



# » Annual Report 2005

Combat Poverty Agency





Combat Poverty is a state advisory agency which develops and promotes evidence-based proposals and measures to combat poverty in Ireland.

Our strategic priorities 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 and public education.

Further information about the activities of the Combat Poverty Agency can be found at [www.combatpoverty.ie](http://www.combatpoverty.ie) or from:

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The Annual Report will be made available, on request, in a range of formats, including audio tape, Braille and computer disk. The Annual Report is also available in the Irish language.



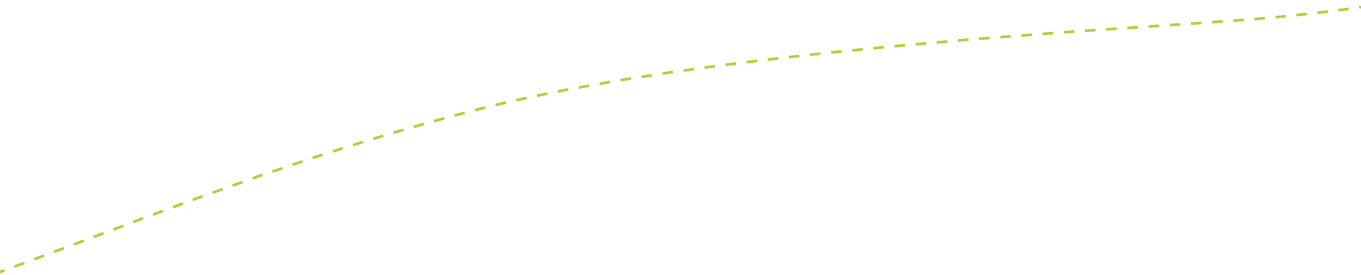


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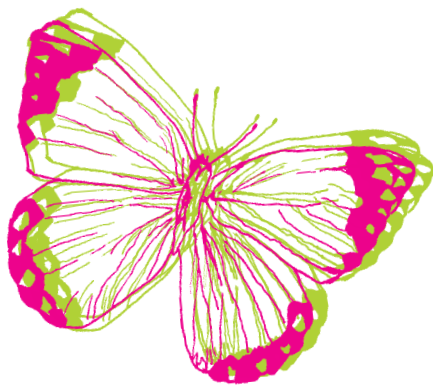
**Combat Poverty Agency**

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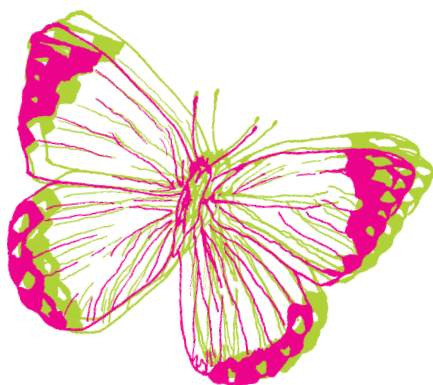


# The Board

31 December 2005



Board Members at 31 December 2005.

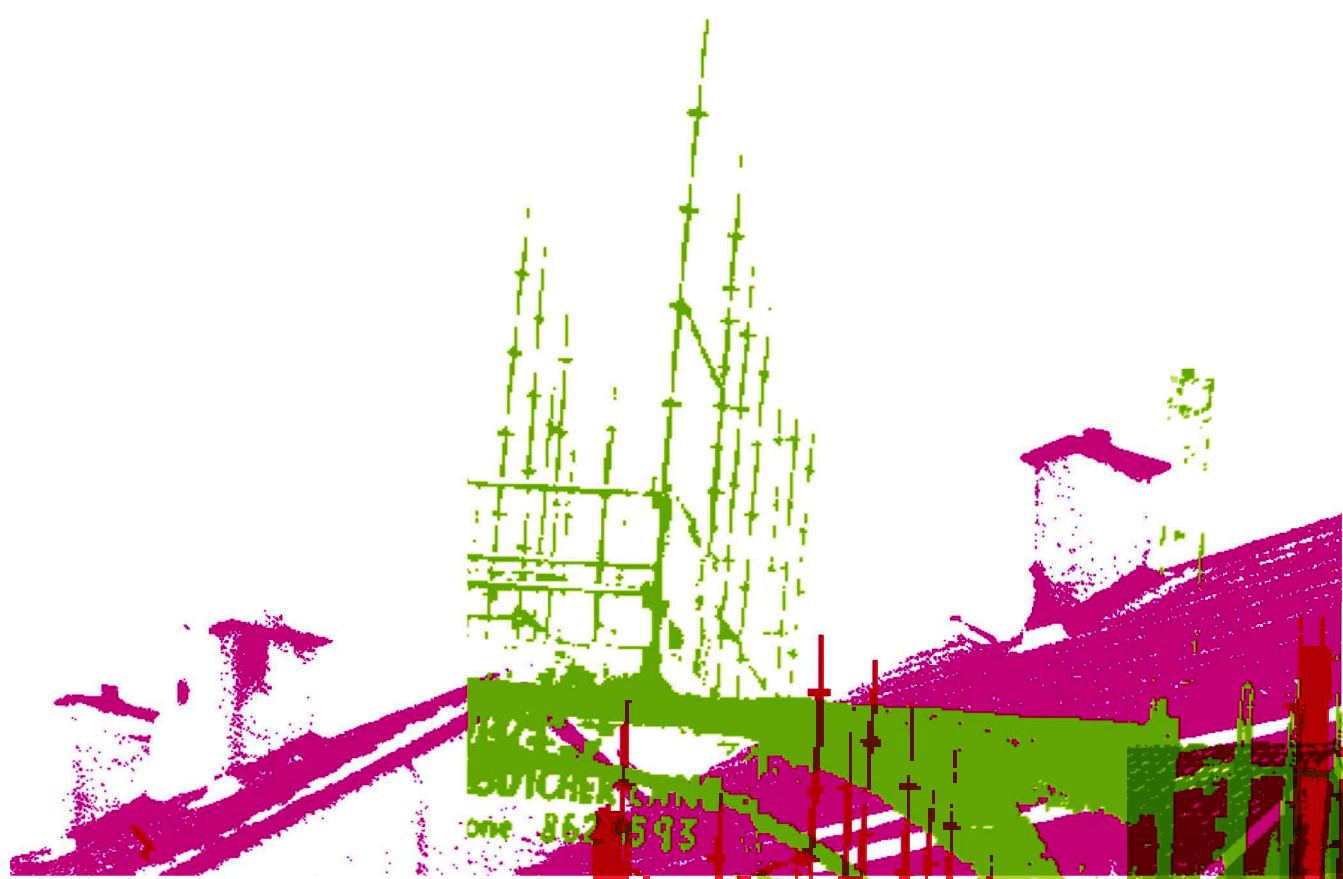




- 1 Brian Duncan
- 2 Pearse O'Hanrahan
- 3 Margaret Sweeney
- 4 Orlaigh Quinn
- 5 Helen Johnston
- 6 Tony Lane

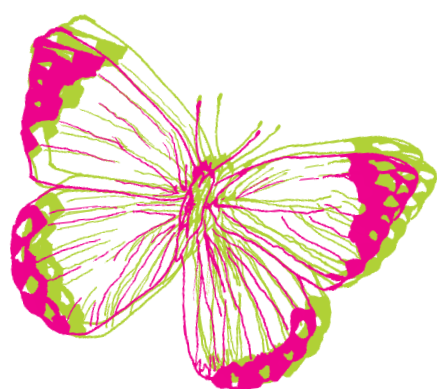
- 7 Maria Gorman
- 8 Anthony Gavin
- 9 Barbara Walshe
- 10 Maria Corrigan
- 11 Tony O'Callaghan
- 12 Callista Bennis
- 13 Seamus McAleavey

- » Not pictured  
Alice Robertson  
Frank Curran  
Olive Sweetman





## » Chairperson's Foreword





I have pleasure presenting our 19<sup>th</sup> annual report to the Minister for Social Affairs, Seamus Brennan TD.

During 2005, we started working on our new three-year Strategic Plan – *Working for a Poverty-Free Ireland*. The plan is based around three key strategic objectives – distribution of income and jobs, access to quality services and local and regional responses to poverty. This report outlines a wide range of initiatives we are undertaking in support of each objective.

Tackling child poverty continues to be a key priority for Combat Poverty. During the year we launched our Policy Statement *Ending Child Poverty* and we commissioned *Day in, Day Out* a study on the dynamics of child poverty. It was also a key element in our submission to inform discussions on a new National Agreement. In response to the Minister, we also made a submission on child income support, focusing on proposals to allocate resources to reduce child poverty, a number of which were included in the 2006 Budget.

In last year's report, I welcomed the growing debate on poverty issues. This debate continues and I believe there is now a much greater understanding of poverty in Ireland and the significance of the various measurements which are used. However, this debate is still confused by comments such as "*there is no real poverty in Ireland*" or "*if there is poverty it is their own fault*".



One of our roles is to promote awareness and understanding of poverty related issues and we need to continue focusing on this aspect of our work.

In addressing poverty issues, it is important to acknowledge that much progress has been made. The level of consistent poverty has fallen substantially. Recent budgets have brought significant gains to lower income groups through the increase in the benefit rates and the child income support provisions.

Mainstreaming social inclusion is also getting greater attention. In this regard, I am pleased that key elements of the programme which we initiated with the Local Authorities were mainstreamed during 2005. We are also working with the Department of Health & Children in addressing health inequalities through our *Building Healthy Communities* Programme,

and in our work related to the National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion.

We continue to work closely with the Office for Social Inclusion and made a submission and contributed to the consultations which were carried out as an input into the National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion for the period 2006-2008.

During 2005, the Mainstreaming Social Inclusion Report and website, funded by the EU, were successfully completed. The report looks at best practice policies and structures which have helped to improve the lives of those living in poverty. The project was led by Combat Poverty and the work has been very well received by the participating countries, and across the EU. I want to congratulate all those involved on the success of their work.



Over a number of years we have worked with our partner, Pobal (previously Area Development Management or ADM) in implementing the Peace Programmes in the border counties and on a cross border basis. During the year we jointly agreed to rebrand our activities under Border Action, as a better description of our work.

By the end of 2005 Border Action's work was well advanced in all of its measures under the Peace II Programme and its extension, as well as a number of measures which we manage under the INTERREG IIIA Programme. We have made proposals to inform the effective continuation and development of this work under the new Programmes from 2007 onwards.

We have established an excellent relationship with the Minister for Social Affairs, Seamus Brennan TD, and we look forward to supporting and advising the Minister as he addresses poverty and social inclusion issues.

We also continue to have good relationships with the Department of Social and Family Affairs and the Office for Social Inclusion. I would like once again to thank the Secretary General, John Hynes, and his officials, and the officials in the Office for Social Inclusion for their continued support during the year.

Since the year end the terms of office of Alice Robertson, Frank Curran, Maria Corrigan and Olive Sweetman have expired and I want to thank each of these for their contribution to the work of Combat Poverty. We have recently welcomed Kitty King, John Loughran, John Monaghan, and Eugene Russell, as new appointments to the Board. Tony Lane, Anthony Gavin and Maria Gorman have been re-appointed

During the year Joan O'Flynn also completed her term as the staff member on the Board. Joan has been an excellent Board member. Following a staff election the Minister appointed Barbara Walshe to succeed Joan.

Finally, I want to recognise the contribution of our staff to the work of Combat Poverty. The report details the wide range of activities in which they are engaged. Their professionalism and commitment across all our work areas is widely acknowledged by all our stakeholders, and is matched by their enthusiasm for the work as we address our current strategic goal of *Working for a Poverty-Free Ireland*.



Brian Duncan  
Chairperson

» Part 1

## Annual Overview





# FROM STRATEGY TO ACTION

## Implementing Social Inclusion

Vision without action is merely a dream  
Action without vision is merely passing time  
Vision with action can change the world

**- Nelson Mandela**



# 1 Introduction

The time is opportune to make a decisive impact on poverty in Ireland. This year we will have a new National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion, a new 7 year National Development Plan, and a new National Agreement. These three documents will set out the strategic direction, targets, policy commitments and resources to tackle poverty. The real challenge will be in ensuring that these commitments are implemented and that there are better outcomes for people experiencing poverty and social exclusion. This will require a number of things to happen:

- » Putting objectives on poverty reduction and social inclusion into all areas of Government policy (mainstreaming social inclusion);
- » Setting ambitious, but realisable poverty reduction targets;
- » Putting in place structures and resources to ensure that the policies and programmes are delivered; and

- » Monitoring and evaluating policy impact.

## 2 Mainstreaming social inclusion<sup>1</sup>

### What is mainstreaming social inclusion?

Mainstreaming social inclusion is the integration of poverty and social inclusion objectives, including an equality perspective, into all areas and levels of policy-making which is promoted through the participation of public bodies, social partners, NGOs and other relevant actors.

