

Combat Poverty Agency

**annual report**

2001

An Ghníomhaireacht do Chomhrac na Bochtaine *Tuairisc Bhliantúil*

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



## 2001 Board as at 31 May 2002

There are 14 members listed below with one vacancy.

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

### Aim

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

### Functions

The four general statutory functions of the Combat Poverty 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

Combat Poverty website [www.cpa.ie](http://www.cpa.ie) provides an overview on our activities and services.

A copy of Combat Poverty's 2002-2004 Strategic Plan is available free of charge.

A brochure that details the Combat Poverty grants scheme "Working Against Poverty", and a publications catalogue are available free of charge.

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## Contents

<b>Glossary of Acronyms and Terms</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Réamhrá an Chathaoirligh</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Chairperson’s Foreword</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Part I</b> Annual Overview	<b>15</b>
<b>Part II</b> Work of the Combat Poverty Agency	<b>35</b>
<b>Appendix 1</b> Board, Sub-Committees and Staff	<b>73</b>
<b>Appendix 2</b> Projects funded by Combat Poverty	<b>81</b>
<b>Appendix 3</b> Grants approved under the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	<b>89</b>
<b>Financial Statements</b>	<b>95</b>

## Glossary of Acronyms and Terms

ADM Ltd	<p>Area Development Management Ltd.</p> <p>A body established by Government to support local social and economic development in Ireland. ADM manages, among others, the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme and, jointly with Combat Poverty Agency, a number of measures under the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (PEACE II).</p>
ADM/CPA	<p>Combat Poverty Agency and Area Development Management Ltd.</p> <p>The joint body that manages measures PEACE II in the southern border region and on a cross-border basis.</p>
CAJ	<p>Commission on the Administration of Justice, Northern Ireland</p>
CDP	<p>Community Development Programme</p> <p>A government funded programme of community development resource centres and projects in areas affected by high unemployment, poverty and disadvantage.</p>
Comhairle	<p>The national support agency responsible for the provision of information, advice and advocacy on social services.</p>
Community and Voluntary Pillar	<p>A grouping of national representative community and voluntary organisations that is one of the four pillars of social partnership.</p>
Community Platform	<p>A grouping of networks and organisations working against poverty and social exclusion that enables the participation of the community and voluntary sector in negotiations on national agreements and decision-making. It is a member of the Community and Voluntary Pillar.</p>
CRA	<p>Children's Rights Alliance</p> <p>A national umbrella body composed of non-government organisations and individuals concerned with the rights and welfare of children.</p>

## Glossary of Acronyms and Terms

CSO	<p>Central Statistics Office</p> <p>The state body that collects, analyses and disseminates statistical information on the economic and social life of the country.</p>
DPED	<p>Demonstration Programme on Educational Disadvantage</p> <p>A programme of four networks previously funded by Combat Poverty Agency to support the networking of parents, teachers, youth workers and others in developing integrated actions to counter early school-leaving and overall policy lessons.</p>
ESRI	<p>Economic and Social Research Institute</p> <p>An independent, non profit-making research body that gathers and publishes information on Irish social and economic conditions.</p>
IBEC	<p>Irish Business and Employers' Confederation</p> <p>The national representative organisation for employers. It represents the business strand of the social partners in national negotiations on economic and social agreements.</p>
ICCL	<p>Irish Council for Civil Liberties</p> <p>A national campaigning and lobbying body on civil and human rights in Ireland.</p>
ICTU	<p>Irish Congress of Trade Unions</p> <p>The central co-ordinating body for the trade union movement in Ireland. It represents the trade union strand of the social partners in national negotiations on economic and social agreements.</p>
IDPC	<p>Inter-Departmental Policy Committee of the NAPS</p> <p>The co-ordinating body that previously worked across government departments to implement and monitor the National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS).</p>

## Glossary of Acronyms and Terms

IFA	<p>Irish Farmers' Association</p> <p>The national co-ordinating body for the Irish farm sector. It represents the farming pillar in national negotiations on economic and social agreements.</p>
IPA	<p>Institute of Public Administration</p> <p>The public sector management development agency that works to promote the study, and improve the standard, of Irish public administration.</p>
IPH	<p>Institute of Public Health</p> <p>A body established by the Department of Health and Children and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (NI) to tackle health inequalities and strengthen public health capacity.</p>
MABS	<p>Money Advice and Budgeting Service</p> <p>A government funded network of local centres set up to tackle problems of moneylending and indebtedness by providing support and advice to individuals.</p>
NAPS	<p>National Anti-Poverty Strategy</p> <p>The Irish government's national strategy to reduce and eliminate poverty and social exclusion by devising appropriate policies and by screening public policies and measures for their impact on poverty.</p>
NCS	<p>National Children's Strategy</p> <p>Established under the Department of Health and Children, the National Children's Strategy sets out a series of objectives to guide children's policy over ten years.</p>
NESC	<p>National Economic and Social Council</p> <p>The body representing the major economic and social interests in society that advises the Government on the development of the economy and the achievement of social justice.</p>



## Glossary of Acronyms and Terms

NESF	<p>National Economic and Social Forum</p> <p>Body comprising three strands: Government and the Oireachtas, the traditional social partners of employers, trade unions and farming interests, and a third strand of community and voluntary interest groups. The NESF devises policy, contributes to national consensus on social and economic matters, and monitors the implementation of certain social inclusion measures.</p>
NIVT	<p>Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust</p> <p>A grant-making body that also administers a number of measures of the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation and PEACE II in Northern Ireland and on a cross-border basis.</p>
NUI	<p>National University of Ireland</p> <p>Ireland's largest university, a federal body with its seat in Dublin and a number of constituent colleges around the country.</p>
OYECPI	<p>Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative</p> <p>Eight organisations that worked together to promote public awareness of child poverty, strengthen the voice of the sector concerned with children/poverty and promote policy ideas to public policy to eliminate child poverty.</p>
PPF	<p>Programme for Prosperity and Fairness</p> <p>The national partnership agreement on economic, social and fiscal policies and conditions for the period 2000-2002.</p>
SEUPB	<p>Special EU Programmes Body</p> <p>A body that manages and oversees implementation of the EU Structural Funds and PEACE II, among other programmes.</p>
SMI	<p>Strategic Management Initiative</p> <p>An initiative co-ordinated by the Department of the Taoiseach for the modernisation of public service and local government.</p>



## Réamhá an Chathaoirligh

Tá áthas orm an 15ú Tuairisc Chinnbhliana ar Chomhrac na Bochtaine a chur faoi bhráid an Aire Gnóthaí Sóisialacha agus Teaghlaigh.

Is é an príomhról atá ag Comhrac na Bochtaine ná comhairle oibiachtúil neamhspleách a thabhairt don Rialtas chun déileáil le bochtaine agus le heisiamh sóisialta. Mar chuid den Tuairisc Chinnbhliana tá forbhreathnú ar an obair a rinneamar i gcomhthéacs ár bPlean Straitéiseach 1999–2001. Déantar athbhreithniú ann freisin ar an dul chun cinn atá déanta chun an bhochtaine a laghdú agus aithníonn sé na príomhchúinsí a gcaithfear tabhairt fúthu amach anseo.

Tá tréimhse iontach eacnamaíochta curtha dinn againn, tréimhse inar dearnadh dul chun cinn suntasach i mbealaí chun déileáil le bochtaine agus le heisiamh sóisialta. Tá laghdú tagtha ar na leibhéil chomhsheasmhacha bochtaine – ceann de na príomhbhealaí ina dtomhastar an bhochtaine – ó 15% den daonra i 1994 go dtí 6% in 2000. Tá laghdú dá réir tagtha ar bhochtaine leanaí.

Léiríonn na laghduithe sin gur féidir dul chun cinn a dhéanamh, cé go n-admhaítear gur tharla sin i dtréimhse ina raibh fás suntasach eacnamaíochta agus deiseanna breise fostaíochta ar fáil. Mar sin, cuirimid fáilte roimh an ngealltanais atá tugtha sa leagan nuashonraithe den Straitéis Náisiúnta in aghaidh na Bochtaineachta, *Ag Cruthú Sochaí Cuimsithí*, a seoladh níos luaithe i mbliana, go laghdófaí an leibhéal comhsheasmhach bochtaine go dtí faoi bhun 2%. Dúshlán a bheas anseo, go háirithe muna mbíonn an eacnamaíocht chomh láidir is a bhí, ach is féidir é a dhéanamh. Chun é sin a dhéanamh, áfach, beidh gá le gealltanais ó gach rannóg den phobal go mbeidh díothú na bochtaine i measc a bpríomhthosaíochtaí náisiúnta. Caithfear glacadh leis freisin gur gá leanacht ar aghaidh ag gníomhú go deimhneach chun ioncam a atreorú chuig an dream sin nach bhfuil chomh maith as, agus feabhas a chur ar na príomhsheirbhísí poiblí, mar atá, oideachas, cúram leighis, tithíocht, cúram leanaí agus an córas iompair poiblí, ach go háirithe.

I rith 2001, an bhliain dheireanach den Phlean Straitéiseach a bhí againn roimhe seo, chuireamar romhainn ceithre chuspóir a bhaint amach. Ba iad sin: tacaíocht a thabhairt don Straitéis Náisiúnta in Aghaidh na Bochtaineachta; díriú ar dháileadh níos cothroime a dhéanamh le hacmhainní; polasaí comhleanúnach i leith na bochtaine a chur chun cinn; agus Clár Tacaíochta Speisialta an Chomhphobail um Shíocháin agus Athmhuintearas a chur chun cinn, i gcomhar le Bainistíocht Fhorbairt Limistéir (ADM).

Ina theannta sin, rinneamar measúnú neamhspleách ar an dóigh inar éirigh linn an Plean Straitéiseach a chur i bhfeidhm. Léirigh an t-athbhreithniú sin an caighdeán ard oibre a rinneamar inár bhfeidhmeannas reachtúla go léir. Moladh an cur chuige comhoibríoch a bhí againn, an diantaighde a rinneamar, an ról a bhí againn ag tacú le cumas an phobail agus le cumas na n-eagraíochtaí deonacha chun oibriú i gcomhar leis an rialtas, agus moladh caighdeán ár seirbhísí eolais. An saineolas atá ag an mBord agus ag foireann Chomhrac na Bochtaine agus ag an bhfoireann atá ag ár gcomhpháirtíocht le ADM i Muineachán agus i gcontaetha eile cois teorann is cúis leis an dul chun cinn rathúil sin. Bheirim buíochas dóibh as ucht a ndílseachta agus a bhfuinnimh i mbun na hoibre sin

I rith na bliana, d'aistrigh Hugh Frazer, an Stiúrthóir a bhí againn roimhe seo, chuig Coimisiún an Aontais Eorpaigh mar Shaineolaí Náisiúnta Scoite. Cuirim fáilte roimh Helen Johnston atá ceaptha ina Stiúrthóir ar an eagraíocht anois. Is mian liom buíochas ar leith a ghlacadh leis an gCathaoirleach a bhí againn roimhe seo, Anna Lee, as an obair a rinne sí go dtí deireadh a dara téarma in 2001.

Bhí sé de onóir agam féin gur cheap Dermot Ahern mé mar Chathaoirleach ar Chomhrac na Bochtaine, nuair a bhí sé ina Aire Gnóthaí Sóisialacha, Pobail agus Teaghlaigh. Tá an-mheas againn ar an gcaidreamh atá againn leis an Roinn sin agus tugaimid aitheantas agus tacaíocht don údarás agus don saineolas atá aici ar pholasaithe náisiúnta i dtaca le laghdú agus le díothú a dhéanamh ar an mbochtaine. Bheirimid buíochas don Aire, don Ard-Rúnaí agus do na feidhmeannaigh eile atá sa Roinn as ucht a dtacaíochta agus a gcabhrach i rith na bliana.

Ag an am a bhfuil sé seo á scríobh tá an rialtas nua ag dul in oifig. Déanaimid comhghairdeas le Máire Ní Chochláin as a ceapachán mar Aire Gnóthaí Sóisialacha agus Teaghlaigh agus le hÉamon Ó Cuív as a cheapachán mar Aire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta. Táimid ag dúil go mór le caidreamh nua a bhunú agus a fhorbairt leis na hAirí seo agus a Ranna sna blianta atá romhainn chun go mbainfear amach na cuspóirí atá againn inár bPlean Straitéiseach do 2002 – 2004, *Comhrac na Bochtaine in Éirinn faoi Athrú*.



Brian Duncan  
Meitheamh 2002

## Chairperson's Foreword

I am pleased to present the 15th Annual Report of Combat Poverty to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs.

The primary role of Combat Poverty is to provide independent objective advice to the Government on tackling poverty and social exclusion. Our Annual Report includes an overview of our work in the context of our Strategic Plan 1999 – 2001. It also reviews progress in reducing poverty and identifies key issues that need to be addressed in the future.

We have come through a period of exceptional economic growth, during which important advances have been made in tackling poverty and social exclusion. Consistent poverty levels – a key measure of poverty – have fallen from 15% of the population in 1994 to 6% in 2000. There has also been a corresponding reduction in child poverty.

This reduction shows that progress can be made, admittedly against the background of strong economic growth and increased employment opportunities. We welcome, therefore, the commitment in the updated National Anti-Poverty Strategy, *Building an Inclusive Society*, launched earlier this year to reduce the level of consistent poverty to below 2%. This will be a challenge, especially if the economy is less favourable, but it can be done. However, to do so will require a commitment from all sections of the community that the elimination of poverty and social exclusion should be a key national priority. It will also require an acceptance that we need to continue to take positive action to re-direct income to the less well off and to improve key public services, especially education, healthcare, housing, childcare and public transport.

Throughout 2001, the final year of our last Strategic Plan, we worked to implement four objectives. These were: to support the National Anti-Poverty Strategy; to promote a fairer distribution of resources; to achieve a coherent public policy on child poverty; and to implement the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in collaboration with Area Development Management (ADM).

We also conducted an independent evaluation of our delivery of the Strategic Plan. The review pointed to the quality of our work across all our statutory functions. It commended our collaborative approach, our rigorous research, our role in supporting the capacity of the community and voluntary sectors to work with government and the

quality of our information services. This success is due to the professional expertise of the Board and staff of Combat Poverty and the staff of our partnership with ADM in Monaghan and the other border counties. I thank them for the commitment and enthusiasm with which they carried out the work.

During the year, Hugh Frazer, our previous Director, moved to the EU Commission as a Detached National Expert. I welcome Helen Johnston who was appointed as our new Director. I especially want to acknowledge the work of our previous Chairperson, Anna Lee, who completed her second term in 2001.

I was honoured to be appointed Chairperson of Combat Poverty by Dermot Ahern, in his previous role as Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs. We value highly our relationship with the Department and we recognise and support its authority and expertise on national policies in relation to poverty reduction and elimination. We thank the Minister, the Secretary-General and other Department officials for their support and assistance in the past year.

At the time of writing the new government takes up office. We congratulate Mary Coughlan on her appointment as Minister for Social and Family Affairs and Eamon O Cuiv on his appointment as Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht. We look forward to building and developing new relations with the Ministers and their Departments over the coming years to achieve the objectives in our Strategic Plan for 2002 – 2004 *Combating Poverty in a Changing Ireland*.



Brian Duncan  
June 2002

## Annual Overview

# Part 1

Working towards the elimination of poverty in Ireland

## Introduction

In February 2002 the Government launched its National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS) Review *Building an Inclusive Society* which sets out an agenda to eliminate poverty in Ireland by 2007. A commitment to deliver on the Strategy is included in the Programme for Government, June 2002.

In recent years Ireland has experienced extraordinary economic growth. Important advances have been made in tackling poverty and social exclusion. Unemployment has fallen to unprecedented low levels and the living standards of the poorest in society have improved. But poverty still exists.

This Overview describes the nature and extent of poverty in Ireland today. The Overview then examines how poverty in Ireland can be eliminated, or at least substantially reduced, with particular reference to the National Anti-Poverty Strategy. A table is included which sets out some of the targets from the NAPS, and notes where we are currently, indicating what has to be achieved to bring about the elimination of poverty.

The context in which the elimination of poverty will be brought about is changing. Economic growth is slowing and the unemployment figures have been showing a slow but steady increase. The public finances are under some pressure. Yet, it is important if we are to fulfil our commitment to eliminate poverty that the commitments contained in the NAPS remain a priority, even in a tighter economic situation.

## Role of Combat Poverty

The aim of Combat Poverty is to promote a just and inclusive society by working for the prevention and elimination of poverty and social exclusion. As a state advisory agency Combat Poverty advises the Government on how poverty can be eliminated by:

- Providing advice in an independent, informed and balanced way;
- Conducting research into the causes of poverty;
- Finding out what has been done in other countries;
- Piloting approaches to tackling poverty;
- Documenting good practice;
- Disseminating information about poverty; and
- Assisting in involving people living in poverty in the solutions to address poverty.



## Understanding Poverty - Poverty Defined

In the National Anti-Poverty Strategy the Government defines poverty as:

*People are living in poverty if their income and resources (material, cultural and social) are so inadequate as to preclude them from having a standard of living which is regarded as acceptable by Irish society generally. As a result of inadequate income and resources people may be excluded and marginalised from participating in activities which are considered the norm for other people in society.*

This means that poverty relates to the society in question. It is more than not having the physical requirements of food, water, clothing and shelter. That is not to say that there are not people in Ireland who are in a state of such absolute poverty, but a relative definition of poverty recognises that people have social, emotional and cultural needs as well as physical needs. An understanding of relative poverty recognises that poverty involves isolation, powerlessness and exclusion from participation in society as well as lack of money. The unequal distribution of resources and opportunities contributes to poverty.

