



Combat Poverty Agency

annual report

2000

An Ghníomhaireacht do Chomhrac na Bochtaine

Tuairisc Bhliantúil 2000

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



2000 Board ¹

Brian Duncan (Chairperson), Pearse O'Hanrahan, Helen Johnston, Fintan Farrell, Benny Devlin, Niall O'Keeffe, Alice Robertson, Maria Corrigan, Michael Waugh, Clare Farrell, Christina Maguire, Grace Maguire, Margaret Sweeney, Mary Kennedy, Bernard Feeney

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.

Combat Poverty Agency,
Bridgewater Centre,
Conyngham Road,
Islandbridge,
Dublin 8
Tel: 01 6706746
Fax: 01 6706760
Email: info@cpa.ie
Website: www.cpa.ie

¹ As at 30 June 01

Contents

Glossary	2
Réamhrá an Chathaoirligh	3
Chairman's Foreword	5
Part 1 Annual Overview: Combating Poverty – A Time for Ambition	7
Part 2 Work of the Combat Poverty Agency	19
Appendix 1 Board Sub-Committees and Staff	49
Appendix 2 Projects Funded by the Agency	57
Appendix 3 Grants Approved under the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	63
Financial Statements	69

GLOSSARY

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 mian liom an 14ú Tuarascáil Bliantúil den Ghníomhaireacht in aghaidh Bochtaineachta a chur os comhair an Aire um Ghnóthaí Shóisialta, Pobail agus Teaglaigh de réir riachtanais Ailt II den Acht um Ghníomhaireacht in aghaidh Bochtaineachta, 1986.

Is é an séú Tuarascáil Bliantúil a bhfuil an phribhléid agam a chur os comhair an Aire. Is é an ceann deireanach a bheidh á léiriú agam fresin toisc go bhfuil mo dara théarma oifige mar Chathaoirleach ag druidim chun deiridh. Bhí an comhthéacs ina raibh an Ghníomhaireacht ag feidhmiú i rith na sé bliana deireanacha an-spreagthach, dúshlánach agus casta ach ar an iomlán chuidigh sé leis an obair in aghaidh bochtaineachta. Bhí fás eacnamaíochta buan agus gan réamhshampla ann. Bhí ceangaltas glan soiléir i dtaobh forbartha, cur i gníomh agus le tamall beag anuas, i dtaobh athbhreithniú um Straitéis Náisiúnta in aghaidh Bochtaineachta (SNB). Ba iad gníomhartha agus straitéisí na príomhghnéithe a bhí á n-úsáid ag na gcomhaontaithe náisiúnta, an Comhpháirtíocht 2000, an Clár um Rathúnas agus Cothroime agus an Plean Forbartha Náisiúnta chun dul i ngleic le heisiatacht shóisialta. Tá íslí comhsheasmhach agus tábhachtach le sonrú maidir le rátaí dífhostaíochta agus bochtaineacht comhsheasmhach.

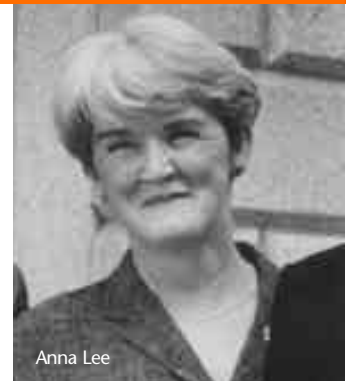
D'ainneoin an comhthéacs eacnamaíoch agus beartas dearfach, fágann sé go bhfuil an sochaí in Éirinn míchothrom ar fad. Tá méadú tar éis teacht ar neamhionannais ioncaim. Tá an brú ag méadú ar na seirbhísí poiblí a bhfuil páirt mór le glacadh acu chun bochtaineacht agus eisiatacht shóisialta a laghdú, agus tá siad gar don ghéarchéim dá bharr. Tá sé an-soiléir nach mbeidh réiteach tapaigh nó furasta ar an 'ghéarchéim' seo. Tógann sé an-chuid ama chun muinteoirí agus oibríthe cúraim a oiliúint agus áiseanna aire linbh agus tithíocht shóisialta neamhchostasúil a thógáil agus chun ionaid pobail a bheith sábháilte. Tá na hachmhainní ar fáil le cinntiú go mbeidh sochaí níos cothroime agus cuimsithí againn. Ba cheart cur leo le fuinneamh, ceangaltas agus fadbhreathnaitheacht. Ba cheart dúinn bheith imníoch faoi bheith ag feabhsú an mianach saoil ar son gach duine in Éirinn agus ba cheart meas a bheith againn ar na daoine a oibríonn i dtreo an dul chun cinn seo.

Tá áthas orm faoin seans atá faighte agam chun tacú leis an bhforbairt agus an cur i gníomh i dtaobh dhá cheann de pleananna straitéiseacha na Gníomhaireachta seo. Solathraíonn an tuarascáil mar fhianaise ar an gclár oibre cuimsitheach dúshlánach a cuireadh i bhfeidhm ag an

Gníomhaireacht sa dara bhliain den Plean Straitéiseach 1999-2001. Tá áthas orm ach go háirithe faoin obair a rinneadh ar bheartas forbartha agus tionchair agus gnóthú ar phobalfheasacht bhochtaineachta. Tá páirt suntasach glactha ag an Gníomhaireacht maidir le forbairt chumais beartais den earnáil deonach/phobail. Chuir aighnuithe beartais ar raon fairsing chúrsaí le obair an SNB trí bheith ag aithint feidhmeanna bochtaineachta folaithe agus ag moladh straitéisí chun bochtaineacht agus eisiatacht shóisialta a réiteach. Chuir an *Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative* go mór le gnóthú pobalfheasachta maidir le bochtaineacht linbh.

Tá méadú luais tagtha ar an obair atá glactha chun fairsingiú an SNB a thacú i gcomhair rialtais áitiúil. Tá páirt suntasach le glacadh ag na húdaráis áitiúla i gcomhair gníomhartha chun bochtaineacht agus eisiatacht shóisialta a réiteach ag leibhéal chontae agus fo-chontae. Tá an obair seo casta agus deacair. Táim den bharúil go dtabharfaidh an Gréasán Foghlama don Rialtas Áitiúil in aghaidh bochtaineachta, atá forbartha in éineacht leis an Roinn Comhshaoil agus an Rialtas Áitiúil, mar aon leis an aonad SNB laistigh den Roinn Sóisialta, Pobail agus Gnóthaí Teaghlaigh, tacaíocht mór don bhfeachtas seo.

Tá páirt suntasach glactha ag an Gníomhaireacht in éineacht le Forbairt Bhainistíochta Limistéir Teo agus an Iontaobhas Deonach Thuaiscirt Éireann sa Chlár Speisialta Tacaíochta den Chomhphobal Eorpach um Shíochán agus Athmhuintearas ó 1995. Tá an-áthas orm go dtabharfaidh *PEACE II* seans cur leis an clár oibre fairsing agus straitéiseach, a cuireadh i bhfeidhm le sé bliana anuas, agus go leanfaidh an obair tábhachtach ar aghaidh maidir le hathmhuintearas agus cruthú síochána. Ba shampla suntasach é an clár seo de chomhpháirtíocht éifeachtach rathúil. Tá áthas orm go raibh seans agam



Anna Lee

bheith páirteach sa chlár seo agus is mó mo mheas ar chách a raibh baint aige sa chlár seo, go háirithe i dtaca le lucht oibre oifig Mhuineacháin.

Chabhraigh Rialtas na hÉireann le Hugh Frazer, Stiúrthóir Gníomhaireachta ó 1986, chun post a ghlacadh mar Shaineolaí Náisiúnta leis an gCoimisiún Eorpach ag deireadh mhí na Bealtaine 2001. Bheadh sé dodhéanta an cúnamh a thug Hugh don Ghníomhaireacht agus do na hiarrachtaí in aghaidh obair bochtaineachta a mheas. Thug sé fadbhreathnaitheacht, fadcheann, intleacht ghéar, ceangaltas ollmhór agus meas agus aire mór leis do dhaoine aonarach agus d'oileán na hÉireann i ngach gné den a chuid oibre. D'fhoghlaim mé roinnt mhaith rudaí uaidh agus bhain mé an-taitneamh as bheith ag obair leis. Ba mhór an phribhléid é a bheith ann mar Stiúrthóir don Ghníomhaireacht seo.

Is mór an onóir dom bheith i mo Chathoirleach ar an Ghníomhaireacht seo. Gabhaim buíochas le Dermot Ahern TD, Aire Sóisialta, Pobail agus Gnóthaí Teaghlaigh, den deis iontach a tugadh dom de bheith mar Chathoirleach don dara théarma, agus den tacaíocht, spreagadh agus cúnamh a fuair mé uaidh. Táim buíoch den Rúnaí Ginearálta agus a lucht oibre sa Roinn Sóisialta, Pobail agus Gnóthaí Teaghlaigh i dtaobh a gcuid tacaíochta, cúnamh agus cúirtéise le linn mo théarmaí oifige. Táim den tuairim gur fiú mórán é an gaol oibre dlúth agus éifeachtach atá ann cheana féin idir an Roinn agus an Ghníomhaireacht.

Táim buíoch le trí bliana anuas den Bhord comhaltá i dtaobh a gcúnamh eolasach, a ndúthracht, a n-oscailteacht, lamhálas agus tacaíocht. Bhí na cruinnithe boird spreagach agus oiliúnach. Tá an-mheas go deo agam ar lucht oibre na gníomhaireachta seo, i dtaobh a ngairmiúlachta, scil agus ceangaltais. Is mór agam a dtacaíocht agus a gcairdeas.

Guím gach rath ar Chathoirleach na Gníomhaireachta atá le teacht, mar aon leis an Stiúrthóir nua. Táim lán chinnte go leanfaidh an Ghníomhaireacht ar aghaidh mar fhórsa éifeachtach sa troid in aghaidh bochtaineachta agus eisiatacht shóisialta.

Ba mhór an phribhléid agus pléisiúr dom é.



Anna Lee
Meitheamh, 2001

Chairman's Foreword

I am pleased to present the 14th Annual Report of the Combat Poverty Agency to the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs, in accordance with the requirements of Section II of the Combat Poverty Agency Act, 1986.

This is the sixth Annual Report that I have been privileged to present to the Minister. It is also the last I will present as my second term of office as Chairperson of the Agency is drawing to a close. The context in which the Agency has worked for the last six years has been stimulating, challenging and complex but generally supportive of anti-poverty work. There has been unprecedented and sustained economic growth. There has been an unambiguous commitment to the development, implementation, and most recently, review of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS). Actions and strategies to address social exclusion have been key features of the national agreements, Partnership 2000 and the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness, and of the National Development Plan 2000-2006. There has been a consistent and significant fall in the rates of unemployment and of consistent poverty.

Despite this very positive economic and policy context, Ireland remains a deeply unequal society. Income inequality has increased. Public services that have a key contribution to make to the reduction of poverty and social exclusion are under increasing pressure with many close to crisis. It is all too clear that the 'crisis' will not be addressed quickly or easily. It takes time to train teachers and care workers, to build childcare facilities and social and affordable housing and to make safe communities. The resources are available to ensure that we have a more just and inclusive society. We need them to be matched by vision, energy and commitment. We need to care about improving the quality of life for everyone in Ireland and we need to value those who work for that improvement.

I have welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the development and implementation of two of the Agency's Strategic Plans. This report documents the comprehensive and challenging programme of work carried out by the Agency in the second year of its Strategic Plan 1999-2001. I particularly welcome the work on the development and influencing of policy and on building public awareness of poverty. The Agency has played a key role in the development of the policy capacity of the community/voluntary sector. Its policy submissions on a wide range of issues have reinforced the work of the NAPS, identifying potential poverty impacts and proposing strategies to address poverty and social exclusion. The *Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative* has made an important contribution to building public awareness of child poverty.

The work undertaken to support the extension of the NAPS to local government gained pace in 2000. Local authorities have a central role in actions to address poverty and social exclusion at county and sub-county level. It is difficult and complex work. I believe that the Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network, developed in conjunction with the Department of the Environment and Local Government and the NAPS Unit in the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs, will provide important support.

The Agency has played a central role, with its partners Area Development Management Ltd and the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust, in the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation since 1995. I am delighted that PEACE II will enable the extensive and strategic programme of work carried out over the last six years to be built on and the vital work of reconciliation and peace building to continue. The Programme has been an outstanding example of effective partnership working. I am glad that I had the opportunity to be involved with it and I am most appreciative of the contribution of all those involved with the Programme and, in particular, of the staff based in the Monaghan office.

Hugh Frazer, Director of the Agency since 1986, was seconded by the Irish Government to take up a post as a National Expert with the European Commission at the end of May 2001. Hugh's contribution to the Agency and to anti-poverty work in Ireland is immeasurable. He brought vision, foresight, a sharp intellect, enormous commitment and a deep respect and care for individuals, and for the island of Ireland, to every aspect of his work. I learned a great deal from him and enjoyed working with him. The Agency was privileged to have him as Director.

It is a great honour to serve as Chairperson of the Agency. I thank Dermot Ahern TD, Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs for the opportunity to serve for a second term as Chairperson and for his support, encouragement and assistance. I am grateful to the Secretary General and his staff at the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs for their support, assistance and courtesy throughout my terms of office. I believe that the close and effective working relationship which exists between the Department and the Agency is most valuable.

I am most grateful to all the Board members of the last six years for their informed contributions, their dedication, openness, tolerance and support. Board meetings have been stimulating and instructive. I have the utmost admiration for the staff of the Agency, for their professionalism, skill and commitment. I have valued their support and their friendship.

I wish the incoming Chairperson of the Agency and the new Director every success. I am absolutely confident that the Agency will continue to be an effective force in the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure.



Anna Lee
June, 2001

PART

one

Annual Overview: A Time for Ambition



Annual Overview: **Combating Poverty – A Time for Ambition**

Introduction

The extraordinary level of economic and employment growth in recent years has undoubtedly had a major impact on poverty and social exclusion in Ireland. Practically all sections of Irish society are better off in absolute terms. This is reflected in the steady fall in the numbers experiencing consistent poverty.¹ The fall in consistent poverty, which essentially measures the ability to purchase a number of very basic necessities, is very important. However, a country as wealthy as Ireland now is can aim for a more ambitious target that reflects people’s ability to participate fully in the economic, social and cultural life of society.

The current review of the Government’s National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS) is a very important development. It is an opportunity to critically assess the effectiveness of current policies and programmes to combat poverty and social exclusion, to set new and ambitious targets for the next few years and to put in place the policies and programmes to achieve them.

Strengthening NAPS

One of the strongest aspects of the NAPS has been the establishment of institutional mechanisms to support its implementation and ongoing development. The current review of NAPS provides an important opportunity to examine how these mechanisms can be further strengthened to ensure the more effective operation and impact of the next National Anti-Poverty Strategy. The Agency considers five strategic areas for further development:

- Strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;
- Establish appropriate consultative and participatory structures;
- Improve effectiveness of poverty proofing;

- Adopt a rights approach;
- Enhance integrated local delivery of services.

Strengthening Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms

National data from the Living in Ireland Surveys have generated a number of important monitoring reports that have measured the extent to which global targets in the National Anti-Poverty Strategy have been met since they were set in 1997. As we know these targets were based on 1994 survey data and in effect they were surpassed even by the time they were established though this was not known at the time. The review of NAPS must ensure that:

- The global targets are reviewed on an ongoing basis, and in particular as more up-to-date data emerge from the Living in Ireland Surveys;
- The global targets comprise a number of measures, including consistent poverty, relative income poverty, income inequality and child poverty;
- Each target is accompanied by a relevant set of indicators that are defined in terms of outcomes rather than inputs, and that remain relatively stable over time;
- The Combat Poverty Agency’s role as the evaluation body for the National Anti-Poverty Strategy is maintained and resourced accordingly.

Establish Appropriate Consultative and Participatory Structures

Various international instruments such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child stress the right of people to be consulted on issues that affect them. The government’s own White Paper, *Supporting Voluntary Activity*, similarly supports this process.

