

## **Annual Report 2003**

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## COMBAT POVERTY BOARD MEMBERS AS AT 31 MAY 2004

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

## AIM

The aim of Combat Poverty is to promote a more 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 groups and the public.

These aims are 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's 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.

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This document is in size 14 point to facilitate accessibility 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.

The annual report is also available in the Irish language.

Photography by Derek Speirs.



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# CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD



**Brian Duncan**  
Chairman, Combat Poverty

I have pleasure in presenting the 17th Annual Report of Combat Poverty to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Coughlan, TD.

The report sets out the achievements of Combat Poverty in 2003, which was the second year of our three-year strategic plan – *Combating Poverty in a Changing Ireland*.

During the year, we further developed our relationship with the Office for Social Inclusion. We led the consultation process which informed the completion of the Irish National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion, 2003-2005 and which was forwarded to the EU in July 2003. We also worked with a number of European partners on two EU funded projects, *Mainstreaming Social Exclusion*, and *Local Authorities and Social Exclusion*.

Addressing poverty and social exclusion requires a focus on both income adequacy and access to better public services, especially in the areas of healthcare, housing and education. Notwithstanding a number of cutbacks in the budget estimates, overall we welcome the increases in social welfare payments in the 2004 budget, which for the second successive year, was redistributive. It will be necessary to maintain this approach over the coming years to achieve the targets in the National Anti-Poverty Strategy. While all income measures should be increased, we believe that increases in child benefit should be given a greater priority.

We continue in our work to focus on the provision of public services in the context of addressing poverty and social exclusion. Our pilot programme, *Building Healthy Communities*, is funding 18 projects which seek to find ways of addressing

healthcare issues at a local community level. We are also working with the Local Authorities through our Local Government Advisory Programme. The work done to date has shown that there is much scope for the Local Authorities to make a major contribution to addressing poverty and social exclusion, but that they need to be supported to take this work forward.

During the year we also contributed to the debate on the contribution of social expenditure to combating poverty by publishing a study on comparative expenditure in OECD countries – *Irish Social Expenditure in a Comparative International Context*, by Virpi Timonen. This study has generated some discussion and debate, but as of yet no agreed consensus on what actions, if any, are appropriate has emerged.

We also work with our partners – Area Development Management (ADM), Co-operation Ireland and the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland - to implement the Peace Programme in the border counties and on a cross border basis. The current programme is due to finish shortly and we are actively working to ensure that the excellent work done to date can be carried forward into a further programme.

This report also includes a commentary on the challenge of addressing poverty and social exclusion, while maintaining policies which continue to promote economic development. We hope this commentary will contribute to this important debate.

In December 2003, the Minister for Finance announced a major decentralisation programme under which Combat Poverty is due to transfer to Monaghan. While we acknowledge the value of decentralisation, in terms of stimulating economic and social development outside the Greater Dublin area, implementing the programme has raised some challenges. We are currently addressing two major concerns – how we can effectively carry out our role from our new location and how we can address the concerns of staff, many of whom have established strong roots in the Dublin area, and whose commitment is to the work of Combat Poverty rather than the wider public sector. The Board is fully committed to consulting with our staff on all aspects of the decentralisation proposals, and to ensuring that their views are fully taken into account.

In outlining the activities of Combat Poverty for 2003, I want to acknowledge the professionalism and dedication of the Board members and our staff of Combat Poverty, and the staff in our partnership with ADM in Monaghan. The term of office of a number of Board Members – Mary Kennedy, Christine Maguire and Michael Waugh - came to an end in 2003; their contribution to our work has been very valuable and is much appreciated. I also want to welcome to the Board the members appointed by the Minister during the year – Frank Curran, Anthony Gavin, Maria Gorman, Tony Lane, Tony O’Callaghan, Marie O’Neill and Olive Sweetman.

We continue to have excellent relationships with the Department of Social and Family Affairs and I would like to acknowledge, with thanks, the support of the Minister, Mary Coughlan TD, the Secretary General, John Hynes and their Department Officials for their encouragement and assistance during the year.



**Brian Duncan**  
June 2004



Part One

## Annual Overview

Building a successful society – not just a successful economy

# Building a successful society – not just a successful economy

By most measures of economic success Ireland has done exceptionally well, particularly over the last decade. During the Celtic Tiger era Ireland had one of the fastest growing economies in the world. This had many benefits. Jobs were created and unemployment fell, including long-term unemployment, which previously had remained stubbornly high. People who previously saw little chance of getting a job now had opportunities to take up employment. More people stayed in Ireland, whereas formerly many emigrated. This all resulted in a new found confidence with many new business start-ups. The number of

people living in consistent poverty fell substantially<sup>1</sup>. Although economic growth has slowed in recent years the economy is still performing reasonably well. But has the successful economy led to a successful society?

## Ireland – a Successful Society?

A successful society is one where everyone is valued, has the opportunity to make the best of themselves and participate actively. It is a fair and just society. It is a society free from poverty – where there is equality and peace. It is a society where everyone has an adequate standard of living and access to good quality services.

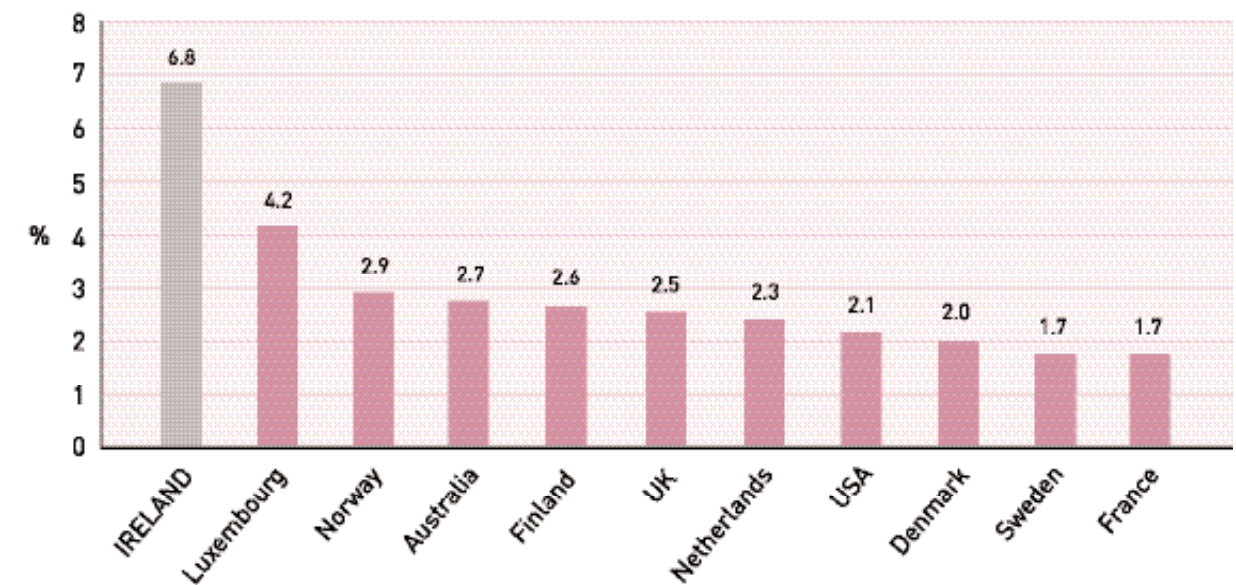
To what extent has Ireland been able to use its economic growth to build such a society?

## Economic and Social Trends

On economic trends Ireland has done very well compared to other countries. In the period 1990 to 2001 it had the highest GDP per capita growth rate in the world – this has been well documented, see Figure 1.

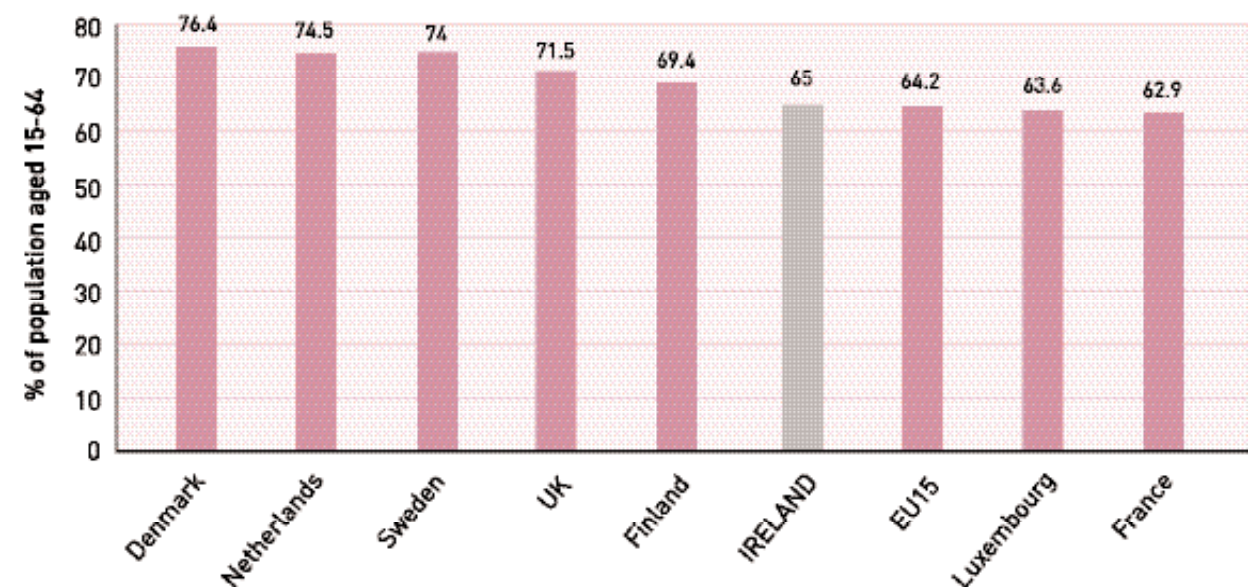
In 2001 the employment rate in Ireland was 65% of the working age population, just above the EU average, see Figure 2. Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden, UK and Finland also had high employment rates.

FIGURE 1: GDP PER CAPITA ANNUAL GROWTH RATE (%) 1990-2001



Source: UNDP (2003) Human Development Report: *Millennium Development Goals: A Compact among nations to end human poverty*. New York: Oxford University Press.

FIGURE 2: EU EMPLOYMENT RATES 2002



Source: CSO (2003) *Measuring Ireland's Progress: Volume 1, 2003 - Indicators Report*. Dublin: Stationery Office.



Ireland has now one of the lowest unemployment rates in the EU, see Figure 3. Other countries with low unemployment rates include the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Denmark, Sweden and the UK.

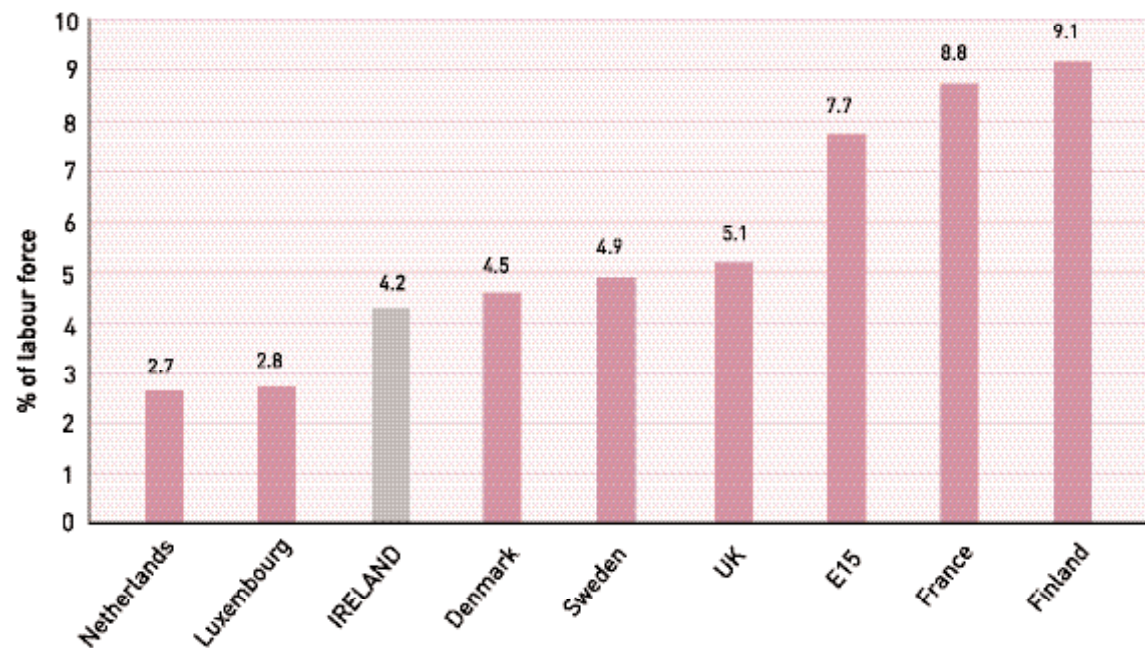
On social trends, particularly poverty reduction, progress has been mixed. Using the official Government measure of poverty, consistent poverty (living on a low income and deprived of basic necessities) has fallen from 15% of

the population in 1994 to 5% in 2001, which has been a significant achievement <sup>ii</sup>. However, on other comparative measures Ireland fares less well. Two measures which are often cited are the UN Human Poverty Index which combines life expectancy, literacy, income poverty and long-term unemployment <sup>iii</sup> and the EU measure of poverty risk <sup>iv</sup>, which is set at 60% of median income, see Figures 4 and 5. Ireland appears to have a relatively high level/risk of poverty under these measures while the Netherlands and Nordic countries fare much better.

The percentage of children at risk of poverty follows a similar pattern across European countries <sup>v</sup>.

