



Combat Poverty Agency

annual report

1999

An Ghníomhaireacht do Chomhrac na Bochtaine

Tuairisc Bhliantúil 1999

Combat Poverty Agency
*working for the prevention
and elimination of poverty*



2000 Board ¹

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Mission Statement

The aim of the Combat Poverty Agency is to promote a more just and inclusive society by working for the prevention and elimination of poverty and social exclusion. The Agency pursues this aim through the four main functions set out in the Combat Poverty Act, 1986: policy advice; project support and innovation; research and public education.

Functions

The four general statutory functions of the Agency under the 1986 Act are:

- Advising and making recommendations to the Minister for Social Welfare on all aspects of economic and social planning in relation to poverty in the State.
- The initiation of measures aimed at overcoming poverty in the State and the evaluation of such measures.
- The examination of the nature, causes and extent of poverty in the State and for that purpose the promotion, commission and interpretation of research.
- The promotion of greater public understanding of the nature, causes and extent of poverty in the State and the measures necessary to overcome such poverty.

Further information

A copy of the Agency's current Strategic Plan 1999–2001 and an information leaflet on the Agency are available free of charge.

A brochure provides details of the Agency's grants scheme, Working Against Poverty; a publications catalogue and a library leaflet are also available.

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GLOSSARY

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| ADM Ltd | Area Development Management Ltd |
| CDP | Community Development Programme |
| CPA | Combat Poverty Agency |
| ESRI | Economic and Social Research Institute |
| EUSSPPR | European Union Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation |
| NAPS | National Anti-Poverty Strategy |
| NESC | National Economic and Social Council |
| NESF | National Economic and Social Forum |
| NUI | National University of Ireland |
| SMI | Strategic Management Initiative |
| SPED | Staff Performance, Evaluation and Development |

Réamhrá an Chathaoirligh

Is cúis áthais dom an 13ú Tuarascáil Bhliantúil ón nGníomhaireacht do Chomhrac na Bochtaine a thíolacadh don Aire Gnóthaí Sóisialacha, Pobail agus Teaghlaigh de réir cheanglas alt 11 den Acht um Ghníomhaireacht do Chomhrac na Bochtaine, 1986.

Leagtar amach sa tuarascáil seo mionsonraí faoi obair a rinneadh sa chéad bhliain de phlean uailmhianach straitéiseach na Gníomhaireachta don tréimhse 1999-2001. Is é aidhm an phlean ná sochaí níos cothroime uilechuimsithí a chur chun cinn trí chosc agus deireadh a chur le bochtaine agus eisiámh sóisialta. Ciallaíonn gealltanais soiléir an Rialtais i leith deireadh a chur le bochtaine, ag an tráth seo nuair atá fás tréan leanúnach eacnamaíochta ann, go bhfuil fíor-fhéidearthacht ann gur féidir an aidhm sin a bhaint amach. Tá dul chun cinn suntasach déanta le tamall de bhlianta. Ba chúis áthais agus ardaíthe meanman dom an tosaíocht a tugadh d'uilechuimsitheacht shóisialta sa Phlean Forbartha Náisiúnta agus sa Chlár um Rachmas agus Cothroime agus an tiomantas i leith an Straitéis Náisiúnta Frithbhochtaine a neartú.

Tá dúshláin mhóra leanúnacha agus constaicí nua ann, áfach, nach mór aghaidh a thabhairt orthu. Tá sé thar a bheith tábhachtach go laghdaítear an bhearna ioncaim atá ann idir daoine saibhre agus daoine bochta. Mar gheall ar bhoilsciú méadaitheach, neamhnófar na méaduithe beartaithe ar íocaíochtaí leasa shóisialaigh agus cruthófar deacrachtaí móra do dhaoine ar íseal-ioncam. Níl aon réiteach simplí tapa ann don ghéarchéim thithíochta atá ag méadú. Níl teacht éasca ar chúram leanaí ardchaighdeán ar phraghas réasúnta ná níl sé furasta cúram leanaí den sórt sin a sholáthar ach is rud é a chuirfeadh feabhas ar dheiseanna saoil leanaí agus/nó a chabhródh lena dtuismitheoirí rochtain a bheith acu ar an margadh saothair nó filleadh ar an margadh saothair. Tá seirbhísí poiblí tábhachtacha a bhfuil ról mór acu i dtaca le bochtaine agus eisiámh sóisialta a chomharc faoi bhrú agus bíonn deacrachtaí acu, uaireanta, feidhmiú nuair a bhíonn deiseanna nua ann. Tá sé tábhachtach go gcreidfear go forleathan agus go fonnmhar gur féidir le sochaí na hÉireann a bheith níos cothroime agus níos uilechuimsithí.

Déantar cur síos sa tuarascáil seo ar an réimse oibre a rinne an Ghníomhaireacht chun cuspóirí a Plean Straitéisigh a chur ar aghaidh. Thángthas ar an bPlean Straitéiseach 1999-2001 tar éis obair dhian a dhéanamh chun cuspóirí agus bearta a chur in oiriúint do na hacmhainní atá ar fáil. Mar a tharla i gcás pleannanna roimhe seo, bhí gá le fíis, fuinneamh agus réalachas agus b'éigean dúinn roghanna deacra a dhéanamh.

Cuirim fáilte ar leith roimh an tosaíocht atá tugtha sa Phlean do bhochtaine i measc leanaí. Is tráthúil an t-am é seo don tionscnamh "Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty" mar go leagann sé béim ar eolas an phobail a mhéadú faoi bhochtaine i measc leanaí. Is fearr agus is éifeachtaí an tionscnamh seo mar go raibh deis ann é a dhearadh agus a chur i bhfeidhm i gcomhar le roinnt eagraíochtaí tábhachtacha eile.

Tá tús áite tugtha freisin do bhearta a mbeidh tionchar acu ar fhorbairt polasaí frithbhochtaine. Creidim gurb é a thiofcuidh as na bearta chun cumas na hearnála pobail agus na hearnála deonaí a mhéadú i dtaca le cabhrú le forbairt polasaíthe a théann i ngleic le bochtaine ná go bhfeabhsófar an earnáil agus go gcuirfear a clár oibre frithbhochtaine chun cinn. Tá mé ag dúil le torthaí na hoibre seo a leanúint thar thréimhse an phlean seo.

Creidim, maidir le hobair na Gníomhaireachta le rialtas áitiúil i gcomhthéacs an athchóirithe agus an neartaithe atá ar siúl i gcás rialtais áitiúil, go mbeidh sí an-tábhachtach i dtaca lena chinntiú go mbeidh an tionchar is mó ag an Straitéis Náisiúnta Frithbhochtaine ag gach leibhéal de shochaí na hÉireann. Tá an speis atá léirithe ag údarais áitiúla san obair seo an-sásúil ar fad.

Tá Clár Tacaíochta Speisialta an AE le haghaidh Síochána agus Athmhuintearais, tríd an tacaíocht a thugann sé do ghrúpaí agus do thionscnaimh áitiúla, ag leanúint de thionchar a bheith aige ar eisiámh sóisialta agus cinntítear, dá bharr, go leanfar ar aghaidh leis an obair tábhachtach a ghabhann le hathmhuintearas. Tá an fhoireann in oifig Mhuineacháin ag riaradh clár deacair casta ar shlí shamhlaíoch éifeachtach. Tá mé iontach buíoch den chaidreamh sármhaith atá ann lenár gcomhpháirtithe, Area Development Management Limited agus an Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust, agus as tiomantas cuid mhór daoine i leith an Chláir.

Tá an Ghníomhaireacht á hoibriú go han-mhaith ag a foireann faoi cheannas Hugh Fraser. Tá ard-mheas agam orthu mar gheall ar a bhfuinneamh, a dtiomantas agus a ngairmiúlacht. Tá mé thar a bheith buíoch díobh as an tacaíocht oile a chuireann siad ar fáil domsa agus do na comhaltaí eile den Bhord. Agus is onóir dom a bheith i mo chathaoirleach ar Bhord ar a bhfuil daoine eolacha, géarchúiseacha, tuisceanacha a bhfuil tuairimí láidre acu. Bíonn ábhar foghlama agus siamsaíochta ann le linn na gcruinnithe dá mbarr.

Tugann Ard-Rúnaí na Roinne Gnóthaí Sóisialacha, Pobail agus Teaghlaigh agus a fhoireann tacaíocht dúinn i gcónaí agus tá siad cúirtéiseach, cuiditheach. Tá an Ghníomhaireacht iontach buíoch dá dtacaíocht. Agus tá luach ar leith ag baint leis an dlúthchaidreamh oibre le foireann na Roinne i dtaca leis an Straitéis Náisiúnta Frithbhochtaine. Tá mé thar a bheith buíoch de Dermot Ahern T.D., Aire Gnóthaí Sóisialacha, Pobail agus Teaghlaigh, as a thacaíocht agus as a chúnamh fial.



Anna Lee
Meitheamh, 2000



Anna Lee

Chairman's Foreword

I am pleased to present the 13th Annual Report of the Combat Poverty Agency to the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs, in accordance with the requirement of Section 11 of the Combat Poverty Agency Act 1986.

This report details work undertaken in the first year of the Agency's ambitious strategic plan for the period 1999–2001. The aim of the plan is to "promote a more just and inclusive society by working for the prevention and elimination of poverty and social exclusion". The unambiguous commitment of the Government to the elimination of poverty at a time of strong and continuing economic growth means that there is now a real possibility that this aim can be achieved. Significant progress has been made in recent years. I am impressed and excited by the priority given to social inclusion in the National Development Plan and the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness and with the commitment to strengthen the National Anti-Poverty Strategy.

There are, however, continuing significant challenges and new obstacles to be addressed. It is imperative that the income gap between rich and poor is reduced. Increasing inflation will negate planned increases in social welfare payments and create significant difficulties for the low paid. There is no quick and simple resolution to the growing housing crisis. Affordable, quality childcare, with the potential to improve the life chances of children and/or to assist their parents to access and continue in the labour market is not readily available or easy to provide. Key public services which have an important role to play in combating poverty and social exclusion are under pressure and, at times, find it difficult to respond to new opportunities. It is important that the belief that Ireland can be a more just and inclusive society is widely and enthusiastically held.

The range of work undertaken by the Agency to progress the objectives of its Strategic Plan is described in this report. The Strategic Plan 1999–2001 was finalised following a rigorous exercise of matching objectives and actions to available resources. This required, in common with earlier plans, vision, energy, realism and difficult choices.

I particularly welcome the priority given in the Plan to child poverty. The *'Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative'* with its emphasis on building public awareness of child poverty, is most timely. The opportunity to design and deliver the initiative with a number of key organisations has enhanced and deepened this piece of work.

A clear priority has also been given to actions that will impact on the development of anti-poverty policy. I believe that the actions which aim to build the capacity of the community and voluntary sector to contribute to developing policies that tackle poverty will strengthen and enhance the sector and progress its anti-poverty agenda. I look forward to tracking the outcome of this work over the period of this plan.

The Agency's work with local government in the context of the current reform and strengthening of local government will, I believe, make a vital contribution to ensuring the optimum impact of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy at all levels of Irish society. The interest shown by local authorities in this work has been very encouraging.

The EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, through its support for local groups and initiatives, continues to impact on social exclusion and to ensure that the vital work of reconciliation is advanced. The staff in the Monaghan office manage a difficult and complex programme creatively and effectively. I am very appreciative of the excellent relationship we have with our partners, Area Development Management Limited and the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust, and of the commitment of many people to the Programme.

The Agency is very well served by its staff team, led by Hugh Frazer. I continue to be impressed by their energy, commitment and professionalism. I am most grateful for the skilled support they give to me and my fellow Board members. I am honoured to chair a Board, which is made up of informed, insightful and considerate individuals with strong opinions. They make the business of meetings both instructive and entertaining.

I am most grateful to Dermot Ahern T.D., Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs, for his generous support and assistance. The Secretary General and his staff at the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs are supportive, courteous and helpful. Their support of the Agency is much appreciated. The working relationship with the Department's staff on the National Anti-Poverty Strategy is also especially valuable.



Anna Lee
June, 2000

Part

one

Annual Overview: The Challenge of Change

Annual Overview: **The Challenge of Change**

INTRODUCTION

“I believe that we can effectively eliminate poverty in this country. If we take full account of the complexity of the issues involved, we can achieve this objective at a pace unequalled in any other country and we can sustain this progress over the long term.”

So said the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, in May 2000, when he opened a major conference organised by the Combat Poverty Agency to review the progress of the Government’s National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS). The Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs, Dermot Ahern, reiterated this theme when he closed the conference and, subsequently, when speaking at the UN General Assembly’s Special Session in Geneva the “World Summit for Social Development and Beyond”.

The Combat Poverty Agency welcomes the Government’s unequivocal commitment to this ambitious goal. The Agency agrees that its achievement is now within our grasp. Continued rapid economic growth, falling unemployment, favourable demographic trends and a deepening peace process are all combining to create a unique opportunity to build a much more inclusive and fair society. We can put an end to the waste of resources and human potential that result from poverty and social exclusion. Indeed, the challenge for government in this time of economic buoyancy is to use our resources to strengthen the economic, social and cultural rights of all and to deepen democratic society by enabling the full participation of all people.

Achieving such an ambitious goal will not be easy, despite these favourable factors. It is a major and complex challenge to ensure that everyone benefits in a rapidly changing society and a booming economy, especially those on the margins. There are some worrying trends. Widening income gaps and growing inflation could badly affect those living in poverty over the next few years. If we are to successfully eliminate poverty, we will need to take a number of steps. We need to develop a stronger redistribution strategy, alongside investment strategies. We need to ensure that tax and social welfare policies complement many other positive initiatives to prevent poverty. It is vital to introduce strong anti-inflation policies. Otherwise, the rapid increase in inflation to over 5% may worsen significantly the position of those on low incomes.

Key Priorities for the Future

- 1. Strengthen and extend NAPS;**
- 2. Address growing income inequalities;**
- 3. Strengthen public services;**
- 4. Expand supports to the Voluntary and Community Sector;**
- 5. Develop a cross-border focus on poverty and social exclusion;**
- 6. Support strong international and EU action on poverty and social exclusion.**

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS

There have been a number of important developments in the struggle against poverty and social exclusion over the past year. Together, these created an enhanced framework, at local, national and European levels, for intensifying efforts to end poverty and social exclusion. These included the following:

- Regular meetings of the Cabinet Committee on Social Inclusion provided leadership and co-ordination;

- The *Programme for Prosperity and Fairness* (PPF), the new national partnership agreement between government and the social partners, and the *National Development Plan* (NDP) gave a key priority to tackling poverty and social exclusion and to promoting social inclusion. This created both a more focused agenda on these issues and ensured a major commitment of additional resources. In the PPF, there is a commitment to spending £1.5 billion by 2003 on social inclusion measures. This includes £200 million on measures other than social welfare and childcare. In the NDP, some 37% of the resources to be spent between 2000 and 2006 (that is, £15bn out of £40.59bn) is specifically concerned with promoting social inclusion;
- Poverty-proofing increasingly is a factor that has to be taken into account in the work of government departments and in major policy developments such as the NDP. This trend should be further strengthened when the current review of poverty-proofing arrangements is completed and when poverty-proofing is extended from government departments to other agencies and to health boards and local authorities;
- The PPF contains significant commitments to pursue policies that reduce poverty and social exclusion, build an inclusive society and strengthen recognition of citizenship obligations in those contexts. Specifically, it commits to review, update and expand the NAPS by:
 - reviewing existing targets and action programmes in relation to income adequacy, unemployment, educational disadvantage, urban poverty and rural poverty;
 - identifying possible new targets and action programmes, particularly in areas such as child poverty, women's poverty, health, older people and housing/accommodation;
 - ensuring that the Employment Action Plan, the NDP and other relevant policy documents are consistent with strategies to be pursued in addressing poverty.
- There is renewed emphasis on regional development, particularly in the context of the NDP. The current reforms of local government have the potential to fill the existing gap between national and local levels in anti-poverty structures. These reforms include the establishment of Strategic Policy Committees; the closer integration of local government and local development and, in particular, the establishment of City and County Development Boards charged with developing integrated strategies for the economic, social and cultural development of their cities and counties with a specific social inclusion focus. These developments will help ensure a much more co-ordinated and strategic approach at city and county levels;
- The partnership approach to public policy has been reaffirmed. The participation of community and voluntary organisations, which represent those who are experiencing poverty and social exclusion in social partnership arrangements and various policy fora, has been further strengthened and resourced;
- Steps have been taken to strengthen further the infrastructure of the community and voluntary sector at local and national levels. In particular, the forthcoming White Paper on a framework for supporting voluntary activity and developing the relationship between the state and the voluntary and community sector will reinforce the important contribution that the sector has to play in combating poverty and social exclusion. It will provide a basis for further strengthening government support to the sector;
- The infrastructure for supporting human rights and equality has been enhanced by the establishment of the Equality Authority, the Employment Equality Act, the Equal Status Bill, the introduction of legislation to establish a Human Rights Commission, the strengthening of the role of the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism, and the mainstreaming of disability issues, including the establishment of Comhairle and the National Disability Authority. However, from a disability rights perspective, weaknesses in the current legislation and Constitutional provision need to be addressed.
- The recent meeting of the European Council at Lisbon acknowledged that the number of people

living below the poverty line was “unacceptable” and made a commitment to adopting “adequate” targets between now and the end of the year aimed at eliminating poverty. This significant development was reinforced by a number of other actions: the assertion for the first time by a European Council meeting of the objective of full employment; a statement that policies to combat social exclusion should include national action plans supported by a Commission initiative; the “mainstreaming of the promotion of inclusion in the Member States’ employment, education and training, health and housing policies”, and current moves to draft a European Charter of fundamental rights;

- The UN *“World Summit for Social Development and Beyond: Achieving Social Development in a Globalising World”* in Geneva (June 2000) reaffirmed the commitment to eradicate poverty and to foster social development. A new programme was adopted to implement the outcomes of the summit. This emphasised the importance of coherence between national and international strategies and programmes to combat poverty at all levels. The programme contained some particularly important statements – a strong commitment to place poverty eradication at the centre of economic and social development; an emphasis on developing comprehensive national strategies which have clear goals and targets and which integrate policies at all levels, including economic and fiscal policies; capacity-building and institution-building; priority in national strategies for investments in education and health, social protection and basic social services.