¹ Latest data on poverty from the 1998 Living in Ireland Survey shows 8.2 per cent of households experiencing consistent poverty, i.e. had incomes below 60 per cent of average and experienced basic deprivation. Using this combination but at the 50 per cent relative income line 6.2 per cent of households were in poverty and using the 40 per cent relative income line, 3.5 per cent of households were in consistent poverty. Consistent poverty fell considerably from 1994 when 15.1 per cent of households were in consistent poverty using the 60 per cent relative income line and enforced deprivation of basic items

The NAPS review process needs to explicitly commit to supporting the involvement of excluded people in public policy on poverty that affects them. It needs to set out a programme of action that involves people living in poverty and organisations that represent them in setting up new mechanisms that are effective and adequately resourced. Recent work funded by the EU and undertaken by the Agency, the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs and national anti-poverty networks along with EU partners sets out a clear direction and guidelines on effective involvement that should be reflected in the new NAPS.²

Improve Effectiveness of Poverty Proofing

Effective poverty proofing has enormous potential to change the outcomes of policy in favour of people living in poverty. Regrettably, there is little evidence that this has been the case to date, though the publication of recent poverty-proofing exercises in the National Development Plan and as part of Budget 2001 is a very welcome development. While the recommendations from an independent review of poverty proofing by the National Economic and Social Council are awaited the Agency sees five priorities to strengthen poverty proofing in a new NAPS:

- Resource an action plan that develops civil service capacity for the extensive implementation of poverty proofing within and across government departments;
- Identify data gaps required to undertake poverty proofing and develop an action plan to meet such gaps;
- Routinely publish poverty-proofing exercises as part of all new policy initiatives and major expenditure programmes;
- Develop an action plan for an integrated proofing system taking account of poverty proofing, equality proofing, gender proofing, rural proofing and other proofing requirements and consider establishing integrated proofing on a statutory basis;
- Set an explicit timescale and adequately resourced action for the expansion of poverty proofing to local authorities, health boards and state agencies.

Adopting a Rights Approach

To consolidate all that has been done to tackle poverty and social exclusion, the review of the NAPS must result in a very clear and strategic statement about priorities for the next two or three years based on the careful analysis of the key challenges facing us. In the Agency's view, the NAPS will be greatly strengthened in achieving this by adopting a clear rights-based framework, which acknowledges that poverty and social exclusion are a denial of basic economic, social and cultural rights. This will lead to a clear focus on those groups whose rights are currently curtailed and to defining and getting minimum adequate standards that need to be achieved in key areas of public policy such as income, housing, health, employment, education. A rights approach will also lead to a coherent integration of poverty and equality policies as it will sharpen the focus on those individuals and groups for whom poverty and exclusion is deepened as a result of discrimination.

Ireland is one of 145 states that have ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Every five years states are required to submit a report on their implementation of the Covenant. In 1999 the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which reviews the Irish report, observed that Ireland's National Anti-Poverty Strategy 'does not adopt a human rights framework consistent with the provisions of the Covenant'. States are obliged to progressively realise the rights listed in the Covenant. This means that when Ireland goes before the UN Committee again it is expected that there will be advances made in our implementation of economic, social and cultural rights.

Enhance Integrated Local Delivery of Services

In recent years there has been a welcome concentration on improving local delivery of services by public bodies. The range of initiatives include local government reform, particularly the development of County Development Boards and the creation of Social Inclusion Units in local authorities. A three-year plan to establish a number of cross-sectoral regeneration initiatives in 25 urban areas (RAPID), in rural areas (CLAR), and in provincial towns has also been recently introduced.

² Combat Poverty Agency, Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs, Irish National Anti-Poverty Networks, NIVT, Odyssey, Integrar, Stakes (2000), *Guidelines for Effective Involvement*. Dublin: Author

NAPS is centrally concerned with improving the living standards of people on low incomes. The new NAPS can provide critical direction on the vision at the centre for improved local delivery of services. In doing this it can 'make NAPS local' and relevant to public bodies charged with social inclusion responsibilities. Local statutory providers have a clear role in responding to poverty and disadvantage. Most of their functions such as housing provision, health services, employment and welfare services have a direct or indirect impact on the economic, social and cultural well-being of people in disadvantaged communities. They have day-to-day contact with local communities, that is simply not possible for national organisations. NAPS can be made meaningful for people living in poverty by facilitating better access and better delivery of vital services, thereby improving the quality of life and experiences of people who are excluded.

Policy Priorities for a revised National Anti-Poverty Strategy

In preparing the next stage of NAPS the Combat Poverty Agency recommends to government that the following should be pre-eminent priorities. These recommendations are elaborated on in the summary of the Agency's submission to the NAPS review process. Full versions of each submission are available on the Agency's website: www.cpa.ie. Key areas for consideration in NAPS are particularly highlighted here.

Reducing Income Inequalities and Ensuring a Minimum Adequate Income for All

Severe income inequality implies a poor redistribution of resources and opportunities throughout society. There is a fundamental link between tackling poverty and distributing income. The Agency believes that a radical income redistribution in favour of those on low incomes is central to reducing poverty and creating an inclusive society. While more people are employed now than before, those at the top of the income ladder have benefited at a much faster pace than those at the bottom. Progressive fiscal and welfare policies and increased investment in the range and quality of public services are essential to ensure that this period of resource buoyancy does not lead to a more divided and unequal society.



Photograph: courtesy Derek Speirs

Tax and welfare policies must achieve downward redistribution in favour of people on low incomes, not upward which has been the more prevalent trend, with the recent exception of the last budget, Budget 2001.³

The right to an adequate standard of living is explicitly stated in a number of international agreements to which Ireland is a signatory. These include the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the European Social Charter and the EU Charter of Fundamental Social Rights. Income adequacy and, in particular, the adequacy of social welfare payments are key determinants of the living standards of low-income households, including those who are unemployed. The work of the PPF Benchmarking and Indexation, due to report in Summer 2001, will be critical in informing the policy direction relating to the adequacy of adult and child social welfare payments and to the ongoing up-rating or indexation of such payments. The Agency supports the concept of a Minimum Income Standard (MIS) as a way of describing adequate income levels to realise a minimum level of living. A MIS should be developed and defined in relation to prevailing living standards with a minimum goal being to prevent relative poverty as defined by the National Anti-Poverty Strategy. A MIS should have, as a *floor*, 50 per cent of average household income (current equivalent of £126 per adult per week) and for children, the weekly minimum costs of rearing a child (£36). Our ambition should be to put in place systems and structures to ensure that consistent poverty can be eliminated and that both relative income poverty and income inequality can be significantly reduced.

³ Combat Poverty Agency (2001), *Analysis of Budget 2001. Supplement to Poverty Today*, No. 50. Dublin: Combat Poverty Agency

Reaching Full Employment

There has been significant employment growth in the last number of years. In addition the unemployment rate has fallen to 4.3 per cent and the long-term unemployment rate to 1.6 per cent, indicating that unemployment in Ireland has fallen well below the European average. However, unemployment remains the largest single cause of poverty in Ireland, impacting in particular on less educated young people, older men, women, lone parents, ethnic minorities and those with a disability. In addition, there is evidence of a concentration of unemployment in particular households, especially where the household has no working adult and where there are dependent children.⁴ In fact, according to a study by the OECD, Ireland has a higher percentage of households with children in which no adult does paid work than any of the other member states.⁵ Those living in households where the reference person is unemployed, ill, disabled, engaged in home duties or retired face a substantially higher risk of poverty than others.

There is also some evidence of an unequal distribution of employment. Women and men also differ in their sharing of paid work, with women being more likely than men to work in jobs with lower pay and poor conditions. In addition, while unemployment is nationally spread, it is also concentrated locally – over a third of the long-term unemployed live in local authority housing estates compared to just over a fifth of the short-term unemployed and a tenth of those in employment.⁶ Investment in education and training must be targeted towards people who are unemployed. Within this group, the long-term unemployed families headed by an unemployed lone parent must be specifically targeted.

In terms of further reducing people's experiences of poverty, more focused attention must be given to addressing the problem of low pay. Education and training measures must also focus on people in low paid employment and people with lower-level educational qualifications. There is a further need to develop more specific policies to meet the needs of a number of vulnerable groups if they are to access employment, namely older people, Travellers, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, lone parents, refugees and asylum seekers and people experiencing rural disadvantage.

The elimination of long-term unemployment is within our grasp and there is now an unprecedented opportunity to establish effective policies and actions to significantly reduce the experience of unemployment for groups and areas that continue to be affected by joblessness.

Reducing Educational Disadvantage

Educational disadvantage continues to be a significant dimension to poverty and social exclusion in Ireland. Twenty per cent of those with no educational qualification are in poverty, compared with just 6 per cent of those with a Leaving Certificate.⁷ A large number of children continue to under-achieve from the Irish educational system. Estimates suggest that 16 per cent of the school population may be regarded as educationally disadvantaged, taking into account literacy levels, early school leaving and the experience of poverty.⁸ Unemployed people are more likely than someone in employment to have problems with basic reading.



4 UNICEF, June 2000, *A League Table of Child Poverty in Rich Nations*, p. 13, Fig. 6

5 OECD (1998), *Employment Outlook*. Paris: OECD, p. 18

6 NESF (1997), *Ending Long-Term Unemployment*. Dublin: The National Economic and Social Forum

7 Archer, P. (2001), 'Public Spending on Education, Inequality and Poverty' in *Rich and Poor, Perspectives on Tackling Inequality in Ireland*. Eds, S. Cantillon et al. Dublin: Oak Tree Press in association with Combat Poverty Agency

8 Kellaghan, T. et al (1995), *Educational Disadvantage in Ireland*. Dublin: Department of Education and Combat Poverty Agency

About one quarter of Irish adults have problems with simple literacy and people at the highest literacy levels are only about one-third as likely to be unemployed as those at the lowest literacy levels.⁹

Turning to early education, it is established that high-quality early education services have a positive impact on the future of educational and social success of all children including those born at risk of educational failure and social exclusion. At a very fundamental level, early education is a way of reducing poverty and reducing the risk of children falling into poverty or exclusion as they grow up.

Quality and accessible education throughout the life-cycle that is structured and resourced in a way that reduces educational inequality and maximises people's potential is a reasonable ambition. It is also a necessary ambition to ensure that labour supply matches the skills required by the labour market to ensure our future economic well-being.

Tackling Housing and Accommodation Needs

The Irish housing system has traditionally been dominated by owner occupation with 79 per cent of households owning their own home.¹⁰ The public and private rented sectors account for the remaining 20 per cent in roughly equal proportions. Housing subsidies are provided for 93,000 public housing tenants and a further 42,000 tenants in the private rented sector.¹¹ The main issues facing social housing policy are: increased numbers awaiting the provision of social and affordable housing; inadequate provision and poor quality of accommodation for Travellers; segregated provision of social housing; issues relating to the management and maintenance of public housing estates; cost and quality of accommodation in the subsidised private-rented sector and the worsening problem of homelessness.

There is a need to both expand the programme of social housing and address the extent of housing segregation in Ireland. Reform in the private rented sectors is also required such that it meets the broad range of needs of low-income groups by offering fair rent, good quality and reasonable security of tenure. The problem of the

continued escalation of house prices must also be addressed as a matter of immediate concern. Housing and accommodation should be re-conceptualised in public policy as a social good, not a commodity. As a social good accommodation is available to everybody as a right, and is provided appropriate to need and at a reasonable price. This requires a considerable re-orientation of current policy to reduce the highly favourable policy treatment, particularly tax treatment, of owner-occupation tenure in comparison to other tenures. The Agency strongly supports the provision in the Local Government Planning and Development Act to provide 20 per cent of housing in private developments as social housing as a reasonable effort to ameliorate future housing segregation.

It is within our scope, as a matter of priority, to ensure provision of adequate and affordable housing and accommodation for those with low incomes and specific housing needs, including homeless people, people with disabilities, single people, Travellers, refugees and asylum seekers and those who need crisis accommodation.

Tackling Health Inequalities

Health inequalities reflect wider inequalities and material deprivation in society. The links between income inequality and health are also clear. Research suggests that the most unhealthy societies are not necessarily those that are poorest, but those where the gap between rich and poor is greatest.¹² It is also widely accepted that the higher up the social class or income ladder you go, the better the health status you are likely to have. In Ireland, the health status of Travellers for example is startlingly different from that of the settled population. Infant mortality is three times higher for Traveller children and life expectancy among Travellers is significantly lower than that of settled people. From a health perspective, then, it is critical that the global targets to reduce and eliminate poverty, outlined above under Reducing income inequalities, are adopted by the NAPS review process.

Serious investment in a new approach to primary health care is one of the critical issues facing the health services. There are now strong arguments for working towards the development of a universal system. This provides for greater equity and continuity of service and addresses the

9 Department of Education (1997), *Report to the Minister for Education on the International Adult Literacy Survey: Results for Ireland*. Dublin: The Stationery Office

10 Cashin, T. (2000), based on Special Tabulations of the 1997 Labour Force Survey

11 Guerin, D. (1999), *A Survey of Recipients of SWA Rent Supplement*. Dublin: Combat Poverty Agency

12 Wilkinson, R. (1996), *Unhealthy Societies; The Affliction of Inequality*. London: Routledge

difficulties thrown up by the two-tier system currently in place. Unprecedented public resources are available to respond to the need to make long-term investments in the nation's health (and reduce the high costs of acute care in the long run) and the potential to eliminate poverty and unemployment traps associated with eligibility thresholds. There is also need for a considerable investment in community-based action for better health. Those who are disadvantaged need to be involved in the design and delivery of community-based services – both in primary care and in health promotion and preventative programmes.

A right to adequate, accessible and appropriate health care services for all when and where needed and regardless of ability to pay is the extent of the ambition that is required to seriously address health inequalities.

Raise Levels of Public Spending to EU Norm

The above agenda for action is a call for a significant shift in mind-set from the cautious conservatism and reluctance to invest in public services that appears to have dominated thinking amongst some policy-makers. Public spending has certainly increased in many important areas such as educational disadvantage,

social welfare, health, housing, and disability services. However, in some areas, these increases have been from a low baseline and have not been commensurate with the problems or with the opportunity that now exists. While the level of spending is important, the critical question is whether spending is broadly in line with levels of prosperity as measured by GNP per head. A recent welfare state classification places Ireland in the low-spending social expenditure category.¹³

Why should we continue to spend a smaller proportion of available national resources than is the norm in many other EU countries on developing high-quality public services for all? Why should the scale and quality of services available to people in Ireland be lesser than those available in other EU member states? What investment and implementation strategies can best ensure Irish public services are at least equal to the best available in the EU?

We are not a high tax economy. We are a low tax economy with the scope to spend much more on public services than we do. Total tax revenue as a percentage of GDP in Ireland was 32.8 per cent in 1997 compared to 37.4 per cent in 1987. Ireland's figure of 32.8 per cent is significantly below the 41.5 per cent figure across 15 EU countries in 1997.¹⁴



13 Cantillon, S. (2001), 'Social Expenditure, Redistribution and Participation' in *Rich and Poor, Perspectives on Tackling Inequality in Ireland*. Eds, S. Cantillon et al. Dublin: Oak Tree Press in association with Combat Poverty Agency

14 O'Reardon, C. (2001), 'Inequality in the New Irish Economy' in *Rich and Poor, Perspectives on Tackling Inequality in Ireland*. Eds, S. Cantillon et al. Dublin: Oak Tree Press in association with Combat Poverty Agency

Investment to achieve the targets set out above and to create a new public wealth, founded on high-quality health, housing, transport, cultural, sporting, recreational, educational and other public services for all citizens and residents is a necessary component of social solidarity. As an approach, it has more to contribute to achieving social inclusion than tax cuts that benefit the already better-off and privileged. In the long-term, cuts in tax rates restrict the resources available to the state for public interventions that favour poverty elimination and greater equality. In the context of maintaining tax revenue and investing in public services for the common good, consideration could be given to setting a target for fiscal policy to move toward the EU average ratio of tax to GDP (or GNP).

Aiming to be the Best in Europe

The key question facing anyone concerned about poverty and social exclusion in Ireland today is not whether we have reduced consistent poverty significantly. Given what has happened to the economy in recent years it would be quite extraordinary if we had not made significant progress in this regard. The question we should now be asking is how do we compare with the best in Europe and the wider world in terms of preventing and eliminating poverty and social exclusion. It is beyond the scope of this overview to fully assess how Ireland performs comparatively but the table below sets out what the Agency considers to be realistic national ambitions and to measure our performance against these, based on available data.