### Consistent Poverty

Two measures of poverty are commonly used in Ireland. The first measure is termed "consistent poverty". Consistent poverty is when a person has less than 60% of average disposable income<sup>1</sup>, and does not have basic items<sup>2</sup>, such as one substantial meal each day or not being able to pay everyday household expenses without falling into debt, because they cannot afford them. This is the measure of poverty used in the Government's National Anti-Poverty Strategy.

In 2000, using this combined measure of deprivation and low income (in 2000 60% of average disposable income was €173 per week), 6% of the population or just over 200,000 people were living in poverty. The most recent data available on poverty is based on 2000. Consistent poverty has fell from 15% in 1994.

Some groups in the population have higher than average levels of poverty. Households headed by someone who is unemployed, working in the home (mainly women) or ill

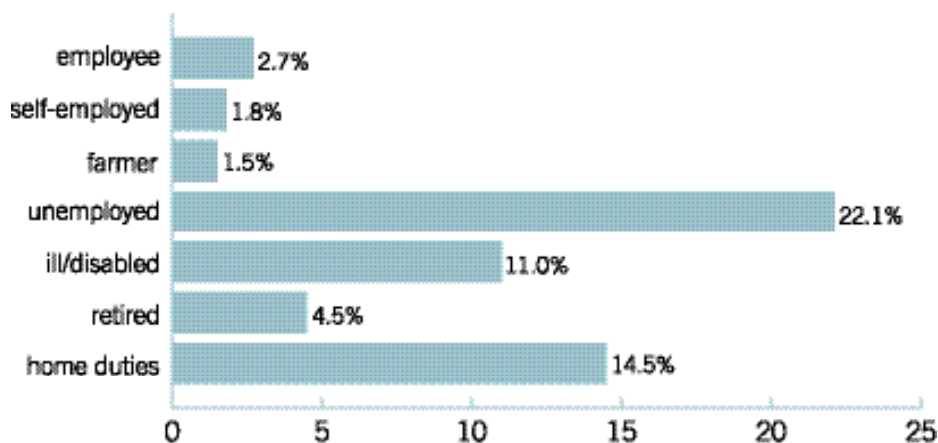
1 Average disposable income is calculated across the population as a whole. It is based on incomes after tax and social welfare contributions have been paid and welfare and other payments have been received.

2 The measure includes 8 items, termed "deprivation items" which people do not have because of lack of money. People are in consistent poverty if their income is less than 60% of average disposable income and they lack and one of the following deprivation items:

- n one substantial meal each day
- n chicken, meat, fish or its equivalent every second day
- n a "roast" or its equivalent once a week
- n two pairs of strong shoes
- n a warm, waterproof coat
- n new, rather than second hand clothes
- n lack of heating
- n being able to pay everyday household expenses without falling into debt

or disabled have relatively high poverty levels, see Figure 1. Households where there are four or more children, lone parent households, and households with one adult living alone (mainly older women) also have high poverty levels.

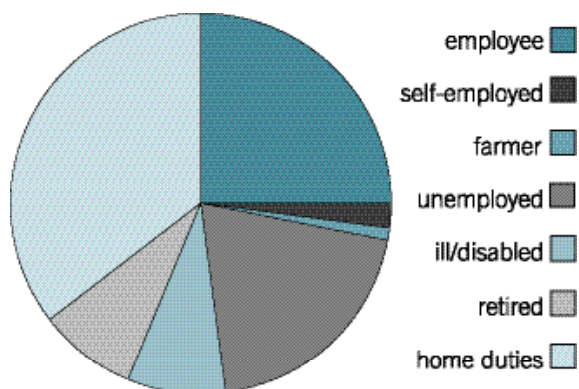
**Figure 1: Risk of Consistent Poverty by Labour Force Status in 2000<sup>3</sup>**



The make-up of the consistently poor population is illustrated in Figure 2. This breakdown shows that households where the reference person is engaged in home duties make up more than one third of those experiencing consistent poverty. Many of these households comprise older women living alone.

Child poverty has been a serious problem in Ireland, although recent years have seen a considerable reduction in child poverty from 24% in 1994 to 8% in 2000. Falling unemployment, household changes and social welfare improvements have contributed to this reduction. Poor children have been shown to do less well educationally, and are more likely to suffer ill health, are vulnerable to homelessness and have fewer opportunities in life. Child poverty damages children's well-being and their future well-being as adults.

**Figure 2: Distribution of Consistent Poverty by Labour Force Status in 2000<sup>4</sup>**



3 70% of median income plus deprivation is used here. This is comparable to 60% of average income plus deprivation. The median is the midpoint of the income distribution. It is now often used in preference to average income, which can be distorted by a small number of very high incomes at the top of the income distribution.

4 70% of median income plus deprivation is used here.

While this information paints an overview of the levels and risks of poverty in Ireland it does not give the whole picture. The information is based on national household surveys. Thus, people who do not live in households are not included in the information. People who are known to have relatively high levels of poverty but are not in the figures, include people who are homeless, many Travellers and some people living in institutions.

In addition, the information does not tell us about poverty risk within households but assumes that resources are shared equally. Research indicates that there is a higher poverty risk for women and children.

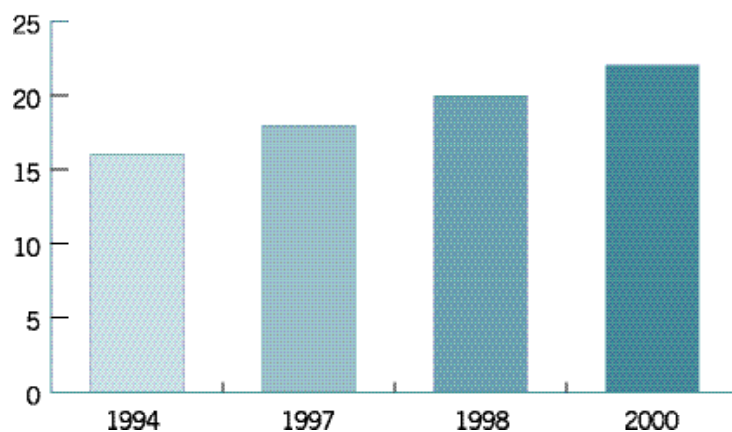
The consistent poverty measure includes items of “deprivation” which are very basic in the 21st century, such as being able to afford one substantial meal a day. Work is in progress to assess the relevance of these measures in today’s society and in relation to meeting women’s and children’s needs, with a view to revising the deprivation indicators to make them more relevant to today’s society.

### **Relative Income Poverty**

A second way in which poverty is measured is by using income alone, without adding the “deprivation items”. Relative income is a poverty measure that defines the proportion of the population falling below a certain income level. It is a fundamental component of the consistent poverty measure. Thus, to achieve the elimination of poverty using the consistent poverty measure the proportion of people falling below relative poverty lines, particularly for a sustained period, should be falling.

This has not been the case in recent times in Ireland. Part of the reason for this is that incomes in the population generally have been growing at a very fast rate during the economic boom. While the incomes of those at the bottom of the income distribution, such as those dependent on social welfare payments have also increased, this has been at a slower rate than the growth in wages or incomes generally. Thus, to tackle income poverty, among other things, social welfare payments need to be linked to increases in wages.

One fifth (22%) of the population fell below the income poverty line<sup>5</sup> in 2000 – this amounts to more than 800, 000 people. This proportion has increased from 16% in 1994, see Figure 3.

**Figure 3: Persons in Income Poverty<sup>6</sup>**

Information on relative income poverty is also based on household data, so suffers from the same limitations as the consistent poverty measure. The measure is based only on cash income and therefore does not take into account non-cash benefits. It also focuses only on current income so does not take into account how resources have accumulated or eroded over time. During a recession relative income poverty may fall because of a general decline in the living standards of the population as a whole.

Nevertheless, relative income poverty is a widely used instrument to measure levels of low income over time and across countries. Complemented by the consistent poverty measure it gives a good insight into the levels and nature of poverty and income distribution.

### Income Distribution

The level of income poverty is affected by the overall income distribution. Research shows that income inequality has risen sharply in the 1980s and 1990s in a number of industrialised countries. Ireland has shared in this trend<sup>7</sup>. Persistently high income inequality can lead to social alienation of more marginalised and vulnerable groups and subsequently higher social costs. It can also hinder the ability of those on low incomes to participate fully in the political, social, economic and cultural life of society.

High levels of income inequality imply a poor redistribution of resources and opportunities throughout society. While a number of factors impact on the income distribution, public policy can intervene to redistribute resources generated by the market. Public policy can invest in the development of human and social capital and in public service and infrastructural development, all of which are essential to the long-term viability and sustainability of economic growth.

<sup>5</sup> This poverty line is drawn at 60% of median disposable income

<sup>6</sup> At 60% median income

<sup>7</sup> Nolan, B., Maite B., O'Neill D. and O. Sweetman (2000) *The Distribution of Income in Ireland*. Dublin: Oak Tree Press in association with the Combat Poverty Agency.

At European level the measurement of income inequality is seen as an important factor in trying to understand and reduce levels of poverty across Europe. It is acknowledged that a wide range of factors impact on income distributions and levels of poverty. These include the different levels of prosperity, the age structure of the population, the business cycle, and differences in patterns of social protection and tax structures. Nevertheless, it is noted that EU Member States with relatively high per capita social expenditure levels, such as Luxembourg, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden and Germany, show poverty rates well below the EU average<sup>8</sup>.

## Structural Issues

While income issues are fundamental in eliminating poverty, other structural factors play an important part. These include employment, education, health, housing/accommodation and a good environment. Participation in employment and access to quality resources and services are the hallmark of a modern society.

In bringing about an inclusive and peaceful society the legacy of the conflict in Northern Ireland and its impact on the Border Region also needs to be addressed. The connection between poverty and conflict is a complex one. Conflict undermines efforts to address poverty and exclusion. It undermines economic growth, which is a key element in addressing poverty and has a particularly adverse impact on those communities closest to the violence. Conflict particularly impacts on poor communities and can contribute to people's sense of alienation and exclusion, and can be a factor in the perpetuation of violence. The opportunity brought about by the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and the EU Peace Programme needs to be taken to address the legacy of the conflict and to work towards peace building and social inclusion.

A new and emerging experience of poverty in Ireland is that related to immigration, ethnicity and racism. While the Traveller community in Ireland experiences high levels of poverty and social exclusion, in recent years other ethnic minorities and immigrants are emerging as at risk of social exclusion. This presents a challenge in developing appropriate services and supports to help them to integrate into society and in building an inter-cultural and inclusive society.

8 European Commission (2001) *Joint Report on Social Inclusion*. Brussels: European Union.

## How Can Poverty be Eliminated?

The National Anti-Poverty Strategy sets out an ambitious programme for the elimination of poverty. There are four main dimensions to tackling poverty.

- National policy – which recognises that the causes of poverty are structural and multi-dimensional. This requires an approach such as that set out in the National Anti-Poverty Strategy. Tools such as poverty-proofing can assist in applying this approach.
- Local level policies and area-based strategies – these are required to address local concentrations of poverty and are important delivery mechanisms at the local level.
- Ongoing monitoring – poverty is dynamic and therefore constantly changing. Good data sources and monitoring systems are important to ensure policies and programmes are effective and that new and emerging causes of poverty are identified and addressed.
- Participation – policies work best when the people at whom they are targeted are involved in their design. Therefore it is important that people experiencing poverty are involved in the implementation of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy and local initiatives.

### National Policy

At a national level, the National Anti-Poverty Strategy recognises that poverty is multi-dimensional and therefore requires poverty to be addressed in a whole range of ways. Government has a leading role to play at national, regional and local levels, but so too have the social partners of business, the trade unions, the farmers and the community and voluntary sector, as well as society as a whole.

The recognition of economic and social rights, such as the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to work, the right to education, the right to healthcare, the right to housing and the right to a sustainable environment is necessary in working towards a poverty-free society. The NAPS recognises the importance of citizenship rights and is committed to setting out detailed standards in relation to access to resources, rights, goods and services. Specifically, there is a commitment to a more formal expression of entitlements across the range of public services and to setting standards and guidelines regarding the standard of service delivery which can be expected.

One way of monitoring the impact of policies on those living in poverty is to “poverty proof” all policies. Poverty proofing was introduced in 1998 and involves the assessment of policies at design and review stages in relation to the impact they will have on poverty, with a view to poverty reduction. While poverty proofing has undoubtedly increased awareness of the need to tackle poverty across government departments the process needs to be developed and supported, through training, and increased and improved information on poverty rates and poverty risk. Policies also need to be proofed at local and regional level as well as nationally, and poverty proofing needs to be integrated with other proofing requirements such as equality, gender, rural and environment.

The National Anti-Poverty Strategy sets out key poverty reduction targets in the areas of income, employment, education, health, housing/accommodation as well as for a range of population groups at risk of poverty: children and young people, women, older people, Travellers, people with disabilities, migrants and members of ethnic minority groups, as well as disadvantaged urban and rural residents.

### **Local Level Initiatives**

Local level initiatives play a key role in addressing the issues which impact on the daily experience of people living in poverty. There is a growing recognition of the need for area-based strategies to complement national strategies and for the integration of services at a local level. The role of County and City Development Boards will be important in implementing county and city strategies across the range of public services. Local authorities have an important contribution to make in the development and implementation of local anti-poverty strategies, which will underpin and strengthen the national actions being taken. The establishment of social inclusion units in nine local authorities is an important step in this regard. Community-based anti-poverty measures are particularly important in tackling poverty at a local level.

### **Monitoring**

The acknowledgement that poverty is a dynamic concept requires that the levels and nature of poverty be analysed on an ongoing basis. In assessing progress towards meeting the NAPS targets it is proposed to put in place performance indicators to measure and review progress on a regular basis. The need for improved data to meet these monitoring requirements is recognised.

### **Participation**

Policies, programmes and services intended to tackle or eliminate poverty are much more likely to be efficient and effective if people who are part of communities affected

by poverty are involved in the design and implementation of solutions. The NAPS contains proposals for a social inclusion consultative group, comprising the social partners and anti-poverty experts who will meet twice a year and for an annual social inclusion forum. While these are important spaces to comment on the implementation of the Strategy the opportunity should be taken to utilise existing community, voluntary and anti-poverty forums to assess progress on implementing the Strategy eg. through the community fora of the County and City Development Boards.



## The Reality of Poverty

In trying to understand the extent and nature of poverty it is often easy to get caught up in statistics, which can mask the reality of poverty. A recent study by the Vincentian Partnership for Justice<sup>9</sup> examined the experience of poverty for families living on a low income. This study found that incomes of less than €400 per week led to a risk of poverty, with the experience of poverty being most acute in households where the income was less than €160 per week. In the study, these were mostly lone parent households. Housekeeping expenses and food were the most costly items of expenditure. An inadequate income made it impossible to provide a reasonably healthy diet.

***“We only eat potatoes on Sunday”***

***“I send my child to his granny’s for a good meal”***

Families spent their time trying to manage shortfalls in their income through a number of strategies. These included juggling bills, buying basic items only, limited food intake, borrowing money from family members, working when the opportunity arose, seeking charitable help or in some extreme cases borrowing from moneylenders.

***“Loan sharks know that there is money to be made out of people’s poverty”***

***“Education is so expensive”***

Key routes out of poverty were seen as increased income, including social welfare payments and child benefit. Education and training were seen as important with the ultimate goal of employment. The provision of adequate, affordable and accessible child care was necessary to enable people to return to education, training and employment.

***“Education and literacy programmes do help”***

***“Working is the only real way to get out of the nightmare”***

***“A lack of suitable child minding facilities prevents me returning to work”***

<sup>9</sup> Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice (2001) *One Long Struggle: A Study of Low Income Families*. Dublin: Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice.

## Assessing Progress Towards Eliminating Poverty

The table below identifies the main targets in the National Anti Poverty Strategy and compares this with the current position. For some targets, information is not currently available. This information will be sought as part of the implementation of the strategy and through the data strategy. This will be an important support to measuring poverty levels in Ireland and informing policy adjustments accordingly.

