



# ANNUAL REPORT 2002

AN GHNÍOMHAIREACTH DO  
CHOMHRAC NA BOCHTAINÉ  
TUAIRISC BHLIANTÚIL







## **Combat Poverty Board members as at 31 May 2003**

Brian Duncan (Chair), Pearse O'Hanrahan (Vice-Chairmans), Maria Corrigan, Frank Curran, Bernard Feeney, Anthony Gavin, Maria Gorman, Helen Johnston, Tony Lane, Christina Maguire, Seamus McAleavey, Joan O'Flynn, Marie O'Neill, Alice Robertson, Margaret Sweeney, Olive Sweetman.

### **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 works to achieve this aim by:

Conducting high quality research and innovative initiatives, which are recognised for their rigour and creative approach;

Advising policy makers on effective and innovative approaches to prevent and eliminate poverty;

Promoting our work among policy makers, the social partners, relevant community and voluntary sector groups and the public.

These aims will be realised through the four general functions set out in the Combat Poverty Agency Act 1986: policy advice; project support and innovation; research; public education.

## Further information

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

A copy of Combat Poverty's 2002-2004 Strategic Plan and publications catalogue is available free of charge and on our website @ [www.combatpoverty.ie](http://www.combatpoverty.ie)

Combat Poverty Agency  
Bridgewater Centre  
Conyngham Road  
Islandbridge  
Dublin 8

Tel. 353-1-670 6746

Fax 353-1-670 6760

Email: [info@cpa.ie](mailto:info@cpa.ie)

[www.combatpoverty.ie](http://www.combatpoverty.ie)

This document is published in size 14 point to facilitate accessibility of the document for people with visual impairment. The Annual Report will be made available, on request, in a range of formats including audio tape, braille and computer disc.

Photography by Derek Speirs

# contents



## Réamhrá an Chathaoirligh

Is cúis áthais dom an 16ú Tuarascáil Bhliantúil de chuid na Gníomhaireachta do Chomhrac na Bochtaine a thíolacadh don Aire Gnóthaí Sóisialacha agus Teaghlaigh.

Leagann an tuarascáil seo amach an dul chun cinn a rinne an Gníomhaireacht do Chomhrac na Bochtaine sa bhliain 2002. Ba é sin an chéad bhliain dár bPlean Straitéiseach trí bliana Ag Comhrac na Bochtaine in Éirinn Athraitheach. Tharla a lán athruithe sa tréimhse 2002 go 2003, i réimsí na polaitíochta agus an gheilleagair agus i gcúrsaí sóisialta agus cultúrtha.

I dtaca leis an réimse polaitíochta de, bhí olltoghchán ann sa bhliain 2002 agus cuireadh an seanrialtas ar ais i réim. Is í Máire Ní Chochláin an tAire Gnóthaí Sóisialacha agus Teaghlaigh anois agus tá caidreamh maith curtha ar bun eadrainn le bliain anuas. Cuirimid fáilte roimh bhunú na hOifige Uilechuimsitheachta Sóisialta agus tá iarracht déanta againn nirt a chéile a chomhlánú agus sinn ag obair le chéile chun deireadh a chur le bochtaine in

Éirinn. Cuireadh an feidhmeannas comhroinnte cumhachta ar fionraí i dTuaisceart Éireann ach tá an Clár Síochána á chur chun feidhme fós againn sna Contaetha Teorann agus ar bhonn trasteorann in éineacht lenár gcomhpháirtithe Area Development Management Ltd, Community Foundation for Northern Ireland agus Co-operation Ireland.

I dtaca le cúrsaí geilleagair de, níor éalaigh Éire ón maolú domhanda ar fhás eacnamaíoch ná ó na srianta ar mhaoiniú poiblí. Is é a lean as sin ná gearradh siar ar roinnt seirbhísí frithbhochtaine agus pobail.

Anuraidh, is é sin le rá an bhliain 2002, chuir an Rialtas tús leis an Straitéis Náisiúnta Frithbhochtaine athbhreithnithe (NAPS) Ag Tógáil Sochaí Uilechuimsitheach, ar straitéis í ina leagtar amach spriocanna uailmhianacha maidir le deireadh a chur le bochtaine in Éirinn. Mar gheall ar shriantachtaí airgeadais níorbh fhéidir dul chun cinn substaintiúil a dhéanamh d'fhonn na spriocanna sin a shroicheadh i mBuiséad 2003. Ach tugadh tús áite do bheartais leasa shóisialaigh seachas do



laghdú cánach ioncaim rud ar chuireamar fáilte roimhe mar bheart tábhachtach sa chomhrac i gcoinne bochtaine.

I mbliana d'oibrigh an Ghníomhaireacht do Chomhrac na Bochtaine leis an Oifig Uilechuimsitheachta Sóisialta le linn Plean Náisiúnta na hÉireann i gcoinne Bochtaine agus Eisiaimh Shóisialta a ullmhú, ar plean é atá ina chuid de chlár Uilechuimsitheacht Shóisialta na hEorpa atá beartaithe chun laghdú substainteach a dhéanamh ar an mbochtaine ar fud na hEorpa. Glacadh comhairle go forleathan chun a fháil amach cad iad na nithe is gá déileáil leo ionas go bhféadfaí na gealltanais sa NAPS a chomhlíonadh.

I dtaca le cúrsaí cultúir de, tá athrú ag teacht ar Éirinn agus tá an tsochaí ag teacht chun bheith i bhfad níos ilchultúrtha. Cé gur rud dearfach é sin, is é atá tar éis tarlú dá bharr ná go bhfuil cineálacha nua bochtaine ann agus is minic a tharlaíonn sé sin mar gheall ar idirdhealú agus ar chiníochas. Is dúshlán é sin fós sa chomhrac i gcoinne bochtaine.

Sa chomhthéacs athraitheach sin, tá iarracht déanta ag an nGníomhaireacht do Chomhrac na Bochtaine sochaí chóir uilechuimsitheach a chur chun cinn trí shaothrú chun bochtaine a chosc agus chun deireadh a chur léi mar a leanas:

- Tuiscint níos cuimsithí a sholáthar ar bhochtaine agus ar eisiaimh sóisialta;
- Tacaíocht a thabhairt maidir le cur chun feidhme éifeachtach na Straitéise Náisiúnta Frithbhochtaine (NAPS);
- Seirbhísí poiblí agus cláir cheantar-bhunaithe, lena n-áirítear síocháin, a mheasúnú agus a chur chun cinn;
- Cumas na hearnála forbartha pobail a neartú; agus
- Beartais nuálacha a mholadh atá dírithe ar acmhainní a dháileadh ar shlí níos cothroime.

Rinneadh dul chun cinn sna réimsí sin go léir mar a thuairiscítear sa tuarascáil ach tá a lán oibre le déanamh fós. Go háirithe, ní mór dúinn a chinntiú, maidir le daoine atá i gcúinsí ina bhfuil siad soghonta mar gheall ar bhochtaine, eisiaimh nó coimhlint, go bhfaigheann siad tacaíocht chun a gcúinsí a fheabhsú agus chun go mbeidh caighdeán

maireachtála acu a mheastar a bheith inghlactha in Éirinn sa 21ú haois. Chomh maith leis sin, ní mór dúinn na príomhsheirbhísí poiblí a fheabhsú, go háirithe cúram sláinte, oideachas, tithíocht, cúram leanaí agus iompar poiblí.

I dtaca leis an dul chun cinn atá déanta, is mian liom buíochas a ghabháil i leith dhíograis agus oilteacht ghairmiúil Bhord agus fhoireann na Gníomhaireachta do Chomhrac na Bochtaine, agus fhoireann ár gcomhpháirtíochta le ADM i Muineachán. Tháinig deireadh le téarma ceapacháin roinnt daoine den Bhord sa tréimhse 2002/2003. Gabhaim buíochas le Benny Devlin, Niall O'Keefe, Michael Waugh, Clare Farrell, Fintan Farrell, Grace Maguire agus Mary Kennedy as a

saothar. Cuirim fáilte chuig an mBord roimh Tony Lane, Frank Curran, Anthony Gavin, Maria Gorman, Olive Sweetman, Joan O'Flynn agus Marie O'Neill, agus cuirim fáilte freisin roimh athcheapadh Alice Robertson agus Maria Corrigan.

Mar fhocal scoir, ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a léiriú i leith thacaíocht na Roinne Gnóthaí Sóisialacha agus Teaghlaigh agus gabhaim buíochas leis an Aire, leis an Ard-Rúnaí agus le hoifigigh na Roinne as a spreagadh agus as a gcúnamh le bliain anuas.



**Brian Duncan**  
Meitheamh 2003

“ní mór dúinn a chinntiú, maidir le daoine atá i gcúinsí ina bhfuil siad soghonta mar gheall ar bhochtaine, eisiámh nó coimhlint, go bhfaigheann siad tacaíocht chun a gcúinsí a fheabhsú agus chun go mbeidh caighdeán maireachtála acu a mheastar a bheith inghlactha in Éirinn sa 21ú haois.”

## Chairman's Foreword

It is with pleasure that I present the 16th Annual Report of Combat Poverty to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs.

This report sets out the progress made by Combat Poverty in 2002. This was the first year of our three year Strategic Plan *Combating Poverty in a Changing Ireland*. There was much change in the period 2002 to 2003, in the political, economic, social and cultural arenas.

On the political front we had a general election in 2002 where the outgoing government was returned. Mary Coughlan is now the Minister for Social and Family Affairs and we have built a productive relationship over the last year. We welcome the establishment of the Office for Social Inclusion and have sought to complement each other's strengths as we work together to eliminate poverty in Ireland. In Northern Ireland we saw the suspension of the power sharing executive, as we continued to implement the Peace Programme in the Border Counties and on a cross-border basis with our partners (Area Development Management Ltd,

Community Foundation for Northern Ireland and Co-operation Ireland).

Economically, Ireland has not escaped the global downturn with a slow down in economic growth and restricted public finances. This has resulted in cutbacks in some anti-poverty and community services.

Last year, 2002, the Government launched the revised National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS) *Building an Inclusive Society*, setting out ambitious targets for the elimination of poverty in Ireland. Financial constraints meant that it was not possible to make substantial progress towards meeting these targets in the 2003 Budget. However, social welfare policies were prioritised over tax cuts, which we welcome as important in the fight against poverty.

This year, Combat Poverty has been working with the Office for Social Inclusion in the preparation of Ireland's National Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion, which is part of the European Social Inclusion programme to substantially reduce poverty through-out Europe. Extensive consultation has been

undertaken, to hear first hand the issues to be addressed, with a view to building on the commitments in the NAPS.

Culturally, Ireland has been changing, becoming a much more intercultural society. While this is a positive development, in some instances it has led to new forms of poverty, often-times through discrimination and racism. This remains a challenge in the fight against poverty.

Against this changing context, Combat Poverty has sought to promote a just and inclusive society by working for the prevention and elimination of poverty through:

- Achieving a more comprehensive understanding of poverty and social exclusion;
- Supporting the effective implementation of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS);
- Assessing and promoting effective public services and area-based programmes including peace;
- Strengthening the capacity of the community development sector; and

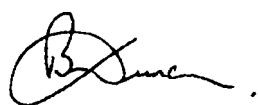
- Proposing innovative policies aimed at a more equal distribution of resources.

Progress has been made in all of these areas as outlined in the report, but much more remains to be done. In particular, we need to ensure that people who find themselves in vulnerable situations, either through poverty, exclusion or conflict are supported to improve their situations and to have a standard of living considered acceptable in 21st century Ireland. We also need to improve key public services, especially healthcare, education, housing, childcare and public transport.

In making progress I want to acknowledge the dedication and professional expertise of the Board and staff of Combat Poverty and the staff of our partnership with ADM in Monaghan. For a number of Board members their terms of appointment came to an end in the 2002/2003 period. I thank Benny Devlin, Niall O'Keefe, Michael Waugh, Clare Farrell, Fintan Farrell, Grace Maguire and Mary Kennedy for their contributions. I welcome to the Board

Tony Lane, Frank Curran, Anthony Gavin, Maria Gorman, Olive Sweetman, Joan O'Flynn and Marie O'Neill, as well as the re-appointments of Alice Robertson and Maria Corrigan.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the support of the Department of Social and Family Affairs and thank the Minister, the Secretary-General and Departmental officials for their encouragement and assistance over the last year.



**Brian Duncan**

June 2003

“we need to ensure that people who find themselves in vulnerable situations, either through poverty, exclusion or conflict are supported to improve their situations and to have a standard of living considered acceptable in 21st century Ireland.”

“child poverty damages children’s well-being as well as their future well-being as adults”

# Part 1

Annual Overview  
A Family Policy for All





## Introduction

2004 is the 10th anniversary of the United Nations International Year of the Family. The Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Coughlan TD is undertaking consultations through-out the country to “take the pulse of the nation on how best the state can support families”. This represents an opportunity for Ireland to promote family policy that supports all families, particularly those in poverty.

For the first six months of 2004 Ireland holds the EU Presidency. One of the key themes identified for the Irish EU Presidency is supporting families. Our Presidency will also see the approval by the EU Council of the Joint Report on Social Inclusion. This report will provide an analysis of the National Action Plans Against Poverty and Social Exclusion, prepared by all Member States in 2003. The combination of these policy developments and actions should result in strengthened support for families affected by poverty and social exclusion.

## What is Family?

There are many understandings and interpretations of what is a family. In celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the UN International Year of the Family it is useful to refer to the UN definition of the family. The UN focuses on a broad definition of the family as the basic unit of society in all its forms whether traditional, biological, common law, extended or one parent<sup>1</sup>. In many ways this reflects the changing patterns in modern society and diversity of relationships which make up family units.

