

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 West Region

Twinned with Nigeria

NIGERIA

- Population (approx): **178m**
- Life expectancy: **52 years**
- Secondary school enrolment: **49%**



The **South West Region** (Cork and Kerry) is twinned with **NIGERIA** and together they have formed a close spiritual connection offering friendship and support to one another.

The projects operated by the SVP in Nigeria and supported by the South West region have the primary goal of alleviating poverty and aiding people to become self-sufficient.



HEALTH/ EDUCATION

Adeola is a sixteen-year-old girl whose parents died of HIV leaving her and her two younger brothers to fend for themselves. Through the assistance of the local SVP Conference in her village Adeola has been able to finish her education and keep her family together. Without the help of SVP in Ireland and Nigeria Adeola's life would be very different.

CASSAVA PROCESSING MACHINES

Throughout the years the purchase of cassava processing machines in many areas in Nigeria have been funded from Ireland. Cassava or Yuca is one of the most nutrient-rich root vegetables and is the staple diet for people in Nigeria.

However, it can take time to process and requires a special machine to breakdown this fibrous vegetable. These can cost up to €1,000 to buy. The SVP in many villages have bought machines and charge a small fee for locals to use them. This allows locals to become self-sufficient and in turn the monies raised go towards helping those in need.



SOAP MAKING

In the rural town of Owerri there is an elderly couple, Inoma and Sarima who make soap and sell it to the local villagers. This couple belong to a local SVP Conference. Once the couple sell the soap they use the money to restock their supplies, and what is left over goes to help those less fortunate in their community. They have been able to help and support up to 40 families with the money raised. So not only are they providing themselves with an income they are giving vital support to people who may otherwise not eat for days on end.



For further information:

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