### Mainstreaming in the policy cycle

The mainstreaming of social inclusion into all national policy areas is crucial to the success of achieving the goal of the eradication of poverty and social exclusion. The mainstreaming of social inclusion is a particularly challenging area of policy-making, requiring commitment across all State bodies as well as the involvement

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1 This section of the Overview is based on work undertaken by Combat Poverty on an EU funded project entitled *Better Policies, Better Outcomes – Promoting Mainstreaming Social Inclusion*, see [www.europemsi.org](http://www.europemsi.org)





of NGOs and representative organisations of groups at risk of poverty. The challenge for policy makers is to find ways of incorporating mainstreaming social inclusion, as a policy process, into the existing political and administrative structures and at all levels of government.

Mainstreaming is important in the policy cycle as it provides opportunities for the involvement of people, leading to better use of resources and services and the targeting of public funds. In Ireland policy design is mainly at national level and implementation is devolved to the local administrations who deliver services within the overall national policy framework.

The allocation of resources, whether financial or personnel, with the relevant knowledge and skills, to the different stages of the policy cycle is important for the success of mainstreaming social inclusion. If little or inadequate resources are allocated to the implementation of the policy, it will not be effective.

**Involvement of stakeholders**

The involvement of stakeholders, particularly NGOs and representative organisations of groups at risk of poverty can bring benefits to the policy-making process. Benefits include

a wider pool of knowledge, resulting from greater public participation and outcomes, which are more appropriate to the needs of the community and greater social equality. Increased involvement at the local level is also an important benefit from participative policy-making. This is seen in the emergence of local partnerships, providing mechanisms for the adaptation and implementation of national policies.

**Elements of mainstreaming social inclusion**

In summary, for mainstreaming social inclusion to have an impact on public policy-making and for policies to achieve the goal of social inclusion, the following elements need to be in place:

- » Political commitment and leadership;
- » Social consensus;
- » Co-ordination of policy development;
- » Mechanisms for the involvement of all the relevant stakeholders; and
- » The allocation of adequate resources, both financial and skilled personnel.



### Application of mainstreaming

In Ireland poverty and social inclusion are mainstreamed into public policy through poverty impact assessment. Poverty impact assessment is the process by which Government Departments, local authorities and State agencies assess policy and programmes at design, implementation and review stages in relation to the likely impact that they will have or have had on poverty and on inequalities which are likely to lead to poverty, with a view to poverty reduction.

### Mainstreaming social inclusion in the annual budget

The Annual Budget is a key mechanism for redistributing resources, with the potential to bring benefits to people experiencing poverty and significant poverty reductions. The Budget has been subject to poverty impact assessments (also known as poverty proofing) in recent years. Combat Poverty has undertaken analyses of the impact of budgetary measures on the level of poverty over the last number of years.<sup>2</sup> Budget 2006, for example, reduced the level of relative income poverty and brought significant gains

to low income groups. The driver for this positive outcome was the increases in welfare rates, supported by the child income support package.

### 3 Importance of poverty reduction targets

#### Why have poverty reduction targets?

An important element in ensuring the vision, political commitment and policy direction for mainstreaming social inclusion is the setting of targets for poverty reduction. Targets can play an important role in directing public policy towards the achievement of societal goals.<sup>3</sup> They represent a public declaration of the need for change and imply a clear commitment to put in place policies to achieve a particular outcome of poverty reduction. Targets can provide a “rallying point” for mobilising a multi-sectoral response. However, there is a danger that targets become ends in themselves rather than tools towards achieving a particular societal outcome,

2 See [www.combatpoverty.ie](http://www.combatpoverty.ie) for *Action on Poverty Today Supplement: Analysis of Budget 2006*. Spring 2006 No. 12

3 This section of this Overview is based on a paper prepared for the Combat Poverty by Nolan, B. (2006) *Setting Targets to Reduce Health Inequalities*.

with the potential for unintended consequences. Care, therefore, is required in target-setting.

Setting targets

Commentators on target setting state that targets should be SMART i.e. Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-related. Targets should also be related to the achievement of outcomes. The overarching aim and rationale for setting targets is to achieve a societal goal, such as the eradication of poverty, and there are many ways to achieve this. Having specified the societal goal being aimed

at, it is then necessary to set out the ways in which it is to be achieved. Thus, long-term high-level outcome-focussed societal goals need to be supported by targets, which in turn are supported by policies, with implementation and progress being assessed through national and local level performance indicators, as illustrated below.<sup>4</sup>

Ongoing monitoring of progress is important as this is a long-term goal and will take time to achieve. In particular, there will be a lag from the time the

4 Adapted from Nolan, B op cit

Long-term high level societal outcome goals

e.g. Reduction of relative income poverty



Medium Term Outcome target

e.g. Reduce poverty to the EU average



Policy Measures

e.g. Increase social welfare rates in line with wages

e.g. Increase child income support



National and Local Level Performance Indicators

e.g. Levels of income poverty in Ireland as a whole,  
at county level or for specific vulnerable groups

policy is implemented to the achievement of the desired outcome. In addition, there may be external influences and some unintended consequences so ongoing monitoring is required to track these so that policies can be adjusted accordingly.

In this context it is useful to have a tiered approach to the setting of targets e.g. where you want to see both absolute improvement from a point in time, as well as relative improvement in relation to the rest of the population, or over time, or in relation to other regions/countries. This supports the argument for setting consistent and relative poverty reduction targets. The specification of targets requires that social indicators are identified and that data are available to measure change over time.

When social inclusion has been included in policy development across government and targets for poverty reduction have been set the key challenge is to implement the policies so that the desired outcomes can be achieved.

## 4 The Challenge Of Policy Implementation

“There is a fairly widespread perception that Irish public governance confronts a problem of action, or ‘implementation’. In order to address this, it is necessary to unpack the term ‘implementation’. Four general, but somewhat distinct, problems seem to be implied:

- » A problem of lack of decision;
- » A problem of weak execution by departments and agencies;
- » A problem of lack of knowledge about how a policy is impacting; and
- » A problem of resistance or unresolved conflict which paralyses implementation.<sup>5</sup>

Sometimes referred to as the “implementation gap” there remains a challenge in the delivery of Irish policy. This is evident in the area of poverty reduction and social inclusion. While inroads can be made through social welfare policy, as illustrated in the budget analysis above, a cross-departmental

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5 National Economic and Social Council (2005) *NESC Strategy 2006: People, Productivity and Purpose* No. 114. Dublin: National Economic & Social Development Office.

response is required as all areas of policy impact on people experiencing poverty e.g. education, health, housing, transport. Hence the need for mainstreaming social inclusion. The challenge in implementing a “joined up” approach is to get separate departments, with their own goals, objectives and budgets to work together, with their local agencies to deliver on policy commitments. A number of elements seem necessary to enable this to happen:

- » Setting out the commitments in a collaborative, agreed framework;

- » Clarifying roles and responsibilities;
- » Better communication;
- » Building this work into performance management systems;
- » Adopting a project management approach: resources; timelines etc;
- » Monitoring and reporting, including involvement of stakeholders.

High level Societal Outcome e.g. to reduce relative income poverty					
Target e.g. to reduce relative income poverty to EU average	Indicators to measure progress eg. at risk of poverty; persistence of poverty		Policy Measures		
			Employment	Economic	Tax
		Existing Measures			
		New Measures			
		Additional resources			
		Responsible agency			

Collaborative, agreed framework

Once the high level societal outcomes and targets have been agreed, following a process of consultation, it would seem to be beneficial to put in place a collaborative, agreed framework. Such a framework might look like the table below:<sup>6</sup>

Using such a framework, the contribution of each policy area to the poverty reduction objective would be clearly

6 Based on a model developed by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission.

identified, the measures (current and new) specified, plus the resources and responsibility allocated and agreed.

Clarifying Roles and Responsibilities

The Australian Government has adopted such a “whole of government” approach to meet Australia’s priority challenges. The “whole of government” is defined as:

“... public service agencies working across portfolio boundaries to achieve a shared goal and an integrated

	Social Welfare	Education	Health	Housing	Community support	Justice	Transport

“ To achieve better outcomes for people experiencing poverty it is imperative that we drive through the implementation of national plans.”



Helen Johnston  
Director

government response to particular issues. Approaches can be formal and informal. They can focus on policy development, and programme or service delivery. Identifying who is responsible for doing what and by when ... is crucial in ensuring effective implementation of whole of government policy”.<sup>7</sup>

The assignment of roles and responsibilities is critical to ensuring implementation. In practice, objectives are often agreed at a high level but the actual agency and personnel responsible for implementing

the policy or programme are not clearly assigned. This is especially the case for “cross-cutting” policy areas. Some of the City and County Development Strategies provide good models of assigning roles and responsibilities where specific agencies are assigned to deliver various parts of the strategy, either individually or collectively.

A tool which can be adopted here is that of network management. This approach facilitates interactive and collaborative decision making by working through networks of policy makers and policy deliverers, often through cross-

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7 See [www.apsc.gov.au/mac](http://www.apsc.gov.au/mac)



departmental working groups. Network management can be used where there are complex problems to be addressed which requires a number of agencies and organisations to work together to address the issues, ie. there are mutual dependencies.

### Communication

Communication is a key, but often neglected, part of the implementation process. Unless the high level objectives can be communicated clearly to the delivery agency it is unlikely that the objectives can be met. This was the case in relation

to the implementation of social inclusion objectives in the National Development Plan. Social inclusion was one of the four objectives of the plan and had a range of targeted measures within the plan as well as to be taken into account in most of the measures delivered in the plan (horizontal principle). It became evident that while social inclusion was a high level objective those responsible for delivering on this objective (Measure Managers) were not always aware of the need to take social inclusion into account, or they did they did not know how to, nor were they aware of the main policy instrument in this area,

the National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion. Work with the “Measure Managers” resulted in a better targeting of resources and interventions on disadvantaged areas and disadvantaged groups, with some beneficial outcomes.

### Performance Management Systems

The achievement of social inclusion objectives, through collaborative working, needs to be built into organisational and individual performance management systems. It is often said “that what gets measured gets done” and if individuals have social inclusion objectives as part of their performance plan, on which they are assessed, it is more likely that they will pay attention to the delivery of social inclusion. The performance management system also allows for the assessment of competencies and supported training and development, so that where such needs are identified in relation to social inclusion they can be addressed in a structured way. The benefits of this approach have been identified in work with the local authorities on social inclusion. It should apply throughout an organisation as often it is front-line staff who are the “public face” of an organisation and how

they treat their customers can be critical in people accessing their benefits and entitlements.

### Adopting a Project Management Approach

“A culture of strong project management is crucial to effective and efficient implementation of government policy”. This is the approach of the Australian Government’s Cabinet Implementation Unit which was established in 2003, in partnership with other agencies, to seek systematic reform to the way government policies are implemented, and to assist in ensuring the committed and effective delivery of key government decisions.

Project management approaches are utilised in many walks of life and essentially involve the following features:

- » Scope – the objective, accountability, major tasks, success criteria, intended beneficiaries/benefits;
- » Work breakdown – phases of work, timelines, management responsibility;
- » Funding – roll out of deliverables and associated costs;



- » Risk Management – key risks, their likelihood and potential impact, mitigation strategies;
- » Stakeholder engagement – list of key stakeholders and strategy for consultation and engagement;
- » Resources – list of critical resources and strategy to acquire/manage each;
- » Contracting and procurement – procurement plan and strategy for securing and managing agreements; and
- » Quality assurance – a monitoring and evaluation strategy.<sup>8</sup>

Such an approach could be usefully employed in the delivery of cross-cutting social inclusion measures.

## 5 Monitoring And Evaluation

Finally, monitoring and evaluation are vitally important to identify the progress being made and the extent to which poverty has been reduced and the lives and life chances of people living in poverty have been improved.

For monitoring and evaluation to be effective, a clear link must be made at the outset between national strategies, the delivery to local level, and the feed back to the national level. This requires a number of elements to be in place. These include:

- » The involvement of representatives of people experiencing poverty and service users in the initial policy design;
- » The identification of appropriate indicators, supported by data to monitor change over time; and
- » Evaluation which assesses the impact of the policy on intended beneficiaries. Such evaluation should include involving the representatives of people experiencing poverty and service users.

Such a model is employed in the monitoring and evaluation of the National Development Plan, through the Monitoring Committees. While this is a useful approach the Monitoring Committees could be improved by streamlining some of the numerical and financial reporting requirements, being more consultative and having a greater role in assessing the evaluative impact of policy. The sharing of good practice can have positive benefits as part of the evaluative framework. The Peace

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8 Based on the Australian Government's whole of government approach to project management, op cit.

Monitoring Committee provides one of the better examples of the benefits of this approach.

## 6 Conclusions

This Overview identifies the need to focus on the implementation of policies to achieve better outcomes for people living in poverty in Ireland. Suggestions are made as to how the implementation of policy could be improved through: setting out the commitments in a collaborative, agreed framework; clarifying roles and responsibilities; better communication; building this work into performance management systems; adopting a project management approach; and monitoring and evaluation.