<p><b>Key Target<sup>1</sup>:</b></p> <p><b>Current Position:</b></p> <p><b>Comment:</b></p>	<p><b>Consistent Poverty</b></p> <p>To reduce the numbers of those who are "consistently poor" below 2% and, if possible, eliminate consistent poverty.</p> <p>6% of the population are living in consistent poverty (2000 figures)<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Consistent poverty fell from 15% in 1994 to 6% in 2000. The deprivation indicators comprising this measure are currently being reviewed.</p>
<p><b>Key Target:</b></p> <p><b>Current Position:</b></p> <p><b>Comment:</b></p>	<p><b>Income Adequacy</b></p> <p>To achieve a rate of €150 per week in 2002 terms for the lowest rates of social welfare to be met by 2007</p> <p>Current lowest rate of social welfare is €118</p> <p>Indexation of the rate will be critical</p>
<p><b>Key Target:</b></p> <p><b>Current Position:</b></p>	<p><b>Relative Income Poverty</b></p> <p>No target, but the proportion of the population falling below relative income lines is to be monitored over the lifetime of the Strategy</p> <p>22% of the population are below the 60% median income poverty line (EU measure)<sup>3</sup></p>

1. Targets that are not munerate or where information is not currently available are in included.
2. Gannon, B., Layte, R., Nolan, B., Watson, D., Whelan, C.T. and J. Williams (2002) *Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland : Results from 2000 Living in Ireland Survey*. Dublin :ESRI
3. Gannon, B., Layte, R., Nolan, B., Watson, D., Whelan, C.T. and J. Williams (2002) *Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland : Results from 2000 Living in Ireland Survey*. Dublin :ESRI

<b>Comment:</b>	Important to monitor trends in relative income poverty, as well as consistent poverty. Also important to develop a greater understanding of the various causal factors which influence levels of relative income poverty
<b>Key Target:</b>	<b>Employment and Unemployment</b> To eliminate long-term unemployment as soon as circumstances permit but in any event not later than 2007
<b>Current Position:</b>	Long-term unemployment rate is 1.3% in 2002 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Comment:</b>	Increases in unemployment give rise for concern particularly any increases in long-term unemployment.
<b>Key Target:</b>	To reduce the level of unemployment experienced by vulnerable groups towards the national average by 2007
<b>Current Position:</b>	Unemployment national average is 4.4% in 2002 <sup>5</sup>
<b>Comment:</b>	Vulnerable groups have not been explicitly defined for this NAPS target. They should be named and information on unemployment rates should be sought for these groups.
<b>Key Target:</b>	To achieve the objectives set out in the National Employment Action Plan to increase employment rates
<b>Current Position:</b>	The objectives are: To promote employment growth and work for all who seek it; To mobilise labour supply; To enhance education, training and lifelong learning; To promote economic and social inclusion and eliminate long-term employment <sup>6</sup>
<b>Comment:</b>	Increasing employment for poor households headed by an unemployed person and reducing the percentage of workless households would be significant for poverty levels.

4. Quarterly National Household Survey 2002 1st Quarter, Central Statistics Office [www.CSO.ie](http://www.CSO.ie)

5. Quarterly National Household Survey 2002 1st Quarter, Central Statistics Office [www.CSO.ie](http://www.CSO.ie)

6. Government of Ireland (2002) *Ireland's Employment Action Plan*. Dublin: Stationery office

## Education

**Key Target:** to halve the proportion of pupils with serious literacy difficulties by 2006

**Current Position:** 11% of pupils (15 year olds) had serious reading literacy difficulties (Level 1 or below on the OCED PISA scale) in 2000<sup>7</sup>. In a 1998 National Assessment of Reading in fifth class (primary level) one student in ten was identified as having reading difficulties of a serious nature.<sup>8</sup>

**Comment:** Poverty strongly relates to educational qualifications. Education can support people out of poverty and reduce the risk of children falling into poverty as they grow up.

**Key Target:** to reduce the proportion of the population aged 16-64 with restricted literacy (below 200-225 on OECD IALS scale) to below 10% to 20% by 2007

**Current Position:** About 25% of the population aged 16-64 had restricted literacy in 1995.<sup>9</sup> Ireland had one of the worst adult literacy levels in the OECD.

**Comment:** An up-to-date assessment would be useful to determine progress made since 1995.

**Key Target:** to reduce the number of young people who leave the school system early, so that the percentage of those who complete upper second level or equivalent will reach 85% by 2003 and 90% by 2006

**Current Position:** Completion rate was 81% in 1999<sup>10</sup>

## Health

**Key Target:** To reduce the gap in premature mortality between the lowest and highest socio-economic group by at least 10% for circulatory diseases, for cancers and for injuries and poisoning by 2007

7. Shield, G., Cosgrove, J., Sofroniou, N. and Kelly, A. (2001) *Ready for Life? The literacy Achievements of high 15 year olds with Comparative Educational Data*. Dublin: Educational Research Centre.

8. Cosgrove, J., Kellaghan, T., Forde, P and Morgan, M. (2000) *The 1998 assessment of English Reading (with comparative data from the 1993 assessment)*. Dublin: Educational Research Centre

9. Government of Ireland (1998) *Adult Education in an Era of Lifelong Learning*. Dublin: Stationery Office

10. Goodbody Economic Consultants (2001) *Review of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy : Framework Document*, Dublin : Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs

<p><b>Current Position:</b></p>	<p>In 1998, the mortality rate for the lowest compared with the highest social-economic groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- for circulatory diseases was 120%</li> <li>- for cancer was 110%</li> <li>- for injuries and poisoning was 160%</li> <li>- for all deaths was 130%<sup>11</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>Comment:</b></p>	<p>Health inequalities reflect wider inequalities and deprivation in society. Reducing health inequalities requires the reduction of poverty and income inequality.</p>
<p><b>Key Target:</b></p>	<p><b>Housing and Accommodation</b></p> <p>To ensure that housing supply is brought more into line with demand and that the housing requirements set out in the NDP (500,000 new units between 2000-2010) are achieved in a planned and coherent way</p>
<p><b>Current Position:</b></p>	<p>Housing Completions 2000 = 49,812, 2001 = 52,602<sup>13</sup></p>
<p><b>Comment:</b></p>	<p>Further work is required on refining this target and ensuring adequate housing provision and access to housing for vulnerable groups.</p>
<p><b>Key Target:</b></p>	<p>To deliver 41,500 local authority housing unit starts between 2000 and 2006</p>
<p><b>Current Position:</b></p>	<p>Local Authority Housing Completions 2000 = 2,204 Commenced 2000 = 4,076 Completions 2001 = 3,622 In progress 2001 = 7,486<sup>14</sup></p>

10. Goodbody Economic Consultants (2001) *Review of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy : Framework Document*, Dublin : Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs
11. Balanda, K. and J. Wilde (2001) *Inequalities in Mortality 1989-1998: A Report on All-Ireland Mortality Data* Dublin, The Institute of Public Health in Ireland  
SHRs = standardised mortality ratios = annual directly standardised mortality rates (per 100,000) for working age males by occupational class.  
Lowest social-economic group = SEG D = semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers.  
Highest social-economic group = SEGA = professionals.  
Cancer (neoplasms) SEGA = 83.6 : SEG D = 186.5.  
Circulatory System SEGA = 89.5 : SEGA = 279.2.  
Injuring and Poisoning SEGA = 25.4 : SEG D = 156.1.  
All causes of death SEGA = 232.2 : SEG D = 792.4.
12. Barrington, R., (2000) *A Perspective on Health, Poverty Today*, Vol. 54
13. Department of Environment and Local Government (2002) *Annual Statistics Bulletin 2001*. Dublin : Stationery Office

<b>Comment:</b>	Housing is a social good, not a commodity. For people on low incomes and with particular housing needs this target needs to be delivered as an urgent priority. More work is required to quantify housing need and to ensure appropriate target setting. The 2002 assessment of housing need will facilitate this.
<b>Children and Young People</b>	
<b>Key Target:</b>	Over the period to 2007, the Strategy will aim at reducing the numbers of children who are "consistently poor" to below 2%, and if possible, eliminate consistent poverty
<b>Current Position:</b>	8% of children living in consistent poverty (2000 figures) <sup>15</sup> fallen from 24% in 1994 but this is still higher than the population generally.
<b>Comment:</b>	All children living in Ireland should have a standard of living sufficient to guarantee their well-being and full development of their capacities.
<b>Key Target:</b>	The Strategy will aim at reducing the gap in low birth weight rates between children from the lowest and highest socio-economic group by 10% from the current level, by 2007
<b>Current Position:</b>	In the 1990s women in the unemployment social-economic group were over twice as likely to give birth to low weight babies as women in the higher professional group. <sup>16</sup>
<b>Women</b>	
<b>Key Target:</b>	Over the period to 2007, the Strategy will aim at reducing the numbers of women who are "consistently poor" below 2%, and if possible, eliminate consistent poverty
<b>Current Position:</b>	5% of women living in consistent poverty (2000 figures) <sup>17</sup>
<b>Comment:</b>	Further work is required to assess the extent and nature of women's poverty.

14. Department of Environment and Local Government (2002) *Annual Statistics Bulletin 2001*. Dublin : Stationery Office and Department of Environment and Local Government (2001) *Annual Statistics Bulletin 2000*, Dublin : Stationery Office

<b>Key Target:</b>	The Strategy will aim at increasing the employment participation rate of women to an average of more than 60% in 2010
<b>Current Position:</b>	The female employment rate was 54.9% in 2001. <sup>18</sup>

	<b>Older People</b>
<b>Key Target:</b>	Over the period to 2007, the Strategy will aim at reducing the numbers of older people who are "consistently poor" below 2%, and if possible, eliminate consistent poverty
<b>Current Position:</b>	7% of older people living in consistent poverty (2000 figures) <sup>19</sup>
<b>Comment:</b>	Poverty among older people is relatively high. Attention needs to be given to addressing the range of needs for older people at risk of poverty.

	<b>Travellers</b>
<b>Key Target:</b>	The gap in life expectancy between the Traveller Community and the whole population will be reduced by at least 10% by 2007
<b>Current Position:</b>	Life expectancy at birth for Traveller men is 9.9 years less than settled men and 11.9 years less for Traveller women than for settled women <sup>20</sup>
<b>Comment:</b>	Travellers have a high risk of poverty, but Travellers are omitted from many poverty statistics. Further work is required to set and monitor targets to ensure that living conditions for Travellers are improved and their level of poverty substantially reduced.

<b>Key Target:</b>	The transfer rate of Travellers to post-primary schools will be increased to 95% by 2004
<b>Current Position:</b>	Current transfer rate is 80% <sup>20</sup>

15. Gannon, B., Layte, R., Nolan, B., Watson, D., Whelan, C.T. and J. Williams (2002) *Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland : Results from 2000 Living in Ireland Survey*. Dublin :ESRI
16. Barry, J., Sinclair, H., Kelly, A., O'Loughlin, R., Handy, D. and T. O'Dowd (2001) *Inequalities in Health – Hard Facts*. Dublin: Department of Community Health and General Practice, Trinity College Dublin. Standardised rates of 140 versus 66.
17. Gannon, B., Layte, R., Nolan, B., Watson, D., Whelan, C.T. and J. Williams (2002) *Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland : Results from 2000 Living in Ireland Survey*. Dublin :ESRI
18. Government of Ireland (2002) *Ireland's Employment Action Plan*. Dublin: Stationery Office
19. Gannon, B., Layte, R., Nolan, B., Watson, D., Whelan, C.T. and J. Williams (2002) *Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland : Results from 2000 Living in Ireland Survey*. Dublin :ESRI
20. Department of Health and Children (2001) *Quality and Fairness: A Health System for You : Health Strategy* Dublin: Stationery Office

<p><b>Key Target:</b></p> <p><b>Current Position:</b></p> <p><b>Comment:</b></p>	<p><b>People with Disabilities</b></p> <p>The Strategy will aim at increasing participation by students with disabilities at third level to 1.35% by 2003 and 1.8% by 2006</p> <p>Current participation rate is 0.9%<sup>21</sup></p> <p>Few specific targets have been set for people with disabilities largely because of the lack of available baseline data – a key objective is to develop appropriate data. However, it is known that people who are ill or disabled have one of the highest risks of consistent poverty – 15% in 2000<sup>22</sup></p>
<p><b>Key Target:</b></p> <p><b>Comment:</b></p>	<p><b>Migrants and Members of Ethnic Minority Groups</b></p> <p>As very little quantitative information is available about the socio-economic situation of foreign born residents in Ireland targets are not set for this group. However, there is a recognition of the need for a policy approach to tackle the barriers to the integration of ethnic minority residents</p> <p>Social exclusion and poverty among ethnic community groups is becoming a very pertinent issue in Ireland, but our knowledge and information on levels of poverty among the groups is limited. This will need to be addressed in the data strategy.</p>
<p><b>Key Target:</b></p> <p><b>Current Position:</b></p> <p><b>Comment:</b></p>	<p><b>Urban Poverty</b></p> <p>Over the period to 2007, the Strategy will aim at reducing the number of urban dwellers who are consistently poor below 2%, and if possible, eliminate consistent poverty</p> <p>Information not currently available</p> <p>Further work is required to gather data to set some numerate targets to reduce poverty among urban residents who are in poverty.</p>

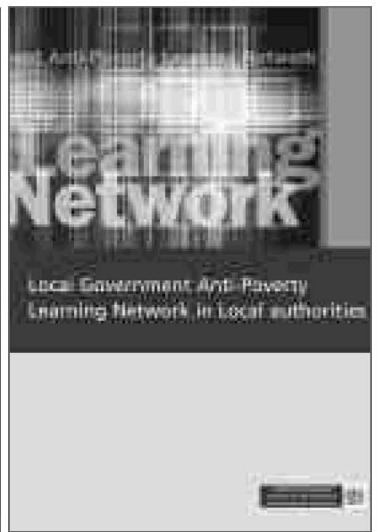
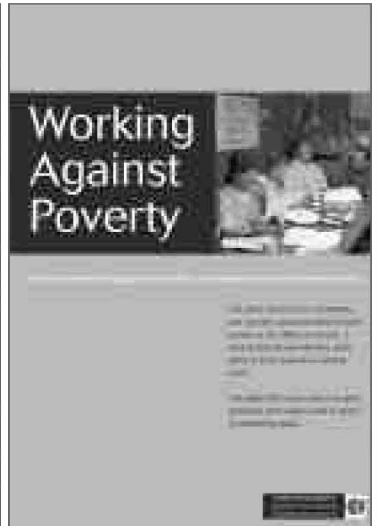
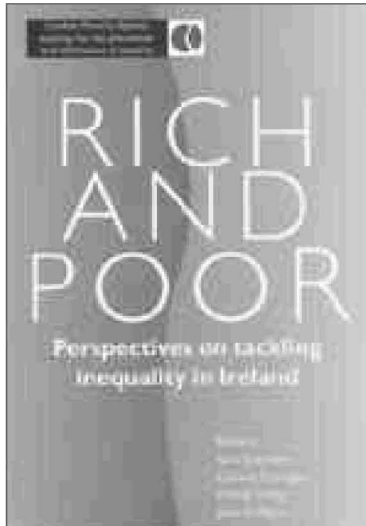
21. Goodbody Economic Consultants (2001) *Review of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy : Framework Document*, Dublin : Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs

22. Gannon, B., Layte, R., Nolan, B., Watson, D., Whelan, C.T. and J. Williams (2002) *Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland : Results from 2000 Living in Ireland Survey*. Dublin :ESRI



<b>Key Target:</b>	<b>Rural Disadvantage</b> Over the period to 2007, the Strategy will aim at reducing the number of farm and non-farm rural dwellers who are consistently poor below 2%, and if possible, eliminate consistent poverty
<b>Current Position:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 1.5% of farm households living in consistent poverty (2000)<sup>23</sup></li> <li>– Information not available for non-farm rural dwellers</li> </ul>
<b>Comment:</b>	Further work is required to gather data to set some numerate targets to reduce poverty among rural residents who are in poverty.

23. Gannon, B., Layte, R., Nolan, B., Watson, D., Whelan, C.T. and J. Williams (2002) *Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland : Results from 2000 Living in Ireland Survey*. Dublin :ESRI



# Part 2

Work of the Combat Poverty Agency

peace to build a more inclusive and participative democracy on this island.

## Supporting Action

- This section summarises a number of core services and actions to advance Combat Poverty's policy objectives.

## Developing the Agency

- Statutory and regulatory requirements, human resources, quality service delivery and financial resources are outlined in this section.

## OBJECTIVE ONE

*Combat Poverty 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 an ongoing responsibility for monitoring and evaluating the implementation and outcomes of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS). A two-year assessment of the NAPS, which was completed and published in 2000, recommended that a NAPS Evaluation Advisory Group be set up. This group, convened by Combat Poverty, continued its work in 2001. However, work on finalising the NAPS evaluation framework was deferred pending the government's review of the NAPS.

As part of this review, Combat Poverty advised on establishing new and revised NAPS targets on health, housing, employment/unemployment, educational disadvantage, income adequacy and rural and urban poverty. This was through membership of the working groups convened on these issues and through submissions. Combat Poverty also advised on consultation processes relating to the revision of the NAPS and the incorporation of a rights approach in the NAPS. A study on indicators of poverty reduction was commissioned by Combat Poverty from the New Policy Institute (UK) to help inform the monitoring and evaluation of the NAPS process.

A seminar on national consultation procedures on the NAPS was held in September by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs (DSCFA), with the support of Combat Poverty.

During 2001, all EU member States were required to prepare and submit National Action Plans on Poverty and Social Exclusion to the European Commission. Combat Poverty prepared a background paper on trends and challenges for the Irish National Action Plan. We participated in bilateral meetings between the EU Commission and the Irish government to discuss the action plan.

Throughout the year, Combat Poverty participated in, or had regular liaison with, the NAPS Unit in the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs; the Inter-Departmental Policy Committee (IDPC) on the NAPS; the National Economic and Social Council (NESCF) and the National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) on the

NAPS and related issues.

## Data Collection and Analysis

During the year, Combat Poverty participated with the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and the DSCFA in the ongoing management of the Living in Ireland Survey. This is a national household survey that collects data on people's income and living standards. Combat Poverty produced a Poverty Briefing based on national poverty data for 1997 from the Living in Ireland study. Combat Poverty supported and advised on an ESRI study to monitor national poverty trends, based on the 1998 Living in Ireland Survey. A research seminar on poverty trends was held in May. A discussion paper was prepared for the DSCFA, ESRI and Central Statistics Office (CSO) on data requirements for the NAPS.

