

# SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP PROGRAM



## Annual Progress Report (APR)

**Report Type:** Annual Report

Date of Agreement Signing: 21<sup>st</sup> July 2015

Period ending: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016

**Prepared for:**

Sister Cities Committee

Milwaukee

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## 1.0. Introduction

The first year of the sister cities relationship ushered in a phase of planning and design for the implementation framework for the partnership. Upon the signing the County government of Bomet focused on unpacking the requirements in the partnership with a view of developing a workable activity plan and expanding the partnership network both locally and internationally.

The Sister City Program, administered by Sister Cities International®, was initiated by the President of the United States of America in 1956 to encourage greater friendship and understanding between the United States and other nations through direct personal contact. As part of promoting this program, the City of Milwaukee in USA and the County Government of Bomet in Kenya entered into a partnership agreement on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2015. Tom Barrett- Mayor of Milwaukee and H.E Hon. Isaac Ruto, EGH signed the partnership. Bomet County and Milwaukee share a common interest in areas of education, health, culture and business and the desire to promote mutual understanding among its citizens. The people of Milwaukee and Bomet County in a gesture of friendship and goodwill, agreed to collaborate for the mutual benefit of their communities by exploring educational, economic and cultural opportunities; and agreed to support and encourage opportunities for mutually beneficial practical exchanges in the fields of business, culture, health care, education and tourism.



H.E Hon. Isaac Ruto EGH with Tom Barrett -Mayor of Milwaukee during the Signing Ceremony



## 1.1. Overall Objective

*To foster and encourage greater friendship and understanding between the City of Milwaukee in United States and the County Government of Bomet in Kenya through direct personal contact.*

## 2.0.Partnership Achievements

### 2.1. Strengthening of Bomet Development Trust (BDT)

As part of implementation of the partnership, The County Government of Bomet established and strengthened Bomet Development Trust (BDT). BDT has been tasked to develop an implementation framework for the partnership and explore avenues for expanding the partnership to include among other things infrastructural works. The Trust is run and

managed by a Board of Directors and a Chief Executive officer. The main objectives of the Trust are:

- To promote social, economic and cultural development of the Residents of Bomet County
- Within the framework of the foregoing, the Trust shall have the following principal objectives that are in line with the Sister Cities Relationship;
  - To promote economic activities (trade, commerce and ICT)
  - To promote quality education
  - To promote healthcare
  - To promote access to clean drinking water
  - To promote access to quality housing
  - To promote modern agriculture and
  - To promote infrastructure development (roads, electricity, etc)

The Trust is an independent entity and has a functional office with its own budget. It now provides a favorable environment as a conduit for mobilizing resources locally and internationally for the benefit of the residents of Bomet. By the time of development this annual progress report, the Trust is working on a five-year strategic plan that will see the smooth operation of the sister city relationship, the progress of which will be reflected in the next reporting period.

## **2.2. Improving Longisa County Referral Hospital**

Part of the main focus for the Sister City relationship is to improve access to improved medical facilities. The County Government of Bomet has invested a lot of resources in improving Longisa referral hospital to rival other level 5 hospital. At the moment the hospital has installed modern medical facilities such as Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Dialysis machine, X-Ray machines and modern eye clinic unit. As part of the implementation of the partnership agreement, the Medical college of Wisconsin is seeking partnership with longisa hospital for exchange training programmes.

## **2.3. Partnership with Kenya Society for the Blind (KSB) and Nairobi South C Rotary Club**

The County Government of Bomet has signed a partnership agreement with Kenya Society for the Blind (KSB) and Nairobi South C Rotary Club to meet the requisite conditions for mobilization of resource and implementation of programs as envisaged in the Sister City Relationship. The main focus of the partnership will include;

- Establishing institutions and provide resources needed to provide social assistance to the various target populations amongst Person With Disabilities (PWDs)
- Ensuring that the county has designs and implementation plans of all programmes and development approaches are coordinated to enhance habilitation and rehabilitation programmes for persons with disabilities.
- Strengthening and scaling up existing social assistance programmes while widening their geographical and demographic coverage of beneficiaries.
- Putting in place institutional frameworks for coordinating social assistance to ensure consistent and adequate levels of support.
- Conducting periodic reviews of instruments and strategies to reach the poor based on standards agreed upon by stakeholders such as ease of implementation, effectiveness in targeting, cost-effectiveness, and the impact on the welfare and livelihoods of the beneficiaries.
- Conducting research to inform the implementation of social assistance interventions on areas such as targeting, the adequacy of the transfer value, delivery mechanisms, social rights, and community/beneficiary participation.
- Determining the appropriate graduation and exit strategies for the different interventions while helping stakeholders to develop standards to be used to assess the appropriateness of these strategies.



**H.E Hon Isaac Ruto EGH During the Signing of MOU With Kenya Society for the Blind and Rotary Club**



**Juliana Kivasu Director Kenya Society for the Blind during the Signing of MOU with County Government of Bomet**

Going forward, Nairobi South C Rotary Club will provide an avenue for resource mobilization internationally. The main focus will be mainly water infrastructure and this is in line with what the water council of Milwaukee envision to do.

#### **2.4. Improving community water infrastructure**

The County Government has improved access to clean and affordable water by reviving stalled community water projects, initiating new water infrastructure and improving of spring protections to expand water command area. However, much needs to be done in this sector and the City of Milwaukee will come in handy in mobilizing more resource for water infrastructure and water quality control and surveillance. Milwaukee water council will

therefore be requested to support in setting up of modern water purification units.

### 2.5. Strengthening Resource Mobilization and Investment Unit

To leverage resource and tap on available opportunities, the County Government of Bomet has developed a detailed investment handbook that captures on the sister city relationship. The handbook provides detailed highlights on investment opportunities within the county and mechanisms for engagement. Once the handbook is launched by H.E Hon Governor, it will be shared with the City of Milwaukee as a tool for fundraising for the projects.

### 3.0. Implementation Plan

S/N	Activity	Sub activities
1	Improve Business Opportunities	Milwaukee to provide training for small and Medium Enterprises
		BDT to identify the activities of Youth Groups and Women Groups within the County and develop proposals for capacity building.
2	Strengthen Cultural exchange	BDT to develop a concept on the establishment of Bomet Cultural Centre
3	Improve Healthcare facilities	Milwaukee to mobilize for donations of Hospital Equipment. Exchange program between Wisconsin Medical Hospital and Longisa referral hospital
		Rehabilitation Centre could be established in Bomet to help rehabilitate drug addicts.
4	Increase access to Education	Academic exchange programs Provide scholarships for bright students – for academics and athletics Provide mentorship for girls in science and technology Books and sports donations to equip libraries & football clubs
5	Improve tourism attraction sites	Map tourist destination sites within the County

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