



In this edition:

Country updates

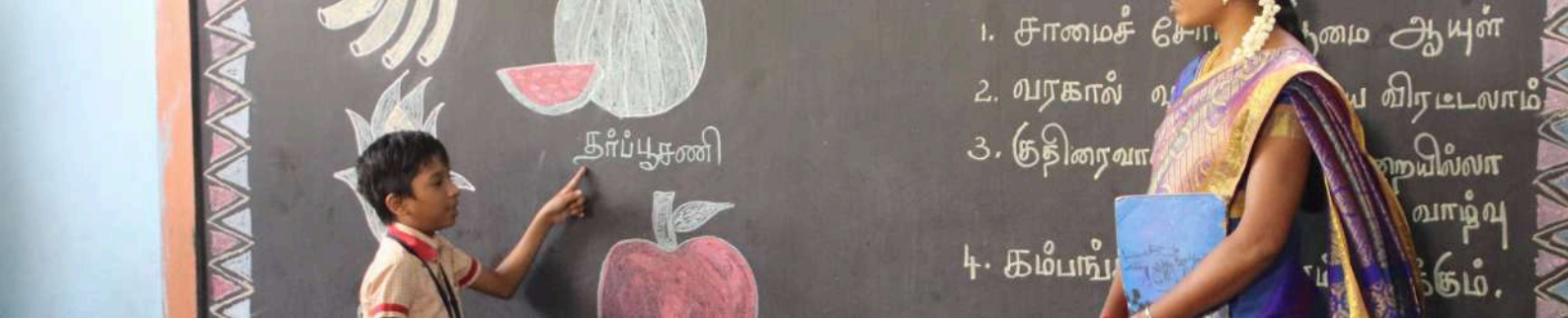
- The India Fund & The Chingleput tailoring project
- Small projects and their impact
- Grenada Projects Appeal – Summer school & Youth intervention
- Romania – role vacancy
- South Sudan support of IDP's
- Sudan- The Sudan Support Fund

Getting involved

- Would you like to Twin?
- Twinning communications

Important information

- Setting up your standing order
- Paying your annual commitments
- Governance reports



India

The Chengleput Project

In 2018, to address the educational and livelihood needs of the rural communities, Chengleput Central Council built the Ozanam Community Centre. The centre focuses on providing opportunities to young girls from the surrounding villages through two key activities:

1. **Night tuition programme** - regular night tuition classes are offered for 30 students at a time. This may be the only formal education some of these young women will receive.

2. **Tailoring training programme** - More than 20 women have completed the training and are now capable independent tailors.

After the success of the initial tailoring training programme, the CC has proposed expanding the project into a **commercial tailoring project**. Through formal collaboration with a local garment company, this project will provide 8 women with guaranteed employment and a secure income. The SVP will provide the women with a safe space, sewing machines, and this opportunity.

The project will initially begin with 8 women, selected from the group of 20 graduates from the first project. This project is expected to directly improve the economic conditions of 45 people, with the hope of expanding in the future.



With thanks to the India Fund, SVP E&W were able to offer a £3000 grant for this project straight away and start making an impact without delay! Your donation can help strengthen the India Fund so we can continue supporting SVP India.

You can choose to donate via cheque to your Twinning Officer (ref: INF), online [HERE](#), or via BACs.



The Jeeven Jyoti home

The Jeevan Jyoti home in Odisha has been housing girls and women with physical disabilities, who are mostly estranged from their families due to their disability, for 25 years. Currently, there are 40 residents, with 3 Nuns and 7 staff members providing care and support. A lucky few of the girls are reunited with family, but many will remain at the home or reliant on support for their entire lives.

Thanks to the India Fund, the home has finally had a much needed upgrade, renovating the Home and make it more comfortable for the girls and their support systems. The necessary works included fixing the walls, the flooring, the toilets, and there are roofing works planned soon before the rainy season. The Jeeven Jyoti Home has transformed, and it is now more comforting and safe for the girls, the nuns, and the staff.

Before



After



SVP India Governance report

[Click here](#) to read SVP India's governance report for 1st April - 30th September 2025 (Q1-Q2).

This governance report is submitted by each twinned country every 6 months to ensure accountability and transparency.



Student Scholarships

Catherine is 11 years old and lives with her older brother and sister at their uncle's home in a village near Shillong after losing both of her parents

The family survives on irregular daily wage labour, meaning their income is insecure. Due to the financial hardship they face, Catherine's older sister was forced to leave education early – putting Catherine's own schooling at risk.