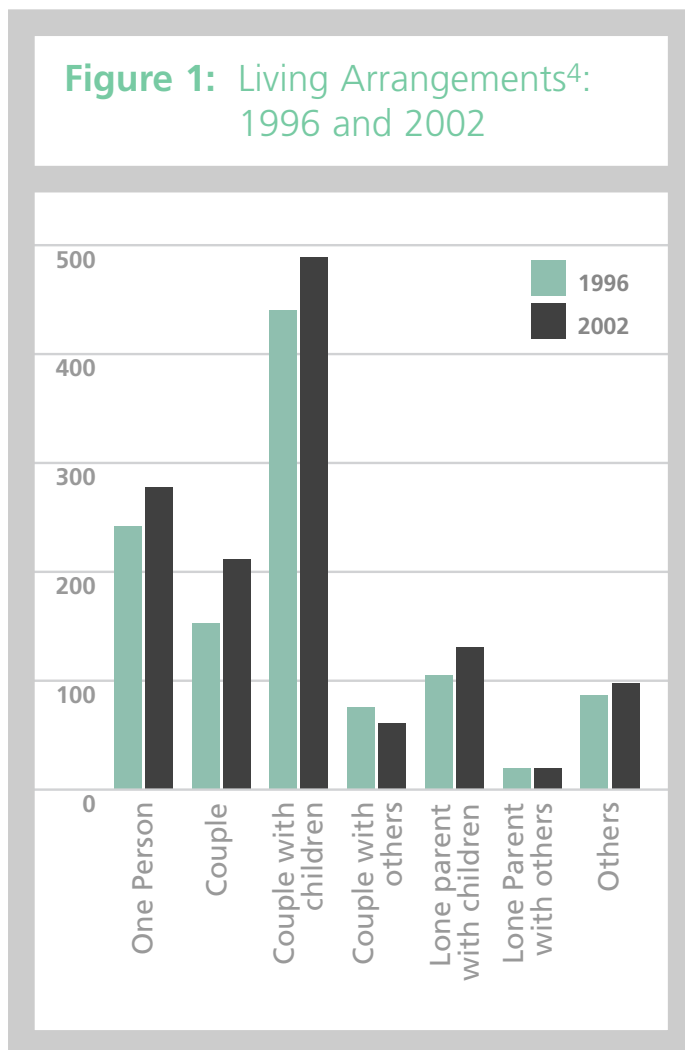
Evidence would suggest that a general redefinition of family is taking place, which involves a move to a focus on the obligations of parenthood rather than marital ties<sup>2</sup>. “Family solidarity is being reinterpreted and redefined to refer to parental responsibility rather than spouses’ or partners’ solidarity towards each other”.<sup>3</sup> Across European countries there is a weakening of marital ties and a diversification of forms of private life. This has implications for family policy and supports, with an increasing focus on parental obligations and relations.

- 1 The definition used by the United Nations is: “Any combination of two or more persons who are bound together by ties of mutual consent, birth and/or adoption or placement and who, together, assume responsibility for, inter alia, the care and maintenance of group members through procreation or adoption, the socialisation of children and the social control of members”. Commission on the Family (1998) *Strengthening Families for Life*. Dublin: Commission on the Family.
- 2 Daly, M. and S. Clavero (2002) *Contemporary Family Policy: A Comparative Review of Ireland, France, Germany, Sweden and the UK*. Dublin: Institute of Public Administration for the Department of Social and Family Affairs.
- 3 Letablier, M.T. & G. Rueucau (2000) “*The Policy Logics of Action about Caring for Children*”, Paper presented at the 4th Seminar of the TESR Network Working and Mothering: Social Practices and Social Policies, Paris, March 23-25.



This has a clear connection with a focus on children and the rights of children.

Families in Ireland have an increasingly wide diversity of forms, with family size in general declining. Figure 1 provides an illustration of the diversity of household types existing in Ireland. In 2002 there were 1,287,958 private households in Ireland.



Key trends include:

- The number of families in the state increased by over 30% from 1981 to 2002, with the majority of the increase taking place in the 1996 to 2002 period.
- The fastest growing category was families (whether married or not) without children – their number increased by nearly 80% since 1981.
- Over three quarters of families of all families in 2002 had two children or less, compared to 62% in 1981.
- The number of families with four or more children almost halved over the 21 year period, standing now at 78,900.
- The average number of children per family fell from 2.2 to 1.6 over this period.
- In total, there were 1,470,800 children in family units in Ireland in 2002.
- In 2002 there were 77,600 cohabiting couples, up 31,300 from 1996. These comprised 8.4% of family units in 2002, compared to 3.9% in 1996.
- Almost two thirds of cohabiting couples had no children.

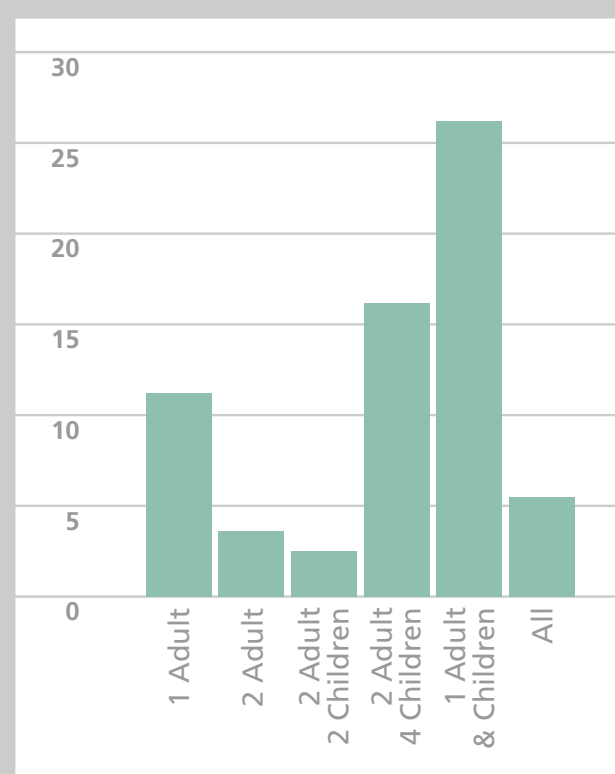
4 Source: Central Statistics Office (2003) *Census 2002: Principal Demographic Results*. Dublin: Stationery Office.  
 Notes: 1. Couples include both married and cohabiting couples. 2. Couples with others includes couples with children and other persons. 3. Lone parents with others includes lone parents with children and other persons. 4. Others include two or more family units and non-family households.

- The number of same sex cohabiting couples recorded increased from 150 in 1996 to 1,300 in 2002.
- There were nearly 154,000 lone parent families in 2002, 85% of these being headed by women.
- 40% of lone parent families were headed by a widowed person, a further 32% by a separated or divorced person and 24% by a single person.
- Persons aged 65 years and over living alone accounted for 41% of all persons living alone in 2002.

## Families in Poverty

When we focus on families in poverty we find that families with four or more children and lone parent families have the highest risk of being poor, see Figure 2. While the number of large families in the population as a whole is declining, the level of child poverty in Ireland is relatively high: 8 per cent of children have a risk of consistent poverty; with a quarter of all under 18 year olds living in low income households<sup>5</sup>. Child poverty damages children's well-being as well as their future well-being as adults.

**Figure 2:**  
Families in Consistent Poverty<sup>6</sup>



In total, it is estimated that 5.5% of households (approximately 71,000 households) experience consistent poverty (ie. are living on an income of less than €172 per adult per week and do not have basic necessities such as food, clothes and heating).

Households headed by someone who is ill or has a disability have a relatively high risk of consistent poverty at 11%. However, when we look at households living below the income poverty line of

<sup>5</sup> Low income households are households with an income below 60% of the median, which was approximately €147 per week for a single adult in 2000.

<sup>6</sup> Percentage of persons below 70% of median income and experiencing basic deprivation by household type, in 2000. Nolan, B., Gannon, B., Layte, R., Watson, D., Whelan, C.T. and Williams, J. (2002) *Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland: Results from the 2000 Living in Ireland Survey*. Dublin: ESRI Policy Research series, No. 45

€147 per week, that poverty risk increases to 54%. This risk is accentuated by the costs associated with having a disability as well as barriers to full participation in society.

Households headed by someone who is unemployed continue to have a high risk – with just over 50% living below the income poverty line and 22% in consistent poverty. In fact, people in workless households make up 70% of the consistently poor population, comprising people working in the home, unemployed people, retired people and disabled people. Low paid employees account for a quarter of the consistently poor.

Many families find themselves in vulnerable situations for a variety of reasons that can increase their risk of poverty. Vulnerable families include homeless families, particularly women and children. The estimated number of homeless households remains high at 3,773 in 2002, as compared to 3,743 in 1999<sup>7</sup>.

Ireland is becoming a more intercultural society which has many positive benefits for Irish life. The recent census results

show that non-Irish nationals now make up nearly 6% of the population. However, the economic, social and cultural position of many ethnic minority families, including Travellers place them at risk of poverty in Ireland.

Other families who may find themselves at risk of poverty include older women living alone. An increasing trend in Ireland in recent years has been the increase in poverty risk for single adult households, which mainly comprise single adults living alone, the majority of whom are older women.

Families may also find themselves in vulnerable situations because of the effect of violence inside or outside the home. Domestic violence can have a serious detrimental impact on families and lead to an increased risk of poverty. External violence has also impacted on family life in Ireland. For example, in the Border Region in particular, but also through-out Ireland, the Northern Ireland conflict has impacted on family life. Research has found that children in poor families are most at risk from violence associated with the conflict in Northern Ireland.<sup>8</sup>

7 Department of Environment and Local Government (2003) *Housing Statistics Bulletin: December Quarter 2002*. Dublin: Stationery Office.

8 Fay, M.T., Morrissey, M., Smyth, M. and T. Wong (1999) *The Cost of the Troubles Study*. Pluto Press

It is also important to note that families do not exist in isolation, but are comprised of individuals and exist in communities. Family policy and supports thus need to recognise the rights and needs of individuals within the family unit and the community and environment within which the family exists. It has been argued that a vibrant community life can support the family unit.<sup>9</sup>

While statistics give a useful perspective on the scale and nature of poverty experienced by families it is important to get behind the numbers to obtain an insight into the experience of poverty and its impact on the family.

## The Reality of Family Poverty

The reality of family poverty is illustrated in a recent Combat Poverty study based on the experiences of 30 families<sup>10</sup>. The families were chosen to reflect the broad spectrum of circumstances facing Irish families in poverty: rural and urban, one and two parents, small and large families and working and non-working.

These families were very poor, living on €124 per week on average<sup>11</sup>. Almost all

of their money went on food, household bills and their children's basic needs so that these households were very vulnerable to shortages for regular and irregular expenses. As a result, borrowing and indebtedness were widespread.

The Celtic Tiger bypassed these families. In fact, many felt relatively deprived during the economic boom. They could see and hear about others doing well, but their situation either remained static, disimproved or only marginally improved.

One striking finding was the extent of poor health among these families. One in three households highlighted health problems in relation to children. Reference was made to the content and nutritional balance of the children's diets. Providing a nutritional diet costs money. In a minority of households children were sometimes kept out of school because of a lack of food.

Contrary to the view of a supportive community life, the local environment for the families in the study was often a negative aspect of their lives. Many

9 Commission on the Family (1996) *Strengthening Families for Life: Interim Report to the Minister for Social Welfare*. Dublin: Commission on the Family.

10 Daly, M. and M. Leonard (2002) *Against All Odds: Family Life on a Low Income in Ireland*. Institute of Public Administration in association with the Combat Poverty Agency.

11 The study was undertaken in the year 2000. Figures and amounts refer to the year 2000.

adults felt bullied and picked upon. Lone mothers in particular were very vulnerable in this regard. They felt their homes were more likely to be targeted because there was no man living there. In the local areas there was a lack of local amenities and services. The threat of being burgled or attacked as well as the presence of joy-riding and drug misuse locally was also raised. Under these circumstances family relationships were cited as being crucial in helping people to keep going when times were tough.

The study also focused on the impact on children of living on a low income. Children valued their family. Half of the children in the study viewed their family as the best thing in their lives. The concerns of children were mainly about the pressures of trying to fit in with their peers. For example, wearing the right clothes was seen as important in being accepted by peers. This meant that certain brand names often had to be bought even though this was an expensive option. Unfortunately, school was, for some children, a place of danger rather than learning. A quarter of the children admitted that they had been bullied at school – often because

they did not have brand name clothes or runners.

## The Policy Context

A number of national policy initiatives have been taken to address issues of family poverty. For example, the Commission on the Family adopted a “families first” approach, aimed at putting families at the centre of social and economic policy making. Recently, the Government has established a Family Support Agency, to support families, promote the continuity of stability in family life, prevent marital breakdown and foster a supportive community environment for families at a local level. A similar policy emphasis exists in regard to the well-being of children, underpinned by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which sets out a comprehensive list of children’s rights. The Convention is being implemented in Ireland through the National Children’s Strategy launched in 2000. A National Children’s Office has been established to oversee the implementation of the strategy, with the county and city development boards having a local policy remit.

The main national policy to address poverty is the National Anti-Poverty Strategy. The revised strategy *Building an Inclusive Society* contains targets to eliminate poverty generally by 2007, with child poverty being specifically mentioned. One of the key strategies to address this is to raise the basic social welfare rate to €150 per week (2002 prices) by 2007 and to fulfil the Government's commitment to raise child benefit to €34.50 per week (€149.90) per month. The Strategy also proposes greater equality of access to education, health and housing services for children. In addition, the Strategy addresses a number of policy concerns relating to the delivery of public services; the need for family support initiatives; the prevention of anti-social behaviour; teenage pregnancy and child suicide; the regeneration of poor communities and run down areas; and the needs of families in vulnerable situations, such as families with a disabled person, some minority ethnic groups, including Travellers and homeless families, which are relevant to combating family poverty.

In July 2003, the Government submitted its National Action Plan against

Poverty and Social Exclusion 2003-2005 to the European Commission. Following an extensive consultation process the Government has set out a range of targets, strategies and measures to tackle poverty in Ireland, building on the priorities and initiatives identified in the National Anti-Poverty Strategy and the new Social Partnership Agreement *Sustaining Progress*. An element of this Plan, as advised by the European Union, is to promote greater family solidarity in all its forms.

## Policies and Measures to Combat Family Poverty

A range of policies and measures are required to address family poverty and exclusion. Addressing issues of family poverty at an early stage will ensure that families are less vulnerable and more able to participate fully through-out their lives. Families with greatest needs identified by Combat Poverty are:

- Families with 4 or more children
- Lone parent families
- Single adult families, especially women
- Vulnerable families.

Key policy measures to combat family poverty are recommended as follows:

### **Basic Income Support:**

- Increase the minimum social welfare rate to €150 per week, in 2002 prices.

### **Child Supports:**

- As a priority fulfil the commitment to increase Child Benefit to €149.90 per month (€34.50 per week)
- Review child income support (based on research being undertaken by Combat Poverty)
- Expand the school meal/breakfast scheme
- Further develop initiatives like Springboard and Family Services Projects.

### **Family Solidarity**

- Work towards universal access to high quality affordable childcare by 2005
- Extend administrative arrangements to ensure individual payments of social welfare
- Consider individualisation through social insurance
- Improve provision for carers.

### **Public Services**

- Better provision of and access to public services in general for families at risk of poverty.

### **Education**

- Increase to 10,000 the number of pre-school places for disadvantaged children
- Extend support for families such as Home-School-Community Liaison, Early Start, Breaking the Cycle
- Eliminate the costs of participating in education for disadvantaged families.

### **Health**

- Increase the income thresholds to improve eligibility to the medical card scheme
- Complement this with a reform of the General Medical System (GMS)
- Improve access to affordable, quality healthcare services.

### **Housing/Accommodation**

- Increase the range of provision of social housing to meet diverse family needs
- Deliver 20,000 new local authority housing completions between 2003 and 2005
- Work to eliminate homelessness by 2007



- Deliver on Traveller Accommodation Plans.

### **Families with a Disability**

- Introduce a Costs of Disability payment

### **Minority Ethnic Groups, including Travellers**

- Promotion of interculturalism and a commitment to addressing racism and discrimination
- Improve access to employment and services.

### **Violence and Conflict**

- Commit to addressing domestic and external violence through family and community supports.

