

Sister City Relationship Annual Report*

City Clerk's Office
City Hall, Room 205



200 E. Wells Street Milwaukee, WI 53202

PH: (414) 286-2221

WEB: www.milwaukee.gov/sistercities

APPLICATION ORGANIZATION

Name Milwaukee: African Women's Association (2024 Annual Report)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 18417, Milwaukee, WI 53218

PERSON IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZATION FOR MILWAUKEE

Name Reine-Marie Assana

Phone (414) 614-4907

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 18417, Milwaukee, WI 53218

Email: president@milawa.org

SISTER CITY

Name: Bomet

Country: Kenya

PERSON IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZATION FOR SISTER CITY

Name Joshua Murgor SPERD Representative

Phone: +254722 269 873

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 153, Sotik Bomet, Kenya

joshmargor@yahoo.com

Please attach the following information

Updated information about the sister city:

- Areas of mutual interest and involvement between Milwaukee and the sister city in the areas of culture and business
- Details of communication and consultation with the sister city regarding the existing relationship
- Updated information regarding the local organizational structure in the sister city that supports the relationship including number of members, their professional and business background, names and contact information

Updated information about the applicant organization:

- Organizational status (e.g. 501c-3). List Board of Directors and attach bylaws
- Number of members, their professional and business background, names and contact information
- Progress of the goals of the organization regarding the sister city relationship
- Progress of activities of the organization in relation to the sister city
- Progress of the methods the organization uses to meet the goals of the sister city relationship
- Financial base of the organization and funds available to support the sister city relationship

- Evidence of local community support for the sister city relationship, including additional financial support and interest in exchange program

***Note: An annual report must be submitted to the Sister Cities Committee within 30 days following the anniversary of the date on which the mayor signed the resolution establishing the relationship.**

Bomet-Milwaukee Sister City Relationship: Established in 2015

A summary of Milwaukee African Women's Association Milwaukee Bomet Milwaukee Sister City Activities for **2024** Annual Report:

1. Education and Cultural Exchange.

In 2024 Milwaukee-Bomet Sister City made significant strides in promoting educational access and strengthening cultural ties between the two cities.

Educational Support and Student Progress

Education remained a core priority this year. Through generous contributions and community partnership we were able to provide full school fees support for seven students in Bomet, Kenya. The success of our educational initiatives would not be possible without the unwavering support of our community partners **including Kenyans in Milwaukee (KIM)** via the President Samuel Chakoyo, and the **Milwaukee African Women's Association (MILAWA)**, which have been instrumental in supporting our educational initiatives this year. Through the Leadership of the MILAWA president Reine-Marie Assana and the tireless advocacy of Monica Ashery, MILAWA members have championed the cause of education for underserved students in Bomet. Their commitment and generosity have enabled us to extend our reach and provide consistent, life-changing support to students in need. We are deeply grateful for their continued partnership and commitment to our mission.

- **University Advancement:** Two students successfully graduated from high school and are now enrolled in university programs
- **Current Cohort:**
 - **Four students** (two boys, two girls) are completing **12th grade**
 - **One student** is currently in **11th grade**
- **Ongoing Support:**
 - One student is repeating 12th grade this academic year due to performance challenges, and we continue to offer guidance and financial support to help him succeed.
- **Nursing Education Pathway-A request for City Support.**
We have high potential students ready to pursue nursing as their career and contribute to global healthcare:
 - **One college** student is completing nursing prerequisites and is preparing to transition into a nursing program with the hopes of studying and working in the United States as a nurse. We are actively exploring educational opportunities here in Milwaukee (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, or Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) to support her aspirations.
 - We are seeking leads from the City of Milwaukee Committee, academic institutions, or healthcare systems to support:
 - Admissions guidance or program connection and mentorship from committee and City Partners.
 - Tuition assistance or scholarship opportunities
 - International student sponsorship or visa-related support.

- We believe these students have the potential to not only succeed academically but also return the investment by serving in healthcare communities across borders.

2. Cultural Engagement: Meet and Greet Event

Bomet was Proudly represented at the 2025 Meet and Greet event in Milwaukee. MILAWA members Led by Monica Ashery and her team as well as Kenyans in Milwaukee Bomet representatives graced the occasion, offered support and to showcased their vibrant culture of Bomet, contributing a day filled with food, fellowship, and celebration. This event was also graced by our very own Major Cavalier Johnson, further strengthening out ties with the city. Bomet representatives interacted with other members of Milwaukee-Sister Cities in Milwaukee.