A research proposal to collect data and devise measuring systems on poverty among excluded groups such as Travellers and the homeless, in accordance with commitments under the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness (PPF), was submitted to the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform. This work advanced during the year, with the preparation of a research brief and a work programme. The development of the Living in Ireland survey in this respect was discussed and a workshop was held to discuss data collection for excluded groups.

A UCD research study report on *The Potential of Secondary Data Sources as a Resource for Information on Poverty* was advanced during the year. A final report will be published in 2002.

A study on the intra-household allocation of resources, is being conducted by researchers from the ESRI and UCD, was completed and is being prepared for publication.

Work started on a Combat Poverty funded study on wealth, housing and poverty. This is being carried out by the ESRI, based on the Living in Ireland Survey. It will examine the relationships between the pattern of home ownership and tenure, housing costs, living standards and the distribution of wealth in Ireland.

A research brief was prepared at the request of the DSCFA for a study on the links between poverty and racism. Subsequently, in co-operation with the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI), a research study on ethnicity, racism and poverty was commissioned from UCD researchers. Combat Poverty also supported research on the following topics: food poverty; fuel poverty; poverty aspects of public sector customer services; access to credit; and the experiences of low-income families.

### **Liaison with the Research Community**

Combat Poverty convened a number of research seminars during 2001. The first of these was held in April on poverty measurement as a tool of policy. This had inputs from the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), the New Policy Institute (UK) and the Department of Geography, National University of Ireland Maynooth. Another seminar was devoted to research on minimum income standards. This seminar coincided with the social partnership working group on welfare adequacy and indexation. A one-day conference on community research was also held in 2001. This focused on the role of community profiling in informing local anti-poverty work.

A series of in-house research seminars was initiated in 2001, with the aim of providing an informal forum for discussion on research supported by Combat Poverty and other organisations. In all, eight seminars were held during the year. Topics covered included the dynamics of unemployment, early childhood development, poverty dynamics, low-income families, tax/welfare reform, child poverty among asylum seekers, social housing and child benefit.

Combat Poverty launched a new Poverty Research Initiative in support of third-level research on poverty in 2001. Eight proposals were funded, (see Appendix 2) for a total value of €42,220 and a further three applicants were asked to re-submit their proposals following some amendments.

Thirteen applications were received for the 2001 round of the Combat Poverty PhD post-graduate fellowship scheme and there was one successful candidate. This research fellowship was for a study on the reception, resettlement and integration of asylum-seekers and refugees in Ireland. This brings our current fellowships to four, (see Appendix 2). The scheme was evaluated during the year, and reviewed in the context of the 2002-2004 Strategic Plan.

Combat Poverty also supports a visiting research fellowship in the Policy Studies Institute, TCD, whose study on the challenges facing voluntary housing associations

was published as a Trinity College Dublin '*Blue Paper*' in January 2002.

Combat Poverty expanded its placement programme for post-graduates in 2001. Following a public advertisement, two students worked in Combat Poverty for three months each.

Contacts were maintained with a large number of professional research bodies. These included the Irish Social Policy Association, Sociological Association of Ireland, European Institute of Social Security, Association for Voluntary Action Research Ireland, Foundation for Fiscal Studies, Irish Economics Association, Institute for European Affairs, and Geographical Society of Ireland.

## Policy and Poverty

Combat Poverty made many policy submissions during 2001 as follows:

- to the National Anti Poverty Strategy Review and Working Groups on poverty targets and priority actions.
- to the National Economic and Social Forum on the reintegration of prisoners;
- to the National Economic and Social Forum on early-school leaving;
- to the health boards on a review of the medical card scheme;
- to the Social Partnership Group on Indexation and Benchmarking on adequacy of social welfare payments;
- to the National Committee on Volunteering on volunteering;
- to the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform on the review of the Employment Equality Act, with a view to strengthening the focus on socio-economic status;
- to the Department of the Environment and Local Government on the Local Government Bill;
- to the Department of the Environment and Local Government on the proposed national ban on bituminous coal and petcoke;
- to the Department of Environment and Local Government on the National Spatial Strategy.



Combat Poverty also contributed to a review of the schools meals service being undertaken by the DSCFA.

Combat Poverty prepared and disseminated an analysis and commentary of Budget 2000 and produced a pre-budget submission on poverty reduction measures for Budget 2001, entitled *Targeting Poverty*. We subsequently made a presentation on the Budget to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Family, Community and Social Affairs. Combat Poverty also proposed an alternative savings incentive scheme for low-income households, which was submitted to the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs.

Combat Poverty Agency continued to liaise with the NAPS Unit, DSCFA in developing the effective implementation of poverty-proofing as part of the NAPS and contributed to a National Economic and Social Council review of poverty-proofing.

In the context of the poverty-proofing guidelines, Combat Poverty jointly managed, with the Equality Authority, a research project on inequalities likely to lead to poverty. In response to an invitation from the Equality Authority, Combat Poverty joined the management committee of their Equality Studies Unit. The aim of the Unit is to study and report on labour market and social equality situations of various groups protected under the equality legislation.

Combat Poverty also maintained involvement in the Working Group on Equality-Proofing that oversees the implementation of equality commitments in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness (PPF). In addition, Combat Poverty is a member of the National Advisory Committee for the Money Advice and Budgeting Service, convened by the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs.

## Local Government

Progress was made by Combat Poverty in strengthening the capacity of local authorities and associated bodies to tackle poverty, in the context of NAPS. Actions included poverty awareness initiatives with Directors and Officers of Community and Enterprise and other local authority staff, County Development Boards and their sub-groups and other interested parties. It also involved advising on the new social inclusion units in local authorities, being set up under the PPF.

The Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network was established in 2000 by Combat Poverty in collaboration with the Department of Environment and Local

Government and the NAPS Unit in the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs. The Network assisted local authorities to carry out their anti-poverty work within a coherent framework, to facilitate exchange of information and experience and to provide mutual support. Twenty nine local authorities are Network members. A report summarising and analysing the key issues arising from the local authorities' proposals to join the Network was produced and presented to the first Network meeting in January 2001. Following this meeting, a Steering Committee was put in place to progress an agreed work programme and an Advisory Committee was established to consider strategic issues arising from the Network.

Consultants were appointed by Combat Poverty to provide support to Network members on research and evaluation; community development; training; and information provision and awareness raising. Combat Poverty supported a network of local authority researchers which was established during the year. A *Guide to Research* for local authorities was drafted and is nearing completion. A study on the experience of social inclusion units in other countries was commissioned and completed. This study will be jointly published by Combat Poverty and the Institute of Public Management (UK). The Small Area Health Research Unit (SAHRU) in Trinity College Dublin advanced its work to develop a model for local government poverty profiling. This model was piloted in three local authorities – South Dublin, County Sligo and County Offaly and a report on the work is being finalised.

Combat Poverty worked with local authorities to enhance community and voluntary sector involvement in local government. Regional training sessions on community development for County Development Boards and community fora took place. A questionnaire to establish the level of involvement of the community sector in local government fora and to establish case studies of good practice was distributed through the Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network. The response to the questionnaire was excellent and a report was subsequently compiled and circulated. *Poverty Today* included a feature on the experience of developing community fora in four local authority areas. Building on this work, a checklist for involving communities in local government is now in preparation.

During the year, training materials on poverty and local government were finalised and disseminated. Training was delivered through a series of regional workshops with the participation of nineteen local authorities. Discussions took place with the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) on the possibility of including training inputs on the NAPS in IPA programmes.

The first edition of a quarterly Network newsletter entitled *Learning Brief* was published and disseminated. Work began on setting up an email exchange that will provide opportunities to share information and experience.

Combat Poverty initiated a scheme to fund local anti-poverty work during the year. Funding was provided for work to be undertaken on a partnership basis between local authorities and community groups. Total funding allocated under the scheme was €182,000 (see Appendix 2).

## National Development Plan (NDP)

Combat Poverty Agency continued its membership of the Border, Midland and Western and the Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programme Monitoring Committees. These committees monitor expenditure under the National Development Plan in these regions. In conjunction with the NAPS Unit, DSCFA Combat Poverty commissioned a report to consider how social inclusion indicators could be strengthened within the Operational Programmes. The report was presented to, and agreed in principle by, both monitoring committees.

Combat Poverty continued its membership of the Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion Co-ordinating Committee of the NDP and briefed this committee on the progress of work on strengthening social inclusion indicators. This work continues in 2002.

Combat Poverty Agency nominated a representative to the monitoring committee of URBAN II, the EU initiative for the social and economic revitalisation of disadvantaged areas.

## Enhancing Policy on Community and Voluntary Sector Involvement in Tackling Poverty

### Community Development Support Programme

The Combat Poverty Agency continued its support of the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs' Community Development Support Programme. This was primarily provided through membership of the Advisory Group, the Standing Operational Committee and the Technical Committee of the Programme. Combat Poverty also participated in the Equality Sub-Committee to select consultants to draw up anti-racist guidelines and a resource pack for community development groups and contributed to a group convened by the Department to consider the selection of Support Agencies for the Programme.

## **White Paper on Supporting Voluntary Activity**

Early in the year Combat Poverty met with the newly established White Paper Implementation Unit in DSCFA. Combat Poverty was represented on the White Paper Implementation Unit group convened to consider funding applications by national community and voluntary sector federations and networks. In the context of the White Paper, Combat Poverty worked with Comhairle and Area Development Management Ltd (ADM) to consider how national level supports to the community and voluntary sector could be strengthened. Each organisation mapped the supports that they offer to the sector and identified gaps. This work continues in 2002.

## **Developing the Policy Capacity of the Community and Voluntary Sector Support to Community and Voluntary Sector**

As part of its work to support the community and voluntary sector to contribute to policy making processes, Combat Poverty maintained its monthly electronic information service Dáilbrief. Dáilbrief summarises key poverty issues from Dáil debates and relevant Oireachtas news.

Combat Poverty's *Guide to Good Employment Practice*, which is a resource for the sector, was updated for publication in 2002

The National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) brings together representatives of the Government and Oireachtas, employers, trade unions, farming interests and the Community and Voluntary sector. The NESF was established by the Government to develop economic and social policy initiatives and to contribute to national debate on these matters. The anti-poverty sector is represented on the Forum by three 'disadvantaged sector' members. Combat Poverty supports the NESF Assembly, which meets to support these three members and to discuss and contribute to issues raised at the full Forum. In addition, a number of regional meetings for the community and voluntary sector, which were organised jointly by the NESF Assembly and the Community Platform, were funded by Combat Poverty. The aim of these meetings was to strengthen the contribution of this sector to policy making fora on which it is represented.

## **National Anti-Poverty Networks**

Following a pilot programme in 1992-1995, Combat Poverty provides core funding to seven national anti-poverty networks. The networks are:

- Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed;

- One-Parent Exchange Network;
- Community Workers' Co-operative;
- Forum of People with Disabilities;
- Irish Rural Link;
- European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland;
- Irish Traveller Movement.

In the context of the White Paper on Voluntary Activity, Combat Poverty was asked to manage and develop a programme of support for National Anti Poverty Networks as a core part of its work. In 2001 an Advisory Committee considered the expansion of the Programme and three further networks were incorporated. These are:

- The Children's Rights Alliance;
- The Older Women's Network and
- The Irish Refugee Council.

Additional staff members were recruited in the context of an expanded Programme for National Anti-Poverty Networks. Contracts were signed, work programmes agreed and a regular schedule of Network and support meetings were held and key elements of a work plan for the overall programme were agreed. A needs assessment was undertaken, which will provide the basis for a training and development plan in 2002.

A scheme of once-off funding to promote and support the development of anti-poverty networks was put in place (see Appendix 2). In addition, enhanced funding was made available to the original seven networks to develop work that could not be undertaken from core funding (see Appendix 2).

### **Charitable Foundations**

Combat Poverty continued to act in an advisory and monitoring capacity with the executive and advisory committees of the Ireland Funds, the Foundation for Investing in Communities, and other foundations. It also participated in the advisory group of the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust Social Justice Initiatives Fund.

### **Grants Scheme**

Combat Poverty's *Working Against Poverty* grant scheme continued to operate during the year (see Appendix 2). This scheme aims to strengthen the ability of anti-poverty groups to contribute to policy-making by helping them to identify lessons learned

through their local activities. The lessons learned are directed to policy-makers with a view to improving supports locally, regionally or nationally for people who are excluded or living in poverty. Grants are available for research, evaluation and public awareness activities. To improve awareness of the grant scheme. A promotional seminar was held which received a very positive response.

An independent review of the grant scheme was carried out and a report outlining its conclusions and recommendations was produced. The review informed discussion on a revised grant scheme under the 2002-2004 Strategic Plan, and a number of administrative changes were introduced. These included stronger monitoring of reporting procedures for groups funded under the grant scheme.

### **Practice to Policy**

The Practice to Policy programme, which included a range of seminars and training programmes, aimed to strengthen the capacity of the community sector to identify good practice and policy lessons arising from its activity and to promote awareness of these lessons. The Programme was evaluated during the year and the results will inform future work in this area.

As part of this work, a training programme in media and information awareness was finalised for community and voluntary groups. Combat Poverty also provided a two-day course on how practice can inform policy at the Local Development Training Institute in June 2001.

### **Drugs Policy Programme**

Combat Poverty worked to influence national drugs policy in the context of tackling poverty and social exclusion. An evaluation of an earlier grants scheme, *Poverty, Drug Use and Policy Grants Scheme* was published and disseminated to relevant policy interests, including the National Drugs Strategy Team. Combat Poverty communicated with the National Drugs Strategy Team on the involvement of the community and voluntary sector, and took part in the National Drugs Advisory Committee and its sub-committee on prevention.

### **European Union**

Combat Poverty Agency maintained links with EU anti-poverty and policy development groups, to exchange experience and promote understanding of the NAPS. A particular focus of these contacts was the sharing of information on the linking of local action to national policy. Combat Poverty remained a member of the board of the Combined

European Bureau for Social Development (CEBSD), a transnational European network concerned with promoting community development to tackle social exclusion. Combat Poverty contributed to a conference on community development organised by CEBSD in conjunction with the Community Development Foundation and the International Association of Community Development, in London.

An evaluation was carried out into a Combat Poverty led EU project undertaken in 2000 that worked to devise models of consultation for involving excluded people and the organisations that represent them in policy-making on poverty and social inclusion.

During 2001, Combat Poverty prepared a background paper on trends and challenges for the Irish National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion (see NAPS above). We participated in bilateral meetings between the EU Commission and the Irish government to discuss the National Action Plan. Combat Poverty prepared a presentation to EU Commission staff on effective anti-poverty policies and programmes. A Combat Poverty nominee was appointed deputy Irish member of the programme committee for the EU Social Exclusion Programme (SEP) and maintained work contact with the DSCFA representative on the committee.

Combat Poverty is the Irish partner in a successful application for a one-year transnational project on combating social exclusion in rural areas (known as PACE AVENIR). The project, which commenced in 2002, aims to identify innovative policies for tackling rural poverty and to outline ways whereby local actors can contribute to policy formation. Combat Poverty will involve other relevant actors in the Irish project team for this initiative, including Irish Rural Link, Area Development Management and local government.

## Public Awareness of NAPS

Combat Poverty advised and supported the NAPS Unit DSCFA, the IDPC and government departments on promoting public awareness of and understanding of the NAPS. Throughout the year, *Poverty Today* featured aspects of the NAPS, including social partnership, poverty indicators and the work of the NAPS working group on health.

Fieldwork and analysis of a national survey of public attitudes to poverty was completed. At a range of local, national and international seminars and conferences Combat Poverty regularly promoted awareness of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy, its targets, structures and progress.

## Economic and Social Rights

Combat Poverty Agency works to stimulate debate in Ireland on the need to strengthen economic, social and cultural rights within Irish society and specifically within the NAPS. A literature review on social rights was completed. To promote debate on rights *Poverty Today* featured a number of perspectives on rights and the Combat Poverty's Annual Report addressed a rights-based approach to policy on poverty reduction. Combat Poverty's submission to the government's review of the NAPS in 2001 promoted a rights-based approach, with a particular focus on economic and social rights. This perspective was also presented to a national consultative seminar on the NAPS review in 2001. In addition, a background paper on applying a social rights approach to NAPS was prepared and submitted to the NAPS Unit on behalf of the Inter Departmental Policy Committee overseeing the implementation of NAPS. Combat Poverty's national conference in May 2001 on *Narrowing the Gap between Rich and Poor* highlighted Ireland's international obligations on economic, social and cultural rights. The conference was addressed by a member of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Combat Poverty drew on lessons from human rights work in Northern Ireland to inform its perspective on economic and social rights. During the year Combat Poverty participated in a joint initiative with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL), the Northern Ireland based Commission on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) and Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust (NIVT). This initiative focused on promoting a better understanding of the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights. In June 2001 these organisations co-hosted a conference at which actors for change from north and south and from different economic, social, cultural and equality perspectives came together to discuss how rights could challenge marginalisation. Following the conference a number of regional follow-up meetings were held. Work on production of a conference report and follow up activities continues in 2002.



## 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

Maintaining and increasing the real value of social welfare payments, in order to reduce poverty and to narrow the income gap between rich and poor, is an important strategic goal of Combat Poverty Agency. Combat Poverty works to identify and promote effective policies and transparent mechanisms for up-rating social welfare payments, drawing where appropriate, on approaches and options used elsewhere, particularly in the EU.

