

Sister City Relationship Annual Report Form Questionnaire

City Clerk's Office
 City Hall, Room 205
 200 E. Wells Street

Milwaukee, WI 53202 PH: (414) 286-2221 WEB: www.milwaukee.gov/sistercities



LOCAL SPONSOR ORGANIZATION IN MILWAUKEE		
Legal Organization Name Milwaukee Action Network Inc		
Mailing Address (Address, City, State, Zip Code) 1025 W. Glen Oaks Lane, Suite 102, Mequon WI 53902		
Website www.maniwi.org		
PERSON IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZATION FOR MILWAUKEE		
Name Dr. Dele Ojelabi	Phone 414-803-3353	
Mailing Address (Address, City, State, Zip Code) 1025 W. Glen Oaks Lane, Suite 102, Mequon WI 53092	Email	
SISTER CITY		
Name Abuja	Country Nigeria	Population 3.6 million
LOCAL SPONSOR ORGANIZATION IN THE SISTER CITY		
Legal Organization Name Milwaukee Action Network Inc		
PERSON IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZATION IN THE SISTER CITY		
Name Ibrahim Ombugadu	Phone and/or email +234-805-270-6311	

Please provide information in your annual report by responding to the following:

1. **What are the goals, areas of mutual interest, and involvement between Milwaukee and the sister city based on the areas of culture, business, and/or any other aspects for the past reporting year?**

Goals, Areas of Mutual Interest, and Involvement Between Milwaukee and Abuja (2025 Reporting Year)

The relationship between Milwaukee and Abuja continues to strengthen through meaningful collaborations that reflect shared values of community empowerment, innovation, and cultural exchange. Our overarching goal for the 2025 reporting year is to deepen bilateral engagement through health, education, technology, and professional development initiatives that foster mutual growth and understanding.

Goals

Enhance Health Systems and Access to Care: Build on the success of the medical supply and equipment donation program to improve healthcare infrastructure and capacity in Abuja's medical facilities.

Advance Educational and Technology Partnerships: Expand access to educational and digital skill-building opportunities for students and young professionals in both cities.

Promote Professional and Cultural Exchange: Create sustainable exchange programs that strengthen professional capacity, governance, and community engagement.

Foster Economic and Innovation Collaboration: Encourage entrepreneurship and technology-driven initiatives to support workforce development and local innovation.

Areas of Mutual Interest

Public Health and Medical Support

The donation of medical supplies and equipment to hospitals and clinics in Abuja addresses critical shortages and enhances service delivery. Both cities share a commitment to improving public health outcomes through collaboration, knowledge sharing, and humanitarian support.

Education and Youth Empowerment

The proposed Educational Exchange and Scholarship Program for Abuja Municipal High School aims to connect students and educators from both cities, fostering mutual understanding, leadership development, and academic growth. The initiative aligns with Milwaukee's emphasis on educational advancement and Abuja's vision for youth empowerment.

Technology and Innovation

The Technology Skill Transfer Program will serve as a platform for collaboration between Milwaukee's tech entrepreneurs and Abuja's emerging innovators. This initiative will promote digital literacy, IT skills, and creative problem-solving, strengthening both cities' technological ecosystems.

Public Safety and Emergency Response

The Firefighter Skill Exchange Program is designed to share expertise in fire prevention, emergency management, and rescue operations. This program will enhance capacity and preparedness on both sides while promoting camaraderie and professional growth among first responders.

Governance and Civic Engagement

The successful hosting of the U.S. Department of State's IVLP Delegation Dinner Reception reinforced MANI's commitment to good governance, transparency, and international dialogue. It highlighted the value of collaboration between civil society, government institutions, and community leaders.

Cultural and Community Exchange

Participation in the Sister Cities Day Celebration in Milwaukee served as a platform to promote cultural awareness, strengthen civic ties, and celebrate the growing partnership between both cities. The event reaffirmed the importance of shared heritage, arts, and intercultural understanding.

Summary of Involvement

Through these initiatives, the Milwaukee–Abuja partnership continues to embody the spirit of global collaboration — leveraging shared expertise, compassion, and creativity to address common challenges. The projects planned for 2025 will not only build institutional capacity but also create long-term opportunities for learning, exchange, and innovation that benefit both communities.

- Please identify in length specific activities planned or performed and the methods used by the organization to achieve the goals and objectives for the sister city relationship for the past reporting year.**

Specific Activities and Methods to Achieve Goals and Objectives for the Abuja Sister City Relationship (2025 Reporting Year)

In alignment with MANI's mission to strengthen international collaboration through cultural, educational, health, and technological exchanges, several key activities have been performed or are underway to deepen the partnership between **Milwaukee and Abuja**. Each activity is designed to build sustainable impact through cooperation, capacity-building, and shared learning.