All of these developments provide an enhanced basis for anti-poverty action over the next year. In addition, over the past year, continued economic growth and revenue buoyancy, combined with favourable demographic trends, enabled government to increase spending in many important areas such as educational disadvantage, social welfare levels, housing and disability services. Added to this, the numbers of people working continued to rise, to 1.65 million in the three months to the end of February 2000, and unemployment fell to below 5%, meaning that the jobless rate almost halved since April 1997.

These changes have had a very positive impact on the lives of many people experiencing poverty and social exclusion and have contributed to a fall in the number of people living in consistent poverty. Increases in the lowest incomes have enhanced people’s ability to buy basic necessities. The continuing development of the peace process and the momentum that this brings to efforts to build a more truly inclusive society in both parts of this island was another important factor. A further encouraging development is the way that Ireland is meeting its international obligations by welcoming increasing numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers. This is helping to create a richer and more diverse society and is providing an important addition to our labour force.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ECONOMIC BOOM

While the policy direction exemplified by the PPF, NAPS and the NDP is encouraging, there is no room for complacency. A booming economy does not guarantee an end to poverty and an inclusive and just society. That depends on how the additional resources available are used and how much priority is given in public policy to ensuring that the underlying structural causes of poverty and social exclusion are addressed.

A number of aspects of the current economic boom cause concern, viewed from the perspective of combating poverty and promoting social inclusion. These relate to income adequacy and inequality, the quality of basic public services, and the needs of minority groups.

Inequality and Income Adequacy

- While nearly everybody has gained something from economic growth, it is clear that the better off and those in work have gained most. While increased employment opportunities create important paths out of poverty, many people, for a range of reasons – looking after children or older people, old age, ill health, disability, lack of skills and literacy problems – still stay at home. This trend of widening income gaps was accentuated by changes in the last Budget when two and a half times the available resources were spent on tax cuts as on social welfare increases. This imbalance between tax cuts and social welfare increases meant that the gap between the poor and

the better off actually widened further. This created the danger of an increasing percentage of people falling below relative income poverty lines, a trend that was evident between 1994 and 1997.

Furthermore, as inflation rates increase, those on the lowest incomes will be worst affected as inflation erodes the increases they have received.

- The booming economy has led to a growth in consumerism and to a major increase in borrowing. The expectations of those on the lowest incomes rise also but they have the least access to financial services such as mainstream credit. They face the highest costs and are the most vulnerable to exploitation, moneylending and debt if they resort to borrowing.

Inadequate Public Services

- Inadequacies in core public services are becoming increasingly apparent as public services fail to keep pace with the rapid economic boom. The gap between public and private services is becoming more evident. Indeed, the development of public services appears to have suffered from inadequate forward planning and investment and there is a considerable deficit to be made up. Furthermore, many staff are being attracted into better-paid, private sector jobs. These inadequacies in basic public services affect everyone's quality of life but they are particularly severe for those on the margins of society. One increasingly finds, for example, disadvantaged schools dependent on using unqualified teachers, social work teams with many vacancies, shortages of educational psychologists in the public sector, many nursing vacancies, growing hospital waiting lists and second-rate public transport services in poor communities when private car sales are increasing dramatically.
- Two further factors are focusing attention on the inadequacy of basic community services. First, an increasing number of dual earning households means that fewer people are available to act as carers or volunteers. Secondly, falling numbers on Community Employment Schemes are endangering many important services in disadvantaged communities that have been dependent on community employment workers. This has exposed serious gaps in public services that can undermine social solidarity. The move of many people into regular and properly-paid employment is welcome. However, unless properly-paid jobs are created in the mainstream services to compensate for these changes, then the quality of local services and, thus, the quality of life in the most disadvantaged communities, is likely to worsen in spite of the economic boom.
- This issue of basic services highlights the need for measures that do more than just capture inadequate incomes or lack of basic necessities when assessing poverty and social exclusion. People's well-being and their quality of life need to be measured. We should acknowledge the different services and supports that are needed to ensure people's well-being. Increasingly, public policy-makers are faced with the challenge of how to make public services more capable of delivering integrated services (including income support) that are better tailored to the particular circumstances and the life-cycle of households. This means recognising that some people and some families need more services if their life chances are not to be impaired and if they are to achieve their full potential and not be left further behind in our growing economy. For example, struggling to care for a disabled child without state support after the age of 18 or being forced to finance private care for an elderly relative can cause serious financial difficulties for families and impair their quality of life.
- The massive inflation in house prices has serious consequences for those on low incomes as well as for the many middle-income people who are first-time home buyers. Again, this highlights inadequate forward planning. It has led to increased public housing waiting lists and growing numbers of homeless people, both of which are key factors in relation to poverty and social exclusion. Some groups are at particular risk. The provision of accommodation for Travellers actually declined by 25 places in the past year, despite commitments to address the shortfall in Traveller accommodation. As a result of higher housing costs, many couples, to make ends meet, can no longer choose between

working or staying at home to look after children. This, in turn, has increased demand for childcare and its cost. It highlights the serious lack of adequate childcare services, especially for those on low incomes, whether working or not.

- Increasingly there is a danger, in a rapidly growing market economy, that services will be treated as something either to be regulated by competition or else provided as an extra rather than as a basic right. For example, while additional money is available for disability services, this can actually reduce pressure for establishing an adequate statutory basis for services. A clear entitlement to services would guarantee their provision even in a recession. It would overcome the present problem that there is no right to an assessment of needs and that universality is not an accepted principle. Lack of such provisions in an expanding economy can further exclude disadvantaged groups, such as people with disabilities.

Minority Groups

- Despite some improvement in the position of children between 1994 and 1997, the most recent data shows that one child in four is still in poverty. Children are 1.27 times more likely to be in income poverty than adults and have nearly twice the risk of being in consistent or severe poverty. While child benefit rates have improved, some quite substantially, they have not risen enough to ensure that the value of child support for welfare families keeps pace with adult rates or, in a more general way, with increases in earnings in our booming economy. Equally, not enough has been done to ensure that our various legal and policy instruments adequately reflect the rights of children, as outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- With the economic boom, demand for childcare has escalated but those on the lowest incomes are often least able to afford or to access childcare. Without adequate state provision, they will be left further behind, limiting the chances of those most at risk of poverty, such as lone parents, to access jobs, education or training or for their children to benefit from high-quality childcare.
- Educational disadvantage, and, in particular, young people leaving school early without qualifications, have been key factors in perpetuating poverty. There is a danger that the increased availability of unskilled service jobs is enticing more young people to leave school early. These jobs are generally badly paid and offer few prospects of progression. They are very vulnerable to any economic downturn. If a skills gap widens in society and if access to information technology is significantly less for the poorest, then exclusion will become more acute and more deeply entrenched.
- The growing numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers in Ireland are essentially a welcome result of our rising affluence and must also be seen in the context of an extremely inadequate response by the EU to the wars, upheavals and dislocations in Central and Eastern Europe. This will lead to long-term changes in our society which, if not handled carefully, as well as problems of racism and discrimination, could result in new forms of poverty and social exclusion. Again, there has been a lack of forward planning and a lack of adequate support services to assist with integration. As well as the EU accepting its responsibilities, we need to enhance our services at national level. In the short term, to avoid poverty, dependency and a growth in racism, asylum-seekers should have the right to work after six months in the country. Supports should be put in place to assist them to work and appropriate training programmes and language training should be provided so that refugees and asylum-seekers are not exploited.
- With the booming economy, young people in low-income rural areas have an even stronger incentive to leave the land. This is worsening the population imbalance and many older people are being left behind and isolated. The decline of rural communities will continue unless urgent restructuring of the rural economy takes place. A greater emphasis on a spatial strategy to counter urban concentrations is needed.

KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT YEAR

The Combat Poverty Agency recommends the following six priorities for public policy over the next year, to address the challenges outlined above. In some cases these reinforce and build on the policy direction and the ambitious and egalitarian policy frameworks set by the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness and the National Development Plan and also call for further actions to build a fairer society.

1. Strengthen and extend NAPS: Ensure that the current review of the NAPS and the commitments in the PPF lead to a strengthening of the NAPS and to dynamic new programmes of action. These should include an ambitious new target for eliminating child poverty, new targets in relation to health and homelessness, and strengthening of existing targets on income adequacy, rural poverty, urban disadvantage, long-term unemployment and educational disadvantage. It is important that provision be made for a rigorous evaluation of the impact of actions developed under the NAPS.

In developing the next phase of NAPS, it is important to ensure that priority in action programmes be given to particularly disadvantaged groups. These include older people, disadvantaged children, marginalised women, low-income farm households, minority groups such as people with disabilities, Travellers, other ethnic groups, refugees and asylum-seekers, and ex-prisoners and their families. It is important also that a strong rights dimension be built into the next phase of NAPS and that poverty-proofing of policies and programmes be further strengthened and extended to local level.

It will be a major challenge to follow up on the commitments in the PPF to extend the NAPS, including poverty-proofing, to health boards and local authorities. It will mean building on recent initiatives taken by many local authorities and health boards. It will be important to ensure that the NAPS is embedded in the local government reform process, in particular in the strategies for economic, social and cultural development that are being drawn up by the

City and County Development Boards. This should lead to an increasingly co-ordinated and strategic approach to addressing poverty and social exclusion at local level.

2. Address growing income inequalities: This will involve developing fiscal and budgetary policies that set out to redress the growing income inequalities and to ensure that everyone, whether inside or outside the labour force, has an adequate income. A key priority will be to benchmark social welfare increases with increases in wages. The efforts of the working group on benchmarking proposed under the PPF will be vital in this regard. It will be important also to poverty-proof the Budget with particular attention given to tax measures and to ensuring a continuation of the move to tax credits and no cuts in the tax rates. Further major increases in child income support will be very important.

3. Strengthen public services: A key goal of public policy should be to create high-quality public services for everyone. Particular attention should be paid to providing services in disadvantaged communities and to ensuring access for those who are most marginalised. To do this, the major resource commitments in the NDP will have to be applied in a strategic manner. Any proposed sectoral interventions in areas such as labour market, education, health, transport and, in particular, public housing will need to be poverty-proofed. More consideration is needed also as to what taxation policies are necessary to ensure the provision of high-quality public services and what proportion of GDP it is appropriate to spend on public services. The example of other EU Member States, which have much higher quality public services than we do, could be helpful in this regard.

4. Expand supports to the Voluntary and Community Sector: In the context of the forthcoming White Paper, it will be important to ensure that there is a major and systematic expansion in the range of supports, training, information and research services available to the community and voluntary sector. A further deepening of the sector's involvement in the design and delivery of anti-poverty policies will also be important. It will be necessary to adopt the

learning and guidelines being developed by the EU transnational project on involving excluded persons and the organisations that represent them in the development and implementation of anti-poverty policy. Further development of the funding programme for national anti-poverty networks will be important also. Achieving greater integration between the different programmes and agencies supporting local community development and anti-poverty projects should be given priority. These agencies include the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs' Community Development Programme, Area Development Management Limited, the area-based partnerships, local authorities, health boards and the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.

5. *Develop a cross-border focus on poverty and*

social exclusion: The new cross-border institutions established under the Good Friday Agreement should develop a strong anti-poverty and social exclusion focus. The commitment in Ireland to poverty-proofing and in Northern Ireland to targeting social need should be applied to their work. In addition, the two governments should give priority to establishing the all-island consultative forum, representative of civil society, that is provided for under the Agreement and to ensuring that issues of poverty and social exclusion are among its main concerns.

6. *Support strong international and EU action on poverty and social exclusion:*

The Irish government can continue to play a key role in ensuring that the current moves to establish a strong European policy framework for addressing social exclusion are successfully implemented. It will be very important to ensure that the proposed European Charter of Fundamental Rights covers the full range of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civic and political rights, and that these are underpinned in Irish law. The energetic implementation of the action programme agreed at the UN Geneva Summit on Social Development will also be important.

Part

two

Work of the Combat Poverty Agency

Work of the Combat Poverty Agency

This section of the Annual Report describes the work of the Agency under the main headings of the Agency's work programme. 1999 marked the first year of the Agency's new Strategic Plan (1999–2001) This report reflects the key *objectives*, as outlined in that plan:

Objective one

page 19

- Ensuring that the National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS) will have made significant progress in reducing and preventing poverty;

Objective two

page 27

- Narrowing the gap between the rich and poor through promoting a fairer distribution of resources, services and employment opportunities in favour of people living in poverty;

Objective three

page 29

- Achieving a coherent and planned public policy on child poverty;

Objective four

page 33

- Advancing the opportunity offered by peace to build a more inclusive and participative democracy on this island.

This year marked a significant increase in expenditure, supporting initiatives to tackle poverty and social exclusion and promoting reconciliation in the southern border counties, through the Agency's involvement in implementing, with ADM Ltd, a range of measures of the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.

Objective **one**

“The Agency will work to ensure that NAPS will have made significant progress in reducing and preventing poverty”

Research, Evaluation and the National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS)

Initial Assessment

The Agency undertook an assessment of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS), as part of its role as the evaluator of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy in 1999. Work began on the assessment, *Planning for a More Inclusive Society, An Initial Assessment of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy*, which was published in May 2000.

The assessment charts progress to date, assesses key achievements, shortcomings and barriers, and, on this basis, draws conclusions on the issues to be addressed in the future implementation of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy. It analyses data and material available since the introduction of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy. It includes the findings of a postal questionnaire survey undertaken as part of the assessment to garner views on the main strengths and weaknesses of NAPS.

National Anti-Poverty Strategy Targets

To aid the process of monitoring existing NAPS targets, a report, *Monitoring Poverty Trends 1997*, was prepared by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and published by the Agency and the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs. This study, for the Interdepartmental Policy Committee (IDPC) on NAPS, provides an updated picture of trends in poverty since 1994, using results from the 1997 round of the *Living in Ireland Survey*.

Preliminary work was undertaken to inform consideration of new NAPS targets. Papers were prepared for the National Anti-Poverty Strategy Interdepartmental Policy Committee: *A Process for Setting National Anti-Poverty Strategy Targets* and *Setting a Child Poverty Target*.