During the year Combat Poverty made a submission on the indexation and adequacy of social welfare payments to a working group set up under the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness (PPF). The submission advised that the government should agree a minimum income standard based on the right to an adequate standard of living. Combat Poverty subsequently held a seminar on welfare adequacy at which international and national experts spoke.

Combat Poverty was active in contributing to and facilitating the work of, the Review Group on the medical card scheme. We were consulted by, and made a submission to, the Review Group. In addition, in co-operation with the Society of St Vincent de Paul, Combat Poverty organised a round-table discussion for groups not otherwise party to the review and forwarded the findings to the Review Group for consideration. Combat Poverty made a further submission on reform of the medical card scheme, and subsequently disseminated its key policy recommendations. The work of the medical card review group was featured in *Poverty Today*, and Combat Poverty worked to link this review to the work of the NAPS working group on health.

### Social Spending and Income Distribution

Increasing the proportion of national spending devoted to social services, particularly housing and health, is a way of improving the living standard of people in poverty. A study was commissioned in 2000 to analyse the structural and policy factors that reinforce inequality and examine what could be done to tackle inequality and create a more fair and inclusive society. The study, *Rich and Poor: Perspectives on Tackling*

*Inequality in Ireland*, was finalised in 2001 and launched in April. The report findings were disseminated to a wide range of policy interests and received extensive media coverage.

A well-attended national conference involving national and international speakers was held in May. The conference sought to highlight and debate the findings and policy implications of the *Rich and Poor* study. It addressed three issues: the relationship between poverty and inequality; applying a rights approach to anti-poverty policy; and, investment in public services as an anti-poverty strategy.

A research study on Irish social expenditure in a comparative international context was commissioned to report in 2002.

Work to disseminate the findings of an ESRI research report on income distribution, *The Distribution of Income in Ireland*, continued in 2001. The report was featured in *Poverty Today* and in the national media. The dissemination strategy included publication of a Poverty Briefing, *Richer but more Unequal*, and the formulation of policy proposals based on the report's findings, and the inclusion of those findings in Combat Poverty's submission to the review of NAPS.

Combat Poverty Agency contributed to a discussion document on the formation of a public health alliance, initiated by the Institute of Public Health. This work is for further development in 2002.

## **Promoting a More Equitable Tax System**

Combat Poverty Agency has an interest in developing policy proposals that will create a more fair and progressive tax system, and one in which the tax burden is not levied predominantly on employment.

Proposals for tax reforms of this nature were included in Combat Poverty's pre-Budget submission. Consultation with a range of groups, including those in the community and voluntary sector, the Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative (OYECPI) and the Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network, informed Combat Poverty's proposals. The pre-Budget submission emphasised the issues of income adequacy and tax reform.

Combat Poverty maintained its participation in the SWITCH micro-simulation forum, convened by the ESRI. SWITCH is a policy tool for simulating the effects of tax and welfare changes on a sample group of households. The forum provides a mechanism

for users of SWITCH (government departments, Combat Poverty and others) to discuss the application of SWITCH in policy-making. Wide use was made of the SWITCH in preparing Combat Poverty's analysis of Budget 2001.

## Labour Market Participation

Identifying and promoting measures that help the most excluded people to participate in the labour market is a strategic goal of Combat Poverty. In 2000 Combat Poverty commissioned an ESRI study on the dynamics of unemployment in Ireland in the years 1994-1998. This report, *Moving On: The Dynamics of Unemployment*, was completed and published during 2001.

Another study, carried out by Nexus Research Co-operative, to identify and develop policy proposals to facilitate labour market participation by 18 to 21 year-olds who are at risk of long-term unemployment, was completed in 2001. The report, entitled *Labour Market Transitions Among Educationally Disadvantaged 18 to 21 year-olds*, is available in the Combat Poverty Agency library.

Identifying labour market and income maintenance policies for low-income farmers was another concern of the Agency during 2001. In 2000, Combat Poverty published a research report, *Low Income Farm Households: Incidence, Characteristics and Policies*, which had been commissioned from Teagasc/ESRI. Work on disseminating the policy implications of the report, in particular the implications for the NAPS, was undertaken during 2001.

Combat Poverty commissioned a qualitative poverty study from researchers in the Department of Sociology and Social Policy in Queen's University Belfast in 2000, to encourage greater public awareness of the difficulties experienced by families living on a low income. This study was completed in 2001 and will be published in 2002.

## 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

In working to inform and influence policy towards the reduction and prevention of child poverty, Combat Poverty promoted targets for reducing child poverty in national economic and social mechanisms, such as the NAPS, the national partnership agreement and the National Children's Strategy (NCS).

During 2001, it sought to strengthen links with the institutions of the National Children's Strategy such as the National Children's Office and the Research Dissemination Unit through discussions on the future implementation of the Strategy and Combat Poverty's role in this.

Combat Poverty's submission to the NAPS working group on income adequacy highlighted proposals to bring about adequate child income support payments and proposed the inclusion of a child poverty reduction target in the NAPS. In addition, Combat Poverty assisted the Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative (OYECPI) to produce and publish submissions to four NAPS working groups and to the NAPS review process.

Combat Poverty's pre-Budget submission on Budget 2002 addressed the issue of child poverty and child income support. Combat Poverty continued to contribute to debate in the area of childcare and to monitor policy developments arising from the Partnership 2000 expert group on childcare.

### Research and Analysis of Child Poverty Policy

To inform its policy development on child poverty and in particular the setting of targets for reducing and eliminating child poverty, Combat Poverty supports and contributes to research on child income and well-being. We also seek to promote the lessons and policy implications of this research among both policy-makers and the wider public.

Developing a set of indicators for poverty and well-being among children formed an important element of Combat Poverty's research work during 2001. We examined the potential of the European Social Action Programme to advance thinking on measuring child poverty and well-being. As part of this we took part in a conference on 'Indicators for Social Inclusion in the EU', organised as part of the Belgian EU presidency.

During 2001, Combat Poverty produced and published a Poverty Briefing on child poverty. Through the Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative, we linked with the work of the European Forum for Child Welfare on approaches to eradicating child poverty.

Combat Poverty continued to co-operate with the Department of Health and Children, the DSCFA and other key bodies, to establish a national survey on children's well-being. We participated throughout the year in the work of the advisory group and assisted in assessing the research brief and a draft feasibility plan.

### Demonstration Programme on Educational Disadvantage

Between 1996-2000, Combat Poverty supported and funded the Demonstration Programme on Educational Disadvantage (DPED). This comprised four local networks that developed integrated responses to address educational disadvantage and were concerned to feed the lessons of local experience into national policy-making. Following the completion of the DPED, Combat Poverty worked to complete the promotional strategy for the policy lessons from the Programme. These were documented in policy discussion papers, case studies and the report of the Programme evaluation.

Combat Poverty's continuing activities arising from the DPED in 2001 included:

- Support for the co-ordination of networking and fundraising activities of the four networks;
- Preparation of a submission to the NESF review of the *Report on Early School-Leaving and Youth Unemployment*;
- Commissioning of a resource, *A Guide to Developing Networks*, published in 2002;
- Documentation of a module on educational disadvantage for teachers pre-service training developed by Killinarden Education Network (KEN), Tallaght in association with St Patrick's College, Drumcondra;
- Contact on educational disadvantage issues with teachers' unions.

Combat Poverty funded Mary Immaculate Teacher Education College, Limerick to support a network on educational disadvantage among teacher training colleges. A submission was made to the Department of Education and Science on the establishment of an Education Disadvantage Committee.

A pilot project with the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee Curriculum Development Unit (CDVEC/CDU) to develop a poverty awareness programme for teachers was completed in 2001.

Combat Poverty assisted the organisation and funding of A National Forum on Primary Education: Ending Disadvantage which will take place in July 2002.

Combat Poverty participated in a number of management or advisory roles regarding educational disadvantage. These included:

- the National Advisory Committee to Guidance Enhancement in Post-Primary Schools Initiative
- the working group of the Department of Education and Science's Educational Equality Initiative
- the Evaluation Advisory Committee of the Department of Health and Children's Springboard Initiative in disadvantaged communities.

### **Early Education**

The creation of integrated programmes for early childhood education would help to counteract the structural and social factors that predispose certain children to poor educational attainment. Combat Poverty disseminated the findings of a study by Dublin Institute of Technology into early childhood education through hosting a research seminar in May.

### **Child Poverty Awareness Programme**

Combat Poverty works to promote awareness of the causes and consequences of child poverty both among policy-making interests and the wider public, and to foster policies that would help eliminate poverty and exclusion. One important vehicle for promoting awareness in 2001 was the Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative, which Combat Poverty helped to establish in 1999. The Initiative comprised Barnardos, The Children's Rights Alliance, The Society of St Vincent de Paul, the National Youth Council of Ireland, Pavee Point, People with Disabilities in Ireland and Focus Ireland.

The Initiative worked to promote public awareness of child poverty; to strengthen the voice of organisations concerned with child poverty, and the voice of children themselves; and, to inform and influence policy.

During 2001, an interim evaluation of the Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative was undertaken. This showed that the Initiative had been effective in highlighting and raising awareness of child poverty, particularly in the community and voluntary sector, had brought a greater focus on child poverty and on the need to increase child benefit, and had been effective in influencing specific policy measures.

The Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative promoted policy recommendations to the NAPS Review process through a submission on child poverty and a joint seminar with the National Women's Council of Ireland and the National Council for Ageing and Older People. The seminar debated and promoted consideration of targets in the revised NAPS for children, women and older people. The possibility of addressing racism in the context of a NAPS target was also considered. A seminar report was collated and submitted to the NAPS Steering Group.

Combat Poverty continued to fund the Children's Rights Alliance to examine government interventions to tackle child poverty throughout Europe and North America. We also supported a research project by the Society of St Vincent de Paul on the needs and concerns of children who have immediate or close family members in prison, with a view to influencing changes in prison policy and accommodation.

Work started in 2001 on a project, funded by the UK-based Gulbenkian Foundation, to devise models of consultation that would strengthen the voice of the child in public discussion and policy-making. A research brief was finalised and a steering committee set up. Following this, a research contract was issued to a consortium composed of the Children's Rights Alliance, National Youth Council of Ireland and Barnardos.

A pre-budget submission *12 Ways to Tackle Child Poverty in Ireland in Budget 2002* was published and widely promoted amongst policy makers, the media and the social partners.

The Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative presented a paper on child poverty to a conference of the World Forum International Council for Children's Welfare that was held in Limerick in August.

By the end of 2001, following its initial three year period, the Initiative was considering options regarding its continuation. Combat Poverty indicated short term transitional support to the Initiative as well as funding for a national conference on child poverty, a policy research seminar on the effects of prison on children and financial support for the production of information materials on child poverty.





## OBJECTIVE FOUR

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

### EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (1995-1999)

Since 1995 Combat Poverty, in partnership with Area Development Management Ltd (ADM), had joint responsibility for implementing a substantial part of the European Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in the border region of Ireland. This involved the implementation of 14 measures including economic development and employment, community-led development and social inclusion, and cross-border reconciliation. The overall aim of the Combat Poverty Agency and Area Development Management (ADM/CPA) joint initiative was to allocate, spend and monitor its funds in ways that maximised peace-building work, social inclusion and economic development in the border region and on a cross-border basis.

In 2001, ADM/CPA completed their responsibilities for the first Programme for Peace and Reconciliation realising almost full expenditure of the €67.3 million allocated. ADM/CPA collaborated with lead government departments and the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) to prepare for the implementation of the new PEACE II Programme for the border region. The PEACE II Programme has maintained an emphasis on poverty, social inclusion and peace-building work both within the region and on a cross-border basis.

As the first Programme for Peace and Reconciliation neared its end, the priority was to ensure that all funded groups completed their projects, used their full grant allocation to that end and complied with reporting and monitoring procedures. By December 2001 a total of 1,387 projects were funded over the life of PEACE I. The Foot and Mouth crisis during the year curtailed the public activity of the Programme for Peace and Reconciliation. Despite this, ADM/CPA worked to promote the lessons of the Programme and to encourage public awareness of its aims and work.

### Emergency Funding Provisions

Due to delays in the implementation of the PEACE II Programme, the Department of Finance granted ADM/CPA permission to allocate additional funding to projects to sustain their activities until the new PEACE II Programme became operational.

Through this 'Emergency Funding' provision some €4.8 million was committed to 140 projects. In addition, a number of other projects were allowed to extend their PEACE I funding for a further period to enable them to address issues of sustainability. By end December 2001, all projects approved under the first Peace and Reconciliation Programme had completed their work, with the emergency-funded projects still active.

## PEACE II Programme (2000-2004)

In preparation for the implementation of the PEACE II Programme, ADM/CPA supported the Special EU Programmes Body, one of the six cross-border bodies established under the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, the European Commission and the Departments of Social Community and Family Affairs; Tourism, Sport and Recreation; Enterprise Trade and Employment; and Finance in finalising the Operational Programme and Programme Complement for the PEACE II Programme. In particular, the focus of this work included planning and negotiating the content and operational procedures.

Later in 2001 ADM/CPA established its new Joint Management Committee (JMC) for the management of its allocation of the PEACE II Programme. In addition to representation from the two parent bodies, ADM Ltd and Combat Poverty, the committee was expanded to include representatives of local and regional development interests from throughout the border area and the Border, Midland and Western Region (BMW). Groups such as area-based partnerships, local authorities, County Development Boards, anti-poverty networks and the Western Development Commission were invited as well as representation from the BMW Regional Assembly, all of whom accepted.

In total ADM/CPA was allocated some €55.37million for the border region of Ireland. This funding is spread across two Priorities of the Programme including:

- Priority 1 – Economic Renewal which makes provision for developing new skills and opportunities, promoting entrepreneurship and developing positive action for women.
- Priority 2 – Social Integration, Inclusion and Reconciliation which includes the promotion of reconciliation for sustainable peace, developing children and young people, the inclusion of the target groups of the programme and provides for active citizenship and the development of weak community infrastructure.

In relation to the two cross-border measures for which ADM/CPA successfully tendered in partnership with the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust (NIVT) and Co-operation Ireland (CI), a cross-border management committee was established comprising full representation of all partners. The committee's role is to manage the cross-border measures of social inclusion and reconciliation; and of education, training and human resources. The cross-border consortium of ADM/CPA, NIVT and CI operates in accordance with a series of agreed core principles. These include: shared ownership; procedural consistency; the use of integrated approaches; flexible and responsive collaboration; and clear definition of responsibilities. Contracts for the cross-border measures of the PEACE II Programme were negotiated and finalised during the year. Contracts for the border region, priorities 1 and 2 were not finalised until mid-2002.

Combat Poverty and ADM/CPA were particularly concerned to ensure that PEACE II maintained a strong social inclusion dimension and that it was staffed, organised and implemented in such a way as to make it accessible and user-friendly to funded projects and groups in civic society. This served to ensure that PEACE II proactively worked to ensure the participation of target groups, areas and sectors from its commencement.

Consideration was given to the best way of implementing the different measures of PEACE II, such as the establishment of selection panels for recommending funding, and management structures, as well as advisory and expert working groups. By the end of the year the selection panels and management structures were in place with plans for the establishment of the other advisory structures well under way. Furthermore, the funding application, support and assessment procedures for the border region and on a cross-border basis were developed with attention given to the monitoring and reporting requirements to ensure as much clarity, transparency and accessibility of programme information as possible. By end October ADM/CPA, in collaboration with the Special EU Programmes Body, its cross-border partners and the County Council-led Task Forces, held information seminars throughout the border region to promote applications to the PEACE II Programme.

Towards the end of 2001 the Special EU Programmes Body had designed a common application form for the whole PEACE II Programme which was available on-line. As part of ADM/CPA's strategy of ensuring the accessibility of the new Programme, particularly to those target groups which might not have had access to information communications technology, a hard copy version of the application form was devised.

Advice to applicants was made available through support sessions, where groups were challenged on how their project would address the 'legacy of the conflict' and 'take opportunities for peace-building' as well as its contribution towards 'paving the way to reconciliation'.

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

A number of strategic initiatives were completed. These included:

- the compilation of a directory of research undertaken by projects. This was circulated to all interested local groups;
- the further development of Reconciliation Awareness work through the preparation of guidelines and information on peace-building and reconciliation. These were disseminated as part of the launch of PEACE II.

### Educational Disadvantage

A review of an Initiative on Educational Disadvantage, which had been funded in the period 1998-2000 to tackle educational disadvantage, was formally launched by the Minister for Education and Science, Dr. Michael Woods, in March in Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan. The review incorporated case studies of locally-based consortia, to draw out the policy and practice lessons generated by the different projects.



### Support to the Women's Sector

A policy paper documenting lessons and outlining recommendations based on a Women's Sector Strategic Initiative was prepared and published in 2001. This initiative supported the long-term development and sustainability of the women's sector in the southern border counties and on a cross-border basis.

### Sustainability Issues

A primary concern to ADM/CPA and the Combat Poverty Agency was that the principles of reconciliation and social inclusion developed during the Programme for Peace and Reconciliation would be maintained and incorporated into the work of

mainstream bodies and statutory agencies. To further this, ADM/CPA maintained ongoing contacts with organisations such as FAS, health boards, local authorities and local social and economic development bodies such as County Development Boards, area-based partnerships, LEADER companies and County Enterprise Boards.

A report on sustainability, designed to identify and disseminate lessons acquired through the experience of ADM/CPA, was commissioned and published. It focused on interpretations and applications of sustainability. The report endorsed the approach adopted by ADM/CPA in implementing the Peace and Reconciliation Programme.

