



 **Combat Poverty
Agency** *working for a
poverty-free Ireland*

ANNUAL REPORT 2004

Annual Report 2004

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AIM

Combat Poverty is a state advisory agency developing and promoting evidence-based proposals and measures to combat poverty in Ireland.

Our strategic objectives for the period 2005-2007 are to promote:

- > A fair distribution of income and jobs;
- > Access to quality services;
- > Local and regional responses to poverty.

These objectives 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 provides an overview of our activities and services.

A copy of Combat Poverty's 2005-2007 Strategic Plan and publications catalogue is available free of charge and on our website.

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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 18th Annual Report of Combat Poverty to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Séamus Brennan TD.

In the report we have set out our achievements in 2004, which is the third year of our three-year Strategic Plan – *Combating Poverty in a Changing Ireland*.

During the year, we significantly progressed our work on promoting social inclusion within the local authorities, in conjunction with our partners, the Office for Social Inclusion and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. We produced a number of important publications on housing, food poverty, household resources and health, and are now actively engaged in promoting their recommendations. We also hosted a well-attended seminar on poverty and conflict, which is particularly relevant to our role in implementing the Peace Programme.

During 2004, we launched our seventh Strategic Plan, *Working for a Poverty-Free Ireland*, covering the period 2005 to 2007. The Plan proposes a series of strategic initiatives around three key objectives, which are critical in addressing poverty and social exclusion:

- > Distribution of income and jobs;
- > Access to quality services; and
- > Local and regional responses to poverty.

In drawing up the plan, we consulted with a wide range of stakeholders and objectively assessed the impact of our previous plan. I want to thank all those consulted. Their contributions were very helpful and greatly appreciated, and are reflected in the new Plan.

We welcome and encourage the recently growing debate on poverty levels. The most recent survey published by the Central Statistics Office – *EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions* – has generated some surprise about the higher rate of poverty identified in the survey compared to the previous rate.

It is important to keep in mind that the criteria by which we measure poverty is changing. The substantial economic growth experienced over the past decade has significantly raised the level of income which we use to determine poverty levels. This is as it should be. What might have been tolerable in the past should not be acceptable today. We are now one of the most developed economies in the OECD and this should be reflected in the standard of living we provide to all those living in Ireland, as well as the quality of measures we take to tackle poverty issues. These measures form the basis of our strategic plan. Unless we focus on delivering on these, our economic tide will not lift all boats.

Within the broad need to address poverty across a number of sectors, a recurring theme is the need to address childcare. However, not all options being proposed will deliver the same benefits across the population as a whole. We strongly urge that priority be given to the options that are of most benefit to those at risk of poverty, and to those who are experiencing poverty.

We recognise that such policies may not always be universally popular and this is a challenge for our legislators. The challenge has been analysed in detail for some time and we now need to move on. The time has come to take action.

We continued to work with our partner, Area Development Management (ADM), to implement the Peace II Programme in the border counties and on a cross-border basis. To date €100m has been allocated to fund a wide range of economic, social and cultural projects, all with the aim of supporting the peace process. We are very pleased that the EU has extended the current programme for a further two years, to the end of 2006.

I want to acknowledge the considerable contribution which has been made by board members, the staff of Combat Poverty and the staff in our partnership with ADM – their dedication, professionalism and commitment are exemplary.

During 2004 the term of office of Bernard Feeney and Marie O'Neill expired and I want to acknowledge and thank them for their valuable contribution. During the year we welcomed Orlaigh Quinn and Callista Bennis to the Board. Seamus McAleavey and Helen Johnston were reappointed, as well as myself as Chairperson.

We have a key role in advising the Minister for Social and Family Affairs on poverty-related issues. I am pleased that we have enjoyed excellent relations with the two relevant ministers during 2004, firstly, Mary Coughlan TD, and then the current minister, Séamus Brennan TD.

It is important for our work that we maintain good relationships with the Department of Social and Family Affairs and the Office for Social Inclusion and I am pleased that this continues to be the case. I would like, therefore, to thank the Secretary General of the Department, John Hynes, his officials and, in particular, the officials in the Office for Social Inclusion for their help and support. We look forward to working with them on the implementation of our Strategic Plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Duncan', with a large, stylized initial 'B' at the start.

Brian Duncan
June 2005



Part One

Annual Overview

Ending Child Poverty – A Shared Responsibility

An Ireland where children are respected as young citizens with a valued contribution to make and a voice of their own; where all children are cherished and supported by family and the wider society; where they enjoy a fulfilling childhood and realise their potential.ⁱ

A modern, 21st-century society such as Ireland should not tolerate child poverty. The consequences of children growing up in poverty are poorer health, slower physical and mental development, lower levels of educational achievement, leading to reduced occupational levels, decreased life opportunities and reduced life expectancy. In this Overview Statement we assess the state of child poverty in Ireland and propose what we need to do as a society to end child poverty.

Levels of child poverty in Ireland

There are two measures of child poverty in Ireland. The first is the Irish government measure of consistent poverty, which is where an individual is below the poverty line and experiences an enforced lack of one or more items on a basic deprivation index, such as a lack of food, clothing, heating or not being able to pay everyday expenses

without going into debt.ⁱⁱ The latest CSO data from 2003 indicate that children in Ireland are twice as likely to be poor as adults. Some 148,000 children are found to be in 'consistently poor' homes. This represents 14.6 per cent of all children (CSO, 2005).ⁱⁱⁱ Many of these children are in lone parent households, in families where the head of household is ill or disabled or in larger families.

A second measure of child poverty is relative income poverty, which measures the proportion of children in families falling below the poverty line (€185.28 per week) but does not include the deprivation index. This measure is used across Europe. Using this measure 23.9 per cent of Ireland's children (242,000 children) are living in 'relatively poor' homes.^{iv}

So, even though Ireland has experienced extraordinary levels of economic growth we still have almost a quarter of our children living in relatively poor homes, many of whom are denied the basic essentials required for modern living. When we think about it, this is perhaps not so surprising. The economic advances have led to higher profits and also to substantially increased employment levels. But, as overall income levels and standards of living have risen, some people have not been able to benefit to the same extent and therefore fall below what most people

would consider an acceptable standard of living in society today. The increased costs of living and participation in society contribute to this. This is reflected in the comments of children themselves in a study by Combat Poverty:^v

I feel kind of guilty when mammy and daddy leave themselves without anything and we get all the stuff;

I think I get less. It makes me sort of jealous. I would like to get more than I do;

With some people whether they're your friends or not depends on what you wear. People don't like friends who don't have brand name clothes;

The worst thing is being bullied and being frightened of being beaten up.

When we compare ourselves with other European countries Ireland has one of the highest rates of child poverty. The lowest rates of child poverty are found in the Nordic countries, where the level of child poverty is less than 10 per cent (of 60 per cent median income). By comparison with child support systems in other countries Ireland has a fairly adequate child income support system, but our service provision for children is relatively poor.

Commitments to address child poverty

Ireland has signed up to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This includes survival rights, developmental rights, protection rights and participation rights. Under this commitment Ireland is obliged to address child poverty. Ireland has a National Children's Strategy, a National Children's Office and an Ombudsman for Children. These initiatives contain a commitment for children to be provided with the financial supports necessary to eliminate child poverty.

The Irish National Anti-Poverty Strategy and National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion are committed to reducing consistent child poverty (currently at 14.6 per cent) to less than 2 per cent by 2007, or ending it completely, and to move to a situation of greater equality for all children in terms of access to appropriate education, health and housing.

Specific targets in this regard and progress on them to date are set out in the following table:^{vi}

TARGETS	PROGRESS TO DATE
<p>(b) Child Benefit and Child Dependent Allowances to be set at 33-35 per cent of the minimum adult social welfare payment rate by 2007.</p> <p>(b) The final phase of the planned multi-annual increases in Child Benefit rates to be completed in 2004 and 2005.</p>	<p>(a) Complete.</p> <p>(b) In progress, but unlikely to be met before the end of 2005.</p>
<p>Reduce the gap in low birth weight rates between children from the lowest and highest socio-economic groups by 10 per cent from the 2001 level, by 2007.</p>	<p>An absence of baseline data has made it difficult to measure progress on this target.</p>
<p>Halve the proportion of pupils with serious literacy difficulties by 2006.</p>	<p>Unknown; baseline data being collected.</p>
<p>Reduce the number of young people who leave the school system early, so that the percentage of those who complete upper second level or equivalent will reach 85 per cent by 2003 and 90 per cent by 2006.</p>	<p>It is unlikely that the target will be met although programmes are being put in place to support this objective.</p>
<p>Achieve the appropriate placement of all Travellers in primary school by 2003.</p>	<p>The majority of Traveller children in primary school are now in age appropriate places.</p>
<p>Increase the transfer rate of Travellers to post-primary schools to 95 per cent by 2004.</p>	<p>The transfer rate of Travellers to post-primary level in 2004 was 85 per cent.</p>

An important aspect of the National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion, prepared for the EU, is its objective of 'mobilising all relevant bodies'. This EU requirement promotes the participation of people experiencing poverty and exclusion in the development, implementation and evaluation of social inclusion policies and measures, as well as mobilising public authorities at national, regional and local levels to take social inclusion into account in their policies and service provision, in conjunction with promoting dialogue and partnership between public and private bodies. The importance of children having a voice as active citizens, as well as in the policies which affect them, is recognised.

The current Social Partnership Agreement, *Sustaining Progress*, contains 10 special initiatives, one of which is Ending Child Poverty. The Ending Child Poverty initiative is being closely aligned to other special initiatives relating to Care, Educational Disadvantage, Long-term Unemployment and Vulnerable Groups to ensure a focus on addressing child poverty. Discussions will take place in the autumn on a new national agreement, and here it will be important that the elimination of child poverty is clearly on the agenda.

European comparisons

In terms of tackling child poverty and working towards its elimination, it is instructive to examine countries which have been successful in substantially reducing child poverty. For example, Denmark has the lowest level of poverty, and child poverty, in the EU. A number of reasons have been put forward for this – a less unequal income distribution than many other EU countries, a high level of participation by women in the workforce and available and affordable childcare. While this may be a model to which Ireland might aspire there are a number of fundamental changes which would have to be made to Ireland's economic and social model of development to emulate Denmark.

An example which is closer to home is Britain. Like Ireland, Britain has traditionally had relatively high rates of child poverty. However, in 1999 the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, made the reduction of child poverty a political priority, and committed his Government to halving child poverty over the next ten years and to eradicating it by 2020. Since then the level of child poverty has started to decline.

The British strategy involves:

- Work for those who can and support for those who cannot;
- Supporting parents;
- Delivering high quality services with targeted support for those with additional needs; and
- Harnessing the power of the voluntary, faith and community sectors.

Some elements of the British Child Poverty strategy include Child and Working Tax Credits, introduced in 2003, and the Sure Start initiative set up in 1998/9, which has a service provision focus. Sure Start seeks to increase child care provision, improve the health and education of young children and support parents. Through Sure Start, all 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to free part-time education. Key learning from the project is that the service should be provided for everyone, but not necessarily the same service – the service needs to be

flexible at the point of delivery, nuanced to individual and community diversity.

Actions to reduce child poverty

As outlined above there are a range of commitments in Irish policy documents to work towards the elimination of child poverty in Ireland. Nevertheless, levels of child poverty in Ireland are unacceptably high. In its recently published *Ending Child Poverty Policy Statement* Combat Poverty has put forward a number of recommendations towards reducing child poverty in Ireland. These are based on an international analysis which shows that while Ireland provides a relatively generous income support package for families with children, it spends comparatively less on assisting families with children to meet the costs of childcare, education, healthcare and housing.