Table 1

Ambition	Performance (based on most recently available data)
Ensure that every family, every adult, every child has a sufficient income to live life with dignity, to participate fully in society and to reach his/her full potential	In 1998 six per cent of households experienced consistent poverty based on enforced deprivation of basic items and living in a household with less than 50 per cent of average household income. ¹⁵
Ensure income inequality and relative income poverty is amongst the lowest in the EU	In the mid-1990s Ireland had one of the highest levels of income inequality in Europe, and was one of a group of EU countries with relatively high levels of income. In 1998 20 per cent of people fell below the 50 per cent relative income poverty line while 29 per cent fell below the 60 per cent poverty line. The percentage of persons in income poverty increased between 1994 and 1998. ¹⁶ The trend is unlikely to have changed much since then.
Significantly reduce the percentage of poor households headed by an unemployed person and reduce the percentage of workless households	Ireland has a higher percentage of households with children in which no adult does paid work than any of the other member states. ¹⁷
Reduce health inequalities to amongst the lowest in the developed world	At 65 years, for both men and women, Ireland has the worst life expectancy in the EU as well as one of the highest premature death rates. ¹⁸
Ensure that children born into poorer families have as much opportunity to achieve their full potential as children from better-off families	In 1998 twelve per cent of children lived in households with below 60 per cent of average household income and experienced basic deprivation. ¹⁹
Ensure that being born into a poor family in Ireland holds out better prospects for a child than being born into a poor family in other EU countries with equivalent wealth	Ireland has one of the highest rates of child poverty in the EU. ²⁰ Ireland has the sixth highest percentage of children living in income poverty amongst 22 OECD countries. ²¹
Ensure that all children have access to high-quality early childhood education	'Apart from child benefit and limited intervention programmes for some children at risk of educational or social disadvantage, there is almost no state investment in the care of children in the years before entry into primary school.' ²²
Ensure that the number of people in Ireland with literacy and numeracy problems is amongst the lowest in the developed world	The International Adult Literacy Survey shows that about 25 per cent of the Irish population score at the lowest literacy level.

15 Layte, R., Maître, B., Nolan, B., Watson, D., Whelan, C.T., Williams, J., Casey, B. (2001), *Monitoring Poverty Trends and Exploring Poverty Dynamics in Ireland*. Dublin: ESRI

16 Layte, R. et al (2001), *ibid*

17 OECD (1998), *Employment Outlook*. Paris: OECD, p. 18

18 Society of St Vincent de Paul (2001), *Health Inequalities and Poverty*. Dublin: Society of St Vincent de Paul

19 Layte, R. et al (2001), *ibid*

20 Nolan, B. (2000), *Child Poverty in Ireland*. Dublin: Oak Tree Press in association with Combat Poverty Agency

21 UNICEF, Innocenti report card, June 2000, *A LEAGUE TABLE OF CHILD POVERTY IN RICH NATIONS*

22 Commission on the Family (1998), *Strengthening Families for Life*, p. 63

Table 1 (contd)

Ambition	Performance (based on most recently available data)
Ensure that all children and adults have access to high-quality recreational, sporting and cultural activities	<p>Many children in Ireland lack appropriate or adequate play provision. Golf courses are twice as numerous as playgrounds; 46 per cent of local authorities do not provide playgrounds.</p> <p>There are large differences in attendance at arts events by social groups with low levels of access and participation for those from the lower occupational classes and/or the unemployed.²³</p>
Prevent and eliminate homelessness	In 1999 there were 2,900 homeless adults in Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow. There was a steep increase in street homeless – 275 were street homeless in Dublin. ²⁴
Ensure everyone has access to good-quality housing or accommodation and a safe and pleasant physical environment in which to live	It is estimated that at least 150,000 persons were in serious housing need in 1998, including 5,000 homeless, 7,000 Travellers, 30,000 in short-term private rented accommodation and 100,000 on housing waiting lists. ²⁵
Ensure people on low incomes in Ireland have access to high-quality and affordable public transport services	Over one third of the population either has no access or serious difficulty with regard to transport. ²⁶
Ensure vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, or minority ethnic groups, or carers, or lone parents, or disadvantaged older women, or small farm families have the support necessary to participate fully in society	Women have a higher risk of poverty than men. The risk of poverty for women who live alone rose from four per cent in 1987 to 24 per cent in 1994. The risk of poverty for lone mother households almost doubled during this period. ²⁷ In 1994/95 approximately one quarter of farm households had household incomes of 60 per cent or less of the national figure. ²⁸ In 1998 households headed by unemployed or ill/disabled persons faced consistent poverty rates of about 30 per cent. The risk of income poverty for households headed by an ill/disabled person in 1998 was 73 per cent at the 50 per cent mean relative income line. ²⁹
Ensure all people living in Ireland can experience their full economic, social and cultural rights	In 1999 the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights observed that Ireland's National Anti-Poverty Strategy 'does not adopt a human rights framework consistent with the provisions of the Covenant [International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights]'. The Committee was also concerned that Irish legislation did not fully reflect obligations of the Covenant.

23 Working Group on Poverty: Access and Participation in the Arts with research by Jeanne Moore (1997), *Poverty: Access and Participation in the Arts*. Dublin: Combat Poverty Agency and The Arts Council

24 Williams J. and O'Connor M. (1999), Dublin, *Counted In*. Dublin: ESRI/Homeless Initiative

25 Drudy P.J. and Punch, M. (2001), 'Housing and Inequality in Ireland' in *Rich and Poor, Perspectives on Tackling Inequality in Ireland*. Eds, S. Cantillon et al. Dublin: Oak Tree Press in association with Combat Poverty Agency

26 Farrell Grant Sparks (2000), Dublin, *Rural Transport, A national study from a community perspective*, Commissioned by Area Development Management

27 Nolan, B. and Watson, D. (1999), *Women and Poverty in Ireland*. Dublin: Oak Tree Press in association with Combat Poverty Agency

28 Frawley J.P., Commins P., Scott S. and Trace F. (2000), *Low Income Farm Households, Incidence, Characteristics and Policies*, Dublin: Oak Tree Press in association with Combat Poverty Agency

29 Layte, R. et al (2001), *ibid*

The Combat Poverty Agency is clear that in spite of all the efforts of many people in recent years we need to do more to meet the challenges set out in Table 1. In spite of our extraordinary economic and employment growth and all the effort of policy-makers and practitioners we still compare badly with many other countries. Even more worrying is the indication from the under-performance set out in Table 1 that existing programmes and policies are not sufficient to ensure that within a few years these modest ambitions could be realised and we could be amongst the best in Europe. This is why the current review of NAPS and the National Action Plans on Poverty and Social Exclusion required of all EU member states are so important.

Given our new-found wealth it is no longer sufficient to be able to say 'things are better than before'. We should now have a clear objective to ensure that our social policies are the best in Europe and our levels of poverty and social exclusion are the lowest. Our ambition should be to be an exemplar to other member states. For all the merits of NAPS, of our social partnership tradition, of our innovative approaches to local development and community development, we cannot claim to be this.

Conclusion

This overview sets a challenge to be ambitious in our vision for reducing and eliminating poverty in Ireland. We must transform ourselves from being one of the most unequal societies in the EU with one of the lowest levels of public spending in the industrialised world. This is in spite of rapid economic growth and revenue buoyancy, as well as significant policy consideration of poverty through programmes such as the National Anti-Poverty Strategy.

Availability of financial resources can no longer be argued as a barrier to the expenditure required for radical income distribution in favour of the poor and for investment in quality and wide-ranging public services. We have more resources available to us than ever before. An ambitious vision of a more equal society, strong political will and social solidarity can inspire the new National Anti-Poverty Strategy to be a policy commitment and action plan that transforms the Irish experience of poverty.

Ireland has been acknowledged within the EU and internationally as having given serious institutional attention to poverty issues. We should aim to continue this leadership role by developing the next phase of our anti-poverty planning in a radical and ambitious way. Our new anti-poverty plans must set out clear agendas, implementation and accountability mechanisms and models of participation to advance the fight against poverty and to meet the challenge of ensuring that all enjoy human dignity.

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 as laid down in its current Strategic Plan 1999-2001. This report reflects the key objectives as outlined in that plan.

Objective One

page 23

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

Objective Two

page 30

- 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 32

- Achieving a coherent and planned public policy on child poverty

Objective Four

page 36

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

Objective **one**

‘The Agency will work to ensure that the NAPS will have made significant progress in reducing and preventing poverty’

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

Combat Poverty Agency has responsibility for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS). A two-year assessment of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy and *Planning for a More Inclusive Society: An Initial Assessment of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy*, was published and launched at a national conference on the NAPS in May 2000.

The NAPS assessment analysed key achievements of NAPS to date, its shortcomings and barriers to progress and, on this basis, drew conclusions on the issues to be addressed in the further implementation of the Strategy. Based on progress made towards meeting the original NAPS targets and the most recent poverty data, new issues and targets for the next period of the NAPS were also identified in the NAPS assessment.

The NAPS Evaluation Advisory Group was established on foot of a recommendation from the NAPS assessment.

The Agency continued to advise and participate in the Inter-Department Policy Committee (IDPC) on NAPS and regularly advised and liaised with the NAPS Unit in the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs. The Agency also contributed to the drafting of the annual report of the IDPC on the NAPS.

Throughout the year, a working group of Agency staff met to co-ordinate this work and review progress.

Data Collection and Analysis of Public Awareness

The Agency worked during the year with the IDPC, DSCFA and the ESRI on identifying poverty data required for the formulation and agreement of poverty and social inclusion targets/indicators in a revised NAPS. This focused particularly on ways and means of gathering data on excluded people who are not normally covered in the Living in Ireland Survey.

In the context of a commitment in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness (PPF) ‘to provide relevant data and data collection systems for the monitoring and evaluation of poverty, including systems of measuring poverty among groups not currently included (e.g. people living in institutions, Travellers and the homeless)’, the Agency undertook preliminary work on collecting data on excluded groups. As part of this work, it convened a workshop involving statutory and non-statutory agencies in November 2000 to explore ways of addressing the issue of data collection systems for excluded groups.

A number of ongoing research projects continued during 2000, some of which were completed and published.

- The Agency continued to participate in the management committee of the Living in Ireland Survey with the ESRI and the DSCFA.
- A further ESRI project to update poverty figures by analysing the 1998 Living in Ireland Survey results, which the Agency managed jointly with the DSCFA, was completed and a draft report prepared.
- Research commissioned earlier from UCD on ‘The Potential of Secondary Data Sources as a Resource for Information on Poverty’ neared completion.

Combat Poverty worked to promote public awareness of the NAPS and it was regularly featured in *Poverty Today*.

A survey of public attitudes to poverty was carried out and results will be available in 2001. The Agency sought also to enhance awareness of the Strategy at EU level and it kept contacts throughout the year with anti-poverty organisations in other member states.

Liaison with the Research Community

Combat Poverty Agency enjoys strong links with the community, academic and policy research bodies, which greatly enhances its research and analysis role.

The Agency's post-graduate research fellowship scheme continued to operate throughout the year. An evaluation of the fellowship scheme was completed and the Agency considered research proposals and mentoring supports for the 2000-2001 programme.

Ten applications to the Fellowships scheme were received in 2000 and there were two successful candidates.

Following a recommendation from the evaluation of the Fellowship Award, a pilot mentoring scheme was introduced for unsuccessful applicants whose doctoral proposals were of significant interest to the Agency.

The first Visiting Research Fellow in the Policy Institute, TCD, supported by the Agency was appointed in March to examine *Opportunities and Constraints for Expanded Housing Provision by the Voluntary Housing Sector*.

There was ongoing participation in the research and evaluation working group of NCDE (National Committee for Development Education).

Contacts were maintained during the year with many research and academic groups including the Irish Social Policy Association (ISPA), Sociological Association of Ireland (SAI), Association of Voluntary Action Research in Ireland (AVARI), Foundation for Fiscal Studies (FFS), and the Geographical Society of Ireland (GSI).

Policy and Poverty

A number of policy submissions were made throughout the year. These included submissions to the:

- Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs on Budget 2001;
- Department of Health and Children on the National Children's Strategy;
- National Drugs Strategy Team on the National Drugs Strategy;
- Information Society Commission on IT access for all;
- National Economic and Social Forum on social housing;
- Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs on a review of the Supplementary Welfare Allowance scheme and an Evaluation of the School Meals Scheme;
- Department of Environment and Local Government on the Planning and Development Bill;
- Department of Education and Science on the Education (Welfare) Bill;
- Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform on the Disabilities Bill;
- Western Health Board on a development plan for acute hospital services.

A submission was also presented to a conference on the national spatial strategy.

Other policy submissions are referred to elsewhere in the Annual Report.

The Agency is represented on the Working Group on Equality Proofing which is overseeing the implementation of the Equality Proofing Commitments in the PPF. This Working Group is convened by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and drawn from relevant Government Departments, the Equality Authority, the CPA and the four pillars of social partnership.

The Agency contributed to an initiative by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform and the Equality Authority to prepare guidelines and mechanisms for equality proofing.

The Agency developed a joint research project with the Equality Authority on inequalities likely to lead to poverty as applied in the poverty-proofing guidelines. There are two elements to this work: (i) a conceptual paper on the links between poverty and inequality and (ii) a study on the characteristics of inequality likely to lead to poverty, the application of the question to date and suggestions on how best to apply this question in the future.

The conceptual paper, prepared by the Equality Studies Centre, UCD, is now complete. The remaining element of the work, which is being carried out by NEXUS Research, is in its final stages.

The Agency also participated in the Information Society Commission's connected communities committee and contributed to a committee report on issues of access to information technology.

Local Government

Following the decision under the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness to extend the NAPS to local government, the Agency devoted much attention during the year to raising awareness of the NAPS among local authorities and to supporting them in strengthening their focus on poverty and social inclusion.

The Agency started the awareness-raising programme by developing and maintaining structured contact with Directors of Community and Enterprise including contact with a social inclusion sub-group of the Directors of Community and Enterprise.

The Agency participated in awareness-raising seminars on the implications of NAPS for local authorities. These were hosted by the four Regional Authorities, in conjunction with the Department of the Environment and Local Government, the DSCFA NAPS Unit and the Agency.

The Agency's submission on the development of Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) was disseminated to all local authorities. The Agency also made presentations on NAPS and local government to a wide range of workshops and conferences and responded to many requests for support and inputs from individual local authorities.

An audit of anti-poverty work within local authorities that had been commissioned in 1999 was completed.

An information leaflet, *From National to Local, the NAPS and Local Government*, was published detailing the role envisaged for local government in tackling poverty and the supports provided to local authorities by the Agency and others.

Involving Community in Local Government, guidelines on good practice in involving the community and voluntary sector in local government, were published and disseminated. In addition, *Poverty Today* featured articles on anti-poverty work and local government.

The establishment of a Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network, in collaboration with the Department of the Environment and Local Government and the NAPS Unit in the DSCFA, was an important step towards creating a coherent framework for anti-poverty work by local authorities. It is intended to help local authority personnel share information and experience as a means of promoting effective anti-poverty strategies. The Learning Network was established following advice from an advisory committee. Following declarations of interest by local authorities, the Learning Network was formally launched in October by the Minister for the Environment and Local Government, at an Agency conference for local authorities on anti-poverty strategies in local government. Proposals from local authorities to join the Network were summarised and collated and common issues identified. Meetings were subsequently held with each local authority that submitted a proposal to join the Learning Network.

The Agency commissioned additional work from the Small Areas Health Research Unit (SAHRU) in Trinity College Dublin to further develop a model for local government poverty profiling which was piloted in two local authorities – South Dublin and Sligo County Councils. It was later decided to extend the pilot to Offaly County Council where a Community Workers Co-op (CWC) EU project to develop a pilot local anti-poverty strategy was underway. Training needs were identified and SAHRU was commissioned to provide training and advice services on poverty profiling to the three pilot local authorities and to Directors of Community and Enterprise. The Agency funded the CWC to produce a handbook on developing a local anti-poverty strategy, based on the pilot work with Offaly County Council.

A survey and analysis of the training needs of local authorities in relation to poverty was completed and consultants engaged to develop training materials.

Links with the Local Government Unit in Warwick University and with the IPA were maintained during the year and the Agency co-hosted, with the IPA, a conference and visit of the UK Local Government Network in May.

The Agency liaised with the Department of the Environment and Local Government and ADM on poverty aspects of urban renewal and submitted a short paper to the DSCFA on the establishment of social inclusion units in five local authorities on a pilot basis, as provided for in the PPF.

An Agency staff working group on local government met during the year to develop an Agency submission on the Local Government Bill.

Enhancing Policy on Community and Voluntary Sector Involvement in Tackling Poverty

Community Development

Combat Poverty Agency continued to support the DSCFA's Community Development Programme through participation in its advisory, technical and operational sub-committees. It contributed to discussions on evaluating the Programme and to training and strategic planning work. It also advised the DSCFA on proposed regional CDP policy workers and their job responsibilities.

The Agency took part in discussions about the establishment of a specialist support agency on developmental community arts and participated in POBAL advisory group on the establishment of a regional support agency for Kildare and Wicklow.