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

To encourage the community and voluntary sector and cross-border bodies to adopt the issues of poverty, social inclusion and reconciliation as integral parts of their work, ADM/CPA sought to promote an awareness of the Peace Programme and its underlying principles of reconciliation and inclusion. We endeavoured also to create, among both the public and policy-makers, a greater understanding of the extent of poverty and social exclusion in the border counties and its effects on society and individual lives.



A publication *On the Road to Peace* was commissioned and finalised. It tells the story of the Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in a format that is accessible for the general reader. The title was launched in 2002.

In preparation for the implementation of the PEACE II Programme, ADM/CPA commissioned a baseline analysis of the border region. This involved the collection of primary and secondary research on target groups, areas and sectors as specified in the PEACE II Programme. It also involved consultations with key target groups as well as local authorities, educational establishments and health boards. This work served to inform the development of targeting under PEACE II.



A research strategy to inform the planning and implementation of PEACE II was developed. A number of steps were initiated to create synergies between the ADM/CPA policy interests and Combat Poverty policy interests. These included: enhanced exchange of information, resource materials and publications; joint training of Combat Poverty and ADM/CPA staff; co-ordinated dissemination of publications and policy material;

collaboration on research; and, participation of ADM/CPA personnel on Combat Poverty committees and policy groups.



### Promoting Cross-Border Activity

ADM/CPA maintained its efforts to have a social inclusion and poverty dimension incorporated into the work of cross-border and north-south bodies set up as part of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement and it co-operated with the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust (NIVT) in this regard.

As has already been described, ADM/CPA in partnership with NIVT and Co-Operation Ireland, tendered successfully for the delivery of two measures under the cross-border strand of the PEACE II Programme. In the case of one measure, which involves developing cross-border reconciliation and understanding, Combat Poverty was appointed the lead organisation and a sum of €14.67 million was allocated to the measure. The second measure, for promoting joint approaches to social, education, training and human resource development, is led by ADM Ltd and has an overall budget allocation of €28.64million.

### North-South Consultative Forum

Combat Poverty maintained its involvement in the North-South Consultative Forum which it had been instrumental in forming, in collaboration with Co-operation Ireland, the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust, Rural Community Network, and representatives of the social partners and the community and voluntary sector.



### Northern Ireland Civic Forum

The Northern Ireland Civic Forum, which was established under the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, continued its activities during the year. Combat Poverty's former director was a member and his departure took place during the year. Combat Poverty is currently considering its input to the Forum.

*On the Road to Peace*

## SUPPORTING ACTIONS

*Combat Poverty Agency's activities in developing policy and working to eliminate poverty and social exclusion is facilitated by a number of important supporting actions. These are now detailed.*

### Library and Information Service

Management of the library, which acts as a resource on poverty, social exclusion and community development to both staff and external users, was affected by the departure, during the year, of the library consultant. This resulted in a temporary reduction in the library service and deferral of some website development until the appointment of a replacement. A new Library and Information Officer started in August.

During the year, a high level of demand for information on publications and grants was experienced, as well as a good deal of media queries in response to Combat Poverty's policy initiatives.

Combat Poverty also responded to many requests for inputs to seminars and policy workshops. Briefings on poverty in Ireland and Combat Poverty's work were given to a number of research students, social workers, interest groups and visiting political delegations during the year. Combat Poverty was also represented at a range of conferences and policy discussions.

### Curriculum Development

Combat Poverty believes that learning about poverty and social exclusion by students and teachers is an important way of creating awareness about poverty issues and building public support for measures to eliminate it.

During the year, Combat Poverty continued to work towards the development of curricula and learning materials on poverty, citizenship and social change. Close collaboration continued with the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee Curriculum Development Unit (CDVEC/CDU) on the project *Poverty, the Classroom and the Curriculum*. A policy discussion paper, *Poverty Awareness in the Classroom: A Call for Action*, was published and launched at a well-attended seminar in May. This paper identified issues for national curriculum development arising from the project's work to date. Seminar participants expressed interest in the possibility of community involvement in curriculum development.

An evaluation of the *Poverty, the Classroom and the Curriculum* project was completed in 2001 and the findings considered by key parties. The evaluation considered the future focus of the next phase of work and gave particular attention to the question of enhancing school-community links in relation to curriculum inputs on poverty and social justice. The evaluation informed the initial development of a further three-year project with the CDU and this was agreed in 2002.

In 2001, the CDU project continued to develop a resource material on poverty awareness for teachers of Civic, Social and Political Education (CPSE) at Junior Cycle. Entitled *Counted Out* it is due for publication in 2002. A series of six regional in-service training events on poverty awareness for CSPE teachers commenced and continued in 2002. A series of inputs on poverty awareness for third-level teacher training colleges and departments was also prepared.

Planning between the CDVEC/CDU and Combat Poverty for a series of three seminars on charting the future for social and political education in the senior cycle of post-primary education was finalised. These seminars were held in Spring 2002.

Contact continued during 2001 with WEBS Network, which aims to bring awareness of links between local and global issues into the curriculum.

At the request of the Department of Education and Science Support Services, Combat Poverty funded the development and publication of materials for the Social and Contemporary Issues module of the Leaving Certificate Applied, in collaboration with Trócaire, National Committee for Development Education (NDCE) and Support Services Leaving Certificate Applied.

Combat Poverty maintained regular contact with relevant developments and institutions responsible for curriculum development and support. These included the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, the Commission on Teacher Education, the Department of Education and Science's Second Level Support Service and the CSPE Support Service, and the Curriculum Advisory Group of the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.

Development of an educational website on poverty and social justice for CSPE students and teachers commenced during the year. This initiative is being undertaken by Combat Poverty, Children's Rights Alliance, the Equality Authority and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and is funded by the EU Integra Programme.



## Publications and Reports

Combat Poverty publishes a wide range of material on poverty and social inclusion. The core publications of the Agency are its Strategic Plan, Annual Report, the quarterly journal, *Poverty Today*, its pre-Budget Submission, post-budget analysis, and annual calendar.

There was a very high demand for Combat Poverty publications during 2001. A new publications promotional catalogue was completed and printed. A review of Combat Poverty's publications policy was finalised.

*Poverty Today*, in 2001, highlighted a broad spectrum of poverty-related issues. These included the revised NAPS, the relevance of EU poverty programmes to NAPS, the review of the medical card scheme, Traveller accommodation, models for inclusion of excluded groups in policy-making, budget and other policy analysis, work on human rights in Northern Ireland and the Republic, and reconciliation and social development work in the border region. The Anti-Poverty Work in Action supplement in each issue profiled the activities of local anti-poverty groups and highlighted the activities of projects funded by the ADM/CPA Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.

## Promotion of the Combat Poverty's Work

Combat Poverty promotes its work in a variety of ways. These include its website [www.cpa.ie](http://www.cpa.ie); organisation and participation in a very wide variety of research and policy seminars; leaflets and brochures on specific measures or funding schemes; following a consistent media strategy; and liaison with political parties and other key policy-makers.

As part of its promotion and publication work, there was ongoing administration of the design and print management contract.

Work commenced on reviewing and updating Combat Poverty's contacts and mailing list. Inputs were made also to the mailing list of Community Exchange, an email forum that allows groups in the community and voluntary sector in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to exchange information.

Briefings on aspects of Combat Poverty's policy options are arranged for political parties every year. A number of these were undertaken in 2001. Monitoring of Oireachtas proceedings and links with Oireachtas committees were consolidated during 2001, in particular with the Joint Committee on Family, Community and Social

Affairs. Regular meetings took place with the social partners, ICTU, IBEC, the Community and Voluntary Pillar and the IFA, to discuss commitments and work emerging from the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness.

## Media Liaison

There was a high level of enquiries from the media during the year, particularly in relation to the Agency's pre-Budget submission, the Annual Report, the NAPS review and other policy analyses. Combat Poverty and its media consultants devised and implemented promotional strategies for a number of publications.

*Getting to the Source: A Media Guide on Poverty*, a resource pack for the media, was promoted during the year. It was distributed widely to local and national media, to press officers in government departments and to schools of journalism.

Combat Poverty and the Equality Authority worked together to explore the establishment of a media forum for key media practitioners to promote coverage of poverty and equality issues. Discussions were held with media practitioners on future directions for such a forum. However, progress was slow in establishing a forum and Combat Poverty finally decided not to proceed with the initiative.

## DEVELOPING THE AGENCY

*The effectiveness of Combat Poverty is built upon the skills, commitment and professional ability of its own staff and those employed by Combat Poverty in partnership with Area Development Management Ltd in the management of the Peace and Reconciliation Programme in the border region and on a cross border basis. It seeks to use its resources, both human and financial, in the most productive and effective manner possible to meet its statutory responsibilities, with the ultimate aim of reducing and eliminating poverty in Ireland.*

Combat Poverty seeks to create a working environment where staff are acknowledged and valued and where staff members can develop their skills and qualifications to the greatest extent possible. In managing the Agency, developing and improving human resource policies are given high priority and the Agency benefits greatly from the quality of its staff inputs.

Combat Poverty is committed to achieving:

- Delivery of the highest quality services to our end users;
- Full compliance with all statutory and regulatory requirements;
- A working process built on consultation, communication and transparency;
- The most effective, efficient and economical use of resources.

### Strategic Plan

The Agency's last strategic plan concluded at the end of 2001. The 1999-2001 Strategic Plan was evaluated and a report produced. Briefings on key policy developments were commissioned and extensive consultations took place with staff and other key stakeholders and interests. This information was utilised by Combat Poverty's Board to inform the development of the next Strategic Plan, 2002-2004.

## Effective Operational Systems

### Financial Administration

Combat Poverty worked to ensure that the administration of its financial records and payments system, and those of ADM/CPA in the implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Programme, met all statutory requirements and complied with all agreements under the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness (PPF).

Combat Poverty successfully prepared its financial, administrative and recording systems in preparation for the changeover to the Euro. All documents included Euro equivalents by 1<sup>st</sup> May and all payments were made in Euro from 1<sup>st</sup> October.

Work on implementing a new integrated accounting and budgeting system was deferred due to the Euro changeover and other ongoing work pressure. This work will be undertaken in 2002.

The Agency's financial accounts for 2000 were completed and submitted with the annual report to the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs, to the Comptroller and Auditor General and to the Minister for Finance.

To ensure the most effective use of resources, a mid-term review of budget performance was completed by end July and expenditure was re-allocated as required. Progress was made in reviewing the operation of tax clearance, tendering and contracting procedures, with the assistance of Combat Poverty's legal advisers. Contracting procedures were updated as a result. All staff and consultants were supplied with their statutory tax records as part of financial administration.

Arrangements for changeover to a new payroll package were completed in December.

### Information Technology (IT)

A major programme of staff training on new information technology systems was completed in accordance with the Development and Training Plan. IT training was also delivered to new staff as part of their induction process.

The consultancy contract for PC maintenance was tendered and a review of procedures carried out. Work was advanced on developing a database for personnel information.

A draft policy on email management was prepared and staff were consulted on the streamlining of procedures for electronic and paper file management.

Combat Poverty, in liaison with the DSCFA, drafted a policy paper on e-government.

## Records and Archive Management

Combat Poverty published its Annual Report for 2000, which was submitted to the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs. All other records were kept in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the National Archives Act.

The introduction of an electronic filing system and an intranet is under active consideration.

## Customer Service

Work continued on finalising an agreed quality customer service plan in line with commitments under the PPF. The Plan is scheduled to be agreed and ready for dissemination early in 2002. It will be in line with the "Delivering Better Government" programme and parallel work in the DSCFA.

## Human Resource Development

The Human Resource Development Policy, which was agreed in 1999, continued to be implemented broadly in line with the implementation plan. However, implementation was affected by the demands associated with the scale of recruitment during the year. To ensure the maximum possible participation, staff were consulted on key policy and work-related issues and regular meetings of staff, policy fora and management teams took place during the year.

To support the development of partnership-based working, which had been agreed in 2000, two partnership project teams were set up and further teams are envisaged. A partnership workshop was held in May.

Work started on developing performance indicators based on commitments under the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness (PPF). Progress reports were submitted to the Strategic Management Initiative (SMI) implementation group of the DSCFA.

A revised flexitime system was implemented and its effectiveness is currently being monitored. Obligations under the Working Time Act were fulfilled during the year.

A review of administrative support structures and resources commenced in September and reported in 2002.

Following discussions with the Agency's legal advisors, a review of staff contract terms was undertaken with further work continuing into 2002.

Combat Poverty also supported and supervised its external consultants and research students.

## Staffing

2001 was a year of considerable change in personnel in Combat Poverty. Filling of vacancies involved a total of eleven recruitment competitions.

Approval was given for three new posts: Library and Information Officer, Project Officer (National Networks) and Executive Officer (National Networks) and these posts were filled by open competition.

The Director, Hugh Frazer, who joined Combat Poverty when it was established in 1987, was seconded in June to the European Commission as an expert within the Directorate General on Employment and Social Affairs. Following public competition in May, a new Director, Helen Johnston was appointed .

Close liaison was maintained with Personnel Branch of DSCFA on staffing issues and their co-operation and support was much appreciated during the year.

Four Development Officer vacancies occurred amongst the ADM/CPA staff team during the transition from Peace 1 to II. All of these were filled by the year end.

## Performance Management

A staff team on Performance Management and Development was established to implement a process which reflected Combat Poverty's commitment to performance management and which also fulfilled the terms of the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness. Consultants were appointed to assist in the design and training for the new process, to be known as Performance Management and Development (PMD). Staff training on Phase 1 of PMD, which will be a pilot programme, was carried out in December.

## Training

An 18-month Development and Training Plan was completed in 2001 and a staff training group began preparing a new plan for 2002-2003, taking into account the results of a number of work and resources reviews carried out during the year. An evaluation system for staff training commenced. The staff induction process was reviewed and changes piloted during the year.

## Health and Safety

As part of an ongoing review of health and safety in the workplace, a review of accommodation led to detailed proposals to be implemented in 2002. These included fire walling and other physical work to improve facilities in line with premises' regulations.

## **Salaries and Superannuation**

All commitments under the PPF were complied with. The staff pension scheme was administered during the year and all pension records properly maintained. The Report of the Public Service Pensions Commission was received and the implications of planned legislation are being studied.

## **Grading Structure**

A review of the grading structure of the Agency was commissioned under the aegis of a Partnership Group established following consultation with staff representatives. The review involved an examination of internal roles and responsibilities for all posts and comparison with relevant external bodies and agencies. Issues arising from the review are still under consideration.

## **Combat Poverty Agency Board and Membership**

In 2001, the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs appointed four new members to the Board. One of the new members, Brian Duncan, succeeded Anna Lee as Chairperson in June (see Appendix 1). Combat Poverty staff provided all necessary administrative and support services to the Board and its sub-committees, and to the Joint Management Committee of the Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.





# Appendix 1

Board, Sub-Committees and Staff

## Board, Sub-Committees and Staff

### Board attendance in 2001

There were 8 meetings of the Board in 2001. The scheduled meeting in March was cancelled due to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease. Anna Lee completed six years as Chairperson at the May meeting. In total, four new members were appointed during the year. The attendance record of the Members of the Agency for the year is shown below.

	<b>No. of Meetings Attended (No. eligible to attend in brackets)</b>
Anna Lee, Chairperson <sup>1</sup>	3 (3)
Brian Duncan, Chairperson <sup>1</sup>	6 (7)
Pearse O'Hanrahan	5 (8)
Helen Johnston <sup>2</sup>	5 (5)
Maria Corrigan	4 (8)
Benny Devlin	8 (8)
Clare Farrell <sup>3</sup>	6 (8)
Fintan Farrell <sup>3</sup>	6 (8)
Bernard Feeney <sup>4</sup>	6 (7)
Mary Kennedy <sup>4</sup>	6 (7)
Bernadette Lacey	0 (1)
Seamus McAleavey <sup>5</sup>	3 (4)
Christine Maguire	4 (8)
Grace Maguire	1 (8)
Niall O'Keefe	7 (8)
Alice Robertson	8 (8)
Margaret Sweeney	6 (8)
Michael Waugh	7 (8)

1 Anna Lee completed her term as Chairperson in June. Brian Duncan, appointed to the Board in March, was appointed Chairperson in June.

2 Helen Johnston was appointed to the Board in June and Director in July, following the secondment of Hugh Frazer, the former Director, to the European Commission with effect from June 01 2001

3 Resigned April 02

4 Appointed March 01

5 Appointed July 01

## Board sub-committees

In addition to attending Board Meetings, Members were also active on sub-committees and assisting with particular pieces of work between meetings.