## **Conclusion**

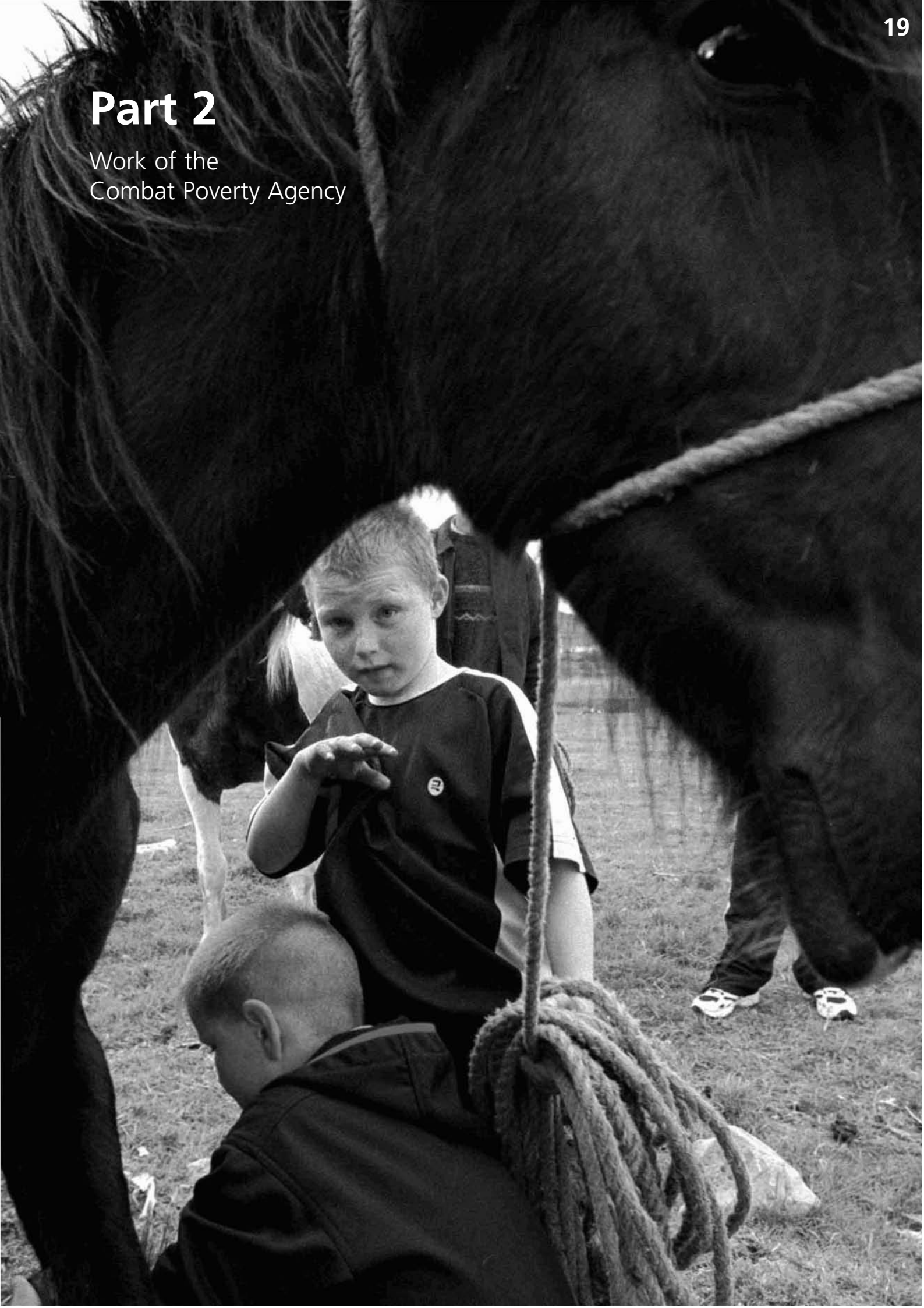
2004 heralds the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family. Family structures in Ireland are changing in line with trends world-wide. Family policy in Ireland needs to recognise these changes and ensure that family policies encompass and support all families.

Even in today's Ireland there are families who experience poverty, with some families having a particularly high risk. Family and anti-poverty policies need to support such families to enable them to move out of poverty. Many of these families include the children of the future. As we work towards a "poverty-free" society there is a need to ensure that our policies support families in all their forms.



# Part 2

Work of the  
Combat Poverty Agency



## Work of the Combat Poverty Agency

This section of the Report documents actions undertaken in 2002, under the objectives of the Combat Poverty Agency Strategic Plan 2002-4. Measures taken to develop Combat Poverty and enhance the quality of its work such as compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements and management are detailed. Combat Poverty's internal administrative supports and actions undertaken to achieve and support the delivery of the objectives below are also outlined.

Combat Poverty's objectives for 2002-4 are:

- To achieve a more comprehensive understanding of poverty and social exclusion, in particular child poverty, so as to inform and influence debate and policy
- To support the effective implementation of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy at national, local and European levels
- To assess and promote effective public services and area-based programmes which tackle poverty and promote peace building
- To strengthen the capacity of the community development sector in tackling poverty
- To propose innovative policies aimed at a more equal distribution of income, resources and employment.

The Annual Report documents the first year's work in a three year programme. There has been satisfactory progress under all of the objectives. However, three aspects of the work were particularly noteworthy in 2002:

- The publication and launch of the research study *Against All Odds*. This examined the experiences of thirty families living on a low income and, in particular, highlighted the experience of children in those families.
- Consolidation of the Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network, established to support the extension of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy within local authorities.
- Implementation of Peace II, the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in the border counties and on a cross-border basis.

## Objective 1

Combat Poverty Agency will achieve a more comprehensive understanding of poverty and social exclusion, in particular child poverty, so as to inform and influence debate and policy

### **New poverty research and data collection**

To inform its work and promote greater understanding of poverty and social exclusion, Combat Poverty supports the regular collection and publication of new data on poverty, with particular emphasis on identifying and filling current data gaps. Allied to the pursuit of new data, it promotes the use of secondary data sources to provide information on people's income and living standards. A research study on *The Potential of Secondary Data Sources as a Resource for Information on Poverty*, commissioned by Combat Poverty from University College Dublin (UCD), was published in May and the information disseminated to relevant groups.

Combat Poverty supports the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) Living in Ireland Survey, a national household survey on poverty together with the

Department of Social and Family Affairs (DSFA). Information gained through the Living in Ireland Survey forms the basis of a number of other poverty analyses and publications. Information from the 1998 Living in Ireland survey, including comparative EU data, was published as a *Poverty Briefing* in 2002 and work commenced on preparing an updated *Poverty Briefing* using 2000 data.

The ESRI report on income poverty in Ireland, *Monitoring Poverty Trends*, which was published during the year, is also based on data from the 2000 Living in Ireland Survey. Combat Poverty worked through the media to promote the report's findings and their implications for poverty policy.

Combat Poverty contributed to the development of a replacement national income survey for the Living in Ireland Survey. Called *EU Survey of Income and*

*Living Conditions* (SILC), this will be carried out by the Central Statistics Office (CSO).

The preliminary report of a study on the allocation of resources within households, commissioned from researchers in the ESRI and UCD, was presented at a research seminar in February. In September, the report of a study, commissioned in 2001 from the New Policy Institute (UK), on *Indicators of Poverty Reduction*, was published and distributed to relevant interests.

Work continued on a further Combat Poverty-funded study, on wealth, housing and poverty, also based on the Living in Ireland Survey.

### **New causes of poverty and policy implications**

As economic and social circumstances change, new causes of poverty emerge, with implications for public policy.

Combat Poverty seeks through research to identify these trends and advise in the formulation of appropriate policy measures.

In 2001, in partnership with the National Consultative Committee on Racism and

Interculturalism (NCCRI), Combat Poverty commissioned from researchers attached to the Institute for the Study of Social Change, UCD, a study on the links between poverty and racism. The study was completed in 2002 and the report recommendations were sent to inform the development of the National Action Plan on Racism.

### **Investigating people's experience of poverty**

At times the voices of people who live in poverty have not been sufficiently heard and Combat Poverty has worked to redress this. In 2001, it commissioned a report on the experiences of families on low incomes. This report, *Against All Odds*, was published in 2002 and brought the daily challenges of living with poverty to public notice. Media coverage was significant and it generated strong policy and public interest. Promotion of the report took place during 2003.

### **Academic contribution to poverty research**

The academic research community is an important resource in identifying poverty and policy issues. Combat Poverty has actively promoted postgraduate research

on poverty, by administering and funding a number of research schemes, either singly or in collaboration with academic institutions.

The Combat Poverty PhD Fellowship scheme was reviewed in 2002 to refine the scheme for the Strategic Plan 2002-2004. As a result the scheme was enhanced by extending funding, by ensuring a better alignment of projects with Combat Poverty research priorities, by providing increased support to award holders, and by streamlining administrative procedures.

One PhD Fellowship was awarded in 2002, following assessment of eleven applications (see Appendix 2).

In 2002, Combat Poverty promoted its Policy Research Initiative to support third-level research on poverty. Of seven studies awarded funding, three were grant-aided in 2002 (see Appendix 2). Seventeen applications were received and assessed.

Combat Poverty also operates a 12-week research placement programme. Two students worked with Combat Poverty

on three-month placements each.

Combat Poverty co-funds with the Policy Studies Institute, Trinity College Dublin (TCD), a Visiting Fellowship for Poverty and Policy Research. In 2002 one fellowship was supported (see Appendix 2). In February, the study by the 2001 visiting research fellow, Simon Brook, on social housing policy and voluntary housing associations, was published as part of the TCD Blue Paper series.

The series of Combat Poverty research seminars initiated last year continued in 2002. The aim of the seminars is to provide a forum on research supported by Combat Poverty and other organisations. Eleven seminars were held in 2002.

Combat Poverty maintained ongoing contacts with professional research bodies and researchers. These included: Irish Social Policy Association (ISPA); Sociological Association of Ireland (SAI); European Institute of Social Security (EISS); Association for Voluntary Action Research Ireland (ARVAC); the Foundation for Fiscal Studies (FFS); the Irish Economics Association (IEA); Institute for European Affairs (IEA);



Geographical Society of Ireland (GSI) and the Association for Voluntary Action Research Ireland (AVARI).

### **Understanding child poverty and policy solutions**

Targeting policy measures and resources to children through national economic and social mechanisms would contribute significantly to reducing poverty and social exclusion for future generations and ease the burden of poverty for many now. This remains a significant focus of Combat Poverty's work under the Strategic Plan 2002-2004. Increasing public awareness of child poverty, identifying needs and defining targets and actions for public policy remained a core activity of Combat Poverty in 2002.

### **Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative**

Through the seven partner organisations of the Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative (OYECPI), Combat Poverty supported the third year of a public awareness programme on child poverty. The Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative, initiated by Combat Poverty in 1999, promoted public awareness of child poverty; projected the views of organisations concerned with child

poverty; strengthened the voice of children in national policy discussions; and sought to inform and influence public policy on child poverty and well-being. The Initiative agreed to continue in operation during the year. It worked to finalise new objectives and working procedures and create a new identity as the End Child Poverty Coalition. After a three year commitment, Combat Poverty's financial support was complete. The Coalition has since received other independent funding.

The member organisations of OYECPI (now reconstituted as End Child Poverty Coalition) comprised:

- Barnardos,
- Children's Rights Alliance;
- Society of St Vincent de Paul;
- National Youth Council of Ireland;
- Pavee Point;
- People with Disabilities in Ireland;
- Focus Ireland.

A range of Combat Poverty funded activities under the OYECPI took place in 2002. These were:

- National conference, promoting Combat Poverty funded research on Ending Child Poverty in Rich Countries.

- Review and planning on the future of OYECPI and move to establish End Child Poverty Coalition.
- Policy seminar on the impact of parental imprisonment on children organised by Society of St Vincent de Paul and based on Combat Poverty-funded research by the Centre for Social and Educational Research of Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT)

During 2002, the Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative made a presentation on child poverty to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Family, Social and Community Affairs. It briefed representatives of Fianna Fáil and The Green Party on the issue.

Combat Poverty, through the Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty Initiative, linked with the European Forum for Child Welfare on a project to develop a series of indicators and guidelines for the eradication of child poverty. It also made links with the European Children's Network.

### **Consulting children on public policy**

In 2001, Combat Poverty through the Open Your Eyes to Child Poverty

Initiative, had undertaken preliminary work for a research project to devise models of consultation that would involve children, especially those living in poverty, in public discussion and policy-making. The UK-based Gulbenkian Foundation funded the project.

A research consortium composed of the Children's Rights Alliance, National Youth Council of Ireland and Barnardos, carried out the study. During 2002, Combat Poverty helped manage the project through the advisory group. The Minister of State for Children, Brian Lenihan TD, launched the study, called *Hearing Children's Voices*, in September. In December, resource materials accompanying the study were prepared for publication.

### **Monitoring child poverty and children's well-being**

In 2002, the Government approved funding for a longitudinal study on children's well-being. Combat Poverty provided advice and support on the development of the project which is on-going. The project is led by the Department of Social and Family Affairs and the Department of Health and Children.

Combat Poverty also participated in the work of the European Social Action Programme through membership of the Best Health for Children Initiative.

It took part also in an international learning exchange on linking research to policy, which was organised by Annie E Casey Foundation, in Baltimore USA. Combat Poverty made a presentation on the use of data to influence policy change on child poverty.

### **Advising on anti-poverty policy**

Throughout the year, Combat Poverty maintained regular contact with the Minister for Social and Family Affairs and departmental officials to discuss policy and priorities in relation to poverty and social exclusion.

Combat Poverty worked to secure an effective poverty-proofing dimension in the formulation and implementation of public policy and national agreements. A major focus for this analysis was the presentation of policy options for the annual Budget and assessing the impact of the final package from a poverty perspective.

In 2002, Combat Poverty made the following policy submissions:-

- Submission to Minister for Social and Family Affairs on future priorities for the social partnership agreement.
- Submission to Minister for Social and Family Affairs on priorities for Budget 2003.
- Submission to Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform on development of National Action Plan on Racism.
- Submission to the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform on the review of the Employment Equality Act, which emphasised Combat Poverty's concern to strengthen the focus on social and economic status.
- Submission to the Department of the Environment and Local Government on the Potential National Ban on Bituminous Coal and Petcoke.
- Submission to Department of Environment and Local Government on the role of Social Inclusion Units in local authorities.
- Policy liaison on Government review of a new housing assistance scheme for the private-rented sector with the



Department of the Environment and Local Government.

- Submission to Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform on the National Plan for Women 2001-2005 'Giving Women an Equal Share'.
- Submission on the Disabilities Bill to the Minister Equality and Law Reform, Mary Wallace TD. The Bill remains under consideration.
- Submission to the National Crime Council on the consultation paper Tackling the Underlying Cause of Crime.
- Submission to FÁS on the Future development of Community Employment and Jobs Initiative.
- Submission to National Economic and Social Forum on early school leaving
- Submission to OECD review of Early Childhood Education.