This approach to implementation should be underpinned by mainstreaming social inclusion into all government policies, through poverty impact assessment, involving the

relevant stakeholders and setting high level societal outcome objectives and targets.

We have the opportunity to adopt this approach now, through the National Partnership Agreement, the National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion and the National Development Plan. As stated recently by the OECD “Poverty and inequality are evidence of an inefficient society, which wastes human resources, opportunities and life chances. The failure to tackle poverty and inequality is not only socially reprehensible but will affect the capacity to sustain economic growth for years to come”.<sup>9</sup>

Poverty and social exclusion impact on all of society as well as being a particular hardship for the individuals and groups directly affected. Thus, it is imperative that we drive through the implementation of our national action plans and strategies.

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9 OECD (2006)

Vision with action  
can change the world.

## » Part 2

# Work of the Combat Poverty Agency



2005 saw the completion of Combat Poverty’s three-year Strategic Plan for 2003 to 2005, and the start of a new plan ‘*Working for a Poverty-Free Ireland*’ which will run to 2008. This is the seventh strategic plan presented by the Combat Poverty Agency and it includes three key strategic objectives:

**Distribution of Income and Jobs**

- » To promote a fairer distribution of income and employment by providing evidence-based advice on tax, welfare and employment policies

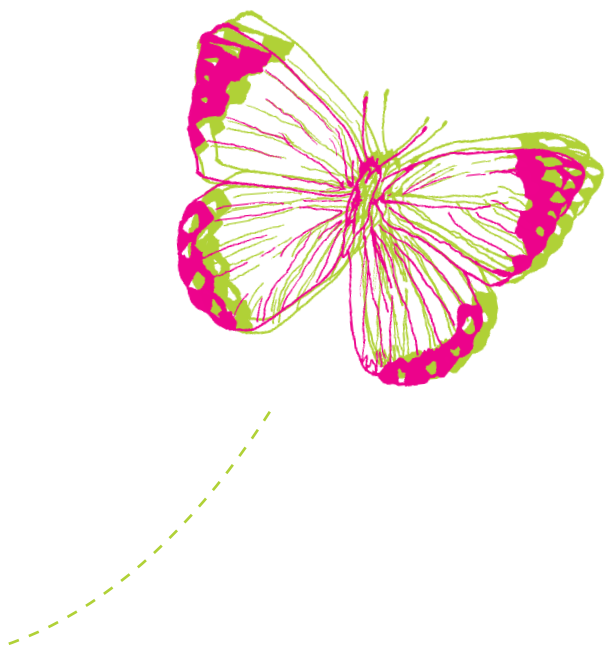
**Access to Quality Services**

- » To develop and promote policy proposals for people in poverty to have access to quality health and education services

**Local and Regional Responses to Poverty**

- » To support local and regional responses to poverty, including border areas affected by the Northern Ireland Conflict

A number of activities and initiatives underpin the achievement of these objectives, some relating to a single



objective and others cross-cutting all three. This section of the report provides an overview of these activities, which include:

- » Ending Child Poverty
- » Tackling Health Inequalities
- » Supporting Anti-Poverty Policies
- » Providing Evidence-Based Policy Advice
- » Promoting Poverty Research
- » Enhancing Public Awareness of Poverty
- » Informing Local and Regional Responses to Poverty
- » Strengthening Organisational Effectiveness and Efficiency

Significant developments during the first year of the strategic plan were:

- » Renewed public awareness of and commitment to tackling child poverty in Ireland, informed by recommendations put forward by Combat Poverty in its *Ending Child Poverty* statement.
- » The publication of *Mapping Poverty: National Regional and County Patterns*, which brought new insights into the geographic distribution of poverty across Ireland, including measures of poverty at local authority level for the first time.
- » The conclusion of a European project led by Combat Poverty to promote understanding of and develop practical tools for mainstreaming social inclusion across all national policies.
- » Agreement to mainstream the Local Government Programme, which Combat Poverty initiated in 1999 to support local authorities to develop local anti-poverty strategies.



## Ending Child Poverty

With some 100,000 children still living in consistent poverty, tackling Child Poverty remained a key priority for Combat Poverty, and prompted various initiatives during 2005.

### Ending Child Poverty Policy Statement

A Combat Poverty Agency Policy Statement: *Ending Child Poverty* was launched by the Minister for Social Affairs, Seamus Brennan TD, and was widely circulated to policy makers, media and other interested parties. Drawing on international experience and previous Combat Poverty work, this publication identified policies which have been successful in reducing high levels of across 22 OECD countries.

### Study on the Dynamics of Child Poverty

Combat Poverty subsequently commissioned a study<sup>10</sup> to examine the dynamics of child poverty. This looks at the processes causing children to move in and out of poverty, and will inform future policy

recommendations on how child poverty can be more effectively targeted in the future. This report was published in May 2006.

### Proposals on Child Income Support

In response to a request from the Minister for Social Affairs, Seamus Brennan TD, Combat Poverty made a submission on child income supports, setting out proposals on how to allocate resources to reduce child poverty. A number of the recommendations were subsequently adopted in Budget 2006.

### Ending Child Poverty - A Shared Responsibility

Further policy recommendations on child poverty were presented in an Annual Overview statement included in the Combat Poverty Agency Annual Report for 2004. *Ending Child Poverty – A Shared Responsibility* highlighted the need for the elimination of child poverty to become a national priority, and recommended the development of a national strategy which would be supported by all sectors of Irish society, including the Government, social partners, civil society and the general public.

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10 *Day In, Day Out: Understanding the Dynamics of Child Poverty*, Richard Layte, Bertrand Maitre, Brian Nolan and Christopher T Whelan, Combat Poverty Agency 2006.

## Tackling Health Inequalities

Tackling health inequalities is a top priority for Combat Poverty under the current strategic plan. During 2005, activities to support this objective focused on the following strands of work.

### Building Healthy Communities Programme

Through the Building Healthy Communities Programme, Combat Poverty encourages people who are marginalised and excluded to participate in actions to improve their own health outcomes. During 2005, funding was allocated to ten groups to address a range of inequalities leading to poor health outcomes, including poverty, stigmatisation, isolation and access to health services.

Funding of €245,770 was allocated among the following groups: Cáirde, Schizophrenia Ireland, the Irish Deaf Society, Fatima Groups United, OPEN, the Galway Travellers Support Group, CAN and NICHE, West Offaly Partnership, Special Project for the Long-Term Unemployed, Tallaght and the Galway Refugee Support Group. Ongoing learning from these projects was captured through networking meetings, research and evaluations, and was used to inform relevant policies through the following initiatives:

- » A roundtable meeting to explore how the experiences of projects funded under the Building Healthy Communities could inform policy was convened by Combat Poverty, attracting considerable interest.
- » A paper entitled: *Community Participation and Primary Care: Learning from the Building Healthy Communities Programme*, was published which highlighted the value of community participation in meeting the primary care needs of disadvantaged communities, for both the communities themselves and the health service.
- » *Tackling Health Inequalities: A Community Development Approach* was published, outlining learning from Phase I of the Building Healthy Communities Project.
- » A formative evaluation of the second phase of the Building Healthy Communities programme was commissioned to assess the degree to which the Programme aims and objectives are being met and to capture lessons for policy and practice emerging from the programme.

“ Community development approaches to health seek to tackle the root causes of ill health, including poverty, educational disadvantage, unemployment, social isolation and inadequate living conditions.”



Elaine Houlihan  
Projects officer

**NAPS and Health**

Combat Poverty continued to participate in the National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS) Health Working Group, convened by the Department of Health and Children. This group is tasked with informing the development and achievement of the health targets contained in NAPS. As part of its contribution to the work of this group, Combat Poverty, co-published with the Department of Health and Children and the Health Services Executive, the Office for Social Inclusion and the Institute of Public Health a brochure entitled: *Health Services and the National*

*Anti-Poverty Strategy* to promote awareness among the national health services of NAPS.

To inform the work of the NAPS Health Working Group<sup>11</sup> in preparing for the new National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion (NAP/Inclusion) Combat Poverty hosted a conference for health officials and anti-poverty groups to advance thinking on

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11 The NAPS Health Working Group was established by the Department of Health and Children and has an advisory role in relation to the implementation of measures to achieve the NAPS health targets.





*Target Setting to Reduce Health Inequalities and Poverty.* This was the first in a series of five seminars on health entitled *Poverty is Bad for Your Health*. Discussions were documented in a conference report, and a policy discussion document was produced following the event, to inform future policy on tackling health inequalities<sup>12</sup>.

## Health Research

In 2005, Combat Poverty commissioned a study on poverty, health status and access to GPs. The study will assess the utilisation of GP and related services across the population, including the role of the General Medical Services (GMS) in providing access to primary care for low-income groups.

## EU Minimum Standards Project

Combat Poverty is a partner in an EU funded project on Minimum Standards, led by the European Anti-Poverty Network

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12 *Setting Health Targets to Reduce Poverty and Health Inequalities*, Brian Nolan, Combat Poverty Agency 2006.



which commenced two years ago. Combat Poverty is currently developing two papers on minimum social standards, one on health and one on income adequacy for discussion at a project conference in 2006.

**Social Determinants of Health**

The links between social determinants and health largely account for the poor health outcomes of people living in poverty. In 2005, Combat Poverty engaged in a number of initiatives to enhance understanding and encourage policy changes around this issue. A conference

to promote awareness of the social determinants of health will take place in 2006.

**Food Poverty and Policy**

Combat Poverty worked in partnership with Crosscare and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to promote the policy recommendations arising from the 2004 study: *'Food Poverty and Policy'*. Presentations were made to:

- » The Joint Oireachtas Committee on Enterprise and Small Business

“ Mainstreaming social inclusion into public policy-making is a key objective of EU Member States in the fight against poverty and social exclusion.”

Kevin O’Kelly

Project Co-ordinator

- » Community Managers, Health Promotion Unit, Department of Health and Children
- » National Food and Nutrition Strategy Consultation, Department of Health and Children.

Also with Crosscare and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Combat Poverty drafted a submission on the proposed repeal of the groceries order.

A feasibility study for a food poverty network was discussed at a seminar in April 2005, and a ‘*Healthy Food for All*’ initiative was subsequently

established with support from a variety of public, voluntary and private sector organisations.

### Supporting Anti-poverty Policies

For anti-poverty measures to work, effective national policies and implementation frameworks are needed to ensure sustained focus on priority issues. During 2005, Combat Poverty worked closely with Government departments, the Office for Social Inclusion, local authorities and state agencies to support development and implementation of anti-poverty policies in Ireland.

**National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Inclusion (NAP/Inclusion) 2006 - 2008**

Combat Poverty contributed extensively to the consultation on the next National Action Plan against Poverty and Social Inclusion (NAP/Inclusion) for 2006-2008. It convened a number of national thematic consultation seminars to capture the views of anti-poverty interests, and provided strategic and administrative support for regional consultation seminars and the Social Inclusion Forum. Combat Poverty made a detailed submission to the Office for Social Inclusion setting out its recommendations in relation to the new NAP/Inclusion.

Also in preparation for the new national action plan, Combat Poverty initiated or contributed to a number of projects to support the development of meaningful anti-poverty targets and indicators, including:

- » Convening a conference for policy makers and practitioners from the anti-poverty and health sectors to advance discussions on *Setting Health Targets to Reduce Health Inequalities*.
- » Participating in an expert seminar to inform a Government review of the indicators used to measure

consistent poverty and targets to reduce poverty.

- » Initiating a project to identify appropriate non-monetary indicators to measure the impact of anti-poverty policies. Such indicators would support the monitoring of poverty trends within the NAP/Inclusion.
- » Participating in an OSI-led review of Poverty Proofing to develop a more comprehensive and integrated poverty / equality proofing project.

**Mainstreaming Social Inclusion**

The Mainstreaming Social Inclusion (MSI) project was completed in 2005. (Combat Poverty successfully applied for funding under the EU Social Exclusion Programme to undertake a further evaluation of the project). A book and website [www.europemsi.org](http://www.europemsi.org) were produced, which provide practical tools for mainstreaming social inclusion across all policy areas. The MSI project has brought new insights into best practice policies and structures across Europe that have improved the lives of people living in poverty. The project is part of the Social Exclusion Programme developed by the European Commission to support

Member States in taking steps to make a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty by 2010.

### Monitoring Poverty Trends

A key part of Combat Poverty's role is to monitor poverty trends and identify newly emerging issues so that policies can be developed and structures enhanced.

In 2005, Combat Poverty's work in this area included:

- » Participation on a technical advisory group convened by the OSI. This group reviews research, analysis and innovation to support and inform the NAPS.
- » An analysis of poverty in Ireland: Combat Poverty assessed the poverty profile of Irish society and determined how poverty in Ireland compares in a European context. The analysis was based on the 2003 EU Survey on Living and Income Conditions.
- » Involvement in two collaborative projects to examine specific aspects of deprivation and social inclusion: These include a study on fuel poverty (with Sustainable Energy Ireland) and a study on Financial

Exclusion (with the Financial Regulator)

- » Participation in the *Healthy Food for All* initiative (with the Society of St Vincent de Paul and Crosscare) to promote awareness of food poverty at policy and implementation levels;
- » Ongoing research into the nature and causes of child poverty, including the commissioning of new study to examine the persistence of child poverty and the processes causing children to move in and out of poverty.