There was close contact also with Area Development Management Ltd (ADM) and the Agency contributed to its conference on community development and participated in its sub-committees on community development, equality and gender mainstreaming.

The Agency continued its membership of the Steering Committee of the Community Directors' Forum, which supports the Community Directors on local area-based partnership companies. However, the Forum was not very active during the year and initial discussions took place with a view to reviewing this work.

Agency representation on the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS) national steering committee was maintained and the Agency contributed to the MABS national conference on the theme of influencing social policy.

An Agency policy statement on community development was published to heighten awareness of community development and anti-poverty work among public servants.

National Development Plan

The Agency maintained links with interdepartmental and monitoring committees on local development established under the new operational programmes for the National Development Plan. The Agency was invited to participate in the monitoring committees for the Border Midlands and Western (BMW) and the southern/eastern regions as well as a co-ordinating committee on social inclusion and equality.

White Paper on Supporting Voluntary Activity

Combat Poverty Agency continued participation on the DSCFA's steering committee on the development of the White Paper on relations between the community and voluntary sector and the State. It proposed the inclusion of agreed text with NSSB (now Comhairle) and ADM that referred to the respective roles of each agency, their future support role to the sector and processes for discussing these. The Agency participated in a national consultative conference on the White Paper in March and the launch of the White Paper in September. Preliminary discussions were held with the NSSB (now Comhairle) and ADM on progressing issues raised in the White Paper on respective roles in providing national level supports to the community and voluntary sector.

Developing the Policy Capacity of the Community and Voluntary Sector

Support to the NESF Assembly

The national anti-poverty networks, the Community Development Programme and the women's networks participate in the proceedings of the National Economic and Social Forum by electing three 'disadvantaged sector' members through the mechanism of the NESF Assembly. Networks also use the Assembly meetings to discuss the work of the Forum and raise issues for presentation to the Forum. The Agency continued to support the sector's participation in the Forum and to resource the Assembly.

The Agency briefed the NESF Assembly on the findings of the NAPS review and advised the NESF Plenary on poverty proofing. A number of regional policy consultation meetings were held to explore current and

future policy concerns. These meetings were jointly planned and executed by the NESF Assembly together with the Community Platform.

Support to Community and Voluntary Sector

An innovative service, Dáilbrief, commenced to provide electronic monthly information briefings on Oireachtas debates relevant to the sector. This received very positive feedback from subscriber groups.

Work on finalising a handbook on social analysis was completed and the final report is held in the Agency library.

Work commenced on updating *A Guide to Good Employment Practice*. This is scheduled for publication in 2001.

National Anti-Poverty Networks

The Agency continued to provide core funding to seven national anti-poverty networks (see Appendix Two). These were:

- 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 met with networks to discuss the development of long-term funding mechanisms and, in the context of the White Paper on Voluntary Activity, a proposal for the new programme was developed and approved by the Agency's Board. Discussions were also held with DSCFA to finalise funding arrangements for 2000 and to establish a new and expanded national programme for the anti-poverty networks in 2001.

Community Foundations

The Agency continued to participate on the executive and advisory committees of the Ireland Funds and helped in the assessment of funding applications. The Chairperson represented the Agency on the Board of the Foundation for Investing in Communities.

The Agency also maintained its contacts with a number of other national and international foundations and encouraged their support for anti-poverty and community development activity.

Grants Scheme

The Agency managed and promoted the *Working Against Poverty* grants scheme, an integrated grants scheme that supports the linking of practice in local anti-poverty work to national policy-making. It supports research, evaluation and public awareness initiatives that have the potential to influence policy-makers in favour of those affected by poverty. To promote awareness of the scheme, the December issue of *Poverty Today* featured the work of a number of funded groups in its supplement 'Anti-Poverty Work in Action'.

The administration of the scheme was reviewed and amended during the year to streamline reporting by funded groups.

Practice to Policy

Work continued on advancing training for community and voluntary groups on linking practice to policy. A number of regional training seminars were held which received a positive response from participants. Four regional seminars were held on policy issues relating to child poverty.

Further support was provided to the community and voluntary sector in the areas of media training and information services. The Agency initiated a media training programme for community and voluntary groups, which continued throughout the year.

A poster for the community sector on linking practice to policy was printed and disseminated.

During the year, the Agency continued to be represented on the trustees of Common Purpose Ireland.

Drugs Policy Programme

Throughout the year, the Agency worked to ensure that lessons from local projects funded under its *Poverty, Drug Use and Policy Grants Scheme* were disseminated to policy-makers to influence national drugs policy. Under this scheme, seven local projects were funded to tackle the issue of drugs in their areas using community development approaches. Funding was allocated to enable them to develop a policy dimension to their work and to feed this into the policy-making process. The scheme concluded during the year with a final conference on poverty, drug use and policy in order to disseminate the lessons. This secured good media coverage and a conference report was produced and disseminated.

The grants scheme and the work of the participating projects were evaluated during the year and the evaluation report, *Tackling Drugs at Local Level: A Policy Perspective*, was disseminated to key policy interests, including the National Drugs Strategy Team. *Poverty Today* also highlighted the lessons from the project work.

The Agency participated on the Interim Advisory Committee on Drugs. The role of this committee was to advise the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Social Inclusion on measures necessary to enhance the information and research capacity and provision on drug use in Ireland and measures to tackle it.

Arising from this the Agency was appointed to the National Advisory Committee on Drugs, when it was established in September 2001.

European Union

Throughout the year, the Agency maintained its links with EU policy development bodies and anti-poverty groups to share lessons learned through local action and to inform EU policy on tackling social exclusion.

A highlight of the Agency's activity during the year was its co-ordination of an EU project across several countries which examined ways of involving excluded people in the design, implementation and evaluation of anti-poverty and social inclusion policies. Preparatory work involved planning the seminars, designing agendas and liaising with participating countries. The Agency

contributed to a series of seminars in member states and organised the Irish seminar. In addition, the Agency helped to develop and maintain a project website on rural poverty and provided contact details for Irish rural organisations.

A joint seminar for all participants was organised in Dublin in September. A report from each seminar was produced and disseminated. The final seminar report, *Guidelines for Effective Involvement*, which contains guidelines for best practice in involving excluded people in policy-making, was published by the Agency and disseminated. In all, four reports on different stages of the project were produced. Issues from the project were highlighted in *Poverty Today*.

The Agency continued to participate in the Combined European Bureau on Social Development (CEBSD), a network of organisations concerned with promoting community development in different European countries. Strategic meetings were held with CEBSD co-ordinators and the Agency contributed to the formulation of a document on participation, which was produced as part of a joint project on participation funded by the European Union. It helped to host, along with the Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, a meeting of the CEBSD board in Monaghan.

The Agency was a partner in a French project on rural poverty carried out under the EU Preparatory Actions to Combat Social Exclusion. It took part in a conference on rural poverty, organised by its French partner, which was followed later in the year by a conference which discussed good practice lessons arising from the project.

The Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs was briefed on EU policy proposals to address poverty and social exclusion in the context of Article 137 of the Amsterdam Treaty. The Agency also presented a paper on poverty proofing to a Lisbon conference on mainstreaming organised by the European Anti-Poverty Network and participated in the Irish delegation to the UN World Summit on Social Development in Geneva. The Agency was represented on an expert committee established by Union Les Associations Pour Developper Les Solidarites (UNIOPSS) to advise on a study on social exclusion and poverty in Europe.

Economic and Social Rights

Combat Poverty Agency is committed to highlighting the link between poverty and the denial of social, cultural and economic rights and to seeking protection for these rights through legislation and the Constitution. Economic and social rights were also featured in *Poverty Today*.

The Agency commissioned a background paper to inform its submission to the NAPS IDPC on the inclusion of a rights perspective in the review of the NAPS. It held a workshop at its NAPS conference in May 2000 on applying a social rights approach to social inclusion policies. A literature review on social rights was also finalised.

Preliminary discussions were held with the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism to discuss a possible research project on racism and poverty.

Agency policy submissions, particularly to the National Children's Strategy, highlighted Ireland's obligations under various international rights instruments such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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'

Social Welfare Reform

Ensuring that social welfare rates keep their value in terms of inflation and earnings is an important means of maintaining the living standards of social welfare recipients and of preventing a further widening of the gap between rich and poor. Throughout the year, Combat Poverty Agency worked to identify possible policy options for uprating social welfare payments and to secure support for these among policy-makers.

Social welfare issues were emphasised in the Agency's pre-Budget submission for Budget 2001, *Share the Benefits of Economic Growth*, which was submitted to Government and subsequently published. It proposed integrated tax and welfare measures to redistribute income towards poorer households, especially those with children, and to address structural causes of inequality and income poverty.

Policy advice and technical support on social welfare and taxation reform was provided to community and voluntary groups negotiating as the Community Pillar for the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness and to anti-poverty organisations in the Community Platform.

Agency staff presented a paper on child income support for the Economic and Social Research Institute and the Foundation for Fiscal Studies pre-Budget conference on 'Budgetary Perspectives'.

The Agency discussed a joint research study with the South Eastern Health Board to analyse the external and internal factors impacting on Supplementary Welfare Allowance (SWA) in the SEHB and to develop appropriate policy responses.

Social Spending and Income Distribution

Securing increased national spending on social supports, in particular housing and health, is another important means of maintaining and improving the standard of living and quality of life of people in poverty. To inform debate on this issue, the Agency worked throughout the year to finalise a study that examines the role of social spending patterns in Ireland, and analyses the role of public policy in addressing imbalances in the distribution of economic and social goods and the implications of this for addressing poverty. The study *Rich and Poor, Perspectives on Tackling Inequality in Ireland* was prepared in 2000 for publication in 2001.

Research on income distribution was finalised by the ESRI during the year. The report *The Distribution of Income in Ireland* was published in December and featured in *Poverty Today*. The report looks primarily at changes in income distribution between 1994 and 1997 and shows that better-off households are gaining from the boom to a greater extent than those who are less well off.

Work continued on a study of the allocation of resources within households.

The Agency, in association with the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed (INO), commissioned the Small Area Health Research Unit (SAHRU) to undertake a research and policy paper on Public Health Care Issues for Low Income Families with Children. This paper is currently being finalised.

On a broader scale, the Agency sought to enhance public awareness of the experiences of families living on low incomes. It managed and supported a qualitative poverty study carried out during the year. Research findings will be available in 2001.

Promoting a More Equitable Tax System

Promoting the development of a more equitable tax system is an important strand of the Agency's work. Policy proposals on tax reform were developed during the year, in particular in the Agency's pre-Budget submission.

During the year, the Agency continued to participate in the inter-departmental Micro-Simulation Forum which co-ordinates the development and use of the SWITCH model as a policy tool for simulating the effects of tax and welfare changes on a representative sample of households. The Agency drew on the model's findings to inform its policy papers.

Discussions on Budget priorities were held with the tax strategy group of the DSCFA and the submission was presented also to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Social, Community and Family Affairs.

Labour Market Participation

Identifying and promoting measures to increase participation of the most excluded in the labour market, particularly the long-term unemployed, is an important aspect of anti-poverty policy. To inform this, the Agency commissioned the ESRI to undertake a study on the dynamics of unemployment in Ireland over the period 1994 to 1998. The overall aim of the study is to improve understanding of the changing labour market and the groups most at risk of unemployment and to extrapolate policy conclusions from the analysis. The study will be completed and published in 2001.

Work was carried out on identifying and promoting labour market and income maintenance policy options for low-income farmers. The Agency published a research report, *Low Income Farm Households, Incidence, Characteristics and Policies*, which had been commissioned for Teagasc/ESRI. The report was launched at the National Ploughing Championships in September by the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Joe Walsh, TD. Further work at disseminating its findings was carried out.

With a view to exploring policy options for young people at risk of long-term unemployment, a study undertaken by NEXUS research, *Labour Market Transitions Among Educationally Disadvantaged 18-21 Year-Olds*, was finalised.

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

Throughout the year, Combat Poverty Agency continued to work towards the reduction, prevention and elimination of child poverty and sought to influence policy to this end through research, consultation, heightening public awareness and supporting specific actions. The Agency's submission in February 2000 to the National Children's Strategy, *A Better Future for Children, eliminating poverty, promoting equality*, called for the elimination of severe child poverty over ten years; to eliminate child income poverty by 2020 and to halve it by 2010.

The Agency worked to identify and seek agreement among interest groups on targets and actions on child poverty for inclusion in the NAPS, the National Children's Strategy and the national partnership agreement. It continued to promote the establishment of a cross-sectoral working group to identify such targets and emphasised the need for such a group in its submission on a National Children's Strategy.

Its submission also highlighted issues of access to and provision of childcare and the setting of a child income support standard. A submission was prepared for Government and the social partners on the subvention of childcare for discussion under the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness.

Research and Analysis of Child Poverty Policy

The Agency worked to support and publish research into current levels of child poverty. As part of its activities, it published the findings of an ESRI research project on child poverty, entitled *Child Poverty in Ireland*, and disseminated it to key policy interests. A Poverty Briefing on Child Poverty was also commissioned.

In partnership with the *Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative*, a national conference on child poverty was held in July involving international and national experts on child poverty, policy-makers and community and voluntary groups. The Minister of State for Children, Mary Hanafin TD, addressed the conference and it received strong media coverage. Following the conference, further talks were facilitated between Dr Larry Aber, Director of the National Centre for Children in Poverty, New York, and key policy, research and community interests.

The Agency submission on the formulation of a National Children's Strategy also set out six core principles for a children's strategy; a policy strategy for enhancing child welfare; establishing a minimum income standard for children in need; proposals for promoting equality among discriminated groups and an institutional framework to support children and a children's strategy.

The Agency continued its consultations with key bodies with a view to establishing a national survey on children's well-being and this was also featured in the submission to the National Children's Strategy. Progress was made on this during the year with the establishment of a working group by the DSCFA and the formulation, with assistance from the Agency, of a survey brief.

Demonstration Programme on Educational Disadvantage

Educational disadvantage and early school-leaving contribute significantly to unemployment and poverty, including child poverty. The Agency continued to develop and support strategic preventative measures. During the year, the Agency maintained its support and funding for the Demonstration Programme on Educational Disadvantage and its links with the Education Initiative of the ADM/CPA Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in the southern border counties.

The Demonstration Programme sought to devise, evaluate and, ultimately, mainstream integrated responses to educational disadvantage from four pilot areas around the country: Tralee, Co. Kerry; Tuam, Co. Galway; Drogheda, Co. Louth; and Killinarden in West Tallaght, Dublin. A mainstreaming sub-group comprising Agency staff and network representatives worked to develop a mainstreaming strategy.

Policy papers dealing with aspects of educational disadvantage which drew out key issues from the programme were prepared and published, under the title *Policy Aspects of Educational Disadvantage*. The Children's Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin, completed an evaluation of the Demonstration Programme. The findings and recommendations of the evaluation, entitled *Evaluating Integrated Responses to Educational Disadvantage*, were published and sent to key policy interests, including the Department of Education and Science, ADM, teachers' unions, Oireachtas committees and the social partners. Follow-up discussions were held with statutory bodies, trade unions and other education interests on issues of mainstreaming and the integration of responses to educational disadvantage. Lessons drawn from project work supported by the ADM/CPA Programme for Peace and Reconciliation were incorporated into this feedback process also.

A forum on Local Education Structures was held in Spring and the proceedings informed the policy paper on local structures produced in conjunction with the Demonstration Programme.

An end-of-programme conference was held in November on the theme 'The Role of Networks in Developing Integrated Responses to Tackle Educational Disadvantage' and the evaluation report and policy papers were publicly launched to coincide with this.

Throughout the year, the Agency gave support to individual networks within the Programme and promoted inter-network liaison. Key activities in this regard included:

- Support for regular co-ordination meetings among the Programme networks;
- Agreement of a programme of work at inter-network level;
- Provision of training at inter-network level in media and PR skills, funding and influencing policy;
- Organisation of a workshop on sustaining inter-agency relationships held in collaboration with the Children's Research Centre, TCD;
- Exploration of future support options after the completion of the Demonstration Programme;
- Liaison with the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee Curriculum Development Unit (CDVEC CDU) on providing a poverty awareness programme for teachers;
- Assistance to individual networks in developing funding proposals;
- Participation of CPA personnel in various network events.



Combat Poverty Agency also co-operated with other bodies outside the Demonstration Programme in tackling educational disadvantage. It continued its participation in the management committee of the Department of Education and Science's 8 to 15-Year-Old Early School-Leavers' Initiative and the Women's Education Initiative. The Women's Education Initiative was replaced during the year by the Educational Equality Initiative Working Group, which included men's groups, as proposed in the National Development Plan. During the year an evaluation of the Women's Education Initiative and preparatory work on a new Education Equality Initiative were undertaken.