The recommendations include:

Element of Child Support Package	Combat Poverty Recommendation
Child Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Raise Child Benefit to meet the Government target of €149.90 per month for first and second child and to €185.40 per month for third and subsequent children and index-link in successive years

Element of Child Support Package	Combat Poverty Recommendation
Child Dependent Allowances (CDAs) and Family Income Supplement (FIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Increase CDAs > Restructure FIS to improve take up > Review CDA to FIS transition and/or consider Child Benefit Supplement option
Childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Improve the subvention of the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme > Directly subsidise childcare using a gradual withdrawal mechanism to target low-income and vulnerable groups
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Increase provision of early education initiatives. Include morning pre-school provision for all poor children aged four years, supplemented by all-day care, where appropriate > Improve resources at primary level > Provide trained child assistants in all infant classes, with prioritisation in disadvantaged schools
Healthcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Increase the income thresholds for eligibility for a medical card, and introduce a gradual withdrawal mechanism > Fund more community-level interventions (e.g. Targeted primary care initiatives), especially preventative measures (e.g. Vaccination programmes)

Element of Child Support Package	Combat Poverty Recommendation
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Restructure housing benefit to take account of family size > Improve the supply of social housing > Enforce the Residential Tenancies Act, 2004 to increase the attractiveness of the private rental sector through regulatory measures to improve tenants' rights
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Provide additional funds for family services projects, with a focus on vulnerable groups

These recommendations need to be implemented in an urgent, committed and coherent way and made a national priority.

A shared responsibility

Ending child poverty in Ireland requires a national strategy. This means that all sectors of Irish society would support and contribute to policies and actions that will eliminate child poverty.

Political leadership

To be serious about ending child poverty requires that it is a clear political priority articulated by key politicians, who would espouse a

positive vision of a society free of child poverty. This will require tempering the current market-oriented model of society with a stronger developmental welfare state, as articulated by the National Economic and Social Council.^{vii}

This approach advocates a greater emphasis on services supported by adequate income supports and innovative measures to support a modern society. Services need to be delivered in an integrated way, with a focus on the child and family at national, regional and local levels. Thus, such an approach requires political leadership at national and local levels, along with adequate resource allocations.

Institutional leadership

The State and public authorities also have a key leadership role in the area of social expenditure generally, through income support, family services, childcare, education especially early education, health, housing and recreation. This role has two dimensions: a leadership role through direct provision; and an indirect role through the encouragement of measures to end child poverty. The State and public authorities can directly tackle child poverty through their policies and programmes – the elimination of child poverty needs to be central to these and co-ordinated across the public sector.

The implementation of policy is an ongoing challenge requiring greater ‘joined up’ thinking. The use of approaches such as the mainstreaming of social inclusion, including the participation of people living in poverty and their representatives, and the use of tools such as poverty proofing and impact assessment, will assist in putting poverty elimination at the heart of the policy-making and implementation process.

The State and public authorities can also require and/or encourage the social partners to reflect a priority on ending child poverty, e.g. through employment legislation and practice, and through service standards and practice.

State agencies such as Combat Poverty, along with organisations such as the National Children’s Office and the Family Support Agency, have specific leadership roles to play in supporting the end of child poverty.

At local level, the local authorities have responsibility for the provision of adequate housing facilities, playgrounds and libraries. Through the County/City Development Boards a focus can be maintained on addressing child poverty at local level. The local authority initiatives can be complemented by local area-based initiatives through the area-partnerships and by community groups.

A specific example in this regard is the work of the EU-funded Peace Programme in the Border Region. The Peace Programme funds projects which support the development of children and young people in various ways, for example through community-based education projects, in both school and out of school settings; through the medium of arts; and through training in drama and video production. These initiatives allow young people to acquire skills and confidence for their own development and for future employment.

Trade unions

The social partners also have a key role to play. The trade union movement has traditionally been supportive of initiatives to reduce child poverty, particularly among the working

population. This has involved support for tax reforms, improved provision of childcare, tackling educational disadvantage, parental leave and more flexible working arrangements to accommodate a better work-life balance, as well as negotiations to tackle low pay. In ending child poverty such initiatives need to gain national attention and priority. The trade unions have a key contribution to make in putting the ending of child poverty at the centre of national policy concerns, particularly through the social partnership process.

Business

The business sector can promote measures to abolish child poverty in a number of ways. The employment of women contributes significantly to reductions in child poverty. However, this requires the adoption of family-friendly work policies, including childcare and flexible working arrangements for parents. Issues to be addressed include pay levels and job security – these are important in addressing poverty among low-income families and subsequently in tackling child poverty.

The provision of essential services can have a significant impact on low-income families and children. Such services include basic services (food, electricity, fuel) and infrastructure services (financial services, telephone, transport). Issues of availability, cost and access can have a significant

impact on the standard of living of low-income families. The setting of minimum service standards would be useful in this regard.

In addition, employers can support corporate social responsibility by setting out their commitments and promoting best practice to their key stakeholders. This includes commitments to their employees, as well as commitments in relation to community initiatives and the wider environment.

Civil society

The community and voluntary sector clearly have a key role to play. Many community and voluntary groups represent either the needs of children and/or of people at risk of poverty. They have an important role in raising issues in relation to child poverty and also in promoting and influencing measures to address it. In particular they can support the voice of children, the rights of children and promote innovative local actions. They should be supported to do so.

There are a range of other civil society organisations who can all contribute to the ending of child poverty in Ireland. The church and faith-based organisations have historically had a range of roles in this area and should continue to provide a leadership role with regard to poverty reduction. Opinion formers, such as academia and the media, can assist in making this a

national issue and provide and promote the evidence-base on which to take forward appropriate policy initiatives. These influencers are also important in terms of measuring progress.

The family, schools and the local community are key partners in tackling child poverty. They all have a role to play in supporting children, and seeing child poverty as unacceptable. So-called ‘joined up’ policies are critical, particularly to support families in vulnerable situations.

General public

Finally, a national strategy to end child poverty needs to be promoted so that there is an understanding of the scale and nature of the problem and what needs to be done in order to gain support and empathy from the general public. In this context it is critically important that we hear from children themselves about what they believe needs to be done.

Conclusion

Child poverty is unacceptable in a modern society. This Overview Statement sets out the extent of child poverty in Ireland, what can be done when the elimination of child poverty is a national priority and recommendations on how to reduce child poverty in Ireland. The thrust of the Overview is that we need to make the elimination of child poverty a national priority and that the relevant institutions in our society need to do all they can to work towards this end.

The forthcoming social partnership agreement provides a context for making the elimination of child poverty a key national issue and a shared responsibility.

“Child poverty is unacceptable in a modern society.”

ENDNOTES

- i Vision of the National Children's Strategy (2000) Stationery Office: Dublin.
- ii The most recent data available are for 2003 (Central Statistics Office (2005) *EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)*). The poverty line (60 per cent of median equivalised disposable income) was €185.28 per week (€9,668 per annum). The basic deprivation index consists of:
 - No substantial meal on at least one day in the last two weeks;
 - Without heating at some stage in the past year;
 - Experienced debt problems arising from ordinary living expenses;
 - Unable to afford two pairs of strong shoes;
 - Unable to afford a roast once a week;
 - Unable to afford a meal with meat, chicken or fish every second day;
 - Unable to afford new (not second hand) clothes;
 - Unable to afford a warm waterproof coat.
- iii Central Statistics Office (2005) *EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)*.
- iv Ibid.
- v Daly, M. and Leonard, M. (2002) *Against All Odds: Family Life on a Low Income in Ireland*. Combat Poverty Agency/Institute of Public Administration: Dublin.
- vi Office for Social Inclusion (2003) *National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion 2003-2005: Ireland*. Office for Social Inclusion, and Office for Social Inclusion (2005) NAP/Inclusion June 2005 Report to EU (draft).
- vii National Economic and Social Council (2005) *The Developmental Welfare State*. National Economic and Social Development Office: Dublin.

Part Two

Work of the Combat Poverty Agency



Work of the Combat Poverty Agency

This section of the Report documents actions undertaken in 2004, under the objectives of the Combat Poverty Agency Strategic Plan 2002-2004. Measures taken to develop Combat Poverty and enhance the quality of its work such as compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements and management are also detailed.

Combat Poverty's objectives for 2002-2004 were:

- 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 final year in a three-year work programme. Good progress has been made under most of the objectives, with a number of activities and projects coming to a conclusion. Three significant accomplishments in 2004 were:

- Acknowledgement of the role of local authorities in promoting social inclusion through a number of specific policies and actions on social inclusion;
- Promotion of evidence-based policy advice on health, housing, food poverty and household resources;
- The commissioning and steering of a study into the relationships between poverty and conflict and its public launch by Dan Smith of International Alert in December in Dundalk.

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 published a number of research studies in 2004. These included the following:

- *Sharing Household Resources: learning from non-monetary indicators* – by researchers from the ESRI and UCD. This study examined the allocation of resources within households, the extent of poverty amongst women and children, and the use of non-monetary indicators in developing our understanding of poverty and social exclusion. The findings of the study were presented at the annual conference of the Irish Social Policy Association.
- *Housing, Poverty and Wealth in Ireland* – by researchers from the ESRI. This study considered housing from macro and comparative perspectives, focusing on housing tenure and on issues of housing poverty and wealth. The study highlighted that private rental sector tenants demonstrate the highest risk of poverty by tenure. The launch of the publication was accompanied by a seminar discussion, with associated media coverage.
- *Food Poverty and Policy* – by researchers from NUI Galway and UCD. This was a study carried out in conjunction with Crosscare and the Society of St Vincent de Paul. The study reviewed evidence about the food and nutrition intake of low-income households, highlighting various structural barriers which restrict access to an adequate and nutritious diet. Drawing on international experience, the study identified a co-ordinated strategy for ensuring an adequate and nutritious diet in low-income households. The report was launched in conjunction with the annual conference of the European Network of Food Banks. It was well covered by media commentators and there was substantial ongoing media interest. The research publication was followed by a roundtable discussion of key stakeholders to coincide with World

Food Day in October 2004. The research featured in Combat Poverty's conference on poverty, nutrition and health in November 2004. Combat Poverty and its partners in the research also presented the findings to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture and Food.

The findings of a Combat Poverty commissioned study on the links between poverty and conflict was debated at a policy seminar in Dundalk in December, with keynote speaker Dan Smith of International Alert. The research sets out for the first time, in an Irish context, the relationships between poverty and conflict. It reviews international literature and applies the findings to the Irish situation. Important lessons emerge about how to address poverty and conflict issues in future anti-poverty policies and reconstruction programmes. The research was

undertaken by academics in the University of Ulster and Queen's University Belfast. It was published in 2005.

Third-level research on poverty

Combat Poverty promotes and encourages third-level research into poverty and related policy issues through the Poverty Research Initiative. The initiative combines four funding strands:

- PhD Fellowship awards for doctoral research;
- Academic research awards;
- Visiting Research Fellowship in the Policy Institute, Trinity College; and
- Research placements at post-graduate and post-doctoral levels.

