

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.

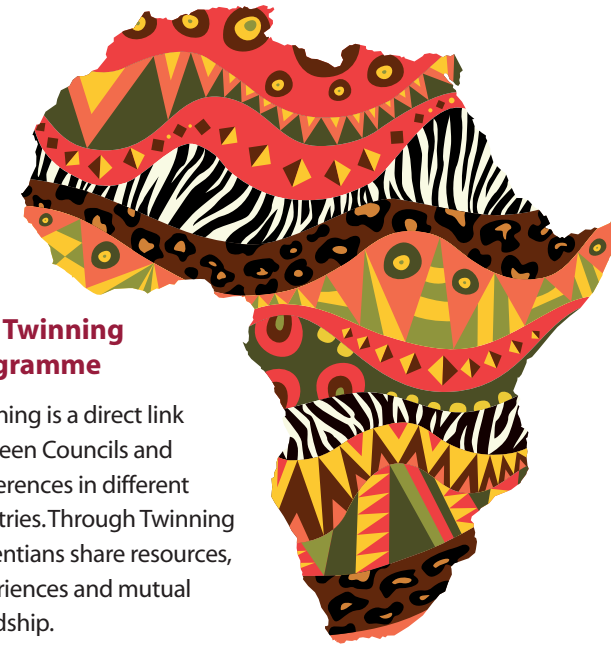
Twinning has three aims:

- 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

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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.

North West Region

Twinned with Kenya & Uganda

KENYA & UGANDA

	KENYA	UGANDA
■ Population (approx):	45m	38m
■ Life expectancy:	61yrs	58yrs
■ Secondary school enrolment:	44%	17%



The **North West Region** (Donegal, Leitrim & Sligo) is twinned with **KENYA and UGANDA** and together they have formed a close spiritual connection offering friendship and support to one another.

The projects operated by the SVP in Kenya & Uganda and supported by the North West Region have the primary goal of alleviating poverty and aiding people to become self-sufficient.



KENYA

EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

Joel is a secondary school student who lives with his grandmother who has no income. Joel gets some work to help out, however there is no extra money for school fees. With the support of the North West region, the local SVP Conference funded Joel to attend secondary school. Attending school has meant a lot to Joel and he is performing well. He hopes that when he achieves his dreams he will work with the SVP to assist those most in need.

PRISON PROJECT

For a number of years SVP North-West has been funding a prison visitation programme in Nairobi. This SVP Conference supports the HIV-positive prisoners, many of whom suffer from TB as a consequence of HIV. The SVP provides food hampers to the prison containing mainly fruit and milk. In a letter of appreciation the prisoners felt that due to additional nutrition their wellbeing has improved.



UGANDA

EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

Educational support for students in Uganda started in 1996, initially with third level students and soon after this support to students in second level was included. At Precious College School, Kireka, Wakiso district, Kampala Town, each year a number of students are assisted with tuition fees and in addition to this they receive one meal a day which for many is the only meal they may receive. Over the years these programmes have been so successful that Sarah a graduate has gone on to become a Member in Parliament of the Republic of Uganda.

EUCALYPTUS TREE PROJECT

The farm which initially started out with 15 acres of eucalyptus trees has now been extended to include an additional 12.5 acres of trees and other farm activities such as pig rearing. With the continued financial support of the SVP members in the North West Region and the work of the local SVP members in Uganda the farm continues to flourish and increase its contribution of funds to the local Conferences which aids them with their visitation work.

For further information:

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