Ongoing links were maintained with other key educational interests especially the Social Inclusion Unit in the Department of Education and Science, Youthstart, Area Development Management and the evaluation advisory committee for the Springboard Initiative. In association with Youthstart, case studies on locally based integrated responses to educational disadvantage, entitled *A Learning Experience*, were published and launched. The Agency also gave assistance in supporting a Youthstart/Youthreach research project.

Early Education

In the field of early childhood education, the Agency worked on monitoring and analysing policy developments and proposals in areas such as integrated services research and strategies on early childhood education. The report of a Dublin Institute of Technology research project into early childhood education was prepared for publication as was a report and resource guide on the integrated services research.

Child Poverty Awareness Programme

Combat Poverty Agency continued its policy of seeking to influence policy towards the prevention, reduction and elimination of child poverty. Promoting public awareness and concern over child poverty plays an important role in seeking to influence policy. During the year, the Agency sought to highlight the issue of child poverty among community and voluntary organisations by, among other steps, incorporating child poverty as a subject in its media training courses for such groups. In addition, four Practice to Policy seminars on the subject of child poverty were organised during the year.

It worked to promote public awareness through the *Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative*, which it helped found in 1999 and to which it gives ongoing support. The other participating organisations are: Barnardos, The Children's Rights Alliance, The Society of St Vincent de Paul and the National Youth Council of Ireland. In 2000, Pavee Point, People with Disabilities in Ireland and Focus Ireland also joined the Initiative.

Three distinct strands to the work have developed:

- Promoting public awareness;
- Strengthening the voice of the sector concerned with children/poverty;
- Engaging with the policy-making context.

Throughout the year, Combat Poverty worked with media consultants and its partner organisations in planning and organising a public awareness campaign centred around a series of national and local radio advertisements on child poverty, using the words of children and parents in that situation.

The issue was publicised also through:

- A special issue of *Poverty Today*;
- The production of a poster and an information pack on child poverty;
- Contributing articles to individual newspapers on child poverty;
- A Back to School publicity programme that highlighted educational disadvantage and the costs of education;
- A market survey on public awareness of child poverty, commissioned to take place before and after the radio advertisements;
- The publication of an information brochure highlighting the responses of children to their experience of poverty, *In Our Own Words*;
- The organisation of a pre-Budget information day;
- The submission of recommendations to Budget 2001.

The UK-based Gulbenkian Foundation offered Stg£20K to the Agency, on behalf of the Initiative, for research, related activities and a report on the effectiveness of different models of involving children in policy discussion. This is part of the Initiative's interest to support children's right to be heard in public debate and policy-making. The Initiative also made a submission to the Department of Health and Children to support this work in the context of the National Children's Strategy. Work on the Gulbenkian project will commence in 2001.

A submission, *Target an End to Child Poverty*, from the participating organisations in the *Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative* was made to the National Children's Strategy. It outlines a children's rights framework so that all children secure the rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and addresses the elimination of child poverty and specific issues of education, health, childcare and the needs of particular groups.

Under the auspices of the Initiative, the Agency funded new projects concerned with child poverty and policy. The Children's Rights Alliance received a grant of £10,000 to carry out a research project on government efforts underway throughout Europe and North America on initiatives to prevent, reduce and eliminate poverty, to highlight models of best practice and to disseminate the project's findings to the public and policy-makers. The Society of St Vincent de Paul received a grant of £10,000 to carry out qualitative and quantitative research on the needs and concerns of children who have immediate and/or close family members in prison, with a view to influencing specific changes in prison policy and prison accommodation and broader consideration of the needs of children by prison authorities.

The *Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative* joined with four other European partners and the European Forum for Child Welfare and successfully fundraised from the EU for a project to raise awareness about child poverty and advancement of children's rights in the EU. The Initiative is represented in this work by Barnardos who join with the UK National Children's Bureau and similar groups from Greece, Belgium and Finland.

An interim evaluation of the Initiative was commissioned and early findings were used to inform a proposal for the extension of the programme to a third year which was approved by the Agency. Ways of strengthening the voice of the child in subsequent work by the Initiative were also explored.

During the period of the report, an Agency staff working group met regularly to discuss and co-ordinate work in this area.

Objective **four**

'The Agency will advance the opportunity offered by peace to build a more inclusive and participatory democracy on this island'

Throughout 2000 the Agency, in partnership with Area Development Management Ltd (ADM), continued to implement over half the allocation of the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation to the southern border counties. In total, 13 measures ranging from employment through community-led development and social inclusion to trade development were within the remit of the ADM/CPA partnership, with the Agency's particular focus on maximising social inclusion and promoting reconciliation.

In collaboration with the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust (NIVT), the ADM/CPA Joint Management Committee (JMC) continued to manage its specific measure on cross-border community reconciliation, which promoted cross-border collaboration on an all-island basis. By the end of 1999 the ADM/CPA partnership had allocated most of the Peace and Reconciliation Programme funding of £53.3m (€67.95). Therefore, during 2000 the main focus of the work concentrated on supporting organisations to realise their projects' progress and ultimate completion. This work was carried out by Programme personnel, based in Monaghan and the outreach offices, in each of the six border counties. They worked to ensure that funded groups completed their spending programmes by year's end where possible and to ensure optimum results in meeting social inclusion and reconciliation targets. The Agency supported this process through participation in the ADM/CPA Joint Management Committee, its Finance Sub-Committee and Research Sub-Committee and other management structures.

By 2000, with all funding allocated, the role of the three Local Advisory Committees had changed. These committees whose focus was on Economic Development, Community Development/Human Resources and Cross-Border Development formed an integral part of the planning process for the Peace II Programme. They served to advise on the underpinning principles, core values and objectives which should be established by ADM/CPA in preparation for the Peace II Programme.

Towards the end of 2000, the Programme was allocated an additional IR£2million (€2.54) by Government for the continuation of a number of employment-type projects until such time as the Peace II Programme was operational. In total almost 300 applications were received, with some 140 projects allocated 'Emergency Funding'. Many other projects assessed had sufficient funding to support them in the intervening period.

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

Throughout the year the practical support to organisations continued in a number of ways including providing:

- One-to-one support sessions for groups displaying difficulties;
- Support sessions for clusters of groups, with particular emphasis on those groups having difficulty in financial and quantitative reporting;
- The continuation of a Management Training Programme to twenty projects, based on the Agency's 'Managing Better' Series and individual mentor support to participating projects;

- The continuation of a Management Training and Mentor Support Programme for women’s projects and women’s network workers;
- Training for businesses participating in the Border Towns Retail and Services Sector’s marketing and customer care programmes.

Other sub-regional and county-based organisations, such as Partnerships, Community Development Projects (CDPs), LEADER Companies, County Enterprise Boards and consortia of such agencies continued to provide on-the-ground support to a number of locally-based projects. Furthermore, such organisations continued to implement programmes in support of locally based initiatives throughout the border region.

The strategic initiative work addressing developmental issues throughout the border region focused on the exploration of options for mainstreaming the lessons and processes developed by ADM/CPA through the Programme for Peace and Reconciliation. The range of strategic initiatives included:

Reconciliation Awareness

This work was progressed by the development of information and guidelines on peace building and reconciliation work in the southern border counties. The work will be completed in preparation for the implementation of the Peace II Programme.

Educational Disadvantage

A report on the Initiative on Educational Disadvantage was launched during the year by the Minister for Education and Science, Michael Woods. In support of this work a review involving a case study approach was undertaken, which resulted in a publication focusing on three of the 21 participating locally based consortia tackling educational disadvantage. A number of the projects initially funded by the Programme were subsequently taken on board within the school system. Some were mainstreamed by Department of Education and Science initiatives while in other instances some became self-sustaining.

Support to the Women’s Sector

The training and mentor support programme was completed during 2000 with a briefing paper outlining recommendations from the lessons learned due for completion in 2001. Furthermore, the research project undertaken by Women Educating for Transformation (WEFT) was completed and launched during the year. A series of recommendations from the report are being presented to policy-makers within a number of government departments including Social, Community and Family Affairs and Education and Science. Collaborative work with similar groups in Northern Ireland is at an advanced stage with further progress expected during 2001.



North West Women’s Consortium, Co. Donegal – working to assist women in violent relationships, North and South.

Sustainability Issues

Given that some 1,400 projects throughout the southern border region had received Peace and Reconciliation Programme funding through ADM/CPA, the issue of sustainability became critical towards the end of 2000. This prompted ADM/CPA to research the critical success factors and key learning for sustainability as they related to feasibility studies and employment projects. The findings of the work are due to be published in 2001.

ADM/CPA were particularly concerned that the part of the legacy of the Peace and Reconciliation Programme in the southern border counties should contain some of the lessons learned from the work of the Programme. The approach adopted to capture this learning involved undertaking a number of case studies on the key themes of social inclusion, reconciliation, cross-border development and socio-economic development. In total, 12 in-depth case studies were compiled and the collective learning distilled under the above headings. A report on the work is due in 2001.

At a policy level the Agency devoted time to addressing poverty and social exclusion issues in the context of peace building on the island. The Agency was appointed as an adviser to the Peace II Programme's Monitoring Committee as well as having full representation on the Border, Midlands and Western Region's (BMW) Monitoring Committee.

Furthermore, during 2000 the Agency lobbied to ensure that the next round of EU Structural Funds and the INTERREG IIIA Programme featured strong elements of social inclusion and North-South co-operation. To help instil this policy perspective, the Agency liaised with and advised ministers, government departments and the newly established North-South Ministerial Council and Special EU Programmes Body.

In addition, contacts were further developed with statutory agencies, Directors of Community and Enterprise and regional and local bodies to ensure the sustainability and continuation of successful projects funded under the Programme.

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

In seeking to embed poverty, reconciliation and social inclusion in the work of community and cross-border bodies, ADM/CPA continued to work with media consultants to publicise and promote the principles of the Peace and Reconciliation Programme in the southern border counties and on a cross-border basis. This strategy involved highlighting the work of peace-building projects through the local and national media with significant coverage for key events.

Furthermore, funded projects were required to publicise their activities through project signage, launches, meetings and seminars. Opportunities for Peace and Reconciliation Programme promotion were encouraged and support for high profile events was provided by ADM/CPA staff.

In order to influence national policy-making and mainstream the lessons of the Peace and Reconciliation Programme, the Agency strengthened the links between its central policy work and the work of the ADM/CPA Programme team. Measures undertaken included: increased involvement and co-ordination between Agency and Programme personnel by means of information exchanges; pooling of database resource materials and case studies, including Peace and Reconciliation Programme information on the CPA website; enhancing electronic links and participation of Peace and Reconciliation staff in Agency training and working groups. Work on co-ordinating databases is scheduled to be completed by end 2001. Combat Poverty maintained its involvement in the ADM/CPA Research Sub-Committee during the year, advising ADM/CPA staff on strategic issues as well as the production and dissemination of reports and publications.

Poverty Today regularly publicised the Programme's policy and issue priorities and featured its publications.

A number of Agency staff were amongst the hundred people who contributed to a book *Being Irish* (Oak Tree Press), which raises important issues about Irish identity in a rapidly changing world.

Promoting Cross-Border Activity and Influencing Cross-Border Institutions

As a result of the peace process, new cross-border and civic bodies were established. Such bodies included those set up to implement North-South co-operation under the Belfast or Good Friday Agreement. The Agency tried to influence these bodies to adopt a poverty, social inclusion and reconciliation focus in their programmes of work. In doing this, it has sought also to strengthen the capacity of the community and voluntary sector to contribute to these new bodies by promoting dialogue between the sector and policy-makers. It supported the sector in this process through research into the links between poverty, social exclusion and peace and reconciliation.

In association with ADM, NIVT and Co-operation Ireland, the Agency undertook an evaluation of the measures promoting cross-border business and cultural linkages (Measure 3.1) and cross-border community reconciliation (Measure 3.4). The resulting report entitled *Border Crossings: Lessons from the Peace Programme* examined the impact of cross-border projects funded by the Peace and Reconciliation Programme; identified gaps in and barriers to cross-border development; and highlighted opportunities for cross-border co-operation with particular reference to evolving cross-border institutions and programmes.

Cross-Border Conference

A major event which took place during the year was the organisation by ADM/CPA and NIVT of a conference in June on cross-border activity, entitled *The Peace Programme: Setting the Cross-Border Agenda*. This event highlighted the effects of the conflict in the context of the southern border counties; it focused on some of the lessons learned from cross-border collaboration in the experience of the Peace and Reconciliation Programme and made recommendations in preparation for the implementation of cross-border development in the Peace II and other future cross-border funding and development programmes.

North-South Consultative Forum

In collaboration with Democratic Dialogue, Co-operation Ireland, the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust, Rural Community Network, ADM and representation from the social partners and community sector, the Agency developed a proposal for the establishment of a North-South Consultative Forum. The report was presented to both the Northern Ireland and Irish administrations during 2000. It is anticipated that the Forum will be further developed during 2001.

Northern Ireland Civic Forum

During the year, the Agency's Director was appointed as a founding member of the Northern Ireland Civic Forum which was established under the Belfast Agreement. He has contributed to the early development of the forum and especially its work on poverty.

NIVT Social Justice Initiatives Fund

On the invitation of NIVT, Combat Poverty participated in NIVT's Advisory Group on a new Social Justice Initiatives Fund. The Fund was established to encourage local community and self-help groups to become involved in peace building through reflection, discussion and action on social justice, human rights and equality issues.

Peace II Programme

During 2000 the Agency, in association with ADM Ltd, supported the Departments of Finance, Social, Community and Family Affairs and Tourism, Sport and Recreation in their preparations for the Peace II Programme. This work involved commenting on various drafts of the Operational Programme as well as support on the development of the Programme Complement. The Local Advisory Committees and key target groups of the Programme were consulted during the year in regard to the Peace II Programme and the views of these groups considerably influenced the ADM/CPA submissions to government departments.

The Agency's experience of implementing the Peace and Reconciliation Programme coupled with consultations and drawing out the lessons learned at policy and implementation levels, ensured a significant and meaningful contribution to the development of the Peace II Programme. The Agency was especially keen to ensure that work previously funded by the Peace and Reconciliation Programme was consolidated and further developed. It supported individuals and communities to progress by considering a range of sustainability measures, such as mainstreaming, economic self-reliance or continuation under the Peace II and other programmes under the National Development Plan.

In the context of the National Development Plan, the Agency sought to ensure additionality for the Peace II Programme through a focus on those key target groups, areas and sectors of the Peace II Programme. The Agency also advised on the Common Chapter of the National Development Plan and sought to ensure a North-South focus where applicable to programmes in this plan. The participation of the Agency in the BMW (Border Midlands and Western) Region's Monitoring Committee which was established towards the end of the year, continues to provide opportunity for the Agency to ensure that North-South opportunities are fully exploited for that region.

Strategic initiative work during 2000, including peace-building and reconciliation work at community and through education curricula, furthered the thinking on reconciliation work for an area adjacent to where the conflict took place. It is intended that this work will feature in the implementation of that part of the Peace II Programme for which ADM/CPA will have responsibility both in the southern border counties and on a cross-border basis.

Supporting Actions

The Agency sustains a number of core services and activities that support and advance its policy objectives. The most important of these functions are:

- Maintaining a library and responding to enquiries on poverty, social exclusion and community development;
- Promoting awareness of poverty and social justice in the post-primary curriculum;
- A publications programme including publishing a quarterly magazine, an annual report, a pre-budget submission and post-budget analysis, research and other reports and the dissemination of these to relevant interests;
- Maintaining and further developing its website: www.cpa.ie

Library and Information Service

The Agency continued to provide and improve its library service as a resource on issues of poverty, social exclusion and community development. There is evidence of a growing awareness and use of the library, particularly on the part of poverty researchers and community and voluntary groups. The Agency responded to all queries and offered support, advice and referral to other resources where necessary.

A current awareness bulletin of journal articles continues to be offered and media cuttings relating to Agency initiatives are also collected. Acquisition Guidelines for library stock purchases were agreed in January 2000.

Online access to the library catalogue was provided in the Summer, through the Agency's website. Two new library management tools, relating to Serials and Acquisitions, were installed on the library system.

A promotional leaflet on the library was revised and published in 2000 and disseminated in 2001.

Consultancy contracts for the management of the library service were issued to the selected consultant for a 12-month period.

The Agency continued to respond to requests for inputs to seminars and discussions on a wide range of poverty and social policy issues.