In 2004, a PhD fellowship was awarded to Chris McInerney to undertake a doctoral thesis entitled *Evolving local governance and social partnership – enhancing social*



inclusion? in the University of Limerick. A previous PhD fellowship holder, Vanessa Gash was awarded her doctorate from the University of Oxford for her thesis on *Flexible labour markets*. Vanessa subsequently took up a post-doctoral research placement in Combat Poverty to produce a report on *Atypical Work in Ireland and Denmark*. Anne Coakley also joined Combat Poverty on a post-doctoral placement to undertake research on *Pathways from Welfare to Work for Mothers in Welfare-Dependent Households*.

A study by Jonathan Healy, former recipient of a Combat Poverty Visiting Research Fellowship at the Policy Institute, Trinity College, entitled *Fuel Poverty and Policy: a national and cross-country analysis*, was published in 2004 as a Policy Institute 'blue paper' on studies in public policy.

Combat Poverty provided post-graduate research placements to Barbara Healy, NUI Galway, and Rod Hick, UCD for three-month periods.

Four academic research awards were funded in 2004. These awards, totalling €90,000, were for studies on social exclusion policies, pension reform, credit provision to low-income groups and the leisure and recreational needs of children and young people in disadvantaged areas. The research is being carried out by academics in NUI Galway, Trinity College, University College Cork and University of Limerick. A special supplement on the Poverty

Research Initiative 2002-2004 was published with the autumn issue of *Action on Poverty Today*. A new publication format for studies funded by Combat Poverty, principally under the Poverty Research Initiative, was developed. Known as Research Working Papers, three papers were published in 2004 on an adequacy standard for children, the financial cost of healthy eating and a consumer price index for low-income households. The papers, together with the results of the Poverty Research Initiative 2004, were launched by Dr Garret FitzGerald, Chancellor of the National University of Ireland, in November 2004.

Combat Poverty continued its popular lunchtime research seminar series. The seminars provide an informal forum to present and debate poverty research, both Combat Poverty funded studies and other independent research. An average of between 20 and 30 people attended each of the 12 seminars in 2004.

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

Investigating people's experience of poverty

The *Against All Odds* report, recounting the experience of people in poverty, was made more accessible with the production of illustrated Poverty Briefings on three themes: *Growing Up in Poverty*; *Living with Poverty and Poor Health* and *Living in*

Deprived Communities. These Briefings include facts on child poverty, health inequalities and community deprivation, reinforced by people's own experience, and recommendations for change. They were widely distributed, and responded to an expressed need for more publications with wider appeal.

Understanding child poverty and policy solutions

In 2004, Combat Poverty continued its efforts to increase awareness of child poverty through the publication and dissemination of a Poverty Briefing entitled *Growing-up in Poverty*, as well as fact sheets on child poverty.

A study was published, through the Research Working Papers Series, on *Exploring an Adequacy Standard for Children*. The study examined methodologies for estimating the cost of child rearing, which could be adopted in Ireland.

Combat Poverty initiated work on a Policy Statement with proposals to end child poverty, based on an analysis of international trends. The Policy Statement *Ending Child Poverty* was launched by the Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Séamus Brennan TD, in 2005.

Combat Poverty initiated a study on the dynamics of child poverty with the ESRI in 2004. The research examines movements in and out of child poverty. The findings are due to be reported in 2005.

During 2004, Combat Poverty continued to contribute to the preparatory work for a national longitudinal study of children's well-being, which is led by the National Children's Office. The study will be commissioned in 2005.

Combat Poverty continued to have an exchange of views with the End Child Poverty Coalition on current policy issues, meeting on two occasions throughout the year.

Combat Poverty had the opportunity to build good relations with the Ombudsman for Children, Ms. Emily Logan, through her involvement in a number of its activities.

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. Exchanges took place in relation to our pre-budget submission, food poverty policy issues, schools programme and local government work. In December, an

initial meeting took place with Mr Séamus Brennan TD, following his appointment as Minister for Social and Family Affairs. Briefings also took place with special advisors to the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD, the Tánaiste, Mary Harney TD, and senior officials in other departments including the Departments of Finance, the Taoiseach, Education and Science, Health and Children, Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

Combat Poverty organised a round-table discussion with assistant secretary generals and other senior officials of a number of key departments to have an exchange of views on current social expenditure trends. The discussion was informed by inputs from Dr Virpi Timonen, Trinity College, and Mr John P. Martin, OECD, who highlighted the importance of social expenditure in reducing poverty.

Combat Poverty continued to analyse and make policy submissions on many aspects of public policy, most notably Budget 2005. The most significant policy submissions made in 2004 were as follows:

- Submission to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on incorporating a social inclusion dimension within local authority corporate plans;
- Submissions to all Regional

Authorities on incorporating a social inclusion dimension into Regional Planning Guidelines;

- Submission on the Health Bill 2004;
- Submission to the Consumer Strategy Group;
- Submission to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs on policy priorities for Budget 2005;
- Submission to the National Task Force on Obesity;
- Submission to the OECD on its review of higher education;
- Submission on the Equality Bill 2004;
- Submission to the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, Northern Ireland: *Towards an Anti-Poverty Strategy – Consultation Document*; and
- Submission to the House of Commons Northern Ireland Affairs Committee: *Ways of Dealing with Northern Ireland's Past*.

Combat Poverty met with the Oireachtas Committee on Social and Family Affairs on two occasions in 2004. In January we presented an analysis of Budget 2004 and its redistributive impact, and also highlighted our concern in relation to Ireland's low level of social expenditure compared to other EU countries. In October our submission on Budget 2005 was presented to the Joint Oireachtas Committee, outlining priorities for poverty policy and new poverty data.

Combat Poverty, along with our partners in the Peace Programme, Area Development Management Ltd, Co-operation Ireland and the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, met with the Oireachtas Committee on European Affairs and presented an overview of our work through the Peace Programme and the need to continue this work at grassroots level in the future.

Combat Poverty continued to provide briefings and information to political parties and social partners on poverty and policy issues.

Combat Poverty also responded to requests for information from external groups. As part of this, the Director and staff met a number of delegations and made a number of presentations on a range of issues. These included meeting a Brazilian delegation and Australian policy-makers. Presentations included neighbourhood renewal, women's poverty and health.

Poverty and social partnership

Combat Poverty continued to liaise with social partners, providing briefings and information on issues pertinent to *Sustaining Progress*, particularly in relation to the Ten Special Initiatives, with a special focus on the End Child Poverty Initiative.

Combat Poverty also participated in the Social Policy Network which brings together statutory and community and

voluntary organisations to exchange information on social policy initiatives.

Contributing to government advisory bodies and task forces

Throughout 2004 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 2004 included the following:

- The Social Inclusion Consultative Committee of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy, convened by the 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. From autumn 2004, Combat Poverty was also represented on the Monitoring Committees for the Operational Programmes Employment and Human Resources and the Economic and Social Infrastructure;

- 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, convened by Dublin City Council;
- The Monitoring Committee of the Peace Programme convened by the Special EU Programmes Body;
- The Primary Care Steering Group of the Department of Health and Children;
- The Consultative Forum on Family Support Services convened by the

Department of Health and Children;

- The Community Development Support Programme Advisory Committee under the aegis of the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs;
- The NAPS Health Working Group of the Department of Health and Children; and
- The Education Equality Initiative Working Group of the Department of Education and Science.

Promoting an understanding of poverty

Fostering an 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, website, policy liaison and work with schools target key audiences, including government departments, elected



representatives, social partners, statutory and voluntary bodies and the general public.

Combat Poverty informed all candidates for the European Parliament elections of the European Social Agenda and the National Action Plans Against Poverty and Social Exclusion, stressing the importance of making poverty a priority on the EU agenda.

Combat Poverty opened up contact with all local authority councillors following their election in June 2004. Information on poverty and Combat Poverty's work with local authorities, through the local government anti-poverty programme, was distributed to them.

Using the Stratagem database, Combat Poverty tracked its liaison with, and information dissemination to, members of the Oireachtas throughout the year.

Information on poverty

Four issues of Combat Poverty's journal *Action on Poverty Today* were published.

Several media events took place in 2004, to promote key policy submissions. These included:

- Annual Report 2003
- Submission on the 2005 Budget (Pre-Budget Submission).

The 2004 Combat Poverty Calendar

featured the personal comments of people living in poverty, taken from the study *Against All Odds*.

Combat Poverty's fact sheets were updated and are available on www.combatpoverty.ie. They are entitled *What is Poverty?*, *Measuring Poverty*, *Child Poverty in Ireland* and *Lone-Parent Families and Poverty*. A further title, *Homelessness and Poverty*, was added to the series.

A series of leaflets written by and for second-level school students was produced. The titles are: *What is Poverty?*, *Responses to Poverty*, *People and Poverty*, and *Why are People Poor?*

A policy discussion paper, *Poverty is Bad for Your Health*, was published and promoted.

A funding initiative to commemorate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October was developed and four grants were awarded for activities in and around the day.

Post-primary education and curricular development

Combat Poverty concluded its fruitful collaboration with the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee Curriculum Development Unit (CDVEC CDU) on the project *Poverty, the Classroom and the Curriculum*, in second-level schools. Eight second-

level schools and eleven anti-poverty community development groups were involved in school-community partnerships in poverty awareness education. Key developments in 2004 included the following:

- Publication of a second edition of *School-Community Partnership News*;
- Teacher-training on social analysis and understanding poverty;
- Completion of the third of a series of three formative evaluation reports on the project. In this report students provided feedback on the project. Many students expressed the view that participation in the project will have a lasting impact on their lives. The project also enhanced teachers' understanding of community development and socio-economic deprivation in their areas. For community workers, a sense of solidarity was developed with teachers in their partnerships;
- A final seminar, 'Opening Doors: The School and Community in Poverty Awareness Education', took place to conclude the project, to recognise the achievements of the students, teachers and communities involved, and to acknowledge a very valuable collaboration between Combat Poverty and the Curriculum Development Unit of the City of Dublin VEC. The Ombudsman for Children, Emily Logan, opened the event;
- Briefing meetings took place with the Departments of Education and Science, Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, and the Office for Social Inclusion at the Department of Social and Family Affairs and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), with a view to mainstreaming school-community partnerships as an approach to poverty awareness in the classroom;
- Guidelines for teachers on how to develop school-community partnerships were prepared and disseminated; and
- An information website on equality, poverty and children's rights, www.cspe.ie, for students and teachers of Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE) continues to be maintained and updated. The website is a collaborative exercise by Combat Poverty, the Children's Rights Alliance, the Equality Authority and the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

The Combat Poverty Award for the Young Social Innovator of the Year was awarded for the second time in 2004, 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 the links between poverty and disability.

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)

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, promoting and supporting the involvement of excluded people in NAPS, 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.

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

Combat Poverty participated in a number of initiatives to promote and discuss Ireland's National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion. These included conferences organised by the Irish Presidency of the EU on migrants and on the family. The Director made an input at a Norwegian seminar on National Action Plans against Poverty and Social Exclusion.

Mainstreaming Social Inclusion

As part of the EU-funded Social Exclusion Transnational Exchange Programme, Combat Poverty published a research report, *Mainstreaming Social Inclusion*, as part of Phase 1 of this funding programme. This report 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.

Combat Poverty was also successful under Phase II of the Programme in securing funding for a further two years to continue to develop the work on Mainstreaming Social Inclusion. Additional partners in the work are the Czech Republic and Norway. In 2004 three strands of the work were developed: policy development, participation and the development of an evaluation framework. Meetings were held in a number of the partner countries. The work is continuing in 2005, culminating in a European seminar, a book on mainstreaming and the production of a manual on CD Rom.