The Board was represented on such committees as follows:

### Finance and Personnel Committee

Brian Duncan, Benny Devlin, Clare Farrell, Pearse O'Hanrahan, Helen Johnston, Christine Maguire

### *Working Against Poverty Grants Committee*

Mary Kennedy, Niall O'Keeffe, Margaret Sweeney, Michael Waugh

### Joint Management Committee, EU Programme on Peace and Reconciliation Membership (as at 31st May 2002)

Brian Duncan, Combat Poverty Agency (CPA) (Joint Chairperson)

Terry Larkin, ADM Ltd. (Joint Chairperson)

Helen Johnston

Tony Crooks

Benny Devlin

Adge King

Breege Lenihan

Lorraine McKenna

Pearse O'Hanrahan

Pat O'Hara

Maire O'Leary

Eoin Ó Séaghdha

Kathleen Stack

Liz Sullivan

Bob Wilson

## **Cross-Border Management Committee, EU Programme on Peace and Reconciliation, Membership (as at 31st May 2002)**

Helen Johnston, CPA (Joint Chairperson)

Tony Crooks, ADM (Joint Chairperson)

Brian Duncan, CPA

Pearse O'Hanrahan, CPA

Maire O'Leary, ADM

Bob Wilson, ADM

Eamon Deane, NIVT

Avila Kilmurray, NIVT

Maureen Armstrong, NIVT

Tony Kennedy, Co-operation Ireland

Jim Purdy, Co-operation Ireland

Brian Johnston, Co-operation Ireland

## **ADM/CPA Selection Panel (Priorities 1 and 2) as at 31st May 2002**

Liz Sullivan

Tony Crooks

Adge King

Lorraine McKenna

Paddy McGinn

## **Cross Border Selection Panel (Priority 5) as at 31st May 2002**

Helen Johnston, CPA

Bob Wilson, ADM

Paddy McGinn, ADM

Jim Purdy, Co-operation Ireland

Mark Conway, NIVT

Felicity McCartney, NIVT

Gina McIntyre, Co-Operation Ireland

## Staff (as at 31 May 2002)

Director Helen Johnston

### Organisational Management and Development

Seán Mistéil	Head of Organisational Management & Development
Eileen Scanlon <sup>1</sup>	Human Resources Manager
Maria O'Neill <sup>1</sup>	Finance Manager
Vacant	Clerical Officer
Ann Riordan	Executive Officer
Teresa Ward	Receptionist
Cora Murray <sup>2</sup>	Clerical Officer

### Projects

Liz Sullivan	Head of Projects
Julie Smyth	Projects Manager
Ceri Goddard	National Networks Project Officer
Angie Daly	Project Officer
Barbara Walshe <sup>4</sup>	Project Officer
Vacant <sup>4</sup>	Project Officer
Ann Moore	Executive Officer
Anne Bride	Clerical Officer

### Research

Jim Walsh	Head of Research and Policy
Padraig Carmody	Policy & Research Analyst
Tracey O'Brien	Research Officer
Leona Walker	Research Officer
Cora Murray <sup>2</sup>	Clerical Officer

1 Part-time posts

2 This post is a shared post between Organisational Management & Development and Research Sections

3 Job share posts

4 Temporary part-time post

## Information and Public Education

Joan O'Flynn	Head of Information
Clare Farrell <sup>3</sup>	Policy Liaison Officer
Fidelma Joyce <sup>5</sup>	Policy Liaison Officer
Margaret O'Gorman	Communications Officer
Jean Cassidy	Library and Information Officer
Vacant	Executive Officer
Valerie Byrne	Communications Assistant
Ann Marie Wallace	Grants Assistant

## ADM/CPA Staff (as at 31st May 2002)

Paddy McGinn	Joint Manager
Vacant	Joint Manager
Paddy Logue	Development Co-ordinator
Donald McDonald	Development Co-ordinator
Vacant	Research Co-ordinator
Paul Skinnader	Development Co-ordinator
Bernard Bolger	Development Officer
Liam McKeever	Development Officer
Donnacha McSorley	Development Officer
Colette Nulty	Development Officer
Emma Quinn	Research Assistant
Mary Kelly	Finance Manager
Vacant	Finance Co-ordinator
Amanda Treanor	Financial Administrator (Monitoring)
Róisín Bogue	Finance Clerical Officer
Maria O'Sullivan	Finance Clerical Officer
Nuala Quinn	Finance Clerical Officer
Vacant	Finance Clerical Officer
Catriona O'Reilly	Auditor
Ailish Quinn	Office Manager
Diane Bell	Financial Administrator (Selection Panel)
Áine Coffey	Receptionist
Christine Lehmann <sup>4</sup>	Database Administrator
Inez Leahy	Clerical Officer
Vacant	Clerical Officer (Letterkenny)

<sup>5</sup> Temporary full-time post

<sup>4</sup> Part-time position

## 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, employed on a secondment basis from other organisations, 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 2

Projects funded by Combat Poverty Agency

## Working Against Poverty Grants 2001

### Evaluation Grants

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Portlaoise Community Action Project	6,221.72
Parkside Community Development Group	7,618.43
Tallaght Volunteer Bureau	5,713.82
West Tallaght Resource Centre Ltd	6,348.69
Clondalkin Centre for Unemployed	4,571.06
Women Together Tallaght	7,618.43
Drogheda Youth Development	6,983.56
Voluntary Service International	6,348.69

### Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

Gorey Centre for Independent Living	1,052.61
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### Public Awareness Grants

Changes	1,269.74
South West Clare Community Radio (Radio Corca Baisann)	1,904.61
Ballymun Youth Action Project Ltd.	1,269.74
Inner City Organisation Network	6,348.69
Ballymun Communications	5,713.82
Ballymun Ech	1,269.74
Clare Women's Network	1,269.74
Kerry Co. Network/People with Disabilities	6,348.69
Southill Community Development Project	1,396.71
North West Inner City Area Network	5,078.95
Clare Haven Services Ltd	3,174.35
Pan African Organisation	5,904.28
Kerry Action for Development Education (KADE)	6,697.87
Wexford Council of Trade Unions	5,205.93
Ballymun Womens Resource Centre	4,634.54
Women Together Tallaght	4,380.60
Irish Refugee Council Ltd.	7,586.69
Community Workers Co-Operative	12,697.38
Banúlacht	4,444.08
Clann Housing Association Ltd	3,809.21
Community Media Network	5,764.61
Independent Parenting Services Ltd	2,539.48

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Donegal Youth Service	1,269.74
Dundalk Outcomers	4,126.65
Cork Community Arts Link	1,269.74
Womens Studies Steering Group	5,263.06
South East Men's Network Ltd	3,809.21
Merchants Quay Project	7,618.43
P.A.C.E.	2,539.48

### Research Grants □

INOUE	8,253.30
Dergfinn Partnership Ltd.	5,078.95
Irish Refugee Council Ltd.	1,269.74
South West Inner City Network	6,348.69
Daisyhouse Housing Association	5,713.82
West Tallaght Resource Centre Ltd (for Tallaght Refugee Project)	1,015.79
Irish Traveller Movement	12,697.38
Irish Refugee Council Ltd.	2,539.48
Dublin Simon Community	1,269.74
Care Local	1,269.74
Southill Community Development Project	520.59
Ballymun Youth Action Project Ltd.	1,269.74
Clones Failte/Coiste na nIar Chimí	1,269.74
Dublin Simon Community	844.38
ADAPT House Limerick	1,587.17
Common Ground Ltd.	7,618.43
Foscadh Community Development Ltd.	6,348.69
Southill Community Development Project	1,904.61
Southside Traveller Action Group	5,434.48
SAOL Project Ltd.	12,697.38
Southside Traveller Action Group	634.87
Pan African Organisation	4,444.08
Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice	1,269.74
Pan African Organisation	1,904.61
Irish Deaf Society	634.87
St. Mary's AID Ltd	7,618.43
Ballymun Community Law Services	7,618.43
Threshold	12,697.00



Community Enterprise Society Ltd	3,174.35
Clann Housing Association Ltd	7,618.43
Exchange House	11,427.64
Kilmore West CDP	6,399.48
National Womens Council of Ireland	8,253.30
Tallaght Travellers C.D.P.	3,809.21
Irish Preschool Playgroups Association	2,539.48
Kerry Action for Development Education (KADE)	1,269.74
Mayo Travellers Support Group	5,078.95

### National Networks Core Funding

Irish Rural Link	126,973.80
Community Workers Co-operative	126,973.80
Irish Traveller Movement	126,973.80
European Anti Poverty Network Ireland	126,973.80
One Parent Exchange Network	126,973.80
Forum for People with Disabilities	126,973.80
Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed	126,973.80
Children's Rights Alliance	63,486.90
Irish Refugee Council	63,486.90
Older Women's Network	63,486.90

### National Networks Enhanced Funding

Irish Rural Link	18,646.00
European Anti Poverty Network Ireland	16,062.00
Open Parent Exchange Network	37,457.00
Community Workers Co-operative	35,552.67
Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed	19,046.07

### Once-off Network Grants

Women's Inter Island Network	12,697.00
National Traveller Women's Forum	12,697.00
EXPAC	5,491.62
Cherish	6,347.00
Association of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Ireland (ARASI)	4,444.00
Community Women's Education Initiative	12,697.00
Disabled Women's Working Group	6,348.69

**Local Government**

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Galway County Council and Forum	12,697.38
Waterford County Council and Dungarvan Community Development Project	6,348.69
Kildare County Council and Athy Community Development Project	12,697.38
Offaly County Council and Tullamore Traveller Movement	9,776.98
Dublin Corporation and Charlemont Community Association	2,285.53
Galway County Council and Comharchumann Chonamara Thiar	12,697.38
Carlow County Council and Forward Steps Resource Centre	9,523.04
Roscommon County Council and North Roscommon Community Forum	10,792.80
Offaly County Council and Community Workers Co-operative	12,062.51
Kilkenny County Council and Loughboy Area Resource Centre	12,697.38
Carlow County Council and Framework	12,697.38
Dublin Corporation and Exchange House Traveller Support Service	12,443.43
Wexford County Council and South West Wexford Community Development Group	6,348.70
Dublin Corporation and St. Vincent's Trust	7,618.45
South Tipperary County Council and TACCTIC Community Development Project	10,157.90
Leitrim County Council and Border Area Cinema Co-operative	12,697.40
Dublin Corporation and St. Michael's Estate FRC	12,687.40
Leitrim County Council and County Leitrim Partnership	6,158.23

**Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative**

Children's Rights Alliance	34,282.00
National Youth Council of Ireland	4,571.00
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	2,539.00

**Miscellaneous Grants**

Donegal Local Development Company Ltd.	11,430.00
Centre for Educational Disadvantage Research, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick	12,062.51
Centre for Educational Disadvantage, St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra	11,427.64
Public Communications Centre (Dublin)	2,539.48
Irish Traveller Movement (Community Platform and NESF)	9,525.00
Southside Partnership (LDTI)	6,350.00
Community Workers Co-operative	10,160.00

## Poverty Research Initiative



<p><b>S Friel and C Kelleher, Centre for Health Promotion Studies, UCG</b> Social variation in food and nutrient intake of adults based on the national health and lifestyle survey (SLAN)</p>	4,998
<p><b>T Galvin, Dept of Sociology, TCD</b> Comparative analysis of the consequences of welfare benefits for the resettlement and integration of refugees</p>	1,324
<p><b>E Garvey and E Murphy, Dept of Economics, NUI Galway</b> Consumption patterns and measures of poverty</p>	1,079
<p><b>E Hennessy, Dept of Psychology/ISSSC UCD</b> The role of after-school care in tackling social disadvantage: perspectives of parents and children</p>	16,408
<p><b>Policy Institute, TCD</b> Publication of policy paper: 'Social housing for the future: can housing associations meet the challenge?'</p>	3,174
<p><b>S Cantillon and J Walsh, Equality Studies Centre, UCD</b> Poverty as a violation of the right to a minimum level of resources</p>	6,349
<p><b>A Byrne et al, Dept of Political Science and Sociology, NUI Galway</b> Teenagers, community worker and academics as collaborative researchers</p>	3,809
<p><b>Exceptional Research Grant</b></p>	
<p><b>Focus Ireland</b> Social exclusion, food poverty and homelessness in Dublin</p>	12,700

## Ph.D. Fellowships Paid in 2001

### **Awarded in 2001 for three years**

Niamh Humphries

A Sociological Analysis of the Process of Reception, Resettlement and Integration of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Ireland.

### **Awarded in 2000 for three years**

Vanessa Gash

Flexible Labour Market: 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 3

EU Special Support Programme  
for Peace and Reconciliation  
Grants approved 2001

During 2001 Combat Poverty Agency, in collaboration with ADM Ltd, allocated additional 'Gap Funding' to the following projects to sustain their activities until the new Peace II Programme became operational.

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Grant €</b>
"The House"; Coxes Demesne	6,677.55
80:20 Educating & Acting for a Better World	21,379.22
A.C.L.D. Drogheda Branch	14,984.18
Abhaile Arís	39,665.35
ACCORD (Educational Service)	5,241.48
Ardee Community Deveelopment Company Ltd	26,399.63
Ballintra/Laghey Development Company Ltd.	24,457.69
Ballybay Development Association Ltd	22,376.59
Banada Abbey Hall Development Association	11,148.30
Boomerang (Cork Young People's Theatre Co.)	18,157.25
Bridging the Gap	11,284.16
Cavan Family Resource Group [FRG]	16,792.29
Cavan/Monaghan Rural Development Co-op Society	13,157.02
Cavan/Monaghan Rural Development Co-op Society Ltd	24,987.17
Cavan/Monaghan Rural Development Co-op Society Ltd	52,567.17
Clones Community Forum	31,909.31
Clones Development Society Ltd	25,209.75
Co Sligo LEADER Partnership Company (SLPC)	1,114.20
Co. Cavan Heritage & Genealogical Society	11,745.08
Coiste Na n-Iarchimí	10,157.90
Coláiste Ris Community Group	8,871.66
Community Workers Co-op, Donegal Branch	38,132.78
Convoy Enterprise Centre	16,057.11
Co-operation Ireland	13,850.94
County Leitrim Partnership	3,809.21
County Monaghan Community Network Ltd.	12,641.51
Curriculum Development Unit	12,344.39
DAWN Women's Centre	10,794.04
Dóchas for Women	13,184.96
Donegal Childcare Strategy Group	39,750.42
Donegal Travellers Project	110,314.84
Drogheda Community Arts Forum	6,010.94

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Drogheda Community Forum	22,061.70
Drogheda Disability Interest Group	9,865.87
Drogheda Early Intervention & Integration Project	16,318.55
Drogheda Lifestart	8,608.82
Drogheda Northside Community Partnership	18,494.24
Drogheda Resource Centre for the Unemployed	24,297.71
Drogheda Women's Refuge Group	35,797.72
Drogheda Youth Development	14,246.46
Drumshanbo Community Enterprise Co. Ltd	8,358.69
Dublin Common Purpose	12,574.21
Dundalk Counselling Centre	4,373.69
Dundalk Parents & Friends of the Mentally Handicap	8,761.19
Dundalk Rape Crisis Centre	6,155.56
Dunfanaghy Community Resource Association Ltd	31,839.96
Dungloe Development Association	18,026.16
Ex-Prisoners Assistance Committee (EXPAC)	54,253.37
Fáilte Abhaile	59,685.31
Fáilte Chluain Eois	47,497.09
Farney Community Development Group Ltd.	12,132.34
Farney Community Information and Resource Centre	9,487.48
Farney Community Resource & Information Centre	13,854.11
Farney Creche Committee	8,693.89
Ferdia Community Development Group	5,845.88
Gaisce The President's Award	21,697.28
Glencree Centre for Reconciliation	17,294.14
Greencastle Community Development Company Ltd	21,949.96
Human Rights Education Project	16,506.60
Inishowen Tourism Co-operative Society Ltd	9,142.11
Inniskeen Enterprise Development Group Ltd.	11,987.60
IRD Milford	27,406.03
Irish Genealogy Ltd.	18,411.20
Irish Rural Link	15,219.08
Killeshandra Community Council Ltd.	8,966.89
Leitrim County Council	35,717.65
Letterkenny Women's Centre	39,878.66
Lifestart	6,273.10
Lifestart Lifford/Clonleigh	44,745.57



Lifestart Newtowncunningham	68,427.46
Lifestyle Development Group Ltd.	18,538.18
Lifford/Clonleigh Resource Centre	32,895.11
Louth Youth Federation	14,445.81
Mohill Community and Development Association	6,859.76
Monaghan Town Educational Disadvantage Consortium	6,107.92
Monaghan Women's Refuge Project	10,168.06
Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland North West	8,465.35
Nexus Lucan Youth Project	25,261.44
NICDA Social Economy Agency	15,744.76
North Leitrim Glens Development Co. Ltd.	8,680.53
North Leitrim Glens Rural Tourism Co-op	14,984.37
North Leitrim Women's Resource Group	2,539.48
Páirtíocht Ghaeltacht Thir Chonaill MFG	17,695.07
Parents Teachers and Friends Association	21,628.72
Radio Pobal Inis Eoghain	18,222.01
Raphoe Reconciliation Project	8,253.30
Raphoe Youth & Community Project	38,853.99
Riverstown Enterprise Development Ltd.	13,862.37
Rossinver Community Development Co.	24,836.07
Rural Lift	22,706.73
Rural Mental Health Project	16,573.03
Second Chance Education Project	93.96
Shankhill/Shankill Project	19,359.70
Sligo County Council	13,967.12
Sligo Rape Crisis Centre	14,226.14
St Anne's Youth Centre Ltd.	53,683.25
St Johnston & Carrigans Resource Group	32,272.94
St Michael's Family Life Centre	18,665.14
Teach na Fáilte	6,347.42
The Balor Developmental Community Arts Group	23,396.20
The Donegal Women's Network	1,814.46
The Doorway Project	29,021.13
The Irish History Company	18,696.89
The Organic Centre	19,176.86
Tír Boghaine Teo. Lifestart	54,787.63
Tirhugh Resource Centre	22,100.38

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Truagh Development Association	1,562.73
Truagh Development Association	1,496.21
Upstate Theatre Project	19,393.98
Women Educating for Transformation (WEFT)	23,252.71
Women's Aid, Dundalk	34,690.52
Youth Initiative in Partnership (Y.I.P.)	28,071.37



# Financial Statements

The image features a teal background. At the top, there is a horizontal bar composed of four segments of varying shades of teal. Below this bar, a vertical line runs down the left side of the page, creating a narrow column on the left and a larger area on the right.