The case for a child poverty target was made in the Agency’s proposals to the negotiations on a new national social partnership agreement and in a similar submission by the *Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative*.¹

The assessment, *‘Planning for a More Inclusive Society,’* included a review of progress towards achieving existing NAPS targets and identified issues for consideration of new targets. The Agency worked closely with the Interdepartmental Policy Committee on NAPS, the National Anti-Poverty Strategy Unit at the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs and the ESRI in developing work on proposed new targets.

Data Collection and Analysis and Public Awareness

The joint management committee for the *Living in Ireland Survey*, comprising the Economic and Social Research Institute, the Agency, and the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs continued to oversee this household panel survey and the associated programme of research studies.

Ongoing research included child poverty and the distribution of income in Ireland. Two new research projects were initiated. The first is on the intra-household allocation of resources. The second, which is being undertaken jointly with the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs, analyses the 1998 *Living in Ireland Survey* to update the poverty figures.

The Agency continued its involvement in the Micro-Simulation Forum (the interdepartmental forum on the

¹ *The Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative* comprised Barnardos, the Society of St Vincent de Paul, The Children’s Rights Alliance and the National Youth Council of Ireland. Together with Combat Poverty Agency, they worked to increase public awareness of and concern over child poverty through the development of a child poverty awareness programme.

development and use of the SWITCH model as a policy tool). The SWITCH model, developed by the ESRI, simulates the effects of tax and welfare changes on a nationally representative sample of households. The Agency also continued to participate in an advisory group to the EUROMOD project, which is developing a European tax and welfare model.

The Agency made a submission to the Central Statistics Office for the inclusion of a question on income levels in the national census. This question was contained in the census pilot, carried out during the year.

Work continued on a research project commissioned from University College Dublin (UCD) on the potential of secondary data sources as a resource for information on poverty.

The Agency provided advice and support to a study, *The Cost of Heating in Ireland*, published by Energy Action Ireland, and *The EMU and Social Exclusion*, published by the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN).

The Agency provided advice and support to a number of other research-related initiatives being undertaken by the Health Research Board, the Katherine Howard Foundation, the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs, the National Council on Ageing and Older People and the Equality Authority.

Further reports commissioned from the ESRI and published by the Agency and Oak Tree Press in 1999 included:

- *Women and Poverty in Ireland*. This examines the increasing risk of poverty among female-headed households; the interaction of low pay and household poverty and the incidence of 'hidden' deprivation experienced by women within households. This study was launched by President McAleese in May.
- *Loading the Dice: A Study of Cumulative Disadvantage*. This examines the extent to which



President Mary McAleese, with Anna Lee, Chairman of the Combat Poverty Agency at the launch of 'Women and Poverty in Ireland'.

childhood poverty, lack of educational qualifications and unemployment combine to create a situation of poverty and exclusion more extreme than that produced by any one disadvantage on its own.

In addition, a Poverty Briefing, summarising 1997 poverty data and policy implications was published, along with a handbook, *Facts and Figures on Poverty*. This covers a number of themes including unemployment, women, Travellers, children and homelessness.

The Combat Poverty Agency continued to promote greater public awareness of NAPS. Progress was made in linking government department press officers with NAPS departmental liaison officers, to co-ordinate public relations activity. The Agency provided regular coverage of NAPS in *Poverty Today*. It also published two supplements to *Poverty Today* that poverty-proofed the 1998 budget and the proposals from the Partnership 2000 Expert Working Group on Childcare.

On a broader plane, the Agency worked to promote awareness of NAPS in other EU member states. This involved contributing to a number of conferences on relevant issues in several countries and ongoing co-operation with the European Anti-Poverty Network.

Liaison with Research Community

Co-operation with the academic and research community is an important element of Combat Poverty Agency's research and data analysis role. In 1999, the Agency provided placement opportunities on its research programme to

students from Trinity College, Dublin (TCD), University College, Dublin (UCD) and the University of Limerick.

Throughout the year, the Agency continued to provide support to the Policy Studies Institute (PSI) of Trinity College Dublin (TCD). The Agency also assisted in the production of the *Social Policy Yearbook*.

Support was provided to the Agency's fellowship students (see Appendix 2) and two of the Agency's students were awarded their doctorates in 1999.

Seven applications were received for the Agency's 1999 fellowship for doctoral research. However, no fellowships were awarded in this round. An evaluation of the scheme was initiated.

The Agency also worked with NUI Maynooth on the publication of a study on the geography of poverty in Ireland, *Poor People, Poor Places: A Geography of Poverty and Deprivation in Ireland*.

Poverty-Proofing

'Poverty-proofing' is the process by which government departments, local authorities and state Agencies must appraise policies and programmes, at design and review stages. This is to assess their likely impact on poverty and on inequalities which are likely to lead to poverty, with a view to poverty reduction.

The Agency worked throughout the year to support the NAPS Unit and the NAPS Interdepartmental Policy Committee in the implementation of poverty-proofing procedures in central government.

The Agency promoted the idea of poverty-proofing in its policy submissions to government. In particular, it produced and published a post-budget analysis of the 1998 budget and a poverty-proofing of the proposals of the Partnership 2000 Expert Working Group on Childcare. The Agency was a member of the Working Group on the Treatment of Married, Co-Habiting and One-Parent families under the Tax and Welfare Codes and contributed to poverty-proofing the proposals in this group's report. The Agency initiated discussions with the Equality Authority on commissioning a research study on

inequalities likely to lead to poverty, as applied in the Poverty Proofing guidelines.

The Agency also contributed to the draft terms of reference for a review of the first year's operation of poverty-proofing to be commissioned by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs in 2000.

Poverty-proofing was a feature of the Agency's submission on the new partnership agreement.

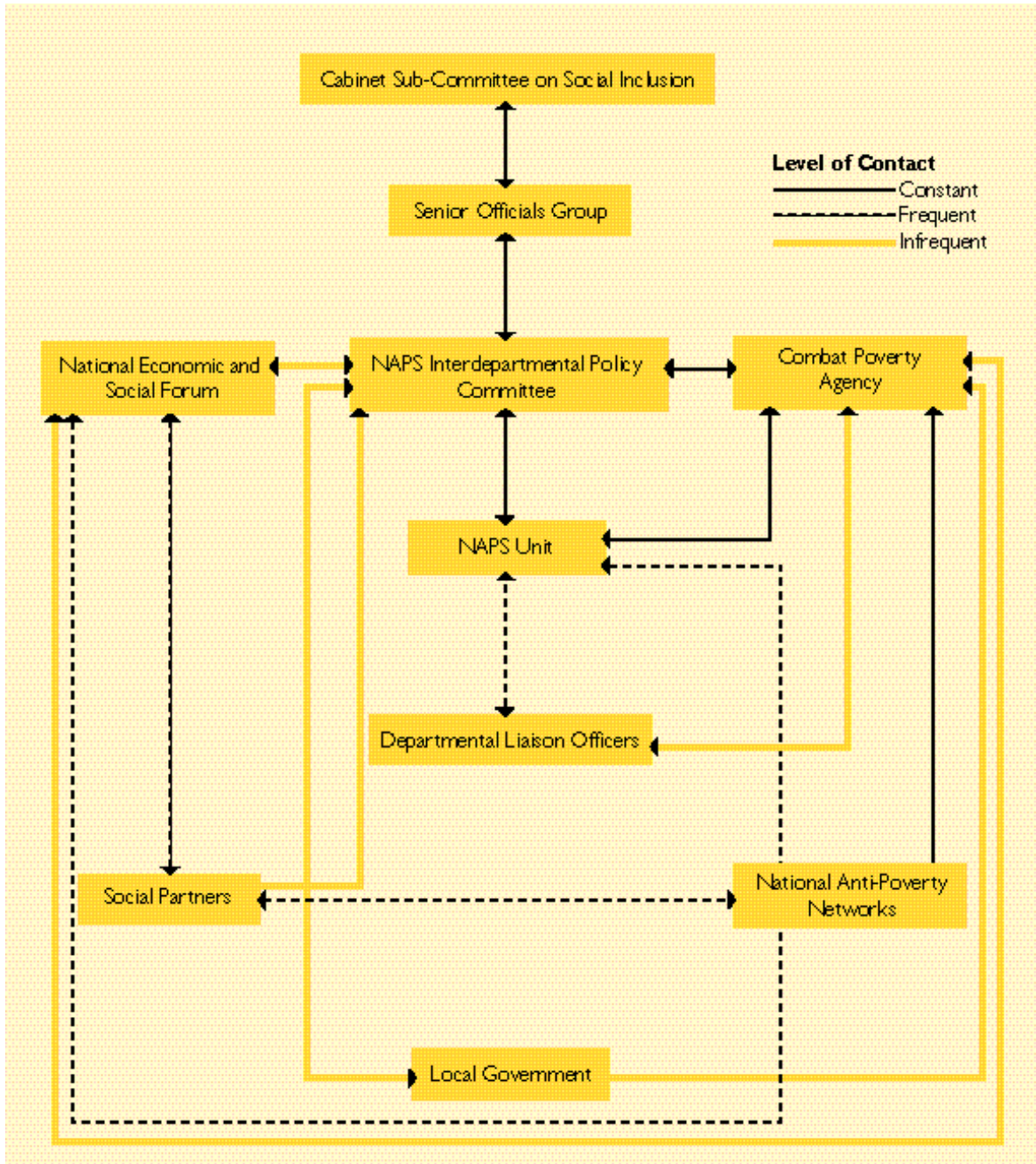
Submissions were also made to the Cross-Departmental Team on Homelessness; to the Law Reform Commission; on the establishment of a Human Rights Commission, to the Expert Working Group on Teacher Education; to the new Equality Authority, and to the Green Paper on Adult Education. The Agency is also represented on the newly-established National Crime Council.

This policy work emphasised the importance of poverty-proofing.

The Agency was asked to contribute to discussions on equality-proofing mechanisms being prepared by a working group of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. Research into equality-proofing issues, the drafting of equality-proofing guidelines, and their potential use to complement poverty-proofing were among the questions examined in this process. In addition, the Agency contributed to round-table discussions on equality-proofing involving FÁS, Pavee Point and the Department of Education and Science.

Furthermore, it prepared a case study on 'Poverty-proofing Government Policy' for the Community Workers Co-operative guide, *Strategies to Encourage Mainstreaming*. (See also Objective 3 for poverty-proofing of childcare.)

Structures Underpinning the National Anti-Poverty Strategy



Note:

Social partners include the National Anti-Poverty Networks, but because of their central role in NAPS, the National Anti-Poverty Networks are identified separately in this diagram.

Local Government

Strengthening the capacity of local government to tackle poverty as part of the wider process of local government reform was an important part of the Agency's activity throughout the year. Key elements included:

- Developing links with the Department of Environment and Local Government, the NAPS Unit, the Institute of Public Administration (IPA), the Community Workers Co-operative, the Local Government Unit in Warwick University, local and regional authorities, and the newly appointed directors of community and enterprise.
- Increasing library holdings of materials related to local government and poverty.
- Contributing to work undertaken by the IPA on behalf of the Department of Environment and Local Government, in the context of the integration of local government and local development. This included:
 - contributing to two training modules on poverty for the directors of community and enterprise;
 - commenting on draft guidelines for the development of county and city strategies;
 - contributing to the development of a resource pack for local authorities;
 - contributing to Local Agenda 21 Guidelines which were drafted by the IPA.
- In collaboration with the Department of the Environment and Local Government and the NAPS Unit, supporting the regional authorities in planning four seminars on the implications of NAPS for local government.
- Commissioning an audit of anti-poverty work undertaken by local authorities.
- Commissioning the Small Area Health Research Unit (SAHRU) in Trinity College Dublin to develop a model local government poverty profile on a pilot basis. Briefings were held in Dublin and Monaghan for local authorities based in border and urban areas which were invited to express interest in this initiative. Following a selection process, work commenced in Sligo and South County Dublin. A small advisory group was set up to assist in the development of the work and a draft report was received in December.
- Submitting proposals to the Department of the Environment and Local Government on revised guidelines for the establishment of Strategic Policy Committees. This submission was also sent to each local authority.
- Commissioning and finalising a paper on guidelines for good practice in involving the community and voluntary sector in local government.
- Establishing an Advisory Committee to the Combat Poverty Agency Board to assist in the development of a proposal for pilot work to support anti-poverty activity within local government. A draft proposal was prepared and considered.

Enhancing Policy on Community and Voluntary Sector Involvement in Tackling Poverty

Community Development

The Agency continued to support the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs' Community Development Programme, principally through its participation on the National Advisory Committee, the Standing Operational Sub-Committee and the Technical Committee. However, compared to previous involvement, and because of resource constraints, the Agency's role was reduced in 1999.

An Agency policy statement, *The Role of Community Development in Tackling Poverty*, was finalised in 1999 and published in 2000. A revised and updated version of *Studying Your Local Area* was drafted and published. The Agency also participated in Area Development Management's advisory committee on research into community development in the local development programme.

The Agency continued its membership of the Community Directors' Steering Committee. This committee supports community directors on local area partnership companies and provides opportunities for them to share experiences and develop good practice

White Paper on Supporting Voluntary Activity

The Agency continued its membership of the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs' Steering Committee which advised on the development of the White Paper. The Agency's submission on the Green Paper was published and disseminated in April. It emphasised the support needs of the sector and the Agency's role in addressing these needs.



Developing the Policy Capacity of the Community and Voluntary Sector

Support to the NESF Assembly

The NESF Assembly is the term for the meetings of the national anti-poverty networks, Community Development Programme and women's networks that elect the three 'disadvantaged sector' members of the National Economic and Social Forum. These meetings discuss proceedings of the Forum and the issues that networks wish their representatives to raise at the Forum.

The Agency supported two meetings of the NESF Assembly in 1999, oversaw the election process for relevant delegate and alternate positions, and supported women's networks involved in the Assembly to enhance their input. Membership of the Assembly was increased to include the National Traveller Women's Forum and the Forum of People with Disabilities. The key aspects of the work of the Assembly were the local development programme, the local employment service and social housing. These reflect the main concerns of the Forum itself in 1999.

National Anti-Poverty Networks

Pending the outcome of the White Paper on voluntary activity, the Agency continued to provide core funding to seven national anti-poverty networks:

Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed;
 One Parent Exchange Network;
 Community Workers Co-Operative;
 Forum for People with Disabilities;
 Irish Rural Link;
 European Anti-Poverty Network, Ireland;
 Irish Traveller Movement.

The Agency had a number of meetings with the national anti-poverty networks to enhance their work, especially in relation to the National Anti-Poverty Strategy. It also assisted in relevant recruitment processes and provided grant aid to the 'Share the Wealth' campaign.

Funding also was provided to the Community Pillar to facilitate their involvement in discussions on a new national partnership agreement.

The Agency continued to work with the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs to establish an effective national programme for anti-poverty networks. An article on consultation models and the benefits of consultation was published in *Poverty Today*.

Investing in Communities

The issue of investing in communities through community foundations was explored during the year with a number of international foundations.

Grants Scheme

In 1999, the Combat Poverty Agency introduced a new integrated grants scheme 'Working Against Poverty' which supports the linking of practice in anti-poverty activity to national policy-making.

A new brochure and application form were produced and administrative issues were considered. A promotional programme was undertaken nationally, including advertisements, and an extensive dissemination of the grants brochure to the community and voluntary sector was completed. The scheme funds public awareness initiatives and research and evaluation work that has the potential to influence policy-makers in favour of those who are affected by poverty.

Grant applications for 1999 were assessed and funds allocated (See details in Appendix 2). A seminar,

'Engaging in the Policy Process,' was held in December for grant recipients and applicants.

The Agency accepted STG£50,000 from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. This is to be allocated by the Agency over two years, in accordance with the criteria for the Agency's grants scheme.

Practice to Policy

Seminars on influencing policy were held in Sligo and Limerick. These were part of a process which commenced in 1998 to disseminate key aspects of the publication, *Working for Change*. The seminars were well attended by a range of community and voluntary groups and the response to the book was very positive. Work continued on drafting a pilot social analysis pack and this is to be finalised in 2000. Planning work on three new training programmes got under way, for implementation in 2000. These are: media skills, the policy-making process and child poverty policy-awareness seminars.