Participation in NAPS

Combat Poverty provided both funding and development support to 10 projects to involve people living in poverty in the development or

implementation of the NAPS, in recognition that people living in poverty face particular barriers to influencing policy and often have little opportunity to participate. The outcomes of this work informed the Social Inclusion Forum, convened by the National Economic and Social Forum, in January 2005.

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.

Combat Poverty produced material on poverty proofing for inclusion in *A*

Guide for Developing a Local Anti-Poverty Strategy. Combat Poverty also participated in a group convened by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform on Equality Proofing and contributed to an Equality Authority led research project on piloting an integrated proofing approach.

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; and
- Supporting community participation in local government.



Combat Poverty worked closely with its partners, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) and the Office for Social Inclusion (OSI), on these initiatives. Combat Poverty also sought to mainstream these elements and subsequently a Local Authorities and Social Inclusion Steering Group was formed to oversee the mainstreaming. The Steering Group is chaired by the DoEHLG, and involves Combat Poverty, OSI, the Institute of Public Administration and the Local Government Management Services Board. Agreement has been reached amongst these agencies that 2005 will be a transition year in which learning from this work will be embedded into the mainstream and that co-ordination of the Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network will pass to the Institute of Public Administration from 2006.

Local anti-poverty strategies

In 2004, Combat Poverty continued to support three local authorities to develop local anti-poverty strategies. The three local authorities were Donegal, Westmeath and Cork City. The outcomes from this work were presented at a national conference, *Making A Difference*, in October. A *Guide to Local Anti-Poverty Strategies* was prepared and is available to local authorities in 2005.

Social Inclusion Units

Combat Poverty was asked to support the Social Inclusion Units in local authorities when they were established in 2001. This support continued in 2004, and Combat Poverty worked closely with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and with unit staff to facilitate the units in identifying their priorities. Combat Poverty also contributed to an evaluation of the units commissioned by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and undertaken by Fitzpatrick Associates, and was represented on a steering group which oversaw this work. An initiative to profile the work of the units was commissioned and was published in 2005.

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 and share 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.

A number of consultants were engaged to provide specific supports to local authorities in the areas of

communications, training and community development.

The Local Government Advisory Committee and Steering Committee met several times in 2004. 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 and July and hosted a national conference in October. These meetings included discussions on anti-poverty strategies and the role of local authorities, work with ethnic minorities and partnership work with local communities.

Fitzpatrick Associates completed an evaluation of the Learning Network and recommended the continuation of the work as an essential element to support the NAPS at local level. A number of reports were produced including a report on local poverty indicators, poverty profiling and poverty proofing. These reports have contributed to the Guide for the development of a Local Anti-Poverty Strategy, along with other papers developed as part of the work with local authorities. Several editions of *Learning Brief*, the network newsletter, and *Network Exchange*, the electronic

newsletter, were produced.

Local Authorities and Social Inclusion (LASI) Project

Combat Poverty, on behalf of the Irish Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network, also participated in an EU-funded project, led by the UK Local Government Network, through Warwick University Local Government Centre, on 'Local Authorities and Social Inclusion' (LASI). This project aims to strengthen anti-poverty practice in local government, and includes partners from Sweden, Spain and Lithuania. The main focus of the LASI project in 2004 was to identify and develop indicators and processes for use in a programme of Peer Reviews to be undertaken between local authorities in the partner countries in 2005.

Community participation in local government

Combat Poverty continued to provide training and support to local authority staff on involving excluded groups in local government, including support to Community and Enterprise Development Officers.

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 2004, on a north-south basis, Combat Poverty continued to collaborate 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 for Northern Ireland (CFNI) and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU). A national conference was held in March to promote this approach and a report was subsequently published and launched at the end of 2004.

A key initiative was the further development 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 supported an evaluation of this work on behalf of the partner groups in 2004. Work commenced on developing a significant funding proposal for the continuation of this work over a three-year period.

Combat Poverty has also had discussions with the Human Rights Commission to share ideas on 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.

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; and
- Policy.

An Advisory Group for the programme continued its work in 2004 and assisted in defining priorities and assessing funding applications.

Innovation

A further round of funding was made available to support community development approaches to health inequalities and the participation of communities in health policy and practice. One hundred and ten

applications were received. €180,000 was allocated to 13 projects (see Appendix 2 for grant listing). Funding of €45,000 was provided by the Department of Health and Children for three additional projects, two of which were particularly relevant to the Primary Care Strategy. As part of the funding process, a funding brochure was prepared and distributed and information sessions were held for potential applicants. Combat Poverty met with all funded groups during the year and provided advice and support to the funded groups.

Networking

Combat Poverty facilitated a number of networking meetings for funded groups to exchange information and identify key themes emerging from their work. A promotional leaflet, containing a summary of funded work and contact details for funded groups, was published.

A national conference on *Nutrition, Poverty and Health* was held in Portlaoise in November 2004, which drew from research supported by Combat Poverty.

Research and evaluation

An evaluation of the *Building Healthy Communities* programme was completed during 2004 and training on self-evaluation was provided to funded groups.

Two papers were commissioned on issues arising from the funded work: *Community Participation in Health Policy and Practice*; and *The Health Needs of Vulnerable Groups*.

A short paper was prepared, drawing from a literature and policy review, of the links between Poverty, Community Development and Health, which had been undertaken by the National University of Ireland, Galway.

A brochure *Poverty and Health* was produced and published as part of Combat Poverty's Poverty Briefing Series.

A booklet *Poverty is Bad for your Health*, by Dr Ruth Barrington, was published as a Policy Discussion Paper.

Funding was provided, through the Institute of Public Health, to support research which will be undertaken by the NAPS Health Working Group. This will include a review of the *Report of the Working Group on the National Anti-Poverty Strategy and Health*, which was produced in 2001.

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 attended sub-groups on community involvement and quality. Combat Poverty also participated in the NAPS Health Working Group, reconvened by the Department of Health and Children.

Following on from a consultation with health professionals on developing an awareness initiative with health professionals 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 under the auspices of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS) Health Services Project Planning Team.

In 2004 an information brochure on the National Anti-Poverty Strategy and Health was finalised. Three base-line studies on NAPS and Health were completed: (i) the strategic implementation of NAPS by health boards; (ii) the scoping of anti-poverty activity in health boards in the context of NAPS targets; and (iii) a survey of awareness of anti-poverty activity amongst health board staff.

Social spending and income distribution

The proportion of national income devoted to the provision of basic

services such as housing, health, education and childcare has a significant impact on the level of poverty and inequality in society.

An 'Epilogue' to *Irish Social Expenditure in a Comparative International Context* (2003) was commissioned in 2004. The 'Epilogue' builds on the previous report, providing additional information and analysis based on the most recent data, and making policy recommendations. Its preliminary findings were presented for discussion with senior civil servants.

Implementing Peace II Programme

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

In the course of 2004 a total allocation of €98m was committed to Peace Projects (See Appendix 3 for grants listings).

Combat Poverty staff participated in a joint policy forum with ADM/CPA in June and in shared training sessions. Policy discussions throughout 2004 centred on two strategic questions:

- How to link the lessons gained through the workings of the Peace Programmes with Combat Poverty's policy development activity; and
- The relationships between poverty and conflict and how they influence each other.

Shared training sessions consisted of four full days over a four week period in peace-building and reconciliation. The training was delivered in Monaghan by international expert Brandon Hamber from South Africa.

Combat Poverty continued to explore ways of building the lessons of the Peace Programmes into national and local policy. The 'Practice to Policy' work continued with joint seminars and a quarterly review meeting.

Combat Poverty, through ADM/CPA, is implementing the INTERREG IIIA Measure 3.1 with its Northern Ireland lead partner Co-operation Ireland. Full commitment of €9.5m was achieved in 2004, with the funding allocated to

community groups seeking to address social exclusion in the Border region on a cross-border basis.

A number of research projects received funding under the PEACE II Programme and began work in 2004.

These included the following:

- **Border Protestant Perspectives**
Locus Management

A quantitative survey of the views of more than 400 Protestant households across the southern border counties, to identify the extent of social exclusion of minority Protestant communities and explore and address the issues arising in Protestant communities that have contributed to a weak community infrastructure.

- **The Legacy of the Troubles**
Queen's University Belfast/
University College Cork

This is a study of the effects of violent experience on societal well-being and psychological health, based on 3,000 interviews of individuals in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties.

- **The Emerald Curtain: the social impact of the Irish Border**
Triskele Community Training & Development

An action research project which identifies the specific social, cultural and economic impact of the border on the infrastructure and sustainability of communities (both geographic and issue-based) in the southern border counties.



- **Peace Building Through Policy Project**

Women Educating for Transformation

This research includes an audit of the participation of women in community, voluntary and public sector structures and a needs analysis of the women's community and voluntary sector to inform the development of a training programme on gender mainstreaming for women activists.

- **Planning for the future**
Border Minority Group

The main aims of this project are: (i) the identification of areas of social exclusion and weak community infrastructure within the minority Protestant community; (ii) the formulation of a programme to address these issues; and (iii) the preparation of a strategic plan.

In addition, in 2004 ADM/CPA commissioned two major research studies, the findings of which will be published in 2005. These are:

- **All Over the Place: people displaced to and from the Southern Border Counties**

Ralaheen Ltd, Strategem, Expac

The research has four main strands: (i) to identify and describe the displaced population; (ii) to identify

and describe the impacts of displacement on displaced people and their families; (iii) to identify and describe the impacts of displacement on communities of origin and 'host' communities; and (iv) to assess the specific needs of displaced people and their families.

- **Good Practice in Community-Based Peacebuilding**

Helen Maher and Yuvi Basanth

This research focuses on a selection of 21 projects representative of the comprehensive range of projects funded under the Peace programmes. It aims to identify the legacy of the conflict and the opportunities for peace in terms of the political, social, economic and cultural conditions.

Area-based approaches to tackle poverty

A Combat Poverty commissioned study, undertaken by the ESRI, on the spatial distribution of poverty and deprivation was completed, and was launched in 2005. The study provides information for the planning and assessment of area-based programmes for tackling poverty.

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 (NDP). Social inclusion is one of the four objectives of the NDP. Work was ongoing in seeking to embed indicators of social inclusion in the two regional operational programmes.

Following the mid-term review of the National Development Plan, which highlighted weaknesses in the application of the horizontal principles (including social inclusion), the CSF Evaluation Unit undertook a review and made proposals for changes in how the principles were applied. These proposals, which assigned the most relevant horizontal principles (maximum two) to each measure, were agreed by the Operational Programme Monitoring Committees.

Combat Poverty, in collaboration with the Office for Social Inclusion, was asked to review progress on each of the measures that were selected for the social inclusion horizontal principle. This involved meeting with departments and agencies responsible for the designated measures, agreeing how the social inclusion focus might be strengthened, and making proposals

on how the relevant Programme Complements might be amended to reflect the agreed changes. This required Combat Poverty to work with the departments and agencies responsible for designated measures in the Employment and Human Resource Development, and the Economic and Social Infrastructure, Operational Programmes, for the first time. In acknowledgement of the scale of work involved, the Department of Finance made €50,000 (€25,000 in both 2004 and 2005) available to Combat Poverty, through the Office for Social Inclusion. This funding allowed Combat Poverty to extend its contract for technical support to Measure Managers and to commission a guide to social inclusion in the NDP.

Progress reports were made to the Operational Programmes Monitoring Committees and to the Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion Coordinating Committee.