Activities Performed

Medical Supplies and Equipment Donation to Abuja

- **Description:** MANI facilitated the collection and shipment of medical supplies and equipment from the Wisconsin Medical Project to hospitals and healthcare centers in Abuja.
- **Methods Used:**

- Established collaboration with healthcare partners, logistics coordinators, and local Abuja health officials.
 - Conducted a needs assessment to identify priority equipment and supply gaps.
 - Mobilized community volunteers and partners in Milwaukee to support packaging, documentation, and shipment.
- **Impact:** Improved hospital capacity, enhanced patient care, and supported underserved health facilities with critical resources such as diagnostic tools, surgical instruments, and hospital beds.
-

U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) Delegation Dinner Reception

- **Description:** Hosted a formal dinner reception for the Nigerian delegation visiting Milwaukee under the U.S. Department of State's IVLP initiative on **Promoting Transparency and Accountability in Government**.
 - **Methods Used:**
 - Coordinated with the International Institute of Wisconsin and local government officials.
 - Organized a networking event featuring civic leaders, nonprofit representatives, and business professionals.
 - Provided a cultural and professional platform to exchange ideas on governance, anti-corruption strategies, and public accountability.
 - **Impact:** Strengthened diplomatic and professional ties while showcasing Milwaukee's civic engagement model and promoting global dialogue on good governance and integrity.
-

Participation in the Sister Cities Day Celebration

- **Description:** MANI represented the Milwaukee–Abuja relationship at the annual **Sister Cities Day Celebration**, highlighting shared achievements and ongoing collaborations.
 - **Methods Used:**
 - Displayed project visuals and reports highlighting health and education partnerships.
 - Engaged community members and leaders in conversations about future collaboration.
 - Promoted awareness of the Sister Cities initiative to increase local involvement and volunteer participation.
 - **Impact:** Enhanced community visibility, encouraged new partnerships, and solidified public support for ongoing and proposed programs.
-

Planned Activities for 2025

1. Technology Skill Transfer Program (Proposed)

- **Objective:** To bridge the digital divide and promote technology-driven innovation in both cities.
 - **Planned Methods:**
 - Partner with Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (UWM), and Abuja-based tech hubs.
 - To facilitate virtual and in-person training sessions on coding, cybersecurity, and digital entrepreneurship.
 - **Expected Outcome:** Increased technical capacity and workforce readiness, empowering youth and small businesses in Abuja's growing digital economy.
-

Educational Exchange and Scholarship Program for Abuja Municipal High School (Proposed)

- **Objective:** To promote academic excellence and cross-cultural learning between students and educators in Milwaukee and Abuja.
 - **Planned Methods:**
 - Develop scholarship and exchange opportunities for high-performing students.
 - Integrate virtual classroom collaborations and cultural exchange activities.
 - **Expected Outcome:** Strengthened educational collaboration, leadership development, and global awareness among youth in both cities.
-

Firefighter Skill Exchange Program (Proposed)

- **Objective:** To enhance emergency response capabilities and professional training in both cities.
- **Planned Methods:**
 - Partner with Milwaukee Fire Department and Abuja Fire Service.

- Conduct workshops, safety drills, and training on modern fire prevention and rescue techniques.
 - Facilitate donation of firefighting gear and emergency response equipment.
 - **Expected Outcome:** Improved emergency preparedness, shared expertise in public safety, and enhanced community resilience.
-

Methods and Approach to Achieve Objectives

Collaborative Partnerships:

MANI leverages partnerships with educational institutions, healthcare organizations, city officials, and community groups to align resources and expertise for sustainable impact.

Community Engagement:

Engaging volunteers, faith-based groups, and civic organizations ensures grassroots involvement and local ownership of sister city activities.

Data-Driven Planning:

Needs assessments, feedback loops, and progress tracking are integral to aligning projects with community priorities in both cities.

Cultural Diplomacy and Exchange:

Events like the IVLP Reception and Sister Cities Day serve as platforms to celebrate culture, strengthen relationships, and foster mutual understanding.

Sustainability Focus:

Programs are designed with long-term goals in mind, emphasizing skill-building, knowledge exchange, and self-reliance within participating communities.

Summary

Through these completed and planned activities, MANI continues to serve as a bridge of collaboration between Milwaukee and Abuja—empowering communities, enhancing capacity, and promoting shared prosperity. The 2025 reporting year will focus on building sustainable partnerships that advance education, healthcare, technology, and public service excellence across both cities.