Thanks to the India Fund, children like Catherine are able to continue their education and look towards a brighter future for themselves and their families.

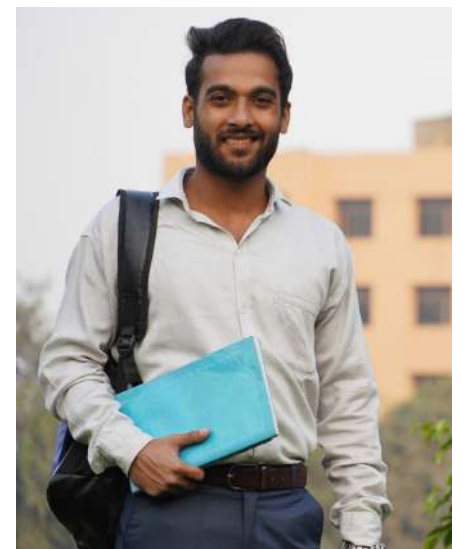
As SVP India explains, 'The VJES scholarship effectively halts this domino effect of school dropouts within the family due to poverty.'

In 2025, SVP India supported a total of 255 HES, 637 TVTS, and 497 VJES scholarships! However, an estimated 600 students had to go without support due to the demand far outweighing the available funds.

The India Fund is key to helping contribute towards grants for students. You can find out more and donate [here](#).

In 2022, Ethakota started studying for his Bachelors in Information Technology. However financial constraints threatened his academic and career ambitions. Thankfully, he was selected as a recipient of the Technical & Vocational Training Scheme (TVTS) Scholarship, after a recommendation from Eluru Central Council.

Through hard work and support from the scholarship program, Ethakota successfully completed his engineering degree in May 2025, and he is now a professional Engineer working as a Data Analyst, supporting his family and helping break the cycle of poverty.





Conference Small Projects – Small project, big impact!

By supporting a Conference-run small project, you can help deliver direct and tangible support at community level. Local Conferences work hand-in-hand with those they serve to identify needs, design meaningful projects, and ensure successful outcomes. Small projects cost up to £1000 and are payable over 2-3 years, leaving your Conference with sufficient time to fundraise and promote within the Parish.

Small Projects are essential in helping individuals and families become self-sufficient by giving them ways of making an income.

Examples of small projects include the provision of:

- milking cows and buffaloes
- goats
- sewing machines
- bikes for transport to school
- and much more.

The projects are managed at Conference level in India and provide direct support to their beneficiaries. There are currently over 20 projects in India in need of sponsorship.



If you or your Conference would like to support a small project, please contact John Wild for more information at wildjohn300@gmail.com.



Grenada

The Youth Intervention Project

The transition from primary to secondary school is a pivotal moment in a young person's life – and for some, it is a difficult one. Many students arrive in secondary education without the social and emotional skills needed to navigate this new environment. Common challenges include disruptive or harmful behaviour, engaging in dangerous online activity, a lack of self-respect and respect for others, and not having the social or emotional skills to manage conflict effectively.

To address these issues, and following the success of previous similar project, SVP Grenada wishes to continue their Youth Intervention Programme throughout the summer. Working with trained mentors – including members of the Royal Grenada Police Force, professional counsellors, and experienced teachers – the project will equip young students with the skills needed to excel in education and become responsible, successful members of their communities, impact beyond the individual.

By providing support early on, and before harmful patterns can become entrenched, the programme helps to break cycles of disengagement and antisocial behaviour. For families, schools, and communities across Grenada, this kind of early investment in young people can have a far-reaching impact.

The programme aims to reach 100 young people across the islands, with workshops lasting 1 – 2 weeks. SVP Grenada are looking to secure funding of an estimated £1100 (\$4000 ECD) to cover the costs of food, transportation, and supplies.



If you would like to support this project, you can donate via:

- **Cheque** – Send to CC Twinning Officer or Twinning Finance. Addressed to “SVP Twinning” and with the reference “GRE-26-27-01” on the reverse.
- **BACS** – Account no: 46084975, Sort code: 606004, Ref is “GRE-26-27-01”.



Grenada

The Summer School Project

For many families, the six-week summer holiday brings real strain: children without access to school meals risk going hungry, and many are left unsupervised while their guardians are at work.