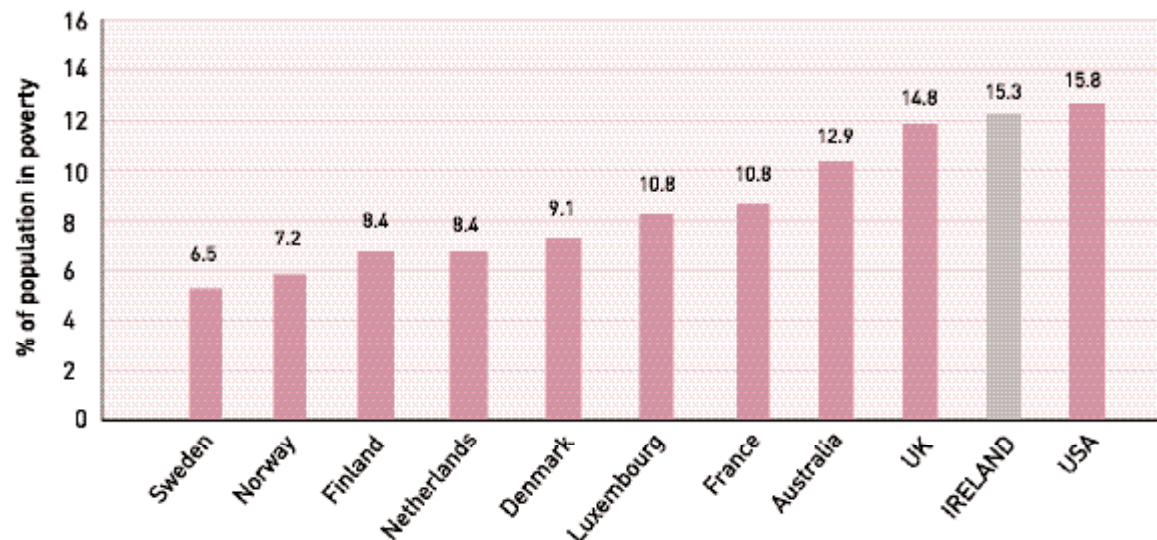
Poverty risk focuses on the bottom part of the income distribution. When we look at the overall income distribution e.g. using the Gini co-efficient (a measure of income equality <sup>vi</sup>), we can see that Ireland's income distribution is in line with the EU average, see Figure 6. However, Ireland has a relatively high level of income inequality compared to countries such as Denmark, Finland, Sweden, and the

**FIGURE 3: EU UNEMPLOYMENT RATES 2002**



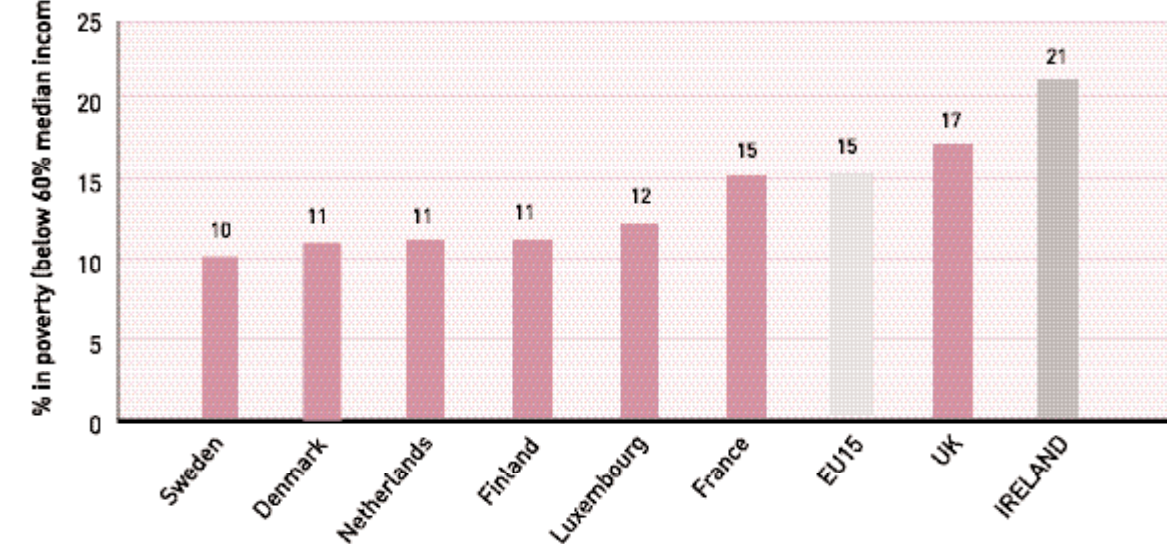
Source: CSO (2003) *Measuring Ireland's Progress: Volume 1, 2003 – Indicators Report*. Dublin: Stationery Office.

**FIGURE 4: PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION IN POVERTY USING THE UN HUMAN POVERTY INDEX**



Source: UNDP Human Development Report 2003 *Millennium Development Goals: A Compact among nations to end human poverty*. New York: Oxford University Press

**FIGURE 5: PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION BELOW THE 60% INCOME POVERTY LINE, 2001**



Source: European Commission (2004) *Joint Inclusion Report: Statistical Annex*. Brussels.

Ireland's income distribution is in line with the EU average. However, Ireland has a relatively high level of income inequality compared to countries such as Denmark, Finland, Sweden, and the Netherlands.

Netherlands. Countries with high levels of income inequality tend to have relatively high levels of poverty risk. Social protection expenditure is an important measure in addressing poverty. As a percentage of GDP, Ireland's social protection expenditure<sup>vii</sup> is comparatively low in European terms, see Figure 7. When GNP is

used instead of GDP (argued to be a better measure for Ireland)<sup>viii</sup>, the proportion is still comparatively low. A number of reasons can be put forward for this such as Ireland's rapid economic growth, low unemployment rates and small older population and hence pensions' expenditure. On a per capita basis Ireland's total public

expenditure is now above the EU average<sup>ix</sup>. However, as shown above, Ireland still has a relatively high level of poverty risk. It has been argued that in countries with high levels of market income inequality, such as Ireland, a higher level of social spending is required to achieve the same poverty outcomes as countries with a more equal market distribution of income. In other words the welfare system has to "work harder"<sup>x</sup>.

## Policies for a Successful Society

The European Council in Lisbon in 2000 set the goal of making the European Union by 2010 "the most competitive and dynamic based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion. A key objective in achieving this goal is to make a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty and social exclusion.

Over the last four years progress made towards this goal has been assessed by the EU, including an analysis of policies and approaches<sup>xii</sup>. It is clear that each country's specific political, demographic, economic and social context is important in determining the appropriate policy approach for that country and in assessing the impact of policies on its levels of poverty. Nevertheless, some lessons can be learnt from those countries that have managed to combine economic growth with strong employment growth and low levels of poverty.

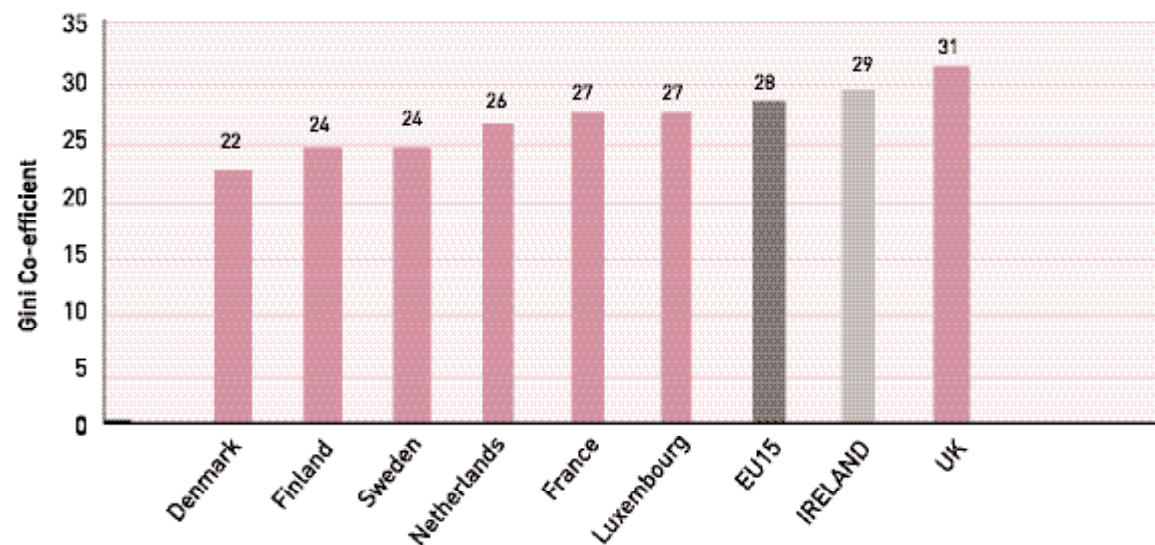
It is evident from the European experience that good economic growth is a necessary requirement for the creation of jobs and that employment is one of the best routes out of poverty. However, it is also clear that more than this is required. The EU commitment is for more and better quality jobs. Poor quality low paid jobs do not lift people out of poverty. For example, in Ireland in 2001<sup>xiii</sup> employees accounted for nearly one fifth of the

What emerges from this information is that some countries have managed to combine good economic progress with a good social infrastructure and relatively low levels of poverty e.g. Denmark and the Netherlands. This is what Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel Laureat in Economics, refers to as "pro-poor growth strategies":

The policy issue is not ... "to grow or not to grow". Are there pro-poor growth strategies that do more to reduce poverty as they promote growth? And are there growth strategies that increase poverty as they promote growth – strategies that should be shunned (Stiglitz: 2002; 80)<sup>xi</sup>.

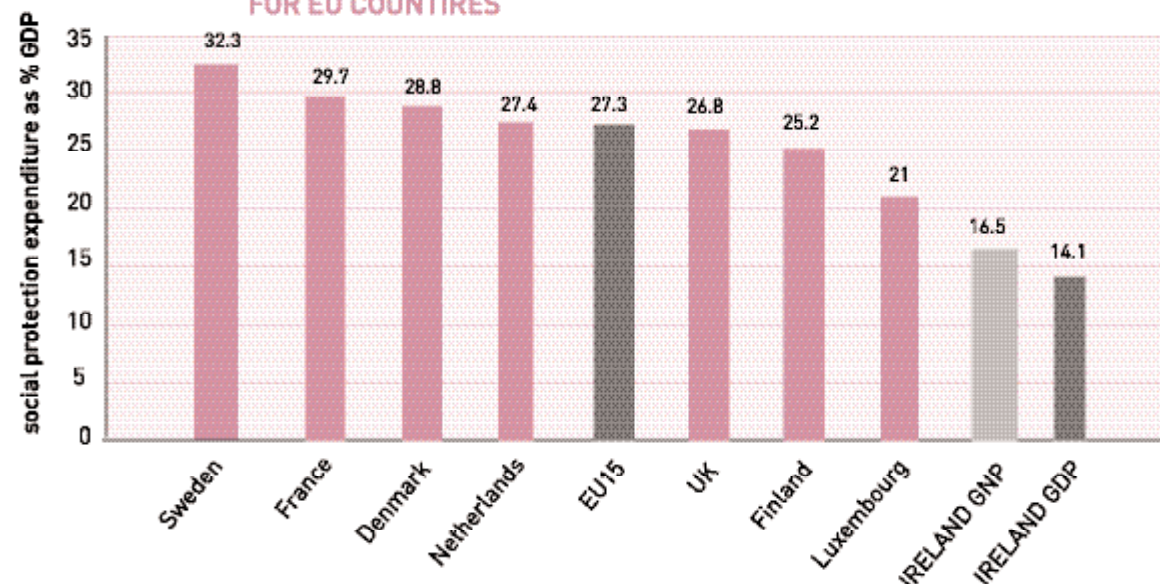
How can Ireland ensure that its economic development reduces poverty and leads to a successful society?

FIGURE 6: INCOME INEQUALITY MEASURED BY THE GINI CO-EFFICIENT, 2001



Source: European Commission (2004) *Joint Inclusion Report: Statistical Annex*. Brussels.

FIGURE 7: NATIONAL SOCIAL PROTECTION EXPENDITURE AS A % OF GDP, FOR EU COUNTRIES



Source: European Commission (2004) *The Social Situation in the European Union – in Brief*. Brussels: European Union



poor population (19% using both the consistent poverty and "at risk of poverty" measures).

As well as good quality jobs, some people need to be supported to access these jobs. This includes people with disabilities, people with low or no qualifications, women, older workers, Travellers and other ethnic minorities, including immigrants. This requires labour market approaches which are tailored to the individual needs of the recipient. The high supports process is an example of one such approach being pursued in Ireland <sup>xiv</sup>. Particular barriers may need to be overcome, for example, through the provision of child care, life-long learning opportunities and public transport. And work must be made to pay, by ensuring that the tax and welfare systems facilitate progression into work on a part-time or full-time basis.

There will always be people in society who for various reasons and at various stages in their life cycles are not in a position to work. This includes the young and the very old, those who are sick, those who have severe and restricting disabilities or those in vulnerable situations and communities. These people have a high risk of

poverty. Those countries that have good social protection systems have relatively low levels of poverty. They support those who are not in a position to engage in full-time paid work but who can make a contribution to society. In particular, countries which have strong social insurance systems tend to have lower levels of poverty.

Countries with low levels of poverty also tend to have a greater proportion of their social spending on services. Good service provision through education, health, care (including childcare), housing, community provision and public transport can lead to a successful society and also to a more productive economy. In countries with low levels of poverty and good service provision, services are widely available and are generally paid for through the tax system. Resources are prioritised for "preventative" measures such as early education, primary health care and community supports. This promotes social solidarity and a willingness to contribute towards the common good. Clearly, the challenge is how to pay for such provision, the rates of tax required and the willingness of the public to contribute in this way towards public service provision.

If a country wishes to reduce poverty sustainably, there is no alternative to trying to make the distribution of earnings more equal. That means getting those currently excluded from employment into work (Pearson, 2003) <sup>xv</sup>.

As we look forward there are new and emerging causes of poverty and social exclusion in Ireland which will need to be addressed. Following the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement Ireland is now a country emerging from conflict, particularly in the Border region. Reconstruction is an important part of rebuilding regions emerging from conflict. Evidence from other conflict situations suggests that social inclusion, equality and rights measures are important, as well as economic and infrastructural development, in reconstructing a society affected by conflict <sup>xvi</sup>. In the context of the island of Ireland the challenge remains of achieving a more efficient use of public resources by better co-ordination, as appropriate, in the Border region.

As part of the enlarged Europe and the global economy migration is becoming a significant issue. Many migrants and ethnic minorities face a high risk of poverty and social exclusion. They can face difficulties in relation to discrimination, rights and supports which can lead to poverty and social exclusion. Yet migrants and ethnic minorities make a valuable contribution to our society in terms of diversity and culture as well as their important contribution to the economy. As recognised by the European Union, a challenge for all European countries, including Ireland, is to ensure that adequate social policies are in place to support migrants and ethnic minorities to prevent their exclusion.

Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) provide new opportunities to address traditional problems of disadvantage and exclusion in society. However, there is a challenge to ensure access to, and participation in, ICTs by those most at risk of greater exclusion through the "digital divide". This will require the development of a more inclusive Information Society by the targeting of groups most at risk including older people, people working in the home, workers in manual occupations and people who are unemployed.

### Mechanisms for Better Society

As a result of the Lisbon Strategy European Member States are required to have in place National Employment Action Plans and National Action Plans against Poverty and Social Exclusion. Ireland is often praised in Europe for the quality of our plans. However, their implementation in a consistent and co-ordinated way is always a challenge.

To ensure that plans to address poverty and social exclusion, including the National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion, are implemented a number of things need to be in place:

- i. **Political will and leadership to drive forward the implementation of the Plans.** Government has a key role and responsibility for social provision and the implementation of anti-poverty strategies.

- ii. **Adequate resources for their implementation.** These resources need to be raised in the first place through economic growth and taxes. Priorities need to be set and resources allocated to deliver on these priorities.
- iii. **Appropriate administrative delivery.** Under its Strategic Management Initiative Ireland is striving to deliver "joined up government". This is still a challenge in relation to budget planning and management, and levels of decision-making. Regional and local government also have important roles to play in the delivery of local anti-poverty strategies.
- iv. **Tools to ensure that social inclusion is at the centre of government, or "mainstreamed" effectively.** These tools include institutional structures, poverty proofing, and dedicated budgets to ensure that social inclusion needs are met.
- v. **Participation and partnership.** Partnership with people experiencing poverty and their representatives to ensure that those affected by policies are involved in their design has been shown to make policies more effective.
- vi. **Arrangements for monitoring and evaluating progress.** In implementing any plan or policy it

is important to know whether it is achieving the desired outcomes and whether or not there are any unintended consequences. Thus, it is important to have monitoring and evaluation systems in place so that we know what is happening and can adjust policies accordingly i.e. "evidence-based" policy making and implementation. Good information systems and research are required to ensure that we can monitor these impacts.

Much progress has already been made on all these fronts but ongoing effort will be required.