The Agency continued its membership of the management group of the Common Purpose educational initiative.

Drugs Policy Programme

Further attention was given to influencing national policy based on the Agency's grants scheme, 'Poverty, Drug Use and Policy'. Through this programme, the Agency supported seven local groups which were tackling the issue of drugs in their areas through community development. The programme was intended as a way of enabling groups to develop a policy dimension to their work, so that they could begin to engage with the policy-making process.

Meetings were held with each of the Agency's funded groups in the Drugs Policy Programme and a seminar was held in June on current activities, lessons and future planning for the programme. Arising from this meeting, a planning group arranged a series of seminars, to be followed by a national conference early in 2000. Financial support was offered to the groups to disseminate the lessons arising from their work.

A literature review on the links between drugs and poverty was finalised and disseminated and an article in

Poverty Today analysed the lessons and policy issues arising from the programme.

An evaluation of the programme was progressed and a draft report was received, the results of which will be published in 2000.

European Union

A strong presence was maintained throughout the year in EU policy development bodies on poverty and social exclusion, with a view to linking lessons learned locally to EU and national policy. The Agency continued its participation in the Combined European Bureau on Social Development, a network of community development organisations from different European countries, concerned with promoting community development.

In August, the Agency made a submission to the EU Preparatory Actions to Combat Social Exclusion. The focus of this submission was the development of guidelines for the involvement of excluded people and their organisations in the development, implementation and evaluation of anti-poverty and social inclusion strategies. This was done in conjunction with the NAPS Unit, the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs and the seven national anti-poverty networks. Transnational partners were included from Northern Ireland, Finland, the Netherlands and Portugal. Financial support from the EU for this work was committed in December 1999.

The Agency also agreed to be a transnational partner with a French organisation for a project on rural poverty also submitted under the EU Preparatory Actions to Combat Social Exclusion. This submission was also successful.

Social and Economic Rights

Efforts continued to highlight the need to embed social and economic rights in the Constitution and in legislation, as a support against poverty. Economic and social rights featured in a number of issues of *Poverty Today* and the Agency sought to highlight their importance in its statements and submissions to the Law Reform Commission, on the annual budget and on national partnership agreements.

Objective **two**

“The Agency will seek to narrow the gap between rich and poor through promoting a fairer distribution of resources, services and employment opportunities in favour of people living in poverty”

Up-rating Social Welfare Rates

Developing methods and processes to ensure that social welfare rates keep pace with inflation and earnings has been identified by the Agency as a key mechanism for maintaining the living standards of social welfare recipients and of narrowing the divide between rich and poor.

Throughout 1999, the Agency worked to promote the use of an appropriate and transparent mechanism for adequately up-rating social welfare rates and to influence policy-makers in this regard. The need to adopt appropriate up-rating mechanisms on social welfare payments was also a key element in the Agency’s submission on a new national agreement. This was highlighted also in the pre-budget submission. The Agency published a pre-budget submission in November. Briefings were held with the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs on budget priorities.

Social Spending

Increasing the percentage of GNP directed towards social spending to benefit people in poverty, with special emphasis on housing and on health, was another priority for the Agency.

A study on the ways in which poverty, inequality and social spending in Ireland interact was initiated in 1999. This study includes contributions from a range of authors on tax, social welfare, housing, education, health, poverty, inequality, social expenditure and redistribution. A paper was also prepared and submitted to the National

Economic and Social Council on radical investment to tackle social exclusion. This was also included in the Agency’s submission on a future national agreement.

A study on the distribution of income is being undertaken for the Agency by the ESRI and is due to be completed in 2000.

In a collaborative project with the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed, the Small Area Health Research Unit at Trinity College Dublin was commissioned to undertake research on the health care needs of low-income families.

Housing

A study, *Social Housing in Ireland*, was completed and published in association with Oak Tree Press and the Katherine Howard Foundation. A national policy conference was organised, supported by the Department of the Environment and Local Government, on the findings of the research on living in local authority housing estates.

A study, *Housing Income Support in the Private Rented Sector*, was completed and published by the Agency. The proceedings of a national policy seminar based on the study were submitted to the Commission on the Future of the Private Rented Sector.

Developing methods and processes to ensure that social welfare rates keep pace with inflation and earnings has been identified by the Agency as a key mechanism for maintaining the living standards of social welfare recipients and of narrowing the divide between rich and poor.

A Poverty Briefing, the tenth in the series, on Housing and Poverty was commissioned.

The Agency also contributed to the first phase of an international review of social housing commissioned by the UK government.

Promoting A More Equitable Taxation System

The shaping of a more equitable and progressive tax system is an important strand in the Agency's anti-poverty strategy. Tax proposals were made in the Agency's pre-budget submission and in the submission for the next national agreement.

A post-budget comment was issued on tax proposals in the Budget and a number of media features were also undertaken.

Labour Market Participation

The Agency continued its work of identifying and promoting measures to increase labour market participation by the most excluded, particularly the long-term unemployed.

Research was initiated on several subjects to improve understanding of the changing labour market. The ESRI was commissioned to undertake a study of the long-term unemployed and their movement in and out of the labour market over time. A policy discussion paper was prepared and disseminated, on the 'Evolution of the Work Experience Programmes'. This was followed by a policy discussion seminar on their impact and potential, held in November.

A report was submitted by NEXUS, *Labour Market Transitions Among Educationally Disadvantaged 18- to 21-Year-Olds*, to help identify and promote policy options for young people at risk of long-term unemployment.

Teagasc/ESRI research on 'A Review of Farm Income Support in the Context of Targeting Resources at Low-Income Farmers' was ongoing. A workshop on the research was held to discuss policy options.

A research team from Queens' University Belfast was

commissioned to undertake a qualitative study on the experiences of families living on a low income.

A poverty briefing on unemployment and poverty was published in May.

Objective **three**

“The Agency will work to eliminate child poverty through a coherent and planned public policy by identifying targets and actions for inclusion in public policy and by increasing public awareness of child poverty”

Targets and Actions for Reducing Child Poverty

The Combat Poverty Agency sought to identify and include targets for child poverty reduction in NAPS, the National Children’s Strategy and the new national partnership agreement.

In the context of NAPS and the National Children’s Strategy, this involved promoting the idea of a cross-sectoral working group to identify targets and actions for tackling child poverty. Preparatory work began on the Agency’s proposals to a national children’s strategy for submission in 2000.

The Agency also prepared a paper for the NAPS Interdepartmental Policy Committee on setting a child income-support target. Discussions on targets and actions took place with the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs.

Throughout the year, the Agency also published a poverty-proofing of childcare proposals, following the launch of the report of the Partnership 2000 Expert Working Group on Childcare. In the national debate on childcare which followed, the Agency re-iterated the effectiveness of child benefit as a means of reducing child poverty and the need to poverty-proof childcare proposals.

Research and Analysis of Child Poverty Policy

A research project on child poverty, being undertaken by the ESRI for the Agency, continued throughout the year.

A literature review on children’s well-being was undertaken. Current policies on child income support were analysed and improvements recommended.

Discussions took place with Treoir (Federation of Services for Unmarried Parents and their Children), the ESRI, the Department of Health and Children and the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs on the possibility of a national survey on the well-being of children.

Demonstration Programme on Educational Disadvantage

Educational disadvantage and early school-leaving are significant factors which contribute to child poverty and, therefore, require strategic preventative action. The Agency continued to support its Demonstration Programme on Educational Disadvantage throughout the year. The programme seeks to demonstrate an integrated response to educational disadvantage in four areas around the country – Tralee, Co. Kerry; Tuam, Co. Galway; Drogheda, Co. Louth; and Killinarden in West Tallaght, Dublin.

An evaluation of the programme by the Children’s Research Centre in Trinity College, Dublin progressed during the year with a view to identifying lessons that could be incorporated into mainstream education policy. In addition, the Children’s Research Centre are also progressing work on policy papers on parental involvement in education and on developing integrated responses to tackling early school-leaving. Other key activities of the programme during 1999 included:

- Support for each of the programme networks at a local level;

- Ongoing co-ordination meetings that enable the four educational networks and the Agency to share information, highlight lessons from their experiences of working on the programme and identify issues to be addressed;
- Organisation of seminars on:
 - Developing an Integrated Framework for Tackling Early School-leaving;*
 - Parental Involvement in Education.*
- Work with ADM on research to map educational resources in urban and rural areas;
- The development of a pilot Poverty Awareness Programme for Teachers in association with the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee's Curriculum Development Unit and the In-Career Development Unit of the Department of Education and Science;
- Development of a submission to the Expert Advisory Group on Teacher Education and Training (primary and post-primary);
- Briefing sessions on the Education Welfare Bill;
- Round-table discussion on Traveller participation in education;
- Publication and launch of joint case studies on integrated responses to educational disadvantage in association with the National Support Structure of Youthstart;
- Membership of the advisory group, in collaboration with Tallaght Youthstart and Youthreach, for a research project on targeting resources at the most educationally disadvantaged young people;
- Meeting with representatives from the Department of Education and Science to progress issues identified at programme level;
- Annual conference of the Demonstration Programme on Educational Disadvantage which focused on mainstreaming and sustainability;

- Grants towards self-evaluation and research to the programme networks;
- Development of a submission on the Green Paper on Adult Education in an Era of Lifelong Learning. This was followed by an oral presentation to the Department of Education and Science.

The Agency is represented on a number of other initiatives that seek to tackle educational disadvantage and child poverty. These include:

- The Management Committee of the Department of Education and Science's 8 to 15 Early School-Leavers' Initiative;
- The Department of Education and Science's Working Group on the Women's Education Initiative;
- The Department of Health and Children's Evaluation Advisory Group on the Springboard Initiative. (The Springboard Initiative is a Department of Health and Children initiative to integrate responses to the needs of children and families at risk.)

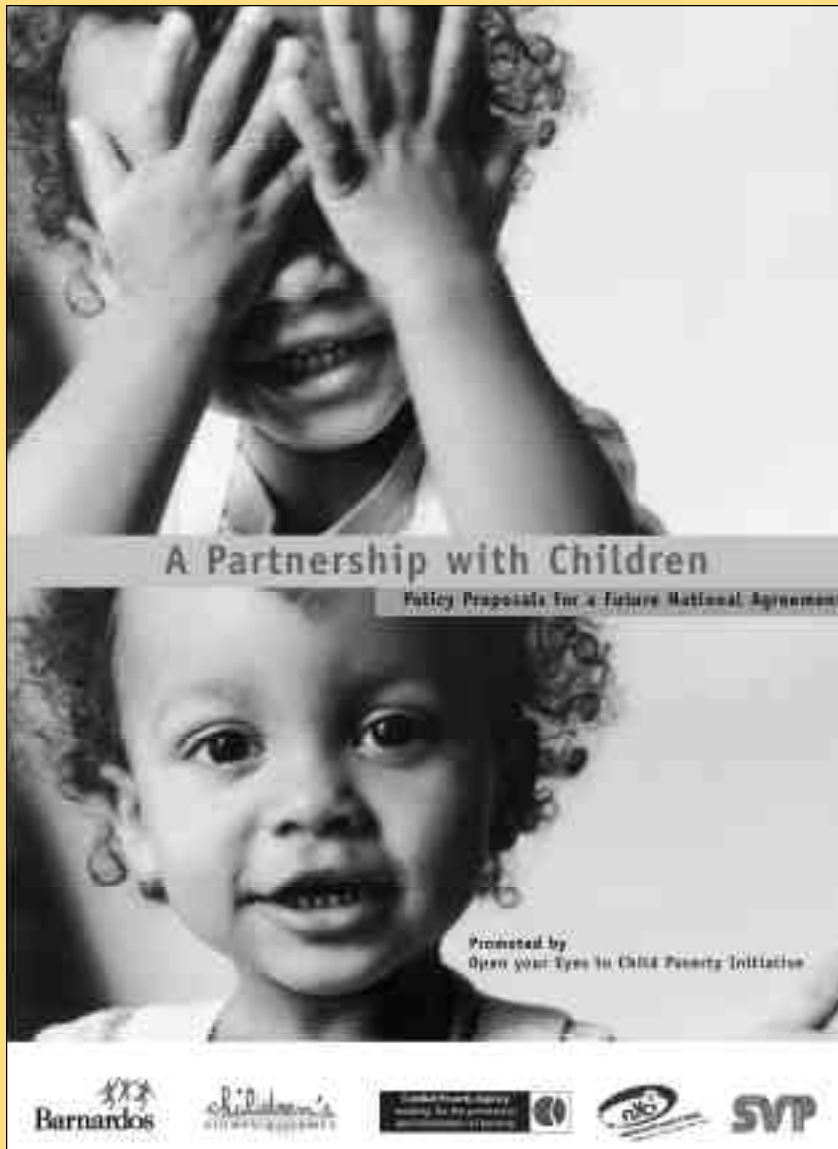
The Agency also worked with a number of other initiatives and agencies to influence policy on educational disadvantage.

The report, *Tackling Educational Disadvantage and Early School-Leaving*, was reprinted due to the level of demand.

The Agency also worked actively throughout the year on the Educational Disadvantage Initiative of the ADM/CPA Programme for Peace and Reconciliation. This included participation in the steering committee of the Initiative.

The Agency is part-funding and participating on an advisory group for a research project by the Children's Research Centre (TCD) on the integration of services to disadvantaged children and their families.

The Agency continued to co-fund and participated on an advisory group of the Irish component of an international study by the Dublin Institute of Technology on the quality of life of seven-year-olds, which is a follow up to a study of four-year-olds. The study has a particular focus on the value of early education in addressing educational disadvantage.



Child Poverty Public Awareness Programme

Heightening public awareness of and concern over child poverty is an important part of Combat Poverty Agency's child poverty strategy. The Agency worked to develop a child poverty awareness programme called the *Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative*.

An advisory group to steer this programme was set up in March. Four organisations, Barnardos, The Children's Rights Alliance, The Society of St Vincent de Paul, and the National Youth Council of Ireland, were approached and agreed to participate, along with Combat Poverty Agency, in the programme. Consultants were engaged to develop the initiative. The aim of the initiative was to

promote greater public awareness of child poverty in Ireland and for change in public policy that would contribute to the prevention, reduction and eventual elimination of child poverty. Three themes were prioritised: income adequacy; education; and the needs of specific groups.

Combat Poverty Agency organised the publication of a special supplement on child poverty in conjunction with the *Irish Independent* in June 1999. The supplement was subsequently widely disseminated to government departments, politicians, the community and voluntary sector and the social partners.

A public relations programme highlighting issues relating to educational disadvantage and early school-leaving was

implemented by the Initiative in September to coincide with children's return to school. It highlighted such issues as the costs of education and the need to provide adequate financial support to facilitate participation in education for children at risk and experiencing marginalisation.

A submission to the national agreement negotiations was prepared jointly by the five organisations involved in the child poverty awareness initiative. Meetings to discuss the proposals took place with the social partners before negotiations on a new agreement started. Entitled *A Partnership with Children*, it was published and launched by the Initiative in November.

The Agency's own submission on a new national agreement contained proposals on child poverty and child income support.

Objective **four**

“Advancing the opportunity offered by peace to build a more inclusive and participative democracy on this island”

At the heart of this objective has been the continued joint management, with Area Development Management Ltd (ADM), of a significant part of the EU Peace and Reconciliation Programme in the six border counties.

ADM/CPA have been responsible for the implementation of fourteen measures, ranging from employment through community-led development and social inclusion to industrial development.

A cross-border community reconciliation measure is implemented in collaboration with the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust (NIVT).

The Combat Poverty Agency had specific responsibility, in 1999, for measures on developing grass-roots capacities and promoting the inclusion of women; promoting the inclusion of vulnerable groups and cross-border community reconciliation.

At the outset of the Peace and Reconciliation Programme ADM/CPA had established three Local Advisory Committees. These address Economic Development, Community Development/Human Resources and Cross-border Development. Following the 1998 review of these advisory structures, they continued, during 1999, to contribute towards the development of the ADM/CPA Programme.