Following the general election and the appointment of the new Government, Combat Poverty circulated a briefing to the new Oireachtas members and new government departments on its policy role and work. Combat Poverty responded to queries from a number of TDs as a result. The Joint Oireachtas Committees on Social and Family Affairs

and on Finance and the Public Service requested meetings and Combat Poverty presented its proposals on the 2003 Budget and on the new partnership agreement to them.

As part of Combat Poverty's annual briefings for political parties, it met the leader of Fine Gael and the Fine Gael spokespersons on social and family affairs and on education. Contacts were made with other political parties and further meetings were planned for the end of the year.

In keeping with the goal of developing contacts with key policy bodies, Combat Poverty made a presentation on its role and work programmes to the National Disability Authority

### **Poverty and social partnership**

Combat Poverty continued to contribute to policy debate and advice debate on the future of social partnership. Under the Strategic Plan 2002-2004 Combat Poverty has set itself the goal of identifying key poverty issues for a new national agreement. To help further this, Combat Poverty convened a symposium to stimulate discussion with the social

partners on social inclusion priorities for the next national agreement. (Also see Objective 5)

### **Contributing to government advisory bodies and task forces**

Combat Poverty maintained its participation in a range of government advisory bodies and task forces. These included:

- Border, Midland and Western and Southern and Eastern Regional Operational Programme Monitoring Committees under the National Development Plan
- Community Development Support Programme Advisory Committee and Technical Committee, convened by the Department of Community, Rural, Gaeltacht and the Islands
- Educational Equality Initiative Working Group, convened by Department of Education and Science
- Equality-Proofing Working Group, convened by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
- Money Advice and Budgeting Service National Advisory Committee, convened by the Department of Social and Family Affairs
- National Development Plan, Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion

Co-ordination Committee, convened by Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

- NAPS Technical Advisory Committee, convened by Department of Social and Family Affairs
- Nutrition Group of the Cardiovascular Strategy, convened by the Department of Social and Family Affairs and the Department of Health and Children
- Primary Care Steering Group, convened by the Department of Health and Children
- URBAN Monitoring Committee, convened by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

### **Promoting understanding of poverty**

Combat Poverty promotes key information and analysis about poverty through a variety of media. These include publications and other information material, development of Combat Poverty's library, website and information services, through national and local media, launches, conferences and seminars, the development of education and curricular materials for teachers and students and through forming strategic alliances with key

stakeholders, to stimulate public awareness and debate.

### **Information on poverty**

An assessment of information needs on poverty issues was carried out in 2002, as part of a wider review of information strategy. The assessment emphasised the necessity for reader-friendly communications and the identification of key target audiences, to guide media and information activity. Based on this, key priorities for popular information on poverty were agreed for implementation in 2003.

*Poverty Today*, Combat Poverty's journal of poverty and policy, continued to be published quarterly and was distributed to a wide range of groups and individuals. It remains Combat Poverty's most consistent forum for promoting debate and advocating policy measures. A review of *Poverty Today* was carried out, drawing on the views of readers, staff and media. Following a discussion process, key objectives for the journal were defined and modifications to content, design and title were agreed. It was agreed to re-launch the redesigned journal, under the title *Action on Poverty Today*, in Spring 2003.

There was strong demand throughout the year for Combat Poverty publications including Combat Poverty's annual calendar.

The Combat Poverty Annual Report 2001 was produced and submitted to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs. It was publicly launched in September by the Minister Mary Coughlan TD.

The new Strategic Plan 2002-2004 was launched in April and promoted extensively.

Following a public tender process, a contract for publishing and distributing Combat Poverty research and policy publications was issued to the Institute of Public Administration. The print and design contract was awarded again to Red Dog Graphics, after a similar tendering procedure.

Combat Poverty's public relations brief was reviewed and the existing consultancy with Bill O'Herlihy Communications Group was renewed. Combat Poverty also commissioned a media monitoring service to help gauge the results of its media activities.

Combat Poverty published a new promotional leaflet on its role and responsibilities.

Following advice from its design consultants, work commenced on a new Combat Poverty logo that built on the established Combat Poverty identity.

In 2002 work commenced on re-designing the Combat Poverty website and the site went live in early 2003. Open Interface were awarded the contract for the development of the new site [www.combatpoverty.ie](http://www.combatpoverty.ie)

### **Post-primary education and curricular development**

Combat Poverty continued to work closely with the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee Curriculum Development Unit (CDVEC CDU) in supporting the Poverty, the Classroom and the Curriculum project. A number of schools/community partnerships that seek to undertake poverty awareness education at post-primary level have developed. This project derived from previous initiatives that highlighted the benefits of community involvement in curriculum

development. The evaluation report of the Poverty Awareness in the Classroom project recommended that school-community links be forged in relation to curriculum inputs on poverty and social justice. This was the thrust of further three-year support for the CDU project that began in 2002.

The construction of a website on poverty and social justice for students and teachers of Civic Social and Political Education (CSPE) progressed during the year. Combat Poverty, Children's Rights Alliance, the Equality Authority and the Society of St Vincent de Paul jointly run the project, with funding from the EU Integra programme. The website [www.cspe.ie](http://www.cspe.ie) is being launched in 2003.

Discussions continued with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) on the potential for citizenship education at senior cycle level. With the CDVEC/CDU, a series of three discussion seminars were initiated to highlight and discuss the future of social and political education. The series looked at the rationale for this form of education for senior post-primary students, international experience of this and

future strategies for its development. The series report 'Charting the Future, Social and Political Education at Senior Cycle' was published and disseminated.

Teaching materials on poverty awareness, reconciliation, and social and political education, developed in collaboration with the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee's Curriculum Development Unit (CDVEC CDU), were launched by the Minister for Education and Science, Noel Dempsey TD, in December. Combat Poverty supported the production of four of these publications, at junior cycle, senior cycle and Leaving Certificate Applied levels. *Counted Out*, a new teaching resource on poverty for teachers of Junior Cycle civil social and political education, a co-publication by Combat Poverty and the CDVEC CDU was included in this event.

To stimulate awareness of poverty and social issues among young students, Combat Poverty agreed to sponsor the Combat Poverty Award for the Young Social Innovator of the Year Initiative in 2003. Promotion of the award was undertaken in 2002. It was awarded to Transition Year students for work on issues of social concern and poverty.

"At times the voices of people who live in poverty have not been sufficiently heard and Combat Poverty has worked to redress this."

## Objective 2

Combat Poverty Agency will support the effective implementation of anti-poverty strategies at national, local and European levels

### **Advancing the National Anti-Poverty Strategy**

Combat Poverty is concerned to support the implementation of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS) and assess its influence and outcomes. Throughout the year, Combat Poverty liaised with the NAPS Unit in the Department of Social and Family Affairs (the NAPS Unit was re-established as the Office for Social Inclusion during 2002). Policy liaison on NAPS was also maintained during 2002 with the Department of Environment and Local Government, the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) and the National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) on issues relating to the NAPS.

### **Data and research strategy**

Research and policy analysis are key tools of Combat Poverty in working to assess, develop and strengthen the NAPS and public policy on poverty and social exclusion.

Combat Poverty contributed to the Government's review of the NAPS and to the revision of NAPS targets in line with data on changing poverty trends. The revised NAPS, *Building an Inclusive Society*, was launched in February 2002 and was featured in the Spring issue of *Poverty Today*. Combat Poverty took up the invitation to join the Technical Advisory Group for the NAPS data and research strategy. This group meets on an on-going basis.

### **EU National Action Plans against Poverty and Social Exclusion (NAPs/incl)**

In 2002, Combat Poverty maintained its links with the EU Commission and anti-poverty bodies in EU member states to promote awareness of the NAPS and its policy lessons. Combat Poverty monitored the EU Commission's initiative requiring each member state to develop a National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion.

Known as NAPS/incl, this policy initiative is being progressed in 2003 within the EU. In Ireland, it is anticipated that NAPS and NAPS/incl will dovetail as policy processes.

### **European Union and models of best practice**

Combat Poverty works with a number of EU anti-poverty bodies to identify and promote best practice on social inclusion and anti-poverty initiatives and to promote understanding of the NAPS.

It is a member of the board of the Combined European Bureau for Social Development (CEBSD), a EU network for promoting community development to tackle social exclusion. The office of the ADM/CPA Peace II programme represents Combat Poverty in this network.

The EU Community Action Programme to Combat Social Exclusion (SEP) is another focus for information exchange. The Combat Poverty participated at meetings of the Social Exclusion Programme committee and attended an EU social inclusion forum. Combat Poverty and the NAPS unit of the DSFA jointly organised a well-attended

seminar on the Social Exclusion Programme in Denmark.

In July, Combat Poverty prepared and submitted two successful funding applications for transnational exchange projects under the SEP, on the themes of 'mainstreaming and social inclusion' and 'strengthening anti-poverty practice in local government'. Following acceptance of the applications, preliminary work started on establishing the projects.

In 2002, a one-year transnational policy exchange project on combating social exclusion in rural areas (PACE AVENIR), in which Combat Poverty is the Irish partner, came into operation. The project seeks to identify innovative policies for tackling rural poverty in which local players can be involved in policy-making. The Irish project team, which includes Irish Rural Link, Area Development Management and representatives from local government, was set up and commenced work. Combat Poverty organised a transnational seminar in Dublin in June as part of the project. Combat Poverty also attended the launch of the project steering committee and seminars in Portugal and France



where it made a presentation on the Irish experience of involving local groups and community organisations in national policy-making. A key outcome of the project is the preparation of a methodological guide on tackling rural poverty.

### **Poverty proofing**

Combat Poverty collaborates with the Office for Social Inclusion at the DSFA and other government departments in developing effective implementation of poverty proofing as part of the NAPS. Work continues on further developing poverty proofing as a tool of anti-poverty policy.

A joint research project with the Equality Authority on inequalities likely to lead to poverty was completed. This was published in 2003.

Combat Poverty also provided advice to a number of local authorities on poverty proofing in their preparation of City and County Development Strategies.

### **Supporting local anti-poverty strategies**

Combat Poverty continued its work to promote and support a strong focus on

poverty within a reformed local government system. In this context, it supported the commitment under the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness to extend the NAPS to local level and to embed anti-poverty work within local government structures and policies. Ongoing collaboration was maintained with the Department of the Environment and Local Government, with the NAPS unit and other relevant departments and bodies.

Support for local government anti-poverty action entailed a number of strands, including:

- Sustaining and advising the Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network established in 2000
- The establishment of and subsequent work with local authority social inclusion units
- An audit of anti-poverty work by local authorities, following which case studies and models of good practice were disseminated
- Awareness raising of NAPS and information exchange on anti-poverty issues
- Training of local authority personnel on poverty, and
- Supporting an anti-poverty research



network of local authorities

- Involving excluded communities and groups in local authorities' policies and programmes.

### **Social Inclusion Units**

Under the PPF commitment of extending the NAPS to local level, Social Inclusion Units had been set up in local authorities in 2001. In 2002, Combat Poverty met with the social inclusion units to discuss issues and clarify their support needs. Further training seminars on planning, housing and the environment were held with staff of Social Inclusion Units, in co-operation with Directors of Community and Enterprise.

### **Anti-Poverty Learning Network**

The Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network had been set up by Combat Poverty, in collaboration with the Department of the Environment and Local Government and the NAPS Unit of the DSFA to help local authorities carry out their anti-poverty work. Consultancy teams were appointed by Combat Poverty to work with local authorities on four issues: training, community development, research and evaluation; and information and public awareness. These consultancies work on behalf of

Combat Poverty and their contract responsibilities were managed throughout 2002.

Two meetings of the Learning Network were held during the year and the Steering Group of the Learning Network met on a number of occasions.

A promotional brochure explaining the role of the Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network was published during the year.

The second edition of the Network newsletter *Learning Brief* was circulated and the first email bulletin was issued.

The Small Area Health Research Unit (SAHRU) of Trinity College Dublin, which had undertaken pilot work on local government poverty profiles carried out in three local authorities – South Dublin, County Sligo and County Offaly – drafted a guidebook which is available from Combat Poverty's Library.

The 2002 training programme for local authority personnel and social inclusion staff was developed with consultants Venture International. A training plan was drawn up and training materials were prepared and distributed. Training

workshops on the theme, 'Getting Worked Up About Poverty' were well supported.

Fitzpatrick's & Associates were commissioned to undertake a formative evaluation of the Learning Network, following a tender process. This is taking place over an 18 month period.

Twenty grants were awarded under the Local Government Grant Scheme, set up to fund local anti-poverty work.

€150,000 was made available and an information leaflet on the grant scheme to promote the scheme was disseminated (see Appendix 2)

### **Community and Voluntary Groups in Local Government**

Combat Poverty worked to promote best practice with local authorities in encouraging community and voluntary sector involvement. To advance this, Combat Poverty carried out a survey of community involvement in local authority structures. Discussions were held with the Department of the Environment and Local Government and with the Social Inclusion Sub-Committee of Directors of Community and

Enterprise on the findings. Following the survey, a checklist for involvement was prepared and distributed in leaflet form.

To strengthen the anti-poverty focus of the new local authority community fora, Combat Poverty also prioritised the promotion of community involvement in these structures. The 'Anti-Poverty Work in Action' section of *Poverty Today* profiled the work and experience of community fora in four areas, in order to raise awareness of the issue.

Training workshops on community involvement were offered to local authorities as part of the local government work programme to encourage the inclusion of community and voluntary groups in local planning and decision-making.

### **Economic and Social Rights**

To strengthen economic and social rights as a way of challenging poverty and marginalisation, Combat Poverty promotes debate on Ireland's international obligations on economic, social and cultural rights and the need to strengthen these rights within the NAPS.

To inform discussion on this issue, it looked to lessons from human rights work in Northern Ireland. Following a 2001 conference on rights and poverty, co-hosted by Combat Poverty, Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL), Northern Ireland's Commission on the Administration of Justice (NICAJ) and Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust (NIVT), a conference report was produced in 2002. The report, 'Participation and the

Practice of Rights', was published and launched jointly. A further joint programme of work was also agreed. This began with a conference in December on the practice of rights, with a particular focus on rural poverty, housing and domestic violence.

Combat Poverty assisted the Irish Social Planning Association (ISPA) in planning a conference on 'Economic, Social and Cultural Rights' during the year.

“Combat Poverty monitored the EU Commission's initiative requiring each member state to develop a National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion.”

## Objective 3

Combat Poverty Agency will assess and promote effective public services and area-based programmes that tackle poverty and promote peace building.

### **Enhancing effectiveness of public services to tackle poverty**

Combat Poverty seeks to influence policy towards the improvement of public services to make them a more effective instrument for combating poverty.

Education and health are two specific areas in which improved funding and more targeted and informed policy and provision could have significant effects on ameliorating poverty and reducing exclusion.

### **Best practice in tackling educational disadvantage**

In 2002, work continued on promoting best practice to tackle educational disadvantage, much of it building on earlier efforts and initiatives, such as the Demonstration Programme on Educational Disadvantage 1996-2000 (DPED).