## Combat Poverty Agency

### Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2001

#### Statement of Combat Poverty Responsibilities

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

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

In preparing those financial statements, Combat Poverty is required to:

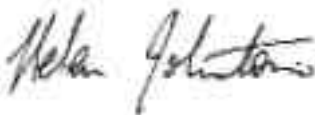
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that Combat Poverty will continue in operation
- state whether applicable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

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

Brian Duncan, Chairperson



Helen Johnston, Director



Dated: 13 June 2002



## Combat Poverty Agency

### Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2001

#### 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 Combat Poverty is liable on the basis of the joint management agreement, together with the transactions for its "core" operations are consolidated in these financial statements.

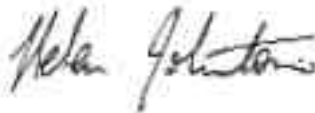
#### Statement regarding Prompt Payments of Accounts Act, 1997

The Combat Poverty 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. Combat Poverty continually reviews its administrative procedures in order to assist in minimising the time taken for invoice query and resolution. The Combat Poverty's procedures provide reasonable but not absolute assurance against material non-compliance with the Act. During the year ended 31 December, 2001 the total amount of interest paid on late payments was €139.81. The overall proportion in monetary terms of late payments to total invoiced payments was 0.015%.

Brian Duncan, Chairperson



Helen Johnston, Director



Dated: 13 June, 2002

## Combat Poverty Agency

### Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2001

## Statement of Accounting Policies

### Basis of accounting

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

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

### Currency

The amounts used in these financial statements are denominated in Euro. Irish Pound equivalents are presented for information purposes.

### Oireachtas Grant-in-Aid

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

### 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.

### Projects and Programmes to Combat Poverty

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

## Combat Poverty Agency

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2001

### Statement of Accounting Policies (contd.)

#### 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.

#### Capital Account

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

#### Superannuation

Superannuation costs are charged against revenue when they arise. No provision has been made in respect of future superannuation liabilities.

Contributions in the year in respect of spouses' and children's benefits are paid over to the Department of Social and Family Affairs. (See also note 10)

## Combat Poverty Agency

### Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2001

#### Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December, 2001

	Notes	2001 €	2001 IR£	2000 €
<b>INCOME</b>				
Oireachtas Grant-in-Aid				
Department of Social and Family Affairs		4,221,879	3,325,000	3,225,135
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	1(a)	5,862,799	4,617,329	5,785,102
Other Income	1(b)	103,827	81,771	368,469
		<b>10,188,505</b>	<b>8,024,100</b>	9,378,706
Transfer from Capital Account	6	49,589	39,055	37,519
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>10,238,094</b>	<b>8,063,155</b>	9,416,225
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Projects and Programmes to Combat Poverty				
National Networks Programme	2(a)	1,272,931	1,002,515	653,730
Special Programmes	2(b)	423,760	333,738	371,359
Grant schemes to Community and Voluntary Organisations	2(c)	352,841	277,885	305,452
Information, Education and Resource Material		417,963	329,172	474,689
Research Projects		252,896	199,172	183,487
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	2(d)	5,458,311	4,298,769	5,442,563
EU Models of Consultation	2(e)	38,864	30,608	157,102
		<b>8,217,566</b>	<b>6,471,859</b>	7,588,382
Development, Support and Administration costs				
Salary Costs and Expenses	3	1,354,352	1,066,639	1,253,794
Rent and Other Administration Costs	4	506,928	399,238	393,945
Depreciation	5	70,276	55,347	73,485
		<b>1,931,556</b>	<b>1,521,224</b>	1,721,224
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>10,149,122</b>	<b>7,993,083</b>	9,309,606
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>88,972</b>	<b>70,072</b>	106,619
Surplus Brought Forward		280,808	221,154	174,189
Surplus on Income and Expenditure Account		<b>369,780</b>	<b>291,226</b>	280,808

## Combat Poverty Agency

### Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2001

#### Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December, 2001 (contd.)

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 12 form part of these Financial Statements

Brian Duncan : Chairperson



Helen Johnston: Director



Dated: 13 June 2002

## Combat Poverty Agency

### Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2001

#### Balance sheet as at 31 December 2001

	Notes	2001 €	2001 IR£	2000 €
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Furniture and Equipment	5	111,223	87,595	160,812
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors and Prepayments		328,802	258,952	779,305
Cash at Bank and on hand		(311,866)	(245,614)	486,783
		<u>16,936</u>	<u>13,338</u>	1,266,088
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Creditors and Accruals		138,115	108,774	141,925
Deferred Income		(490,959)	(386,662)	843,355
		<u>(352,844)</u>	<u>(277,887)</u>	985,280
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
		<u>369,780</u>	<u>291,226</u>	280,808
		<u>481,003</u>	<u>378,821</u>	441,620
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>				
Capital Account	6	111,223	87,595	160,812
Surplus on Income and Expenditure Account		369,780	291,226	280,808
		<u>481,003</u>	<u>378,821</u>	441,620

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

Brian Duncan: Chairperson



Helen Johnston: Director



Dated: 13 June 2002

## Combat Poverty Agency

### Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2001

#### Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 31 December, 2001

	Notes	2001 €	2001 IR£	2000 €
Net Cash (Outflow) from Operating Activities	7(a)	(821,738)	(647,171)	(162,579)
<b>RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AND SERVICING OF FINANCE</b>				
Interest received		43,776	34,476	45,316
Net inflow from returns on investments and servicing of finance		43,776	34,476	45,316
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>				
Purchase of fixed assets		(20,687)	(16,292)	(41,103)
Disposal of fixed assets				3,867
Net Cash Outflow from Investing activities		(20,687)	(16,292)	(37,236)
(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents		(798,649)	(628,987)	(154,499)

## Combat Poverty Agency

### Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2001

	2001 €	2001 IRE	2000 €
<b>1. INCOME</b>			
<b>(a) EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation</b>			
<b>ESF Funding</b>			
Deferred Income at 1 January	632,517	498,148	1,001,290
Project Funding via Department of Social and Family Affairs	3,092,996	2,435,932	3,713,148
Deferred Income at 31 December	368,221	289,998	(632,517)
	<b>4,093,734</b>	<b>3,224,078</b>	4,081,921
<b>Exchequer Funding</b>			
Deferred Income 1 January	210,839	166,049	333,766
Project Funding via Department of Social and Family Affairs	1,030,999	811,978	1,237,715
Deferred Income at 31 December	122,738	96,664	(210,839)
	<b>1,364,576</b>	<b>1,074,691</b>	1,360,642
<b>Technical Assistance (TA)</b>			
ERDF and Exchequer TA Funding for Administration Costs via Area Development Management Ltd.	404,489	318,561	342,539
	<b>5,862,799</b>	<b>4,617,329</b>	5,785,102
<b>(b) Other Income</b>			
European Commission	30,152	23,747	116,509
Interest earned on Deposit accounts	43,776	34,476	45,316
Sales of Publications	15,754	12,407	23,858
Seminar registration Fees	6,316	4,974	24,458
Unspent grants	3,809	3,000	9,214
Miscellaneous Income	4,020	3,166	2,862
Department of Social and Family Affairs	0	0	19,046
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation	0	0	73,369
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	0	0	50,790
European Foundation for Living and Working Conditions	0	0	3,047
	<b>103,827</b>	<b>81,771</b>	368,469



## Combat Poverty Agency

### Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2001

#### 2. PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES TO COMBAT POVERTY

##### (a) National Networks

In 2001, following a recommendation in the White Paper Supporting Voluntary Activity, there was an increase of funding to the National Networks and three new Networks were funded.

##### (b) Special Programmes

One of the functions of Combat Poverty is to initiate and evaluate measures aimed at overcoming poverty. In line with this function Combat Poverty supports a limited number of projects and programmes in both urban and rural areas which seek to identify and develop strategies aimed at tackling the underlying causes of poverty. Combat Poverty 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:

	2001	2001	2000
	€	IR£	€
NAPS Local Government work	344,246	271,116	59,188
Educational Disadvantage Demonstration Programme	38,284	30,151	245,347
Enhancing the Community Development Sector	29,112	22,928	18,891
Policy to Practice Initiatives	7,042	5,546	37,493
Project Support	4,855	3,824	344
Poverty Drug Use Policy Programme	221	174	10,096
	<b>423,760</b>	<b>333,738</b>	<b>371,359</b>

##### (c) Grant Schemes to Community and Voluntary Organisations

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

	2001	2001	2000
	€	IR£	€
Information/Public Awareness Grants	124,606	98,135	81,219
Research Grants	171,344	134,944	128,041
Evaluation Grants	51,424	40,500	50,188
Support Work for Grants	4,414	3,476	7,836
Gulbenkian Grants	1,053	829	38,168
	<b>352,841</b>	<b>277,885</b>	<b>305,452</b>

## Combat Poverty Agency

### Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2001

#### 2 (d) EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation

In 1995 Combat Poverty (CPA) and Area Development Management Ltd. (ADM) agreed to implementing a joint approach to allocating the €67.3 million (IR£53 million) made available to them as Intermediary Funding Bodies for the Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (Peace I Programme) in the six border counties and on a cross-border basis. By December 1999 ADM/CPA had achieved full commitment of this funding, supporting 1387 projects in the process. Of the €67.3 million (IR£53 million), some €23.49 million (IR£18.5 million) was committed to projects under measures for which Combat Poverty had responsibility. At the end of December 2001 98% of the €23.49 million (IR£18.5 million) had been spent by projects on the ground and verified by Combat Poverty.

As a result of the ADM/CPA achieving full commitment of the available budget by the end of 1999, a number of groups assisted under the Peace I Programme had to be 'gap-funded' until the successor Peace II Programme (2000-2004) and other Programmes under the National Development Plan were implemented. A total of 193 applications for emergency funding were received by ADM/CPA, with 146 of these projects successfully securing funding until the full implementation of Peace II. The first payment made by ADM/CPA to a group approved for emergency funding in February 2001, with a total of €4,005,411.6 (IR£3,154,518) drawn down by projects in receipt of emergency funding during 2001.

The Peace II Programme, under which Combat Poverty had lead responsibility for 6 measures, was launched in the Autumn of 2001, with ADM/CPA receiving a total of 112 applications by the end of December. Ninety-five of these applications emanated from projects previously in receipt of emergency-funding. A total of eight projects were approved for funding under the Peace II Programme in December 2001, five of which relate to Combat Poverty measures.

The income and expenditure of Combat Poverty under the Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (Peace I) and Peace II Programmes for 2001 is summarised below:

## Combat Poverty Agency

### Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2001

#### 2 d) EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (contd.)

Income	IR£	IR£	€	€
European Social Fund		2,674,852		3,396,361
Exchequer		891,618		1,132,121
		<u>3,566,470</u>		<u>4,528,482</u>
Deferred in 2000		664,197		843,356
		<u>4,230,667</u>		<u>5,371,838</u>
Deferred 2001		386,662		490,959
		<u>4,617,329</u>		<u>5,862,797</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Peace I Projects				
Measure 3.4	527,400		669,660	
Measure 4.1	774,442		983,338	
Measure 4.4	622,332		790,199	
Peace I Projects				
Measure 1.5	169,679		215,448	
Measure 2.1	70,809		89,908	
Measure 2.4c	625,688		794,460	
Measure 2.7	991,186		1,258,546	
Measure 5.3	378,953		481,171	
Support costs	138,280		175,579	
	<u>4,298,769</u>	5,458,309		
Administration*	318,560	4,617,329	404,488	5,862,797

\*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.

#### (e) EU Preparatory Actions - Models of Consultation

In 2001 Combat Poverty received €30,152 (2000 - €116,509) from the European Commission as a preparatory action to combat social exclusion. 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) was €38,864 in 2001 (€157,102 in 2000)

## Combat Poverty Agency

### Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2001

#### 3. SALARY COSTS AND EXPENSES

	2001	2001	2000
	€	IR€	€
Staff Salary Costs*	1,148,207	904,287	1,059,515
Temporary Employment Agency Costs	53,280	41,961	58,232
Travel and Subsistence			
- Staff	28,952	22,802	28,481
- Members and Sub-Committees	21,969	17,302	25,197
Board and Staff Initiatives	2,994	2,358	0
Staff Training and Other Expenses	42,129	33,179	31,346
Combat Poverty Seminar	9,872	7,775	0
Pension Gratuity and Payments	1,397	1,100	1,454
Staff Recruitment	45,552	35,875	49,568
	<b>1,354,352</b>	<b>1,066,639</b>	1,253,793

\*The average number of core staff (full-time equivalent) employed by Combat Poverty during 2001 was 20 (2000: 20). The figures given here include Combat Poverty's liability of €289,541 ( IR€228,032) 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.

## Combat Poverty Agency

### Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2001

#### 4. RENT AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION COSTS

	2001	2001	2000
	€	IR£	€
Rent and Rates	188,578	148,517	110,089
Postage and Telephones	68,309	53,798	83,798
Maintenance and Insurance	86,736	68,310	64,325
Consultancy Costs	54,879	43,221	8,962
Printing, Stationery & Office Supplies	41,559	32,730	43,557
Records and Archive Management	16,671	13,129	28,522
Light and Heat	10,624	8,367	11,485
Legal/Professional Fees	11,167	8,795	5,768
Outreach Offices Support	9,923	7,815	19,657
Audit Fees	10,385	8,179	7,340
Sundry	8,097	6,377	9,171
Loss on Disposal	0	0	1,271
	<b>506,928</b>	<b>399,238</b>	<b>393,945</b>

#### 5. FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture	Equipment	Total	Total
	€	€	€	IR£
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>				
Balance at 1 January				
- at Cost	157,750	321,809	479,559	377,684
Additions at cost	324	20,363	20,687	16,292
Disposals at cost				
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>158,074</b>	<b>342,172</b>	<b>500,246</b>	<b>393,976</b>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>				
Balance at 1 January	97,815	220,932	318,747	251,034
Charged in the year	18,955	51,321	70,276	55,347
Disposals				
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>116,770</b>	<b>272,253</b>	<b>389,023</b>	<b>306,381</b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE - 31/12/01</b>	<b>41,304</b>	<b>69,919</b>	<b>111,223</b>	<b>87,595</b>
NET BOOK VALUE - 31/12/00	59,935	100,877	160,812	126,650

## Combat Poverty Agency

### Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2001

<b>6. CAPITAL ACCOUNT</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>IR€</b>	<b>€</b>
Balance at 1 January	160,812	126,650	198,332
TRANSFER (FROM)			
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT</b>			
Income applied to purchase fixed assets	20,687	16,292	41,103
Amortised in the year in line with asset depreciation	(70,276)	(55,347)	(73,485)
Released on disposal of fixed assets	0		(5,138)
	<b>(49,589)</b>	<b>(39,055)</b>	<b>(37,520)</b>
Balance at 31 December	<b>111,223</b>	<b>87,595</b>	<b>160,812</b>

## 7. CASH FLOW RECONCILIATION

### (a) RECONCILIATION OF SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR TO CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	<b>2001</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000</b>
	<b>€</b>	<b>IR€</b>	<b>€</b>
Surplus for the year	88,972	70,072	106,619
<b>Adjustment for non operating items</b>			
Interest Receivable	(43,776)	(34,476)	(45,316)
Profit on Disposal			
Loss on Disposal			1,271
Movement on Capital Account	(49,589)	(39,055)	(37,519)
<b>Adjustment for non cash items</b>			
Depreciation	70,276	55,347	73,485
Decrease in Debtors	450,503	354,800	261,924
(Decrease) in Creditors	(1,338,124)	(1,053,859)	(523,043)
Cash (Outflow) From Operating Activities	<b>(821,738)</b>	<b>(647,171)</b>	<b>(162,579)</b>

## Combat Poverty Agency

### Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2001

#### 7 (b) ANALYSIS OF BALANCES OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AND MOVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR

	2001	2001	2000
	€	IR€	€
Balance at 1 January	486,783	383,373	641,282
Net cash (outflow)	(798,649)	(628,987)	(154,499)
Balance at 31 December	<u>(311,866)</u>	<u>(245,614)</u>	<u>486,783</u>

#### 8. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There were no contingent liabilities at 31 December, 2001.

#### 9. COMMITMENTS

- (a) There were no capital commitments at 31 December, 2001
- (b) Funding commitments of €140,199 existed at 31 December, 2001 (€ 238,044 at 31.12.00) for Combat Poverty in respect of Grants to Community and Voluntary Organisations and Research Projects.
- (c) Combat Poverty 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 €200,000 per annum which is subject to review on a five yearly basis.

#### 10. SUPERANNUATION

The Combat Poverty Agency Main Superannuation Scheme 1997 and the Combat Poverty Agency Spouses and Children's Contributory Pension Scheme 1997 have been established, to take effect from 1 January 1987, in accordance with Section 14 of the Combat Poverty Agency Act 1986

#### 11. BOARD MEMBERS - DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

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

#### 12. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board on 13 June 2002.

#### AUDIT

These Financial Statements for 2001 are subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General under the provisions of section 10(2) of the Combat Poverty Agency Act, 1986.