As project expenditure increased during 1999, ADM/CPA recruited more staff to its financial team. This was to ensure further efficiencies in processing project returns, in proactively identifying projects requiring support and in ensuring full compliance with the Monitoring

Committee’s reporting requirements. The Programme established its internal audit team during the year and recruited an audit co-ordinator and audit assistant.

Additional office space was required because of the extra staff. ADM/CPA moved its Monaghan Headquarters to the newly built European Union House, and now share space with the INTERREG Programme. The new offices were officially opened in June 1999 by An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern, T.D. Outreach offices, located throughout the border counties, continued to offer support and advice to local projects. A new office was opened in Belturbet, County Cavan and there is now an outreach office in each of the border counties.

Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion and Promoting Reconciliation in the Border Counties

The closing date of April 1999 for project applications triggered an overwhelming number of new funding applications, many of which had been developed as a result of small development grants from the Programme. By July ADM/CPA’s funding allocation to projects was completed for the entire Peace and Reconciliation Programme (1995–1999). In September, however, ADM/CPA successfully negotiated an additional allocation of IRE1 million, which was made available for community-led development projects. Towards the end of the year a further IRE2,673,000 was released to ADM/CPA for employment, community led development and social inclusion activities.

During 1999, a total of 405 new grants to the value of IRE13,342,042 were approved. 68 of these were supported under the cross-border measure.

ADM/CPA continued to support its funded projects at a number of different levels including the provision of:

- One-to-one support to individual groups and businesses;
- Support sessions to clusters of newly-funded projects on the detail of contractual agreements and the requirements of the monitoring returns;
- A Management Training Programme to twenty projects based on the Agency's 'Managing Better Series' and individual mentor support to each participating group;
- A Management Training and Mentor Support Programme for a number of women's projects. This programme focused on general management issues as well as five priority areas for the women's sector, including gender and social analysis, lobbying, influencing policy and strategic planning.

Given the large volume of projects funded by the Peace and Reconciliation Programme, ADM/CPA sought to provide more strategic support to those groups and businesses from a local perspective. Many locally based agencies, including Area Based Partnerships, LEADER Groups, Community Development Projects, County Enterprise Boards and consortia of such agencies, availed of this funding to provide training programmes, direct mentor support to projects, and programme support through business measures.

A considerable number of funded projects had also been successful in securing funding from other sources. During 1999, ADM/CPA collaborated formally and informally with other agencies operating in the region to ensure complementarity of support and to avoid duplication.

ADM/CPA further developed its strategic developmental work by delivering a range of initiatives addressing:

- **Reconciliation Awareness**, which had two main elements:
 - A series of six training sessions was completed in January 1999 and a report, *Reconciliation, Education Awareness Training*, was produced.
 - A working group, comprising the National

Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), ADM, the Combat Poverty Agency and ADM/CPA, commissioned the CDVEC Curriculum Development Unit to research reconciliation in the curriculum. This collaboration led to an initiative, which involved the participation of some 30 schools, on a cross-border curriculum project.

■ **Educational Disadvantage**

Following the completion of research throughout the region, a programme to address educational disadvantage was devised. A number of locally based consortia were supported in the development of plans to tackle local educational disadvantage. Initially, development grants were made available to facilitate a co-ordinated approach. By the end of the year 21 locally based consortia were operating successfully throughout the region.

■ **Support to the Women's Sector**

In addition to dedicated training and mentor support, a research project addressing future support requirements for the sector began at the end of the year. Results are expected in 2000.



Opportunities for Women Learning (OWL)

■ **Childcare**

The strategic childcare projects supported by ADM/CPA, both at county and regional level, continued successfully during 1999. Co-ordination of provision and networking

were core to the work. Towards the end of the year, the county and regional models, which had been developed as part of this strategic initiative, were considered under the national childcare programme and mainstreamed as part of the equality programme within the National Development Plan.

■ Youth

An innovative cross-border youth project was funded and supported by ADM/CPA in collaboration with NIVT in 1999. This initiative was sponsored by the main youth organisations on the island and was managed and delivered by young people from both sides of the border. An international conference in the Corrymeela Centre in Northern Ireland concluded the initiative.



St Anne's Youth Centre, Sligo

■ Local authorities

Support to local authorities to further develop community-based approaches in their jurisdictions continued during 1999. Additional funding was granted for a number of initiatives including work with local tenants groups and strategic development work

■ Border Towns Retail and Services Sector

This initiative which began by identifying and prioritising towns and villages that had been most affected by the conflict, was developed further during 1999. Some 162 businesses made successful applications to the Programme and a total of IR£669,589 was allocated. Funding supported shop frontage improvement, technology upgrading and staff training provision, contributing towards the improvement and sustainability of the businesses. Grant aid was made available subject to financial contributions from the businesses as well as a commitment to attend a specialised retail training programme, which was subsequently developed during 2000.

■ Loan Funds for the Disadvantaged Private Sector

For the second tranche of the Peace and Reconciliation Programme (1998 and 1999) ADM/CPA were given responsibility for a substantial part of measure 5.1 – Investment Promotion. At that mid-point in the Peace and Reconciliation Programme other locally based agencies had

developed strategies to enable long term unemployed people, women and other disadvantaged individuals start their own businesses. In support of this activity, ADM/CPA devised a programme whereby county-based consortia, comprising Area based

Partnerships, LEADER Companies, County Enterprise Boards, County Enterprise Loan Funds and the local Department of Social Community and Family Affairs offices were granted loan funds in support of the target groups. During 1999, 6 county-based consortia had accessed some IR£425,000 by way of loan support to the disadvantaged people starting and developing their businesses.

■ Endowment Fund

The establishment of a cross-border endowment fund to facilitate innovative work on social inclusion and reconciliation and to ensure long-term funding for Peace and Reconciliation Programme projects after the conclusion of the Programme was a major priority for ADM/CPA during the year. This venture included NIVT as the cross-border partner and included consultation with a number of community and voluntary organisations (Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action, Rural Community Network, Community Worker's Co-operative.) It was also supported by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. A business plan was submitted and approved by the overall Programme Monitoring Committee under the Flagship Initiative. In the development of this project, discussions were held with government

departments, European Commission personnel and other players, including the Ulster Community Investment Trust, to ascertain the most effective way of implementing the fund. Unfortunately, due to technical restrictions on funding and endowments, the European Commission (EC) was ultimately unable to approve funding to this initiative. The funds were then re-allocated for employment, community led development and social inclusion activities.

Learning Lessons and Deepening Understanding of Poverty, Social Exclusion and Peace-building in the Border Counties

The Combat Poverty Agency sought to ensure that policy and procedural lessons from the Peace and Reconciliation Programme, and especially its use of strategic initiatives, were channeled into national policy. This was especially true of the Childcare Initiative in the context of the *National Development Plan*. Furthermore the need for support mechanisms for women's groups was raised at a meeting of the National Women's Council. The Department of Education was kept informed of the work of the ADM/CPA Educational Disadvantage initiative. The recommendations from the cross-border research, which considered gaps and barriers to cross-border development, were reported to the newly established North-South Ministerial Council.

A Research Sub-committee comprising personnel from the Combat Poverty Agency, ADM and ADM/CPA was established in support of the research function of the ADM/CPA Peace and Reconciliation Programme. To further the research strategy, a report was produced documenting the experience and producing an analysis of the current ADM/CPA Peace and Reconciliation Programme. This focussed on the four main themes of reconciliation, cross-border development, social inclusion and socio-economic progression. Dermot Ahern T.D., Minister of Social Community and Family Affairs, launched the report.

A research database on all the research work undertaken by funded projects in the border region and on a cross-

border basis, some 440 in total, was established and developed to ensure that organisations throughout the region and nationally, could access information and build on the experience of specific types of projects.

ADM/CPA had very useful ongoing contacts and dialogue with the Department of Finance, throughout the year. It also liaised regularly with the other government departments involved in the P. and R. Programme. These included the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs; The Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation; The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment; the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Education and Science. Towards the end of the year, ADM/CPA began reporting to the Special EU Programmes Body, which had been established under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement.

In relation to the strategic developmental work ADM/CPA focused its energies on the implementation of the programmes of work in the earlier part of the year. Towards the end of 1999 a number of reports documenting the lessons of this work were published. Of particular note was the report, *Reconciliation in the Curriculum*, which was launched by Mr Michéal Martin T.D., Minister for Education and Science in November.

Working with the Media

Throughout 1999 ADM/CPA built on and continued their publicity strategy. Projects were encouraged to publicise their work through public launches and/or seminars. The local, regional and national press was targeted by the Programme on a regular basis, and significant press coverage was obtained for key events.

There was ongoing liaison with Carr/Totus Communications, who were contracted by the overall Peace Programme to support publicity on behalf of programme implementers.

Promoting Cross-border Activity and Influencing Cross-border Institutions

The ADM/CPA and NIVT Cross-border Advisory Committee completed its allocation of IR£2,178,948 and Stg£2,967,682 to 201 groups on the island during 1999.

This brought the overall number of projects for the complete cross-border measure to 616. Projects supported under this measure ranged from general community development through training and employment to provision for key sectoral areas including victims of the violence, ex-prisoners and their families, women, youth groups and other target groups of the programme.

The Cross-border Advisory Committee also implemented a significant part of its cross-border strategy during 1999. The main focus of the strategy was to raise awareness of cross-border work at all levels within society and identify gaps in and barriers to cross-border community development. On every occasion the Committee sought the involvement of the newly emerging political structures on the island.

During the year a number of seminars were hosted including:

- “Cross-border Community Reconciliation: Practice and Principles”, featured the views of the main NI Assembly parties.
- A joint ADM/CPA and INTERREG conference “Common Goals for the Border Region” considered opportunities for future cross-border development in the economic, social cultural and environmental contexts.
- ADM/CPA and NIVT also participated in a seminar led by Democratic Dialogue: “Inter-regional Co-operation in a European Context: the Irish Case”. The Agency also contributed to a follow-up publication by Democratic Dialogue entitled, *No Frontiers: North-South Integration in Ireland*.

The publications which emerged from the cross-border strategy included:

- *Border Crossings – Lessons from the Peace Programme*, in collaboration with NIVT and Co-operation Ireland, documented the main issues facing cross-border community and business development. It highlighted a number of practical and policy-orientated recommendations, and was disseminated to policy-makers and local communities.
- *The Border, Personal Reflections, North and South*, was launched by an Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern T.D., in

November and included personal stories of peoples’ experiences of the border. A wide range of people from all traditions on the island and beyond contributed to the book which was sold nationally and internationally.

Influencing the Peace 2 Programme

During 1999 an assessment of the ADM/CPA Peace and Reconciliation Programme was completed and the report disseminated widely. The report documented the lessons from the Programme and highlighted a number of recommendations in the context of any future Peace programme. The report was disseminated to policy makers, particularly those lead government departments with responsibility for the design of the Peace 2 Programme.

In September ADM/CPA and its constituent Local Advisory Committees contributed to the Department of Finance’s consultation seminar on the Operational Programme for Peace 2 (2000–2004). In the last quarter of the year as the Operational Programme was being developed ADM/CPA, along with other implementers of the first Peace Programme, commented on the emerging document which was submitted as a joint North South Operational Programme in early 2000.

Supporting Actions

As well as working towards achieving specific targets and goals, the Combat Poverty Agency carries out a number of core actions that support the advancement of its strategic aims. These include:

- maintaining a library and responding to queries;
- promoting awareness of poverty and social justice in the post-primary curriculum;
- publishing a quarterly magazine, an annual pre-budget submission and an annual report.

Library and Information Service

The Agency continued to maintain its library in 1999 and responded to many queries on poverty, social exclusion and community development. The service also delivered advice, support and inputs to a wide range of community and voluntary groups.

During 1999 there were 326 visitors to the library, with a very high level of usage from those working in the community/voluntary sector.

Work is proceeding to make the library catalogue available online. This will be a significant development in the provision of information services to external users.

A contract for the provision of library services was issued to the selected consultant.

Curriculum Development

Work to develop and support curriculum opportunities relating to awareness of poverty and social exclusion for post-primary schools was consolidated throughout the year. The Agency continued to work with the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee Curriculum Development Unit on supporting the "Poverty, the Curriculum and the Classroom" project. An external evaluation of the first phase of the project was commissioned. The project focused on teaching poverty and social justice issues through the curriculum for Civic, Social and Political Education at Junior Cycle level and the

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

The Agency also initiated work to assess the extent of community and voluntary sector involvement in curriculum development, relating to poverty and social justice in Ireland. A telephone survey was conducted of Irish organisations on their current work in promoting poverty awareness in schools, with a view to developing the role of the community and voluntary sector. Following this, discussions on the possibility of co-operation on schools education were held with the Society of St Vincent de Paul, the Children's Rights Alliance and Focus Ireland. Initial plans are to develop a joint website for schools, teachers, students and parents. This involves collaboration by St Vincent de Paul, Children's Rights Alliance, the Combat Poverty Agency, the EU-funded Integra Project and The Equality Authority.

A dissemination strategy was devised and implemented for the 'Fair Shares' Education Resource for schools and youth groups.

The Agency was involved with WEBS Network which seeks to link local and global issues in curriculum development. A promotional leaflet was produced as a result of this and the Agency participated in a number of the Network's sub-groups.

Ongoing monitoring of curriculum development opportunities was maintained through liaison with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment and the Department of Education and Science Programme Support Teams.

The Agency, with the Department of Education and Science's Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) Support Service and the National Committee for Development Education conducted a small-scale evaluation with teachers and students, 'Exploring Contemporary Issues'. This was pilot material produced in 1998 as a guide to Module 1 of the Social Education Programme in the Leaving Certificate Applied curriculum.

Publications and Reports

Poverty Today, the Agency's quarterly magazine, was published throughout the year. A new, regular supplement, *Anti-Poverty Work in Action*, was introduced which highlights examples of local anti-poverty work and lessons gained from such activity. Featured projects experienced very strong positive feedback from readers with enquiries and visits from other groups working in related areas.

The Strategic Plan 1999–2001 was published and launched.

In accordance with the Agency's statutory obligations, the Annual Report for 1998 was submitted to the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs and published.

The Agency published several other reports, including policy proposals in a pre-budget submission; a submission to national agreement negotiations and research reports and resource materials for the community and voluntary sector. These are detailed throughout the Annual Report.

The annual Combat Poverty Agency calendar was produced and widely distributed. The calendar's theme related to child poverty.

Promotion of the Agency's Work

General promotion of the work of the Combat Poverty Agency took many forms, notably the publication of an Agency leaflet which was distributed with the new strategic plan, the development and promotion of the Agency's website, and meetings with political parties to promote the work of the Agency.

The Agency's website was launched by the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs, Dermot Ahern T.D., in December. (See www.cpa.ie.) A website promotional leaflet was published and up to 10,000 of these have now been distributed.

The Agency met with Fine Gael, the Green Party, the Labour Party and Sinn Féin elected representatives and

follow-up contacts ensued.

Agency staff were involved in, or spoke at, a number of seminars, meetings, conferences, workshops of other statutory bodies and community and voluntary organisations throughout the year.

Media Liaison

As well as responding to media queries throughout the year, the Combat Poverty Agency regularly issued press releases on a wide range of topics including adult education, women's poverty, child poverty, housing, pre-budget proposals, post-budget comments and proposals for a new national agreement.

A guide for the media on sources of information on poverty in Ireland was received in draft form for publication later.



Developing the Agency

In pursuing its strategic objectives and goals, the Combat Poverty Agency aims to manage and develop its human, organizational, financial and technical resources in the most efficient and effective manner and to facilitate the personal and professional development of its staff. It recognises that the ability and commitment of its staff is a vital contributing factor to the success of its overall work and thus gives high priority to its human-resource development policies.

The Agency is committed to:

- Meeting fully its statutory and regulatory obligations;
- Consulting regularly with stakeholders in an open, consultative and transparent manner;
- The effective, efficient and economical use of the resources available to it;
- Delivery of high-quality services.



(L to R) The Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs, Dermot Ahern T.D. with Hugh Frazer, Director, Combat Poverty Agency and Anna Lee, Chairman, Combat Poverty Agency at the launch of the Strategic Plan 1999-2001.