Following the success of previous years, this repeat project aims to provide structured programmes in safe and supervised environments, where students will have daily lunches and snacks.

The programme is designed to enrich as well as support, and includes:

- Arts and crafts sessions, expanding skill and offering a creative outlet
- Cultural field trips which will broaden cultural knowledge through visits to places that may otherwise be inaccessible or unaffordable
- Encourage participation in daily prayer and worships
- Building of social skills gained through positive peer interaction



The project will be held by multiple Particular Councils (Central Councils) across Grenada, each providing 1 - 2 weeks of summer school for local children in need. For parents and guardians, this project helps bring peace of mind, knowing their children are safe, cared for, and enjoying their summer break as children should.

SVP Grenada are looking to secure funding of an estimated £1100 (\$4000 ECD) to cover the costs of food, transportation, and supplies.

If you would like to support this project, you can donate via:

- **Cheque** - Send to CC Twinning Officer or Twinning Finance. Addressed to "SVP Twinning" and with the reference "GRE-26-27-02" on the reverse.
- **BACS** - Account no: 46084975, Sort code: 606004, Ref is "GRE-26-27-02".



The Grans Scheme Appeal

SVP England & Wales used to contribute £750 per quarter (£3000 per year) towards the Grans scheme. However, due to low funds, only funds fundraised will be donated to the scheme.

To maintain our regular contribution, and ensure SVP Grenada can continue to run the scheme, we are appealing to Members for your support.

Please do read the SVP Grenada visit report ([linked here again](#)) to get to know some of the Grans better and understand how essential the scheme is to their well-being.

Getting to know our Grans

Cecilia, widowed and without other immediate family, relies heavily on her niece for grocery shopping and general support.

Through the GRAN's scheme, she receives a monthly stipend of £30, along with a government grant of £140, which provide a modest contribution towards food and utilities.

Thankfully, the Grans scheme is about more than just a financial stipend, Conference members take turns visiting Cecilia, ensuring she always has someone to talk to or call upon for help.

Thanks to SVP Grenada and your donations to the GRANS scheme, Cecilia has a regular support system and knows the SVP is always at the end of the phone.



Cecilia pictured with local SVP Members visiting her and bringing some fresh produce.

You can [find out more about the Gran's scheme here](#).

To donate via cheque, write GRANS on the reverse and send to the Twinning Finance Team or your CC Twinning Officer. Alternatively, you can donate online [here](#).



Guyana

The Ozanam Shop

The Ozanam shop was built in the early 2000s, and it serves the isolated community of Region 1, in Northern Guyana. Next door to the shop is a school with 100 children, and adjacent, is a parish with 60 parishioners in attendance weekly. The shop is a cornerstone of the community providing essential goods at reasonable prices, and access to SVP support. Items sold include school stationery, ice, which is essential, as many homes do not have fridges, and other food items. The shop is heavily reliant on volunteers to keep it operating.

After over 2 decades of service, the shop is in need of essential renovations, including roof repairs, the replacement of rotting steps and wooden infrastructure, and expanding of the kitchen facilities.

With thanks to a legacy left to SVP Twinning, SVP E&W have been able to provide a grant of £5000 to contribute towards the shop renovation. The works are expected to start in the coming months and an update will be provided in the next TwinTalk.



As this project shows, gifts left in wills create a lasting ripple effect – supporting the work of our overseas teams and transforming the lives of the people and communities they serve.

By remembering SVP Twinning in your Will, you can help ensure this vital work continues for generations to come.



Romania

The Winter Relief Project

Winter in Romania can be harsh, especially for many families and elderly individuals living in rural areas, and it is a challenging and stressful time of the year. Over 65% of homes in rural areas rely on firewood, oil stoves or coal to heat their homes, which comes at a cost many cannot afford.

Following a request from SVP Romania for emergency funding to support families and elderly individuals, SVP E&W were able to provide an emergency grant of £7000 in October 2025. Over 50 individuals - families, children, and elderly individuals - received ongoing support from their local Conference to stay warm in winter.