Letters were written to the European Commission with regard to strengthening social inclusion in the next round of EU Structural Funding.

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 and began work to develop a handbook on the application of the principles in the White Paper Supporting Voluntary Activity, in collaboration with the Department and the Implementation and Advisory Group for the White Paper. Combat Poverty also participated in the Advisory Group for the Community Development Support Programme.

In 2004, Combat Poverty provided general support and advice to the community sector.

With Area Development Management Ltd and Comhairle, Combat Poverty continued work in 2004 to develop a joint database, detailing publications and resource materials available nationally from them 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 anti-poverty focused community work. Research was finalised and presented to a roundtable to consider how best to take the work forward. Significant interest was expressed in further developing dialogue on the issues raised and a further event is planned.

Combat Poverty continued to produce resource materials to meet the needs of community development and anti-poverty groups. An education material entitled *Influencing Policy: Training Pack* was completed and published.

In 2004 the following titles were commissioned:

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

Combat Poverty tendered for a research study on the role of community development in tackling poverty. However, no tender was awarded and this work will now be advanced in 2005.

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

- The Advisory Committee of the Ireland Funds;
- The Advisory Committee of the National Women's Council EQUAL initiative, 'In from the Margins'; and
- The Board of the Combined European Bureau for Social Development (CEBSD), an EU Network that promotes community development.

Supporting anti-poverty groups to influence policy

Following the re-allocation of functions between government departments in 2002, overall responsibility for the *Working Against Poverty* Grants Scheme and 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, with effect from 1 January 2004. Since then, joint meetings have taken place twice yearly with the National Anti-Poverty Networks. In 2004 meetings were held in Galway and Dublin.

Practice to Policy

Practice to policy work involves strengthening the participation of

people living in poverty in the development of anti-poverty and social inclusion policies. The 2004 work programme consisted of four strands: policy and poverty seminars; resources for influencing policy; support for policy networking in the northeast region; and financial support for projects working to enhance participation in the National Anti-Poverty Strategy.

Two poverty and policy seminars were held in 2004, one on *Child Poverty* in Tullamore, and one on *Access to Services in the Border Counties* in Monaghan. The seminars were designed to support community and voluntary organisations who are seeking to influence anti-poverty policy both locally and nationally.

Combat Poverty launched a new training resource – *Influencing Policy: Training Pack* – which provides tools for planning strategies to influence the policy-making process. This resource is primarily of use to those who have a capacity-building, training or policy development role with the community and voluntary sector. Three seminars took place, in Portlaoise, Dublin and Monaghan, to promote the use of the pack by community and voluntary groups, on the themes of NAPS, health and peace-building.

Work in the North East region supported the development and co-ordination of regional policy networking

for groups in the region. Two events were organised to inform and support this work: A consultative roundtable on strengthening Practice to Policy work in the border region; and 'Influencing Change in the Border Counties' – a networking seminar for anti-poverty

groups working in the border counties. Combat Poverty provided both funding and development support to 10 projects to involve people living in poverty in the development or implementation of the NAPS.



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 2004 was published in a special

supplement of the spring issue of *Action on Poverty Today*.

Combat Poverty's submission on Budget 2005 was presented to the Minister and Department of Social and Family Affairs and was widely disseminated. The Submission focused on welfare payments and supports, child income support, low-wage working families and early childhood education and care.

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.

The incidence of poverty among those in employment has increased in recent years. To investigate this phenomenon, Combat Poverty is undertaking a qualitative study of low-paid working households. This work was ongoing in 2004.

The tax system plays an important role in redistributing resources in society. Combat Poverty commissioned a study on indirect taxation and its distributive impact in 2004. The report of the research will be published in 2005.

Strengthening organisational capacity

Combat Poverty continued its policy of harnessing its organisational resources – financial, human, material and technological – in a way that supports its remit to secure the greatest advances in the elimination of poverty and social exclusion and best serve 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 skills to help achieve organisational objectives.

Combat Poverty, as part of its commitment to working to the highest standard of effectiveness and efficiency, continued to monitor the allocation of people resources and the ongoing need for sectional co-operation on key work areas.

Combat Poverty piloted the Project Team approach, through the establishment of a Health Project Team, to progress the work on poverty and health.

Strategic Plan

Combat Poverty's key objectives and goals for the period 2002-2004 are set

out in its Strategic Plan for that period. These formed the basis for the year's work programme. Following 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 at the end of 2003, some administration of this work continued in 2004.

A mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan 2002-2004, led by consultants Eustace Patterson Ltd, and supported by a Board-staff steering group, was completed in parallel with the start of work by the Board and staff on a new Strategic Plan for 2005-2007.

A Board Sub-Committee supported the development and completion of the 2005-2007 Strategic Plan, which was finalised by end 2004.

Partnership working

Work continued during 2004 on Combat Poverty's Modernisation Action Plan, required under the *Sustaining Progress* national partnership agreement. Progress was monitored by the Partnership Committee of Combat Poverty and reported to the Secretary General of the Department of Social and Family Affairs.

The Partnership Committee met four times in 2004. It also discussed the review of recruitment and selection policy, flexible working and varied attendance, customer service, and the

code of conduct for Board and staff. The Committee was briefed by the Director on matters relating to the proposed relocation of Combat Poverty under the Government's decentralisation programme.

Customer Service Action Plan

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.

Following consultation through the partnership process, the Customer Service Action Plan was updated and formally adopted following a staff briefing. The Plan encompasses the twelve quality customer service principles approved by Government for the public sector.

Work started at the end of 2004 on devising a Customer Charter for Combat Poverty. The Charter is due to be finalised in 2005.

Financial management

The 2003 financial statements were prepared and then submitted, along with the Annual Report for 2003, to the Minister for Social and Family Affairs in June. The Financial Statements were later audited by the Office of 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 2005 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.

The Audit Committee met with ADM/CPA management in September and November as part of its monitoring of that work.

A staff briefing was held on pensions policy and entitlements.

Governance

High standards of compliance in relation to all financial records and procedures for tax gathering, tax clearance and payments were achieved and maintained. 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.

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

A Code of Conduct for Members and Staff, under the terms of the Ethics in Public Office Act, was agreed by the Board and the Partnership Committee, and put in place.

A Risk Management Workshop was attended by members of the Audit Committee and the Management Team in May.

A detailed review of internal financial controls was carried out in December by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Decentralisation

Following the announcement in December 2003 that the Combat Poverty Agency was to be relocated to Monaghan, Combat Poverty established a Board Sub-Committee to assess the implications of the proposed move. An assessment, including consultation with staff, of the impact on the organisation and its staff was undertaken.

Human resources policy

During 2004, the Director and Members of the Board Sub-Committee on Decentralisation briefed staff on a number of occasions on developments relating to the proposal to relocate Combat Poverty under the decentralisation programme announced by the Government in December 2003.

Discussions continued during the year with the Department of Social and

Family Affairs regarding the terms and conditions that would apply to contracts of indefinite duration being offered to staff in permanent core posts.

Development and training

Under Combat Poverty's Development and Training plan for staff, the average number of days spent on training per individual staff member was 6 days in 2004, similar to 2003. Total expenditure on development and training in 2004 was maintained at 4 per cent of payroll. Among the cross-sectional training initiatives undertaken were people skills, team building and project management.

Flexible working and varied attendance

Following the external review of flexible working arrangements and work-life balance policies in late 2003, a Work Share and Varied Attendance Scheme was agreed through the Partnership Committee and put in place in July. Later in the year, a commissioned study reported on criteria for assessment of applications for varied attendance under the new scheme.

A pilot home working project, involving one staff member, commenced during the year and was reviewed in December.

Health and safety

Combat Poverty continued to fulfil obligations under health and safety at work legislation.

Performance management and development

An evaluation of Combat Poverty's Performance Management and Development Process (PMD) was carried out in late 2004. Training was provided for a number of staff in relation to performance planning and feedback.

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

Recruitment

A number of temporary appointments were made during the year: Fidelma Joyce to the post of Head of Information and Public Education (work-share), Elaine Byrne as Policy Liaison Officer (part-time) and Siobhán Commins as Financial Administrator.

Information technology (IT)

An IT development implementation plan was put in place, based on the review of information technology needs and capacity, completed in 2003. A new server and upgraded hardware and software were installed. Updating of records and archive management procedures continued. The implementation plan continued into 2005.

Combat Poverty continued to comply with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act and carried out a review of its procedures and responsibilities for data protection.

An e-payments plan was prepared in relation to the phased elimination of cheque payments. This plan will be implemented in 2005.

Combat Poverty Board

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs appointed Callista Bennis and Orlaigh Quinn (Office for Social Inclusion) to the Board of Combat Poverty in 2004.

The Minister reappointed Brian Duncan, Helen Johnston and Seamus McAleavey when their initial period of membership concluded.

The Board met, along with staff, in Mullingar in June as part of its preparation of a new Strategic Plan and held its September meeting at ADM/CPA's offices in Monaghan.



“We are now one of the most developed economies in the OECD and this should be reflected in the standard of living we provide to all those living in Ireland, as well as the quality of measures we take to tackle poverty issues.”

Appendix 1

Board, Sub-Committees and Staff



Appendix 1

Board, Sub-Committees and Staff

Board attendance in 2004

There were eight meetings of the Board in 2004. Two new members were appointed to the Board during the year: Orlaigh Quinn who replaced Marie O'Neill as the representative of the Department of Social and Family Affairs; and Callista Bennis. Four members completed their three-year terms during 2004 and of these, three were re-appointed to the Board by the Minister, Mary Coughlan, TD.

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

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

	Board	Sub-Committees
Brian Duncan, Chairperson ¹	7 (8)	26 (31)
Pearse O'Hanrahan, Vice Chairperson	6 (8)	25 (42)
Callista Bennis ²	2 (3)	0 (0)
Maria Corrigan	5 (8)	0 (0)
Frank Curran	4 (8)	1 (1)
Bernard Feeney ³	0 (1)	0 (0)
Anthony Gavin	8 (8)	19 (19)
Maria Gorman	8 (8)	2 (4)
Helen Johnston ⁴	8 (8)	34 (42)
Tony Lane	8 (8)	16 (16)
Seamus McAleavey ⁵	4 (8)	0 (0)
Tony O'Callaghan	7 (8)	2 (4)
Joan O'Flynn	7 (8)	10 (12)
Marie O'Neill ⁶	3 (4)	6 (6)
Orlaigh Quinn ⁷	4 (4)	4 (6)
Alice Robertson	7 (8)	5 (6)
Margaret Sweeney	8 (8)	2 (4)
Olive Sweetman	6 (8)	2 (2)

¹ Re-appointed as Chairperson in March 2004

² Appointed June 2004

³ Completed term March 2004

⁴ Re-appointed June 2004

⁵ Re-appointed July 2004

⁶ Succeeded as Departmental representative in June 2004

⁷ Appointed as Departmental representative in June 2004

Fees and Expenses

Fees payable to Board Members are set by the Minister for Social and Family Affairs and are currently €7,618.43 for the Chairperson and €5,078.95 for individual Members.

Expenses are paid in accordance with Civil Service Regulations on Travel and Subsistence.