Curriculum Development

The Agency is concerned to strengthen its support for post-primary curriculum initiatives and education for social change, with particular regard to poverty and social justice.

This year work continued with the City of Dublin Vocational Educational Committee Curriculum Development Unit (CDVEC CDU) to develop curricular material on poverty awareness and social exclusion for teachers and students of Civic Social and Political Education (CSPE) at junior cycle level. A policy discussion paper was commissioned to examine the implications of this work and to locate it in the context of curriculum development at national level. The independent evaluation of the work was finalised and used to influence the focus of the work in 2001.

Contacts with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) were developed during the year, as was liaison with curriculum interests in Northern Ireland, in particular the new Human Rights Commission and the Northern Ireland Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment. Combat Poverty Agency made a

submission to the NCCA entitled *Towards Social, Political, Citizenship Education in the Established Leaving Certificate* which was informed by an earlier Agency workshop held to consider Citizenship Education in the Post-Primary Curriculum. The NCCA sought Agency advice in drafting syllabus guidelines for home economics teachers in the senior cycle.

Ongoing contacts with the WEBS Network, which seeks to link local and global issues in curriculum development were maintained and developed during 2000 and the Agency contributed to many of the network's plenary and sub-group meetings. The Agency participated in drafting two internal policy discussion papers relating to linking local and global justice issues in curriculum development and the Network's views on curriculum policy.

An important focus of new activity in 2000 was preparatory work on the development of a shared website on poverty and social justice for schools and teachers. A European Union Integra grant of £40,000 was received to develop this, in partnership with Children's Rights Alliance, Society of St Vincent de Paul, Integra and the Equality Authority. Preliminary work was done on preparing tenders for the website development. Progress was made on the technical development and a consultant was appointed to prepare the curriculum material for the site by early 2001.

Publications and Reports

The Agency annually implements an extensive programme of publications and dissemination. The Agency's quarterly magazine *Poverty Today* was published throughout the year and issues of child poverty and local government anti-poverty work were highlighted. The journal's supplement on *Anti-Poverty Work in Action* continued to feature the work of local anti-poverty funded projects.

In accordance with its statutory obligations, Combat Poverty Agency produced its annual report for 1999 which was submitted to the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs. It was subsequently published and received widespread media coverage.

Preliminary work started on a review of the Agency's publications policy. The review is to be finalised and presented for discussion and implementation in 2001. Work began on updating the Agency's catalogue of publications and this will be finalised and published.

The Agency's annual calendar was published and distributed before year's end. The 2001 calendar featured many aspects of exclusion and deprivation.

Promotion of the Agency's Work

In addition to the production of research and reports, the Agency promoted its work through its journal *Poverty Today*, distribution of leaflets and brochures on its services and grants, its website, www.cpa.ie, participation in policy seminars, liaison with political parties and by securing media coverage.

The Agency website was developed and information on services and grants updated throughout the year.

Membership of Community Exchange was maintained. Community Exchange is an e-mail/bulletin where community and voluntary sector organisations from Ireland, North and South, can inform Exchange members of their activities and learn what events, reports, and news are taking place.

The annual briefings for political parties were held in 2000 and the Agency met with Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael, the Green Party, Labour Party and Sinn Féin. Additional meetings were held throughout the year with party personnel on specific issues. The Agency submitted a presentation on national Budget priorities to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Social, Community and Family Affairs. In addition, the Agency regularly briefed the social partners, ICTU, IBEC, the Community and Voluntary Pillar and the IFA, on its policies.

Media Liaison

Publication of its policies through the media is an important promotional tool for the Agency. Media requests for information and interviews were responded to on a regular basis and promotional strategies were devised and implemented for many of the Agency's publications and initiatives.

The Agency secured good media coverage for many of its publications and policy statements during the year including its annual report, pre-Budget submission, child poverty promotional campaign, contribution to the evaluation of the school meals service and research findings on farm income and access to third-level education for disadvantaged students. A review was conducted of the Agency's press clipping service.

Media training for staff was developed and completed during the year.

The media resource pack, *Getting to the Source: A Media Handbook on Poverty in Ireland*, was completed and published during the year. This is a handbook designed to be a practical daily resource on poverty in Ireland for media workers, with a view to encouraging regular and informed media coverage on poverty and social justice. Dissemination and promotion of the handbook will carry on into 2001.

During the year, the Agency and the Equality Authority discussed and agreed to co-host a media forum comprising media practitioners to identify strategies for improving and increasing media coverage of poverty and social inclusion issues. The Agency will maintain its involvement with the Forum and develop its role in the period to come.

The Agency liaised regularly with its media consultants throughout the year, planning promotional strategies for its many publications and for initiatives to raise public awareness of poverty and of child poverty.



Developing the Agency

In pursuing its strategic objectives and goals the Combat Poverty Agency aims to manage and develop its staff and other organisational, financial and technical resources in the most efficient and effective way possible in order to support the achievement of its goals and objectives and secure the implementation of its Strategic Plan.

The Agency values its staff and views their commitment and skill as essential to the successful completion of its overall work. It supports them, where possible, in developing their professional and personal skills and consults with them on their working needs and for their input on the pursuit of Agency goals.

The Agency is committed to:

- Meeting fully its statutory and regulatory obligations;
- Consulting regularly with stakeholders in an open, consultative and transparent manner;
- Utilising its resources in the most efficient and cost-effective way;
- Delivering top-quality services.

Strategic Plan and Work Programme

Throughout the year, the Agency complied with all its statutory and regulatory obligations and successfully implemented new procedures and programmes required by legislative changes. It continued to work towards the achievement of its Strategic Plan which was regularly monitored and assessed. Individual staff and sections implemented their agreed work programmes satisfactorily, given continuing resource pressures, as referred to later. Staff reviewed the work programme for 2000 at the end of the year.

The Board and its Sub-Committees continued to receive an effective and efficient support service from Agency

staff and Board minutes were prepared and issued as required. Staff also continued to support the Joint Management Committee of the Programme for Peace and Reconciliation and its sub-committees.

Financial Administration

The Agency worked to maintain and improve the effectiveness of its financial and administrative systems throughout the year. The annual budget for 2000 was prepared and implemented. The financial statements for 1999 were submitted to the Comptroller and Auditor General and accepted.

Detailed work on implementing the changeover plan for the Euro began in liaison with the DSCFA. Analysis and documentation of financial management and payroll systems continued. A decision on the timetable for the introduction of an integrated accounting and budgeting system was deferred to 2001. Considerable progress was achieved in reviewing tax clearance, tendering and contracts procedures.

All payments were kept up to date and statutory tax records were maintained and supplied to employees and consultants.

Information Technology

Year 2000 changeover occurred without difficulty as all information technology and computing systems had been made fully compliant in advance. Contracts for PC maintenance and support were put in place, following a review.

Consistent with the aim of achieving effective and efficient use of these resources, a major training programme in the use of information technology applications was launched in the second half of 2000. This was based on a detailed analysis of staff and Agency needs.

The initial work undertaken on electronic file management needs is to continue in 2001. Discussions took place with the DSCFA on the possible use by the Agency of the new personnel database introduced in 2000 by the Department.

Human Resource Development

The Human Resource Development Policy, agreed in 1999 following extensive staff consultation, was put into effect in accordance with an ambitious implementation plan drawn up by the Agency's HRD Implementation Group.

The Agency continued its commitment to ensuring an open, consultative and transparent working environment and regularly consulted staff on key issues relevant to their work and employment. The establishment of formal Partnership working within the Agency was agreed and put in place though a number of initiatives before the end of the year. As part of the HRD Plan, the HRD Group prepared a survey of staff communication needs by end 2000 with a view to its dissemination in January 2001. In July, an internal newsletter focused on the HRD Plan was launched and a further issue appeared in December.

Regular meetings of staff policy groups, management teams, staff sections and line managers took place throughout the year. Staff met to discuss the possible impact on the Agency's effectiveness of mooted decentralisation of its offices out of Dublin. The Agency briefed the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs on the significant potential negative effects that decentralisation would have on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Agency in fulfilling its statutory responsibilities. Staff also met in December to consider proposals to review the grading structure of the Agency, on foot of the announced departure of a number of senior managers.

Standard contracts of employment were revised to comply with the Terms of Employment Information Act 1994, in agreement with the DSCFA.

Mechanisms for advancing equality of opportunity and flexible working arrangements continued to be developed. A review of people/family friendly policies

took place over the summer. The findings were circulated to staff and the review is to be completed during 2001. A review of the pilot flexitime and time in lieu schemes was completed with the aim of introducing revised schemes in early 2001. Agency obligations under the Working Time Act were fulfilled during the year.

A review of Agency accommodation and office layout was initiated in the second half of 2000. An Accommodation sub-group was established to co-ordinate this review and act on its conclusions and recommendations.

Staffing

A significant level of staff turnover and increasing gaps between vacancies arising and their subsequent filling marked 2000. In the course of the year, a total of nine new appointments were made, by a combination of external recruitment, confined competition within DSCFA, and internal redeployment. At the end of December, there were two vacant posts. The appointments made were across all sections of the Agency and several involved detailed discussions with the Department of Finance and DSCFA on appropriate salary levels. The upgraded post of receptionist was still vacant at year end due to constraints imposed on the Agency regarding starting pay terms.

As a result of the scale of staff turnover and slowed recruitment, several initiatives within the Agency's Work Programme were severely disrupted and were curtailed or deferred. The responsiveness and commitment of the Agency staff in the face of these difficulties was impressive and was the subject of positive comment at Board level on a number of occasions during the year.

A number of submissions were made to DSCFA concerning staffing levels, in particular in the context of the Agency's 2001 Estimates budget in August, and the new White Paper on the Community and Voluntary Sector. In December 2000, DSCFA made budgetary provision for two new posts in 2001 under the expanded National Networks Funding Programme.

The Agency continued to contract consultancy expertise for library, publications, public relations and policy work during 2000.

Performance Management

While work continued on the Staff Performance, Evaluation and Development (SPED) process, the Agency's commitment to develop performance management processes in consultation with staff was advanced significantly in the course of the year. A research project initiated internally focused on performance management in the Agency and included a detailed review of and comprehensive staff survey on the subject by the summer. A staff seminar was held in September and a final report issued in December. This detailed work and consultation will form the groundwork for the development of Performance Management and Development within the Agency during 2001.

Training

In mid-2000, an 18-month Agency Training Plan (up to end 2001) was launched, based on feedback from the SPED process and training needs analysis that followed. Staff completed a number of training programmes during the year, with the greatest concentration being in Autumn 2000 on information technology training.

Agency management continued the process of developing styles of management. Following staff consultation, a draft statement of management values was produced, as were a matrix of roles and responsibilities and minimum standards with a commitment to continue this work during 2001.

In-house group training was also provided on supervisory management. The Agency's refund of educational fees programme was updated and continued to support a number of staff throughout the year.

Health and Safety

A Staff Safety representative was elected in early 2000 and attended training later in the year. An implementation plan for the revised Health and Safety Statement was finalised and issued to staff. A similar process took place for staff of the Peace and Reconciliation Programme. In December, a Partnership Team on Health, Safety and Welfare was established.

The Agency organised and made available a medicheck programme for staff in June 2000.

Salaries and Superannuation

The Agency implemented the final phase of Partnership 2000. Agreement was reached with trade unions on the application of the local bargaining clause of the PCW to the Agency's receptionist post. This post was consequently upgraded. In October, the terms of the Partnership for Prosperity and Fairness were applied and paid to all staff.

Work on streamlining superannuation procedures took place. A review of the management and administration of the superannuation scheme was completed and a decision taken to retain ownership of the scheme within the Agency, with some external support. Significant progress was made on updating the superannuation records systems.

Agency Board and Membership

In 2000, the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs appointed five new members to the Board and re-appointed one member. The Minister also appointed Pearse O'Hanrahan as new Vice-Chairperson on his completion of a three-year term as Board member in November (see Appendix One).

Records and Archive Management

Work continued on computerising the records management database of the Agency and records and archives were maintained in accordance with the National Archives Act.

Customer Service

The development of an Agreed quality customer service plan commenced in close liaison with the DSCFA, who had conducted a cross-agency review of service.

Detailed preparation and the provision of information, all necessary internal documentation and training for staff preceded the application of the Freedom of Information Act to the Agency. The Agency was fully compliant with the Act, as planned, as and from 21 October 2000. A Freedom of Information Handbook was produced, explaining statutory rights to information, the information and services maintained by the Agency and procedures for getting information. This Handbook was disseminated internally and externally.

The continued delivery of high-quality support services to staff remained a priority as evidenced by investment in this area during 2000.

APPENDIX

one

Board, Sub-Committees and Staff

Appendix one

Board

There were 8 meetings of the Board in 2000. In addition to attending 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
(No. eligible to attend in brackets)

Anna Lee, Chairperson	8(8)
Brian Kenny ¹	2(3)
Pearse O’Hanrahan ^{2,3}	5(8)
Hugh Frazer	8(8)
Clare Farrell ^{4,5}	6(8)
Sr Stanislaus Kennedy ²	3(7)
Frank Mulcahy ²	6(7)
Bernadette Lacey	5(8)
Benny Devlin	8(8)
Alice Robertson	5(8)
Fintan Farrell	5(8)
Niall O’Keeffe	5(8)
Michael Waugh ⁶	6(7)
Maria Corrigan ⁶	4(7)
Margaret Sweeney ⁷	3(4)
Christine Maguire ⁵	3(4)
Grace Maguire ⁵	4(4)
Liam Barrett ¹	4(4)
Fergus Ó Raghallaigh ¹	2(4)

- 1 Term of office ended 04 June 2000
- 2 Term of office ended 04 November 2000
- 3 Appointed Vice-Chairperson 06 December 2000
- 4 Term of office ended 18 March 2000
- 5 Re-appointed 08 March 2000
- 6 Appointed 08 March 2000
- 7 Appointed 26 July 2000

Sub-Committees

Finance and Personnel

Anna Lee (Chair), Benny Devlin, Hugh Frazer, Clare Farrell, Christine Maguire

EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation Joint Management Committee

Anna Lee	(Joint Chair)
Terry Larkin	(Joint Chair)
Hugh Frazer	
Tony Crooks	
John Bohan	(From July 2000)
Sr Stanislaus Kennedy	(Until November 2000)
Avila Kilmurray	
Adge King	
Maria Moynihan	(Until July 2000)
Frank Mulcahy	(Until November 2000)
Déaglán Ó Briain	(Until July 2000)
Pearse O'Hanrahan	
Maire O'Leary	
John Quinlivan	(From July 2000)
Kathleen Stack	
Bob Wilson	

Appraisal Sub-Committee

Tony Crooks	ADM
Hugh Frazer	Primary Education Sector
Ann Donegan	FÁS
Adge King	Director of Community & Enterprise, Monaghan
Gearóid Mac Eochaidh	Community Connections CDP
Ger Mullaney	Sligo LEADER Partnership/IFA
Maire O'Leary	NW Health Board
Vincent Reynolds	Cavan County Enterprise Board
Mary Ryan	Business Innovation Centre
Bob Wilson	Dundalk Employment Partnership

Advisory Committees

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

Community Development/Human Resources Committee

Aidan Browne	Cavan/Monaghan Community Care
Ann Brady	Drogheda Partnership
Marion Byrne	ADM
Pamela Culkin	St Anne's Youth Centre, Sligo
Tom Daly	North Western Health Board
Billy Davey	North Eastern Health Board
Jim Devenney	Border Regional Authority
Jim Devins	Border Regional Authority
Mary Devlin	Primary Sector, Department of Education and Science
Ann Donegan	FÁS (North West)
Mary Drumm	Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs
Cathal Gallagher	Údarás na Gaeltachta
Peter Galligan	Cavan Partnership
Tom Hobson	International Fund for Ireland
Gearóid Mac Eochaidh	Community Connections, CDP
Michael McMonagle	NWHB Community Office
Eamon Murphy	FÁS Training Centre
Máire Ní Ghógáin	District Inspector, Department of Education and Science
Déaglán Ó Briain	Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs
Liam O'Connor	Corlust
Pearse O'Hanrahan	CPA
Peter Savage	Border Regional Authority
Pat Shields	Employment & Support Services, DSCFA
Pamela Andison	CLASP, CDP
Margaret Glackin	Action Inishowen
Valerie Higgins	Sligo Northside Community
Paddy McEaney	Coxes Demense Youth & Community Project
Gerry Rock	Drogheda Community Development Project
Margaret Toner	Glenboe Community Action Group