### Conclusion

Ireland has developed a successful economy, but we still have comparatively high levels of poverty and social exclusion. A key challenge is how we can develop "pro-poor growth strategies" to work towards the elimination of poverty and social exclusion and a fair and just society. The evidence from an assessment of European experience shows that substantial poverty reduction can be achieved and maintained in conjunction with economic growth.

An analysis of the evidence suggests that economic, employment and social policies need to be mutually reinforcing. While these policies need to be set within the Irish political,

demographic, economic and social context the key elements would seem to be:

- active labour market policies to assist people into good quality work;
- strong social protection systems, with an emphasis on social insurance schemes; and
- good and accessible service provision for all in areas such as education, health, care (including child care), housing, community and public transport. These services contribute towards building a successful society and support the economy.

There are challenges ahead for Ireland and for other European countries. These challenges include addressing the needs of migrants and ethnic minorities, an increasing population of

older people, the particular needs of people in vulnerable situations, tackling the legacy of past conflicts and inclusion in ICT developments.

The Government has a key role to play in promoting and driving this agenda through political leadership, resources, and efficient administrative delivery.

We have evidence from a number of countries that strong social policies can support and complement economic growth and that poverty is not inevitable. In Ireland we have the vision, we have the plans and we have the resources. We are playing a key role in the European community. We have already made much progress but the challenge remains to make a decisive impact on poverty in Ireland and to have a successful society as well as a successful economy.

Countries with low levels of poverty also tend to have a greater proportion of their social spending on services. Good service provision through education, health, care (including childcare), housing, community provision and public transport can lead to a successful society and also to a more productive economy.

## ENDNOTES

- i Consistent poverty is where people are living on a low income and experiencing deprivation.
- ii While there is recognition internationally that deprivation is an important component of poverty measurement there is no single agreed European or international measure of deprivation or consistent poverty by which to make European or international comparisons.
- iii The Human Poverty Index for Selected OECD countries measures deprivation and social exclusion. It has four dimensions: (i) a long and healthy life – probability at birth of not surviving to age 60; (ii) knowledge – adults lacking functional literacy skills; (iii) a decent standard of living – population below income poverty line (50% of median adjusted household disposable income); (iv) social exclusion – rate of long-term unemployment (lasting 12 months or more).
- iv "The proportion of individuals living in households where equivalised income is below the threshold of 60% of the national equivalised median income is taken as an indicator of relative poverty. Given the conventional nature of the retained threshold, and the fact that having an income below this threshold is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition of being in a state of poverty, this indicator is referred to as a measure of poverty risk." European Commission (2004) *Joint Report on Social Inclusion*. Brussels: European Commission, page 13.
- v Households with children below the 60% median income line, Eurostat (2004) *Living Conditions in Europe. Statistical Pocketbook (Data 1998-2002)*. European Commission: Brussels.
- vi The Gini co-efficient is a summary measure of the cumulative share of equivalised income accounted for by the cumulative percentages of the number of individuals. Its value ranges from 0% (complete equality) to 100% (complete inequality).
- vii National social protection expenditure covers old age/survivors, sickness/health care, disability, family/children, unemployment, housing and social exclusion.
- viii There are several alternative definitions of overall economic activity, of which GDP and GNP are the most commonly encountered. GDP (Gross Domestic Product) measures the volume of output in the economy. In an open economy some of the value of the output will belong to companies producing in Ireland but based abroad. Thus the portion of the value of the output which flows abroad has to be deducted. Likewise, domestic firms may be entitled to a value of output produced elsewhere. This sum is called net factor flows, so that output (GDP) plus or minus Net Factor Flows equals GNP (Gross National Product). It is argued that since this concept is closer to a notion of income accruing to the domestic economy GNP is a better measure of economic activity for Ireland. For example, in 2002 Ireland's GDP reached 125% of GNP: while the range 98% to 102% covers other EU countries. See Lawlor, J. & McCarthy C. (2003) "Browsing Onwards: Irish Public Spending in Perspective" in *Irish Banking Review*, Autumn 2003, pp 2-16.
- ix See Lawlor, J. & McCarthy C. (2003) "Browsing Onwards: Irish Public Spending in Perspective" in *Irish Banking Review*, Autumn 2003, pp 2-16.
- x Timonen, V. (2003) *Irish Social Expenditure in a Comparative International Context*. Dublin: Institute of Public Administration in association with the Combat Poverty Agency.
- xi Stiglitz, J.E. 2002 Special Contribution: Poverty, globalisation and growth: perspectives on some of the statistical links, page 80 in UNDP Human Development Report 2003 *Millennium Development Goals: A compact among nations to end human poverty*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- xii See European Commission *Joint Inclusion Reports*, 2002 and 2004.
- xiii From the 2001 Living In Ireland Survey. This is the most recent data available – see Whelan, C.T., Layte, R., Maitre, B., Gannon, B., Nolan, B., Watson, D. & Williams, J. (2003) *Monitoring Poverty Trends in Ireland: Results from the 2001 Living in Ireland Survey*. Dublin: Economic and Social Research Institute.
- xiv The High Supports Process was launched in January 2003 to target and provide an enhanced level of support to those experiencing particular employability barriers including those currently on Jobs Initiative (JI) and Community Employment (CE). The High Supports Process is being implemented in ten pilot areas. Each pilot area is putting in place a multi agency team made up of relevant players already providing services to the proposed client.
- xv Pearson, M. (2003) Social Expenditure and Poverty in Ireland: A Comparative Perspective. *Action on Poverty Today*, Autumn 2003 No. 3.
- xvi Hillyard, P., Rolston, B., & Tomlinson, M. with Ward, M. (2004, forthcoming) *Poverty and Conflict in Ireland: An International Perspective*. Dublin: Institute of Public Administration in association with the Combat Poverty Agency.

## Part Two

# Work of the Combat Poverty Agency

# Work of the Combat Poverty Agency

This section of the Report documents actions undertaken in 2003, under the objectives of the Combat Poverty Agency Strategic Plan 2002-04. 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 second year in a three year work programme. Good progress has been made under most of the objectives. Three significant accomplishments in 2003 were:

- Leading a consultation on Ireland's National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion and publication of a report identifying the key issues raised in the consultation.
- Contributing to the debate on the importance of social expenditure in combating poverty based on the publication of a study on comparative social expenditure.
- The publication of a report on supporting peace and reconciliation after 2006, and contributing to the debate on future peace funding and peace building.

A significant change in Combat Poverty's objectives was the Government decision to transfer the National Anti-Poverty Networks Programme and the Working Against Poverty Grants Scheme to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

## 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

### Poverty research and data collection

Gathering and updating data on poverty is a critical part of Combat Poverty's work. Through a proactive research programme, Combat Poverty identifies gaps in data, investigates emerging social and economic issues relevant to poverty and gathers information to evaluate and enhance the effectiveness of public policy.

Combat Poverty contributed to the development of the EU Statistical Instrument on Income and Living Conditions (SILC), which was implemented in Ireland by the Central Statistics Office. It continued to utilise the Living in Ireland Survey, a national household survey on household income

carried out by the Economic and Social Research Institute with the support of the Department of Social and Family Affairs. A number of poverty analyses, policy recommendations and publications are based on these data sources. To secure access for Irish researchers to EU statistics on income, Combat Poverty contributed to the fee for the use of the Luxembourg Income Survey database.

Two studies published by Combat Poverty in 2002, *The Potential of Secondary Data Sources as a Resource for Information on Poverty and Indicators of Poverty Reduction*, were widely distributed in early 2003 and elicited much interest. A Combat Poverty-funded study *Housing, Poverty and Wealth* was completed in 2003 and was published in 2004.

A study entitled *Sharing Household Resources*, commissioned from researchers in the ESRI and UCD, was completed and was recently published in 2004.



## New causes of poverty and policy implications

As part of preparations for the Irish National Action Plan on poverty and social exclusion, NAPS/incl, the Department of Social and Family Affairs requested Combat Poverty to investigate the issue of poverty and racism. Combat Poverty and the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism (NCCRI) collaborated on the study, which was carried out by the Institute for the Study of Social Change, UCD. The report, completed in 2003, explored policy responses to meet the needs of minority ethnic groups in the areas of welfare, housing and education, within the National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS). It also addressed the issue of integration and the rights of minority groups.

A research study on the links between poverty and conflict was commissioned in 2003, to inform Combat Poverty's work on the EU Peace Programme and to identify the wider policy issues arising.

## Investigating people's experience of poverty

The research report *Against All Odds: a study of the experience of low-income families with children*, was widely promoted among policy-makers and interested parties including the National Children's Office, the Joint

Oireachtas Committee on Family and Social Affairs, the Department of Finance, the Department of Health and Children and a number of conferences for health professionals.

## Academic contribution to poverty research

Combat Poverty actively promotes and encourages third-level research into poverty and policy issues, through a number of funding and support mechanisms. Combat Poverty funds a PhD Fellowship scheme and also co-funds, through the Policy Studies Institute, Trinity College Dublin, a Visiting Fellowship for Poverty and Policy Research. It operates a postgraduate research placement programme and funds research studies under a Poverty Research Initiative.

In 2003, a fellowship was awarded to Delma Byrne to undertake a study entitled *Tackling Unemployment and Youth Marginalisation: How Do Work Experiences in Second-Level Education Shape Youth Transactions in a Comparative Aspect?*

A study by Jonathan Healy, recipient of a Combat Poverty Visiting Research Fellow at the Policy Institute, Trinity College, entitled *Fuel Poverty and Policy: a national and cross-country analysis*, was completed in 2003 and was launched in 2004.

In 2003, research placements were awarded to Vera Brophy and Naomi Feely under the postgraduate research placements programme.

Four studies funded under the 2001 Poverty Research Initiative were completed in 2003 and their findings presented at the Combat Poverty research seminar series. Combat Poverty funded a follow-up study on the cost of living under the Poverty Research Initiative, by Dr Eoghan Garvey and Dr Eithne Murphy of NUI Galway.

The Combat Poverty research seminars series is a forum on poverty research. Forty people on average attended each seminar in 2003. Topics examined included: social capital and disadvantaged communities; local development issues; poverty proofing; and the 2001 Living in Ireland Survey findings.

Combat Poverty continued to participate in the National Disability Authority research committee.

## Understanding child poverty and policy solutions

Throughout 2003, Combat Poverty continued its efforts to increase awareness of child poverty and identify the policy measures that would most effectively address it. There was ongoing liaison with the National Children's Office, in particular, to

discuss the implications for child-related policy of the study *Against All Odds*, which had highlighted issues of income adequacy for children and the costs of child rearing.

A study was commissioned on developing a minimum income standard for children. The study will examine methodologies for estimating the cost of child rearing, which might be adopted in Ireland to arrive at a minimum income standard for children. The study will be reported on in 2004.

As part of Combat Poverty's awareness work on child poverty a consultation document was prepared on developing an awareness initiative with health professionals on child poverty and inequalities in children's well-being. A consultation process with national health and children's bodies indicated that it would be more opportune to consider Combat Poverty participation in a national initiative to support the implementation of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS) by health boards.

Consequently, Combat Poverty joined the Department of Health and Children, the Institute of Public Health, the Health Boards Executive, the Office for Social Inclusion, the Mid-Western Health Board and the South Western Area Health Board in a collaborative project as the NAPS Health Services Project Planning Team.

In 2003 Combat Poverty commissioned an information brochure on the National Anti-Poverty Strategy and Health. It also grant-aided the Institute of Public Health towards the costs of publishing this information brochure and the commissioning of three base-line studies on the strategic implementation of NAPS by health boards; the scoping of anti-poverty activity in health boards in the context of NAPS targets; and a survey of awareness of anti-poverty activity amongst health board staff. The tender process for these studies was finalised by the end of 2003.

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

During 2003, Combat Poverty contributed to the preparatory work for a national longitudinal study of children's well-being, which is led by the Department of Social and Family Affairs and the Department of Health and Children. The study will be commissioned in 2004.

### Advising on anti-poverty policy

As part of its ongoing brief to consult and advise on policy and strategic priorities in relation to poverty and social exclusion, Combat Poverty maintained regular contact with the Minister for Social and Family Affairs and Departmental officials. In October the Minister, Mary Coughlan TD,

attended a meeting of the Combat Poverty Board and indicated an enhanced advisory role for Combat Poverty, in collaboration with the newly formed Office for Social Inclusion (OSI), formerly the NAPS Unit of the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

Combat Poverty continued to analyse and make policy submissions on many aspects of public policy, most notably the Budget and the national partnership agreement. The most significant policy submissions made in 2003 were as follows:

- Submission to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs on policy priorities for Budget 2004, which made the case for the continuation of redistributive budgetary measures;
- Submission *Working Towards a Poverty Free Society* to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs, with proposals for Ireland's National Action Plan Against Poverty and Social Exclusion (NAPS/incl);
- Submission *Securing Progress: Delivering Inclusion*, on the social partnership agreement;
- Submission to the Department of Finance on the implications of a carbon tax, which outlined how the revenue from such a tax could be used to tackle fuel poverty;
- Submission to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on the Residential Tenancies Bill 2003;

- Submission to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs on local and community development structures;
- Submission to the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment on developing senior cycle education;
- Submission to the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment on developing senior cycle education – consultation with the community and voluntary sector;
- Submission to the Human Rights Commission on a Joint Committee Consultation Document on an all-Ireland Charter of Rights;
- Submission to the European Movement on an EU Charter of Fundamental Rights;
- Submission to the Broadcasting Commission on a code for advertising aimed at children;
- Submission to the National Advisory Committee of the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS) on waste collection charges;
- Submission to the Family Support Agency on its Strategic Plan;
- Submission, on behalf of the Cross-Border Consortium, to a consultation process on improving relations in Northern Ireland;
- Submission to the Primary Care Steering Group on
  - (a) Health Services Reform
  - (b) Framework Document for Primary Care Team Service Providers.

Combat Poverty also presented a submission on Budget 2003 priorities to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Family and Social Affairs, outlining priorities for poverty policy and new poverty data.

Combat Poverty continued to provide annual briefings to political parties on poverty and policy issues. Policy briefings took place with the Labour Party, Sinn Féin, the Green Party and the Ulster Unionist Party.

Combat Poverty also responded to requests for information from external groups. As part of this, the Director made a wide-ranging presentation to Australian policy-makers and non-government organisations on the Irish National Anti-Poverty Strategy. Briefings were held with an advisor to the French Minister for Social Affairs on the role and work of Combat Poverty, and with a representative of the Slovakian Ministry of Welfare on the development of anti-poverty strategies.

To prepare for the tenth anniversary of the UN International Year of the Family, Combat Poverty participated in an inter-departmental planning process convened by the Department of Social and Family Affairs. As part of the discussions, it briefed the committee on family policy issues to be addressed in 2004 under the Strategic Plan.

## Poverty and social partnership

Combat Poverty continued to provide a poverty perspective to discussions on national partnership agreements and to identify key poverty issues to be addressed in future social partnerships. Its policy submission *Securing Progress, Delivery Inclusion* proposed a commitment to achieving the National Anti-Poverty Strategy targets, specifically the elimination of consistent poverty and a reduction in relative income poverty. Consultations were held with the Community and Voluntary Pillar of the social partners and the National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) to inform policy development of this submission. The submission was promoted widely in the media and among policy and anti-poverty bodies.

