

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.

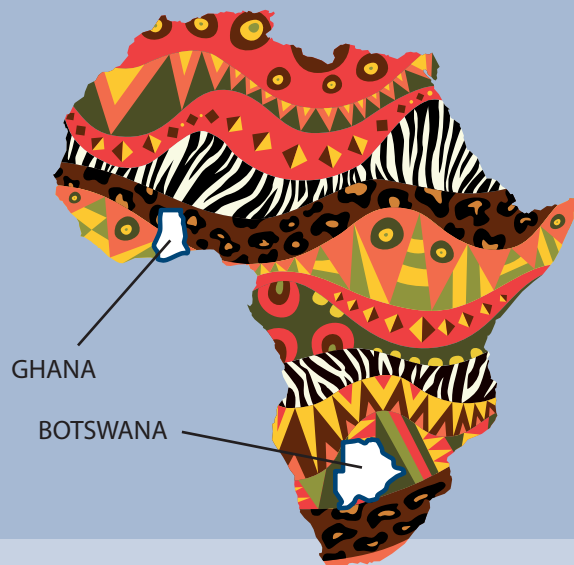
These links reflect the reality that there are no borders to poverty and injustice.

North Region

Twinned with **Ghana & Botswana**

GHANA & BOTSWANA

	GHANA	BOTSWANA
■ Population (approx):	27m	2m
■ Life expectancy:	61yrs	64yrs
■ Secondary school enrolment:	42%	40%



The **North Region** (Antrim, Armagh, Derry, Down, Fermanagh & Tyrone) is twinned with **GHANA and BOTSWANA** and together they have formed a close spiritual connection offering friendship and support to one another.

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



GHANA

CHILDREN'S PROJECT

Lordina is a young girl from Ghana and her mother has left her in the care of her grandmother. Her grandmother is old and has not enough resources to support them both. SVP works closely with the Daughters of Charity to support the upkeep of children like Lordina who are at risk of becoming street kids. The Daughters of Charity run a crèche which Lordina attends and where she gets food and the nurturing environment she needs. Through the support that Lordina gets from the crèche she will remain healthy and will progress to education.

RESIDENTIAL TRAINING CENTRE

When Bella was twelve both her parents died from illness and she was forced to live on the streets. Living on the streets was very difficult, however Bella got a place in a residential training centre run by the Daughters of Charity. She is currently enrolled in a dressmaking course.



BOTSWANA

BOTSWANA RESOURCE CENTRE

The SVP Council in Botswana runs a residential resource centre for orphaned children and the elderly.

Ten children currently live in the Centre and are attending local schools. The Centre did not have an area for the children to study. Through support from Twinning the local Conference in Botswana has built a library and computer lab. These resources are accessed by children in nearby neighbourhoods. This enables these children to secure a better future.



For further information:

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North Region

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