Milwaukee City Hall: Flying Kenya Flag for the Bomet-Milwaukee Sister Cities



Monica Ashery with friends and Milwaukee Major, Mr. Johnson Cavalier



3. Import Avocado and Agricultural Produce Building Economic Sustainability

- Our Avocado farming initiative continues to thrive farmers are motivated and productive, and the project has become a key community effort.
- Avocado Partnership: Explore insights from Professor Emily Sitienei regarding avocado partnership and its benefits for farmers. In the lush agricultural landscape of Bomet, Professor Emily Sitienei is our dedicated representative who has been diligently working and actively collaborating with avocado farmers to foster partnerships and share valuable insights. Through this collaborative effort, the avocado farmers of Bomet have gained access to essential resources and knowledge aimed at enhancing their avocado cultivation practices. The avocado partnership has proved to be transformative endeavor, empowering farmers with advance techniques and market connections.
- Avocado growing in Bomet is gaining fame after the newly introduced profitable crop that is quickly overtaking tea and corn (maize) farming proved to be profitable for farmers. In 2021 (between January and March), Kenya exported 26 tons worth 4.6 billion shillings (\$400 Million)
- Bomet farmers are ready to export avocados and other agricultural produce to Milwaukee. We now seek to establish market opportunities in Milwaukee to :
 - Generate sustainable income for local farmers
 - Create a global farm-to-market connection between Bomet and Milwaukee
 - We welcome connections to local markets, restaurants, cooperatives, or distributors who may be interested in supporting this initiative.



4. Cultural Exchange and Tourism

Planned Visit to Bomet-August 2025

We are organizing a delegation trip to Bomet in August 2025 and invite interested committee members and supporters to consider joining us. While we recognize the timeline is short, this visit offers a powerful opportunity to witness the impact of our collective efforts and to deepen engagement with our partners on the ground.

5. Clean Water-A pressing, Unfinished Mission.

Access to clean water remains one of the most urgent unmet needs in Bomet:

- A borehole was dug in 2018, but high fluoride levels have rendered the water unsafe for human consumption.
- The borehole has not been used since it was dug up, now going to 6 years as there ought to be structure in place.
- We are actively seeking:
 - Technical assistance for water treatment solutions.
 - Financial support to complete and activate the project safely.
 - Clean water is essential to health, education, and daily life, and this project remains a priority

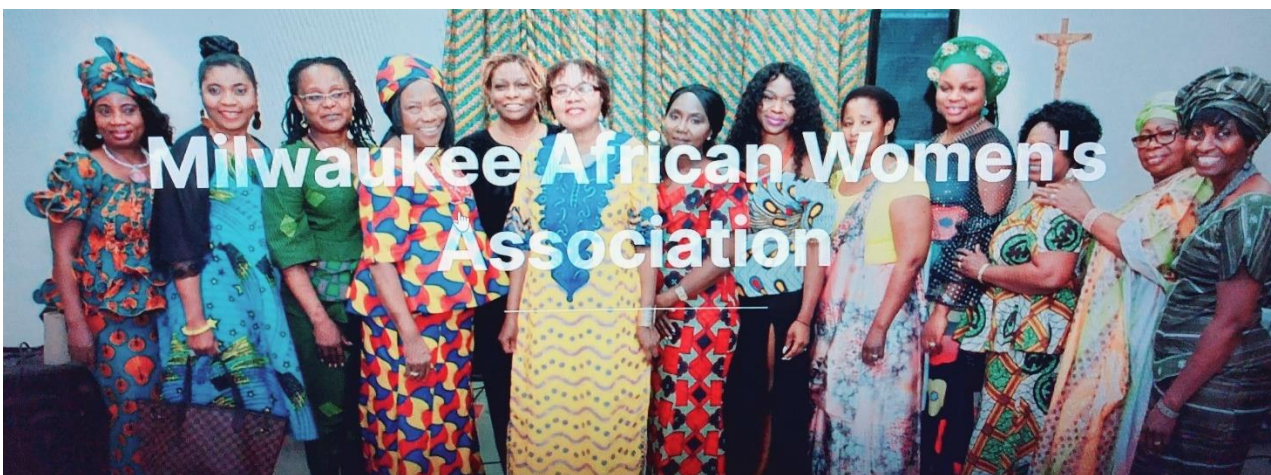
Milwaukee African Women's Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Mission Statement: Milwaukee African Women's Association's objectives to date have been to create an awareness of the attributes we bring to the Milwaukee community as women of African descent; to create and promote understanding among different cultures and societies within societies; to assist the integration of African immigrant/refugee women and their families as they transition in a new environment. In addition, helping them access resources to maintain healthy families and actively participate in building a strong community

<http://milawa.org/>

Information about the applicant organization: Milwaukee African Women's Association.

