Progress Report: SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) – Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU)

2024/2025 Session

Executive Overview

Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU) addresses Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being) through its medical training facilities, academic research, community health outreach, and clinical service delivery via the Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Teaching Hospital (COOUTH), Amaku-Awka. Under the university's **"3Vs Agenda" (Values, Viability, Visibility)**, COOU combines tertiary healthcare delivery with health workforce development, research into regional communicable and non-communicable diseases, and preventive community care across Anambra State.

Key Areas of Progress & Implementation

1. Clinical Care & Tertiary Healthcare Delivery (COOUTH, Amaku-Awka)

COOU operates its teaching hospital in Awka, providing 24/7 specialized and subsidized health services to urban and rural populations:

- **Critical & Emergency Care:** COOUTH maintains a fully functional Emergency Unit, Intensive Care Unit (ICU), and Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) providing specialized care for preterm and critically ill newborns.

- **Specialized & Diagnostic Services:** The facility offers oncology care (chemotherapy and supportive treatments), CT-scan imaging, electrocardiogram (ECG) diagnostics, surgical suites, and comprehensive laboratory services.

- **Maternal & Child Health Support:** By offering subsidized obstetric care, pediatric services, and neonatal support, the hospital directly contributes to lowering maternal and under-5 infant mortality rates in the region.

2. Health Workforce Training & Academic Expansion

COOU plays a direct role in addressing Nigeria's healthcare brain drain and shortage of qualified medical professionals:

- **Medical & Basic Clinical Sciences:** Through the Faculty of Basic Clinical Sciences and Faculty of Clinical Medicine, COOU provides training in Medicine and Surgery (MBBS), Pharmacology, Medical Microbiology, Chemical Pathology, and Histopathology.

- **Pioneer Nursing Cohort:** COOU expanded its professional healthcare training by establishing its nursing science program. The university achieved a key milestone as its pioneer cohort of nursing students completed their final professional licensing examinations, directly supplying certified nurses to the national health system.

3. Public Health Research & Disease Surveillance

Academic departments within COOU conduct translational research focused on endemic diseases and healthcare management in Sub-Saharan Africa:

- **Infectious Disease & AMR Studies:** Research units in Medical Microbiology monitor antimicrobial resistance (AMR) patterns, vector control, and local infectious disease management.

- **Pharmacological & NCD Research:** Studies in Pharmacology and Chemical Pathology explore rational therapeutics for chronic conditions prevalent in Nigeria, such as hypertension, diabetes, and cardiovascular disorders.

- **Climate and Health Intersections:** The COOU Centre for Climate Change, Environmental Sustainability, and Laboratory Services collaborates with health scientists to study the impacts of environmental conditions on public health outcomes.

4. Preventive Health Education & Community Outreach

- **Community Screening Initiatives:** COOUTH and medical student bodies conduct outdoor health screenings in surrounding rural communities, providing free blood pressure monitoring, blood sugar testing, dental checks, and medical consultations.

- **Preventive Advocacy:** The hospital and university faculties host seminars and outreach campaigns on breast self-examination awareness, maternal nutrition, sanitation, and early cancer detection.

5. Road Safety Awareness, Emergency Care, and Life-Saving Interventions.

- **Institutional Initiative:**
  - The **Students' Accident, Emergency and Safety Unit** at COOU, led by Dr. Afamnede Godfrey Oguechuo, initiated a institutional collaboration with the Nigerian Red Cross Society (Anambra State Branch).
  - COOU scheduled a luncheon event for November 17, 2026, marking the **World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims** under the theme *"Remembering Lives, Promoting Safety"*.
  - The partnership incorporates keynote engagements on *"The Golden Hour: The Role of First Aid and Community Action in Saving Road Crash Victims"* delivered by Prof. Charity Ifeyinwa Emelie (State Chairman, Red Cross).
  - The initiative equips the campus community with rapid response capacity to reduce fatalities and serious injuries from road traffic accidents.

6. Health Insurance for Students.

- **Expand Health Insurance Enrollment Drive:** The university partnered with the Anambra State Health Insurance Agency (ASHIA) to achieve 100% health insurance coverage for all enrolled students.

Performance Summary against SDG 3 Targets

SDG 3 Target Area	COOU & COOUTH Operational Contribution	Impact Level
3.1 & 3.2 Maternal & Newborn Mortality	SCBU neonatal care, emergency obstetrics, and maternal healthcare education at COOUTH Amaku-Awka.	**High** (Anambra State & Regional Level)
3.3 Communicable Disease Epidemics	Diagnostic research, malaria chemotherapy studies, and AMR surveillance through the Faculty of Basic Clinical Sciences.	**Moderate to High** (Regional Public Health)
3.4 Non-Communicable Diseases & Mental Health	Oncology services, cardiovascular diagnostics (ECG), metabolic disorder management, and community health screenings.	**High** (Tertiary Hospital Level)
3.c Healthcare Workforce & Financing	Accreditation and graduation of MBBS doctors, medical laboratory scientists, and pioneer nursing students.	**High** (National Healthcare Capacity)

Strategic Recommendations for Acceleration

1. **Deploy Mobile Rural Telemedicine Units:** Formalize mobile health outreach programs equipped with basic diagnostic tools and digital health access to extend primary care into remote areas of Anambra State.
2. **Establish Campus-Wide Mental Health Frameworks:** Create centralized mental health and counseling centers across all three campuses (Igbariam, Uli, and Awka) to provide structured psychosocial support for students and staff.
3. **Expand Health Insurance Enrollment Drive:** Partner with the Anambra State Health Insurance Agency (ASHIA) to achieve 100% health insurance coverage for all enrolled students and institutional staff.

Signature:  Date: 24/09/2026

Prof. Kate AZuka Omenugha, Fnipr

Vice Chancellor