As part of the process of disseminating policy learning from the DPED an

education handbook, *A Guide to Developing Networks*, was completed and published in 2002. A teacher training module on educational disadvantage developed by Killinarden Educational Network, Tallaght, one of the educational networks funded under DPED, in association with St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, was drafted during the year.

In 2001, Combat Poverty funded Mary Immaculate Teacher Education College, Limerick, to support a network of teacher training colleges on educational disadvantage. The first meeting of the Educational Disadvantage Network was planned and took place with Agency support early in 2002. A second meeting was held in June. Technical support and advice was provided to the network.

Combat Poverty financed an initiative by St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, in establishing a National Forum on Primary

Education: Ending Disadvantage, held in July. It also participated in the first annual forum on Educational Disadvantage, convened by the Department of Education and Science.

### **Addressing health inequality**

In 2002, Combat Poverty commenced work to address health inequality, through policy, research and support measures. The primary focus of this initiative is to promote and support community development responses to poverty and health inequalities.

Combat Poverty commissioned an audit of existing provision on community development and health, to identify gaps and outline options and priorities for Combat Poverty work. The Community Development and Health Network, Northern Ireland is carrying out the audit. The initial findings were reported to a discussion seminar on 'Poverty, Health and Community Development' following which a seminar report was prepared and disseminated.

Consultations were undertaken with a range of interests regarding community

development and health with particular regard to identifying appropriate ways for Combat Poverty to proceed.

To inform the work, a literature review on health, poverty and community development was commissioned from National University of Ireland, Galway following a tender process. Combat Poverty then finalised its plans for a new programme 'Building Healthy Communities'. The Programme involves four strands: innovation, networking, research/evaluation and policy.

The DSFA and the Department of Health and Children invited Combat Poverty to consider initiatives in relation to the national cardio-vascular strategy and community development. Arising from this, a Nutrition and Health Group was convened by DSFA and Combat Poverty contributed to further meetings during the year. A presentation to Community Dieticians followed.

Funding was allocated to the Community Workers Co-Operative (CWC) to develop a strategy guide on community development and health.

## **Social spending and income distribution**

The living standards of people living in poverty can be improved by increasing the proportion of national spending devoted to the provision of housing, health and other services. With this in mind, Combat Poverty has undertaken a number of studies to examine the factors that contribute to social and economic inequality and the policy measures that can challenge it.

A research study by Virpi Timonen, to analyse trends in Irish social expenditure and taxation compared to EU and international level, was completed in 2002. The report, *Irish Social Expenditure in a Comparative International Context*, was presented at a research seminar and was published in 2003.

## **Community involvement in service planning and delivery**

Combat Poverty continued to work with the National Drugs Strategy Team and the National Drugs Advisory Committee with a view to influencing national drugs policy in the context of tackling poverty and social exclusion. It completed the dissemination of the lessons of the

earlier, Poverty, Drug Use and Policy Grants scheme to policy groups.

## **Implementing Peace II Programme**

Combat Poverty, jointly with Area Development Management Ltd, administers the EU-funded Peace II Programme in the southern border region of Ireland and on a cross-border basis. ADM/CPA manages and allocates some €55.37 million in funding for the southern border region, which is directed to Priority 1, Economic Renewal, and Priority 2, Social Integration, Inclusion and Reconciliation. In partnership with Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust (now Community Foundation NI), Co-Operation Ireland (CI) and ADM it also manages two cross-border measures, dealing with Social Inclusion and Reconciliation and Education, Training and Human Resources, bringing the total allocation to ADM/CPA to €92m (see Appendix 3)

Most of the expenditure and projects under Peace I were completed by end 2001. Some activity carried over into 2002 to ensure that all projects completed their work and used their funding. Final project reports and accounts were also delivered in the early part of the year.

ADM/CPA held joint discussions to develop a plan for the strategic implementation of Peace II, taking account of each agency's strategic objectives. Guidelines and procedures for assessment and monitoring funded activity were drawn up and application forms completed and distributed. A Memorandum of Understanding was agreed with ADM to formally continue the partnership arrangement for delivery of Peace II.

In relation to the cross-border measures, ADM/CPA participated in discussions with the Policy Reference Group convened by Community Foundation NI and Rural Community Network to discuss issues of weak community infrastructure and to develop an evaluation framework for the two cross-border measures.

Peace II was formally launched in Carlingford, Co. Louth on 11 April 2002. By mid-2002, contracts for the implementation of Priorities 1 and 2 were finalised. Initial applications were received and assessed. Later in the year, it was decided by the Cross-Border Monitoring Committee of Peace II to close applications for Measure 5.3 as it was over-subscribed.

To ensure continued support to Peace II research from the Combat Poverty's research section, a joint Research Steering Committee met during the year. A number of research seminars took place in autumn to promote strategic research initiatives under the Peace II programme.

To maintain the high visibility enjoyed by the Peace I programme, Peace II continued the communication strategy of encouraging national and local media coverage and signage for projects.

### **Cross-border activity and social inclusion**

With the completion of Peace I and the advent of Peace II, ADM/CPA staff held a joint policy forum to discuss common concerns and shared policy issues. The most important concerns were to ensure the long-term continuation of successful projects from Peace I, the mainstreaming of the Peace I principles of reconciliation and social inclusion into the work of statutory and regional agencies, and the embedding of anti-poverty policies in civic and public bodies.

ADM/CPA continued to work through Peace II to ensure a strong focus on poverty and social exclusion in new



cross-border institutions. The involvement of the community and voluntary sector in the work of these bodies was another priority.

Combat Poverty maintained its involvement in the North-South Consultative Forum, set up to provide a shared forum for bodies on both sides of the border, including community and voluntary groups.

The successful mainstreaming of the principles of reconciliation and social inclusion into the work of local development bodies and statutory agencies was another shared concern. ADM/CPA maintained contacts with the regional staff of a wide range of relevant bodies and government departments to promote this. A seminar was held with area-based partnership companies, VECs, LEADER companies, county enterprise boards and county councils to discuss strategic approaches under Peace II. Work was completed with county development boards to ensure that they built a strong peace building and social inclusion dimension into county development plans.

### **Linking practice to policy**

In developing its Strategic Plan for 2002-2004, Combat Poverty sought to create links between the policy and lessons of the two peace programmes and its own policy advice work. It was particularly concerned that the lessons of the Peace I strategic initiatives would be included in national policy. To strengthen these links, a policy forum was held in Monaghan and lessons from the peace programmes informed the work programmes of both Combat Poverty and ADM/CPA. Combat Poverty commissioned a report to examine the potential for community-based action under the Peace programmes to effectively inform and influence anti-poverty policy.

### **Using key lessons to sustain peace-building**

The story of the Peace I programme, 'On the Road to Peace' and case studies of projects and best practice were compiled and published.

### **Area-Based approaches to tackle poverty**

To contribute to the planning, implementation and assessment of area-



based programmes for tackling poverty, Combat Poverty commissioned from the ESRI a research study on the spatial distribution of poverty. This study is due to be completed in 2003 and will use the Living in Ireland Survey and the Household Budget Survey as data sources on where poverty is distributed.

### **Social inclusion and the National Development Plan**

During the year, Combat Poverty continued its work of strengthening social inclusion indicators within Regional Operational Programmes of the National Development Plan. As part of this, the Agency prepared, in consultation with representatives of the two regional authorities, a briefing paper on strengthening social inclusion indicators. It also worked on developing a proposal to strengthen social inclusion indicators, which was agreed by the relevant Monitoring Committees. This work was carried out in conjunction with ADM/CPA, the Department of Social and Family Affairs and the Regional Authorities.

Combat Poverty subsequently met with government departments and agencies responsible for implementing NDP

measures to discuss proposals and agree additional data requirements and indicators. Technical support was commissioned by Combat Poverty to assist departments in this work, as appropriate. A progress report was prepared for autumn monitoring committee meetings. Combat Poverty also commissioned a paper called *What do the reports of the Monitoring Committees tell us about social exclusion?* based on reporting of social inclusion in two regional authority areas.

“ADM/CPA continued to work through Peace II to ensure a strong focus on poverty and social exclusion in new cross-border institutions.”

## Objective 4

Combat Poverty Agency will work to strengthen the capacity of the community development sector in tackling poverty.

### Supporting community development to tackle poverty

Combat Poverty supports the Department of Social and Family Affairs Community Development Support Programme (CDSP) as a means of tackling poverty. It acted through membership of the Advisory Group, the Standing Operational Committee and the Technical Committee of the Programme. In 2002, following the General Election, responsibility for the Programme transferred to the new Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

On request from some CDSP projects, Combat Poverty facilitated meetings between projects and representatives of support agencies in the CDSP.

The initiation of research and the development of resource materials that strengthen community development practice are important strands of Combat Poverty support. During 2002,

Combat Poverty published or re-launched a number of publications as resource materials for anti-poverty, community development and other groups concerned with disadvantage and social exclusion. These included:

- New edition of *A Guide to Good Employment Practice for Community and Voluntary Groups*. In conjunction with ADM, additional copies were produced and disseminated to local development groups and to groups supported under Peace II;
- Revised edition of *Working for Change: A Guide to Influencing Policy*;
- Reprint of *Managing Better No. 3: Strategic Planning*;
- New edition of *Managing Better No. 7: Financial Management for Community and Voluntary Groups*;
- *Managing Better No. 8: An Introductory Guide to Networks: a Strategic Approach to Educational Disadvantage*;

- Reprint of *Developing Facilitation Skills: A Handbook for Group Facilitators*;

During 2001, Combat Poverty, Comhairle and Area Development Management met on a number of occasions to consider national supports to the community and voluntary sector. As part of this, it was agreed to develop a database outlining the level and scale of supports and materials developed by each agency. Work began during the year on compiling the database.

In 2001, Combat Poverty co-ordinated a transnational EU project across five member states to develop models for effective involvement for excluded communities and individuals. This culminated in the publication of a brochure, *Guidelines for Effective Involvement*. The dissemination of these guidelines was completed early in 2002.

An updated audit of community work, education and training was commissioned in 2002.

In 2002, Combat Poverty continued to seek ways, either singly or with other

relevant bodies, to develop strategic supports for community and voluntary groups that would enable them to strengthen their combined voice through networking and to contribute effectively to national, regional and local decision making. In autumn 2002, a series of five regional seminars, 'Networking for Change' were held to inform anti-poverty groups on funding, information and education available from Combat Poverty and to consult on the development of future supports.

Combat Poverty continues its membership of the Community Exchange Advisory Group. Community Exchange is an electronic news bulletin issued regularly to a broad range of community, voluntary and anti-poverty interests.

Arising out of the White Paper on Supporting Voluntary Activity, Combat Poverty contributed to the appraisal of applications by national networks and federations from the community and voluntary sector and to a forum convened to consider research within the sector.

## Supporting anti-poverty groups to influence policy

### National Economic and Social Forum (NESF)

At national level, Combat Poverty supports community and voluntary sector involvement in policy-making through the Assembly of the National Economic and Social Forum (NESF). The NESF is a national forum in which representatives of the Government and Oireachtas, employers, trade unions, farming interests and the community and voluntary sector debate and negotiate economic and social policy initiatives. Three 'disadvantaged sector' members represent the anti-poverty sector on the Forum. The NESF Assembly meets in support of these three representatives and to consider NESF-related issues. By providing support and resources for the NESF Assembly, the community and voluntary sector is helped to engage on an equal footing with other social partners. The Assembly met during 2002 with Combat Poverty support. Later, a review of its activities was carried out.

### National Anti-Poverty Networks

As a core part of its work, Combat Poverty provides funding and a wider

programme of supports to 10 national anti-poverty networks. These are:

- Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed (INOUE);
- One-Parent Exchange Network (OPEN);
- Community Workers' Co-operative (CWC);
- Forum of People with Disabilities (FPD);
- Irish Rural Link (IRL);
- European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland (EAPN);
- Irish Traveller Movement (ITM);
- Children's Rights Alliance (CRA);
- Older Women's Network (OWN) and,
- The Irish Refugee Council (IRC).

The last three networks were included in the programme in 2001. As part of this process, a needs assessment of the networks was carried out, which provided the basis for a 2002 training and development plan.

Key tasks for the year included agreeing contracts with all funded Networks; establishing procedures for ongoing evaluation and support; setting down procedures for financial monitoring; providing individual and collective supports to networks; assisting in staff

recruitment; and advising on fundraising, governance and adopting community development approaches and methods. Following assessment of annual work plans and budgets, Combat Poverty made core funding payments to the 10 national anti-poverty networks.

During the year, Combat Poverty held quarterly meetings with the national networks and helped convene a seminar on 'Effective Planning for National Networks'. A resource pack was produced for the seminar and a National Anti-Poverty Network promotional brochure was also published. An advisory group to the Networks' programme was also convened. A seminar was held on membership development. An evaluation brief for the National Anti-Poverty Network was drafted. A programme seminar on 'Monitoring and Evaluation' was held and a template for self-evaluation by networks was produced. However, the tendering process for the evaluation was deferred pending Departmental discussions.

In 2001, a scheme for providing enhanced funding to the original seven national anti-poverty networks, to

enable them develop work that was not financed from the Combat Poverty's core funding, had been set up. Some €126,764 in Enhanced Funding Grants was disbursed in 2002 (See Appendix 2).

The Once-Off Networking Grants, a further funding mechanism to help development of the networks in the NAPN, continued in 2002. Technical support was provided to the networks. An information seminar was held and a grants brochure circulated. Grant recipients under this scheme are listed in Appendix 2.

A joint bid was submitted from all the networks for Partnership Initiative Funding. This proposal, to fund extensive training and development work of network members, was also supported (see Appendix 2).

### **Working Against Poverty grants scheme**

The Working Against Poverty grants scheme supports anti-poverty groups to contribute to policy making by helping them identify the lessons gained through local anti-poverty work and relay these to policy makers. This feedback process is intended to improve the supports

available nationally and locally to people who are living in poverty or marginalised from society. Research, evaluation, public awareness, policy analysis and training activities are eligible for grant aid.

Following a review of the Working against Poverty Grants Scheme in 2001, a number of administrative changes were made to ensure effective financial monitoring. A new grants brochure and application guidelines were promoted to 3,000 groups nationally. A promotional campaign was carried out in a wide range of community and voluntary sector magazines and electronic newsletters. Seminars to promote the scheme took place in Nenagh and Athlone during the year.

Ninety applications were received to the Working Against Poverty grants scheme. Grant recipients are listed in Appendix 2.

As part of the overall revision of the Working Against Poverty Grants scheme, a grants database review was finalised.

Work on developing a new database was halted in December. Combat Poverty's responsibility for future delivery of the scheme was under review pending decisions on the final allocation of departmental responsibilities between the Departments of Social and Family Affairs and of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs following the 2002 General Election.

### **Practice to Policy**

Combat Poverty continues to deliver the Practice to Policy programme. The programme helps build capacity within the community sector to identify good practice and policy lessons and to highlight these. During 2002, a work programme for 2003 was finalised.