— ” —

“Because of your support, families who were struggling to survive the harsh winter now have warmth, food, and hope. You didn’t just provide firewood, clothing, and school supplies—you gave comfort, dignity, and the reassurance that they are not alone. Every smile on a child’s face, every warm home, and every meal shared is a direct result of your care.” SVP Conference, Iasi



— ” —

“For some, the help was more than a food package: it was a smile and a kind word! They were extremely happy with the assistance they received, but the greatest joy was that someone opened their door and took a moment for them. For a person living in isolation, a warm conversation is sometimes worth more than any material good. Loneliness weighs heavily, and through humanitarian actions we want to show them that they are not forgotten and that we care about them.” SVP Conference, Onesti

More information coming soon regarding the 2026 Romania Winter Appeal.



SVP E&W Country Ambassador for Romania - Vacancy

If you are interested in Twinning and SVP work around the globe, this is an exciting chance for you to get involved!

As the SVP E&W Ambassador for Romania, you will:

- Build strong relationships with the SVP Romania team
- Develop an understanding of their funding priorities
- Help raise awareness across E&W by sharing updates on their work
- Advocate for SVP Romania and fundraise
- Contribute to the National Twinning Committee.
- Get to know more about the SVP and fellow Vincentians across the globe

The level of commitment of the role is flexible, but you are asked to:

- Attend quarterly online Twinning committee meetings
- Join quarterly online meetings with SVP Romania
- Committing around two hours per week to strategy and development work.

Twinning is embedded in Blessed Frederic Ozanam's vision that we “embrace the world in a network of Charity”. This is a rewarding opportunity to strengthen our connections with SVP Romania and support the growth and impact of their Conferences and projects.

Please contact twinning@svp.org.uk for more information.





South Sudan

In March 2026, the annual meeting was successfully held with around 40 delegates, representing 30 Conferences. The theme of the event was “Strengthening the Society and deliver effective service to the poor”.

Conferences further from Juba who were unable to attend were sent copies of any updates shared.



“Truly as servants and members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, let’s live in hope and spirit of togetherness, to serve the needy and vulnerable people. Thanks to all our partners for being an integral part of our mission to make a difference in the life of the needy.”

”

Brother Jino, SVP South Sudan National President, as part of his 2026 Easter Message

Conference visits

Bro Jino is continuing to visit and familiarise himself with the Conferences in Juba and beyond. At each visit, he shares current and future plans of SVP South Sudan and gets feedback from the local Conferences on their views in progressing the National Society.

We have been sharing media shared by Brother Jino directly with the Twinned Conferences, so if you are Twinned in South Sudan, we will email once we receive updates.



An incredible £170,000 was raised in 25-26 for the South Sudan Appeal. Thanks to your commitment and generosity, SVP E&W has been able to renew their support for SVDP South Sudan projects for another year, ensuring some of the most vulnerable and impoverished in the world continue to receive essential help.

A heartfelt **thank you** to each and every member, Conference, and donor, who has supported the ongoing South Sudan Appeal. Many thanks.



The Infant Feeding Centres

In January the infant feeding centres completed their annual screening tests (image to the right) to assess children's eligibility, with demand for infant feeding continuing to grow.

SVP South Sudan is working to increase the number of children supported by the programme from 700 to 1000. High inflation costs across South Sudan is furthering this challenge, but the team are committed to continuing their expanded reach.



The centres are not just places children come and eat, but they also usually spend the afternoon playing with each other. The centres have play areas dedicated for the children, however over the years, these have become run-down, so the SVP will also focus on refurbishing these key areas to keep bringing joy to the children during their visits.

Internally Displaced Peoples

In March, the SVP delivered food parcels to the internally displaced people at Kworijik Camp. The food supplied covers 120 households of the 4000 residents. The delivered food items included maize flour, beans, rice, cooking oil, and salt.

In addition to focusing on providing food, the residents were also supplied with sheeting and poles to make shelters (known as Tukuls, see image to the right) that will provide shelter through the upcoming rainy season.



SVP South Sudan Governance report

[Click here](#) to read SVP India's governance report for 1st April - 31st December (Q1 - Q3).



The Sudan Support Fund

In April 2023, conflict broke out in the capital of Khartoum (Sudan) before escalating to other areas of the country. This ongoing civil war that has left behind a trail of destruction of unimaginable proportions and human misery.

Today, it is estimated that more 12.7 million people have been forced to flee their homes, with nine million people living in or on the brink of famine and over 30 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance. We keep the people of Sudan in our prayers and thoughts, as the war continues.

In England & Wales, the SVP Sudan Support Fund continues to provide grants to Conferences and CSPs supporting Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers.