The Milwaukee African Women's Association (MILAWA) was established in 2008 by African immigrant and refugee women living in Milwaukee, from Sierra Leone, Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, USA, Somalia, Congo, Benin, and the Central African Republic. Our membership continues to increase and reflects the presence of over ten thousand African refugees and immigrants in the Milwaukee area (2009 Federal Immigration Statistics). We have a membership of women from diverse backgrounds, involved in a vast continuum of professional and personal endeavors.



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These objectives have been realized so far through cultural exchanges, community, social and political outreach, cultural exhibitions, seminars, and discussions. This year we initiated a tradition practiced by African women and women in the world community: International Women's Day. A celebration of women worldwide brings attention to the plight of women struggling for equity, quality of life, and safety. MILAWA's programmatic focus has been culture, leadership, community, and economic development. Our newest endeavor will be healthcare. Our community is in an emergency ward. Women of African descent are the primary caretakers of our families in the area of health, so it is only a natural progression that we become proactive in facilitating illness prevention in our homes and prevention education in our communities. The Milwaukee African Women's Association is excited about being an emerging vital organization in the Milwaukee community. We look forward to the opportunity to support the advancement of African women and their communities.
<http://milawa.org>

Looking Ahead:

The Bomet-Milwaukee sister Cities relationship continues to serve as a bridge of opportunity, unity, and hope. Through our focus on education, culture, and community, and with the support of partners like MILWA and KIM, we are building a foundation that empowers the next generation and strengthens global understanding.

Prepared and submitted by,

Alice Kones and David Mugun
Bomet-Milwaukee Sister City Representatives
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Bomet-Milwaukee Sister City Relationship: Strengthening Global Bonds

Prof. Emily Sitienei

Dr. Alice Kones

Mr. David Mugun

Agenda

- Introduction
- Overview of Bomet-Milwaukee Sister City Relationship
- Significance of the Partnership
- Questions



Overview of Bomet-Milwaukee Sister City



Bomet City (County)

- Bomet is in Kenya, East Africa
- Population- 900,000 people.

Milwaukee-Bomet Sister City Relationship

- Memorandum of understanding- signed in 2005
- Major Tom Barret
- Gov. Isaac Ruto
- Aldermen Joe Davis & Russell W Stamper II

Non-Governmental sponsors

- Strategies for Peace, Education, Research and Development (SPERD) -Bomet
- The Milwaukee African Women's Association (MILAWA)

Key Initiatives & Collaborative Projects

Clean Drinking Water



- Collaborated with Rotary Club
- Drilled a borehole to provide clean drinking water-Sigowet Village
- Challenges
 - High fluoride-water not fit for human consumptions
 - Need filtration

Education and Cultural Exchange



The two boys and two girls we support. On the far right is the potential nursing student currently enrolled in pre-nursing course.

Sister city relationships provide a platform for agricultural trade and collaboration between communities from different countries.

They facilitate market access and streamline trade processes for farmers looking to export agricultural products to the western world.

Collaborative efforts between sister cities offer insights into consumer preferences and market trends, enhancing the competitiveness of agricultural exports.

Exchange programs and cultural events foster mutual understanding and appreciation for each other's agricultural heritage.

Knowledge-sharing workshops, exchange visits, and collaborative research projects help enhance agricultural productivity, sustainability, and innovation.

Leveraging sister city relationships strengthens the bonds of friendship and cooperation between communities across borders.

It fosters a sense of global citizenship and collective responsibility towards addressing common challenges such as food security and environmental sustainability.

Integrating agricultural trade into sister city relationships enhances the socio-economic benefits for farmers and communities involved.

Role of Sister City Relationship

6/30/2025

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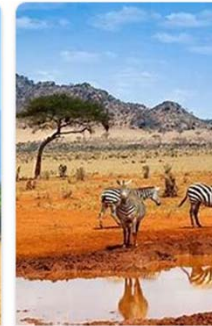
- ▶ Exporting agricultural products to the western world can offer both economical and social benefits to farmers:
- ▶ Increased income,
- ▶ Technological advancements,
- ▶ Rural development,
- ▶ Employment
- ▶ Improve their livelihoods
- ▶ Contribution to global food security and sustainable development.