### Supporting Participation

Anti-poverty policies are more likely to work if the people they are designed to help are involved in their development and implementation.

In 2005, Combat Poverty launched a three-year programme called *Having Your Say*, which aims to strengthen the voices and practices of people living in poverty in the development and implementation of anti-poverty policies and programmes. The programme was launched at a national conference in December, which was attended by over 150 people.

*Having Your Say* expands and enhances Combat Poverty's



“ Policies to tackle poverty are more likely to work if the people and communities they are designed for are involved in their planning and implementation.”



Barbara Walshe

Projects Officer

Practice to Policy programme which focused particularly on NAPS and the Social Partnership Agreement. The *Having Your Say* programme will provide new thinking, as well as support and training to facilitate better and more effective engagement between policy makers and people living in poverty.

An advisory group for the *Having Your Say* programme was established, and a formative evaluation of the programme was commissioned to develop benchmark data and assess the impact of *Having Your Say* over its three-year duration.

Under the Practice to Policy programme, funding of €127,080 was allocated in 2005 to eight groups for projects focusing on helping people experiencing poverty to influence and inform policy. The groups funded were OPEN, Community Platform, Ballymun Job Centre (Acorn Support Group), Wicklow Trade Union Centre for the Unemployed, EAPN Ireland and the Irish Organisation for the Unemployed.



### Supporting a Rights-Based Approach

Combat poverty continued to promote awareness of how a rights-based approach can be used to tackle poverty, through the following initiatives:

- » Funding was allocated to seventeen community development and anti-poverty groups for initiatives that demonstrate and encourage the use of national and international rights instruments and standards to tackle poverty.
- » Combat Poverty is a partner in the Participation and Practice of Rights (PPR) project in collaboration with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, the Irish Council of Civil Liberties, Committee for the Administration of Justice Northern Ireland, Community Foundation, Northern Ireland and communities in North Inner City Dublin and North Belfast. This is a North-South project which aims to promote the practice of rights by raising awareness of international human rights instruments and standards, and by building the capacity of marginalised



communities and groups to use such instruments to tackle poverty and achieve substantive equality. In 2005, the PPR Project secured funding to support a three year programme of activity. This will provide for the employment of seven staff.

**Promoting Social Inclusion in the NDP**

Work continued with Government departments to strengthen social inclusion in the National Development Plan. Combat Poverty convened the Social Inclusion Indicators Steering

Group to support this work, and with the Office for Social Inclusion, published a document entitled: *Poverty Impact Assessment in the National Development Plan: Issues and Lessons* based on learning from this work.

**Providing Evidence-based Policy Advice**

**Policy Liaison**

In fulfilling its statutory mandate to provide policy advice to Government on eliminating poverty in Ireland, Combat



## Fidelma Joyce

Policy Liaison Officer

“ In working to achieve a poverty-free Ireland, Combat Poverty is most successful when its policy messages are focused and timely.”

Poverty maintained regular contact with the Minister for Social Affairs, ministerial advisors and departmental officials. Briefings also took place with officials in the Departments of An Taoiseach, Finance, Health and Children, Environment, Heritage and Local Government and Education and Science.

Combat Poverty attended a number of Joint Oireachtas Committees to present research findings and policy recommendations on various issues, including child poverty, tax reliefs for high earners and Budget 2006. Presentations were made to the Joint Committees

for Family and Social Affairs, European Affairs, Finance, and Enterprise and Small Business.

### Policy Submissions

In 2005, Combat Poverty submitted policy recommendations relating to various issues of national debate and importance, including:

- » Submission to the Minister for Social Affairs on Budget 2006
- » Submission to Office for Social Inclusion on the National Action Plan Against Poverty

and Social Exclusion 2006-2008

- » Submission to Social Partners on a New Partnership Agreement
- » Submission to the Office for Social Inclusion on the Review of the Poverty Proofing Process
- » Submission to the Department of Finance on Tax Reliefs and Exemptions for High Earners
- » Submission to the Pensions Board on the Pensions Review
- » Submission, with Crosscare and St. Vincent de Paul, to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment on Repealing the Groceries Order
- » Submission to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on the Review of the Homeless Strategy
- » Submission to the Office for Social Inclusion on the NAP/Inclusion 2005 Report
- » Submission to the Department of Health and Children on 'A Strategy for Men's Health Promotion'.

Participation on Expert Groups

Throughout the year, Combat Poverty continued to participate in a range of Government advisory bodies and task forces, monitoring the implementation of programmes and providing a poverty perspective on policy and planning debates. Both the National Anti-Poverty Strategy and the National Development Plan featured highly in this context. The bodies with which it worked included:

- » The Technical Advisory Group on the NAPS Data and Research Strategy, convened by the Office for Social Inclusion in the Department of Social and Family Affairs
- » The Social Inclusion Consultative Committee of the National Anti-Poverty Strategy, convened by the Office for Social Inclusion in 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
- » The Monitoring Committees of the NDP Operational Programmes of the Border, Midland and Western and the Southern and Eastern region, and the Monitoring Committees for the NDP

Operational Programmes for Employment and Human Resources and the Economic and Social Infrastructure.

- » The Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion Co-ordination Committee of the NDP, convened by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
- » The Monitoring Committee of the Peace Programme convened by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)
- » 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
- » Education Equality Initiative Working Group of the Department of Education and Science
- » The Review of income supports for lone parents convened by the Department of Social and Family Affairs

- » The Local Government Social Inclusion Steering Group of the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government
- » The EU Urban Programme Monitoring Committee
- » The National Economic and Social Forum Cultural Inclusion Project Team
- » The National Primary Care Steering Group

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.

### **Advising the Government on Tax and Welfare Policies to Tackle Poverty**

In keeping with other years, Combat Poverty continued to comment on tax and welfare policies from a poverty perspective and put forward recommendations on how such policies could more effectively tackle poverty and social exclusion.

- » Combat Poverty published its pre-budget submission in September, setting out recommendations for a two year budgetary strategy



to make a decisive impact on poverty in line with the Government's targets and to reduce relative income poverty and eliminate child poverty.

- » Following a round table discussion for senior officials on social expenditure, a report by Virpi Timonen was published in 2005 entitled: *Irish Social Expenditure in a Comparative International Context: Epilogue*. This highlighted the need for more investment in employment supports, social welfare and social services, and lower expenditure on tax reliefs.

- » Research into the distributional impact of Ireland's taxation system explored the impact of indirect taxation on people living in poverty. This was published in 2006.
- » Combat Poverty developed recommendations relating to child income support in response to a request from the Minister for Social Affairs.
- » Combat Poverty participated in a departmental group convened by the Department of Social and Family Affairs to review income support payments for lone

## Jonathan Healy

Policy & Research Analyst

“ Every child in Ireland has the right to be brought up free from poverty, to enjoy a fulfilling childhood and to realise their potential.”

parents. A report setting out recommendations from the review was published in 2006.

- » Fieldwork on research into low income working families was completed in 2005. This will be analysed and used to inform policy recommendations regarding labour market activation and overcoming barriers to employment during 2006.

### Promoting Poverty Research

The promotion of research on the nature, extent and causes of poverty is one of Combat

Poverty's main statutory functions. To this end, Combat Poverty continued to promote research into areas relating to poverty and social inclusion through in-house research, direct commissioning of research reports; and through funding to researchers and academics under the Poverty Research Initiative. In 2005, this work involved the following strands:

### Combat Poverty Research

A number of major research studies were completed during 2005, including:

- » *Poverty and Conflict in Ireland: An International Perspective:* This report sets out the relationship between poverty and conflict in an Irish context and examines ways to address poverty and conflict issues in a post-conflict society.
- » *Mapping Poverty: National, Regional and County Patterns:* This report measured the distribution of poverty at various spatial and administrative levels, including city and county councils for the first time.
- » *Distributional Impact of Indirect Taxation:* This report examines the impact of indirect taxation on low income households.

New reports initiated during 2005 and due for publication in 2006 include:

- » *Day In, Day Out: Understanding the Dynamics of Child Poverty;* Drawing on longitudinal data over an eight year period, this study explores the processes which cause children to move in and out of poverty. It draws lessons for policy makers around the most effective policy responses for ending child poverty.
- » *Financial Exclusion* (to be published in 2006): This report, undertaken in collaboration with the Financial Regulator, examines

the barriers to accessing financial services for people on low incomes. The study is being undertaken in-house by Combat Poverty research staff.

- » *Fuel Poverty:* Combat Poverty is undertaking a three year action research project, co-funded by Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, to evaluate the benefits of domestic energy-efficiency programmes and the SEI Warmer Homes Programme.

Supporting Third Party Research on Poverty

Combat Poverty fosters research by third level institutions and NGOs through the *Poverty Research Initiative* (PRI) programme. This initiative combines three strands:

- » Research awards (poverty studies and policy analysis);
- » Fellowship awards for doctoral research and policy reviews;
- » Internships at post-graduate and experienced researcher levels.

In 2005, a PhD Fellowship was awarded to Philip Hayes

in the National University of Ireland (NUI), Galway, to undertake a doctoral thesis entitled: *A Comparative Study of Housing Benefits in Europe and the Impact of Housing Benefit Policy Reform in Ireland*.

Combat Poverty awarded funding for research-based analysis of anti-poverty policies and practices. Six awards, totalling €81,000 (€61,000 paid in 2005), were allocated to: The Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice; Free Legal Advice Centre; OPEN and Threshold; the Institute of Public Health in Ireland; Merchants Quay, Ireland; and Care Alliance Ireland. Studies addressed issues relating to carers' health, rental accommodation for lone parents, primary care services for homeless people, civil debtors, income adequacy levels and the development of an Irish health poverty index.

Seven research awards totalling €116,000 in 2005 were awarded for studies into consumer debt, food poverty, health inequalities, educational disadvantage, active labour market programmes, social tourism and the cost of a child. These are being undertaken by researchers in Dublin Institute of Technology, NUI Galway, University of Limerick and UCD.

The outputs of the research awards were published online as

Research Working Papers, and presented at Combat Poverty's lunchtime research seminar series. Research working papers produced in 2005 included:

- » Noreen Byrne, Olive McCarthy & Michael Ward, *Meeting the Credit Needs of Low-Income Groups: Credit Unions v Moneylenders*.
- » Anne Coakley, *Mothers, Welfare and Labour Market Activation*.
- » FM Kelly and AJ Parker, Centre for Retail Studies, University College Dublin, *A Study of Retail Accessibility for Older People: The Elderly Poor and Access to Retail Services*.
- » Aogán Mulcahy & Eoin O'Mahony, *Policing and Social Marginalisation in Ireland*.
- » Vanessa Gash *The Labour Market Outcomes of Atypical Employment in Ireland and Denmark*.
- » Eilis Hennessy and Mary Donnelly, *After-School Care in Disadvantaged Areas: the Perspectives of Children, Parents and Experts*.

Combat Poverty provided post-graduate research placements to Ann Stokes, UCD, and Martina Prunty, Trinity College Dublin, for three-month periods.



## Enhancing Public Awareness 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, news bulletins, media liaison, library and information services, website, policy liaison and work with schools all serve to enhance public understanding of the nature, causes and extent of poverty in Ireland.

### Public Communications

A Communications Advisory Team comprising board and staff members was established during 2005 to provide input and direction into the development of a new public communications strategy. The strategy, which seeks to bring clarity and focus to Combat Poverty’s communications during the period of the new strategic plan, was finalised in December and will be rolled out during 2006. A new Head of Communications and Public Affairs was appointed during the year to lead this programme of work.

The Information and Public Education Section was renamed ‘Communications and Public Affairs’ to reflect a greater emphasis on clear, co-ordinated communications across all sections of Combat Poverty.

### Research Seminar Series

In 2005, Combat Poverty hosted fifteen lunchtime seminars, each attracting between 20 and 30 people. These provided an informal forum to discuss poverty-related research, either supported by Combat Poverty or undertaken on an independent basis.

### UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Funding was allocated to five anti-poverty groups to promote awareness of the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October. The groups funded were the Wicklow Trade Union Centre for the Unemployed, the Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed, Community Platform, ATD Fourth World and the End Child Poverty Coalition. Activities included poster and post card campaigns, educational resources, newsletters, policy briefings and media launches.

### Schools Programme

Gold Sponsorship of Young Social Innovators provided a platform for Combat Poverty to generate a better understanding of poverty and social exclusion among transition year students. The National Showcase attracted 1,864 pupils from schools across Ireland. The ‘Combating Poverty



in Ireland Award' was presented to Loreto College, Dublin 2, for their project on poverty and educational disadvantage.

The CSPE website, which is jointly managed between Combat Poverty, the Equality Authority, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Children's Rights Alliance, continued to provide a channel to engage transition year students on issues relating to poverty. A review of the site was undertaken during the year, and a consultant was appointed to streamline and update the content on the site.