Strategic Plan

In May, the Agency's new Strategic Plan, 1999–2001, which had been developed following an extensive process of consultation and planning by the Board and

staff and which had been approved by the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs, was launched. A report on the impact of the previous Strategic Plan informed the strategic planning process. Work began on establishing performance indicators, monitoring and review procedures for the new Strategic Plan.

An annual workplan, based on the Strategic Plan was developed and subsequently translated into Section and individual work plans within the Agency. These were subject to a staff audit to ensure that the plan was feasible within the Agency's staffing resources. A new Staff Policy Forum was established and meets quarterly.

Financial Administration

In relation to financial systems and procedures, work is continuing on the implementation of a new integrated computer accounts system. The Agency's budget for 1999 was prepared and a new budget structure was agreed. The 1998 financial statements were submitted to the Comptroller and Auditor General. Preparations are ongoing for the introduction of the Euro.

Work began on documenting financial and payroll management systems and preparatory work for a review of contract tendering and consultancy procedures commenced.

Information Technology

Agency staff worked throughout the year to meet the requirements for Year 2000 compliance. The upgrade of information technology, particularly e-mail, was finalised and a range of computer equipment and systems was installed. Training was provided for staff in the use of the new IT systems.

To facilitate the provision of high-quality support services to Agency staff, work started on designing a database suitable for personnel information. Initial steps were also taken to ensure procedures and systems complied with

the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act and included the provision of a preliminary staff briefing.

Human Resources Development

Following extensive consultation with Board, staff and staff unions, a Human Resource Development Policy Document was agreed for the Agency in 1999. The production of this document was the culmination of the joint efforts of management and staff, with the assistance of an external consultant, to agree a human resources policy for the Agency. An implementation plan for the policy was also drafted which will be implemented in consultation with a staff working group.

The Agency continued to offer flexible working arrangements to staff through flexible working hours, job-share and part-time working arrangements. In 1999 a review of the Agency's flexitime and time off in lieu schemes commenced.

A submission was made to the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs on the Agency's staffing requirements in the light of the new strategic plan. Approval was received for two additional posts – a Policy and Research Analyst and an Executive Officer. Arising from the new Executive Officer post, staff members were consulted on a re-organisation of administration support within the Agency. In addition, an Agency post was designated a Policy Officer post on a trial basis. A number of staffing vacancies also arose during 1999.

Staff participated on a number of training programmes including skills training, conflict management and teambuilding and on Common Purpose educational initiative. The Agency's refund of educational fees programme continued to support a number of staff throughout the year.

Regular review meetings between individual staff and their managers took place.

Health and Safety

With the advice and assistance of an external health and safety consultant, and in consultation with staff, a revised Health and Safety Statement was agreed for the Agency.

An implementation plan was also drawn up. A Health and Safety Statement was also agreed for the Peace and Reconciliation Programme.

Superannuation

An information booklet on the Agency's superannuation scheme was finalised and circulated to staff. A briefing seminar on the Agency's superannuation scheme was held for staff in March 1999.

Management Styles

The Agency's senior management team continued an ongoing process of enhancing the Agency's management styles.

A Management Values Statement was drawn up and a matrix developed, to clarify management roles and responsibilities. Work is ongoing on setting minimum standards and identifying management training needs.

Agency Board Membership

In 1999, the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs appointed five new members to the Board and re-appointed the Director to the Board for a further three-year term. See Appendix one.

Records and Archive Management

The Agency continued to maintain its records and archives in accordance with the National Archives Act. The computerisation of the records management database was also developed.

Appendix

one

Board, Sub-committees and Staff

Appendix **one**

Board

There were 8 meetings of the Agency held in 1999. In addition to attendance at Board Meetings, Members were also active on sub-committees and assisting with particular pieces of work between meetings. The attendance record of the Members of the Agency was as follows:

| | No of Meetings Attended |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Anna Lee, Chairman | 8 |
| Fionnuala Richardson ¹ | 4 |
| Fergus McCabe ¹ | 4 |
| Eoin O'Malley ¹ | 3 |
| Hugh Frazer ^{1,2} | 7 |
| Michele Power ³ | 0 |
| Berni Brady ¹ | 4 |
| Niall Fitzduff ¹ | 3 |
| Clare Farrell | 6 |
| Brian Kenny | 7 |
| Feargus O Raghallaigh | 4 |
| Liam Barrett | 8 |
| Sr Stanislaus Kennedy | 6 |
| Frank Mulcahy | 6 |
| Pearse O'Hanrahan | 2 |
| Bernadette Lacey | 5 |
| Benny Devlin ⁴ | 3 |
| Alice Robertson ⁴ | 3 |
| Rachel Farrell ^{4,5} | 1 |
| Fintan Farrell ⁴ | 2 |
| Niall O'Keefe ⁴ | 2 |

1 Term of office ended 2nd July 1999.

2 Re-appointed from 14th September 1999.

3 Resigned March 1999.

4 Appointed from 14th September 1999.

5 Resigned 17th December 1999.

Sub-Committees

Finance and Personnel

Anna Lee (Chair), Brian Kenny, Clare Farrell, Fionnuala Richardson (to 2nd July 1999), Feargus O Raghallaigh, Hugh Frazer.

Advisory Group on Local Government Pilot Programme

Anna Lee, Chairperson, Combat Poverty Agency
 Frank Mulcahy, Combat Poverty Agency
 Pearse O'Hanrahan, Combat Poverty Agency
 Sean Riordan, Institute of Public Administration
 Mary Kennedy, Department of Social Community and Family Affairs
 Anne McGeeney, Programme for Peace and Reconciliation
 Kathy Walsh, Programme for Peace and Reconciliation
 Terry O'Neill, County and City Managers' Association
 Chris McInerney, Community Workers Co-op
 David Connelly, Dublin Inner City Partnership
 Mary-Ann McGlynn, Drogheda Partnership Company
 Willie Carroll, Kildare County Council
 Sabina Gunther, Department of the Environment and Local Government
 Sharon Keane, South County Dublin Community Platform

EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, Joint Management Committee

Anna Lee (Joint Chair)
 Terry Larkin (Joint Chair)

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Anastasia Crickley | (until February 1999) |
| Marie Friel | (until February 1999) |
| Adge King | |
| Marie O'Leary | |
| Avila Kilmurray | |
| Hugh Frazer | |
| Tony Crooks | |
| Tom Curran | (until June 1999) |
| Niall Fitzduff | (until August 1999) |
| Déaglán Ó Briain | |
| Pearse O'Hanrahan | |
| Fionnuala Richardson | (until June 1999) |
| Bob Wilson | (from March 1999) |
| Kathleen Stack | |
| Majella Mulkeen | (from March 1999 until December 1999) |
| Maria Moynihan | (from January 2000) |
| Frank Mulcahy | (from January 2000) |
| Sr Stanislaus Kennedy | (from January 2000) |

A number of local advisory committees support the Peace Programme's work. Membership is as follows:

Community Development/Human Resources Committee

Anastasia Crickley, Joint Management Committee (Chair)

Pamela Andison, CLASP

Aidan Browne, Cavan

Brian Buckley, National Forum of People with Disabilities

Marion Byrne, ADM

Pamela Culkin, Sligo Partnership

Tom Daly, North-Western Health Board

Billy Davey, North Eastern Health Board

Jim Devins, Border Regional Authority, Sligo

Mary Devlin, Primary Sector, Department of Education

Jim Devenney, Border Regional Authority, Donegal

Mary Drumm, Dept of Social Community and Family Affairs.

Ann Donegan, FÁS (NW)

Cathal Gallagher, Udarás na Gaeltachta

Peter Galligan, Cavan Partnership

Margaret Glackin, Action Inishowen

Valerie Higgins, Sligo Northside Community

Tom Hobson, International Fund for Ireland

Mary Murphy, Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs

Eamon Murphy, FÁS

Gearóid McEochaidh, Community Connections, CDP

Michael McMonagle, North Western Health Board

Paddy McEaney, Coxes Demesne Youth & Community Project

Máire Ní Ghógáin, Schools Inspectorate

Liam O'Connor, Monaghan

Pearse O'Hanrahan, Dundalk

Gerry Rock, Drogheda Community Development Project

Peter Savage, Border Regional Authority (Louth)

Deirdre Shanley, Dept of Social Community and Family Affairs (NW)

Pat Shields, Dept of Social Community and Family Affairs (NE)

Margaret Toner, Glenboe Community Action Group

Economic Development Committee

Tom Curran, Joint Management Committee (Chair)

Harry Brennan, IFI

Gary Carville, Monaghan Partnership

Mary Coleman, Border Regional Authority, (Cavan)

Seán Corcoran, Cavan

Ronan Denny, Louth County Enterprise Board

Barry Egan, NW Finisklin Business Park

Tony Ferguson, Border Regional Authority (Leitrim)

Fintan Flannery, Lifford/Clonleigh Resource Centre

Marie Gallagher, FÁS (NW)
 Adge King, Joint Management Committee
 Pat Love, Leitrim Partnership
 Joe Lowe, Leitrim County Enterprise Board
 Francis Murray, Leitrim Partnership
 Gerard Mullaney, Sligo LEADER Partnership
 Margaret Malone, Cavan/Monaghan Rural Co-operative
 Siobhán Ní Grianna, Udarás na Gaeltachta
 Seán Ó Maolchallann, ICTU
 Michael Quigley, Sligo LEADER Partnership
 Patricia Quinn, Comhdháil Oileáin na hÉireann
 Mary Ryan, Business Innovation Centre
 Sheila Rogers, Leitrim Partnership
 Vincent Reynolds, Cavan County Enterprise Board
 Shiela Shields, National Women's Council/OPEN
 Patsy Trainor, Border Regional Authority (Monaghan)
 Bob Wilson, Dundalk Employment Partnership

Cross-Border Committee

Hugh Frazer, Joint Management Committee (Joint Chair)
 Avila Kilmurray, Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust (Joint Chair)

Mark Adair, Community Relations Council
 Mark Conway, Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust
 Anastasia Crickley, Joint Management Committee (until February 1999)
 Michael Curran, International Fund for Ireland
 Therese Devlin, Rural Community Network (until March 1999)
 Niall Fitzduff, Rural Community Network (from August 1999)
 Aideen McGinley, Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust (until November 1999)
 Jacqueline McKeown, Co-Operation Ireland (from May 1999)
 Marie O'Leary, Joint Management Committee

Staff (as at 9/6/00)

Director

Hugh Frazer

Administration

Seán Mistéil

Head of Organisational Management and Development

Eileen Scanlon ¹

Head of Administration

Maria O'Neill ¹

Finance Officer/Administrator

Mary Byrne

Clerical Officer

Ann Riordan

Executive Officer

Cora Murray

Receptionist/Typist

Vacant

Messenger/Cleaner

Projects

Margaret Barry

Head of Projects

June Meehan ¹

Head of Projects

Liz Chaloner ^{1,3}

Projects Manager

Liz Sullivan

Projects Officer

Julie Smyth ²

Projects Officer

Kate Ennals ²

Projects Officer

Ann Moore

Clerical Officer

Research

Helen Johnston

Head of Research

Jim Walsh

Policy & Research Analyst

Carmel Corrigan ^{1,3}

Research Officer

Tracey O'Brien ^{1,3}

Research Officer

Vacant

Research Officer

Information and Public Education

Joan O'Flynn

Head of Information

Clare Farrell ²

Policy Officer

John-Mark McCafferty ^{2,3}

Policy Officer

Margaret O'Gorman ³

Information Officer

Catherine Gaul

Executive Officer

June O'Brien

Clerical Officer

Yvonne O'Roarke

Clerical Officer

Superannuation

Under Section 14 of the Combat Poverty Agency Act 1986, a Non-Contributory Superannuation Scheme and a Contributory Spouse's and Children's Scheme have been approved by the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs for staff in the Agency. A number of staff are employed on a secondment basis from other organisations and have retained their membership of these organisations' superannuation schemes.

Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989

The Agency reviewed its Safety Statement during 1999 in consultation with staff. The Agency, including the Peace and Reconciliation Programme office, continues to implement appropriate measures to protect the safety and health of all employees and visitors within its offices.

1 Part-time posts.

2 Job share posts.

3 Temporary posts, to fill consequential vacancies arising from a secondment and revised working arrangements.

The EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation has two joint managers. The rest of the staff team is employed jointly by ADM and CPA. They are:

Managers

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ann McGeeney | Joint Manager, Combat Poverty Agency |
| Paddy McGinn | Joint Manager, ADM |

Finance and Administration

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mary Kelly | Financial Administrator |
| Rosalind O'Neill | Finance Officer |
| Colette Nulty | Finance Officer |
| Paula Clerkin | Clerical Officer - Appraisal/Finance |
| Roisin Bogue | Clerical Officer - Finance |
| Maura Sullivan | Clerical Officer - Finance |
| Amanda Treanor | Clerical Officer - Finance |
| Diane Bell | Clerical Officer - Finance |
| Maria O'Sullivan | Clerical Officer - Finance |
| Ailish Gildernew | Office Administrator |
| Áine MacNeill | Receptionist/Secretary |
| Christine Lehmann | Clerical Officer - Database |
| Alice Healy | Clerical Officer |
| Frances Lavery | Audit Co-Ordinator |
| Catriona O'Reilly | Audit Assistant |

Development

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Roisin Keenan | Development Worker - Leitrim |
| Donald McDonald | Development Worker - Monaghan |
| Ray Rogers | Development Worker - Louth |
| Paul Skinnader | Development Worker - Donegal |
| Tina Tully | Development Worker - Cavan |
| Paddy Logue | Cross-Border Development Worker |

Research Officer

| |
|-------------|
| Kathy Walsh |
|-------------|

Appendix

two

Projects Funded by the Agency

Appendix **two**

Evaluation Grants 1999

£

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Ballybeg Community Development Project, Waterford | 500 |
| Blakestown/Mountain View N.Y.P., Dublin | 3,500 |
| CARP – Killinarden Ltd, Dublin | 6,000 |
| Catholic Youth Council (Tallaght Travellers Youth Service), Dublin | 3,000 |
| Children’s Group Link, Waterford City | 4,500 |
| Community Connections (Rural Lift), Cavan | 1,500 |
| Eigse Dun Dealgan, Louth | 2,500 |
| Fingal Education Resource Group, Dublin | 3,000 |
| Greater Blanchardstown Lone Parent Steering Group, Dublin | 6,000 |
| HAIL, Dublin | 4,000 |
| I.R.D. Duhallow Ltd, Cork | 5,000 |
| Merchant’s Quay Project, Dublin | 4,500 |
| Northside Centre for the Unemployed, Dublin | 800 |
| SONAS Housing Association, Dublin | 2,500 |
| St Munchins Family Resource Centre, (St Munchins Sunshine Crèche), Limerick | 5,000 |
| Tallaght Partnership, (Tallaght Family Literacy Project/Tallaght Traveller After Schools Project), Dublin | 5,000 |
| Tallaght Women’s Forum, Dublin | 5,000 |
| Cork Rape Crisis Centre, Cork | 5,000 |
| Open Heart House, Dublin | 2,020 |
| Total | 69,320 |

Public Awareness Grants 1999

£

| | |
|---|-------|
| Access Ireland (Refugee Social Integration Project), Dublin | 2,500 |
| After Care Recovery Group, Dublin | 2,280 |
| Ait na nDaoine, Louth | 2,300 |
| Ballymun Community Action Programme, Dublin | 2,500 |
| Ballymun Women’s Resource Centre, Dublin | 2,500 |
| Bray Travellers Development Network, Wicklow | 2,800 |
| Centre for Independent Living, Dublin | 4,500 |
| Children in Hospital Ireland, Dublin | 2,000 |
| Clondalkin Traveller Development Group (South Dublin Community Platform) Dublin | 2,000 |
| Clondalkin Women’s Network, Dublin | 3,000 |
| Community Women Education Initiative, Cork | 2,500 |
| Enniscorthy Travellers Support Group, Wexford | 2,282 |
| Family Resource Centre, Inchicore, Dublin | 2,000 |
| Galway One World Centre, Galway | 2,500 |

