

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.

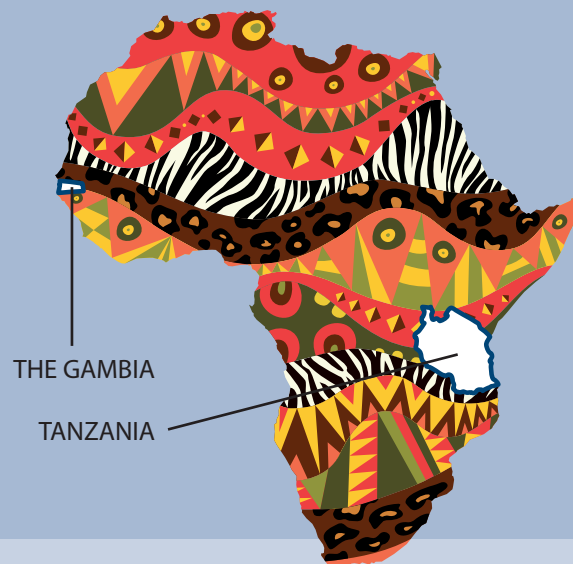
These links reflect the reality that there are no borders to poverty and injustice.

South East Region

Twinned with **The Gambia & Tanzania**

THE GAMBIA & TANZANIA

	THE GAMBIA	TANZANIA
■ Population (approx):	2m	49m
■ Life expectancy:	61yrs	66yrs
■ Secondary school enrolment:	34%	25%



The **South East Region** (Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, Carlow & Laois) is twinned with **THE GAMBIA and TANZANIA**. The Irish twinning committee has formed a close spiritual connection with members in each country offering friendship and support to one another.

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



THE GAMBIA:

RICE MILLING PROJECT

This project provides much needed funds for the local Conference in the Basse parish and also removes the often time-consuming and back-breaking work done normally by the women and young girls of the Basse parish. It allows the women to spend more time with their families or to seek further education, empowering them to find a better source of income which will help remove them and their family from the poverty trap.

FISHING BOAT PROJECT

Fishing boats were purchased by the local SVP Conference with funding from Twinning in Ireland and leased to local fishermen for a nominal fee. If money is unavailable, then payment in fish is acceptable. Whether payment is made in money or fish, these resources allow the SVP Conferences to locally help those most in need.

EDUCATION PROJECT

The cost of education is always a problem, yet it is the key to combating poverty. Student numbers have grown and at the moment SVP sponsor 239 students in primary, secondary and third level. It is hoped to increase the number of students attending secondary and third level education. The SVP Council in The Gambia provides funding for uniforms, books and a daily nutritious meal.

TANZANIA:

CONFERENCE SUPPORT

The South East Region in Ireland supports and finances the National Council in Tanzania to promote the SVP, train new members and develop new Conferences in this vast country. In the future we hope to be able to fund small income generating projects. These will provide a source of much needed income for the many local Conferences, allowing them to become financially independent.



For further information:

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