
Milwaukee–Abuja Sister City Partnership

2025 Annual Report | Milwaukee Action Network,
Inc. (MANI)

 **Presented by:** Dr. Dele Ojelabi, Organization Lead

 **Website:** www.maniwi.org

 **Submitted to:** City of Milwaukee, City Clerk's Office

About MANI & the Milwaukee–Abuja Partnership

Organization

Milwaukee Action Network, Inc. (MANI) — a nonprofit dedicated to fostering international collaboration between Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Abuja, Nigeria.

Sister City

Abuja, Nigeria — the Federal Capital Territory with a population of 3.6 million.

Mission

"To deepen bilateral engagement through health, education, technology, and professional development initiatives that foster mutual growth and understanding."

Leadership

Milwaukee Lead:

Dr. Dele Ojelabi

Abuja Lead:

Hon. Ibrahim Ombugadu

The partnership embodies the Sister Cities International model of people-to-people diplomacy — connecting communities, institutions, and leaders across borders.

2025 Strategic Goals



Enhance Health Systems & Access to Care

Build on medical supply donations to improve Abuja's healthcare infrastructure and capacity.



Advance Educational & Technology Partnerships

Expand digital skills and academic exchange opportunities for students and young professionals.



Promote Professional & Cultural Exchange

Strengthen governance, civic capacity, and intercultural understanding through sustainable exchange programs.



Foster Economic & Innovation Collaboration

Drive entrepreneurship and technology-led workforce development in both cities.

These four goals reflect shared values of community empowerment, innovation, and cultural exchange — forming the foundation of all 2025 activities.

Key Accomplishment: Medical Supplies & Equipment Donation

120+

Boxes Delivered

Surgical tools, PPE, syringes, and wound care kits

15

Major Units

Hospital beds, wheelchairs, walkers, and gurneys



Activity Overview

MANI partnered with the **Wisconsin Medical Project** to collect, package, and ship critical medical supplies and hospital equipment to healthcare facilities in Abuja.



Partners Engaged

Collaboration between 3 key partners — Wisconsin Medical Project, MANI, and the Abuja Health Authority.

15k+

Patients Benefited

Projected annual impact across five major health centers

30%

Capacity Increase

Expected growth in treatment capacity at critical facilities

Next Step for 2026

A second container shipment is currently being prepared, specifically targeting rural clinics and maternal health centers in the Abuja region.

**Note: The initial May shipment experienced delays due to vendor prioritization; rescheduling and consolidation are actively underway to ensure timely delivery.*

Key Accomplishment: U.S. Dept. of State IVLP Delegation Reception

The Event

MANI hosted a formal dinner reception for a Nigerian delegation visiting Milwaukee under the U.S. Department of State's **International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)**.

Theme:

Promoting Transparency and Accountability in Government.

Coordinated with:

International Institute of Wisconsin and local government officials.

Participation & Themes

30 Participants:

- 12 Nigerian delegates (journalists, investigators, civic leaders)
- 12 Milwaukee civic leaders
- 1 media representative
- 5 MANI officials

Discussion Themes:

Governance, transparency, anti-corruption measures, and citizen engagement.

Impact & Outcomes

Collaboration: Initiated a follow-up proposal between Nigerian civil society groups and Milwaukee's civic transparency organizations.

Reinforced MANI's reputation as an effective liaison for international civic exchange.

95%

of attendees rated the event as "highly meaningful" in post-event feedback.

Key Accomplishment: Sister Cities Day Celebration

Activity: MANI represented the Milwaukee–Abuja relationship at the annual Milwaukee Sister Cities Day Celebration at City Hall.

"Demonstrated growing public interest in the Milwaukee–Abuja partnership and expanded the volunteer base."



Display

Featured a booth with photo exhibits of medical donations and educational collaborations.



Engagement

100+ visitors interacted with the MANI exhibit.



Visibility

Boosted local and media awareness through social media coverage and citywide recognition.



New Collaborations

Established contact with 3 new community partners interested in supporting educational exchange and technology programs.



Recognition

Secured invitations to participate in future multicultural events organized by the City of Milwaukee.

Planned Initiatives for 2026



Technology Skill Transfer Program

- Partner with MATC, UW–Milwaukee, and Abuja-based tech hubs
- Virtual and in-person training in coding, cybersecurity, and digital entrepreneurship
- **Goal:** Increase workforce readiness and digital capacity for youth and small businesses



Educational Exchange & Scholarship Program

- Connect Abuja Municipal High School with Milwaukee educational institutions
- Scholarship opportunities and virtual classroom collaborations
- **Goal:** Foster leadership development and global awareness among youth



Firefighter Skill Exchange Program

- Partner with Milwaukee Fire Department and Abuja Fire Service
- Workshops, safety drills, and donation of firefighting gear
- **Goal:** Enhance emergency preparedness and community resilience in both cities

Measurable Outcomes at a Glance

120+

Medical supply boxes collected & prepared

15

Major hospital equipment units

15,000+

Projected annual patient beneficiaries

25–30%

Expected capacity increase at Abuja facilities

30

IVLP Reception attendees

95%

Post-event satisfaction rating ("highly meaningful")

100+

Sister Cities Day exhibit visitors

3

New community partners identified

3

Key institutional partnerships maintained

These outcomes demonstrate that MANI not only met but exceeded most key objectives for the reporting year.



Challenges Inform a Stronger, More Resilient Strategy

Challenges Encountered

- Shipping logistics and customs clearance remain time-consuming and costly.
- Funding constraints have slowed timelines for equipment shipments and training exchanges.
- Cross-continental coordination requires consistent communication with government and NGO partners in Abuja.

Lessons Learned

- Early planning and sustained partnerships are essential for international logistics.
- Diversifying funding sources and building redundant communication channels strengthens resilience.
- Community-level engagement in both cities accelerates program adoption and ownership.

Path Forward — 2026 Priorities




- Complete the second medical container shipment to Abuja.
 - Launch the Technology Skill Transfer and Educational Exchange programs.
 - Deepen collaboration in public health, technology, and civic governance.
 - Strengthen monitoring, reporting, and data-driven evaluation of all initiatives.
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MANI — Building Bridges, Empowering Communities




- The Milwaukee–Abuja Sister City partnership, steered by MANI, continues to grow as a model of people-to-people diplomacy — connecting communities through health, education, technology, and civic engagement.
- MANI's work in 2025 reflects a commitment to sustainable, high-impact collaboration that benefits both Milwaukee and Abuja.
- The organization is well-positioned to advance its mission with a growing network of partners, volunteers, and community advocates.

"Empowering communities. Advancing partnerships. Building a better world — together."

Board of Directors

-  Dr. Dele Ojelabi
-  Dr. Francis Obuseh
-  Hon. Samba Baldeh

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