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Galway Simon Community, Galway | 1,350 |
| Inter Agency Drugs Project, (North Inner City Drugs Task Force/Inter Agency Drugs Project) Dublin | 1,580 |
| IRD South East Galway (IRD South East Galway/Tiernascragh Development Group), Galway | 3,000 |
| Irish Council of People with Disability (Kildare Network of People with Disabilities) | 3,000 |
| Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed, Dublin | 3,000 |
| Irish Pre-School Playgroups Association, Dublin | 3,000 |
| Irish Rural Link, Community Platform, Galway | 8,000 |
| Limerick Travellers Development Group, Limerick | 3,000 |
| Mountmellick Development Association, Laois | 1,500 |
| Muintearas, an Tógra Oideachais Gaeltachta, Gaillimhe | 1,200 |
| National Travellers Women's Forum, Galway | 3,000 |
| South East Network (South East Network/Community Technical Aid), Dublin | 2,000 |
| St Munchins Family Resource Centre, Limerick | 1,500 |
| STAY Project (St Aengus Neighbourhood Youth Project), Dublin | 3,000 |
| West Limerick Independent Living, Limerick | 1,650 |
| Wicklow Community Platform Planning Group, Wicklow | 2,286 |
| Women's Aid, Dublin | 2,500 |
| ADAPT Limerick | 2,000 |
| African Refugee Network | 2,250 |
| Calypso Productions | 3,500 |
| Clare Haven House | 2,750 |
| Clare Women's Network | 2,500 |
| Community Media Network | 2,000 |
| Dublin Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign | 1,000 |
| Tallaght Refugee Working Group | 800 |
| Open Channel TV | 1,900 |
| Total | 98,928 |

Research Grants 1999

£

| | |
|---|-------|
| African Refugee Network, Dublin | 2,500 |
| Alliance for Work Forum, Dublin | 1,500 |
| Aontas, Dublin | 5,000 |
| Ballymun Youth Action Project Ltd, Dublin | 3,000 |
| Cáirde Ltd, Dublin | 1,000 |
| Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups, Dublin | 4,800 |
| Clare Haven House, Clare | 3,000 |
| Clondalkin Partnership, Dublin | 1,000 |
| Clondalkin Travellers Development Group, Dublin | 3,000 |
| Clondalkin Women's Network, Dublin | 5,000 |
| Clones Fáilte (Clones Fáilte/Coiste na nIarchimí), Monaghan | 4,000 |
| Community Connections, Cavan | 4,000 |
| Community Workers Co-Operative, Galway | 4,000 |

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Dublin Simon Community, Dublin | 4,000 |
| Energy Action Ltd, Dublin | 7,500 |
| European Anti-Poverty Network Ltd, Dublin | 1,000 |
| Focus Ireland, Dublin | 4,000 |
| Forum of People with Disability, Dublin | 800 |
| Irish Refugee Council Ltd, Dublin | 5,000 |
| Muscular Dystrophy Ireland, Dublin | 2,000 |
| National Women's Council of Ireland, Dublin | 5,000 |
| National Youth Council of Ireland, Dublin | 3,000 |
| Offaly/Kildare Lifestart Project, Offaly | 4,000 |
| Pavee Point, Dublin | 4,500 |
| Ronanstown Community Childcare, Dublin | 1,000 |
| Rural Resettlement, Clare | 1,250 |
| Schizophrenia Association of Ireland, Dublin | 4,000 |
| St Munchin's Family Resource Centre, Limerick | 1,000 |
| Traveller Visibility Group Ltd, Cork | 4,500 |
| Women's Community Project, Mullingar, Westmeath | 1,000 |
| Total | 95,350 |

Poverty, Drug Use and Policy Grants 1999 – Core Funding **£**

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Community Action Project, Ballymun | 15,000 |
| Franciscan Social Justice Initiative – Merchant's Quay | 15,000 |
| Coalition of Communities Against Drugs | 15,000 |
| Addiction Response Crumlin | 15,000 |
| Athlone Youth Community Project | 10,400 |
| Youth Action Project, Ballymun | 15,000 |
| Drogheda Youth Sector Computer Scheme | 3,000 |
| Total | 88,400 |

Demonstration Programme on Educational Disadvantage – Core Funding

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Tralee Education Network, Co. Kerry | 35,000 |
| Network on Educational Disadvantage, Tuam Area, Co. Galway | 35,000 |
| Drogheda Youth Educational Network, Co. Louth | 35,000 |
| Tallaght Partnership, Dublin | 35,000 |
| Total | 140,000 |

Occasional Grants 1999 **£**

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Community Workers Co-op for the Share the Wealth Campaign | 9,000 |
| INOUE for the Community Pillar | 9,500 |
| Partners in Mission | 5,000 |
| Total | 23,500 |

Research Fellowships 1999

PhDs Awarded 1999

- Maureen Lyons on 'The Transition of Married Women and other Women with Children in the Lower Socio-economic Groups from Home Duties to the Labour Market via State-run Education and Training Programmes';
- Colm O'Reardon on 'The Political Economy of Inequality in Advanced Countries: The Irish Case in Comparative Perspective'.

Awarded in 1998 for two and a half years

Francis Houghton on 'Health and Inequality: An Investigation into the Relationship Between Health and Relative Deprivation in the Mid-West.'

No new research fellowships were awarded in 1999.

Appendix

three

**EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation
Grants approved 1999**

Appendix **three**

The Agency, in collaboration with Area Development Management(ADM) Ltd, implements a number of measures under the Peace and Reconciliation Programme.

In 1999 the following grants were approved under Measure 3.4 Cross-Border Community Reconciliation; Measure 4.1 Developing Grassroots Capacity and Promoting the Inclusion of Women and Measure 4.4 Promoting the Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups.

For details of projects under other measures, please refer to ADM's Annual Report and the annual report of ADM/CPA Peace and Reconciliation Programme.

MEASURE 3.4 – CROSS-BORDER COMMUNITY RECONCILIATION £

| | |
|--|------------|
| Lucan Youth Centre Development Project | 42,250.00 |
| Cross-Border Women's Network | 55,000.00 |
| Horizon Project | 160,050.00 |
| Education for Mutual Understanding | 52,900.00 |
| Irish Rural Link | 31,929.00 |
| Between Ltd | 50,000.00 |
| Telework Ireland | 25,000.00 |
| North-West Women's Consortium | 20,753.00 |
| 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World | 26,099.00 |
| St Angela's College of Education | 15,000.00 |
| Gaisce: The President's Award | 30,645.00 |
| Rosses Point Heritage Association | 7,500.00 |
| Interface Centre | 50,000.00 |
| Irish Genealogy Limited | 5,000.00 |
| PACT (Partnership for Activity & Cultural Tourism) | 50,000.00 |
| The Educational Trust | 94,185.00 |
| Northern Rhythms | 81,665.00 |
| Zion Trust | 46,500.00 |
| Monaghan/Portadown Partnership Ltd | 13,750.00 |
| The Shanty Educational Project | 43,500.00 |
| Human Rights Education Project | 129,440.00 |
| The Glenree Enquiry | 29,000.00 |
| Donegal Local Development Company | 28,000.00 |
| Strabane Lifford Development Committee | 3,000.00 |
| Glenwood Park Residents Association | 3,000.00 |
| Gaisce The Presidents Award | 28,225.00 |
| Dochas Ireland | 3,500.00 |
| Co-operation North Group – The Bungalow | 1,500.00 |
| Dublin Common Purpose | 44,425.00 |

| | £ |
|---|-----------|
| Boomerang (Young People's Theatre Co.) | 57,000.00 |
| St. Mary's Lone Parent Group | 3,130.00 |
| Friendly Care Group | 2,500.00 |
| Donegal Youth Service | 21,890.00 |
| FALCON | 27,200.00 |
| Yeats Society Sligo | 10,000.00 |
| Border Horizons Ltd | 50,000.00 |
| New Opportunities for Carers Information Technology | 3,000.00 |
| Community Youth Programme(DYS/DLDC) | 2,950.98 |
| NICDA Social Economy Agency | 53,480.00 |
| MAD Foster Carers (Monaghan, Armagh, Dungannon) | 10,000.00 |
| Virginia Agricultural Show Society | 2,500.00 |
| CORI (Conference of Religious in Ireland) | 15,859.00 |
| NUIM Poverty Project | 10,000.00 |
| Fáilte Abhaile | 68,478.00 |
| South Sligo Resource & Development Co-op | 3,000.00 |
| The Pushkin Prizes | 20,114.00 |
| Signs of the Times | 2,470.00 |
| Monaghan Quality Lamb Producers Co-Operation Ltd | 5,000.00 |
| Cross Border Drama Development | 18,810.00 |
| Cranford National School | 2,100.00 |
| Scoil Mhuire (Convent of Mercy) | 47,010.00 |
| Banada Development Agency | 900.00 |
| Cross-Border Community Development Project | 3,000.00 |
| Interfaith Project | 9,640.00 |
| HAWK | 3,000.00 |
| Glenfarne Active Age Group | 5,000.00 |
| North West Rural Transport Forum (NWRTF) | 32,263.00 |
| Transition Year Programme Mountmellick Community School | 2,140.00 |
| Teen Between | 22,190.00 |
| Armagh District Partnership | 5,500.00 |
| Monaghan Youth Federation | 6,500.00 |
| Riverstown Enterprise Development (Sligo) Ltd | 45,000.00 |
| Dhá Éan Theatre Company | 48,680.00 |
| Force 10 | 6,767.62 |
| Drumlin Players | 6,000.00 |
| Aghabog Women's Resource Group | 10,900.00 |
| Faith & Light South of the Border | 3,000.00 |
| Living with Difference | 10,000.00 |
| Co. Monaghan Arts Education Programme | 28,500.00 |
| Town of Monaghan Co-op & Agricultural Dairy Society | 20,750.00 |
| Smithboro ICA | 1,338.00 |
| Louth Youth Federation | 12,228.00 |
| An Cumann Gaelach | 8,830.00 |
| Smashing Times Theatre Company Ltd | 4,970.00 |
| Rural Mental Health Project | 43,680.00 |

| | £ |
|--|----------------------------|
| WEFT (Women Educating for Transformation) | 60,000.00 |
| Tar Isteach | 3,000.00 |
| National Childminding Association of Ireland | 3,000.00 |
| Breaking Through Ltd | 40,436.00 |
| Ballymun Youth Action Project | 37,490.00 |
| Irish Rural Link – Promoting Cross-Border Networking | 10,000.00 |
| North/South Cross Community Project | 13,500.00 |
| Power Partnership | 24,530.00 |
| Lough Allen Region Community | 9,488.00 |
| Teach na Fáilte | 28,420.00 |
| | <u>2,178,948.60</u> |

MEASURE 4.1

- DEVELOPING GRASSROOTS CAPACITY & PROMOTING THE INCLUSION OF WOMEN

| | £ |
|---|------------|
| ACCORD – Peace Project | 20,301.00 |
| Donegal Women’s Refuge Group Ltd | 33,679.00 |
| Dochas: Women’s Group | 44,000.00 |
| Parents, Teachers & Friends Mercy College Sligo | 42,730.13 |
| Community Workers Co-op, Donegal Branch | 37,000.00 |
| Letterkenny Women’s Centre | 41,946.00 |
| Drogheda Area Women’s Network | 75,500.00 |
| Drogheda Women’s Refuge Group | 48,775.00 |
| County Leitrim Partnership | 55,904.11 |
| (OWL) Opportunities for Women Learning | 182,800.00 |
| Letterkenny Women’s Centre | 76,982.71 |
| Lifestyle Development Group Limited | 39,375.00 |
| Mevagh Resource Group | 94,473.00 |
| Donegal Local Development | 195,593.00 |
| Greencastle Community Development Company | 20,305.06 |
| Drogheda Community Forum | 30,103.00 |
| Sligo Rape Crisis Centre | 41,726.93 |
| Upstate Theatre Project | 57,242.00 |
| Women’s Sub-Committee of Cavan/Monaghan Rural Development Co-op | 48,000.00 |
| Co. Cavan Partnerships | 44,100.00 |
| Pátríocht Ghaeltacht Thir Chonail | 10,000.00 |
| Sligo Leader Partnership | 19,145.00 |
| Sligo Leader Partnership | 18,000.00 |
| Community Contact Centre Ltd | 18,778.00 |
| St Michael’s Family Life Centre | 50,000.00 |
| Monaghan Women’s Refuge | 8,810.00 |
| Droichead Arts Centre | 47,310.00 |
| Cavan Arts Centre Group | 7,000.00 |
| “Suile” Artlink & Advisory Group | 60,500.00 |
| Mná Féin | 3,000.00 |
| Working Group on Violence Against Women | 4,500.00 |

| | £ |
|---|----------------------------|
| Dunfanaghy Community Resource Association Ltd. | 54,912.00 |
| Muirhevnamor Community Council | 5,000.00 |
| Crossroads and Killygordon Women's Group | 5,000.00 |
| County Donegal Second Chance Education Consortium | 2,100.00 |
| Sheil Centre Project | 3,000.00 |
| Institute of Technology, Sligo | 3,000.00 |
| Castleblayney Community Development Association | 4,000.00 |
| Community Arts Forum Training | 24,160.00 |
| Aghabog Development Association | 2,500.00 |
| Bunnoe Community Association | 2,500.00 |
| Doohamlet Day Care Centre Committee | 3,000.00 |
| Carrigallen Community Centre | 4,000.00 |
| North Leitrim Women's Resource Group | 82,750.00 |
| Cootehill Community Resource House | 1,800.00 |
| Community Radio Training Programme | 6,355.00 |
| Second Chance Education Project | 93,983.00 |
| North Leitrim Youth Participation Programme | 90,000.00 |
| Termonfeckin Development Group | 1,470.00 |
| Sligo County Council – Special Projects Office | 22,000.00 |
| Raphoe Youth & Community Project | 21,942.00 |
| Sligo Leader Partnership – Support/Mentor ADM/CPA funded projects | 34,776.00 |
| Action 10 | 6,000.00 |
| St Mary's Conference | 3,000.00 |
| Sligo Leader Partnership – Lone Parents Seminar | 7,800.00 |
| Loughside Ladies Group | 2,460.00 |
| Rossinver Community Development Company | 2,000.00 |
| County Monaghan Partnership | 15,265.00 |
| Drogheda Partnership | 30,396.00 |
| Drumlane Community Hall Project | 3,000.00 |
| Castletara Community Development | 3,000.00 |
| Clones Community Forum | 70,000.00 |
| Redhills Development Association | 3,000.00 |
| Cornafean Community Development Association | 3,000.00 |
| Butlersbridge Development Association Ltd | 3,000.00 |
| Cavan Partnership Company Ltd | 15,000.00 |
| National University of Ireland | 19,000.00 |
| Dundalk Employment Partnership | 35,570.00 |
| Derry & Raphoe Action | 15,000.00 |
| Inishowen Partnership Co. | 34,327.20 |
| Donegal Local Development Company | 30,000.00 |
| North Cavan Church of Ireland | 3,000.00 |
| | <u>2,249,645.14</u> |

MEASURE 4.4
– PROMOTING THE INCLUSION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

| | £ |
|---|--------------------------|
| Irish Wheelchair Association | 98,005.00 |
| Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre | 10,000.00 |
| Outcomers Dundalk | 26,750.00 |
| Dundalk Rape Crisis Centre | 41,200.00 |
| Donegal Travellers Project | 164,362.49 |
| Sligo Leader Partnership – Small Farms Scoping Survey | 23,638.00 |
| Sligo Leader Partnership – Whole School Programme | 65,117.00 |
| Sligo Leader Partnership – Women Travellers’ Training Project | 17,362.00 |
| Sligo County Council | 33,478.00 |
| Shalomar (Finisklin Housing Association) | 35,000.00 |
| Lifestart | 9,141.00 |
| Multiple Sclerosis Society | 4,000.00 |
| Fáilte Abhaile | 16,000.00 |
| Brainwave: The Irish Epilepsy Association | 26,330.00 |
| Sligo Leader Partnership – Disability Awareness Training | 3,900.00 |
| CREW Network | 20,000.00 |
| Cavan/Monaghan Rural Development Co-op | 10,000.00 |
| Leitrim Association of People with Disabilities | 36,000.00 |
| Leitrim Women’s Aid Participants Support Group | 6,500.00 |
| Wheelchair Services & Support Systems Ltd | 30,890.00 |
| Steering Committee Co. Cavan Community Resource Centre | 5,000.00 |
| National Federation of ARCH Clubs | 10,500.00 |
| Whiteoaks Housing Association | 30,000.00 |
| Donegal Down’s Syndrome Association | 3,000.00 |
| Abhaile Arís | 54,000.00 |
| Coiste na nIarchimí | 70,000.00 |
| | <u>850,173.49</u> |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|-----------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | |
| | | | Financial Statements | | |
| | | | | | |

Basis of Financial Statements

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

Statement of Agency Responsibilities

Section 10(1) of the Combat Poverty Agency Act, 1986 requires the Agency to keep, in such form as may be approved by the Minister 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 Agency is 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 the Agency will continue in operation.

