

In a spirit of mutual assistance each of the eight Irish Regions is twinned with Society members in an African country as part of the National Twinning Programme.

The Irish Regions are twinned as follows:

- **North East & Midlands Region** with **Zimbabwe**
- **East Region** with **Zambia**
- **South East Region** with **The Gambia & Tanzania**
- **South West Region** with **Nigeria**
- **Mid West Region** with **Sierra Leone**
- **West Region** with **Malawi**
- **North West Region** with **Uganda & Kenya**
- **North Region** with **Ghana & Botswana**

Each Region has a Twinning Officer who is responsible for the establishment of a Twinning Committee, which is the contact with the SVP members in the relevant countries. Twinning provides SVP members in Ireland with the opportunity to support their Vincentian brothers and sisters in Africa.



NO BORDERS

to SVP help

The concept of mutual assistance goes back to the foundation of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) in 1844.

This is encapsulated in one of the original rules of the Society which states:

*"We should love one another now and ever,
far and near, from conference to another,
from town to town, from nation to nation."*

In 1954 the Council General of the Society added an additional dimension to the work of SVP when it launched a Twinning Programme as a form of Christian solidarity, which helps members fulfil the universal mission of charity.

There are **no borders** when **SVP help** is requested.

Twinning has three aims:

- Promote the establishment of new Councils and Conferences by helping them start and expand the structure of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.
- Facilitate communication between Councils, Regions and Conferences throughout the world in a spirit of understanding, friendship and solidarity.
- Help spiritually, morally and materially to continue to alleviate misery and hunger.

NO BORDERS

to SVP help

There are **no borders** when **SVP help** is requested.



SVP Twinning programme

Twinning is a direct link between Councils and Conferences in different countries. Through Twinning Vincentians share resources, experiences and mutual friendship.

These links reflect the reality that there are no borders to poverty and injustice.

East Region

Twinned with Zambia

ZAMBIA

- Population (approx): **16m**
- Life expectancy: **59 years**
- Secondary school enrollment: **46%**



The **East Region** (Dublin, Kildare, and Wicklow) is twinned with **ZAMBIA** and together they have formed a close spiritual connection offering friendship and support to one another.

The projects operated by the SVP in Zambia and supported by the East Region have the primary goal of alleviating poverty and aiding people to become self-sufficient.



CONFERENCE SUPPORT

The East Region finances the **Zambian National Council** to enable them to distribute funds to each **Central Council** and **Conferences** to assist with family visitation.

Malaria prevention which involves the provision of mosquito nets and anti-malarial tablets is supported by donations from the **Vincent's Shops** in the East Region. A small number of **Conferences** in Zambia have established direct communication links with **Conferences** in the East Region for the purpose of mutual support and solidarity. We hope to expand these direct links, highlighting a key objective of Twinning.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

With the support of the **Twinning Programme** each year in Zambia, in excess of 200 students, from primary, secondary and third level are given the financial assistance to allow them to complete their education. This includes help with school fees, books and uniforms.

In addition to this since 2015 a number of community schools are being supported with their running costs, this includes help with funding for teachers' salaries and building maintenance. In all cases this support will enable these children to secure a better future.

BOAT

In 2010 a group of transition year students in a **Dublin School** with the support of the **Regional Twinning Committee** purchased a boat for the **Chilubi Island Conference**. This boat makes access to the mainland for this community more available, particularly in emergency situations. It also helps the local **SVP Conference** generate funds which supports them with their home visitation.



For further information:

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East Region

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