

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.

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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.

Mid West Region

Twinned with **Sierra Leone**

SIERRA LEONE

- Population (approx): **6m**
- Life expectancy: **50 years**
- Secondary school enrolment: **37%**



SIERRA LEONE

The **Mid West Region** (Limerick, Offaly, Tipperary and Clare) is twinned with **SIERRA LEONE** and together they have formed a close spiritual connection offering friendship and support to one another.

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



THE PASS PROJECT

In 2000 The Paupers Alive Survival Support (PASS) Project was launched in St. Martin's Parish, Freetown. In 2008 with the support of the SVP in the Mid West Region, 15 acres of land was acquired and is being farmed in Sierra Leone. The main crops being planted are rice and cassava which are the local staple foods. Using this produce and funds generated from these activities over 100 families around St. Martin's community are supported with food & non-food items, educational support and access to health and medical care. Recently Twinning assisted Council members to protect the land by erecting a fence to prevent trespassers and land grabbers from encroaching onto the land.

In addition there is emergency accommodation on the farm which allows the local SVP to help families who would otherwise find themselves homeless.



For further information:

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