Combat Poverty participated in a training course on influencing policy by the Local Development Training Institute (LDTI). This annual event is a series of training workshops and events that supports community workers and activities in their professional development.

“ As a core part of its work, Combat Poverty provides funding and a wider programme of supports to 10 national anti-poverty networks.”

## Objective 5

Combat Poverty Agency will propose innovative policies aimed at a more equal distribution of income, resources and employment.

### **Tax and Social Welfare Reform**

Combat Poverty develops proposals for reform of tax, welfare and social insurance that will redistribute income to low-income households. It also initiates the collection of data to help it accurately assess the adequacy of existing welfare payments in the light of Irish and international policy and the experiences of people living in poverty.

Combat Poverty's policy submissions on the national Budget and to the national partnership negotiations are important mechanisms for seeking to have its policy recommendations implemented nationally. Combat Poverty's production of a post-Budget analysis helps identify the effect of actual Budget tax and social welfare measures on households.

Combat Poverty published its analysis of Budget 2002, which received good coverage in the wider national media. It was promoted in a special supplement of *Poverty Today* in April. In September, Combat Poverty prepared

its submission for a new national partnership agreement, in which it emphasised the need to strengthen social inclusion and anti-poverty measures. In October, Combat Poverty finalised and submitted its policy recommendations on the 2003 Budget, following preliminary discussions with the Department of Social and Family Affairs. Discussions were held with the Department of Finance, the Department of the Taoiseach, and the social partners on Combat Poverty's Budget submission and on the new partnership agreement.

Combat Poverty continued to participate in the SWITCH forum convened by the ESRI. SWITCH is a policy tool that can simulate at the level of sample household groups the effects of tax and policy changes, enabling the users predict their effects on the national population and thereby assess the effects of national tax and financial measures. In the SWITCH forum users of SWITCH, for example, Combat Poverty and government departments, discuss the



application of SWITCH to assess policy changes. Combat Poverty uses SWITCH to prepare its post-Budget analyses.

Combat Poverty also undertook work in relation to the savings needs of low income households. A joint seminar was held in partnership with Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS) to present the results of Combat Poverty sponsored research on this issue and to consider targeted savings scheme for people on low incomes. A second seminar was organised jointly by Combat Poverty and by Credit and Debt Education and Research on savings incentive schemes and low-income households. The seminar's aim was to inform the implementation of savings incentive scheme in the Finance Bill. Delegates, from money advice centres, credit unions, health boards and similar bodies attended the event.

### **Meeting the needs of unemployed people and others in poverty**

The report of a study on the dynamics of unemployment, *Moving On: The Dynamics of Unemployment*, was launched and promotional programme was completed, to highlight the policy conclusions.

Research on combating food poverty continued with a view to finalisation for publication in 2003.

## **Strengthening Organisational Capacity**

Combat Poverty seeks to be an effective and efficient organisation in working for the prevention and elimination of poverty and social exclusion. It is committed to delivering the highest quality services to its customers and clients.

To achieve the objectives set out in the Strategic Plan 2002-2004 and accompanying work programmes, it strives to put in place appropriate staff supports, to cultivate a positive working environment and to implement a human resource development policy to develop staff skills and qualifications to the greatest possible extent. Combat Poverty seeks to create a working culture of openness and partnership where staff are valued.

Implementation of the Work Programme was supported to a significant degree during the year by working groups, which included some partnership groups.



## Strategic Plan

The external evaluation of the Strategic Plan 1999-2002 informed the shaping of the Strategic Plan for 2002-2004, which was finalised and published in accordance with the requirements of the Combat Poverty Act 1986. Annual work programmes to implement the new Strategic Plan were drawn up and agreed, including provision for its ongoing review and evaluation.

Following the proposed re-allocation of some responsibilities between the Department of Social and Family Affairs and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs meetings were held to discuss realigned work areas for the respective departments. These discussions were still ongoing at end year.

## Human Resources Policy

A review of Grievance and Discipline was completed and proposed revised policy and procedures passed to management and unions for consultation during the latter half of 2002.

Draft policy and procedures in relation to Bullying and Harassment in the Workplace were also passed to management and unions for consultation during 2002.

Terms and procedures for such issues as annual leave, working time, flexitime etc were reviewed in the light of the provisions of the Organisation of Working Time Act culminating with a briefing for all staff on 28th March 2002.

## Development and Training

A development and training plan, shaped mainly by the Performance Management and Development process and management development needs, was agreed for 2002. Guidelines in carrying out training needs analysis were completed to coincide with the launch of the PMD process. A training and development programme was drawn up to address the needs of individual staff members as identified through the PMD process. Implementation of this programme was given high priority during 2002 with remaining initiatives to be completed in early 2003. In 2002 the

average number of days spent on training per individual staff member was 6 days and the total expenditure on training and development amounted to 2.7% of payroll.

A study of certified Information Technology (IT) training (e.g. ECDL, MOUS) commenced in 2002 to explore the benefits and feasibility of introducing certified IT skills as a standard in Combat Poverty. The development of a training/development evaluation programme was progressed during 2002. A pilot of the first level of the evaluation programme commenced in 2002. It is proposed to develop and pilot remaining levels during 2003.

## Management Development

Following a training needs survey, budget management and project management training were prioritised and delivered in the September - November period.

## Performance Management and Development

Combat Poverty continued to meet its commitments to Performance Management and Development (PMD).

The Partnership Group on PMD, established in 2001, agreed an implementation plan for the Performance Management Process, in the context of the annual work plan. Meetings on the Planning and Development Phase of PMD were completed in March and April. Training workshops on the Review Phases 3 of PMD started in December 2002 and were due to be completed in January 2003.

In the context of a proposed Management Development Programme and training proposals for 2002-2003, progress on the PMD process and completion of project management training, discussions on styles of management resumed later in the year.

## Staffing and Work Supports

Combat Poverty is committed to delivering high-quality administrative support services to its staff to sustain them in working towards the objectives of the Strategic Plan. A review of administrative supports and resources, which began in 2001, reported in 2002 and was discussed by management and staff.

Staff communication needs were also reviewed by the Human Resources Development Group following a staff survey.

A staff Working Group met to discuss and review issues relating to grading structures within the Agency, with a view to an examination of roles and responsibilities and comparison with other relevant external agencies. It is now proposed to process issues arising from these discussions within the framework of employee relations.

Early in 2002, a Resource Plan was prepared and submitted to the DSFA in the context of the new Strategic Plan 2002-2004.

## Recruitment

Two part-time project officers joined the Combat Poverty in early 2002 and a policy and research analyst was appointed in June. The executive officer post in the Information and Public Education section was filled in July. An Acting Joint Manager with ADM-CPA on the Peace and Reconciliation Programme was appointed to cover leave of absence.

## Staff Development

A revised staff induction programme was introduced during the year. A staff development day held in October focused on team development and included a project visit.

## Work-life Policies

Combat Poverty continues to support the development of work-life policies that assist staff to meet family and other responsibilities along with work commitments. Further development and review of work-life policies is scheduled to take place in 2003.

Combat Poverty complied with all its obligations under the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness and the Working Time Act.

## Health and Safety

Building renovation and upgrading work, including fire safety measures and improving storage and print room facilities, to ensure compliance with premises regulations, was completed in July.

European Health and Safety Week in October was marked by a number of awareness building events followed, towards the end of 2002 by the launch of the Work Positive Programme. This is an initiative of the Health and Safety Authority and the Health Education Board of Scotland to help organisations assess and address stress at work and related issues. Risk assessment questionnaires were circulated to all staff in December 2002 with analysis and follow up scheduled for early 2003.

## Effective Operational Systems

Combat Poverty has made the adoption of best practice in administrative, monitoring and operational procedures a primary aim of internal management, both to comply with regulatory and statutory obligations and to provide the best quality service to all its users. Progress was made during the year on compliance with the provisions of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

## Customer Service Action Plan

In order to deliver the highest quality service to all users, in line with national commitments to 'Delivering Better Government', a quality customer service action plan was agreed in March. It was reviewed in September and is scheduled for publication in 2003.

## Financial Management

Combat Poverty ensured that all financial records and payment systems, including tax clearance, tendering and contracts procedures, and those of ADM/CPA in the implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Programme, met with all statutory requirements and obligations under the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness.

Combat Poverty's Financial Statements for 2001 were completed and submitted to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs, the Minister for Finance and audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

The Peace and Reconciliation Programme transactions for which Combat Poverty are liable as part of the joint management agreement with ADM/CPA, are included in these Financial Statements.

Combat Poverty seeks to make the most effective and economical use of its budget resources, and expenditure and work plans are reviewed during the year to ensure the best allocation of resources. Budgets and programmes were revised and finalised on receipt of the Agency's grant-in-aid.

Staff training on budget planning and management took place in September. A staff working group was established to build on this work by making recommendations on budget management good practice.

The Agency's changeover plan to introduce the Euro was successfully implemented. The timing of the introduction of a fully integrated accounting and budgeting system, was reviewed in terms of 2002-2004 work programme and is now scheduled for 2003.

Work to ensure the appropriate maintenance and issue of financial information was ongoing. All staff and consultants were provided with their statutory tax records.

## Information Technology (IT)

A programme of upgrading staff computer equipment started as did a review of overall IT capacity. This work will continue into 2003. Work continued on training staff on the use of the information technology systems in accordance with the 2002-2003 training plan.

## Records and Archive Management

The Agency continued to comply with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act.

## Combat Poverty Board and Membership

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs appointed Joan O'Flynn to succeed Clare Farrell as Staff Representative on the Board of Combat Poverty.

The role of the Board was the subject of a presentation and detailed discussion at the March Board meeting. Also addressed at Board level during the year was the implementation of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies in accordance with the guidelines prepared by the Department of Finance. The Board met at ADM/CPA's offices in Monaghan for its April meeting and also attended a project briefing session with local groups who had been funded under the Peace Programme.

Staff endeavoured to continue to provide efficient and focused administrative services to the Board and its sub-committees and to support the work of the Joint Management Committee of the Peace and Reconciliation Programme.

“Combat Poverty seeks to be an effective and efficient organisation in working for the prevention and elimination of poverty and social exclusion.”



# Appendix 1

Board, Sub-Committees  
and Staff



## Board attendance in 2002

There were 8 meetings of the Board in 2002. Three Members completed their three year terms on the Board while four Members resigned due to various commitments. Joan O'Flynn was appointed as Staff Representative to succeed Clare Farrell. At the end of 2002, there was a total of 6 vacancies, all of which have now been filled. The attendance record of the Members of the Agency for 2002 is shown below.

### No. of Meetings Attended (No. eligible to attend in brackets)

Brian Duncan, Chairperson	8 (8)
Pearse O'Hanrahan, Vice-Chairperson	7 (8)
Helen Johnston	7 (8)
Maria Corrigan	5 (8)
Benny Devlin <sup>1</sup>	6 (6)
Clare Farrell <sup>2</sup>	1 (3)
Fintan Farrell <sup>2</sup>	0 (3)
Bernard Feeney	4 (8)
Mary Kennedy <sup>3</sup>	7 (7)
Seamus McAleavey	7 (8)
Christine Maguire	5 (8)
Grace Maguire <sup>3</sup>	0 (4)
Joan O'Flynn <sup>4</sup>	1 (1)
Niall O'Keefe <sup>5</sup>	3 (6)
Alice Robertson <sup>6</sup>	5 (6)
Margaret Sweeney	6 (8)
Michael Waugh	8 (8)

1 Completed Term September 02

2 Resigned November 02

3 Resigned June 02

4 Appointed December 02

5 Completed Term September 02

6 Completed Term September 02 Reappointed January 03



## 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:

### Personnel and Finance Committee

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

### Working Against Poverty Grants Committee

Mary Kennedy, Seamus McAleavey, Niall O'Keefe, Margaret Sweeney,  
Michael Waugh

### Joint Management Committee Membership EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (as at 31st December 2002)

Terry Larkin, ADM (Joint Chair)  
Brian Duncan, Combat Poverty (Joint Chair)  
Tony Crooks, Chief Executive, ADM  
Helen Johnston, Director, Combat Poverty  
Michael McAuley, Border Midlands and Western Regional Authority  
Adge King, Director of Community and Enterprise, Monaghan  
Breege Lenihan, Co. Monaghan Community Network  
Lorraine McKenna, Co. Monaghan Partnership  
Pearse O'Hanrahan, Board member, Combat Poverty  
Pat O'Hara, Western Development Commission  
Maire O'Leary, Community Workers Co-operative  
Liz Sullivan, Head of Projects, Combat Poverty  
Bob Wilson, Dundalk Employment Partnership

## Cross Border Management Committee, EU Peace and Reconciliation Programme (as at 31st December 2002)

Brian Duncan, Combat Poverty (Joint Chair)

Tony Crooks, ADM (Joint Chair)

Maire O'Leary, ADM

Bob Wilson, ADM

Helen Johnston, Combat Poverty

Pearse O'Hanrahan, Combat Poverty

Tony Kennedy, Co-operation Ireland

Bryan Johnston, Co-operation Ireland

Jim Purdy, Co-operation Ireland

Avila Kilmurray, Community Foundation of Northern Ireland

Maureen Armstrong, Community Foundation of Northern Ireland

Eamon Deane, Community Foundation of Northern Ireland.

## Staff (as at 31 May 2003)

**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

Ann Riordan<sup>3</sup> Executive Officer

Vacant Clerical Officer

Teresa Ward Clerical Officer

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>3</sup> Project Officer

Elaine Houlihan<sup>3</sup> Project Officer

Janice Ransom<sup>4</sup> EU Project Co-ordinator

Ann Moore Executive Officer

Anne Bride Clerical Officer

### **Research**

Jim Walsh Head of Research

Padraig Carmody Policy & Research Analyst

Tracey O'Brien Research Officer

Vacant Research Officer

Rose McGrath<sup>4</sup> EU Project Co-ordinator

Cora Murray<sup>2</sup> Clerical Officer

1 Part-time post

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

3 Work-share posts

4 One year temporary post

## Information and Public Education

Joan O'Flynn <sup>3</sup>	Head of Information and Public Education
Fidelma Joyce	Policy Liaison Officer
Margaret O'Gorman	Communications Officer
Jean Cassidy	Library and Information Officer
Elaine Byrne	Executive Officer
Valerie Byrne <sup>3</sup>	Communications Assistant
Annamarie Wallace	Information Assistant

## ADM/CPA Staff List (as at 31st May 2003)

Paddy Logue*	Acting-Joint Manager, CPA
Paddy McGinn	Joint Manager
Donald McDonald	Development Co-ordinator
Paul Skinnader	Development Co-ordinator
Colette Nulty	Development Co-ordinator
Bernard Bolger	Development Officer
Liam McKeever	Development Officer
Donnacha McSorley	Development Officer
Pauline Perry	Development Officer
Ruth Taillon	Research Co-ordinator
Emma Quinn	Research Assistant
Mary Kelly	Finance Manager
Amanda Treanor	Financial Co-ordinator
Diane Bell	Financial Administrator
Margaret Flood	Financial Administrator
Siobhan McAtasney	Finance Clerical Officer
Maria O'Sullivan	Finance Clerical Officer
Nuala Quinn	Finance Clerical Officer

\* Ann McGeeney, Joint Manager, CPA, currently on leave of absence.