## Contributing to government advisory bodies and task forces

Throughout 2003 Combat Poverty continued to participate in a range of government advisory bodies and task forces, monitoring the implementation of programmes and providing a poverty input to policy discussions and planning. The most notable of these concerned the National Anti-Poverty Strategy and the National Development Plan. The bodies with which it worked in 2003 included the following:

- The Social Inclusion Consultative Committee of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy, convened by Department of Social and Family Affairs
- The Technical Advisory Group of the NAPS Data and Research Strategy, convened by the Department of Social and Family Affairs

- The Inter-Departmental Committee for the International UN Year of the Family in 2004, convened by the Department of Social and Family Affairs
- The National Advisory Committee of the Money Advice and Budgeting Service of the Department of Social and Family Affairs
- Under the National Development Plan, the Monitoring Committees of the Operational Programmes of the Border, Midland and Western region and the Southern and Eastern region
- The Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion Co-ordination Committee of the National Development Plan, convened by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
- The Equality Proofing Group, chaired by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
- The Monitoring Committee of URBAN<sup>1</sup>, convened by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
- The Monitoring Committee of the Peace Programme convened by the Special EU Programme Body
- The Primary Care Steering Group of the Department of Health and Children
- The Community Development Support Programme Advisory Committee under the aegis of the Department of Community, Rural, Gaeltacht Affairs.
- The NAPS Health Working Group of the Department of Health and Children
- The Education Equality Initiative Working Group of the Department of Education and Science.

## Promoting understanding of poverty

Fostering understanding of poverty through public education is one of the four main strands of Combat Poverty's work. Publications, conferences and seminars, education programmes, electronic information services, media promotion, library service, policy liaison and work with schools target key audiences, including government departments, elected representatives, social partners, statutory and voluntary bodies and the general public.

Key actions in 2003 were as follows:

- A new identity was implemented for Combat Poverty publications, incorporating its corporate identity and logo. Photography and illustrative services were also tendered and contracted.
- Combat Poverty's website was re-designed and re-launched.
- A public communications strategy was developed.
- A media relations strategy for 2003 was agreed with Combat Poverty's public relations consultants, the Bill O'Herlihy Communications Group.

## Information on poverty

Combat Poverty's journal was re-launched in March 2003 under the new title *Action on Poverty Today*.

Several media events took place in 2003, to promote key policy submissions (see above). These included:



- Annual Report 2002
- Submission on the 2003 Budget (Pre-Budget Submission).

The 2003 Combat Poverty Calendar featured the personal comments of people living in poverty, taken from the previous year's study *Against All Odds*.

Four introductory and easy-to-read fact sheets were published and are available on [www.combatpoverty.ie](http://www.combatpoverty.ie). They are entitled *What is Poverty? Measuring Poverty, Child Poverty in Ireland and Lone Parent Families and Poverty*.

Three further easy-to-read briefings, drawn from the previous year's study *Against All Odds* were published in December. They are called: *Growing Up in Poverty; Living in Deprived Communities, and Living with Poverty and Poor Health*. Three accompanying posters were also produced, and all material was widely disseminated.

A policy discussion paper, *Poverty is Bad for Your Health*, was also commissioned. The paper is part of an ongoing policy discussion series and aims to raise the debate on the links between poverty and health outcomes, promote support for progressive public health and make the case for economic and social policy in favour of greater public health.

In collaboration with community groups, Combat Poverty promoted the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17

October with a cultural evening in the Tallaght Arts Centre.

### Post-primary education and curricular development

Combat Poverty continued its ongoing collaboration with the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee Curriculum Development Unit (CDVEC CDU) in the project *Poverty, the Classroom and the Curriculum*, in second-level schools. Eight second-level schools and eleven anti-poverty community development groups are involved in school-community partnerships in poverty awareness education. Key developments in 2003 included the following:

- Publication of first edition of *School-Community Partnership News*;
- Student workshop in May 2003 when 75 students and six teachers from four schools attended a day-long exchange on understanding poverty and promoting their work on poverty to each other;
- Teacher-training on social analysis and understanding poverty;
- Completion of second of a series of three formative evaluation reports on the project. In this report students provided feedback on the project. Eighty per cent believed they had learned new information about poverty and were 'getting a real life insight into poverty from people who actually work with poverty'.

An information website on equality, poverty and children's rights, [www.cspe.ie](http://www.cspe.ie), for students and teachers of Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE), was launched and promoted. This was a collaborative exercise by Combat Poverty, Children's Rights Alliance, the Equality Authority and the Society of St Vincent de Paul, funded by the EU Integra programme.

Combat Poverty also commissioned and received a report on the feasibility of undertaking poverty awareness education at primary level.

The Combat Poverty Award for the Young Social Innovator of the Year was launched in 2003, as part of ongoing efforts to encourage awareness of poverty and social issues among second-level pupils. The award is made to Transition Year students for a project related to poverty and exclusion. The award was won by St Louis High School, Rathmines, Dublin, for their project on facilities for the elderly in their community. In July, Combat Poverty facilitated a presentation by the winning project group to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social and Family Affairs.

Throughout 2003 Combat Poverty continued to participate in a range of government advisory bodies and task forces, monitoring the implementation of programmes and providing a poverty input to policy discussions and planning. The most notable of these concerned the National Anti-Poverty Strategy and the National Development Plan.



## 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 (NAPS)

In January 2003 the inaugural meeting of the Social Inclusion Forum was held, led by the National Economic and Social Forum (NESF). The Forum is one of the consultative mechanisms of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy. Combat Poverty worked jointly with the NESF and the Department of Social and Family Affairs to develop the Forum and also participated in the event.

Combat Poverty support to the implementation of the NAPS includes work on poverty proofing, rolling out NAPS to local authorities and health services, learning lessons from other countries on mainstreaming anti-poverty policy, and seeking to inform Ireland's National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion as required of all EU member states. These initiatives are described in detail throughout this Annual Report.

### Data and research strategy

Combat Poverty participated in a technical advisory group convened by the Office for Social Inclusion to develop a data and research strategy for the NAPS. To inform the work of the group, Combat Poverty compiled and presented an audit of all its funded research on poverty.

A consultative seminar on poverty indicators was organised jointly by Combat Poverty and the Office for Social Inclusion in June and was attended by 80 people. The report of the seminar was used to inform the Irish National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion.

### Irish National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion (NAPs/incl)

A key element of the work in 2003 was the preparation of Ireland's National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion for the period 2003-2005. Each EU member state was required by the European Commission to undertake this. Ireland's Plan was drawn up by the Office for Social Inclusion. At its request, Combat Poverty organised a national consultation with the Office to inform the Plan. This incorporated four regional seminars during April: in Bundoran, Limerick, Kilkenny and Balbriggan. Two national seminars, on

the themes of Migrants and Ethnic Minorities, and Standards in Public Services, were held in Dublin in May.

The key issues raised in the consultation process were published in association with the publication of Ireland's National Action Plan in summer 2003.

Parallel with this activity, Combat Poverty prepared and published its own submission on Ireland's National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion for 2003-2005. Called *Working for a Poverty Free Ireland*, this was submitted to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs. Combat Poverty also presented this submission to the Oireachtas Committee for Family and Social Affairs in September.

Combat Poverty participated in the Irish delegation to the EU Commission to discuss the Irish National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion which was led by the Office for Social Inclusion. The response of the EU Commission to the Plan was positive.

### European Union and models of best practice

In 2002, Combat Poverty secured EU funding for two transnational exchange projects under the Programme to Combat Social Exclusion (SEP), both of which are carried out with partner countries. Work on these nine-month projects continued throughout 2003.

Project One, 'Mainstreaming Social Inclusion', explores different understandings and practices for the concept 'mainstreaming social inclusion' in different jurisdictions. The project partners are from France, Portugal and Northern Ireland, as well as the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) and, in Ireland, the Department of Social and Family Affairs and the National Economic and Social Forum. A transnational seminar to review the findings of the project was held in Dublin in June 2003. The final report on phase one of the project was published in 2004.

Following the success of the project, an application to continue it for a further two years under Phase Two of the EU Social Exclusion Programme, bringing in additional partners from Norway and the Czech Republic, was successful.

Project Two, 'Local Authorities and Social Inclusion', aims at strengthening anti-poverty practice in local government. The partner countries are Sweden and the UK. Combat Poverty led the project on behalf of the Irish Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network. Several seminars were held during the course of the year. An application to the EU Commission to continue the project to a second phase was successful. The partnership was extended to include Spain and Lithuania. Combat Poverty continues to participate in this phase, which is being led by the UK Local Government Network, through Warwick University Local Government Centre.

PACE AVENIR, a one-year transnational policy exchange on rural poverty and social exclusion, concluded in January 2003 with a final seminar in Dresden, Germany. The Irish project team included Irish Rural Link, Area Development Management and Wicklow County Council. A guide to strategies for tackling rural poverty was produced as part of the exchange and is available from Combat Poverty.

### Poverty proofing

Poverty proofing is a mechanism for assessing the poverty impact of national and local policies and programmes and for ensuring that such measures do not adversely affect the circumstances of people living in poverty. It is a critical tool for the successful implementation of the NAPS.

A study entitled *Poverty and Inequality, Applying an Equality Dimension to Poverty Proofing*, carried out with the Equality Authority, was finalised and published in 2003. It was extensively promoted through the media and dissemination networks.

### Supporting local anti-poverty strategies

Combat Poverty continued to work to extend the NAPS to local and regional level. There are a number of strands to this activity. These include:

- supporting the development of local anti-poverty strategies
- supporting social inclusion units
- developing the Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network
- supporting community participation in local government.

Combat Poverty worked closely with its partners, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office for Social Inclusion, on these programmes. Combat Poverty also further developed links with a range of stakeholders, including the Institute of Public Administration, the General Council of County Councils and the Local Government Management Services Board.

### Local anti-poverty strategies

In 2003, Combat Poverty supported three local authorities to develop a local anti-poverty strategy. The three local authorities were Donegal, Westmeath and Cork City.

### Social Inclusion Units

Combat Poverty was asked to support Social Inclusion Units in local authorities when they were established in 2001. In 2003, it continued to work closely with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and with Directors of Community and Enterprise, to provide support and training to unit staff, and

to facilitate them in identifying their priorities.

Combat Poverty also commissioned and completed a baseline study entitled *Review of Pilot Local Authorities Social Inclusion Units Initiative*.

### Anti-poverty Learning Network

The Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network (Learning Network) was established by Combat Poverty to provide a framework within which local authorities could develop their anti-poverty work and extend their own expertise and knowledge of policy and practice. Providing supports, information and training to this Network is a critical part of Combat Poverty's strategy for extending anti-poverty action to local level.

Combat Poverty carries out this work in collaboration with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office for Social Inclusion. A number of consultants were engaged to provide specific supports in a number of key areas such as communications, training and community development.

The Local Government Advisory Committee and Steering Committee met several times in 2003. These bodies were set up by Combat Poverty with representation from a range of bodies including government departments, state agencies and community organisations to guide the

implementation of the programme of work with local authorities.

The Learning Network met in March, June, October and November. These meetings included a presentation on the NAPS/incl, and discussions on communication needs, customer care, corporate planning and waste collection charges.

Fitzpatrick & Associates consultants, who have been contracted to conduct an evaluation of the Learning Network, produced two study papers, dealing with local authorities' library service and social exclusion, and guidelines for a waiver system on waste charges.

Several editions of *Learning Brief*, the network newsletter, and *Network Exchange*, the electronic newsletter, were produced. A review of *Learning Brief* was later carried out. An updated information leaflet on the NAPS, *National to Local: the NAPS and Local Government*, was published and distributed along with promotional material on NAPs/incl. An on-line library resource for local authorities is currently being developed.

### Community and voluntary groups in local government

In 2003, Combat Poverty promoted the third round of the Anti-Poverty Initiatives Grants scheme. The aim of the scheme is to encourage the development of anti-poverty work by local authorities, working in

partnership with local or national community and voluntary groups active in the local authority area. The focus of the 2003 scheme was on applications that supported the development of elements of local anti-poverty strategies. Ten groups were awarded funding, to a total of €126,000 (see Appendix 2 for listing of grants awarded).

### Economic and social rights

Combat Poverty fosters public debate on the effectiveness of a rights-based approach to anti-poverty work and to strengthening economic, social and cultural rights within the NAPS.

During 2003, on a north-south basis, it collaborated with a number of human rights groups in exploring the application of a rights-based approach to local anti-poverty activity. Its partner

organisations included the Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL), the Belfast-based Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ), the Community Foundation Northern Ireland (CFNI) and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU).

A key initiative in 2003 was the establishment of the *Participation and the Practice of Rights* project with community-based groups from north Belfast and north Dublin. This project is working to support local people in disadvantaged areas to use economic, social and cultural rights as tools to create change in their communities in favour of people experiencing poverty, disadvantage and inequality.

Combat Poverty also undertook initial discussions with the newly formed Human Rights Commission to discuss common priorities.

## 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

A key role of Combat Poverty is to analyse public policy and resource allocation and advise on how they may be made more effective in addressing poverty, social exclusion and inequality. Education and health are two strategic sectors that have significant influence on the quality of life and living standards of people living in poverty. In this context, developing effective ways of tackling educational disadvantage and eliminating health inequalities was a continued focus of Combat Poverty during 2003.

### Best practice in tackling education disadvantage

Combat Poverty continued its support for ongoing initiatives to tackle educational disadvantage. In 2003 Combat Poverty continued to provide support to the Educational Disadvantage Network and to the provision of research and resource materials, building on earlier work. The Network links teacher training colleges to foster awareness of educational disadvantage.

*A Guide to Developing Networks*, with a particular focus on networks to tackle educational disadvantage, was extensively disseminated during 2003.

In addition, *Teaching in an Area of Socio-Economic Disadvantage: A Case Study of an Elective Module for Third Year Student Teachers* was published. This was based on earlier work carried out by Killinarden Educational Network, Tallaght, under the Combat Poverty Agency Demonstration Programme on Educational Disadvantage 1996-2000.

### Addressing health inequality

Combat Poverty recognises that socio-economic factors, including poverty, are key in determining health status. Combat Poverty supports community development approaches to addressing poverty and health inequalities.

The programme *Building Healthy Communities* was the main instrument for Combat Poverty's work on health disadvantage. The programme operates through four strands:

- innovation
- networking
- research and evaluation
- policy.

An Advisory Group for the programme was set up early in 2003 and assisted in defining priorities. Meetings of the Advisory Group continued during the year.



### **Innovation**

A funding scheme was initiated to support community development approaches to health inequalities and the participation of communities in health policy and practice. Ninety-three applications were received and assessed by an Assessment Panel. €150,140 was allocated to 11 projects (see Appendix 2 for grant listing). Funding of €30,000 was provided by the Department of Health and Children for two additional projects relevant to the Primary Care Strategy. As part of the funding process, a funding brochure was prepared and distributed and information meetings were held in Dublin and Monaghan.

Combat Poverty met with all funded groups during the year. It also facilitated networking among funded groups, to exchange information and identify key themes emerging from their work. The first networking meeting took place in early October in Portlaoise. A promotional leaflet, containing a summary of funded work and contact details for funded groups, was published as the Programme gained momentum.

Preparations for an evaluation of the *Building Healthy Communities* programme began in autumn.

During 2003, Combat Poverty also supported the development of a training resource pack on health issues being developed by the Mid-Western

Health Board in partnership with the Community Development Health Network Northern Ireland and the Community Action Network.

A survey of health structures was commissioned in February and completed during the year. Called *Finding Your Way Around the Health Services*, it was published in 2004. A report on community participation in primary care in England and Northern Ireland was also commissioned.