Role of Sister City Relationship

Key Initiatives & Collaborative Projects

➤ Kenya Tourism

- Leading tourist destination in East Africa
 - Over 2 million tourists- 2019
 - Account for 9.6% in employment by 2026
- Major source of foreign exchange
 - \$1.6 billion in 2019



➤ Cultural and Student Exchange

HASS AVOCADO FARMING - BOMET EAST AND NAROK SOUTH

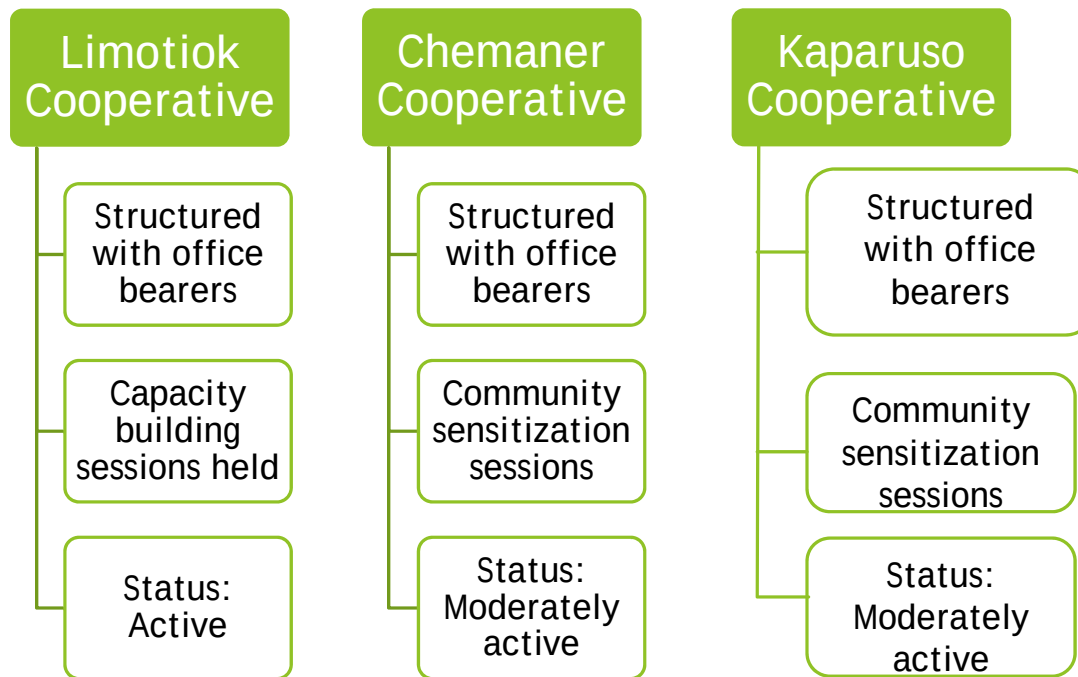
Avocado farming was started in 2016 with initial support of 40 seedlings, at Kshs.1000, to farmers by a white family

About 200 famers - men and women received seedlings. The women participants included widows and single mothers.

54 farmers are currently harvesting avocados. The number is expected to increase to 100 by 2025.



Cooperative Societies (SACCO)



Avocados-Harvest Ready

Harvest & Export

Harvesting

- **Twice a year:**
- **Peak**-Apr-Jun; 38 tons
- **Off season** - Dec - Feb; 20 tons

Export

- MOU signed with exporters
- Some ask farmers to keep harvest for them.
- Google to know current rates
- Cost is KES 100 - KES 180 1Kg



Benefits and challenges



Improved economic status hence more children go to school

Regional collaboration and networking with partners

Expansion of avocado farming & increased number of farmers

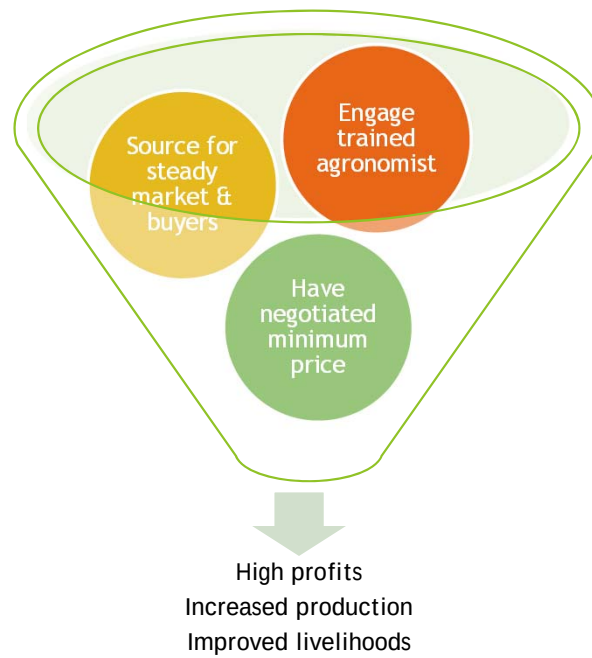


Effects of climate change, pests, & predators affect production

Unreliable exporters & market fluctuation

Few experts , thus limited knowledge on avocado farming

Call for Action





Questions?



Thank you