Combat Poverty continued to engage with the NCCA and other policy actors and directly with schools to highlight the issue of poverty within the school curriculum. The introduction of a new senior cycle curriculum on social and political education, as previously sought by Combat Poverty, provided an opportunity to take this agenda forward. During 2005, Combat Poverty met with the NCCA to discuss the proposed curriculum and the potential it offers to promote poverty awareness.

2005 saw the conclusion of the Poverty, Curriculum and the Classroom project, which was undertaken in collaboration with the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee Curriculum Development Unit (CDVEC CDU). An evaluation of the

project highlighted the positive impact that it had on all those involved, including teachers, students and community participants. Efforts were made to mainstream lessons from the project, including the publication of guidelines on developing school community partnerships in poverty awareness.

## Informing Local And Regional Responses To Poverty

Combat Poverty supports local and regional responses to poverty, including border areas affected by the Northern Ireland Conflict.

### Identifying where poverty exists

A report entitled *Mapping Poverty: National Regional and County Patterns* was published, bringing about new insights into the geographic distribution of poverty across Ireland. This not only identified poor areas. It also provided an understanding of why geographic concentrations of poverty exist, and the effectiveness of area-based policies. Three poverty indicators (household income, material deprivation and socio-democratic profile) were used to measure poverty at various regional and administrative levels, including county and city councils. The study provided local authorities

“ By understanding where people in poverty live in Ireland we can design better policies and programmes to tackle poverty locally.”



Vanessa Coffey  
Research Officer

with benchmark data against which to develop relevant policies for local anti-poverty strategies for the first time.

The findings from the study were presented at a national conference, jointly organised by Combat Poverty and the National Institute for Regional and Spatial Analysis (NIRSA) at NUI Maynooth, which was attended by 180 people.

**Supporting Local Anti-Poverty Strategies**

The National Anti-Poverty Strategy (NAPS) specifies a requirement for Local Authorities to take account of the principles, targets and objectives set in NAPS when setting local development objectives, and cites a role for Combat Poverty in this process. Since 1999, Combat Poverty been supporting local authorities to develop and build capacity to play a more strategic role in the prevention of poverty and social exclusion through the Local Government



Programme. Key elements of this pilot programme were mainstreamed in 2005.

- » The Local Authorities and Social Inclusion Steering Group (LASISG) ensures that the social inclusion agenda continues to be embedded in local government. Membership comprises the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG), Office for Social Inclusion (OSI), Local Government Management Services Board (LGMSB), Institute of Public Administration (IPA) and Combat Poverty.

- » Training on poverty and social inclusion has been incorporated into mainstream training providers delivering to local authorities.
- » From 2006 the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) will organise Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network (LGAPLN) meetings.

In addition, Combat Poverty continued to promote the development of Local Anti-Poverty Strategies (LAPS) by local Government through training,

“ The challenge is to get social inclusion into local authority policies and strategies so that local authority actions generate positive outcomes for people who are excluded.”



Sharon Keane

Projects Officer

resource materials, guidelines and other capacity building mechanisms. This included:

- » Publication of *Developing a Local Anti-Poverty Strategy: A Guide*
- » Provision of funding to county councils in Laois and Wicklow to support the development of pilot LAPS. It is anticipated that one of the outcomes will be a worked model of LAPS which will provide guidance to other local authorities in preparing a LAPS.
- » Publication of guidelines for local authorities entitled

*Implementing a Waiver System; Guidelines for Local Authorities.* These called for a national policy on waste management waiver systems to ensure a fair and consistent system of waste charging in Ireland.

- » Publication of a report on access to public libraries entitled *Access to Public Libraries for Marginalised Groups*, which concluded that a coordinated system of supports for library staff is needed to ensure consistency in terms of access to libraries. This was discussed by the Minister for Environment,



Heritage and Local Government at a Learning Network meeting during 2005.

- » Publication of editions of *Learning Brief*, a Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network (LGAPLN) newsletter and *Network Exchange*, an electronic newsletter to increase awareness of the Local Government Programme.
- » Provision of funding for the *Review of Local Authority Corporate and Operational Plans from a Social Inclusion Perspective* in conjunction with the DoEHLG.

- » Two meetings of the LGAPLN were held on the following themes: Best Practice in Customer Care – Focus on Libraries and Estate Management; and Planning / Development and Social Inclusion.

### Community Development in Local Government

Combat Poverty continued to provide training and support to local authority staff on involving marginalised groups in local government.

**Local Authorities and Social Inclusion**

Combat Poverty was a partner in the EU project on Local Authorities and Social Inclusion (LASI) which developed peer review for local authorities. Combat Poverty took part in a peer review exchange with Lithuania to identify areas of common interest and learning. The LASI project concluded in November 2005. Laois and Wicklow County Councils will carry out Peer Reviews in 2006 as part of their LAPS work.

**Implementing the EU Peace II Programme**

In 2005, Combat Poverty, with Pobal (formerly ADM Ltd), was responsible for implementing ten measures of the EU Peace II Programme<sup>13</sup> and seven measures of the Peace II Extension Programme<sup>14</sup> in the southern border region through Border Action (formerly ADM/CPA). It also managed two cross-border measures through a cross border consortium in

collaboration with Pobal, Co-operation Ireland and Community Foundation for Northern Ireland. In collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland (DARD), Border Action also managed a further two cross-border measures. Border Action reports to the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. The SEUPB is the Managing Authority for the Peace Programme and is one of the North/South Implementing Bodies set up under the Good Friday Agreement.

By the end of 2005 the budget allocation in respect of the Peace II Programme was committed to projects, and the financial targets set by the European Commission were reached. In June 2005 the nine Peace II Extension measures were opened for application and funding under all measures will be fully committed by mid 2006.

A range of research and evaluation reports are now available from the Programme and are being used to inform both the Peace II Extension and preparatory work for the Peace III Programme.

Research projects funded by Border Action which were published during 2005 include:

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13 The Peace II Programme is an EU structural funds programme aimed at promoting reconciliation in the border counties and Northern Ireland.

14 Peace II Extension is a two-year extension to the Peace II Programme and will provide up to €144m until the end of 2006.



- » *Balances along the Border: A gender audit in Northern Ireland and the six Southern Border Counties* by Women Educating for Transformation (WEFT).
- » *Border Protestant Perspectives: A Study of the Attitudes and Experiences of Protestants Living in the Southern Border Counties* by Locus Management.
- » *The Emerald Curtain: The Social Impact of the Irish Border* by Triskele Community Training and Development.
- » *The Legacy of the Troubles: Experience of the Troubles, Mental Health and Social Attitudes* by Queens University and University College Cork.

In addition, a report entitled '*Good Practice in Community-based Peacebuilding*' was published by Border Action. This draws upon the experiences of a sample of 21 Peace funded projects to identify how they have 'made a difference' to communities and social groups affected by the conflict. This incorporates valuable lessons for those engaged in peace building at all levels.

### INTERREG IIIA Programme

Border Action continued to work in partnership with Co-operation Ireland in the

implementation of the Civic and Community Networking measure of the INTERREG IIIA Programme and with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland on the implementation of the Rural Development measure. The INTERREG IIIA Programme, an EU wide initiative, is designed to support cross border co-operation, social cohesion and economic development between the regions of the European Union. The Ireland/Northern Ireland INTERREG IIIA Programme covers all of Northern Ireland and the six border counties of Ireland. This programme aims to address the economic and social disadvantages which can result from the existence of a border, by promoting the creation of cross border networks and initiatives involving, and also benefiting, local communities.

### Poverty and Conflict

To inform the future development of actions to tackle poverty and promote peace building in Ireland, Combat Poverty commissioned a study by Paddy Hillyard, Bill Rolston and Mike Tomlinson to examine the relationships between anti-poverty and social inclusion measures and conflict resolution processes in Ireland. *Poverty and Conflict in Ireland: An International Perspective*, which was



published in spring 2005, drew on international experiences and sought to shed new light on the two dimensions of the poverty-conflict relationship: poverty as a cause of conflict and poverty as a consequence of conflict. The report presented important lessons about how to address poverty and conflict issues in a post-conflict society.

Strengthening  
Organisational Effectiveness  
And Efficiency

Combat Poverty continued to maximise the efficiency of its operations through effective

management of its resources, including financial, human and material resources.

The commitment and expertise of staff is a crucial asset, which Combat Poverty seeks to harness and develop through open, consultative work practices and the provision of effective support structures, especially IT and communications systems.

During 2005, Combat Poverty continued to operate within a matrix structure to ensure that its four key functional areas were aligned with the objectives set out in the Strategic Plan. This structure has ensured a coherent





## Sean Mistéil

Head of Organisational  
Management and Development

“ Combat  
Poverty Agency  
endeavours to  
achieve high  
standards  
of resource  
management.”

and consistent response across all sections of Combat Poverty towards the delivery of key objectives and facilitated shared learning across the Agency.

### IT Systems

A project to upgrade the IT infrastructure was ongoing throughout the year. This brought about significant productivity improvements, through the implementation of a more robust, reliable and streamlined IT infrastructure.

### Strategic Plan

Combat Poverty's seventh Strategic Plan – for the period 2005-2007 – was approved and launched by the Minister for Social Affairs, Seamus Brennan T.D.

### Partnership Working

Work continued during 2005 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 4 times in 2005. It discussed issues relating to the modernisation action plan and the forthcoming review of the efficiency of the use and allocation of resources within Combat Poverty, which is being undertaken in 2006.

**Financial Management**

The 2004 financial statements were prepared and then submitted, along with the Annual Report for 2004, to the Minister for Social Affairs in June. The Financial Statements were later audited by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

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, Peace II Extension and Interreg IIIA Programmes for which Combat Poverty is liable as part of the joint management agreement with Pobal (formerly ADM Ltd).

**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 Border Action (formerly ADM /CPA Ltd) in administering the Peace II, Peace II Extension and Interreg IIIA Programmes were also fully compliant.

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

During the year, Board members continued to provide strategic input to the day-to-day operations of Combat Poverty through a number of Board sub-committees (consisting only of board members) and advisory committees (consisting of Board members, Combat Poverty staff, and in certain cases, external experts). Board members are also represented on two Peace Programme committees along with staff from Combat Poverty, Pobal and Border Action, and representatives from associated organisations involved in the Peace Programmes.

Board participation on such committees helps to foster understanding between Board members and staff and contributes greatly to the ongoing work of Combat Poverty. In 2005, the following committees were in place:

**Board sub-committees**

- » Resource Management Committee (formerly Finance and Personnel)
- » Decentralisation Committee
- » Audit Committee

**Border Action management committees:**

- » Joint Management Committee (Peace / Interreg Programmes)
- » Consortium Management Committee (Cross Border Peace Programme)
- » Interreg Community Partnership Committee

**Advisory committees:**

- » Tax and Welfare Committee
- » Research Advisory Committee
- » Communications Advisory Team
- » Health Advisory Committee

» *Having Your Say* Advisory Committee

A Value for Money audit relating to work commissioned by Combat Poverty was conducted in Autumn 2005 by the internal auditor at the request of the management team. A draft report of the findings was presented to the Audit Committee in December.

**Health and Safety**

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

**Human Resources and Staff Development**

To ensure that Combat Poverty retains an effective, competent and expert workforce, the Agency continued to invest in staff training and development. Total expenditure on training was just over 3.5 per cent of payroll.

Combat Poverty continued to bed down and refine its performance management and development system in order to fully harness the potential of its staff. All new staff receive training in relation to the system.

A management development and training needs analysis, carried out in autumn 2005, will inform a programme of development for the management team for the remainder of the strategic plan.

**Combat Poverty Board**

The Minister for Social Affairs appointed Helen Johnston, Director of Combat Poverty, for a further term to the Board in June. Barbara Walshe was appointed to replace Joan O’Flynn as elected staff member on the Board in December.

The Board held its April 2005 meeting in Cork in collaboration with the Social Inclusion Unit of Cork City Council. The Board was welcomed by the Lord Mayor, Alderman Sean Martin. A number of community based projects were visited by members of the Board during the visit.

The Board welcomed the Minister for Social Affairs, Seamus Brennan TD to its meeting in May, at which a wide range of issues were discussed, particularly the issue of child poverty. The Minister emphasised the role of Combat Poverty in being a solutions-focused organisation, and sought proposals on how to tackle the issue of child poverty. A paper on child income supports was subsequently sent to the Minister.

A joint Board-staff meeting was held in Maynooth at the end of June to review the work programme of Combat Poverty.

The Board met at Dundalk Institute of Technology for its September meeting and was briefed on the progress of a number of projected funded under the Peace II Programme.



## » Appendices



# Appendix 1–Board, Sub-Committees and Staff

## Board Membership and Attendance in 2005

There were eight meetings of the Board in 2005. Two members completed their three-year terms during 2005. Helen Johnston was re-appointed to the Board by the Minister for Social Affairs, Seamus Brennan, T.D. Joan O’Flynn completed her term as elected staff member on the Board in December and was replaced by Barbara Walshe.