Board Sub-Committees and Advisory Committees

In addition to attending Board Meetings, members were also active on sub-committees and advisory committees. Two new Board Sub-Committees were established during the year. The Board was represented on such committees as follows:

BOARD SUB-COMMITTEES

Personnel and Finance Committee

Brian Duncan (Chair), Pearse O'Hanrahan, Helen Johnston, Joan O'Flynn, Anthony Gavin, Marie O'Neill*

Audit Committee

Pearse O'Hanrahan (Chair), Maria Gorman, Anthony Gavin

Decentralisation Committee⁺

Anthony Gavin (Chair), Helen Johnston, Tony O'Callaghan, Pearse O'Hanrahan, Margaret Sweeney, Joan O'Flynn

Strategic Plan Evaluation Committee

Anthony Gavin (Chair), Helen Johnston

2005-2007 Strategic Plan Committee⁺

Tony Lane (Chair), Helen Johnston, Alice Robertson

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network Advisory Committee

Pearse O'Hanrahan (Chair), Helen Johnston, Alice Robertson, Maria Gorman, Marie O'Neill*

* term ended during year

+ new committee

Building Healthy Communities Advisory Committee

Brian Duncan (Chair), Seamus McAleavey, Frank Curran, Helen Johnston

Poverty Research Initiative

Olive Sweetman

PEACE PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

Joint Management Committee Membership (as at 31 December 2004)

Brian Duncan	(Joint Chairperson), Combat Poverty Agency
Terry Larkin	(Joint Chairperson), Area Development Management
Helen Johnston	Director, Combat Poverty Agency
Tony Crooks	Chief Executive Officer, Area Development Management
Pearse O'Hanrahan	Board Member, Combat Poverty Agency
Tony Lane	Board Member, Combat Poverty Agency
Liz Sullivan	Staff Member, Combat Poverty Agency
Jack Keyes	County Manager, Cavan
Adge King	Director of Community and Enterprise, Monaghan
Breege Lenihan	County Monaghan Community Network
Michael McCauley	Border Midlands and Western Regional Authority
Maire O'Leary	Community Workers Co-operative
Mary Ryan	Westbic, Galway
Bob Wilson	Dundalk Employment Partnership

Cross-Border Management Committee Membership (as at 31 December 2004)

Brian Duncan	(Joint Chairperson), Board, Combat Poverty Agency
Tony Crooks	(Joint Chairperson), CEO Area Development Management
Helen Johnston	Combat Poverty Agency, Director
Pearse O'Hanrahan	Combat Poverty Agency, Board Member
Maire O'Leary	Area Development Management representative
Bob Wilson	Area Development Management representative
Tony Kennedy	Co-operation Ireland, CEO
Bryan Johnston	Co-operation Ireland, Board Member
Avila Kilmurray	Community Foundation for Northern Ireland
Eamon Deane	Community Foundation for Northern Ireland

ADM/CPA Selection Panel Priority 1 and 2 (as at 31 December 2004)

Tony Crooks	(Chairperson) Chief Executive Officer, Area Development Management
Liz Sullivan	Staff Member, Combat Poverty Agency
Larry Kelly	FÁS, Sligo

Adge King	Director of Community and Enterprise, Monaghan
Paddy McGinn	ADM/CPA Joint Manager
Paddy Logue	ADM/CPA Joint Manager
Department of Education and Science Inspectorate Secretariat (Vacant)	

Cross-Border Selection Panel (as at 31 December 2004)

Helen Johnston	(Chairperson) Combat Poverty Agency, Director
Paddy Logue	ADM/CPA Joint Manager
Paddy McGinn	ADM/CPA Joint Manager
Felicity McCartney	Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (CFNI)
Chrissie Cahill	Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (CFNI)
Tony Kennedy	Co-operation Ireland
Des Fegan	Co-operation Ireland
Irene Monahan	Dundalk Institute
Bob Wilson	Dundalk Employment Partnership
Christine Tiernan	Department of Education & Science

STAFF (as at 31 December 2004)

Director	Helen Johnston
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Organisational Management and Development (OMD)

Seán Mistéil	Head of Organisational Management & Development
Eileen Scanlon ¹	Human Resources Manager
Maria O'Neill ¹	Finance Manager
Ann Riordan ²	Executive Officer
Cora Murray	Clerical Officer
Teresa Ward	Clerical Officer – Receptionist
Siobhán Commins ³	Financial Administrator

Projects

Liz Sullivan	Head of Projects
Joan O'Flynn	Programme Manager (work-share)
Julie Smyth	Programme Manager (work-share)
Elaine Houlihan	Projects Officer
Barbara Walshe	Projects Officer
Vacant	Projects Officer
Ann Moore	Executive Officer
Paula Fitzpatrick	Clerical Officer
Janice Ransom ¹	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
Vanessa Coffey	Research Officer
Caroline Corr	Research Officer
Kevin O'Kelly	EU Research Co-ordinator (MSI – Phase 2)
Izabela Litewska	EU Research Administrator (MSI – Phase 2)
Joanne Mulholland ⁴	Administrator

Information and Public Education

Vacant	Head of Information and Public Education
Fidelma Joyce	Acting Head of Information and Public Education (half-time)/Policy Liaison Officer (half-time)
Margaret O'Gorman	Communications Officer
Jean Cassidy	Library & Information Officer
Elaine Byrne	Acting Policy Liaison Officer (half-time)/ Information and Public Education Executive (half-time)
Patricia Farnan	Information and Public Education Executive (half-time)
Valerie Byrne ²	Communications Assistant
Anmarie Wallace ²	Grants Assistant

1 Part-time posts

2 Work-share posts

3 Covering vacant clerical officer post

4 Covering long-term sick absence

EU Peace & Reconciliation (Monaghan)

Paddy Logue	Joint Manager of EU Programme
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ADM/CPA STAFF LIST (as at 31 May 2005)

Programme Managers

Paddy Logue	Joint Manager, Combat Poverty Agency
Paddy McGinn	Joint Manager, Area Development Management Administration and Finance
Ailish Quinn	Office Manager
Áine Coffey	Receptionist/Secretary
Anna Carragher	Clerical Officer
Ursula Sheridan	Clerical Officer (Donegal office)
Christine Lehmann	Clerical Officer – Database/IT (pt)

Mary Kelly	Finance Manager
Amanda Treanor	Finance Co-ordinator
Diane Bell	Finance Officer – Selection
Margaret Flood	Finance Officer – Monitoring
Mandy Creighan	Financial Clerical Officer
Sinéad Hegarty	Financial Clerical Officer
Celine Kelly	Financial Clerical Officer
Connor McCarron	Financial Clerical Officer
Mary Robinson	Financial Clerical Officer
Padraic Smyth	Financial Clerical Officer
Vacant	Financial Clerical Officer

Development & Research

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

“Ending child poverty in Ireland requires a national strategy. This means that all sectors of Irish society would support and contribute to policies and actions that will eliminate child poverty.”

Appendix 2

Projects funded by Combat Poverty



Appendix 2

Projects funded by Combat Poverty Agency

ANTI-POVERTY INITIATIVES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Loughboy Area Resource Centre Kilkenny	€5,000.00
Comhar Chumann Chonamara Thiarleo (Co-op) Teo	€5,000.00
Asylum Seekers Group	€5,000.00
Global Action Plan Ballymun	€5,000.00
Cork City Partnership	€5,000.00
Portlaoise Community Action Project	€5,000.00

Building Healthy Communities Funding

Blue Drum Arts Specialist Support Agency	€15,000.00
COPE	€5,802.00
Corduff CDP	€15,000.00
Galway Refugee Support Group	€15,000.00
Pavee Point (Health Network)	€15,000.00
Irish Deaf Society	€15,000.00
Letterkenny Women's Centre	€7,100.00
Lifford/Clonleigh Resource Centre*	€15,000.00
Mayfield Community Arts Centre	€11,000.00
Merchants Quay Ireland	€14,938.00
MFG Comhair Dhuibhne*	€15,000.00
North Inner City Drugs Task Force	€6,500.00
Pavee Point Travellers Centre	€15,000.00
Schizophrenia Ireland	€15,000.00
Tallaght Intercultural Action*	€15,000.00
Voice of Older People	€6,400.00
West Offaly Partnership	€15,000.00
Women Out and About	€8,160.00

* Funded by the Department of Health and Children

Practice to Policy Programme

Children's Rights Alliance	€15,000.00
Community Workers Co-Operative	€11,000.00
Wicklow Community Platform	€14,300.00
Pavee Point	€12,000.00
Donegal Travellers Project	€10,950.00
Cáirde	€12,000.00
ATD Fourth World	€10,000.00
Immigration Council of Ireland	€15,000.00
One-Parent Exchange Network	€17,516.00
Migrant Rights Centre	€12,000.00

Public Awareness Funding for UN Day for Eradication of Poverty

European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland	€3,500.00
Community Platform (administered by the Community Workers Co-Operative)	€3,700.00
Children's Rights Alliance	€1,000.00
Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice	€5,000.00

Miscellaneous Funding

Dublin Inner City Partnership	€5,000.00
Institute of Public Health (on behalf of NAPS Working Group)	€36,000.00
The Graduate: Ireland's Essential Student Guide	€3,000.00
Social Innovators Award	€3,000.00
Northside Community Law Centre	€5,000.00
Crosscare	€4,000.00

SUPPORT FOR THIRD-LEVEL RESEARCH ON POVERTY AND POLICY

Academic Research Awards (paid in 2004)

Awarded 2004

Centre for Co-operative Studies, University College Dublin	€8,080.00
Department of Economics, National University of Ireland, Galway	€24,000.00
The Children's Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin	€24,000.00
Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Limerick	€20,598.00

Awarded 2003

Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, Department of
Geography, Trinity College Dublin €30,000.00

Awarded 2002

Department of Sociology, University College Dublin €5,900.00
Centre for Health Promotion Studies, University College Galway €1,476.00

PhD Fellowships (paid in 2004)**Awarded 2004**

Evolving Local Governance and Social Partnership €13,000.00
– Enhancing Social Inclusion? + € 3,117.00
Chris McNerney, Department of Politics and Public Administration, fees
University of Limerick

Awarded 2003

Tackling Unemployment and Youth Marginalisation: €13,000.00
How Do Work Experiences in Second Level Shape Youth + €4,592.57
Transactions in a Comparative Aspect? fees + maintenance
Delma Byrne, Centre for Educational Sociology,
Department of Education and Society, University of Edinburgh

Awarded 2002

Calibration of Adequacy – A Case Study of the Political €13,000.00
Economy of Social Welfare Adequacy in Ireland + €3,289.00
Mary Murphy, School of Communications, Dublin City University fees

Awarded 2001

A Sociological Analysis of the Process of Reception, €13,000.00
Resettlement and Integration of Refugees and Asylum Seekers
in Ireland
Niamh Humphries, Department of Sociology,
University College Dublin



Appendix 3

**EU Special Support Programme for Peace
and Reconciliation: Grants approved 2004**

Appendix 3

EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation: Grants approved 2004

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

In 2004 the following grants were paid: 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 2.6 Promoting Active Citizenship; Measure 2.7 Developing Weak Community Infrastructure; Measure 5.3 Developing Cross-Border Reconciliation and 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	€288,027.21
North Leitrim Women's Centre	€27,589.98
FÁS	€130,677.19
Letterkenny Women's Centre	€135,215.45
Sligo Leader Partnership Company	€80,342.44
Louth County Enterprise Board	€110,582.48
Donegal County Enterprise Board	€66,712.39
Cavan County Childcare Committee Ltd	€48,477.37
Co. Monaghan Partnership	€28,595.85
Sligo Co. Enterprise Board Ltd	€34,376.28