### **Networking**

In addition to networking amongst funded groups of the *Building Healthy Communities* programme, Combat Poverty and the Department of Health and Children jointly hosted a well-attended conference in Dublin entitled *Building Health Communities: putting poverty and social inclusion at the centre of health policy and practice*. A conference report was later produced and distributed.

### **Research and evaluation**

Combat Poverty commissioned a literature and policy review of the links between poverty, community development and health from National University of Ireland Galway. A draft was submitted in 2003.

### **Policy**

Combat Poverty had regular liaison with the Department of Health and Children in the context of the *Building Healthy Communities* programme. It continued its membership of the Primary Care Steering Group, convened by the Department of Health and Children. It also attended sub-groups on community involvement and quality. The health reform process was an important focus of participation in the Steering Group.

Combat Poverty also participated in the re-convened NAPS Health Working Group, convened by the Department of Health and Children.

### **Social spending and income distribution**

The proportion of national income devoted to the provision of basic services such as housing, health and education has a significant impact on the level of poverty and inequality in society.

The report of a research study to analyse Irish social expenditure in an international context was published by Combat Poverty in 2003 and launched at a policy seminar in September. The report, *Irish Social Expenditure in a Comparative International Context*, revealed a relatively low level of social expenditure in Ireland compared to international norms, and highlighted the need for additional social

expenditure to address income inequalities and meet basic needs.

Briefings and discussions subsequently took place with a number of interested parties, including the Department of Finance. The report generated extensive media coverage.

### **Implementing Peace II Programme**

The Combat Poverty Agency (CPA), with its partner organisation, Area Development Management Ltd (ADM) from an ADM/CPA office in Monaghan, jointly administers ten measures of Peace II in the southern border region, dedicated to Economic Renewal and Social Integration, Inclusion and Reconciliation. In addition, it manages two cross-border measures through a cross border consortium in collaboration with Community Foundation Northern Ireland, Co-operation Ireland and ADM. These measures are targeted at cross-border Social Inclusion and Reconciliation and cross-border Education, Training and Human Resources.

The management of these measures, in particular the disbursement of funds, (a total allocation of €98,000,000 over three years) (see Appendix 3 for grants listing) and monitoring and evaluation of the funded projects continued during 2003.

Combat Poverty staff participated in a joint policy forum with ADM/CPA in June and in shared training sessions. Policy discussions throughout 2003 centred on two strategic questions:

- how to sustain peace and reconciliation activity and embed it in civic society after the Peace II programme runs its course in 2006
- how to link the lessons gained through the workings of the Peace Programmes with Combat Poverty's policy development activity.

In relation to the long-term future of peace and reconciliation activity the Cross-Border Consortium, in conjunction with the Special European Union Programmes Body, engaged consultants to draft a discussion paper on *Building Peace and Reconciliation Post 2006* when the current round of funding runs out. This report was submitted as a contribution to the Price Waterhouse Coopers mid-term review of the Peace II Programme and was then published. It is now a leading document advocating a further European Peace programme, incorporating a socio-ethnic European-wide focus, mainstreaming by both Governments of funds for peace-building and a wider appreciation of the long-term and subtle processes of building peace.

Combat Poverty commissioned a related study on the links between poverty and conflict during the year from researchers at Queen's University

Belfast and the University of Ulster. An initial seminar was held to examine key issues emerging from the study and consider ways in which the promotion of social inclusion could contribute to peace-building. A draft report was submitted at the end of 2003.

Combat Poverty continued to explore ways of building the lessons of the Peace Programmes into national and local policy. To this end Combat Poverty commissioned a study on how best to strengthen the links with ADM/CPA. The study outlined a number of possible synergies and an implementation plan was put in place to advance this work.

In a new development towards the end of 2003 ADM/CPA, along with Co-operation Ireland, successfully tendered to implement one of the measures of the INTERREG IIIA Programme. Measure 3.1 seeks to address social exclusion in the border region and Northern Ireland on a cross-border basis and has a total fund of €9,500,000.

Combat Poverty also participated in the Advisory Groups, for the Social Justice Initiatives Fund, and Weak Community Infrastructure sponsored by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.

## Area-based approaches to tackle poverty

Work continued on a Combat Poverty commissioned study on the spatial distribution of poverty and deprivation. This aims to provide information for the planning and assessment of area-based programmes for tackling poverty. The study is to be concluded in 2004.

## Social inclusion and the National Development Plan (NDP)

Combat Poverty continued its efforts to strengthen the emphasis on social inclusion in the National Development Plan. In particular it sought to embed indicators of social inclusion in the two regional operational programmes. Social inclusion is one of the four objectives of the National Development Plan.

This work involved developing social inclusion indicators in conjunction with the implementing authorities on a pilot basis. Combat Poverty provided technical support to assist government departments in this role. A report was presented to the Regional Operational Programme Monitoring Committees (Border Midlands and West region and Southern and Eastern Region) on this pilot work and on ways to strengthen social inclusion in the National Development Plan.

In April, Combat Poverty made a presentation to the Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion Co-ordinating Committee of the NDP. This raised the importance of social inclusion measures and the need to assess the impact of expenditure under the plan on promoting social inclusion.

A further report, entitled *What Do the Mid-term Evaluations Tell Us About the Role of the Structural Funds in Promoting Social Inclusion?* was commissioned by Combat Poverty and disseminated.

Combat Poverty made a submission to the overall mid-term review of the National Development Plan and the six operational programmes. The results of the mid-term review highlighted the progress on social inclusion and in particular the weakness of the indicators in measuring the impact of NDP spending on social inclusion.

Following the review, discussions took place between the Regional Assemblies, the Office for Social Inclusion, the NDP/CSF Evaluation Unit and Combat Poverty on ways forward in relation to strengthening social inclusion in the National Development Plan.

## 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 views the community and voluntary sector as a strategic sector to tackle poverty and to empower people and communities affected by poverty. Combat Poverty continued to liaise with the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. It participated in the Community Development Support Programme's Advisory Group. Combat Poverty made a submission to the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs on the review of local and community development structures. This was followed by a meeting with the Department's Secretary-General.

In 2003, Combat Poverty provided general advice, research, networking and training support to the community sector.

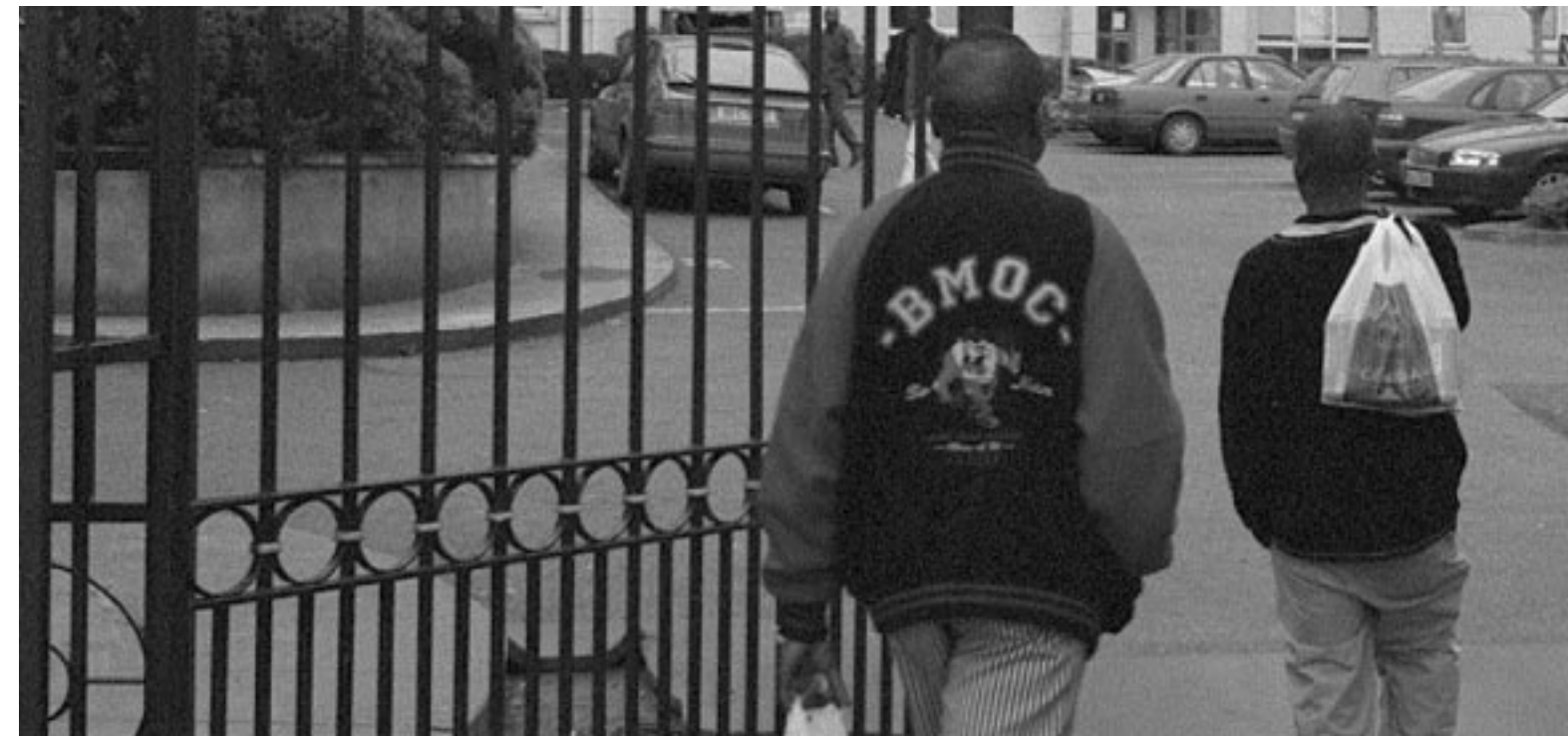
With Area Development Management Ltd. and Comhairle, Combat Poverty continued work in 2003 to develop a database detailing publications and resource materials available nationally to the community and voluntary sector.

Combat Poverty worked in partnership with the Community Work Education and Training Network (Northern Ireland) to examine the potential for developing all-Ireland links on education and training for community work. An Advisory Committee was established to guide the work. An audit which commenced in 2002 of existing community work education and training, was completed during the year.

Combat Poverty continued to produce resource materials to meet the needs of community development and anti-poverty groups. In 2003, four titles were commissioned:

- An education pack on understanding poverty;
- A new edition of an existing title, *Developing Facilitation Skills: A Handbook for Group Facilitators*;
- A new publication, *Facilitation with Groups Experiencing Poverty*, and
- An education pack on influencing policy.

Combat Poverty participated in a series of meetings of the Social Policy Network, comprising policy workers from a range of statutory, community and voluntary organisations, to discuss issues of common interest.



Combat Poverty continued its membership of a number of committees as follows:

- The Community Exchange Advisory Group that supports the electronic newsletter for the community and voluntary sector, *Community Exchange*;
- The Advisory Committee of the Ireland Funds and the Advisory Committee of the National Women's Council EQUAL initiative, 'In from the Margins;'
- The Board of the Combined European Bureau for Social Development (CEBSD), an EU network that promotes community development; and
- The management group of the Cross-Border Centre for Community Development at the Institute of Technology, Dundalk.

### Supporting anti-poverty groups to influence policy

#### *National Economic and Social Forum (NESF)*

The National Economic and Social Forum comprises the Government and Oireachtas, employers, trade union, farmers and voluntary and community representatives. The anti-poverty voice on the NESF is heard through three 'disadvantaged sector' groups as part of the community and voluntary strand of the Forum.

The Assembly of the NESF supports these three representatives and debates issues relevant to the anti-poverty sector. As part of its broad strategic aim of furthering the contribution of anti-poverty groups to national policy debates and decision-making, Combat Poverty supports the Assembly of the NESF.

## National Anti-Poverty Networks Programme

The anti-poverty networks comprise ten groups dealing with different aspects of poverty and social exclusion. They are:

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

Following the re-allocation of functions between government departments in 2002, overall responsibility for the National Anti-Poverty Networks Programme was moved from the Department of Social and Family Affairs to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. Pending formal transitional arrangements, Combat Poverty continued to provide funding and support to the Programme in 2003 (see Appendix 2 for grants listing). It also liaised with the two Departments on transition procedures and the ongoing management of the Programme.

Combat Poverty commissioned an evaluation of the National Anti-Poverty Network Programme. Reporting in November 2003, the evaluation concluded that the networks and the funding provided by Combat Poverty to support their work, made a valuable contribution to representing the needs and views of people living in poverty. At the request of the networks, it was agreed that henceforth, joint meetings would take place twice yearly with Combat Poverty.

Grants were also given under the Once-Off Networking Grants scheme, which funds work to develop anti-poverty networks. As part of this work, Combat Poverty grant-aided the launch of the African women's network AKiDWA (see Appendix 2 for grant listing).

In particular, Combat Poverty assisted the work of the 'Sharing the Learning' project, which assisted the national networks in recruitment and in planning their 2003 work programme.

## Working Against Poverty Grants scheme

Overall responsibility for the Working Against Poverty Grants scheme was allocated from Combat Poverty to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in 2002. Pending formal transition arrangements, Combat Poverty continued to administer the scheme in 2003. It also liaised with the Department to

facilitate the transition for 2004. In 2003, 210 applications were received (see Appendix 2 for grants listing). Following assessment, 49 groups were awarded grants for conferences, seminars, publications, training and skills development, research and evaluation and policy analysis and promotion.

## Practice to Policy

In 2003, the 'Practice to Policy' work programme was developed and finalised for implementation in 2004. Practice to policy work involves strengthening the participation of people living in poverty in the development of anti-poverty and social inclusion policies.

Combat Poverty commissioned an evaluation of the National Anti-Poverty Network Programme. Reporting in November 2003, the evaluation concluded that the networks and the funding provided by Combat Poverty to support their work, made a valuable contribution to representing the needs and views of people living in poverty.



## 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

Informing and influencing policies and measures that affect people experiencing poverty is one of Combat Poverty's primary functions. In this regard, it monitors and assesses the impact of the tax and social welfare systems from a poverty perspective and, where appropriate, recommends revised or alternative measures. To guide this work, research or analytical studies are undertaken.

The Budget is a key mechanism for the redistribution of national income. Combat Poverty seeks to influence the overall thrust and the balance of priorities within the Budget in order to ensure it works effectively for the elimination of poverty and the promotion of social inclusion. Its Budget submission and post-Budget analysis are two of Combat Poverty's most important statements on poverty policy during each year.

The post-Budget analysis reports on the effect of budgetary measures on households. The analysis of Budget 2003 was published in a special supplement of the spring issue of *Action on Poverty Today* and received

good coverage in the wider media. It was presented to the Oireachtas Committee on Social and Family Affairs.

Combat Poverty's submission on Budget 2004 was presented to the Minister and Department of Social and Family Affairs in October and widely disseminated thereafter.

In conjunction with the Economic and Social Research Institute, Combat Poverty utilises the SWITCH tax/benefit model. This simulates the effect of tax and welfare measures on households and is an important tool in helping Combat Poverty analyse the effects of budgetary measures. During the year, Combat Poverty and the ESRI considered options for developing the SWITCH model.

Work continued on finalising a joint Combat Poverty Agency, Crosscare and Society of St Vincent de Paul review, *Food Poverty and Policy*. The report was published in 2004. A complementary Combat Poverty-funded research study by Focus Ireland, *Food Poverty and Homelessness*, was progressed in 2003 and was published in 2004.

