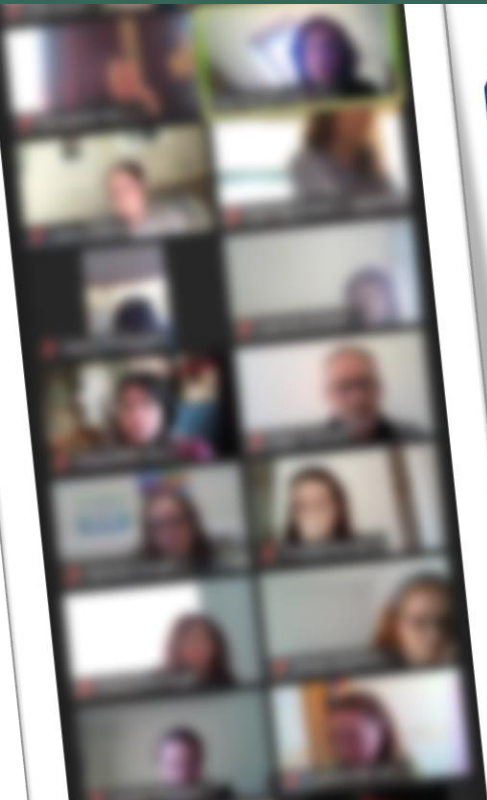
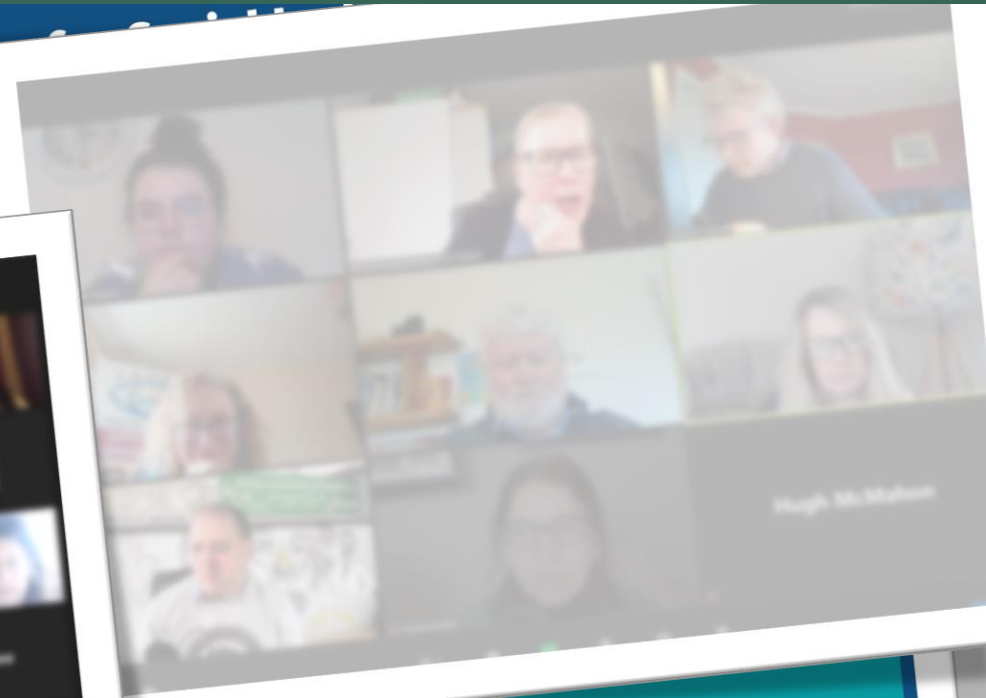
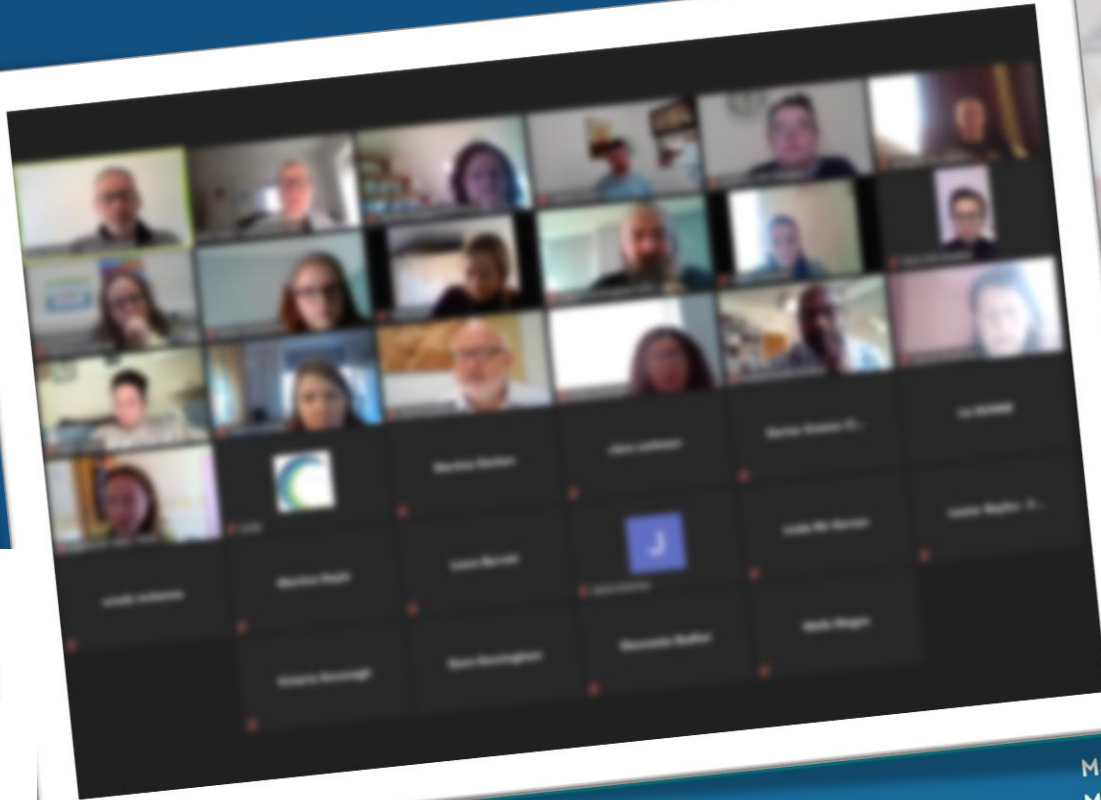