Economic Development Committee

Harry Brennan	International Fund for Ireland
Gary Carville	Monaghan Partnership
Mary Coleman	Cavan County Council
Seán Corcoran	Drumgill, Kingscourt
Ronan Dennedy	Louth County Enterprise Board
Barry Egan	NW Finisklin Business Park
Tony Ferguson	Border Regional Authority
Fintan Flannery	Lifford/Clonleigh Resource Centre
Marie Gallagher	FÁS North West
Tom Kellely	FÁS North East
Joe Lowe	Leitrim County Enterprise Board
Pat Love	Leitrim Partnership
Margaret Malone	Cavan/Monaghan LEADER
Gerard Mullaney	Irish Farmers Association
Francis Murray	Leitrim Partnership
Seán Ó Maolchallann	Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Michael Quigley	Sligo LEADER Partnership
Patricia Quinn	Comhdháil Oileáin na hÉireann
Vincent Reynolds	County Enterprise Board
Shiela Rogers	Leitrim Partnership
Mary Ryan	Business Innovation Centre, Galway
Patrick Treanor	Monaghan County Council
Siobhán Ní Grianna	Údarás na Gaeltachta
Bob Wilson	Dundalk Employment Partnership

Cross-Border Committee

Hugh Frazer	ADM/CPA Joint Management Committee (Joint Chair)
Avila Kilmurray	ADM/CPA Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust (Joint Chair)
Mark Adair	Community Relations Council
Mark Conway	Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust
Michael Curran	Louth County Council
Ciarán de Baróid	Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust
Niall Fitzduff	Rural Community Network
Kevin Kerr	Co-operation Ireland
Aideen McGinley	Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust (Until Jan 2000)
Maire O'Leary	Joint Management Committee

Staff (as at 9/6/01)

Director

Vacant

Administration

Seán Mistéil	Head of Organisational Management & Development
Eileen Scanlon ²	Head of Administration
Maria O'Neill ²	Finance Officer/Administrator
Mary Byrne	Clerical Officer
Ann Riordan	Executive Officer
Teresa Ward	Clerical Officer
Cora Murray ³	Clerical Officer

Projects

Liz Sullivan	Acting Head of Projects
Liz Chaloner ⁶	Projects Manager
Vacant ⁴	National Network Officer
Julie Smyth ⁵	Projects Officer
Kate Ennals ⁵	Projects Officer
Ann Moore	Clerical Officer
Vacant ⁴	Executive Officer

Research

Jim Walsh	Acting Head of Research/Policy & Research Analyst
Tracey O'Brien	Research Officer
Leona Walker	Research Officer
Cora Murray	Clerical Officer

Information and Public Education

Joan O'Flynn	Head of Information
Clare Farrell ⁵	Policy Officer
Vacant ⁴	Policy Officer
Margaret O'Gorman	Information Officer
Vacant ⁴	Library and Information Officer
Catherine Gaul	Executive Officer
Valerie Byrne	Clerical Officer
Ann Bride	Clerical Officer

- 1 Hugh Frazer began work with the European Commission as a National Expert on 31 May 2001
- 2 Part-time posts
- 3 This post is a shared post between Administration and Research Sections
- 4 New post approved 08 May 2001
- 5 Job share posts
- 6 Temporary post, approved 8 May 2001, to be filled up to September 2002

EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation

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:

Programme Managers

Ann McGeeney	Joint Manager, CPA
Paddy McGinn	Joint Manager, ADM

Finance and Administration

Mary Kelly	Financial Administrator
Colette Nulty	Finance Officer
Rosalind O'Neill	Finance Officer
Diane Bell	Clerical Officer – Finance
Róisín Bogue	Clerical Officer – Finance
Paula Clerkin	Clerical Officer – Finance
Jennifer Fegan	Clerical Officer – Finance
Maria O'Sullivan	Clerical Officer – Finance
Nuala Quinn	Clerical Officer – Finance
Amanda Treanor	Clerical Officer – Finance
Ailish Gildernew	Office Administrator
Áine MacNeill	Receptionist/Secretary
Christine Lehmann	Clerical Officer (p/t) – Database
Frances Lavery	Audit Co-ordinator
Catriona O'Reilly	Audit Assistant

Development & Research

Róisín Keenan	Development Worker – Leitrim/Sligo
Paddy Logue	Cross-Border Development Worker
Donald McDonald	Development Worker – Monaghan
Ray Rogers	Development Worker – Louth
Paul Skinnader	Development Worker – Donegal
Tina Tully	Development Worker – Cavan
Kathy Walsh	Research Officer
Eileen McCague	Research/Admin. Assistant

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, 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.

APPENDIX

two

Projects Funded by the Agency

Appendix **two**

Public Awareness Paid Grants in 2000

	£	€
Aisling Group	2,000	2,539
Ballymun Youth Action Project	4,000	5,079
Banúlacht	2,040	2,590
CARP – Killinarden	1,200	1,524
Christian Brothers Justice Group	3,000	3,809
Clondalkin Travellers Development Group	800	1,016
Community Action Programme	2,500	3,174
Community Workers Co-Operative	2,950	3,746
Cork Alliance for Justice & Social Care	800	1,016
Dublin City Agenda 21 Citizens Network	2,500	3,174
Dublin Simon Community	2,760	3,504
Erne Dale Heights Women's Group	800	1,016
Galway Travellers Support Group	2,000	2,539
Irish Refugee Council	3,075	3,904
Tallaght Partnership (for JETS)	3,000	3,809
Muintir na Tíre	2,300	2,920
National Women's Council of Ireland	5,000	6,349
Pan African Organisation	2,490	3,162
Rialto Community Network	5,000	6,349
Society of St Vincent de Paul	750	952
South Dublin Community Platform (Clondalkin Travellers Development Group)	5,000	6,349
St Josephs Traveller Training Centre CE Group	3,000	3,809
Travellers Visibility Group	5,000	6,349

Research Grants Paid in 2000

	£	€
AONTAS	1,500	1,905
Age Action Ireland	800	1,016
CARE Local	5,000	6,349
Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups	1,000	1,270
Clondalkin Travellers Development Group	500	635
Community Workers Co-Operative	840	1,067
Corduff Sports Training & Leisure Club	2,500	3,174
Cúnamh Energy Action	850	1,079
Dublin Aids Alliance	750	952
Dublin Simon Community	2,000	2,539
Dublin Simon Community	5,000	6,349
Energy Action	4,500	5,714
Energy Action Limited	1,500	1,905
FLAC	4,000	5,079
Focus Ireland	1,000	1,270
Focus Ireland	3,000	3,809
Greater Blanchardstown Development Project	800	1,016
Greater Blanchardstown Development Project	5,000	6,349
IPPA	4,000	5,079
Irish Deaf Society	2,500	3,174
Irish Refugee Council	8,000	10,158
Irish Travellers Movement	5,000	6,349
Kerry Action for Development Education (KADE)	2,000	2,539
Laois Travellers Views	5,000	6,349
Merchant's Quay Project	4,000	5,079
National Women's Council of Ireland	1,500	1,905
National Youth Council of Ireland	1,000	1,270
O'Devaney Gardens Community Dev. Forum	2,500	3,174
Pan African Organisation Ltd	3,000	3,809
Schizophrenia Ireland	1,000	1,270
Simon Community of Ireland	2,000	2,539
Southill Community Development Project	1,500	1,905
Southside Travellers Action Group	2,500	3,174
Tallaght CIC	800	1,016
The National Adult Literacy Agency	2,000	2,539
Threshold	1,000	1,270
Traveller Visibility Group Ltd	1,500	1,905
Vincentian Partnership for Justice	5,000	6,349
Women's Aid	4,500	5,714

Evaluation Grants Paid in 2000

	£	€
Access Ireland Refugee Social Integration Project	5,500	6,984
Community Technical Aid	800	1,016
County Westmeath Citizens Information Service Ltd	3,000	3,809
Dublin Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign	2,000	2,539
Fingal Centre for the Unemployed	3,500	4,444
NEARfm 101.6	3,276	4,160
Network of Rape Crisis Centres in Ireland	1,500	1,905
North West Connemara Rural Project Ltd	5,000	6,349
SONAS Housing Association	2,500	3,174
Tallaght Rehabilitation Project	5,000	6,349
The Carline Project	3,000	3,809
The Get Ahead Club	2,450	3,111
Tír Boghaine Teo	4,000	5,079

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation 2000

	£	€
Community and Family Training Agency	1,860	2,362
Donegal Childcare Strategy Group	1,000	1,270
Donegal Community Workers Co-Operative	2,000	2,539
East Clare Accessible Transport	3,000	3,809
East Clare Accessible Transport	1,000	1,270
Galway Refugee Support Group	3,000	3,809
Merchant's Quay Project	2,000	2,539
North Leitrim Men's Group	2,600	3,301
North Wall Women's Centre	3,500	4,444
Parents Alone Coming Together	2,500	3,174
Ramelton Community Youth Project	2,000	2,539
Smashing Times Theatre Company Ltd	3,000	3,809
Tús Nua (YMCA)	2,600	3,301

National Anti-Poverty Networks – Core Funding

	£	€
Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed	£66,426	843,344
One Parent Exchange Network	£66,426	843,344
Community Workers' Co-operative	£66,426	843,344
Forum for People with Disabilities	£66,426	843,344
Irish Rural Link	£66,426	843,344
European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland	£66,426	843,344
Irish Traveller Movement	£66,426	843,344

Research Fellowships Paid in 2000

Awarded in 2000 for three years

Vanessa Gash

Flexible Labour Markets: Qualities of Employment, Qualities of Outcome

Awarded in 2000 for two years

Breda McCabe

Flexible Employment and Inequality: The Extent and Implications of New Work Plans

Awarded in 1998 for three and a half years

Francis Houghton

Health and Inequality: An Investigation into the Relationship between Health and Relative Deprivation in the Mid-West



APPENDIX

three

**EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation
Grants approved 2000**

Appendix **three**

The Agency has responsibility for three measures of the Peace and Reconciliation Programme, namely 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. Since most of the funding was allocated by the end of 1999, only a residual amount remained for 2000. This included a £6,000 grant for the Donegal Rape Crisis Centre under Measure 4.1.

For details of projects funded under other Measures, please refer to ADM's Annual Report and the Annual Report of ADM/CPA Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.

In 2000 a number of projects were also allocated 'Emergency Funding' to help them bridge the funding gap between the Peace and Reconciliation Programme and the Peace II and other Programmes under the National Development Plan. The Agency, in collaboration with ADM, allocated funding to the projects detailed below.

Project Title	Grant Awarded	
	£	€
Abhaile Arís	25,500	32,378
ACCORD – Peace Project	8,000	10,158
Age and Opportunity: Older Women's Network Project	12,500	15,872
Ardee Business Park	17,750	22,538
Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities	11,400	14,475
Bailieborough Swimming & Leisure Centre Ltd	10,000	12,697
Ballintra/Laghey Youth Project	12,000	15,237
Ballybay Development Association Ltd	18,300	23,236
Banada Abbey Hall Development Association	8,000	10,158
Belturbet Community Development Association Ltd	15,000	19,046
Boomerang (Cork Young People's Theatre Co.)	14,200	18,030
Bridging the Gap	10,000	12,697
Bright Beginnings Community Playgroup	1,200	1,524
Cavan County Enterprise Board – Tourism Marketing Exec.	11,300	14,348
Cavan Family Resource Group [FRG]	15,000	19,046
Cavan/Monaghan Co-op: Community Development	17,000	21,586
Cavan/Monaghan Co-op: Craft project	16,600	21,078
Curriculum Development Unit: Education for Reconciliation	30,000	38,092
Clones Community Forum	24,000	30,474
Clones Development Society Ltd	12,600	15,999
Co. Cavan Heritage & Genealogical Society	5,600	7,111
Co. Cavan VEC: outreach IT programme	12,000	15,237
Coláiste Rís Community Group	7,000	8,888
Community Arts Forum Training	8,550	10,856
Community Connections	17,500	22,220
Community Workers Co-op, Donegal Branch	30,000	38,092
Convoy Enterprise Centre	14,000	17,776

	£	€
Co-operation Ireland: Cross-Border Community Dev.	13,000	16,507
County Leitrim Partnership	6,000	7,618
County Monaghan Community Network Ltd	5,400	6,857
Cross-Border Community Workers Network	7,500	9,523
Derry and Raphoe Action	7,450	9,460
Donegal Local Dev Co. – Abbey Transitional Programme	15,000	19,046
Dóchas – Monaghan Human Dev. Project	12,600	15,999
Donegal Childcare Strategy Group	35,000	44,441
Donegal Travellers: training project	45,000	57,138
Drogheda Area Women’s Network	9,000	11,428
Drogheda Community Forum	14,000	17,776
Drogheda Early Intervention & Integration Project	8,460	10,742
Drogheda Northside Schools Project	10,000	12,697
Drogheda Women’s Refuge Group	19,000	24,125
Drogheda Youth Dev. – Young Women’s Project	10,000	12,697
Drogheda Youth Sector Computer Scheme (DYSCS)	20,000	25,395
Drumshanbo Community Enterprise Co. Ltd	6,000	7,618
Dublin Common Purpose	12,000	15,237
Dundalk Enterprise Dev. Co. Ltd – Science Services	5,000	6,349
Dundalk Parents & Friends of the Mentally Handicap	13,700	17,395
Dundalk Rape Crisis Centre	8,400	10,666
Dunfanaghy Community Resource Association Ltd	20,000	25,395
Dungloe Development Association	6,350	8,063
Education for Mutual Understanding	7,000	8,888
Estate Management Pilot Project	15,000	19,046
Ex-Prisoners Assistance Committee (EXPAC)	23,000	29,204
Fáilte Abhaile: drop-in centre	25,000	31,743
Fáilte Chluain Eois	15,000	19,046
Farney Community Development Group Ltd	6,800	8,634
Farney Community Information and Resource Centre	14,500	18,411
Farney Community Resource & Information Centre	2,800	3,555
Farney Crèche Committee	6,000	7,618
Ferdia Community Development Group	4,000	5,079
Gaisce The President’s Award	20,000	25,395
Glencree Centre for Reconciliation	12,000	15,237
Greencastle CDC Ltd: Resource & Development centre	17,000	21,586
Holy Family Community Crèche Ltd	10,000	12,697
Human Rights Education Project	25,900	32,886
Integrated Resource Development (IRD), Milford	28,000	35,553
Irish Genealogy Ltd: Central Referral Index	15,500	19,681
Irish Rural Link	11,500	14,602
Irish Wheelchair Association – Sports & Leisure	5,500	6,984
Killeshandra Community Council Ltd	10,000	12,697
Kiltyclogher Community Council	12,900	16,380
Leitrim Co Tourism Committee/Leitrim Co Enterprise Board	10,000	12,697
Leitrim County Enterprise Fund Ltd	4,000	5,079

	£	€
Letterkenny Women's Centre	35,600	45,203
Lifestart	11,500	14,602
Lifestart Community Building	30,000	38,092
Lifestart Newtowncunningham	40,000	50,790
Lifestyle Development Group Ltd	13,500	17,141
Lifford/Clonleigh Resource Centre	14,000	17,776
Louth Traveller Development Group	7,000	8,888
Louth Youth Federation	10,000	12,697
M.S. Training for People with Multiple Sclerosis	12,000	15,237
Mevagh Resource Group	15,000	19,046
Mid-Louth Schools Project	9,600	12,189
Mohill Community and Development Association	6,000	7,618
Mohill Community Development Association Ltd	22,300	28,315
Monaghan Chamber of Commerce & Industry	8,000	10,158
Monaghan Neighbourhood Youth Project	19,000	24,125
Monaghan Town Educational Disadvantage Consortium	4,500	5,714
Monaghan Women's Refuge Project	16,500	20,951
Monaghan Youth Federation: Youth Information Service	15,750	19,998
Monaghan VEC: IT outreach programme	10,000	12,697
Nexus Lucan Youth Project	20,000	25,395
North Leitrim Glens Development Co. Ltd	13,400	17,014
North Leitrim Glens Rural Tourism Co-op	10,000	12,697
North Leitrim Women's Resource Group	20,000	25,395
North/South Cross Community Project	6,000	7,618
NUI Reconciliation Training Programme	6,000	7,618
Dundalk Counselling Centre	6,000	7,618
Páirtíocht Ghaeltacht Thír Chonail MFG-MIDAS	15,000	19,046
Parents Teachers and Friends Association	15,500	19,681
Patrick Kavanagh Centre	9,870	12,532
Raidió Pobal Inis Eoghain	18,000	22,855
Raphoe Reconciliation Project	11,000	13,697
Raphoe Youth & Community Project	30,000	38,092
Ramelton Community Action Group	15,000	19,046
Rossinver Community Dev. – New Ballagh Centre	12,950	16,443
Rural Mental Health Project	16,500	20,951
Second Chance Education Project	30,000	38,092
Shankhill/Shankhill Project	21,300	27,045
Simon Community Cross-Border Project	28,000	35,553
Sligo County Council	10,000	12,697
Sligo Folk Park	10,000	12,697
Sligo Rape Crisis Centre	10,000	12,697
Sligo/Tyrone Schools Link Project	2,500	3,174
Sligo LEADER Partnership Company	10,000	12,697
Special Olympics Ireland	11,000	13,967
St Anne's Youth Centre Music Skills	43,500	55,234
St Johnston & Carrigans Resource Group	19,000	24,125

	£	€
St Michael's Family Life Centre	4,500	5,714
St Michael's Family Life Centre	10,000	12,697
Teach na Fáilte	10,000	12,697
The Balor Developmental Community Arts Group	24,000	30,474
The Border Counties Childcare Network	26,000	33,013
The Donegal Women's Network	20,000	25,395
The Doorway Project	14,000	17,776
The Drogheda Childcare Project	16,500	20,951
'The House'; Coxes Demesne	11,010	13,980
The Irish History Company	14,200	18,030
The Organic Centre	18,200	23,109
The Pushkin Prizes Trust	17,850	22,665
Tíir Boghaine Teo. Lifestart	30,000	38,092
Tirhugh Resource Centre	13,600	17,268
Truagh Development Association	9,400	11,936
Truagh Education Consortium	12,000	15,237
Upstate Theatre Project	16,000	20,316
Women Educating for Transformation (WEFT)	10,000	12,697
Women's Aid Helpline, Dundalk	22,700	28,823
YIP Management Committee	26,000	33,013
80:20 Educating & Acting for a Better World	16,500	20,951



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial Statements

COMBAT POVERTY AGENCY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2000

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 in the six border counties. All transactions of the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation are incorporated into the financial statements of Area Development Management Ltd and the Combat Poverty Agency. All the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation 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 for Social, Community and Family Affairs with the consent of the Minister for Finance, all proper and usual accounts of all monies received or expended by it.