Pauline Rock	Finance Clerical Officer
Marcella Rudden	Finance Clerical Officer
Bernadette Smith	Finance Clerical Officer
Catriona O'Reilly	Auditor
Ailish Quinn	Office Manager
Aine Coffey	Receptionist
Christine Lehmann	Database Administrator
Inez Leahy	Clerical Officer
Ursula Sheridan	Clerical Officer
Anna Carragher	Clerical Officer

## Superannuation

Under Section 14 of the Combat Poverty Agency Act 1986, a Non-Contributory Superannuation Scheme and a Contributory Spouse's and Children's Scheme have been approved by the Minister for Social, Community and Family Affairs for staff in the Agency. A number of staff, 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 ADM-CPA 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 Scheme 2002

<b>Research and Evaluation</b>	<b>Amount €</b>
Age Action Ireland	12,697.38
Amen Galway	8,000.00
Ballymun Community Law Services	5,500.00
Ballymun Regional Youth Resource Centre	6,000.00
Barnardo's	8,000.00
Cáirde Ltd.	9,000.00
Children in Hospital	7,000.00
Children's Rights Alliance	8,500.00
Clare Haven Services Ltd.	1,079.28
Clondalkin Women's Network	1,269.74
Community Mediation Works	9,000.00
Community of Lough Arrow Social Project	4,500.00
Compass Ireland	3,809.21
Dergfinn Partnership Ltd.	1,269.74
Enable Ireland	6,000.00
Ennis and Clare Committee for the Travelling People	1,904.61
Free Legal Advice Centres Ltd.	1,396.79
Galway Refugee Support Group	1,269.74
Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed	1,269.74
Irish Traveller Movement	3,809.21
Kerry Diocesan Youth Service	9,000.00
Laois Travellers Views	1,269.74
Muirhevnamor Community Youth Project	3,809.21
Nigel Clare Network Trust	7,820.00
O'Devaney Gardens Community Development	634.87
Oasis Counselling Service	7,500.00
Parkside Community Development Group	1,523.00
South Inner City Community Development Association	1,269.74
South West Inner City Network	12,900.00
Southill Community Services Board	5,078.95
Tallaght Partnership Ltd.	7,427.97
The Vista Project	1,269.74
Youth Horizons Ltd.	5,000.00



### **Conferences, Seminars and Publications**

Ballymun Youth Action Project	4,800.00
Border Counties Childcare Network	6,348.69
Comhlámh	4,000.00
Community After School Project	6,348.69
Community Workers Co-Op	5,000.00
Dóchas Man's Action Group	2,700.00
Ennis and Clare Committee for the Travelling People	1,000.00
Exchange House MABS	4,500.00
Free Legal Advice Centre	2,500.00
Galway Refugee Support Group	2,400.00
Inishowen Women's Information Network	2,000.00
Inishowen Women's Information Network	10,117.27
Irish Traveller Movement	3,000.00
ISPCC	6,348.69
Letterkenny Community Development Project	2,180.14
Lifestart Sligo	3,000.00
National Adult Literacy Agency	5,000.00
National Women's Council Ireland	6,000.00
Social Innovations Ireland Ltd.	5,000.00
South Dublin Community Platform	4,444.08
Tallaght Refugee Project	3,000.00
Threshold	3,500.00

### **Policy Analysis and Promotion**

An Cosán	6,000.00
Blakestown Community Development	3,500.00
Community Workers Co-Op	5,000.00
Little Bray Family Resource Centre	6,250.00
One Parent Exchange Network Ltd	5,000.00
Simon Communities of Ireland	9,130.00
Social Innovations Ireland Ltd.	5,000.00
Team Educational Theatre Company	13,000.00
Women's Human Rights Project	8,000.00

### **Training and Skills Development**

Clondalkin Women's Network	3,000.00
Donegal Travellers Project	6,000.00
Donegal Travellers Project	7,000.00
Fingal ICTU Centre for the Unemployed	10,000.00
Galway One World Centre	2,200.00
Inishowen Women's Information Network	3,430.00
Limerick Enterprise Network	4,000.00
Muintearas (Mná sa bPobal)	5,000.00
Southill After Schools Project	8,900.00
Westgate Foundation	5,000.00
Westmeath Employment Network	6,000.00
Women's Sector	2,250.00
Young Parents on the Go	3,678.00

### **National Networks Core Funding**

Irish Rural Link	132,306.70
Community Workers Co-operative	132,306.70
Irish Traveller Movement	132,306.70
European Anti-Poverty Network	132,306.70
One Parent Exchange Network	132,306.70
Forum for People with Disabilities	132,306.70
Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed	132,306.70
Children's Rights Alliance	99,230.03
Irish Refugee Council	99,230.03
Older Women's Network	99,230.03

### **Once-off Network Grants**

National Collective of Community Based Women's Networks	9,600.00
Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice	4,320.00
Cherish - (for Family Diversity Initiative)	9,600.00
Akina Dada Wa Afrika	8,000.00
Citywide Family Support Network	9,600.00
Forum for People with Disabilities – (for Union on the Hill)	9,600.00

### **Partnership Initiative Grant (National Network Anti-Poverty Programme)**

European Anti-Poverty Network	44,650.00
-------------------------------	-----------

### **Miscellaneous Grants**

St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra	1,800.00
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	12,000.00
Institute of Public Health in Ireland	4,250.00

### **Local Government**

Galway City Council/Ballybane & Mervue CDP	5,938.00
Wicklow County Council/POBAL	12,700.00
Mayo County Council/Parkside Community Development Group	7,500.00
Sligo County Council/Sligo Leader Partnership Co.	10,150.00
Cork City Council/Mahon Community Development Project	7,500.00
Wicklow County Council/Bray Partnership	8,500.00
Laois County Council/Portlaoise Community Action Project	12,500.00
Limerick City Council/Doras Luimní	11,800.00
Souty Tipperary County Council/TACCTIC CDP	6,500.00
Dublin City Council/GAP Ballymun	12,400.00
Dublin City Council/Charlemont Community Association	6,908.00
Offaly County Council/Barnardo's	12,500.00
Wicklow County Council/St. Fergal's Resource Centre	12,700.00
Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown Co. Co./Southside Women's Action Network	6,020.00
Galway County Council/Asylum Seekers Group Ireland	12,500.00
Mayo County Council/Erris Local Development Programme	10,000.00
Cavan County Council/Cavan Community & Voluntary Forum	8,500.00
Roscommon County Council / Roscommon Education & Development Travellers Group	4,250.00
Dublin City Council / Bluebell Community Development Project	12,000.00

### **Support for Third Level Research on Poverty and Policy**

Combat Poverty supports poverty research in third-level institutions and related bodies through four related measures:

- Poverty Research Initiative
- PhD Fellowship Award for Poverty Research
- Visiting Research Fellowship on Poverty and Policy  
(in conjunction with the Policy Institute)
- Research placements

### **Poverty Research Initiative 2001 and 2002 (paid in 2002)**

#### **2001**

Institute for the Study of Social Change, UCD	€24,000.00
Centre for Social and Educational Research, DIT	€3,619.00

#### **2002**

Centre for Health Promotion Studies, NUIG:	€12,000.00
School of Law and Government, DCU:	€12,000.00
Department of Regional and Urban Planning, UCD:	€15,000.00

### **PhD Research Fellowship for Poverty Research**

Flexible Labour Markets: qualities of employment, equalities of outcome -  
a comparative analysis of temporary and part-time employment

Vanessa Gash, Department of Sociology, Nuffield College, University of Oxford.	€13,000
---	---------

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

Niamh Humphries, Department of Sociology, University College Dublin.	€6,500
--	--------

Social Welfare Adequacy in Ireland

Mary Murphy, Faculty of Humanities, School of Communications, Dublin City University	€15,744
---	---------

Visiting Research Fellowship on Poverty and  
Policy Fuel Poverty and Policy: A National and  
Cross Country Analysis and

John Healy, Policy Institute, Trinity College Dublin	€7,625 (research)
--	-------------------

€2,729 (publication)

# Appendix 3

Support Programme  
and Reconciliation  
Approved 2002



The Combat Poverty Agency with Area Development Management (ADM) Ltd, implements a number of measures under the Peace II Programme.

In 2002 the following grants were approved under Measure 1.5 Positive Actions for Women; Measure 2.1 Reconciliation for Sustainable Peace; Measure 2.4c Pathways to Inclusion, Integration and Reconciliation of Victims; Measure 2.7 Developing Weak Community Infrastructure; Measure 5.3 Developing Cross Border Reconciliation & Understanding.

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

### **MEASURE 1.5 – POSITIVE ACTIONS FOR WOMEN**

	€
Workers Educational Association	1,038,786.00
North Leitrim Women's Centre	48,525.00
Letterkenny Women's Centre	125,000.00
Letterkenny Women's Centre	11,000.00

### **MEASURE 2.1 – RECONCILIATION FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE**

CDVEC Curriculum Development Unit	857,050.00
Co. Monaghan Community Network Limited	286,837.00
Drogheda Community Forum	179,940.00
Letterkenny Women's' Centre	81,100.00
The Upstate Theatre Project Ltd	101,750.00
Foinn Chonallacha Teo.	383,635.00
Sligo County Council/Sligo Connections	230,330.00
National University of Galway	244,440.00
Manorcunningham Community Development Association	185,380.00
North Leitrim Glens Development Co. Ltd.	233,620.00
Raphoe Reconciliation Project	204,220.00
Quare Hawks Theatre Company	80,350.00

## **MEASURE 2.4c - PATHWAYS TO INCLUSION, INTEGRATION & RECONCILIATION OF VICTIMS**

Clones Community Forum Ltd	297,150.00
Clones Development Society Ltd	219,389.00
Radio Pobal Inis Eoghain	143,900.00
Donegal Travellers Project	285,100.00
Abhaile Arís	301,396.00
Drogheda Women's Refuge and Children's Centre Ltd	165,525.00
Expac Ltd.	289,108.00
Fáilte Abhaile	328,075.00
Fáilte Chluain Eois	272,578.00
Tirhugh Resource Centre	54,340.00
Comharcumann Finn Thiar Teo.	15,000.00
Íar Cimí Liatroma Teoranta	369,700.00
Cavan Family Resource Centre Ltd.	108,575.00

## **MEASURE 2.7 – DEVELOPING WEAK COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE**

Cavan Monaghan Rural Development	262,073.00
Community Workers Co-op	187,600.00
Dunfanaghy Resource Association	163,150.00
Killeshandra Community Council Ltd.	186,100.00
Swilly/Mulroy Community Development Co-op	95,230.00
Raphoe Cathedral Hall Management Committee	435,200.00
Castleblayney Arts & Community Development Co Ltd.	681,000.00
Cashelard Community Development Association	468,450.00
Bunroe Community Development Association Ltd.	330,400.00
Glenfarne Community Development Trust Ltd.	200,000.00



**MEASURE 5.3 –****DEVELOPING CROSS BORDER RECONCILIATION & UNDERSTANDING 80:20**

Educating & Acting for a Better World	262,024.00
Glencree Centre for Reconciliation	428,693.00
Inter-Classic	137,388.00
Kiltyclogher Community Council	191,321.00
Lucan Youth Centre Development	186,685.00
Rural Mental Health	311,700.00
Shankill Community Association	203,355.00
The Pushkin Prizes Trust	347,719.25
The Shanty Education & Training Centre	252,130.00
Women Educating for Transformation (WEFT)	249,579.00
Ballincollig Senior Citizens	438,618.00
Dundalk Counselling Centre	63,275.00
Horizon Ireland Ltd.	481,766.35
Sandy Row Community Development Agency	246,899.50
Co-Operation Ireland	126,305.00
Boomerang Theatre Company	272,533.00
South Belfast Cultural Society	247,947.30
Co-operation Ireland	418,360.50
Farset/Inishowen & Border Counties Initiative	1,334,655.40
Glencree Centre for Reconciliation	169,434.00
The Irish Peace Institute	42,536.00
Border Arts	309,585.84
Churches Peace Education Programme	218,612.00
Co. Museum Dundalk / Newry & Mourne Museums	140,255.88
Springfield Inter Community Development Project	309,434.25
Monaghan & Portadown Partnership (MAPP) Limited	289,440.80
Downpatrick/Listowel Linkage Group	78,902.75
Cumann Gaelach Chnoc na Ros Diore	247,566.00
Ballymacarrett Arts and Cultural Society	217,597.60
Riverstown Enterprise Development	253,035.00

Newbuildings Community & Environmental Association	75,410.60
Derry and Raphoe Action	426,250.00
Children's Holiday Scheme (NI) Limited - NICHS	312,015.00
County Sligo VEC & Western Education Library Board	295,870.00
Tyrone Donegal Partnership	245,365.00
Irish School of Ecumenics	234,236.00
Monaghan Neighbourhood Youth (Foróige)	254,260.00
Enniskillen Community Development Project	238,622.50
Community Visual Images	450,595.85
Drake Music Project Northern Ireland (NI)	310,000.00
NIACAB	619,933.35
Town of Monaghan Co-op	97,497.00
Teach na Fáilte / Cross Border Project	297,962.70
Mediation Resource Centre	233,324.60
Cross Border Orchestra	324,048.30
Future Youth Games	156,317.50
Coiste na n-Iarchimí	658,564.00
Ligoniel Improvement Association	248,235.60
Strabane Lifford Development Commission	184,217.50
Strabane Lifford Development Commission	40,695.25



# Appendix 4

Some new publications



**2003.** Poverty and Inequality. Applying an Equality Dimension to Poverty Proofing (published with The Equality Authority).

**2002.** Against All Odds: Family Life on a Low Income in Ireland by Mary Daly and Madeline Leonard. (Published with Institute of Public Administration).

**2002.** Data Sources on Poverty by Carmel Corrigan (editor), Eithne Fitzgerald, Jessica Bates and Anne Matthews.

**2002.** Monitoring Progress on Poverty, A Policy Guide on the Use of Social Indicators by Guy Palmer and Mohibur Rahman.

**2002.** Managing Better Series No. 8. An Introductory Guide to Networks, A Strategic Approach to Educational Disadvantage by Neil Haran.

**2002.** Counted Out, Challenging Poverty and Social Exclusion, A Resource for Teachers by Sandra Gowran. (Published with City of Dublin VEC Curriculum Development Unit).

**2002.** Charting the Future, Social and Political Education in the Senior Cycle of Post-Primary Schools. (Published with City of Dublin VEC Curriculum Development Unit).