IMPLEMENTING THE ROADMAP FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION: REDUCING POVERTY AND IMPROVING SOCIAL INCLUSION MESSAGES TO SIF 2021



Social Inclusion
Implementing the Roadmap
CWI & EAPN Prepara



WORKSHOPS
A series of preparatory workshops that will provide an overview of the Roadmap for
and stakeholders to discuss the issues. Feedback from the workshops
poverty and social exclusion and their representative c

March 15th 2pm-4pm
March 16th 11am-1pm
March 22nd 11am-1pm

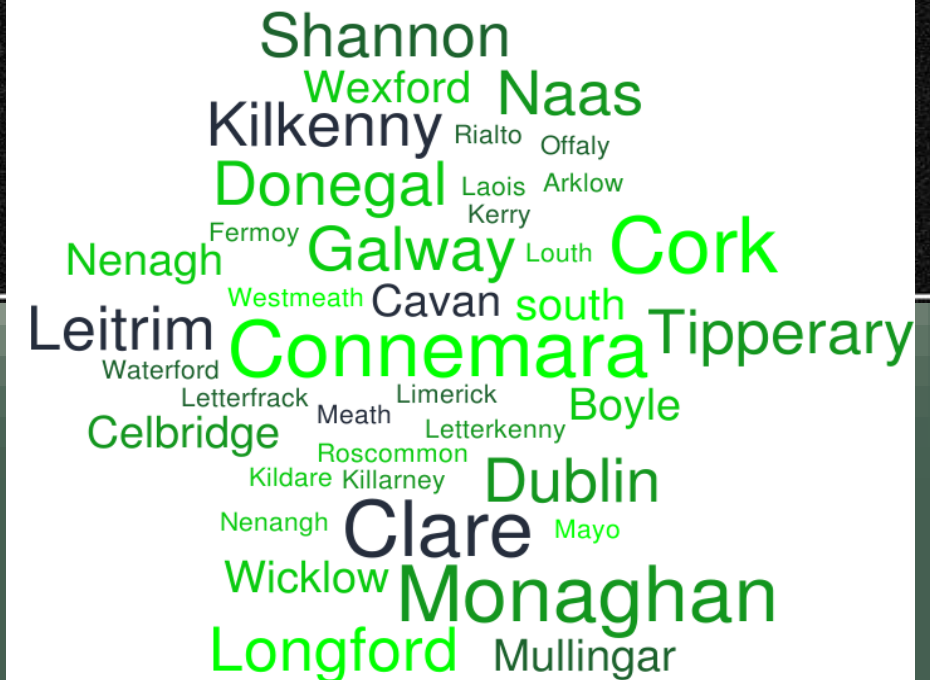
[Register Here](#)
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[Register Here](#)
[Register Here](#)



- Four thematic workshops
- Reflecting the themes for SIF 2021
- Attended by over 200 people
- From all over the country



Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.