The incidence of poverty among those in employment has increased in recent years. To investigate this phenomenon, Combat Poverty commissioned a qualitative study of low-paid working households. This study will continue throughout 2004.

## STRENGTHENING ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

Combat Poverty seeks to use its organisational resources – financial, human, material and technological – in a way that secures the greatest advances in the elimination of poverty and social exclusion and best serves its clients' needs.

Combat Poverty recognises the value of its staff, their expertise and their commitment as essential resources in carrying out its work. It seeks to support staff and to create work structures, based on openness, consultation and partnership, that allow staff to use their inherent skills to help achieve organisational objectives.

Combat Poverty is committed to working to the highest standard of effectiveness and efficiency. It is also committed to creating and maintaining a humane and sustaining work environment.

### Strategic plan

Combat Poverty's key objectives and goals are laid down in its Strategic Plan 2002-2004. These formed the basis for the current year's work programme. Elements of the work programme were affected by the transfer of the National Anti-Poverty Networks Programme and the Working Against Poverty Grants scheme to the

Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. Arrangements were put in place to continue the administration of some of this work pending the completion of the transfer process.

A mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan 2002-2004 commenced during the year, led by consultants Eustace Patterson Ltd and supported by a Board-staff steering group. A comprehensive interim report was delivered in October. The evaluation will be completed in 2004.

A Modernisation Action Plan, required under the *Sustaining Progress* national partnership agreement, was finalised and approved by the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

### Human resources policy

An updated grievance and discipline policy and new guidelines on bullying and harassment, drawn up in close consultation with staff, were completed and put into effect in September 2003. Staff briefings and management and supervisory training on grievance and disciplinary procedures were also undertaken.

A draft Code of Conduct for Members and Staff was drawn up under the terms of the Ethics in Public Office Act and circulated to Board and staff for consultation. It is due to be finalised in 2004.



## Development and training

A development and training plan for staff, devised in 2002 under the Performance Management and Development process, continued throughout 2003. The average number of days spent on training per individual staff member was 6 days, similar to 2002. Total expenditure on development and training in 2003 increased to 4 per cent of payroll, up from 2.7 per cent in 2002.

## Management development

Based on a development and training needs survey in 2002, a management team development initiative took place in September and a programme of follow-up action is in place during 2004.

## Performance management and development

The Performance Management and Development (PMD) process was put in train in 2002. Further training on its full implementation was completed in January 2003 and an additional workshop for all staff was held in December 2003.

The Performance Plan for the Director was approved by the Board and the Department of Finance.

## Staffing and work supports

Discussions took place between management and unions on a review of grading structures.

Combat Poverty continued to monitor the allocation of people resources and the ongoing need for close co-operation on key work areas on a cross-sectional basis. Delays in approvals to fill vacancies added to existing pressures on staff.

## Recruitment

Six members of staff were appointed through open competition in 2003: head of information and public education (work-share); research and policy analyst; research officer; and two co-ordinators to lead the EU-funded transnational projects 'Mainstreaming Social Inclusion' and 'Local Government and Social Inclusion' and a Research Assistant/Administrator on 'Mainstreaming Social Inclusion'.

An extensive review of recruitment and selection procedures was carried out in November and a report received in mid-December. The recommendations from the review are being considered in 2004.



## Flexible working arrangements

An external review of flexible working arrangements and work-life balance policies was completed in November 2003. It highlighted the generous supports given by Combat Poverty to facilitate staff on flexible working arrangements alongside the organisational demands. Recommendations in the report on establishing clear criteria for granting further flexible arrangements and improving guidelines and procedures were adopted in principle for progression through the partnership process.

## Health and safety

A staff consultation on work climate and related issues, under the aegis of a Work Positive Initiative, was completed in January 2003. The Work Positive Programme is promoted by the Health and Safety Authority in Ireland

and the Health Education Board of Scotland to encourage the assessment and reduction of work-related stress.

## Effective operational systems

Combat Poverty strives to achieve best practice in administrative, operational and human resources procedures, in order to provide the best quality of services to its clients and the best working supports to its staff.

Combat Poverty continued to implement the Provisions of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

Following a tender process, the contract for an internal audit, to be carried out over a two-year period, was awarded in July 2003 to PricewaterhouseCoopers.

## Customer service action plan

Work on a draft update of the existing Customer Service Action Plan was completed in December 2003, encompassing the twelve quality customer service principles approved by Government for the public sector.

## Financial management

All financial records and all procedures for tax gathering, tax clearance, payment, tendering and contracts complied with statutory requirements and with obligations under national partnership agreements. Combat Poverty ensured that the financial systems and records of ADM/CPA in administering the Peace II Programme were also fully compliant.

The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of the financial statements for 2001 was received. The 2002 financial statements were audited and then submitted, along with the Annual Report 2002, to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs and to the Comptroller and Auditor General.

In monitoring and reviewing expenditure, a review of key funding areas for the final year of the Strategic Plan 2002-2004 was undertaken. Estimates for the 2004 work programme were submitted to the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

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

The financial records included all transactions carried out for that section of the Peace II Programme for which Combat Poverty is liable as part of the joint management agreement with ADM/CPA.

## Information technology (IT)

A review of information technology needs and capacity, initiated in 2002, was completed in May 2003. Implementation of the findings began along with new electronic file management procedures. Updating of records and archive management procedures commenced.

Combat Poverty continued to comply with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act.

## Combat Poverty Board

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs appointed the following people to the Board of Combat Poverty in 2003:

Dr Frank Curran, Anthony Gavin, Maria Gorman, Tony Lane, Marie O'Neill (Office for Social Inclusion), Olive Sweetman and Tony O'Callaghan. The

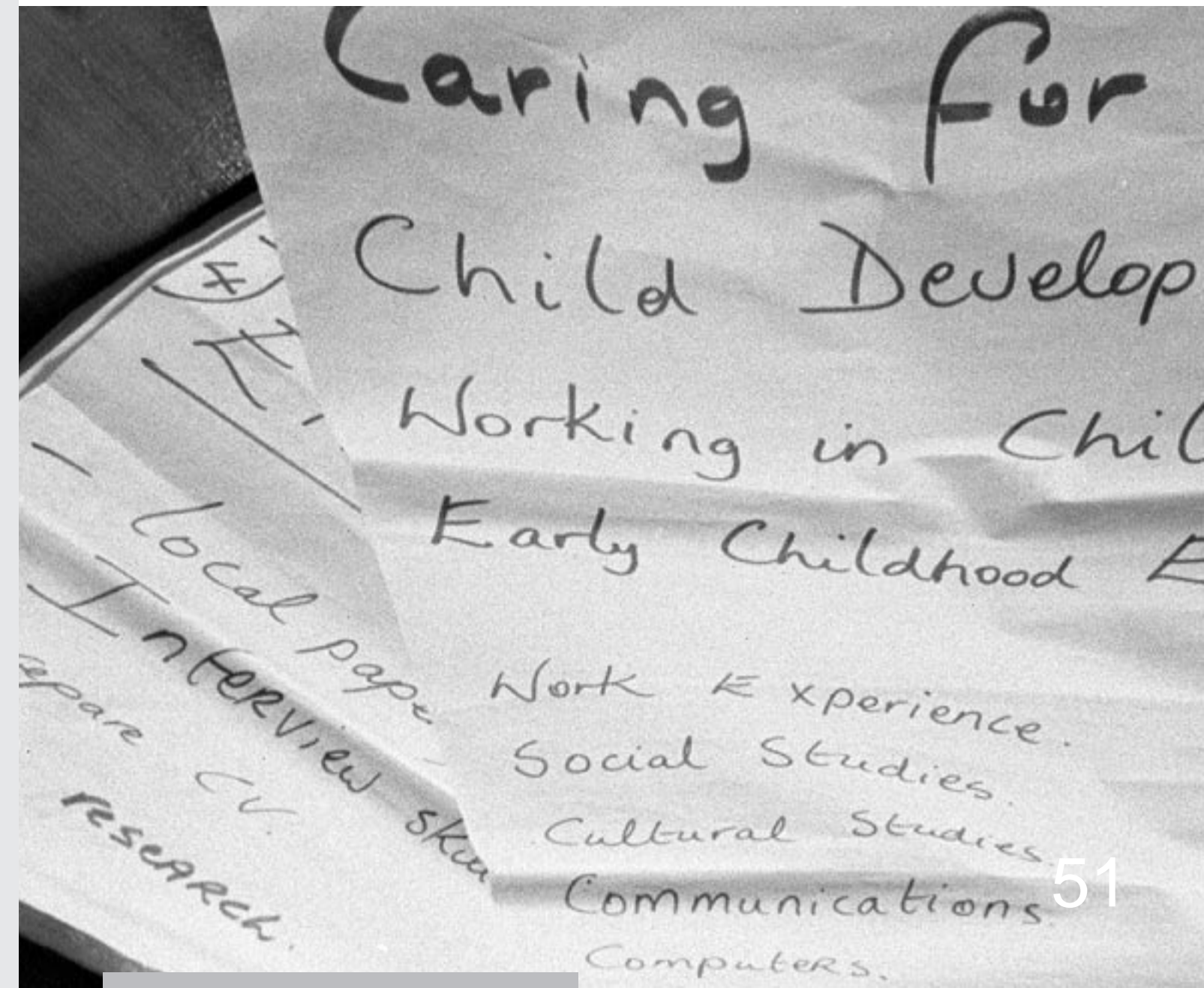
Minister re-appointed Maria Corrigan, Pearse O'Hanrahan, Alice Robertson and Margaret Sweeney, when their initial period of membership concluded.

The Board held its September meeting at Farney Workhouse Resource Centre, Carrickmacross, Monaghan, and met with community workers there.

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs met with Board members in October. The discussion included the future complementary relationship

between Combat Poverty and the Office for Social Inclusion.

In December the Board held an initial discussion on the implications of proposals to relocate Combat Poverty to Monaghan, as part of the major decentralisation programme announced by the Minister for Finance on 3 December 2003.



Combat Poverty seeks to use its organisational resources – financial, human, material and technological – in a way that secures the greatest advances in the elimination of poverty and social exclusion and best serves its clients' needs.



# Appendix 1

## Board, Sub-Committees and Staff

### Board attendance in 2003

There were eight meetings of the Board in 2003. In total, seven new members were appointed to the Board during the year. These included Marie O'Neill who replaced Mary Kennedy as the representative of the Department of Social and Family Affairs. Six members completed their three-year terms during 2003. Of these, four were re-appointed to the Board by the Minister, Mary Coughlan, T.D.

Participation on various Board Sub-Committees and related activity is now outlined.

### Number of meetings attended (number eligible to attend in brackets)

	Board	Sub-Committees
Brian Duncan, Chairperson	7(8)	21(25)
Pearse O'Hanrahan, Vice Chairperson <sup>1</sup>	7(8)	17(25)
Maria Corrigan <sup>2</sup>	5(7)	
Frank Curran	8(8)	2 (3)
Bernard Feeney	4(8)	1 (2)
Anthony Gavin <sup>3</sup>	7(8)	11(12)
Maria Gorman <sup>3</sup>	8(8)	4 (4)
Helen Johnston	8(8)	26(28)
Mary Kennedy <sup>4</sup>	1(1)	
Tony Lane <sup>3</sup>	8(8)	5 (5)
Seamus McAleavey	7(8)	2 (3)
Christine Maguire <sup>5</sup>	2(4)	2 (5)
Tony O'Callaghan <sup>6</sup>	3(3)	
Joan O'Flynn	7(8)	6 (8)
Marie O'Neill <sup>7</sup>	6(7)	5 (8)
Alice Robertson <sup>8</sup>	7(8)	1 (2)
Margaret Sweeney <sup>9</sup>	5(8)	
Olive Sweetman <sup>10</sup>	5(6)	2 (2)
Michael Waugh <sup>11</sup>	0(1)	

1 Re-appointed as Vice-Chairperson in December 2003  
 2 Re-appointed May 2003  
 3 Appointed January 2003  
 4 Succeeded as Departmental representative in March 2003  
 5 Completed term July 2003

6 Appointed September 2003  
 7 Appointed as Departmental representative in March 2003  
 8 Re-appointed January 2003  
 9 Re-appointed September 2003  
 10 Appointed May 2003  
 11 Completed term March 2003

### Board Sub-Committees

In addition to attending Board Meetings, members were also active on sub-committees and assisting with work between meetings. The Board was represented on such committees as follows:

#### Personnel and Finance Committee

Brian Duncan, Pearse O'Hanrahan, Christine Maguire\*, Helen Johnston, Joan O'Flynn+, Anthony Gavin+, Mary Kennedy\*, Marie O'Neill+

#### Audit Committee+

Pearse O'Hanrahan, Maria Gorman, Anthony Gavin, Bernard Feeney

#### Working Against Poverty Grants Committee

Seamus McAleavey, Michael Waugh\*, Margaret Sweeney-

#### National Anti-Poverty Networks Programme Advisory Committee

Helen Johnston, Seamus McAleavey, Marie O'Neill+, Mary Kennedy\*

#### Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network Advisory Committee

Pearse O'Hanrahan, Helen Johnston, Alice Robertson+, Maria Gorman+, Marie O'Neill+

#### Building Healthy Communities Advisory Committee+

Brian Duncan, Seamus McAleavey, Frank Curran, Helen Johnston

#### Advisory Committee to Curriculum Development Project Poverty, the Classroom and the Curriculum

Maria Corrigan-

#### Poverty Research Initiative

Olive Sweetman+

\* term ended before the end of the year

+ new committee or new member to existing committee

- re-appointed 2003

## Joint Management Committee Membership EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (as at 31 December 2003)

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

## Cross Border Management Committee, EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation (as at 31 December 2003)

Brian Duncan	Combat Poverty (Joint Chair)
Tony Crooks	Chief Executive Officer, Area Development Management (ADM) (Joint Chair)
Marie O'Leary	ADM representative
Bob Wilson	ADM representative
Helen Johnston	Director, Combat Poverty
Pearse O'Hanrahan	Board member, Combat Poverty
Tony Kennedy	Chief Executive Officer, Co-operation Ireland
Bryan Johnston	Board member, Co-operation Ireland
Avila Kilmurray	Community Foundation for Northern Ireland
Eamon Deane	Community Foundation for Northern Ireland

## Staff (as at 31 May 2004)

**Director** Helen Johnston

### Organisational Management and Development (OMD)

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>2</sup>	Executive Officer
Cora Murray <sup>3, 4</sup>	Clerical Officer
Teresa Ward	Clerical Officer – Receptionist
Vacant <sup>5</sup>	Clerical Officer
Joanne Mulholland <sup>5</sup>	Human Resources Administrator & Personal Assistant to Director
Heather Gray <sup>5</sup>	Financial Administrator

### Projects

Liz Sullivan	Head of Projects
Julie Smyth <sup>6</sup>	Projects Manager
Ceri Goddard	Projects Officer
Angie Daly <sup>4</sup>	Projects Officer
Barbara Walshe <sup>2, 7</sup>	Projects Officer
Elaine Houlihan <sup>2, 7</sup>	Projects Officer
Ann Moore	Executive Officer
Vacant	Clerical Officer
Janice Ransom <sup>1</sup>	EU Project Co-Ordinator (LASI – Phase 2) & EU Specialist Support (MSI – Phase 2)

### Research and Policy

Jim Walsh	Head of Research and Policy
Jonathan Healy	Policy & Research Analyst
Victoria Sutherland	Research Officer
Tracey O'Brien	Research Officer
Kevin O'Kelly	EU Research Co-ordinator (MSI – Phase 2)
Izabela Litewska	EU Research Administrator (MSI – Phase 2)

<sup>1</sup> Part-time posts

<sup>2</sup> Work-share posts

<sup>3</sup> Clerical Officer providing administrative support to OMD & Research Sections.

