

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.

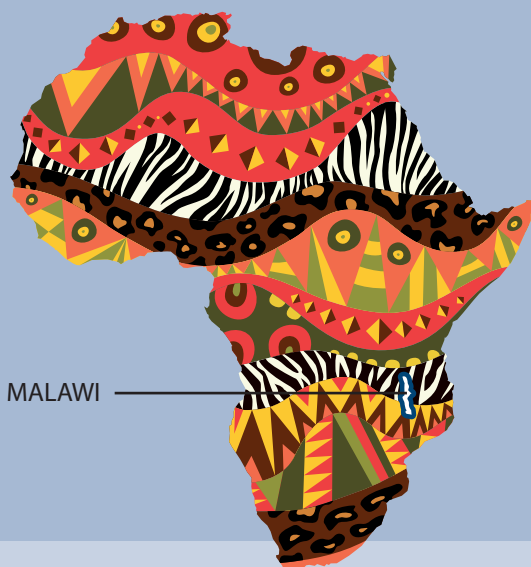
These links reflect the reality that there are no borders to poverty and injustice.

# West Region

Twinned with **Malawi**

## MALAWI

- Population (approx): **16.5m**
- Life expectancy: **61 years**
- Secondary school enrolment: **10%**



The **West Region** (Galway, Mayo and Roscommon) is twinned with **MALAWI** and together they have formed a close spiritual connection offering friendship and support to one another.

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



### AGRICULTURAL PROJECT

The SVP in Malawi use funding from Twinning to purchase fertiliser and sow maize to feed hungry families in their parishes. The families work in the fields and support themselves with the harvest. The surplus crops are sold and the profits are used to reinvest in similar projects leading to more sustainable futures for the families supported.



### BAKERY AND GARDEN PROJECTS

The West Region Twinning Group has provided funding to support a Conference in Malawi to establish and run a small bakery. This bakery provides fresh bread daily for the entire village of Chilumba. Profits from the bakery go towards supporting those in greatest need in the community. Funding has also been approved for the establishment of a market garden, a pig farm and a poultry farm in other villages. These projects established by SVP are aimed at supporting sustainable living in the community.

### FLOOD RELIEF

In 2015 heavy rains in Malawi resulted in massive flooding displacing more than 336,000 people. The floods destroyed homes, ravaged farmlands and compromised vital services such as clean water and sanitation. Funding was provided through the local SVP Conferences to assist in providing food, medical supplies and temporary accommodation.

#### *For further information:*

Twinning Officer

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