Measure 2.1 – Reconciliation for Sustainable Peace

CDVEC Curriculum Development Unit	€253,754.87
Co. Monaghan Community Network Limited	€142,864.98
Drogheda Community Forum	€91,895.10
Foinn Chonallacha Teo	€131,463.44
Sligo County Council/Sligo Connections	€93,901.96

National University of Ireland, Galway	€123,112.78
Manorcunningham Community Development Association	€62,846.88
North Leitrim Glens Development Co. Ltd	€92,522.04
Raphoe Economic Development Group Ltd	€91,113.91
Quare Hawks Theatre Company	€11,940.29
Monaghan Town Council	€40,739.15
The Border Minority Group	€16,982.28

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

Clones Community Forum Ltd	€170,628.03
Clones Development Society Ltd	€82,942.17
Radio Pobal Inis Eoghain	€105,349.62
Donegal Travellers Project	€150,142.63
Abhaile Arís	€171,432.58
Expac Ltd	€156,012.95
Fáilte Abhaile	€165,181.68
Fáilte Cluain Eois	€194,882.81
Comharcumann Finn Thiar Teo	€3,000.00
Iar Cimi Liatroma Teoranta	€134,499.38
Cavan Family Resource Centre Ltd	€131,546.38
GROW	€57,481.84
Tirhugh Resource Centre	€123,668.75
LOCUS Management	€38,802.95
Community Workers Co-operative	€18,871.01
Triskele Community Training & Development	€67,087.45
Inch Island Community Assoc	€64,728.42
Kilnaleck & District Community Co-op Society Ltd	€46,132.90
Tús Nua Sligeach	€119,269.94

Measure 2.6 – Promoting Active Citizenship

Derry & Raphoe Action	€7,846.16
Letterkenny Community Development Project	€7,577.22
Donegal South Forum Ltd	€7,336.52
Sligo County Council	€7,769.23
Monaghan County Council	€34,819.48
Donegal County Council	€46,324.09
Co. Leitrim Community Forum	€22,154.44
Donegal Local Development Company	€3,300.00

Pobal Eascarrach Teoranta	€4,500.00
Inishowen Partnership Company	€4,500.00
Monaghan Community Forum	€3,885.00
Second Chance Education Project for Women	€4,271.70
Castleblayney Community Enterprise Ltd	€4,500.00
Louth Youth Federation	€4,500.00
HITEC Carrickmacross	€3,150.00
Kilnaleck & District Community Co-op	€3,712.50

Measure 2.7 – Developing Weak Community Infrastructure

Cavan Monaghan Rural Development	€16,944.71
Community Workers Co-op	€106,270.33
Dunfanaghy Resource Association	€107,111.74
Killeshandra Community Council Ltd	€86,120.95
Cathedral Hall Management Committee	€36,366.31
Castleblayney Arts & Community Development Co. Ltd	€438,981.36
ADoPT	€129,657.57
Bunroe Community Development Association Ltd	€26,751.76
Barnesmore Community Development Association Ltd	€26,624.06
Glenfarne Community Development Trust Ltd	€70,467.19
Culdaff Community Association Ltd	€107,734.42
Moville Community Complex Dev. Co. Ltd	€105,494.38
Rockcorry Development Association	€56,879.33
Drumsna Development Association Ltd	€68,038.58
Quigley's Point Community Centre Ltd	€81,266.00

Measure 5.3 – Developing Cross-Border Reconciliation and Understanding

80:20 Educating & Acting for a Better World	€-2,433.97*
Glencree Centre for Reconciliation	€181,492.10
Inter-Classic	€43,712.83
Kiltyclogher Cashel Development Co. Ltd	€76,909.83
Rural Mental Health	€93,327.14
Shankill Community Association	€78,907.20
The Shanty Education & Training Centre	€66,481.76
Women Educating for Transformation (WEFT)	€107,677.06
Ballincollig Senior Citizens	€168,420.69
Boomerang Theatre Company	€23,343.10
Glencree Centre for Reconciliation	€63,425.57
The Irish Peace Institute	€8,147.14

Riverstown Enterprise Development	€109,067.12
Monaghan Neighbourhood Youth (Foróige)	€51,353.94
Town of Monaghan Co-op	€23,477.85
Horizon Ireland Ltd	€216,727.39
Co-operation Ireland	€50,554.13
South Belfast Cultural Society	€93,184.07
Co-operation Ireland	€143,411.23
Springfield Inter-Community Development Project	€117,183.92
Downpatrick/Listowel Linkage Group	€27,624.58
Newbuildings Community & Environmental Association	€16,845.79
Derry and Raphoe Action	€171,899.32
Children's Holiday Scheme (NI) Limited – NICHHS	€106,787.69
Tyrone Donegal Partnership	€94,586.86
Irish School of Ecumenics	€62,796.45
Enniskillen Community Development Project	€89,840.60
Community Visual Images	€130,856.61
Drake Music Project Northern Ireland (NI)	€83,126.88
NIACAB	€86,383.85
Teach na Fáilte/ Cross Border Project	€101,053.45
Mediation Resource Centre	€93,296.28
Coiste na n-Iarchimi	€235,739.65
The Pushkin Prizes Trust	€36,135.96
Sandy Row Community Development Agency	€74,186.81
Dunfield Football Ltd	€97,201.64
Farset/Inishowen & Border Counties Initiative	€300,770.74
Border Arts	€104,302.93
Churches Peace Education Programme	€95,167.29
Co. Museum Dundalk/ Newry & Mourne Museums	€45,719.89
Cumann Gaelach Chnoc na Ros Doire	€135,162.73
Ballymacarrett Arts and Cultural Society	€71,814.80
County Sligo VEC & Western Education Library Board	€144,605.72
Fjordlands	€46,828.14
Cross-Border Orchestra	€115,076.56
Gallery of Photography	€14,675.16
Iontaobhas Ruraí	€37,969.32
Future Youth Games	€40,054.29
Ballinahinch and Drogheda Cross-Border Arts	€30,977.66
Scoutlink	€81,531.87
Ligoniel Improvement Association	€78,174.88
Strabane Lifford Development Commission	€107,999.23

* Refund

“To be serious about ending child poverty requires that it is a clear political priority articulated by key politicians, who would espouse a positive vision of a society free of child poverty.”

Appendix 4

Some new publications



Appendix 4


Some new publications (as at 31 May 2005)

- 2005 *Research Report*. Poverty & Conflict in Ireland: An International Perspective by Paddy Hillard, Bill Rolston and Mike Tomlinson¹
- 2005 *Policy Forum*. Irish Social Expenditure in a Comparative International Context: Epilogue by Virpi Timonen¹
- 2005 *Strategic Plan*. Working for a Poverty-Free Ireland
- 2005 *Programme*. Social Inclusion Units in Local Authorities (Going Forward – The Lessons Learned) by Kathy Walsh
- 2005 *Programme*. Making A Difference (An Anti-Poverty Training Handbook for Local Authorities)
- 2005 *Programme*. Local Anti-Poverty Strategy Guide
- 2005 *Programme*. Access to Public Libraries for Marginalised Groups by Fitzpatrick Associates
- 2005 *Resource*. Left Outside? by Maureen Bassett and Neil Haran
- 2004 *Resource*. Developing Facilitation Skills by Patricia Prendiville
- 2004 *Booklet*. Health Services and the National Anti-Poverty Strategy
- 2004 *Discussion Paper*. Poverty is Bad for your Health by Ruth Barrington
- 2004 *Research Report*. Food Poverty and Policy by Sharon Friel and Catherine Conlon
- 2004 *Research Report*. Sharing Household Resources (Learning from Non-Monetary Indicators) by Sara Cantillon, Brenda Gannon and Brian Nolan¹
- 2004 *Research Report*. Housing, Poverty and Wealth in Ireland by Tony Fahey, Brian Nolan and Bertrand Maître, ESRI¹
- 2004 *Research Report*. EU Trans-National Exchange Project on: Mainstreaming Social Inclusion
- 2004 *Fact Sheet*. What is Poverty?
- 2004 *Fact Sheet*. Homelessness and 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 *Poverty Briefing No.15*. Poverty and Health
- 2004 *Poverty Briefing No. 16*. Poverty in Ireland – The Facts: 2001

- 2004 *Student Leaflet*. What is Poverty?
- 2004 *Student Leaflet*. Responses to Poverty
- 2004 *Student Leaflet*. People & Poverty
- 2004 *Student Leaflet*. Why Are People Poor?
- 2004 *Programme*. Influencing Policy: Training Pack by Caroline McCamley and Quintin Oliver
- 2004 *Programme*: Building Healthy Communities. Putting Poverty & Social Inclusion at the Centre of Health Policy & Practice (Conference report)

¹ Available directly from Institute of Public Administration: www.ipa.ie

“As overall income levels and standards of living have risen, some people have not been able to benefit to the same extent and therefore fall below what most people would consider an acceptable standard of living in society today.”



Financial
Statements
for the year
ended 31
December
2004

Financial Statements

Combat Poverty Agency

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2004

Statement of Members' 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.

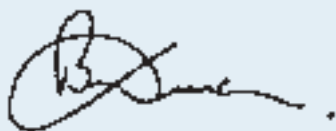
In preparing those financial statements, the Members of the Agency are required to:

- 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.

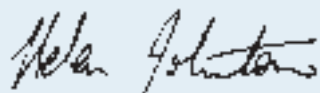
The Members of the Agency are responsible for keeping proper books of account which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of Combat Poverty and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements comply with Section 10(1) of the 1986 Act. The Members of the Agency are 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: 18 May 2005

Combat Poverty Agency

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2004

Statement on 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 authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely period.

Key Control Procedures

The Board 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; and
- developing a strong culture of accountability across all levels of the organisation.

The Board is committed to the development of a Risk Management Policy Framework for Combat Poverty during 2005.

The Board is continuing its practice of:

- 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; and
- 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; and
- formal project management disciplines.

Combat Poverty Agency

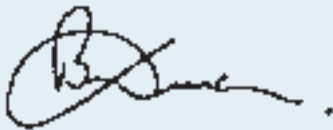
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2004

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 on average on a quarterly basis. The Audit Committee reviews reports prepared by Internal Audit and other relevant reports. It 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 oversees 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

Combat Poverty carried out a formal review of the system of internal financial control in 2004. This was the subject of a report through the Audit Committee to the Board in early 2005.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Duncan', with a large initial 'B' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian Duncan, Chairperson

18 May 2005

Combat Poverty Agency

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2004

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.

EU Funding

Funding for the EU Special Programme for Peace and Reconciliation plus Technical Assistance funding to meet costs of administering the programme is taken to income to match expenditure incurred. The balances of receipts in excess of expenditure and/or of expenditure in excess of receipts are disclosed as Deferred Income and/or Debtors as appropriate.