Since the fund launched in December 2024, the Fund has had 93 applications, 11 from Conferences and 82 from CSPs.

Conferences and CSPs can apply for grants of up to £500 to support individuals or families with essential living items, education support, and improving physical and/or mental wellbeing.

Examples of recent requests include:

- Food vouchers
- Warm clothing requests- jackets, trainers, socks and gloves
- Sleeping bags
- Transport costs to English classes
- Household items- a bed, a mattress, bedding, curtains, and towels.

If you are supporting Sudanese refugees or asylum seekers, we encourage you to apply.



Picture above: A young boy was gifted a bike, thanks to the Sudan Support Fund, which brings him joy and freedom to explore his new area.

Please contact twinning@svp.org.uk
to request an application form or to find out more.



Would you or your Conference like to Twin?

If your Conference/DC/CC, or yourself as an individual, would like to twin with an overseas Conferences, please contact your Central Council Twinning Officer or email twinning@svp.org.uk.

From as little as £12.50 a month, you can make a huge difference in helping an SVP Conference overseas continue operating and reach those most in need.

You can view the twinning information leaflet [here](#). We currently have conferences available for twinning in India.



Twinning Communications

An important part of twin-twin relationships is communication. However, we recognise that there can be obstacles to efficient communications. These include lack of internet connection, language barrier, lack of access to digital devices or slow postal services, and more. Increasingly, we are seeing Twins communicate via WhatsApp which has helped improve comms.

Please do get in touch with twinning@svp.org.uk if you have any communication issues with your Twin. We are constantly collaborating with the Overseas Twinning Officers on ways to strengthen these ties.





Finance – Standing Orders

To change from cheque payments to standing order, and join the 45% of Conferences who have already done so, please contact your CC Twinning Officer or email twinningfinance@svp.org.uk for support.

Standing orders benefit both yourself and the overseas Conference:

- They ensure no payments are missed as the E&W Conference/Council does not have to remember to make payment.
- Reduces the costs of processing cheques.
- The overseas twin can know when their grant is due which helps them plan their conference activity accordingly.
- Increases accuracy of ensuring funds are allocated to the correct twin.
- More efficient and streamlined process overall.

You can download a copy of the part completed Standing Order form [here](#).

Simply fill in the remaining information (ie. Conference code and Twin code reference), have two signatories sign it, and then return to twinningfinance@svp.org.uk. You can choose whether your Conference would like to pay quarterly or annually.

We ask that you set up a separate standing order for each Twin.

Meeting your Twinning Commitments

In 2025/2026, 85% of conferences/twins in England & Wales met their twinning commitments, providing support and much-needed funds to their overseas twins.

However, this does mean that 15% of twins with E&W did not pay their commitment, potentially impacting the work of their twin. It is very important that Conferences pay their twinning commitment each year.

Governance Reports (April 2025 – December 2025) – read them below

Each twinned country receiving funds from SVP England & Wales does so with the agreement that they must submit governance reports every 2 quarters (every 6 months).

These reports request information on Conference twinning, project updates, safeguarding, and financial reporting. You can view a summary of each country's governance report by clicking on the country link below (also linked on each country page). If you have any questions, please contact the Country Ambassador or twinning@svp.org.uk.

[India](#)

[South Sudan](#)

Please read the previous
TwinTalk for our other
Twin's governance reports





The Twinning Team would like to thank you for your continued commitment and support.

Useful contacts

General enquiries: Twinning@svp.org.uk / 07857622599

Finance enquiries: TwinningFinance@svp.org.uk / 01274 513045

Central Council Twinning Officer: If you are unsure who your CC Twinning Officer is, please contact the general enquiries inbox to find out.

SVP E&W Country Ambassadors

- South Sudan – Dee Davey, TwinningSudan@svp.org.uk
- Guyana – Maurice Heneghan, TwinningFI8@svp.org.uk
- India – Mac Fernandes, TwinningIndia@svp.org.uk
- Romania – Vacancy
- Grenada – Patrick Greenidge, TwinningA19@svp.org.uk
- Small Projects Officer – John Wild, wildjohn300@gmail.com

Get in touch

Thank you, we hope you enjoyed this edition of Twin Talk. All editions of Twin Talk can be found [here](#).

If you have any feedback for improving the newsletter, or you would like something to be featured in the next edition, please email Twinning@svp.org.uk.