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

Number of meetings attended

Board Members	No. of meetings attended	No. eligible to attend
Brian Duncan, Chairperson	8	(8)
Pearse O’Hanrahan, Vice-Chairperson	4	(8)
Callista Bennis	4	(8)
Maria Corrigan	4	(8)
Frank Curran	7	(8)
Anthony Gavin	6	(8)
Maria Gorman	8	(8)
Helen Johnston	8	(8)
Tony Lane	8	(8)
Seamus McAleavey	7	(8)
Tony O’Callaghan	7	(8)
Joan O’Flynn	7	(7)
Orlaigh Quinn	7	(8)
Alice Robertson	6	(8)
Margaret Sweeney	7	(8)
Olive Sweetman	6	(8)

Fees and Expenses

Fees payable to Board Members are set by the Minister for Social 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. The Board reviewed its sub-committee structure and representation in early 2005, taking account of the newly launched Strategic Plan. The role of the Finance and Personnel Committee was absorbed into the new Resource Management Committee, with wider terms of reference. Two new advisory committees were established during the year, including the Communications Advisory Team and the *Having Your Say* Advisory Committee. The Board was represented on such committees as follows:

### BOARD SUB-COMMITTEES (as at 31st December 2005)

Note: Numbers in brackets below denote the number of meetings attended.

#### Resource Management Committee – 8 meetings

- Brian Duncan, Chair (7)
- Pearse O’Hanrahan (4)
- Callista Bennis (4)
- Helen Johnston (8)
- Joan O’Flynn (6)<sup>1</sup>
- Anthony Gavin (6)

#### Audit Committee – 3 meetings

- Pearse O’Hanrahan, Chair (3)
- Maria Gorman (3)
- Anthony Gavin (2)

#### Decentralisation Committee – 1 meeting

- Anthony Gavin, Chair (1)
- Helen Johnston (1)
- Tony O’Callaghan (1)
- Pearse O’Hanrahan (0)
- Margaret Sweeney (0)
- Joan O’Flynn (1)

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1 Out of seven meetings



**ADVISORY COMMITTEES (as at 31st December 2005)****Health Advisory Committee – 2 meetings**

Frank Curran, Chair (1)

Seamus McAleavey (0)

Helen Johnston (0)

**Research Advisory Committee – 2 meetings**

Olive Sweetman (2)

Maria Corrigan (1)

Orlaigh Quinn (2)

**Tax and Welfare Committee – 4 meetings**

Tony Lane, Chair (4)

Maria Corrigan (2)

Frank Curran (2)

Maria Gorman (4)

Seamus McAleavey (2)

Alice Robertson (2)

Olive Sweetman (1)

Helen Johnston (4)

**Communications Advisory Team – 2 meetings**

Tony O’Callaghan, Chair (2)

Helen Johnston (2)

***Having Your Say* Advisory Committee – 1 meeting**

Seamus McAleavy, Chair (1)

**BORDER ACTION COMMITTEES (as at 31st December 2005)**

**Joint Management Committee Membership – 8 meetings**

Brian Duncan	Chairperson, Combat Poverty Agency (Joint Chair) (6)
Helen Johnston	Director, Combat Poverty Agency (7)
Tony Crooks	Chief Executive Officer, Pobal
Pearse O’Hanrahan	Board Member, Combat Poverty Agency (1)
Tony Lane	Board Member, Combat Poverty Agency (6)
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
Mary Ryan	Westbic, Galway
Bob Wilson	Dundalk Employment Partnership

**Cross-Border Management Committee Membership – 6 meetings**

Brian Duncan	Chairperson, Combat Poverty Agency (Joint Chair) (3)
Tony Crooks	Chief Executive Officer, Pobal (Joint Chair)
Helen Johnston	Director, Combat Poverty Agency (5)
Pearse O’Hanrahan	Board Member, Combat Poverty Agency (1)
Bob Wilson	Pobal representative
Tony Kennedy	CEO, Co-operation Ireland (Joint Chair)
Bryan Johnston	Board Member, Co-operation Ireland
Avila Kilmurray	Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (CFNI) (Joint Chair)
Eamon Deane	Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (CFNI)
Ian McCracken	Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (CFNI)
Ann Anderson-Porter	Co-operation Ireland

**Border Action Selection Panel, Priority 1 and 2**

Tony Crooks	Chief Executive Officer, Pobal (Chair)
Liz Sullivan	Staff Member, Combat Poverty Agency
Larry Kelly	FÁS, Sligo
Adge King	Director of Community and Enterprise, Monaghan
Paddy McGinn	Joint Manager, Border Action
Paddy Logue	Joint Manager, Border Action
Clodagh O'Mahony	Community Representative
Shauna McClenaghan	Community Representative Dept. of Education and Science Inspectorate Secretariat (Vacant)

**Cross-Border Selection Panel**

Helen Johnston	Director, Combat Poverty Agency (Co-Chair)
Paddy Logue	Joint Manager, Border Action
Paddy McGinn	Joint Manager, Border Action
Nigel McKinney	Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (CFNI)
Chrissie Cahill	Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (CFNI) (Co-Chair)
Tony Kennedy	Co-operation Ireland (Co-Chair)
Des Fegan	Co-operation Ireland
Bob Wilson	Dundalk Employment Partnership
John Rafferty	Dept. of Education and Science
Orla McGlennon	Intertrade Ireland
Brian Callanan	IBEC
Bridie Sweeney	Community Representative
Jackie Hewitt	Community Representative

**Interreg Community Partnership Committee**

Tony Kennedy	Co-operation Ireland (Chair)
Helen Johnston	Combat Poverty Agency
Tony Crooks	Pobal
Anne Anderson-Porter	Co-operation Ireland
Vernon O'Byrne	Co-operation Ireland

COMBAT POVERTY AGENCY STAFF LIST (as at 31st May 2006)

Director Helen Johnston

Organisational Management and Development (OMD)

Seán Mistéil	Head of Organisational Management & Development
Eileen Scanlon <sup>1</sup>	Human Resources Manager
Maria O'Neill <sup>1</sup>	Finance Manager
Ann Riordan <sup>2</sup>	Executive Officer
Nadine Cooney	HR and Records Management Assistant
Sally Gleeson	Clerical Officer – Receptionist
Siobhán Commings <sup>3</sup>	Financial Administrator
Patricia Farnan <sup>1</sup>	Personal Assistant to Director and Administrator, Board matters

Projects

Sharon Cosgrove	Head of Projects
Joan O'Flynn <sup>2</sup>	Programme Manager
Julie Smyth <sup>2</sup>	Programme Manager
Elaine Houlihan	Projects Officer
Barbara Walshe	Projects Officer
Sharon Keane	Projects Officer
Ann Moore	Executive Officer
Paula Fitzpatrick	Clerical Officer

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 Project Co-ordinator (MSI – Phase 2)
Izabela Litewska	EU Project Researcher (MSI – Phase 2)
Joanne Mulholland <sup>3</sup>	Research Administrator

Communications and Public Affairs

Bevin Cody	Head of Communications and Public Affairs
Fidelma Joyce	Policy Liaison Officer
Margaret O'Gorman	Communications Officer
Jean Cassidy	Library & Information Officer
Elaine Byrne	Executive Officer
Grace Loftus	Communications Assistant
Annmari Wallace <sup>2</sup>	Information Assistant

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1 Part-time posts  
2 Work-share posts  
3 Pending the outcome of Combat Poverty's organisational resource review

**BORDER ACTION STAFF LIST (as at 31st May 2006)**  
**(Joint initiative with Pobal)**

Paddy McGinn                      Programme Manager

**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 Administrator
Margaret Flood	Finance Administrator
Mandy Creighan	Projects Administrator
Sinéad Hegarty	Finance Administrator
Celine Kelly	Finance Administrator
Connor McCarron	Finance Administrator
Mary Robinson	Finance Clerical Officer
Padraic Smyth	Finance Clerical Officer
Elaine Barrett	Finance Clerical Officer
Linda Jordan	Finance Clerical Officer
Carl McNally	Finance 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 Kiernan	Information Officer

**Superannuation**

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

Combat Poverty, including the Border Action Peace and Reconciliation Programme office, continues to implement appropriate measures to protect the safety and health of all employees and visitors within its offices.

# Appendix 2 – Projects funded by the Combat Poverty Agency

## Anti-Poverty Initiatives

### Supporting People Experiencing Poverty to Influence and Inform Policy

Community Platform (CWC)	€15,000
OPEN	€18,090
Ballymun Job Centre (Acorn Support Group)	€14,700
Wicklow Trade Union Centre for the Unemployed	€20,000
National Women’s Council of Ireland	€20,000
EAPN ( European Anti-Poverty Network) Ireland	€15,370
Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed	€15,000
OPEN	€8,920

### Public Awareness Funding for UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Wicklow Trade Union Centre for the Unemployed	€3,700
Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed	€3,700
ATD Fourth World	€5,000
Community Platform	€3,000
End Child Poverty Coalition	€3,000

### Building Healthy Communities

Cáirde	
€30,000	
Schizophrenia Ireland	€30,000
Irish Deaf Society	
€26,000	
Fatima Groups United	€30,000
OPEN	
€23,290	
Galway Refugee Support Group	€30,000
Galway Traveller Support Group	
€7,980	
West Offaly Integrated Development Partnership	€28,000
Fettercairn Community Health Project	€10,500
CAN	€30,000



**Public Awareness Funding for Using a Rights-Based Approach to Tackle Poverty**

Northside Community Law Centre	€5,000
Inner City Organisations Network (ICON)	€5,500
Care Alliance Ireland	€6,000
Ballymun Youth Action project	€4,000
Community Technical Aid	€6,000
Africa Centre and AKIDWA	€4,000
Louth African Women’s Support Group	€4,150
Donegal Women’s Network	€5,222
Women’s Human Rights Alliance	€6,000
Wicklow Trade Union Centre for the Unemployed	€4,750
National Women’s Council of Ireland	€6,000
NGO Alliance	€3,000
One Family	€6,000
Refugee Information Service	€6,000
Irish Family Planning Association	€5,000
O’Devaney Gardens Community Development Forum	€4,800

Research Awards (paid in 2005)

Awarded 2005		
Developing Social Tourism: Policy and Practice in Ireland	Department of Tourism, Dublin Institute of Technology	€15,000
Cost of a Child in Ireland	ESPRU, Department of Economics, NUI Galway	€15,000
Active Labour Market Programmes and Poverty Dynamics in Ireland	Departments of Sociology and Economics, University of Limerick	€20,000
An Investigation into the Current Nature and Incidence of Consumer Debt in Ireland: Developing an Intervention Strategy for Low-Income Customers	Department of Management and Marketing, University of Limerick	€6,650
Exploring the Potential of a Rights-Based Approach to Addressing Food Poverty in Ireland	Department of Agribusiness, Extension and Rural Development, School of Biological and Environmental Science, University College Dublin	€8,000
Linguistic Difference and Educational Disadvantage: The Irish Context	Department of Education, Mary Immaculate College of Education, University of Limerick	€15,000
Health Inequalities, Deprivation and Access to Primary Health Care within the HSE Mid-Western Area	Statistical Consulting Unit, University of Limerick and Department of Public Health, HSE Mid-Western Area	€23,695

Awarded 2004		
Meeting the Credit Needs of Low-Income Groups: Credit Unions vs. Moneylenders	Centre for Co-operative Studies, University College Cork	€2,011
Free time and Leisure Needs of Young People Living in Marginalised Communities	The Children's Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin	€6,000

Awarded 2003		
Poverty, Nutritional Status and Access to Food among Asylum Seekers in the North West of Ireland	Centre for Health Promotion, NUI Galway and HSE – North Western Area	€1,483
A Study of Retail Accessibility for Older People: The Elderly Poor and Access to Retail Services	Centre for Retail Studies, University College Dublin	€2,000

Awarded 2005		
To Update and Establish a 2005/2006 Base for the Budget Items which Constitute a Low Cost but Acceptable Standard of Living, Drawing on Irish Sources and Experience	The Vincentian Partnership for Social Justice	€11,000
To Focus on the Experience of the Civil Debtor in the Legal Process and Experience of Imprisonment	Free Legal Advice Centre	€6,000
A Study of the Feasibility of Developing an Irish Health Poverty Index	The Institute of Public Health in Ireland	€11,000
To assess the effectiveness of the Primary Health Care Service for Homeless People operated by Merchants Quay, Ireland in addressing the primary health care needs of homeless people and their access to mainstream services	Merchants Quay Ireland	€11,000
Living Conditions and Accommodation Standards for Lone Parents in the Private Rented Sector: Considerations for new Rental Accommodation Scheme	OPEN / Threshold	€11,000
An Investigation into the Health Status of Family Carers	Care Alliance Ireland	€11,000

PhD Fellowships (paid in 2005)

Awarded 2005		
A Comparative Study of Housing Benefits in Europe and the Impact of Housing Benefit Policy Reform in Ireland	Philip Hayes, Department of Economics, NUI, Galway.	€15,000 +€3,430 fees
Awarded 2004		
Evolving Local Governance and Social Partnership – Enhancing Social Inclusion?	Chris McNerney, Department of Politics and Public Administration, University of Limerick	€15,000 +€3,413 fees
Awarded 2003		
Tackling Unemployment and Youth Marginalisation: How do Work Experiences in Second Level Shape Youth Transactions in a Comparative Aspect?	Delma Byrne, Centre for Educational Sociology, Department of Education and Society, University of Edinburgh	€15,000 +€4,698 fees

# Appendix 3 – EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation: Grants paid in 2005

Combat Poverty Agency and Pobal (formerly Area Development Management) have joint responsibility for ten measures of the EU Peace II Programme and seven measures of the Peace II Extension Programme in the southern border region and an additional two cross-border measures, through Border Action.

