discount Rate	5.50	5.50	5.50
Rate of increase in salaries	4.00	4.00	4.00
Rate of increase in pensions	4.00	4.00	4.00
Inflation	2.00	2.00	2.00

c Net Deferred Funding for Pension in Year

	2008	2007
	€	€
Funding recoverable in respect of current year pension costs	500,000	485,000
Less		
Benefits paid in the year	(3,000)	(9,000)
	497,000	476,000

d Analysis of total pension costs charged to expenditure

	2008	2007
	€	€
Service Charge	320,000	320,000
Interest on Pension Scheme Liabilities	180,000	165,000
Employee Contribution	(36,882)	(35,286)
	463,118	449,714

Analysis of the amount recognised in statement of total recognised gains and losses

Experience (gain)/loss on Liabilities	(47,000)	(226,000)
(Gain)/Loss on change of assumptions (financial and demographic)	-	-
	(47,000)	(226,000)

10. Superannuation (continued)

e Deferred Funding Asset for Pensions

Combat Poverty recognises as an asset an amount corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for pensions on the basis of the set of assumptions described above and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the superannuation scheme, and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including contributions by employees and the annual estimates process. Combat Poverty has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice. The deferred funding asset for pensions as at 31 December 2008 amounted to €3.7 million (2007: €3.25 million).

f Movement in Net Pension Liability during the financial year

	2008 €	2007 €
Deficit at beginning of the year	3,250,000	3,000,000
Current service cost	320,000	320,000
Benefits paid	(3,000)	(9,000)
Interest Cost	180,000	165,000
Actuarial gain	(47,000)	(226,000)
Deficit at end of year	3,700,000	3,250,000

g History of experience gains and losses

	2008 €	2007 €	2006 €
Experience (Gain)/ loss on Scheme Liabilities	(47,000)	(226,000)	(49,000)
Percentage of present value of Scheme Liabilities	1.27%	6.95%	1.63%
Total amount recognised in STRGL	(47,000)	(226,000)	(49,000)
Percentage of Scheme Liabilities Assets	1.27%	6.95%	1.63%

11. Board Members - Disclosure of Interest

Combat Poverty has adopted procedures in accordance with the Code of Practice on the Governance of State Bodies in relation to the disclosure of interest of Board Members and these procedures have been adhered to.

There were no transactions in the year in relation to Combat Poverty's activities in which members had any beneficial interest.

12. Approval of Financial Statements

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board on 23 April, 2009

AUDIT

These Financial Statements for 2008 are subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General under the provisions of Section 10(2) of the Combat Poverty Agency Act, 1986.



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