



## Press Release from the Basic Necessities Working Group - “Addressing the Problem of Income Inadequacy and Meeting Basic Needs”

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The Working Group for Basic Necessities has today published a briefing note, [“Addressing the Problem of Income Inadequacy and Meeting Basic Needs”](#), highlighting the link between income inadequacy and the increasing demand from people for basic necessities as provided by the Community and Voluntary sector. The briefing note reveals how low-income households are being forced to make difficult choices, such as paying rent and utility bills, leaving little remaining income for other expenses. As a result, people are having to rely on supports provided by charities and community organisations in order to meet basic needs. This type of material deprivation represents a high level of inequality across Ireland. The briefing note issues a series of recommendations to the Government that will help address income inadequacy and poverty. This is in response to concerns expressed by members of the Working Group that initiatives such as food banks are becoming a normalised part of Irish society.

Working group member Aoibheann McCann from Galway Rural Development Ltd. states *“low-income households all over Ireland are being forced to access services that provide basic necessities due to inadequate incomes and increasing living costs. The pandemic has resulted in us re-purposing our funding objectives in order to meet the requests for help with basics, particularly digital items, which are now essential as a result of education and other services moving online. This demand has, in fact, been increasing pre-COVID19, over the past number of years.”*

Cecil Johnson From South Dublin County Partnership goes onto say, *“As an organisation that supports the operation of a weekly food bank from a local community centre, we have seen a steep rise in the number of people requesting help. We work in areas where unemployment was at 34% prior to Covid-19, it is clear that further investment in and support for the Community and Voluntary sector will be required moving forward as unemployment increases post-pandemic.”*

Paul Ginnell Director EAPN Ireland states *“Not being able to afford basics such as food, hygiene products, heating, and other essential items is a sign of deep poverty and has no place in Ireland in 2021. We must recognise the negative impact that not being able to afford basic necessities has on people’s dignity. Food banks and other related services provide an important emergency response to those in need but cannot become a normalised part of people’s lives. We need to prevent this happening by providing long-term solutions to poverty and addressing its root causes including ensuring all households receive an adequate income that enables them to meet the cost of living and achieve a Minimum Essential Standard of Living.”*

**Notes:**

**Coordinated by EAPN Ireland, the following organisations are members of the Basic Necessities Working Group which is seeking to examine "the increasing demand for basic necessities as provided by the Community and Voluntary Sector".**

**All Together in Dignity Ireland**

**CrossCare**

**Disability Federation of Ireland**

**The European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland**

**Galway Rural Development CLG**

**The Hygiene Bank Ireland**

**Independent Living Movement Ireland**

**Irish National Organisation of the Unemployed**

**Knockanrawley Resource Centre CLG**

**National Traveller MABS**

**NICHE Health Project (Cork) CLG**

**North Clondalkin Community Development Programme**

**NEWKD (North East & West Kerry Development)**

**The Rights Platform**

**South Dublin County Partnership**

**St. Vincent De Paul**

**You can read the briefing note [here](#):**