In 2005, the grants were paid under the following measures: 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 Pobal’s Annual Report and the Annual Report of Border Action.

All of the payments listed below were made by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) through their central payments unit, unless otherwise stated.

## Measure 1.5 – Positive Actions for Women

Workers Educational Association	€242,765
North Leitrim Women’s Centre	€9,900
FÁS	€180,533
Letterkenny Women’s Centre	€87,837
Sligo LEADER Partnership Company	€123,562
Louth County Enterprise Board	€169,210
Donegal County Enterprise Board	€66,324
Cavan County Childcare Committee Ltd.	€31,529
Co. Monaghan Partnership	€45,184
Sligo Co. Enterprise Board Ltd.	€38,875

Measure 2.1 – Reconciliation for Sustainable Peace

CDVEC Curriculum Development Unit	€125,966
Co. Monaghan Community Network Ltd.	€93,045
Drogheda Community Forum	€65,875
Foinn Chonallacha Teo.	€49,284
Manorcunningham Community Development Assoc.	€57,128
North Leitrim Glens Development Co. Ltd.	€38,384
Raphoe Economic Development Group Ltd.	€74,899
Monaghan Town Council	€31,426
Foinn Chonallacha Teo.	€16,810 <sup>1</sup>

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

Clones Community Forum Ltd.	€127,710
Clones Development Society Ltd.	€30,113
Radio Pobal Inis Eoghain	€92,958
Donegal Travellers Project	€90,547
Abhaile Arís	€168,517
Expac Ltd.	€123,585
Fáilte Abhaile	€168,912
Fáilte Cluain Eois	€119,559
Iar Címí Liatroma Teoranta	€148,840
Cavan Family Resource Centre Ltd.	€81,702
GROW	€159,972
Tirhugh Resource Centre	€89,642
LOCUS Management	€13,197
Community Workers Co-operative	€3,500
Triskele Community Training & Development	€26,163
Inch Island Community Assoc.	€28,548
Kilnaleck & District Community Co-op Society Ltd.	€56,108
Oideas na mBan Teoranta	€18,078
Tús Nua, Sligeach	€94,587

1 Payment from Border Action made by cheque to the project



**Measure 2.6 – Promoting Active Citizenship**

Derry & Raphoe Action	€3,000
Sligo County Council	€44,542
Monaghan County Council	€35,832
Donegal County Council	€10,651
Co. Leitrim Community Forum	€13,154
Pobal Eascarrach Teoranta	€7,500
Inishowen Partnership Company	€7,848
North Western Health Board	€4,500
Cavan County Council	€9,000
Monaghan Community Forum	€7,197
Sligo County Council	€8,050
Second Chance Education Project for Women	€7,732
Castleblayney Community Enterprise Ltd.	€9,571
Louth Youth Federation	€4,957

**Measure 2.7 – Developing Weak Community Infrastructure**

Community Workers Co-op	€56,729
Dunfanaghy Resource Association	€84,520
Killeshandra Community Council Ltd.	€91,274
Castleblayney Arts & Community Development Co. Ltd.	€167,306
Cashelard Community Development Association	€46,846
ADoPT	€97,641
Bunnoe Community Development Association Ltd.	€49,560
Barnesmore Community Development Association Ltd.	€42,162
Glenfarne Community Development Trust	€18,696
Laragh Area Development Ltd.	€66,399
Moville Community Complex Dev. Co. Ltd.	€86,506
Rockcorry Development Association	€120,410
Drumsna Development Association Ltd.	€47,953
Quigley’s Point Community Centre Ltd.	€98,466

**Measure 5.3 – Developing Cross-Border Reconciliation and Understanding<sup>2</sup>**

Glencree Centre for Reconciliation	€185,825
Inter-Classic	€23,158
Kiltyclogher Cashel Development Co. Ltd.	€118,143
Rural Mental Health	€40,124
Shankill Community Association	€80,156
Women Educating for Transformation (WEFT)	€37,969
Glencree Centre for Reconciliation	€77,827
Riverstown Enterprise Development	€112,458
Monaghan Neighbourhood Youth (Foróige)	€56,807
Town of Monaghan Co-op	€9,323

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2     Payment includes Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland elements.

## Appendix 4 – New publications

(as at 31st May 2006)

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2006 | <i>Day In, Day Out – Understanding the Dynamics of Child Poverty</i> , Richard Layte, Bertrand Maître, Brian Nolan and Christopher T. Whelan <sup>†</sup>  |
| 2006 | <i>Tackling Child Poverty – A Dynamic Perspective: Policy Statement</i>  |
| 2006 | <i>Setting Targets to Reduce Poverty and Health Inequalities</i> , Brian Nolan   |
| 2006 | <i>Poverty Impact Assessment in the National Development Plan</i> , Kathy Walsh  |
| 2006 | <i>Tackling Health Inequalities: a community development approach</i> , Carmel Corrigan, based on research undertaken by the Centre for Health Promotion Studies, NUIG                                 |
| 2006 | <i>The Distributional Impact of Ireland's Indirect Tax System</i> , Alan Barrett and Caeman Wall <sup>†</sup>  |
| 2006 | <i>Promoting Equity in Ireland's Tax System: Policy Statement</i>  |
| 2006 | <i>Community Participation and Primary Care: Learning from the Building Healthy Communities Programme</i> , Dr Philip Crowley  |
| 2005 | <i>Developing a Local Anti-Poverty Strategy: a Guide</i>   |
| 2005 | <i>Ending Child Poverty: Policy Statement</i>  |
| 2005 | <i>Opening Doors: School and Community Partnership in Poverty Awareness and Social Education Initiatives – Guidelines for Partnership Development</i> , Combat Poverty and Curriculum Development Unit |
| 2005 | <i>Facilitation with People Experiencing Poverty</i> (companion to <i>Developing Facilitation Skills</i> ), Ann Hegarty with Marja Almqvist  |

2005	<i>Health Services and the National Anti-Poverty Strategy, Combat Poverty, Dept. of Health and Children, The Health Boards Executive, The Institute for Public Health in Ireland, Office for Social Inclusion.</i>
2005	<i>Implementing a Waiver System: Guidelines for Local Authorities, Fitzpatrick Associates</i>
2005	<i>Managing Better 9: Strengthening the Voices of the Excluded, Kathy Walsh</i>
2005	<i>Mapping Poverty: National, Regional and County Patterns, Dorothy Watson, Christopher T. Whelan, James Williams, Sylvia Blackwell<sup>†</sup></i>
2005	<i>Poverty &amp; Conflict in Ireland: An International Perspective, Paddy Hillyard, Bill Rolston and Mike Tomlinson<sup>†</sup></i>
2005	<i>Irish Social Expenditure in a Comparative International Context: Epilogue, Virpi Timonen</i>
2005	<i>Strategic Plan 2005-2007: Working for a Poverty Free Ireland</i>
2005	<i>Poverty Impact Assessment in the National Development Plan, Kathy Walsh</i>
2005	<i>Making a Difference (An Anti-Poverty Training Handbook for Local Authorities)</i>
2005	<i>Access to Public Libraries for Marginalised Groups, Fitzpatrick Associates</i>
2005	<i>Good Practice in Community-based Peacebuilding (published by Border Action)</i>

<sup>†</sup>Available from [www.ipa.ie](http://www.ipa.ie)



## »» Financial Statements

2005

# Statement of Members’ Responsibilities

The Combat Poverty Agency was established in 1986 by order of the Minister for Social 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 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 Pobal (formerly 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 Pobal 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



Dated: 13th June 2006

**Helen Johnston:**  
Director



# Chairman's 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 authorized and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely period.

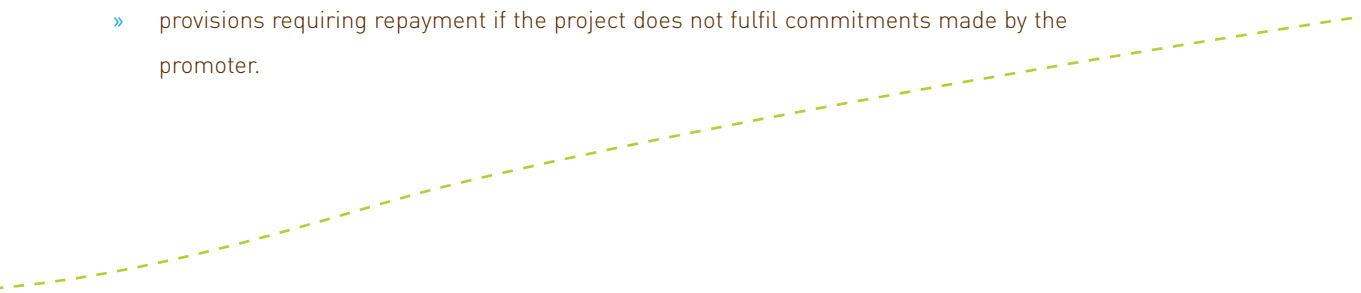
## Key Control Procedures

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

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

The Board, working with the Management Team, supported 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 Agency'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 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.

PriceWaterhouseCoopers, as internal auditor, reported directly to the Audit Committee, which met on a regular basis during 2005. The Audit Committee reviewed reports prepared by Internal Audit, a Business Continuity Plan for the Agency and other relevant reports. The Audit Committee in turn keeps the Board informed of the matters that it has considered.

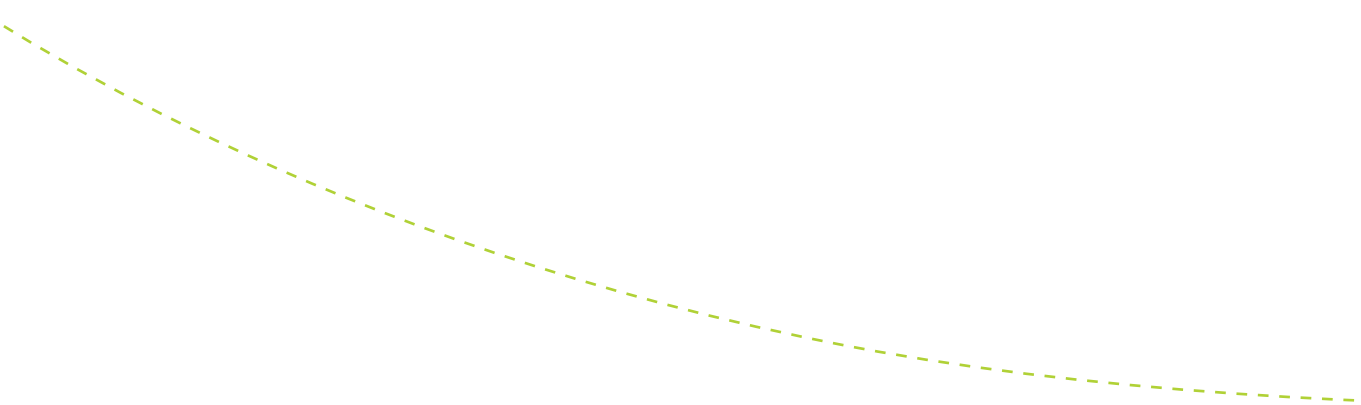
The Board’s monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control is informed by the work of the internal auditor, the Audit Committee which oversees the work of the internal auditor, the Management Team of Combat Poverty who have responsibility for the development and 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

In early 2005, an extensive formal review of the system of internal financial control was the subject of detailed consideration by the Audit Committee and reports from the Management Team. In December 2005, the Audit Committee was given a preliminary report from the internal auditor on a Value-for-Money review of Combat Poverty’s externally commissioned work.