<sup>4</sup> On special leave

<sup>5</sup> Temporary – pending resolution of Agency Resource Plan of June 2002

<sup>6</sup> On Higher Duties to fill career break vacancy

<sup>7</sup> Temporary – see 4 – to fill vacancy created by Higher Duty posting.

## Information and Public Education

Joan O'Flynn <sup>2</sup>	Head of Information and Public Education
Olivia Fox <sup>2</sup>	Head of Information and Public Education
Fidelma Joyce <sup>8</sup>	Policy Liaison Officer
Margaret O'Gorman	Communications Officer
Jean Cassidy	Library & Information Officer
Elaine Byrne	Information and Public Education Executive
Valerie Byrne <sup>2</sup>	Communications Assistant
Annmarie Wallace <sup>2</sup>	Grants Assistant

## EU Peace & Reconciliation (Monaghan)

Paddy Logue	Joint Manager of EU Programme
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## ADM/CPA STAFF LIST (as at May 2004)

<b>Joint Managers</b>	Paddy Logue (Combat Poverty) Paddy McGinn (ADM)
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## Finance and Audit

Mary Kelly	Finance Manager
Catriona O'Reilly	Auditor
Amanda Treanor	Finance Co-ordinator
Diane Bell	Finance Officer – Selection
Margaret Flood	Finance Officer – Monitoring
Sinéad Hegarty	Finance Clerical Officer
Celine Kelly	Finance Clerical Officer
Siobhán McAtasney	Finance Clerical Officer
Pádraic Smyth	Finance Clerical Officer
Maria O'Sullivan <sup>9</sup>	Finance Clerical Officer
Bernadette Smith	Finance Clerical Officer

<sup>8</sup> Temporary to fill career break vacancy

<sup>9</sup> Part-time posts in ADM/CPA

## Administration

Ailish Quinn	Office Manager
Áine Coffey	Receptionist/Secretary
Anna Carragher	Clerical Officer
Christine Lehmann <sup>9</sup>	Clerical Officer (IT)
Ursula Sheridan	Clerical Officer – Donegal

## Development

Donald McDonald	Development Co-ordinator Priority 1 – Monaghan
Paul Skinnader	Development Co-ordinator Priority 2 – Donegal
Colette Nulty	Development Co-ordinator Priority 5 – Cavan
Bernard Bolger	Development Officer – Louth
Liam McKeever	Development Officer – Sligo
Donnacha McSorley	Development Officer – Leitrim
Pauline Perry	Development Officer – Cross-border

## Research

Ruth Taillon	Research Co-ordinator
Patrice Crawley	Research Assistant

## Superannuation

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

Combat Poverty, 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.

<sup>9</sup> Part-time posts in ADM/CPA

Combat Poverty views the community and voluntary sector as a strategic sector to tackle poverty and to empower people and communities affected by poverty.

Appendix 2



**Projects funded by Combat Poverty Agency**

## Appendix 2

### Projects funded by Combat Poverty Agency

#### WORKING AGAINST POVERTY GRANTS SCHEME

##### Conferences, Seminars and Publications

	€
Pavee Point (Roma Support Group)	3,000.00
Women's Human Rights Project	4,000.00
West Sligo Community Forum Ltd	5,000.00
Greater Blanchardstown Response to Drugs	4,000.00
Merchants Quay Ireland	5,000.00
Merchants Quay Ireland	4,000.00
Asylum-Seekers Group Ireland	11,000.00
Corduff CDF	3,000.00
Pavee Point Travellers Centre	3,000.00
National Women's Council of Ireland	6,000.00
Focus Ireland	2,270.00
Athlone Anti-Poverty Network	5,750.00
Write Together	5,000.00
South Dublin Childcare Action Group	3,000.00
Schizophrenia Ireland/Lucia Foundation	5,000.00
Ringsend Action Project	2,200.00
Public Health Alliance	10,000.00
Little Bray Family Resource Centre	2,000.00
Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed	11,000.00
Galway Travellers Support Group	4,000.00
European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland	3,000.00
Cork Community Art Link	5,000.00
Community Workers' Co-operative	7,780.00
Blakestown Community Development Project	3,500.00
Banúlacht	4,000.00
Age Action Ireland Ltd.	3,000.00
Tallaght Travellers CDP	2,200.00
Irish Penal Reform	2,540.00

##### Policy Analysis and Promotion

	€
Community Workers' Co-operative	4,250.00
Intercom Computer Training	6,000.00
Community Workers' Co-operative	9,000.00
Cork Centre for Independent Living	11,000.00
Ennis Community Development Project	10,000.00
Community Workers' Co-operative	10,000.00

##### Research and Evaluation

	€
Kiltimagh and District CDP Ltd.	9,480.00
Buncrana Youth Club	7,313.69
Le Chéile CDP Ltd.	4,600.00
North Clondalkin Community Development	7,618.43
Limerick City-Wide Estate Management Forum	5,500.00
Women's Aid	1,269.74
The South West Inner City Network Ltd.	1,269.74
Community Connections	1,269.74
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul for Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice	20,000.00
Fatima Groups United & St Michael's Estate Family Resource Centre	6,000.00
Simon Communities of Ireland	20,600.00
Threshold	13,000.00
Cando Ltd.	5,500.00
Children's Rights Alliance for End Child Poverty Coalition	20,000.00
Northside Community Law Centre	18,000.00
Galway Refugee Support Group	10,000.00
St Vincent's Trust	7,000.00
Greater Blanchardstown Development Project	1,269.74
Free Legal Advice Centre	1,270.00
National Adult Literacy Agency	1,270.00
Energy Action Ltd.	1,267.00



<b>Training and Skills Development</b>	€
Banúlacht	6,000.00
Athlone Anti-Poverty Network	9,780.00
Association of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Ireland	1,904.61
Bantry and District Resource and Social Development Group Ltd.	4,480.00
National Collective of Community Based Women's Network	8,000.00
Drugs Awareness Programme CROSSCARE for Drug Education Workers Forum	1,035.00
Women's Human Rights Project	8,500.00
Southill Adult Education Group for Southill Integrated Development Programme	2,100.00
South West Wexford Community	6,870.00
South Dublin Community Platform	9,000.00
Hospital Family Resource Centre Ltd.	7,000.00
D12 Women's Action Group (D12WAG)	10,000.00
AkiDwA	9,000.00

#### **ANTI-POVERTY INITIATIVES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT** €

Roscommon County Council / South Roscommon Community Forum	15,000.00
Galway County Council / Galway Rural Development	15,000.00
Waterford County Council /Co. Waterford Community Forum	12,000.00
Listowel Town Council / North Kerry Together Ltd.	14,700.00
Monaghan County Council / Mullaghmat-Cortolvin Community Development Ltd.	15,000.00
Leitrim County Council / Leitrim Community and Voluntary Forum	15,000.00
Limerick City Council/Paul Partnership	15,000.00
Limerick City Council/Moyross Development Company	15,000.00
Louth County Council/Louth Community and Voluntary Forum	3,400.00
Meath County Council/Navan Community Development Project	6,000.00
Cork City Council/Cork City Partnership	15,000.00
Westmeath County Council/Tuath	30,000.00
Donegal County Council/Athlone Community Taskforce	30,000.00

<b>BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES FUNDING</b>	€
Community Connections Active Age Projects	8,440.00
Northside Community Health Initiative NICHE	15,000.00
Public Health Alliance Ireland	14,500.00
Primary Healthcare Group Mulhuddart	15,000.00
Sláinte Pobal	15,000.00
Clondalkin Women's Network Ltd.	8,200.00
Blackhall Development Group Forum	15,000.00
Cork Gay Community Development Ltd.	15,000.00
FAB Community Development Project	15,000.00
Lifford/Clonleigh Resource Centre	15,000.00
Western Regional Travellers Health Network	14,000.00
CAIRDE	15,000.00
Fatima Groups United	15,000.00

#### **NATIONAL ANTI POVERTY NETWORKS PROGRAMME** €

Community Workers' Co-operative	138,227.00
Irish Traveller Movement	138,227.00
Forum of People with Disabilities	138,227.00
One Parent Exchange Network	138,227.00
Irish Refugee Council	138,227.00
Irish Rural Link	138,227.00
Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed	138,227.00
Children's Rights Alliance	138,227.00
Older Women's Network	138,227.00
European Anti-Poverty Network – Ireland	138,227.00

#### **PRACTICE TO POLICY PROGRAMME** €

European Anti-Poverty Network – Ireland	12,500.00
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## SUPPORT FOR THIRD LEVEL RESEARCH ON POVERTY AND POLICY

### Poverty Research Initiative 2002 and 2003 (all paid in 2003) €

#### 2002

Department of Geography, Trinity College Dublin (2002)	50,000.00
North Western Health Board/Centre for Health Promotion Studies, National University of Ireland, Galway (2002)	21,000.00
Centre for Health Promotion Studies, National University of Ireland, Galway (2002)	4,000.00
Department of Applied Social Studies, University College Cork (2002)	20,000.00
School of Law and Governance, Dublin City University (2002)	4,000.00
Centre for Retail Studies, University College Dublin (2002)	28,000.00

#### 2003

Department of Economics, National University of Ireland, Galway (2003)	8,000.00
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### PhD Fellowships

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

Niamh Humphries, Department of Sociology, University College Dublin  
€13,000

#### Calibration of Adequacy – a Case study of the Political Economy of Social Welfare Adequacy in Ireland 1986-2003

Mary Murphy, School of Communications, Dublin City University  
€13,000 + €3,003 fees

#### Tackling Unemployment and Youth Marginalisation: How Do Work Experiences in Second Level Education Shape Youth Transactions in a Comparative Aspect?

Delma Byrne, Centre for Educational Sociology, Department of Education and Society, University of Edinburgh.  
€13,000 + €3,500 fees

Appendix 3



EU Special Support Programme for Peace  
and Reconciliation: Grants approved 2003

## Appendix 3

# EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation: Grants approved 2003

The Combat Poverty Agency and Area Development Management (ADM) Ltd. have joint responsibility for 12 measures under the EU Peace II Programme.

In 2003 the following grants were paid 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	341,074.97
North Leitrim Women's Centre	17,344.26
FÁS – Outreach to Women Project	75,475.20
Letterkenny Women's Centre	147,485.44
Sligo Leader Partnership Company	58,689.29
Louth County Enterprise Board - Women in Enterprise Programme	45,989.47

### Measure 2.1 Reconciliation for Sustainable Peace

	€
CDVEC Curriculum Development Unit	-500.22
CDVEC Curriculum Development Unit	133,201.99
Co. Monaghan Community Network Limited	162,409.23
Drogheda Community Forum	108,419.30
Letterkenny Women's' Centre	9,874.26
The Upstate Theatre Project Ltd.	64,323.44
Foinn Chonallacha Teo	163,388.36
Sligo County Council/Sligo Connection	48,426.53
National University of Galway - Diploma In Peace- Building	206,704.34
Manorcunningham Community Development Association	64,376.53
North Leitrim Glens Development Co.	59,561.54
Raphoe Reconciliation Project	48,297.53
Quare Hawks Theatre Company	43,100.68
Monaghan Town Council/Monaghan Bombing Memorial	
Art Commission	33,098.73
The Border Minority Group	23,017.72

### Measure 2.4c - Pathways to Inclusion, Integration and Reconciliation of Victims

	€
Clones Community Forum Ltd.	145,258.88
Clones Development Society Ltd.	152,562.72
Radio Pobal Inis Eoghain	87,649.40
Donegal Travellers Project	192,768.13
Abhaile Arís	218,936.59
Drogheda Women's Refuge and Children's Centre Ltd.	95,062.97
Expac Ltd.	203,134.79
Fáilte Abhaile	203,237.42
Fáilte Chluain Eois	148,280.12
Tirhugh Resource Centre	18,948.48
Comharchumann Finn Thiar Teo	12,000.00
Iar Chimi Uatroma Teoranta	208,284.25
Cavan Family Resource Centre Ltd.	87,798.71
GROW	42,405.00
Tirhugh Resource Centre	46,867.87
Community Workers' Co-operative	26,581.45
Triskele Community Training & Development	19,191.00
Inch Island Community Association	21,837.00

## Measure 2.7 - Developing Weak Community Infrastructure €

Cavan Monaghan Rural Development	116,455.57
Community Workers' Co-op	102,305.03
Dunfanaghy Resource Association	92,321.48
Killeshandra Community Council Ltd.	100,132.05
Swilly/Mulroy Community Development Co-op	66,661.00
Cathedral Hall Management Committee	458,233.69
Castleblayney Arts & Community Development Co. Ltd.	22,828.49
Cashelard Community Development Association	374,759.00
AdoPT	32,626.50
Bunnoe Community Development Association	154,968.24
Barnesmore Community Development	168,481.10
Glenfarne Community Development Trust Ltd.	80,975.16
Culdaff Community Association Ltd.	138,140.49
Rockcorry Development Association	95,537.50
Drumsna Development Association Ltd.	85,608.69

## Measure 5.3 - Developing Cross Border Reconciliation and Understanding €

Sligo/Tyrone Schools Link Project	- 793.59
80:20 Educating & Acting for a Better World	120,497.38
Glenree Centre for Reconciliation	221,271.20
Inter-Classic	60,008.97
Kiltyclogher Community Council	122,359.21
Lucan Youth Centre Development	352.15
Rural Mental Health	139,381.38
Shankill Community Association	163,931.63
The Shanty Education and Training Centre	130,068.56
Women Educating for Transformation (WEFT)	131,115.48
Ballincollig Senior Citizens	159,076.40
Dundalk Counselling Centre	28,164.88
Boomerang Theatre Company	132,703.74
Glenree Centre for Reconciliation	58,440.44
The Irish Peace Institute	34,028.80
Riverstown Enterprise Development	97,038.66
Monaghan Neighbourhood Youth (Foróige)	52,823.36
Town of Monaghan Co-Op	39,567.57

The Pushkin Prizes Trust	93,399.56
Sandy Row Community Development Agency	94,246.41
Farset/Inishowen & Border Counties Initiative	325,977.06
Border Arts	127,599.28
Churches Peace Education Project	52,924.70
Co. Museum Dundalk/Newry and Mourne Museum	32,070.22
Cumann Gaeltacht Chnoc na Rós Doire	91,346.57
Ballymacarrett Arts and Cultural Society	81,808.35
Sligo VEC and Western Education Library Board	56,699.06
Fjordlands	9,388.40
Cross Border Orchestra	165,694.02
Iontaobhas Ruraí	24,347.40
Future Youth Games	34,580.25
Ligoniel Improvement Association	88,318.76
Strabane Lifford Development Commission	33,985.83
Horizon Ireland Ltd.	98,498.24
Co-operation Ireland	15,357.30
South Belfast Cultural Society	95,957.05
Co-operation Ireland	49,301.28
Springfield Inter Community Development Project	89,369.87
Monaghan and Portadown Partnership (MAPP) Ltd.	32,840.77
Downpatrick/Listowel Linkage Group	29,610.37
Newbuildings Community and Environmental Association	19,645.80
Derry and Raphoe Action	127,521.20
Children's Holiday Scheme (NI) Ltd.	63,082.67
Tyrone Donegal Partnership	61,208.98
Irish School of Ecumenics	96,290.87
Enniskillen Community Development Project	55,421.58
Community Visual Images	168,134.55
The Drake Music Project	71,827.84
NI Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux	86,762.76
Teach na Fáilte / Cross Border Project	89,119.03
Mediation Resource Centre	105,476.96
Coiste na n-Iarchimí	145,489.63

Note: The above payments under Measure 5.3 comprise both the Northern Ireland element and the Republic of Ireland element and were made by ADM/CPA and the Special EU Programmes Body through its Central Payments Unit. During 2003 ADM/CPA contributed €2,273,490.57 towards the total payments of €4,503,338.84.