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

Dated: 21 June 2000

Anna Lee, Chairman



Hugh Frazer, Director



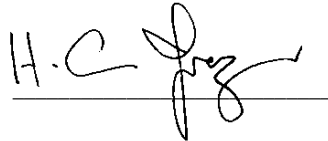
Combat Poverty Agency

Statement regarding Prompt Payments of Accounts Act, 1997

The Agency complies with the requirements of the Prompt Payments of Accounts Act, 1997. At the end of each month invoices presented for payment are examined to ensure they are in compliance. The Agency continually reviews its administrative procedures in order to assist in minimising the time taken for invoice query and resolution. In that context a new computerised accounts and financial management system is being introduced during 2000. The Agency's procedures provide reasonable but not absolute assurance against material non-compliance with the Act. During the year ended 31 December, 1999 there were no late payments in excess of £250. The overall proportion in monetary terms which late payments constituted of total invoiced payments was 0.035%.

Dated: 21 June 2000

Hugh Frazer, Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H.C. Frazer', is written over a horizontal line.

Statement of Accounting Policies

1. General

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

2. Historical Cost Convention

The Financial Statements are prepared under the historical cost convention.

3. Oireachtas Grant-in-Aid

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

4. Income – EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation

The amount shown in respect of the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation represents allocation to income which matches the projects payments made during the year.

5. Projects and Programmes to Combat Poverty

Expenditure represents payments made by the Agency 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 the Combat Poverty Agency in such assets is not included in these financial statements.

6. Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Fixed Assets are shown at original cost or valuation less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis at the following annual rates:

Furniture 12.50%

Equipment 20.00%

A full year's depreciation is provided in the year of acquisition.

7. Capital Account

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

8. Superannuation

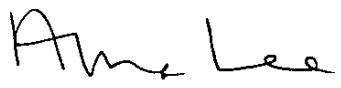
Superannuation costs will be charged against revenue when they arise.

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December, 1999

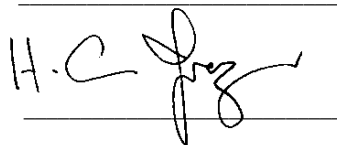
| | Notes | 1999 | 1998 |
|--|-------|------------------|------------|
| INCOME | | IR£ | IR£ |
| Oireachtas Grant-In-Aid | | | |
| Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs | | 2,400,000 | 2,273,000 |
| EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation | 1(a) | 6,635,000 | 3,059,145 |
| Other Income | 1(b) | 81,092 | 77,235 |
| | | 9,116,092 | 5,409,380 |
| Transfer (to)/from Capital Account | 6 | 3,246 | 14,503 |
| TOTAL INCOME | | 9,119,338 | 5,423,883 |
| | | | |
| EXPENDITURE | | | |
| Projects and Programmes to Combat Poverty | | | |
| Special Programmes | 2(a) | 396,950 | 430,651 |
| National Networks programme | | 344,995 | 245,113 |
| Grant schemes to Community and Voluntary Organisations | 2(b) | 271,112 | 357,081 |
| Information, Education and Resource Material | | 315,042 | 244,167 |
| Research Projects | | 141,228 | 153,520 |
| EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation | 2(c) | 6,385,177 | 2,874,631 |
| | | 7,854,504 | 4,305,163 |
| | | | |
| Development, Support and Administration costs | | | |
| Salary Costs and Expenses | 3 | 780,593 | 746,559 |
| Rent and Other Administration Costs | 4 | 328,727 | 320,309 |
| Depreciation | 5 | 54,599 | 54,886 |
| | | 1,163,919 | 1,121,754 |
| | | | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | | 9,018,423 | 5,426,917 |
| Prior year adjustment | 8 | (10,282) | |
| | | | |
| SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR | | 111,197 | (3,034) |
| Surplus Brought Forward | | 25,988 | 29,022 |
| Surplus on Income & Expenditure Account | | 137,185 | 25,988 |

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 11 form part of these Financial Statements.

Anna Lee, Chairman



Hugh Frazer, Director

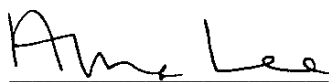


Balance sheet as at 31 December 1999

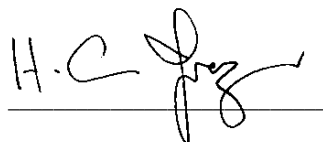
| | Notes | 1999 | 1998 |
|---|-------|------------------|-----------|
| | | IR£ | IR£ |
| FIXED ASSETS | | | |
| Furniture and Equipment | 5 | 156,199 | 159,445 |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Debtors and Prepayments | | 820,035 | 53,233 |
| Cash at Bank and on hand | | 505,051 | 1,638,396 |
| | | 1,325,086 | 1,691,629 |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | |
| Creditors and Accruals | | 136,459 | 255,672 |
| Deferred Income | | 1,051,442 | 1,409,969 |
| | | 1,187,901 | 1,665,641 |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | 137,185 | 25,988 |
| NET ASSETS | | 293,384 | 185,433 |
| REPRESENTED BY: | | | |
| Capital Account | 6 | 156,199 | 159,445 |
| Surplus on Income and Expenditure Account | | 137,185 | 25,988 |
| | | 293,384 | 185,433 |

The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 11 form part of these Financial Statements.

Anna Lee, Chairman



Hugh Frazer, Director



Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 December, 1999

| | Notes | 1999 IR£ | 1998 IR£ |
|---|-------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities | 7(a) | (1,094,059) | 1,374,557 |
| RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AND SERVICING OF FINANCE | | | |
| Interest received | | 13,496 | 43,951 |
| Net inflow from returns on investments and servicing of finance | | 13,496 | 43,951 |
| INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Purchase of fixed assets | | (53,932) | (40,465) |
| Disposal of fixed assets | | 1,150 | |
| Net Cash Outflow from Investing activities | | (52,782) | (40,465) |
| Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents | | (1,133,345) | 1,378,043 |

| | 1999 | 1998 |
|--|------------------|--------------------|
| | IR£ | IR£ |
| 1. INCOME | | |
| (a) EU Programme for Peace & Reconciliation | | |
| ESF Funding | | |
| Deferred Income at 1 January | 1,057,477 | 363,432 |
| Project Funding via Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs | 4,520,005 | 2,850,023 |
| Deferred Income at 31 December | (788,580) | (1,057,477) |
| | 4,788,902 | 2,155,978 |
| Exchequer Funding | | |
| Deferred Income 1 January | 352,492 | 121,145 |
| Project Funding via Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs | 1,506,668 | 950,000 |
| Deferred Income at 31 December | (262,862) | (352,492) |
| | 1,596,298 | 718,653 |
| Technical Assistance (TA) | | |
| ERDF and Exchequer TA Funding for Administration Costs via ADM Ltd | 249,800 | 184,514 |
| | 6,635,000 | 3,059,145 |
| (b) Other Income | | |
| Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation | 31,172 | |
| Sales of Publications | 15,018 | 17,746 |
| Interest earned on Deposit A/Cs | 13,496 | 43,951 |
| Department of the Environment and Local Government | 5,600 | |
| Department of Education & Science | 5,000 | |
| Unspent Grants | 4,000 | 7,556 |
| Seminar registration Fees | 4,124 | 5,612 |
| Miscellaneous Income | 2,682 | 2,370 |
| | 81,092 | 77,235 |

2. PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES TO COMBAT POVERTY

(a) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

One of the functions of the Agency is to initiate and evaluate measures aimed at overcoming poverty. In line with this function the Agency supports a limited number of projects and programmes in both urban and rural areas which seek to identify and develop strategies aimed at tackling the underlying causes of poverty. The Agency also supports other projects and programmes by organising training and networking (in the form of seminars, conferences and exchange visits). Amounts spent under the main headings are as follows:

| | 1999 | 1998 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | IR£ | IR£ |
| Educational Disadvantaged Demonstration Programme | 223,282 | 175,291 |
| Poverty Drug Use Policy Programme | 109,611 | 89,177 |
| Enhancing the Community Development Sector | 56,434 | 76,886 |
| NAPs Local Government | 3,912 | |
| Community Development Programme | 3,711 | 84,564 |
| Community Arts Pilot Programme (discontinued) | | 4,733 |
| | 396,950 | 430,651 |

(b) GRANT SCHEMES TO COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

The amount shown represents once-off payments made to community and voluntary organisations.

| | 1999 | 1998 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| | IR£ | IR£ |
| Information/Public Awareness Grants | 98,928 | 140,658 |
| Research Grants | 95,350 | 92,700 |
| Evaluation Grants | 69,320 | 51,914 |
| Support work for Grants | 7,514 | |
| Promoting Common Interest Grants (discontinued) | | 71,809 |
| | 271,112 | 357,081 |

(c) EU PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

Combat Poverty Agency, in co-operation with 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. This Programme was announced in July 1995 and the contract signed with European Union in December, 1995. The proposed allocation in respect of the Combat Poverty Agency assisted projects is £18.827m from 1995–1999 inclusive.

The Agency, in collaboration with ADM Ltd, implements 14 measures under the Programme. Specifically the Agency has responsibility for the following measures: 4.1 Developing Grassroots Capacity and Promoting the Inclusion of women; 4.4 Promoting the Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups; 3.4 Cross-border Community Reconciliation. This latter measure is implemented in association with the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust (NIVT).

The income and expenditure of the Agency under the EU Special Support Programme for Peace & Reconciliation for 1999 is summarised as follows:

| | IR£ | IR£ |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Income | | |
| European Social Fund | | 4,707,354 |
| Exchequer | | <u>1,569,118</u> |
| | | 6,276,472 |
| Deferred in 1998 | | <u>1,409,947</u> |
| | | 7,686,419 |
| Deferred 1999 | | <u>(1,051,442)</u> |
| | | 6,634,977 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Projects | | |
| Measure 3.4 | 2,454,517 | |
| Measure 4.1 | 2,476,660 | |
| Measure 4.4 | 1,171,705 | |
| Support costs | <u>282,295</u> | |
| | 6,385,177 | |
| Administration* | <u>249,800</u> | 6,634,977 |

*Administration expenditure for the P&R programme, 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.

3. SALARY COSTS AND EXPENSES

| | 1999 | 1998 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| | IR£ | IR£ |
| Staff salary costs* | 634,926 | 629,969 |
| Temporary employment agency costs | 39,593 | 42,137 |
| Staff Recruitment | 43,579 | 7,807 |
| Staff Training and Other Expenses | 24,458 | 25,916 |
| Travel and Subsistence | | |
| - Staff | 23,156 | 28,336 |
| - Members and Sub-Committees | 8,739 | 11,894 |
| Pension Gratuity and Payments | 6,142 | 500 |
| | 780,593 | 746,559 |

*The average number of core staff (full-time equivalent) employed by the Agency during 1999 was 20 (1998: 20). The figures given here include the Agency's liability (£128,401) in respect of the remuneration of the 18 administration staff members in the EU Special Support Programme for Peace & Reconciliation (P&R). Development staff costs for the EU Special Support Programme are included under Programme Support costs.

4. RENT AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION COSTS

| | 1999 | 1998 |
|--|----------------|---------|
| | IR£ | IR£ |
| Rent and Rates | 87,813 | 93,790 |
| Postage and Telephones | 60,357 | 62,643 |
| Maintenance and Insurance | 48,557 | 43,335 |
| Consultant to Administration | 35,103 | 48,484 |
| Printing, Stationery & Office Supplies | 36,908 | 33,568 |
| Records and Archive Management | 21,108 | 9,251 |
| Sundry | 20,841 | 16,193 |
| Light and Heat | 7,926 | 8,296 |
| Audit Fees | 4,850 | 3,759 |
| Legal/Professional Fees | 3,835 | 908 |
| Loss on Disposals | 1,429 | 82 |
| | 328,727 | 320,309 |

5. FIXED ASSETS

| | Furniture IR£ | Equipment IR£ | Total IR£ |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Cost or Valuation | | | |
| Balance at 1 January | | | |
| - at Cost | 120,305 | 253,090 | 373,395 |
| Additions at cost | 12,873 | 41,059 | 53,932 |
| Disposals at cost | (1,321) | (26,703) | (28,024) |
| Balance at 31 December | 131,857 | 267,446 | 399,303 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | | | |
| Balance at 1 January | 47,762 | 166,188 | 213,950 |
| Charged in the year | 21,293 | 33,306 | 54,599 |
| Disposals | (726) | (24,719) | (25,445) |
| Balance at 31 December | 68,329 | 174,775 | 243,104 |
| Net Book Value - 31/12/99 | 63,528 | 92,671 | 156,199 |
| Net Book Value - 31/12/98 | 72,543 | 86,902 | 159,445 |

6. CAPITAL ACCOUNT

| | | |
|---|-----------------|----------|
| | 1999 | 1998 |
| | IR£ | IR£ |
| Balance at 1 January | 159,445 | 173,948 |
| TRANSFER TO/(FROM) | | |
| INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT | | |
| Income applied to purchase fixed assets | 53,932 | 40,465 |
| Amortised in the year in line with asset depreciation | (54,599) | (54,886) |
| Released on disposal of fixed assets | (2,579) | (82) |
| | (3,246) | (14,503) |
| Balance at 31 December | 156,199 | 159,445 |

7. CASH FLOW RECONCILIATION

(a) Reconciliation of surplus/(deficit) for the year to cash from operating activities

| | 1999 | 1998 |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
| | IR£ | IR£ |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the year | 111,197 | (3,034) |
| Adjustment for non operating items | | |
| Interest Receivable | (13,496) | (43,951) |
| Loss on Disposal | 1,429 | 82 |
| Movement on Capital a/c | (3,246) | (14,503) |
| Adjustment for non cash items | | |
| Depreciation | 54,599 | 54,886 |
| (Increase)/Decrease in Debtors | (766,802) | 297,745 |
| Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors and Deferred Income | (477,740) | 1,083,332 |
| Cash Inflow/(Outflow) From Operating Activities | (1,094,059) | 1,374,557 |

(b) Analysis of Balances of cash and cash equivalents and movements during the year

| | 1999 | 1998 |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| | IR£ | IR£ |
| Balance at 1 January | 1,638,396 | 260,353 |
| Net cash inflow/(outflow) | (1,133,345) | 1,378,043 |
| Balance at 31 December | 505,051 | 1,638,396 |

8. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

This arises from the different accounting treatment of management fees in the accounts of CPA and P&R in 1998. The adjustment was deferred in the 1998 financial statements pending a review of the matter. A unified accounting treatment was adopted from 1 January, 1999.

9. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There were no contingent liabilities at 31 December, 1999 nor at 31 December, 1998.

10. COMMITMENTS

- There were no capital commitments at 31 December, 1999 nor at 31 December, 1998.
- Funding commitments of £6,596,773 existed at 31 December, 1999 (31.12.98 – £6,871,268) in respect of Grants to Community and Voluntary Organisations, Research Projects and Measures to promote Peace and Reconciliation.
- 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 £86,735 per annum which is subject to review on a five-yearly basis.

11.SUPERANNUATION

The Combat Poverty Agency main Superannuation Scheme 1997 and the Combat Poverty Agency Spouses' and Children's Contributory Pension Scheme 1997 were laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas on 1 August, 1997 and are now formally in place.

Deductions in respect of spouses' and children's benefits in the year have been transferred to the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs.

AUDIT

These Financial Statements for 1999 are subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General under provisions of section 10(2) of the Combat Poverty Agency Act, 1986.