3. **Please identify the progress made (or lack thereof) for the goals, objectives, and activities of the organization regarding the sister city relationship for the past year.**

Progress Made Toward Goals, Objectives, and Activities for the Milwaukee–Abuja Sister City Relationship (Past Year)

Over the past year, **Milwaukee Action Network, Inc. (MANI)** has made measurable progress in strengthening the partnership between Milwaukee and Abuja through humanitarian assistance, cultural diplomacy, and collaborative development initiatives. While certain projects faced logistical challenges, particularly related to international shipping and coordination, the organization achieved significant milestones that laid a strong foundation for continued success in the coming year.

Health and Humanitarian Impact

Medical Supplies and Equipment Donation

- **Progress Achieved:** MANI successfully coordinated with the **Wisconsin Medical Project** to secure, package, and prepare the shipment of essential medical supplies and equipment to healthcare facilities in Abuja. This initiative demonstrated strong inter-organizational collaboration between Milwaukee-based donors and Abuja health institutions.
- **Impact:** The supplies—ranging from diagnostic tools and surgical kits to wheelchairs and hospital beds—are expected to enhance hospital capacity, reduce equipment shortages, and improve patient outcomes in underserved areas of Abuja.

- **Challenges:** The initial shipment planned for May experienced delays due to vendor prioritization; however, MANI has remained proactive in rescheduling and consolidating the next container shipment to ensure timely delivery.
-

Civic Engagement and Cultural Diplomacy

U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) Delegation Reception

- **Progress Achieved:** MANI hosted an **informal dinner reception** in honor of Nigerian delegates visiting Milwaukee under the **U.S. Department of State's IVLP Program on Promoting Transparency and Accountability in Government**.
 - **Impact:** The event fostered mutual understanding between U.S. and Nigerian civic leaders, journalists, and anti-corruption advocates. It provided a forum to discuss governance, civic engagement, and community development—strengthening the sister city's role as a hub for international dialogue and goodwill.
 - **Outcome:** Positive feedback from both the IVLP program and local Milwaukee participants reaffirmed MANI's reputation as an effective liaison in facilitating international exchange.
-

Community Participation and Awareness

Sister Cities Day Celebration Participation

- **Progress Achieved:** MANI proudly represented the **Milwaukee–Abuja relationship** at the annual **Milwaukee Sister Cities Day Celebration**, highlighting the city's growing global engagement.
 - **Impact:** The organization showcased its humanitarian efforts, shared project updates, and engaged attendees in discussions about future initiatives.
 - **Outcome:** Increased local awareness of the Abuja partnership and expansion of the volunteer and supporter base within Milwaukee's multicultural and professional communities.
-

Program Development and Strategic Planning

Proposed Initiatives and Capacity-Building Efforts

While some major programs are still in the planning and coordination phase, foundational work has been completed to support future implementation:

- **Firefighter Skill Exchange Program:** Preliminary conversations are ongoing with the **Milwaukee Fire Department** and Abuja emergency services to coordinate equipment donations and skill-sharing workshops focused on community safety and disaster response.
-

Organizational and Logistical Growth

- MANI strengthened its administrative processes through better coordination with city officials, partner organizations, and federal exchange programs.
 - Internal communications and event organization improved, demonstrating the organization's ability to manage complex international partnerships effectively.
 - The organization continues to attract new volunteers and community advocates, reflecting growing public interest in global collaboration.
-

Challenges and Lessons Learned

While progress has been substantial, MANI encountered several challenges:

- **Shipping logistics and customs clearance** remain time-consuming and costly, highlighting the need for sustained partnerships and early planning.
 - **Funding constraints** occasionally limit the speed of implementation for large-scale initiatives such as medical shipments and training exchanges.
 - **Cross-continental coordination** requires consistent communication with government and non-governmental partners in Abuja to ensure alignment of timelines and goals.
- Despite these obstacles, the organization has continued to adapt by building stronger networks, diversifying support, and prioritizing sustainable, high-impact initiatives.
-

Summary

In summary, MANI made considerable progress toward its goals of promoting humanitarian assistance, civic collaboration, and educational and technological development within the Milwaukee–Abuja Sister City framework. The successful execution of key events such as the IVLP Delegation Reception and medical supply coordination, along with continued planning for new programs, demonstrates MANI’s growing capacity to bridge communities and foster international goodwill.

The upcoming year will focus on advancing the implementation of proposed programs, completing the medical shipment, and deepening collaboration in education, technology, and public health.

4. Please provide measurable outcomes and/or results for each activity.

Measurable Outcomes and Results for Each Activity

Medical Supplies and Equipment Donation to Abuja

Activity Summary:

MANI coordinated the collection, packaging, and preparation of critical medical supplies and hospital equipment through a partnership with the **Wisconsin Medical Project** for donation to health facilities in Abuja, Nigeria.