**Brian Duncan**  
**Chairman**  
**18 July 2006**



# 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%

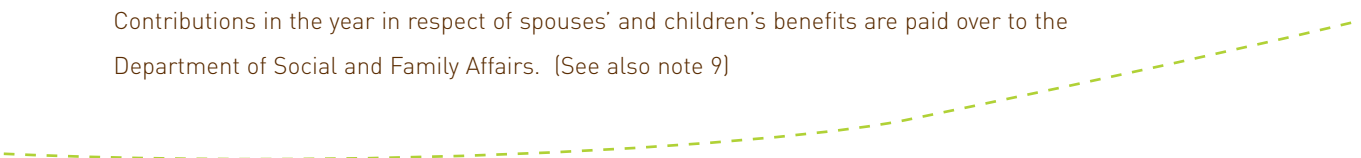
## Capital Account

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)



Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December, 2005

	Notes	2005	2004
		€	€
<b>Income</b>			
Oireachtas Grant-In-Aid			
Department of Social and Family Affairs		4,236,000	3,909,000
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	1a	1,127,628	8,841,150
Other Income	1b	374,888	239,165
		5,738,516	12,989,315
Transfer (to) Capital Account	6	(17,494)	(36,199)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		5,721,022	12,953,116
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Projects and Programmes to Combat Poverty			
Innovative Programmes	2a	817,166	924,386
Communications and Public Affairs		450,436	454,723
Research Promotion, Studies and Policy analysis		417,680	361,669
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	2b	103,911	7,929,282
EU Mainstreaming Social Inclusion	2c(i)	180,512	197,384
EU Local Authority Inclusion	2c(ii)	20,994	22,509
		1,990,699	9,889,953
Development, Support and Administration costs			
Salary Costs and Expenses	3	2,338,463	2,243,795
Rent and Other Administration Costs	4	879,226	815,668
Depreciation	5	41,328	38,087
		3,259,017	3,097,550
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		5,249,716	12,987,503
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	8b	471,306	(34,387)
Surplus at 1 January		255,046	289,433
Surplus at 31 December		726,352	255,046

Combat Poverty 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



Dated 13th June 2006

Helen Johnston:  
Director



Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2005

	Notes	2005 €	2004 €
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Furniture and Equipment	5	106,140	88,646
<b>Current Assets</b>			
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation - - Technical Assistance receivable		-	44,411
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation - - Measure 5.3 advances to SEUPB		-	473,691
Debtors and Prepayments		123,868	53,872
Cash at Bank and on Hand		1,825,381	2,372,627
		1,949,249	2,944,601
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors and Accruals		420,903	343,550
EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation - -Technical Assistance	1	311,460	-
Deferred Income - - EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	1	401,537	2,346,007
- Mainstreaming Social Inclusion	2d(i)	63,997	-
- Fuel Poverty Initiative		25,000	-
		1,222,897	2,689,557
<b>Net Current Assets</b>			
		726,352	255,044
		832,492	343,690
<b>Represented By:</b>			
Capital Account	6	106,140	88,644
Surplus on Income and Expenditure Account		726,352	255,046
		832,492	343,690

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

Brian Duncan

Chairperson



Dated: 13th June 2006

Helen Johnston:

Director



Notes to Financial Statements

1 Income

	2005	2004
1a EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation	€	€
<b>Programme Funding</b>		
Deferred Income at 1 January	2,346,007	1,620,729
Funding via the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs	(1,927,659)	8,592,000
(Deferred Income) at 31 December	(401,537)	(2,346,007)
Income recognised	16,811	7,866,722
<b>Technical Assistance</b>		
(Grants Receivable)/Deferred Income at 1 January	(44,411)	(197,615)
Funding via the Special EU Payments Body (SEUPB)	1,466,688	1,127,632
(Grants Receivable)/Deferred Income at 31 December	(311,460)	44,411
Income recognised	1,110,817	974,428
Overall Total	1,127,628	8,841,150

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 € 87,100 for Support Costs and Administrative Costs of € 1,023,716 (see Note 2 b).

In 2005 funding from the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs was transferred directly to the Special EU Programmes Body which was responsible for making payments to projects through its central payments unit. Therefore this is not reflected in the accounts. As a consequence of this change in approach €1,927,659 of deferred income was transferred to the Special EU Programmes Body through the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs.



	2005	2004
1b Other Income	€	€
EU Social Exclusion Programme		
EU Commission	253,815	131,279
Department of Social and Family Affairs	20,000	20,000
Institute of Social Solidarity, Portugal	5,000	-
Department for Public Welfare, Norway	5,000	5,000
South Western Health Board -Building Healthy Communities	15,000	-
Sales of Publications	14,748	13,304
Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs - White Paper	8,168	-
Miscellaneous Income	489	2,235
Profit on disposal of fixed asset	3,025	-
Seminar registration Fees	894	4,888
Interest earned on Deposit accounts	48,749	32,459
North Western Health Board -Building Healthy Communities	-	15,000
Southern Health Board -Building Healthy Communities	-	15,000
	374,888	239,165

## 2 Projects And Programmes To Combat Poverty

### 2a Innovative Programmes

One of the functions of Combat Poverty is to initiate and evaluate measures aimed at overcoming poverty. In line with this function Combat Poverty supports a limited number of projects and programmes in both urban and rural areas which seek to identify and develop strategies aimed at tackling the underlying causes of poverty. The programmes and innovative projects supported in 2005 have focused on access to health services, local and regional responses to poverty and practice to policy. Combat Poverty also supports other projects and programmes by organising training and networking (in the form of seminars, conferences, exchange visits). Amounts spent under the main headings are as follows:

	2005	2004
	€	€
Local Government	196,324	305,711
Building Healthy Communities	382,694	324,486
Project support	33,617	65,090
Practice to Policy	204,531	179,918
Poverty and Health	-	49,291
	817,166	924,496

2b EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation

Combat Poverty Agency along with its partner Pobal (Border Action) has responsibility for 10 measures of the EU Peace II and Peace II Extension 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 Border Action has responsibility for €137,606,321 aimed at reconciliation and social inclusion.

Border Action, in partnership with Co-operation Ireland, 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 2005 is summarised below:

Expenditure	2005
Peace II Projects	
Measure 2.1	16,811
Support Costs*	87,100
	<hr/> 103,911
Administration**	1,023,716
	<hr/> 1,127,627

\* 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.

In 2005 payments to Peace II and Interreg IIIA projects were made by the Special EU Programmes Body through its central payments unit on the recommendation of Border Action and therefore is not reflected in the accounts.



2c EU Social Exclusion Programme

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

(i) Mainstreaming Social Inclusion

€232,822 was received in 2005 from the EU Commission and €30,000 from contributory partners in respect of 2004 and 2005.

€181,027 represents payments made under the programme together with all the administration costs associated with the programme.

Funding of €63,997.35 was received in December 2005 to undertake a further evaluation in 2006 of the project Mainstreaming Social Programme and is shown as deferred income in the Balance Sheet.

(ii) Local Authority Social Inclusion

In 2005 Combat Poverty was a partner in the EU project on Local Authorities and Social Inclusion. €20,994 represents expenditure under the programme in 2005. €10,497 was refunded by the EU Commission in 2005 and the balance of €10,497 will be refunded in 2006. This amount is shown as a debtor in the Balance Sheet.

3 Salary Costs And Expenses

	2005	2004
	€	€
Staff salary costs*	1,988,869	1,853,571
Temporary employment agency costs	41,803	50,157
Members' Fees	83,803	66,833
Staff Training and Other Expenses	53,672	69,695
Travel and Subsistence		
- Staff	90,158	93,264
- Members and Sub-Committees	31,456	33,141
Staff Recruitment	36,709	40,653
Board and Staff Initiatives	4,590	2,522
Combat Poverty Seminar	6,345	32,934
Pension Gratuity and Payments	1,058	1,025
	2,338,463	2,243,795

\* The average number of core staff (full-time equivalent) employed by Combat Poverty during 2005 was 23 (2004: 23). The figures given here include the remuneration of 1 staff member on secondment to the EU Commission up to 30 June 2005 and Combat Poverty's liability in respect of the remuneration of the 28 staff members in the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.



4 Rent And Other Administration Costs

	2005	2004
	€	€
Rent and Rates	256,958	274,586
Postage and Telephones	89,362	99,297
Insurance	41,932	39,739
IT and Office equipment maintenance	46,830	25,817
General Maintenance	53,551	50,500
Consultancy costs	47,678	65,242
Records and Archive management	20,987	12,904
Printing, Stationery & Office Supplies	41,323	36,058
Light and Heat	17,644	16,349
Consortium Partners Technical assistance*	193,111	131,446
Outreach Offices support	4,477	6,414
Internal Audit Fees	11,681	16,940
External Audit Fees	17,750	15,000
Sundry	13,918	9,693
Legal/Professional Fees	22,024	15,683
	879,226	815,668

\* The Consortium Partners comprise Community Foundation for Northern Ireland & Co-operation Ireland.

5 Fixed Assets

	Furniture	Equipment	Total
	€	€	€
Cost or Valuation			
Balance at 1 January			
- at Cost	168,185	400,188	568,373
Additions at cost	12,601	46,232	58,833
Disposals at cost		(150,638)	(150,638)
Balance at 31 December	180,786	295,782	476,568
Accumulated Depreciation			
Balance at 1 January	158,823	320,904	479,727
Charged in the year	3,795	37,533	41,328
Disposals		(150,627)	(150,627)
Balance at 31 December	162,618	207,810	370,428
NET BOOK VALUE - 31/12/05	18,168	87,972	106,140
NET BOOK VALUE - 31/12/04	9,362	79,284	88,646

6 Capital Account

	2005	2004
	€	€
Balance at 1 January	88,646	52,447
<b>Transfer to/(from) Income and Expenditure Account</b>		
Income applied to purchase fixed assets	58,833	74,286
Amortised in the year in line with asset depreciation	(41,328)	(38,087)
Released on disposal of fixed assets	(11)	-
	17,494	36,199
Balance at 31 December	106,140	88,646

7 Contingent Liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities at 31 December, 2005

8 Commitments

- (a) There were no capital commitments at 31 December, 2005
- (b) Funding commitments of €892,865 existed at 31 December, 2005 (2004 €124,500) for Combat Poverty in respect of Commissioned Work and funding to Research Projects. The increased level in the commitment figure is partly due to 2005 being the first year of Combat Poverty's three year Strategic Plan and work being commissioned late in the year. This is reflected in the increased surplus for 2005.
- (c) Combat Poverty has commitments up to the year 2017 in respect of the lease of office accommodation at Bridgewater Business Centre, Islandbridge. The rent on foot of this lease is €200,000 per annum which is subject to review on a five yearly basis.

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 Combat Poverty Agency operates unfunded defined benefit superannuation schemes for staff. Superannuation entitlements arising under the schemes are paid out of current income and are charged to the Income and Expenditure Account, net of employee superannuation contributions, in the year in which they become payable.

The results set out below are based on an actuarial valuation of the pension liabilities in respect of serving and retired staff of the Agency as at 31 December 2005. This valuation was carried out by a qualified independent actuary for the purposes of the accounting standard, Financial Reporting Standard No. 17 – Retirement Benefits (FRS 17).

The main financial assumptions used were:

	2005	2004	2003
Discount Rate	5.5%	5.5%	6.0%
Rate of increase in salaries	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
Rate of increase in pensions	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
Inflation	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%

Analysis of the amount charged to operating surplus	2005	2004
Current service cost	300,000	260,000
Total operating charge	300,000	260,000

Analysis of the amount credited to other finance income	2005	2004
	€	€
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	130,000	80,000

Analysis of the amount recognised in the statement of total recognised gains and losses (STRGL)

	2005	2004
	€	€
Experience losses/(gains) arising on scheme liabilities	(159,000)	261,000
Changes in assumptions	-	270,000
Actuarial loss/(gain) recognised in STRGL:	(159,000)	531,000

Analysis of the movement in liability during the year	2005	2004
	€	€
Scheme liability at 1 January	2,330,000	1,460,000
Current service cost:	300,000	260,000
Interest cost	130,000	80,000
Actuarial loss/(gain)	(159,000)	531,000
Benefits paid in the year	(1,000)	(1,000)
Scheme liability at 31 December	2,600,000	2,330,000

History of experience gains and losses	2005	2004
	€	€
Experience losses/(gains) on scheme liabilities amount	(159,000)	261,000
percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	6%	11%
Total amount recognised in STRGL	2005	2004
	€	€
amount	(159,000)	531,000
percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	6%	23%

10 Board Members - Disclosure Of Interest

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

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

11 Approval Of Financial Statements

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board on 13 June 2006.

AUDIT

These Financial Statements for 2005 are subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General under the provisions of section 10(2) of the Combat Poverty Agency Act, 1986.





# » Our strategy...

Our strategy *Working For A Poverty-Free Ireland* was published in 2005 and is available from Combat Poverty.

Tel: 01 6026644 or visit [www.combatpoverty.ie](http://www.combatpoverty.ie) for details

## » Our Vision

Working for a poverty-free Ireland.

## » Our Mission

We are a state advisory agency developing and promoting evidence-based proposals and measures to combat poverty in Ireland.

## » Our Strategic Objectives

### **Distribution of Income and Jobs**

To promote a fairer distribution of income and employment by providing evidence-based advice on tax, welfare and employment policies.

### **Access to Quality Services**

To develop and promote policy proposals for people in poverty to have access to quality health and education services.

### **Local and Regional Responses to Poverty**

To support local and regional responses to poverty, including border areas affected by the Northern Ireland conflict.



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