

Social Inclusion Forum 2011

Implementing the National Social Target for Poverty Reduction

John Bohan

Social Inclusion Division

Department of Social Protection



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí

Department of Social Protection

www.welfare.ie

Content of presentation

1. Recap on National Social Target for Poverty Reduction
2. Summary of main implementation actions
 - a. Communications with stakeholders
 - b. Contributing to better outcomes through analysis and research
 - c. Monitoring outcomes
 - d. Reporting on actions and outcomes

1. Recap on National Social Target for Poverty Reduction

- Headline target: *4 per cent rate of consistent poverty by 2016 and 2 per cent or less by 2020*
 - extended timeframe to take account of recession;
 - bring timing in line with EU reporting
- Sub-targets for children and jobless households planned
- Europe 2020 target: *reduce by minimum of 200,000 (4.4 per cent) the population in 'combined poverty'*
- New name:
 - Reflect view that a reduction poverty needs to go beyond income support system

2. Summary of main implementation actions



a. Communicating with stakeholders

- Publication of review & supporting documents
- National Roundtable with stakeholders in November 2012
- *Social Inclusion Forum* (new slot to facilitate stronger engagement by NGOs in policy debates and reporting on poverty)
- Senior Officials Group on Social Policy/Cabinet Ctte on Social Policy
- European Commission

b. Better outcomes through analysis & research (1/2)

- DSP/ESRI study published in December 2012 examining links between poverty and work
- Highlighted problem of “jobless households”
 - quarter of total population aged 0-59 (already a pre-existing structural problem but worsened by recession)
 - 2.5 times EU average
 - High risk group of poverty and social exclusion (75 per cent of consistent poverty population; i.e. 5.1% of 6.9 per cent CP rate in 2011)
- Subject of poverty sub-target
- Actions to address problem in context of rollo-out of *Pathways to Work* and *Intreo*

b. Better outcomes through analysis & research (2/2)

- *Social Impact Assessment*: greater awareness of policy impact on poverty
 - SIA of Budget 2013 to be published soon
 - Work with other Govt depts to apply social impact assessment (eg, new health and wellbeing policy of Dept of Health)
 - Other measures to make more effective (welcome input through workshops)

c. Monitoring outcomes

- *Social Inclusion Monitor*: monitor of progress towards target in transparent way
- Includes material on targets (4), supporting indicators (5), & indicators on vulnerable groups & issues
- Inaugural Monitor only covers 2010-2011;
- Format and content to be kept under review

d. Reporting on actions and outcomes

- Annual report on National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (new online format being prepared)
- National Social Report for EU Social Protection Ctte as part of Social OMC
- *National Reform Programme* under the Europe 2020 strategy (poverty target)

Working towards new national calendar - overview



Reporting on the National Reform Programme

- *EU2020 target: reduce by minimum of 200,000 (4.4 per cent) the population in 'combined poverty'* (3 national indicators; similar to EU population 'at risk of poverty or exclusion')
- Reports on progress using developmental welfare state/active inclusion framework:
 - focus of workshops at SIF today
 - Access to minimum income support (income adequacy and prevention of poverty)
 - Activation and employment (unemployment and jobless households)
 - Access to services (children, older people)

Thank you