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

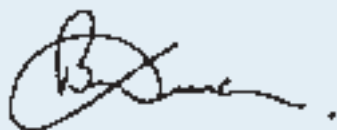
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2004

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2004

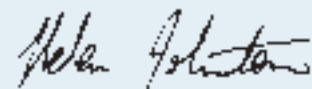
	Notes	2004 €	2003 €
INCOME			
Oireachtas Grant-In-Aid			
Department of Social and Family Affairs	2b(i) and (ii)	3,909,000	5,304,000
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	1a	8,841,150	9,079,252
Other Income	1b	239,165	185,609
		12,989,315	14,568,861
Transfer (to)/from Capital Account	6	(36,199)	43,514
TOTAL INCOME		12,953,116	14,612,375
EXPENDITURE			
Projects and Programmes to Combat Poverty			
Innovative Programmes	2a	924,386	682,501
Information and Education Programmes		454,723	529,035
Research Promotion, Studies and Policy analysis		361,669	307,799
National Networks programme	2b(i)	-	1,414,005
Working Against Poverty Grants Scheme	2b(ii)	-	421,569
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	2c	7,929,282	8,294,780
EU Mainstreaming Social Inclusion	2d(i)	197,384	73,646
EU Local Authority Inclusion	2d(ii)	22,509	83,187
		9,889,953	11,806,522
Development, Support and Administration costs			
Salary Costs and Expenses	3	2,243,795	2,028,362
Rent and Other Administration Costs	4	815,668	760,145
Depreciation	5	38,087	53,690
		3,097,550	2,842,197
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		12,987,503	14,648,719
(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		(34,387)	(36,344)
Surplus at 1 January		289,433	325,777
Surplus at 31 December		255,046	289,433

The Agency had 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: 18 May 2005

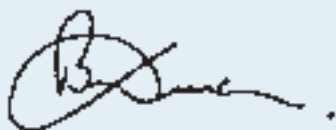
Combat Poverty Agency

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2004

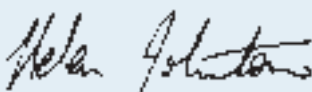
Balance sheet as at 31 December 2004

	Notes	2004 €	2003 €
FIXED ASSETS			
Furniture and Equipment	5	<u>88,646</u>	<u>52,447</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation – Technical Assistance receivable	1	44,411	197,615
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation – Measure 5.3 advances to SEUPB	1	473,691	280,427
Debtors and Prepayments		53,872	137,280
Cash at Bank and on Hand		<u>2,372,627</u>	<u>1,708,116</u>
		<u>2,944,601</u>	<u>2,323,438</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors and Accruals		343,550	361,725
Deferred Income – EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	1	<u>2,346,007</u>	1,620,729
Deferred Income – Mainstreaming Social Inclusion	2d(i)	-	51,551
		<u>2,689,557</u>	<u>2,034,005</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		<u>255,044</u>	<u>289,433</u>
		<u>343,690</u>	<u>341,880</u>
REPRESENTED BY:			
Capital Account	6	88,644	52,447
Surplus on Income and Expenditure Account		<u>255,046</u>	<u>289,433</u>
		<u>343,690</u>	<u>341,880</u>

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



Brian Duncan, Chairperson



Helen Johnston, Director
Dated: 18 May 2005

Combat Poverty Agency

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2004

	2004 €	2003 €
1. INCOME		
a EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation		
Programme Funding		
Deferred Income at 1 January	1,620,729	671,182
Funding via the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (Deferred Income) at 31 December*	8,592,000 (2,346,007)	9,144,000 (1,620,729)
Income recognised	<u>7,866,722</u>	<u>8,194,453</u>
Technical Assistance		
(Grants Receivable) at 1 January	(197,615)	(637,183)
Funding via the Special EU Payments Body (SEUPB) Grants Receivable/(Deferred Income) at 31 December	1,127,632 44,411	1,324,367 197,615
Income recognised	<u>974,428</u>	<u>884,799</u>
Overall Total	<u>8,841,150</u>	<u>9,079,252</u>

ESF/ERDF funding received from the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs comprises 25% Exchequer and 75% EU funding.

To meet the administration costs of the various Measures of the Special EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, 75% of Technical Assistance funding is provided by the EU and 25% by the Irish and British Governments. The British Government contribution relates to Measure 5.3 and is 13.5%. Income is recognised to match expenditure of €62,560 for Support Costs and Administrative Costs of €911,827 (see Note 2 c).

*Of this amount €473,691 represents funds advanced to the SEUPB in respect of Measure 5.3 which remained unspent at 31 December 2004. All Measures 5.3 payments are made to claimants by the SEUPB on foot of decisions made by ADM/CPA. This balance is treated as a debtor at 31 December 2004.

b Other Income

EU Social Exclusion Programme		
EU Commission	156,279	55,760
Department of Social and Family Affairs	-	32,000
Southern Health Board – Building Healthy Communities	15,000	-
North Western Health Board – Building Healthy Communities	15,000	-
North Eastern Health Board – Building Healthy Communities	-	30,000
Department of Health and Children – Building Healthy Communities	-	5,000
Sales of Publications	13,304	23,517
Seminar registration Fees	4,888	6,183
Miscellaneous Income	2,235	45
Interest earned on Deposit accounts	32,459	19,147
PACE Avenir	-	13,957
	<u>239,165</u>	<u>185,609</u>

Combat Poverty Agency

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2004

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:

	2004	2003
	€	€
NAPs Local Government	305,711	395,024
Building Healthy Communities	324,486	225,609
Project support	7,938	38,005
Practice to Policy	179,808	12,500
Supporting Anti-Poverty Work	57,152	11,363
Poverty and Health	49,291	-
	<u>924,386</u>	<u>682,501</u>

b (i) National Networks programme

From 01 January 2004 Funding and responsibility for the National Networks was transferred to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

b (ii) Working Against Poverty Grants Scheme

From 01 January 2004 Funding and responsibility for the Working Against Poverty Grants scheme was transferred to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Combat Poverty Agency

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2004

c 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.

ADM/CPA, in partnership with Co-operation Ireland, also has 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 expenditure of Combat Poverty under the Peace II Programme for 2004 is summarised below:

Expenditure	2004
	€
Peace II Projects	
Measure 1.5	950,597
Measure 2.1	1,153,138
Measure 2.4c	2,001,661
Measure 2.6	170,146
Measure 2.7	1,464,709
Measure 5.3	2,126,471
Support Costs*	<u>62,560</u>
	7,929,282
Administration**	<u>911,827</u>
	<u>8,841,109</u>

* Support costs expenditure for the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation covers programme promotion, project support and development, external appraisals, research and strategic development.

** 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.

d EU Social Inclusion Programme

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

(i) Mainstreaming Social Inclusion

€111,159 was received in 2004 from the EU Commission (€29,847 in 2003) to develop a project on Mainstreaming Social Inclusion. €197,384 represents payments made under the programme together with all the administration costs associated with the programme.

(ii) Local Authority Social Inclusion

€45,119 was received in 2004 from the EU Commission (€25,913 in 2003) to develop a project 'Local Authority Social Inclusion'. €22,509 represents payments made under the programme.

Combat Poverty Agency

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2004

3. SALARY COSTS AND EXPENSES

	2004 €	2003 €
Staff salary costs*	1,853,571	1,723,313
Temporary employment agency costs	50,157	44,677
Members' Fees	66,833	64,948
Staff Training and Other Expenses	69,695	64,221
Travel and Subsistence		
– Staff	93,264	69,303
– Members and Sub-Committees	33,141	22,357
Staff Recruitment	40,653	29,897
Board and Staff Initiatives	2,522	4,415
Combat Poverty Seminar	32,934	4,179
Pension Gratuity and Payments	1,025	1,052
	2,243,795	2,028,362

* The average number of core staff (full-time equivalent) employed by the Agency during 2004 was 23 (2003: 24). 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 27 staff members in the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.

4. RENT AND OTHER ADMINISTRATION COSTS

	2004 €	2003 €
Rent and Rates	274,586	220,143
Postage and Telephones	99,297	86,555
Maintenance and Insurance	116,056	104,788
Consultancy costs	65,242	50,442
Records and Archive management	12,904	38,705
Printing, Stationery & Office Supplies	36,058	36,385
Light and Heat	16,349	12,564
Consortium Partners Technical Assistance*	131,446	182,450
Outreach Offices support	6,414	4,457
Internal Audit Fees	16,940	-
Audit Fees	15,000	11,750
Sundry	9,693	7,906
Legal/Professional Fees	15,683	3,074
Loss on Disposals	-	926
	815,668	760,145

* The Consortium Partners comprise Community Foundation for Northern Ireland and Co-operation Ireland. The 2003 Consortium Partner Technical Assistance figure of €182,450 has been reclassified under rent and other administration costs as this cost is funded from the Peace II Technical (Administration) budget.

Combat Poverty Agency

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2004

5. FIXED ASSETS	Furniture	Equipment	Total
	€	€	€
Cost or Valuation			
Balance at 1 January – at cost	166,054	331,978	498,032
Additions at cost	2,131	72,155	74,286
Disposals at cost	-	(3,945)	(3,945)
Balance at 31 December	168,185	400,188	568,373
Accumulated Depreciation			
Balance at 1 January	154,344	291,241	445,585
Charged in the year	4,479	33,608	38,087
Disposals	-	(3,945)	(3,945)
Balance at 31 December	158,823	320,904	479,727
NET BOOK VALUE – 31/12/04	9,362	79,284	88,646
NET BOOK VALUE – 31/12/03	11,710	40,737	52,447

6. CAPITAL ACCOUNT

	2004	2003
	€	€
Balance at 1 January	52,447	95,961
Transfer to/(from) Income and Expenditure Account		
Income applied to purchase fixed assets	74,286	11,101
Amortised in the year in line with asset depreciation	(38,087)	(53,690)
Released on disposal of fixed assets	-	(925)
	36,199	(43,514)
Balance at 31 December	88,646	52,447

7. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There were no contingent liabilities at 31 December, 2004.

8. COMMITMENTS

- There were no capital commitments at 31 December, 2004
- Funding commitments of €178,419 existed at 31 December, 2004 (2003 €124,500) for Combat Poverty in respect of Grants to Research Projects.
- 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.

Combat Poverty Agency

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2004

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 Agency operates a defined benefit superannuation scheme for its employees. Superannuation entitlements arising under these schemes 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 2004. This valuation was carried out using the projected unit method.

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

	2004	2003
Discount rate	5.5%	6.0%
Salary increase assumption	4.0%	4.0%
Pension increase assumption	4.0%	4.0%
Price inflation	2.0%	2.0%

On the basis of these assumptions, and using the projected unit method prescribed in FRS 17, the value of the accrued liabilities in respect of CPA staff at 31 December 2004 was estimated at €2.3m (compared with €1.5m as at 31 December 2003).

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

If the requirements of FRS 17 were fully adopted in 2004 the following would have been reflected in the financial statements:

Analysis of the amount that would have been charged to operating surplus under FRS 17

Current service cost	€ 260,000
Past service cost	-
Total operating charge	<u>260,000</u>

Analysis of the amount that would have been credited to other finance income

Interest on pension scheme liabilities	<u>(80,000)</u>
----------------------------------------	-----------------

Analysis of the amount that would have been recognised in the statement of total recognised gains and losses (STRGL)

Experience gains and losses arising on the scheme liabilities	(260,000)
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of the scheme liabilities	<u>(270,000)</u>
Actuarial gain recognised in STRGL	<u>(530,000)</u>

Movement in deficit during the year

Deficit at beginning of year	(1,460,000)
Current service cost	(260,000)
Interest on scheme liabilities	(80,000)
Actuarial gain recognised in STRGL	<u>(530,000)</u>
Deficit in scheme at end of year	<u>(2,330,000)</u>

Combat Poverty Agency

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2004

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 the Agency's activities in which members had any beneficial interest.

11. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board on 18 May, 2005

AUDIT

These Financial Statements for 2004 are subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General under the provisions of section 10(2) of the Combat Poverty Agency Act, 1986.



Bridgewater Centre, Conyngham Road, Islandbridge, Dublin 8

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