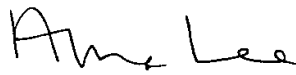
In preparing those financial statements, the Agency is required to:

- 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;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

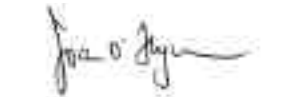
The Agency is responsible for keeping proper books of account which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Agency and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with Section 10(1) of the 1986 Act. The Agency is also responsible for safe-guarding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

Dated: 20 June 2001

Anna Lee, Chairman



Joan O'Flynn, Acting Director

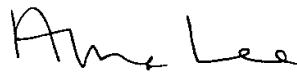


Statement regarding Prompt Payments of Accounts Act, 1997

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. The Agency's procedures provide reasonable but not absolute assurance against material non-compliance with the Act. During the year ended 31 December, 2000 there were no late payments.

Dated: 20 June 2001

Anna Lee, Chairman



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. Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared using the accruals method of accounting, except as indicated below, and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles under the historical cost convention. Financial Reporting Standards recommended by the recognised accountancy bodies are adopted as they become operative.

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 are charged against revenue when they arise.

COMBAT POVERTY AGENCY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2000

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December, 2000

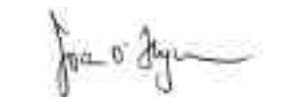
	Notes	2000 €	2000 IR£	1999 IR£
INCOME				
Oireachtas Grant-In-Aid				
Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs		3,225,135	2,540,000	2,400,000
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	1(a)	5,785,102	4,556,138	6,635,000
Other Income	1(b)	368,469	290,193	81,092
		9,378,706	7,386,331	9,116,092
Transfer from Capital Account	6	37,519	29,549	3,246
TOTAL INCOME		9,416,225	7,415,880	9,119,338
EXPENDITURE				
Projects and Programmes to Combat Poverty				
Special Programmes	2(a)	371,359	292,469	396,949
National Networks programme		653,730	514,854	344,995
Grant schemes to Community and Voluntary Organisations	2(b)	305,452	240,563	271,112
Information, Education and Resource Material		474,689	373,848	315,042
Research Projects		183,487	144,508	141,228
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	2(c)	5,442,563	4,286,367	6,385,177
EU Preparatory Actions – Models of consultation	2(d)	157,102	123,728	0
		7,588,383	5,976,337	7,854,503
Development, Support and Administration costs				
Salary Costs and Expenses	3	1,253,794	987,443	780,593
Rent and Other Administration Costs	4	393,945	310,257	328,727
Depreciation	5	73,485	57,874	54,599
		1,721,224	1,355,574	1,163,919
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		9,309,607	7,331,911	9,018,423
Prior year adjustment	8	0	0	10,282
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR				
Surplus Brought Forward		106,619	83,969	111,197
Surplus on Income and Expenditure Account		174,189	137,185	25,988
		280,808	221,154	137,185

The Board has no gains or losses in the financial year or the preceding year other than those dealt with in the Income and Expenditure Account. The results of the year relate to continuing operations. The Statement of Accounting Policies and Notes 1 to 11 form part of these Financial Statements.

Anna Lee, Chairman



Joan O'Flynn, Acting Director



COMBAT POVERTY AGENCY

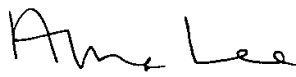
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2000

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2000

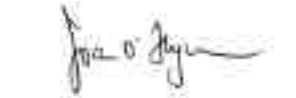
	Notes	2000 €	2000 IR£	1999 IR£
FIXED ASSETS				
Furniture and Equipment	5	160,812	126,650	156,199
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors and Prepayments		779,304	613,752	820,035
Cash at Bank and on hand		486,783	383,373	505,051
		<u>1,266,088</u>	<u>997,125</u>	<u>1,325,086</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors and Accruals		141,925	111,775	136,459
Deferred Income		843,355	664,196	1,051,442
		<u>985,280</u>	<u>775,971</u>	<u>1,187,901</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS				
		280,808	221,154	137,185
NET ASSETS				
		<u>441,620</u>	<u>347,804</u>	<u>293,384</u>
REPRESENTED BY:				
Capital Account	6	160,812	126,650	156,199
Surplus on Income and Expenditure Account		280,808	221,154	137,185
		<u>441,620</u>	<u>347,804</u>	<u>293,384</u>

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

Anna Lee, Chairman



Joan O'Flynn, Acting Director



COMBAT POVERTY AGENCY**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2000****Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 December, 2000**

	Notes	2000 €	2000 IR£	1999 IR£
Net Cash (Outflow) from Operating Activities	7(a)	(162,579)	(128,041)	(1,094,059)
RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AND SERVICING OF FINANCE				
Interest received		45,316	35,689	13,496
Net inflow from returns on investments and servicing of finance		45,316	35,689	13,496
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Purchase of fixed assets		(41,103)	(32,371)	(53,932)
Disposal of fixed assets		3,866	3,045	1,150
Net Cash Outflow from Investing activities		(37,236)	(29,326)	(52,782)
(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents		(154,499)	(121,678)	(1,133,345)

COMBAT POVERTY AGENCY NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2000

	2000 €	2000 IR£	1999 IR£
1 INCOME			
(a) EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation			
ESF Funding			
Deferred Income at 1 January	1,001,290	788,580	1,057,477
Project Funding via Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs	3,713,148	2,924,342	4,519,982
Deferred Income at 31 December	<u>(632,517)</u>	<u>(498,148)</u>	<u>(788,580)</u>
	4,081,921	3,214,774	4,788,879
Exchequer Funding			
Deferred Income 1 January	333,766	262,862	352,492
Project Funding via Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs	1,237,715	974,780	1,506,668
Deferred Income at 31 December	<u>(210,839)</u>	<u>(166,049)</u>	<u>(262,862)</u>
	1,360,642	1,071,593	1,596,298
Technical Assistance (TA)			
ERDF and Exchequer TA Funding for Administration Costs via Area Development Management Ltd	<u>342,539</u>	<u>269,771</u>	249,823
	5,785,102	4,556,138	<u>6,635,000</u>
(b) Other Income			
European Commission	116,509	91,758	0
Department of Social, Community & Family Affairs	19,046	15,000	0
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation	73,369	57,783	31,172
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	50,790	40,000	0
Interest earned on Deposit accounts	45,316	35,689	13,496
Seminar registration Fees	24,458	19,262	4,124
Sales of Publications	23,858	18,790	15,018
Unspent grants	9,214	7,257	4,000
European Foundation for Living and Working Conditions	3,047	2,400	0
Miscellaneous Income	2,862	2,254	2,682
Department of the Environment and Local Government	0	0	5,600
Department of Education and Science	0	0	5,000
	<u>368,469</u>	<u>290,193</u>	<u>81,092</u>

COMBAT POVERTY AGENCY**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2000****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, exchange visits). Amounts spent under the main headings are as follows:

	2000 €	2000 IR£	1999 IR£
Educational Disadvantaged Demonstration Programme	245,346	193,226	223,282
Poverty Drug Use Policy Programme	10,096	7,951	109,611
Enhancing the Community Development Sector	18,891	14,878	56,434
NAPS Local Government	59,189	46,615	3,912
Community Development Programme	344	271	3,710
Practice to Policy	37,493	29,528	0
	<u>371,359</u>	<u>292,469</u>	<u>396,949</u>

(b) Grant Schemes to Community and Voluntary Organisations

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

	2000 €	2000 IR£	1999 IR£
Information/Public Awareness Grants	81,219	63,965	98,928
Research Grants	128,042	100,841	95,350
Evaluation Grants	50,188	39,526	69,320
Calouste Gulbenkian Grants	38,168	30,060	0
Support work for Grants	7,836	6,171	7,514
	<u>305,452</u>	<u>240,563</u>	<u>271,112</u>

COMBAT POVERTY AGENCY**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2000****(c) EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation**

Combat Poverty Agency in co-operation with Area Development Management 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 Area Development Management 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).

In 2000 a number of projects were allocated 'Emergency Funding' to help them bridge the funding gap between the Peace and Reconciliation Programme and the Peace II and other Programmes under the National Development Plan. At the end of December 2000, these projects had not drawn down any of this funding.

The income and expenditure of the Agency under the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation Programme for 2000 is summarised as follows:

	€	€	IR£	IR£
Income				
European Social Fund		3,970,052		3,126,670
Exchequer		<u>1,323,350</u>		<u>1,042,223</u>
		5,293,402		4,168,893
Deferred in 1999		<u>1,335,056</u>		<u>1,051,442</u>
		6,628,458		5,220,335
Deferred in 2000		<u>(843,356)</u>		<u>(664,197)</u>
		5,785,102		4,556,138
Expenditure				
Projects				
Measure 3.4	1,310,691		1,032,253	
Measure 4.1	2,523,940		1,987,764	
Measure 4.4	1,364,022		1,074,255	
Support costs	<u>243,910</u>		<u>192,095</u>	
	5,442,563		4,286,367	
Administration*	<u>342,539</u>	<u>5,785,102</u>	<u>269,771</u>	<u>4,556,138</u>

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

COMBAT POVERTY AGENCY**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2000****(d) EU Preparatory Actions – Models of consultation**

In 2000 Combat Poverty Agency received £91,758 (€116,509) from the European Commission as a preparatory action to combat social exclusion. £123,728 (€157,102) represents the costs involved in producing a set of guidelines with the involvement of four EU Partners, the National Anti-Poverty Unit in the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs and the National Anti-Poverty Networks (Ireland).

3 SALARY COSTS AND EXPENSES

	2000 €	2000 IR£	1999 IR£
Staff Salary Costs*	1,059,515	834,436	634,926
Temporary Employment Agency Costs	58,233	45,862	39,593
Staff Recruitment	49,568	39,038	43,579
Staff Training and Other Expenses	31,346	24,687	24,458
Travel and Subsistence			
– Staff	28,481	22,431	23,156
– Members and Sub-Committees	25,197	19,844	8,739
Pension Gratuity and Payments	1,454	1,145	6,142
	<u>1,253,794</u>	<u>987,443</u>	<u>780,593</u>

*The average number of core staff (full-time equivalent) employed by the Agency during 2000 was 20 (1999: 20). The figures given here include the Agency's liability £178,735 (€ 226,947) in respect of the remuneration of the 18 administration staff members in the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation. Development staff costs for the EU Special Support Programme are included under Programme Support costs.

4 RENT AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION COSTS

	2000 €	2000 IR£	1999 IR£
Rent and Rates	110,089	86,702	87,813
Postage and Telephones	83,798	65,996	60,357
Maintenance and Insurance	64,325	50,660	48,557
Records and Archive Management	28,522	22,463	21,108
Printing, Stationery and Office Supplies	43,557	34,304	36,908
Outreach Office support	19,657	15,481	20,536
Light and Heat	11,485	9,045	7,926
Legal/Professional Fees	5,768	4,543	3,835
Consultant to Administration	8,962	7,058	35,103
Sundry	9,171	7,223	305
Audit Fees	7,340	5,781	4,850
Loss on Disposals	1,271	1,001	1,429
	<u>393,945</u>	<u>310,257</u>	<u>328,727</u>

COMBAT POVERTY AGENCY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2000

5 FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture IR£	Equipment IR£	Total IR£	Total €
Cost or Valuation				
Balance at 1 January				
– at cost	123,887	275,415	399,302	507,009
Additions at cost	351	32,020	32,371	41,103
Disposals at cost	0	(53,990)	(53,990)	(68,553)
Balance at 31 December	124,238	253,445	377,683	479,558
Accumulated Depreciation				
Balance at 1 January	62,161	180,942	243,103	308,677
Charged in the year	14,874	43,000	57,874	73,485
Disposals	0	(49,944)	(49,944)	(63,416)
Balance at 31 December	77,035	173,998	251,033	318,746
NET BOOK VALUE – 31/12/00	47,203	79,447	126,650	160,812
NET BOOK VALUE – 31/12/99	61,726	94,473	156,199	198,332

6 CAPITAL ACCOUNT

	2000 €	2000 IR£	1999 IR£
Balance at 1 January	198,332	156,199	159,445
TRANSFER TO INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT			
Income applied to purchase fixed assets	41,103	32,371	53,932
Amortised in the year in line with asset depreciation	(73,485)	(57,874)	(54,599)
Released on disposal of fixed assets	(5,137)	(4,046)	(2,579)
	(37,519)	(29,549)	(3,246)
Balance at 31 December	160,812	126,650	156,199

7 CASH FLOW RECONCILIATION

(a) Reconciliation of surplus for the year to Cash from Operating activities

	2000 €	2000 IR£	1999 IR£
Surplus for the year	106,619	83,969	111,197
Adjustment for non-operating items			
Interest Receivable	(45,316)	(35,689)	(13,496)
Loss on Disposal	1,271	1,001	1,429
Movement on Capital account	(37,519)	(29,549)	(3,246)
Adjustment for non-cash items			
Depreciation	73,485	57,874	54,599
Decrease in Debtors	261,925	206,283	(766,802)
(Decrease) in Creditors and Deferred Income	(523,043)	(411,930)	(477,740)
Cash (Outflow) From Operating Activities	<u>(162,579)</u>	<u>(128,041)</u>	<u>(1,094,059)</u>

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

	2000 €	2000 IR£	1999 IR£
Balance at 1 January	641,282	505,051	1,638,396
Net cash (outflow)	<u>(154,499)</u>	<u>(121,678)</u>	<u>(1,133,345)</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u>486,783</u>	<u>383,373</u>	<u>505,051</u>

8 PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

This arises from the different accounting treatment of management fees in the accounts of Combat Poverty Agency and EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation 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, 2000.

10 COMMITMENTS

- (a) There were no capital commitments at 31 December, 2000.
- (b) Funding commitments of £1,010,871 (€1,283,541) existed at 31 December, 2000 [31.12.99 – £6,596,773 (€8,376,174)] in respect of Grants to Community and Voluntary Organisations and Research Projects.
- (c) Combat Poverty Agency has commitments up to the year 2017 in respect of the lease of office accommodation at Bridgewater Business Centre, Islandbridge. The rent on foot of this lease is £86,735 (€110,131) per annum which is subject to review on a five-yearly basis.

11 SUPERANNUATION

Benefits are conferred under the Main Superannuation Scheme 1997 and the Combat Poverty Agency Spouses' and Children's Contributory Pension Scheme 1997. 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 2000 are subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General under provisions of section 10(2) of the Combat Poverty Agency Act, 1986.