KEY MESSAGES

Issues

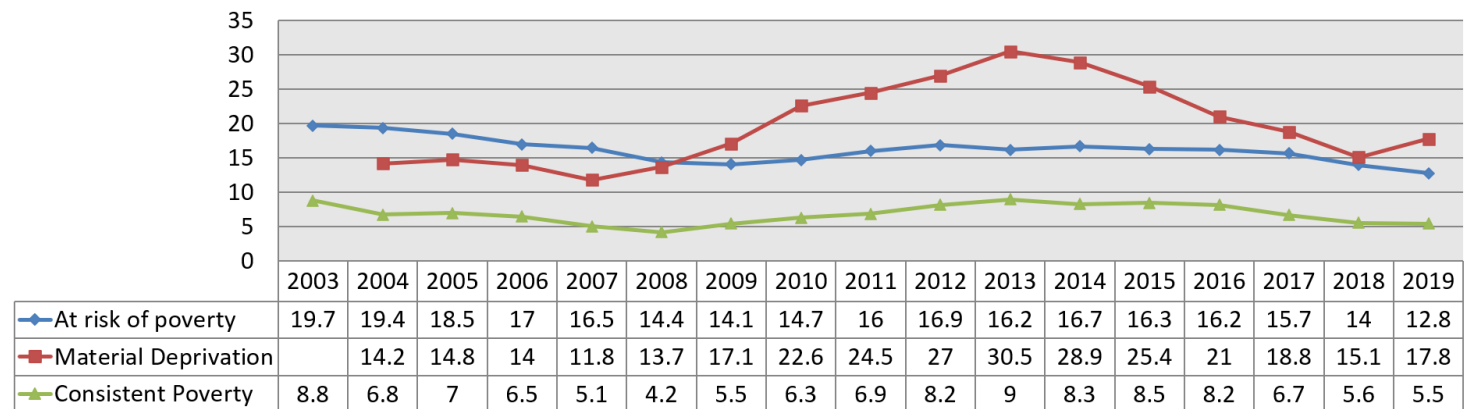
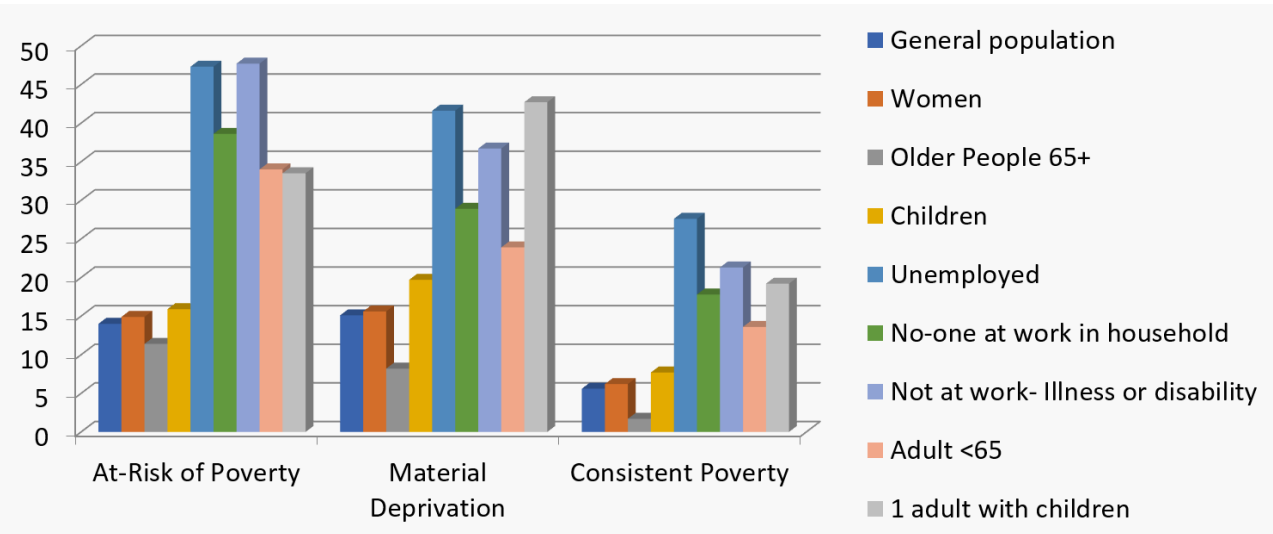
- Not new and not unknown
- Stated and repeated at many SIFs and other policy arenas

COVID-19

- In most instances – issues exacerbated rather than created by the pandemic.
- New challenges
- Issues, previously relatively hidden, highlighted

POVERTY LEVELS

- Poverty levels continue to be unacceptably high
- Impact of COVID-19 clear on the ground but still to be seen in the figures
- Cost of living – material deprivation
- A consistency of inequality
- Many minorities not featured



THE SOCIAL INCLUSION FORUM

- Should not be ‘just another conference’.
- SIF needs to be constructed as:
 - an opportunity for the State to report
 - an opportunity for those that are affected by poverty and social exclusion and the organisations that represent them to have a say in the priority areas of action
- SIF needs to:
 - Be respectful of critical engagement and participation
 - Involve real listening rather than an ‘us and them’
 - Communicate with those participating on an ongoing basis
- Crucially, policy and programmes need to change as a result of the contribution of civil society



‘We need to see the outcome of participation in the SIF’ otherwise what is the point?