**2002.** From National to Local. NAPS and Local Government.

A full publications catalogue is available free of charge from Combat Poverty offices. Details are also available on **[www.combatpoverty.ie](http://www.combatpoverty.ie)**



# Financial Statements



## 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, the Members of the Agency are required to:

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

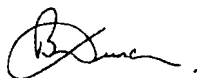
The Members of the Agency are responsible for keeping proper books of account which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of Combat Poverty and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with Section 10(1) of the 1986 Act. The Members of the Agency are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

### **Basis of Financial Statements**

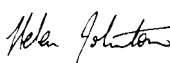
Combat Poverty Agency in co-operation with Area Development Management Ltd. (ADM Ltd.) have set up a Joint Management Committee to administer the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in the six border counties. All transactions of the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation are 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.

Brian Duncan, Chairperson



Helen Johnston, Director



Dated: 25th June, 2003



## STATEMENT ON THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL

### Responsibility for system of Internal Financial Control

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

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

### Key Control Procedures

The Board is taking steps to ensure an appropriate control environment by

- Clearly defining management responsibilities;
- Establishing formal procedures for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.

The Board is establishing processes to identify and evaluate risks by

- Identifying the nature, extent and financial implication of risks facing Combat Poverty including the extent and categories which it regards as acceptable;
- Assessing the likelihood of identified risks occurring;
- Assessing Combat Poverty's ability to manage and mitigate the risks that do occur;
- Assessing the costs of operating particular controls relative to the benefit obtained.

The system of internal financial control now being developed is based on a framework of regular management information, administrative procedures including segregation of duties, and a system of delegation and accountability. This system will be integral to work planning and performance management and development in the Agency. In particular it will include:

- A comprehensive budgeting system with an annual budget which is reviewed and agreed by the Members of the Board;
- Regular reviews by the Personnel and Finance and Audit Sub-Committees, on behalf of the Board, of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against forecasts;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- Clearly defined capital investment control guidelines;
- Formal project management disciplines.

Combat Poverty Agency is putting in place an internal audit function, which will operate in accordance with the Framework Code of Best Practice set out in the Code of Practice on the Governance of State Bodies. The work of internal audit will be informed by the analysis of the risk to which Combat Poverty is exposed, and annual internal audit plans will be based on this

analysis. The analysis of risk and the internal audit plans will be endorsed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Members of the Board. At least annually, the Internal Auditor will provide the Members of the Board with a report of internal audit activity. Such reports will include the Internal Auditor's opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the system of internal financial control.

The Board's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control will be informed by the work of the internal auditor, the Audit Committee which will oversee the work of the Internal auditor, the Management Team within Combat Poverty Agency who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the financial control framework, and comments made by the Comptroller and Auditor General in his management letter or other reports.

### **Annual Review of Controls**

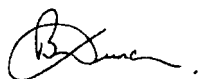
I confirm that in the year ended 31 December 2002 the Board progressed a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial controls.

### **Information about Weaknesses in Controls**

No significant weaknesses in controls have been identified to date. However, to further develop and strengthen management capability in budgetary management, a specially commissioned Budget Management Programme for Agency staff was completed during 2002. Following that initiative, benchmarking of good practice in controls and procedures is being developed on an ongoing basis.

Signed on Behalf of the Board

Chairperson



27 June 2003

## 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.

### **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 Combat Poverty during the year.

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

### **Fixed Assets and Depreciation**

Fixed Assets are shown at original cost less accumulated depreciation.

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

Furniture	12.50%
Equipment	20.00%

### **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 9)

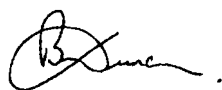
## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER, 2002

	Notes	2002	2001
		€	€
<b>INCOME</b>			
Oireachtas Grant-in-Aid			
Department of Social and Family Affairs		<b>4,771,000</b>	4,221,879
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	1(a)	<b>4,589,909</b>	5,862,799
Other Income	1(b)	<b>42,044</b>	103,827
		<b>9,402,953</b>	10,188,505
Transfer from Capital Account	6	<b>15,262</b>	49,589
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>9,418,215</b>	<b>10,238,094</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Projects and Programmes to Combat Poverty			
National Networks Programme		<b>1,323,078</b>	1,272,931
Special Programmes	2(a)	<b>498,206</b>	423,760
Working against Poverty Grants Scheme	2(b)	<b>424,154</b>	352,841
Information, Education and Resource Material		<b>550,353</b>	417,963
Research Projects		<b>243,320</b>	252,896
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	2(c)	<b>3,989,709</b>	5,458,311
EU Models of Consultation		<b>15,460</b>	38,864
		<b>7,044,280</b>	8,217,566
Development, Support and Administration costs			
Salary Costs and Expenses	3	<b>1,792,818</b>	1,354,352
Rent and Other Administration Costs	4	<b>583,703</b>	506,928
Depreciation	5	<b>60,573</b>	70,276
		<b>2,437,094</b>	1,931,556
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>9,481,374</b>	10,149,122
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		<b>(63,159)</b>	88,972
Surplus at 1 January		<b>369,780</b>	280,808
Surplus at 31 December		<b>306,621</b>	369,780

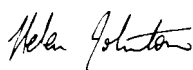
The Board has no gains or losses in the financial year or the preceding year other than those dealt with in the Income and Expenditure Account.

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

Brian Duncan, Chairperson



Helen Johnston, Director



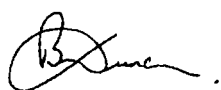
Dated: 25th June, 2003

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2002

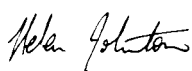
	Notes	2002 €	2001 €
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Furniture and Equipment	5	<u>95,961</u>	<u>111,223</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Grants Receivable		-	490,959
Debtors and Prepayments		122,362	328,802
Cash at Bank and on Hand		<u>769,229</u>	<u>65,942</u>
		<b>891,591</b>	<b>885,703</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Bank overdraft		-	377,808
Creditors and Accruals		531,815	138,115
Deferred Income		<u>53,155</u>	<u>-</u>
		<b>584,970</b>	<b>515,923</b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>306,621</u>	<u>369,780</u>
		<b>402,582</b>	<b>481,003</b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			
Capital Account	6	<u>95,961</u>	<u>111,223</u>
Surplus on Income and Expenditure Account		<u>306,621</u>	<u>369,780</u>
		<b>402,582</b>	<b>481,003</b>

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

Brian Duncan, Chairperson



Helen Johnston, Director



Dated: 25th June, 2003

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2002

	2002 €	2001 €
<b>1. INCOME</b>		
<b>(a) EU PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION</b>		
<b>ESF Funding</b>		
Deferred Income at 1 January	<b>(368,221)</b>	632,517
Project Funding via Department of Social and Family Affairs	<b>3,720,427</b>	3,092,996
Deferred Income at 31 December	<b>(503,386)</b>	368,221
	<b>2,848,820</b>	4,093,734
<b>Exchequer Funding</b>		
Deferred Income 1 January	<b>(122,738)</b>	210,839
Project Funding via Department of Social and Family Affairs	<b>1,240,142</b>	1,030,999
Deferred Income at 31 December	<b>(167,798)</b>	122,738
	<b>949,606</b>	1,364,576
<b>Technical Assistance (TA)</b>		
ERDF and Exchequer TA Funding for Administration Costs via Area Development Management Ltd.	<b>791,483</b>	404,489
	<b>4,589,909</b>	5,862,799
<b>(b) OTHER INCOME</b>		
Interest earned	<b>13,130</b>	43,776
Sales of Publications	<b>15,232</b>	15,754
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation	<b>7,861</b>	-
Unspent grants	<b>4,902</b>	3,809
Miscellaneous Income	<b>704</b>	4,020
Seminar registration Fees	<b>215</b>	6,316
European Commission	<b>-</b>	30,152
	<b>42,044</b>	103,827

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2002

### 2. PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES TO COMBAT POVERTY

#### (a) 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:

	2002	2001
	€	€
NAPS Local Government work	<b>396,958</b>	344,246
Enhancing the Community Development Sector	<b>42,881</b>	29,112
Poverty Drug Use Policy Programme	<b>42,056</b>	221
Project Support	<b>9,951</b>	4,855
Educational Disadvantage Demonstration Programme	<b>6,360</b>	38,284
Policy to Practice Initiatives	-	7,042
	<b>498,206</b>	423,760

#### (b) WORKING AGAINST POVERTY GRANTS SCHEME

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

	2002	2001
	€	€
Research and Evaluation Grants	<b>169,955</b>	222,768
Information/Public Awareness Grants	<b>105,901</b>	124,606
Training skills and development Grants	<b>81,458</b>	-
Policy analysis and Promotion Grants	<b>61,630</b>	-
Support Work for Grants	<b>5,210</b>	4,413
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Grants	-	1,054
	<b>424,154</b>	352,841



## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2002

### 2 (c) EU PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

Due to the delays in finalising the Programme Complement for Peace II 146 groups assisted under the Peace I Programme were 'gap-funded' until the successor Peace II Programme (2000-2004) and other Programmes under the National Development Plan were implemented.

The Peace II Programme, under which Combat Poverty has lead responsibility for 6 measures and ADM has responsibility for 6 other measures, was launched in the Autumn of 2001. By the end of December 2002 a total of 577 applications were received under the Peace II Programme of which 302 have been approved.

A total of €23,440,178 has been awarded to ADM/CPA projects in the Border Region with a further €24,503,584 awarded to cross border projects. In implementing the cross border measures 5.3 and 5.4, a cross border partnership with the Community Foundation of Northern Ireland and Co-operation Ireland has been formed

The income and expenditure of Combat Poverty under the Peace II Programme for 2002 is summarised below:

<u>Income</u>	€	€
European Social Fund		4,328,404
Exchequer		1,442,801
		<u>5,771,205</u>
Grants Receivable at 1st January 2002		(490,959)
		<u>5,280,246</u>
Grants Receivable at 31st December 2002		(637,182)
Deferred in 2002		(53,155)
		<u>4,589,909</u>
 <u>Expenditure</u>		
Peace I Projects	17,541	
Peace II Projects		
Measure 1.5	131,855	
Measure 2.1	680,931	
Measure 2.4c	1,483,063	
Measure 2.6	14,986	
Measure 2.7	393,093	
Measure 5.3	1,031,657	
Support Costs	<u>236,583</u>	
	3,989,709	
Administration*	<u>577,769</u>	<u>4,567,478</u>

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

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2002

### 3. SALARY COSTS AND EXPENSES

	2002	2001
	€	€
Staff Salary Costs*	<b>1,462,796</b>	1,148,207
Temporary Employment Agency Costs**	<b>121,836</b>	53,280
Members Fees	<b>20,671</b>	-
Travel and Subsistence		
- Staff***	<b>56,254</b>	28,952
- Members and Sub-Committees	<b>20,545</b>	21,969
Staff Training and Other Expenses	<b>56,936</b>	42,129
Staff Recruitment	<b>48,750</b>	45,552
Combat Poverty Seminar	<b>4,330</b>	12,866
Pension Gratuity and Payments	<b>700</b>	1,397
	<b><u>1,792,818</u></b>	<b><u>1,354,352</u></b>

\* The average number of core staff (full-time equivalent) employed by the Agency during 2002 was 22 (2001: 20). The figures given here include the Agency's liability in respect of the remuneration of 1 staff member on secondment to the EU Commission and in respect of the remuneration of the 21 staff members in the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.

\*\* Temporary cover for vacant core staff posts included here.

\*\*\* Reflects Strategic Plan new programme activity.

### 4. RENT AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION COSTS

	2002	2001
	€	€
Rent and Rates	<b>219,882</b>	188,578
Maintenance and Insurance	<b>141,114</b>	86,736
Postage and Telephones	<b>91,515</b>	68,309
Printing, Stationery & Office Supplies	<b>40,456</b>	41,559
Records and Archive Management	<b>21,864</b>	16,671
Consultancy Costs	<b>15,669</b>	54,879
Light and Heat	<b>13,904</b>	10,624
Audit Fees	<b>10,950</b>	9,730
Legal/Professional Fees	<b>7,875</b>	11,167
Sundry	<b>7,653</b>	8,752
Outreach Offices Support	<b>6,966</b>	9,923
Loss on Disposal	<b>5,855</b>	-
	<b><u>583,703</u></b>	<b><u>506,928</u></b>

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2002

### 5. FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture €	Equipment €	Total €
<b>Cost</b>			
Balance at 1 January	158,074	342,172	500,246
Additions at cost	2,093	49,169	51,262
Disposals at cost	-	(45,711)	(45,711)
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>160,167</b>	<b>345,630</b>	<b>505,797</b>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>			
Balance at 1 January	116,770	272,253	389,023
Charge for the year	18,456	42,117	60,573
Disposals	-	(39,760)	(39,760)
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>135,226</b>	<b>274,610</b>	<b>409,836</b>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE - 31/12/02</b>	<b>24,941</b>	<b>71,020</b>	<b>95,961</b>
NET BOOK VALUE - 31/12/01	41,304	69,919	111,223

### 6. CAPITAL ACCOUNT

	2002 €	2001 €
Balance at 1 January	<b>111,223</b>	160,812
TRANSFER FROM INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT		
Income applied to purchase fixed assets	<b>51,262</b>	20,687
Amortised in the year in line with asset depreciation	<b>(60,573)</b>	(70,276)
Released on disposal of fixed assets	<b>(5,951)</b>	-
	<b>(15,262)</b>	(49,589)
Balance at 31 December	<b>95,961</b>	111,223

### 7. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There were no contingent liabilities at 31 December, 2002.

### 8. COMMITMENTS

(a) There were no capital commitments at 31 December, 2002.

(b) Funding commitments of €124,931 existed at 31 December, 2002 (2001 - €140,199 ) 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.

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2002

### 9. 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.

#### **Superannuation entitlements**

Superannuation entitlements arising under the scheme are paid out of current income and are charged to the Income and Expenditure Account in the year in which they become payable. No provision is made in the financial statements in respect of future benefits. Salaries and Wages are charged in the financial statements net of employee superannuation contributions.

The above accounting treatment is not in accordance with the requirements of Financial Reporting Standard 17. For accounting periods ending on or after 1 January 2005 the Standard will require financial statements to reflect at fair value the assets and liabilities arising from an employer's superannuation obligations and any related funding and to recognise the costs of providing superannuation benefits in the accounting periods in which they are earned by employees. As a transitional measure the Standard requires that the present value of scheme liabilities be disclosed in the notes to the 2002 financial statements. In 2002 the Board was not in a position to comply with the requirements of FRS 17 as it did not obtain actuarial valuation of the schemes' liabilities.

### 10. 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.

### 11. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board on 25 June 2003

#### **AUDIT**

These Financial Statements for 2002 are subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General under the provisions of section 10(2) of the Combat Poverty Agency Act, 1986.







**Bridgewater Centre, Conyngham Road, Islandbridge, Dublin 8**

**An Ghníomhaireacht do Chomhrac na Bochtaine**

**Ionad Bridgewater, Bóthar Conyngham, Droichead na nInse, Baile Átha Cliath 8**

**Tel: 01 670 6746 Fax: 01 670 6760 Email: [info@cpa.ie](mailto:info@cpa.ie) Website: [www.combatpoverty.ie](http://www.combatpoverty.ie)**