Appendix 4

**Some new publications**

## Appendix 4

### Some new publications

- 2004 *Fact Sheet. What is Poverty?*
- 2004 *Fact Sheet. Measuring Poverty*
- 2004 *Fact Sheet. Child Poverty in Ireland*
- 2004 *Fact Sheet. Lone Parent Families and Poverty*
- 2004 *Against All Odds Poverty Briefing. Growing up in Poverty*
- 2004 *Against All Odds Poverty Briefing. Living in Deprived Communities*
- 2004 *Against All Odds Poverty Briefing. Living with Poverty and Poor Health*
- 2004 *Programme: Building Healthy Communities. Putting Poverty & Social Inclusion at the Centre of Health Policy & Practice (conference report)*
- 2004 *Research Report. EU Trans-National Project on Mainstreaming Social Inclusion*
- 2004 *Poverty Briefing No.15. Poverty and Health*
- 2004 *Research Report. Housing, Poverty and Wealth in Ireland by Tony Fahey, Brian Nolan and Bertrand Maitre, ESRI<sup>1</sup>*
- 2003 *Policy Statement. Irish Social Expenditure in a Comparative International Context by Virpi Timonen<sup>1</sup>*
- 2003 *Poverty Briefing No 14. Educational Disadvantage in Ireland*
- 2003 *Policy Statement. Waste Collection Charges and Low-Income Households.*
- 2003 *Policy Statement. Working Towards a Poverty-Free Society. Submission to the National Action Plan Against Poverty and Social Exclusion 2003-2005*
- 2003 *Programme. Local Authorities and Social Inclusion: Country Report Setting the Context.*
- 2003 *Programme. Local Authorities and Social Inclusion. Conference Report*

<sup>1</sup> Available directly from Institute of Public Administrations. [www.ipa.ie](http://www.ipa.ie)



Financial  
Statements



# Combat Poverty Agency

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2003

## 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.

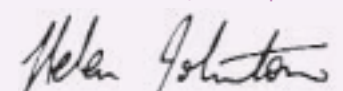
## Basis of Financial Statements

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: 28 June, 2004

# Combat Poverty Agency

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2003

## Statement of Internal Financial Controls

### Responsibility for the 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 by Combat Poverty.

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

### Key Control Procedures

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

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

The Board has also established processes which will identify and evaluate business risks.

This will be achieved in a number of ways including:

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

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

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



# Combat Poverty Agency

## Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2003

Combat Poverty has appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers to act as internal auditor, reporting directly to the Audit Committee of the Board. This committee oversaw the appointment of the internal auditor in late 2003. It meets at least on a quarterly basis to review reports prepared by Internal Audit and other relevant reports. The Audit Committee in turn keeps the Board informed of the matters that it has considered.

The Board's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control is informed by the work of the internal auditor, the Audit Committee which will oversee the work of the internal auditor, the Management Team of Combat Poverty 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

The Board did not carry out a formal review of the system of internal financial control in 2003. A formal review will be carried out in 2004.



Brian Duncan, Chairperson  
28 June 2004

# Combat Poverty Agency

## Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 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)

# Combat Poverty Agency

## Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2003

### Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December, 2003

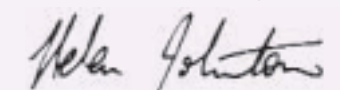
	Notes	2003 €	2002 €
<b>INCOME</b>			
Oireachtas Grant-In-Aid			
Department of Social and Family Affairs		5,304,000	4,771,000
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	1a	9,079,252	4,589,909
Other Income	1b	185,609	42,044
		<u>14,568,861</u>	<u>9,402,953</u>
Transfer from Capital Account	6	43,514	15,262
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>14,612,375</b>	<b>9,418,215</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Projects and Programmes to Combat Poverty			
National Networks Programme		1,414,005	1,323,078
Innovative Programmes	2a	682,501	498,206
Information and Education Programmes		529,035	550,353
Working against Poverty Grants Scheme	2b	421,569	424,154
Research Promotion, Studies and Policy Analysis		307,799	243,320
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	2c	8,477,230	3,989,709
EU Mainstreaming Social Inclusion	2d(i)	73,646	
EU Local Authority Social Inclusion	2d(ii)	83,187	
EU Models of Consultation			15,460
		<u>11,988,972</u>	<u>7,044,280</u>
<b>Development, Support and Administration Costs</b>			
Salary Costs and Expenses	3	2,028,362	1,792,818
Rent and Other Administration Costs	4	577,695	583,703
Depreciation	5	53,690	60,573
		<u>2,659,747</u>	<u>2,437,094</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>14,648,719</b>	<b>9,481,374</b>
(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		(36,344)	(63,159)
Surplus at 1 January		306,621	369,780
Surplus at 31 December		<u>270,277</u>	<u>306,621</u>

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: 28 June 2004

# Combat Poverty Agency

## Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2003

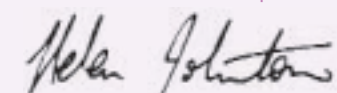
### Balance sheet as at 31 December 2003

	Notes	2003 €	2002 €
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Furniture and Equipment	5	52,447	95,961
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors and Prepayments		123,075	122,362
Cash at Bank and on Hand		1,708,116	769,229
		<u>1,831,191</u>	<u>891,591</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors and Accruals		361,726	531,815
Deferred Income	1a and 2d(i)	1,199,188	53,155
		<u>1,560,914</u>	<u>584,970</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
		<u>270,277</u>	<u>306,621</u>
		<b>322,724</b>	<b>402,582</b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>			
Capital Account	6	52,447	95,961
Surplus on Income and Expenditure Account		270,277	306,621
		<u>322,724</u>	<u>402,582</u>

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



Brian Duncan: Chairperson



Helen Johnston: Director

Dated: 28 June 2004

# Combat Poverty Agency

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2003

	2003 €	2002 €
<b>1. INCOME</b>		
<b>a. EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation</b>		
<b>ESF/ERDF Funding</b>		
(Grants Receivable)/Deferred Income at 1 January	(133,796)	(368,221)
Project Funding via Department of Social and Family Affairs	7,002,934	3,083,245
Deferred Income at 31 December	(731,362)	133,796
	<u>6,137,776</u>	<u>2,848,820</u>
<b>Exchequer Funding</b>		
(Grants Receivable)/Deferred Income at 1 January	167,798	(122,738)
Project Funding via Department of Social and Family Affairs	2,286,000	1,240,142
Deferred Income at 31 December	(405,185)	(167,798)
	<u>2,048,613</u>	<u>949,606</u>
<b>Technical Assistance (TA)</b>		
Deferred Income at 1 January	19,153	
ERDF and Exchequer TA Funding for Administration Costs via Area Development Management Ltd.	884,799	810,636
Deferred Income at 31 December	(11,089)	(19,153)
	<u>892,863</u>	<u>791,483</u>
	<u>9,079,252</u>	<u>4,589,909</u>
<b>b. Other Income</b>		
EU Social Exclusion Programme		
EU Commission	55,760	
Department of Social and Family Affairs	32,000	
North Eastern Health Board - Building Healthy Communities	30,000	
Department of Health and Children - Building Healthy Communities	5,000	
Sales of Publications	23,517	15,232
PACE Avenir	13,957	
Seminar Registration Fees	6,183	215
Miscellaneous Income	45	5,606
Interest Earned on Deposit Accounts	19,147	13,130
Calouste Gulbenkian		7,861
	<u>185,609</u>	<u>42,044</u>

# Combat Poverty Agency

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2003

## 2. PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES TO COMBAT POVERTY

### a. Innovative Programmes

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

	2003 €	2002 €
NAPS Local Government	395,024	396,958
Building Healthy Communities	225,609	42,056
Project Support	38,005	9,951
Practice to Policy	12,500	
Supporting Anti-poverty Work	11,363	
Enhancing the Community Development Sector		42,881
Educational Disadvantaged Demonstration Programme		6,360
	<u>682,501</u>	<u>498,206</u>

### b. Working Against Poverty Grants Scheme

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

	2003 €	2002 €
Research and Evaluation Grants	158,415	169,955
Information/Public Awareness Grants	127,671	105,901
Training and Skills Development Grants	82,788	81,458
Policy Analysis and Promotion Grants	50,250	61,630
Support Work for Grants	2,445	5,210
	<u>421,569</u>	<u>424,154</u>

# Combat Poverty Agency

## Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2003

### 2c. EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation

Combat Poverty Agency along with its partner Area Development Management Ltd (ADM/CPA) has responsibility for 10 measures of the EU Peace II Programme concentrating on the 6 southern border counties. The Partnership also has responsibility for 2 other cross border measures along with its Northern partners, the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland and Co-operation Ireland. In total ADM/CPA has responsibility for €97,602,000 aimed at reconciliation and social inclusion.

During 2003 ADM/CPA, in partnership with Co-operation Ireland, was given responsibility for implementing Measure 3.1 of the EU Interreg IIIA Programme. This measure contains €9,580,000 aimed at projects which target social inclusion and are cross border in structure.

The income and expenditure of Combat Poverty under the Peace II Programme for 2003 is summarised below:

Income	€	€
ESF/ERDF		7,521,599
Exchequer		2,652,134
		<u>10,173,733</u>
Deferred in 2002		53,155
		<u>10,226,888</u>
Deferred in 2003		(1,147,636)
		<u>9,079,252</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Peace II Projects		
Measure 1.5	686,059	
Measure 2.1	1,167,700	
Measure 2.4c	1,930,805	
Measure 2.6	46,364	
Measure 2.7	2,090,034	
Measure 5.3	2,273,491	
Support Costs	282,777	
	<u>8,477,230</u>	
Administration**	602,022	<u>9,079,252</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.

### 2d. EU Social Exclusion Programme

In 2003 Combat Poverty received funding under the EU Social Exclusion Programme to undertake two transnational exchange projects

#### (i) Mainstreaming Social Inclusion

€29,847 was received in 2003 from the EU Commission and €15,000 from the Department of Social and Family Affairs to develop a project on Mainstreaming Social Inclusion. €73,645.79 represents payments made under the programme together with all the administration costs associated with the programme.

Funding of €51,551.55 was received in December 2003 for Phase 11 of the project and is shown as deferred income in the Balance Sheet.

#### (ii) Local Authority Social Inclusion

€25,913 was received from the EU Commission and €17,000 from The Department of Social and Family Affairs to develop a project 'Local Authority Social Inclusion'. €83,187.46 represents payments made under the programme together with all the administration costs associated with the programme.

# Combat Poverty Agency

## Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2003

### 3. SALARY COSTS AND EXPENSES

	2003 €	2002 €
Staff salary costs*	1,723,313	1,462,796
Temporary employment agency costs	44,677	121,836
Members Fees	64,948	20,671
Staff Training and Other Expenses	64,221	56,936
Travel and Subsistence		
- Staff	69,303	56,254
- Members and Sub-Committees	22,357	20,545
Staff Recruitment	29,897	48,750
Board and Staff Initiatives	4,415	
Combat Poverty Seminar	4,179	4,330
Pension Gratuity and Payments	1,052	700
	<u>2,028,362</u>	<u>1,792,818</u>

\*The average number of core staff (full-time equivalent) employed by the Agency during 2003 was 24 (2002: 22). 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 26 staff members in the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.

### 4. RENT AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION COSTS

	2003 €	2002 €
Rent and Rates	220,143	219,882
Postage and Telephones	86,555	91,515
Maintenance and Insurance	104,788	141,114
Consultancy costs	50,442	15,669
Records and Archive management	38,705	21,864
Printing, Stationery & Office Supplies	36,385	40,456
Light and Heat	12,564	13,904
Outreach Offices support	4,457	6,966
Audit Fees	11,750	10,950
Sundry	7,906	7,653
Legal/Professional Fees	3,074	7,875
Loss on Disposals	926	5,855
	<u>577,695</u>	<u>583,703</u>

### 5. FIXED ASSETS

	Furniture €	Equipment €	Total €
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>			
Balance at 1 January - at Cost	160,167	345,630	505,797
Additions at cost	5,887	5,214	11,101
Disposals at cost		18,866	18,866
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<u>166,054</u>	<u>331,978</u>	<u>498,032</u>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>			
Balance at 1 January	135,226	274,610	409,836
Charged in the year	19,118	34,572	53,690
Disposals		17,941	17,941
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<u>154,344</u>	<u>291,241</u>	<u>445,585</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE - 31/12/03</b>	<b>11,710</b>	<b>40,737</b>	<b>52,447</b>
NET BOOK VALUE - 31/12/02	24,941	71,020	95,961

# Combat Poverty Agency

## Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2003

### 6. CAPITAL ACCOUNT

	2003 €	2002 €
Balance at 1 January	95,961	111,223
<b>Transfer to/(from) Income and Expenditure Account</b>		
Income applied to purchase fixed assets	11,101	51,262
Amortised in the year in line with asset depreciation	(53,690)	(60,573)
Released on disposal of fixed assets	(925)	5,951
	<b>(43,514)</b>	<b>(15,262)</b>
Balance at 31 December	<b>52,447</b>	95,961

### 7. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There were no contingent liabilities at 31 December, 2003.

### 8. COMMITMENTS

- (a) There were no capital commitments at 31 December, 2003  
(b) Funding commitments of €124,500 existed at 31 December, 2003 (2002 €124,931) for Combat Poverty in respect of Grants to Research Projects.  
(c) Combat Poverty Agency has commitments up to the year 2017 in respect of the lease of office accommodation at Bridgewater Business Centre, Islandbridge. The rent on foot of this lease is €200,000 per annum which is subject to review on a five yearly basis.

### 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.

The Board operates a defined benefit superannuation scheme for its employees. 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.

A new accounting standard, *Financial Reporting Standard No. 17 – Retirement Benefits (FRS 17)*, was issued by the Accountancy Standards Board in November 2000. Compliance with the new standard does not become mandatory until the financial year 2005. However in accordance with the transitional arrangement set down by the standard, the Combat Poverty Agency (CPA) is required to disclose the assets (if any) and liabilities related to the pension schemes for its employees by way of a note to the accounts. The results set out below are based on an actuarial valuation of the liabilities in respect of CPA staff as at 31 December 2003. This valuation was carried out using the projected unit method.

The financial assumptions used to calculate scheme liabilities were as follows:

Discount rate	6%
Salary increase assumption	4%
Pension increase assumption	4%
Price inflation	2%

On the basis of these assumptions, and using the projected unit method prescribed in FRS17, the value of the accrued liabilities in respect of CPA staff at 31 December 2003 was estimated at **€1.5m.**

There are no assets held in respect of the accrued pension liabilities of CPA staff

### 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.

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

### 11. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board on 30 June, 2004

### AUDIT

These Financial Statements for 2003 are subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General under the provisions of section 10(2) of the Combat Poverty Agency Act, 1986.

# NOTES