FOOD POVERTY

Food poverty was particularly high during the economic crisis. It had begun to decrease but was persistent for many and COVID-19 has made things far worse. Food banks have been important in supporting people and families, but we must not allow this to become the norm

Accessibility is linked to affordability. If you don't have a car in a rural area, you cannot get to the cheaper shops, especially now when travel and public transport is restricted. If you only have a minimum income, you can't afford the two-for-the-price-of-one offers.

- Adequate and affordable healthcare, housing, energy and food are central to health, wellbeing and to the life experiences of people, families and communities.
- When people and families are poor, they cannot access these core essentials, and this has a significant impact on their lives.
- Unprecedented levels of need – exacerbated but not created by COVID – reliance on food banks and charity concern that this will become the norm.
- Particular concern for older people, children and young people, disabled people, people in direct provision.

ENERGY POVERTY

Poor quality housing is linked to high energy costs and greater vulnerability to health risks

We need to move away from dependence on a bag of coal for heating – it has a negative impact on both climate and health, particularly those in lower income areas as it damages the air and environment.

Link between poverty and energy

Marginalised people and communities most likely to be living in fuel poverty

Dependant on types of unsustainable fuels most linked with ill health and environmental pollution.

Invest heavily in retrofitting and upgrading homes, particularly those in marginalised communities

Climate action needs to be poverty and equality proofed

HEALTH POVERTY

- Health poverty must be considered together with health inequalities - impact on life experience, wellbeing and life expectancy
- Travellers, Roma, disabled people, people in direct provision, etc. are disproportionately affected – need adequately resourced strategies
- Access to health care, particularly preventative health care.
- Waiting lists - deteriorating
- Particular mention for mental ill-health

Digital Poverty

- New type of dependency for education, participation, avoiding isolation
- A new type of exclusion – affordability, accessibility
- Risk of further marginalisation
- State intervention required

HOUSING/ACCOMMODATION POVERTY



- The cost of accommodation – at the heart of the experience of poverty for many.
- Overcrowded accommodation, lack of sanitation and basic needs.
- Vulnerable to COVID.
- Public health authorities need to hold local authorities to account

SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND CHILDREN



We are engaging people too late to prevent the damage intergenerational poverty does to people's lives.

Many young people are falling through the cracks

- Retain a child poverty target
- 0%
- Poverty affects children in different groups/communities differently - need specialised strategies and policies
- COVID-19 - particular impact on children from marginalised and minority groups - fear of 'a lost generation'
- Education and mental health particular concerns
- The National Childcare Scheme - currently discriminates against children from poor families whose parents are not in work
- Multi-agency holistic approach is urgently needed

EXPANDING THE OPPORTUNITY OF EMPLOYMENT

Labour market programmes are time-bound and not bottom-up or client focused. Flexibility needs to be improved to allow for a greater investment in those with complex support needs.

Transport is the number 1 barrier in rural areas. There is one bus at 7am from the area I live in and one that returns at 5pm. Transport issues been exacerbated during COVID as there is reduced capacity on public transport and there are now significant delays for driving tests for those that can actually afford a car

- Access to employment must involve access to decent jobs.
- Post COVID-19 concerns:
 - numbers of people that will require support to access employment
 - emphasis on those newly unemployed/most job-ready to detriment of long-term unemployed and most distant.
- System must be more person centred, holistic, and provide choice.
- Flexibility in employment support programmes
- Specific barriers need to be addressed - accessibility, stereotyping/discrimination, transport
- Potential for apprentices and social enterprise

ENSURING VOICES ARE HEARD

- **Right of** people to participate in decisions and policies that affect them and their communities,
- Participation benefits and improves decision-making and policy development.
- This will not happen automatically and needs to be systematically supported - importance of community work and youth work – welcome for new pilot Community Development Programme
- Failure to do this - disconnection and disaffection – increasingly a focus for the Far Right



The Far Right is mobilizing within the communities creating misguided views and tensions. They are targeting marginalised communities and stirring up hatred and division, often based on race. Community work and youth work needs to be resourced to challenge this

OPPORTUNITY

- Our ambition should not be to return to normal.
- Rather it should be about building back better, fairer, more equal and more sustainably.
- We must ensure a commitment to equality, to *'leaving no one behind'*, and to ensuring that the voice of marginalised communities and minorities are to the fore as we emerge from the pandemic.