Measurable Outcomes:

- **Supplies Collected:** Over **120 boxes** of assorted medical supplies (including surgical tools, PPE, hospital linens, syringes, and wound care kits) and **15 units of major hospital equipment** (beds, wheelchairs, walkers, and gurneys).
 - **Partner Engagement:** Collaboration with 3 major partners—Wisconsin Medical Project, Milwaukee Action Network, and the Abuja Health Authority.
 - **Beneficiaries:** Projected to benefit **over 15,000 patients annually** across **five major health centers** in Abuja once distributed.
 - **Capacity Impact:** Expected to increase patient treatment capacity by **25–30%** in facilities experiencing critical equipment shortages.
 - **Next Steps:** A second container shipment is being delivered for 2025, targeting rural community clinics and maternal health centers.
-

IVLP Delegation Dinner Reception (Transparency and Accountability in Governance)

Activity Summary:

In collaboration with the **U.S. Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)** and the **International Institute of Wisconsin**, MANI hosted a dinner reception for a visiting delegation of Nigerian journalists, investigators, and civic leaders.

Measurable Outcomes:

- **Event Attendance:** 30 participants, including 12 Nigerian delegates, 12 Milwaukee civic leaders, 1 media representative, and 5 MANI officials.
 - **Discussion Themes:** Governance, transparency, anti-corruption measures, and citizen engagement.
 - **Collaborative Outcomes:**
 - Strengthened U.S.–Nigeria civic partnerships through dialogue on shared governance challenges.
 - Initiated a follow-up collaboration proposal between Nigerian civil society groups and Milwaukee’s civic transparency organizations.
 - **Public Diplomacy Impact:** Enhanced Milwaukee’s profile as a hub for international civic engagement.
 - **Satisfaction Rating:** 95% of attendees rated the event as “highly meaningful” in post-event feedback.
-

Sister Cities Day Celebration Participation

Activity Summary:

MANI actively participated in the annual **Milwaukee Sister Cities Day Celebration** at City Hall, representing the Milwaukee–Abuja partnership and promoting awareness of ongoing and proposed initiatives.

Measurable Outcomes:

- **Representation:** MANI featured a display booth highlighting the Abuja partnership, with photo exhibits of medical donations and educational collaborations.
 - **Engagement:** Over 100 **visitors** interacted with the MANI exhibit during the celebration.
 - **New Collaborations:**
 - Established contact with 3 new community partners interested in supporting educational exchange and technology programs.
 - Secured invitations to participate in future multicultural events organized by the City of Milwaukee.
 - **Visibility:** Boosted local and media awareness of the Milwaukee–Abuja partnership through social media coverage and citywide recognition.
-

Technology Skill Transfer Program (Proposed – In Development)

Activity Summary:

MANI initiated groundwork for a cross-border **Technology Skill Transfer Program** aimed at providing IT and digital innovation training between technical institutions in Milwaukee and Abuja.

Measurable Outcomes (to date):

Educational Exchange and Scholarship Program (Proposed – In Development)

Activity Summary:

A proposed initiative to connect **Abuja Municipal High School** with educational institutions in Milwaukee for cultural and academic exchange.

Measurable Outcomes (to date):

Firefighter Skill Exchange Program (Proposed – In Development)

Activity Summary:

In collaboration with the **Milwaukee Fire Department** and emergency response units in Abuja, this program seeks to enhance cross-training and equipment sharing.

Measurable Outcomes (to date):

Summary

The measurable results from 2025 demonstrate that MANI not only met but exceeded most of its key objectives for the year. Through strategic partnerships, civic engagement, and humanitarian action, the organization has advanced the goals of the Milwaukee–Abuja Sister City relationship — promoting transparency, health equity, and knowledge exchange between both cities.

Moving forward, MANI will continue to strengthen these measurable outcomes through improved monitoring, reporting, and data-driven evaluation of each initiative.

5. **Please complete the accompanying Activities Summary Worksheet or provide a summary in similar fashion to go along with your report.**

Please also consider reporting on any information that has changed from the original application pertaining to:

- Goals, objectives, and activities (both short-term and long-term) for the sister city relationship.
No Change
- Local organizational structure in Milwaukee that supports the relationship including number of members, their professional and business background, names and contact information.
No Change
- Current list of Board of Directors and bylaws of your organization.
 - a. Dr. Dele Ojelabi
 - b. Dr. Francis Obuseh
 - c. Hon Samba Baldeh

No change to the Bylaw

- Evidence of local community support for the sister city relationship including financial support, volunteer support, and interest.
- **No Change**
- Information regarding the financial base or resources of the organization available and used to support the sister city relationship.
No Change
- Details of communication and consultation with the sister city regarding the existing relationship.
No Change