Progress Report: SDG 4 (Quality Education) – Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU)

2024/2025 Session

Executive Overview

Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU) aligns its institutional strategy with **Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4: Quality Education)** by fostering inclusive, equitable, and technology-driven higher education. Anchored on the university's **"3Vs Agenda" (Values, Viability, Visibility)** spearheaded by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kate Azuka Omenugha, COOU focuses on curriculum relevance, rigorous academic standards, digital capacity building, and internationalization across its three campuses in Igbariam, Uli, and Awka.

Key Areas of Progress & Implementation

1. Academic Quality, Curriculum Reform & Accreditation

To ensure high-quality degree outcomes, COOU continuously updates its curriculum and enforces strict academic standards:

- **NUC Accreditation & Resource Verification:** COOU regularly hosts National Universities Commission (NUC) teams for resource verification and accreditation across its faculties, including Education, Law, Social Sciences, Engineering, and Health Sciences.

- **Integrity & Standards Enforcement:** The administration has implemented zero-tolerance policies against examination malpractice and academic irregularities, reinforcing institutional integrity.

- **Teacher & Educator Training:** Through the Faculty of Education (spanning Science Education, Vocational Education, Educational Foundation, and Library Science), COOU trains skilled secondary and tertiary educators to support Nigeria's broader educational sector.

2. Digital Transformation & Workforce Capacity Building

Recognizing digital literacy as central to modern quality education, COOU has integrated technology into teaching and administration:

- **Digital Literacy & ICT Testing:** The university conducts promotional ICT examinations for non-academic and academic staff to deepen digital skills across university administration and instruction.

- **E-Library & Information Systems:** COOU maintains an expanded e-library portal (`elibrary.coou.edu.ng`) and IT infrastructure, providing students and faculty with remote access to academic journals, databases, and digital learning tools.

- **Future-Oriented Pedagogy:** Through its Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, COOU embeds emerging technologies and practical tech skills into the student experience.

3. Inter-Institutional Collaborations & Global Academic Visibility

COOU actively expands academic networks to expose students and faculty to global best practices:

- **Institutional MoUs:** Partnerships, such as the strategic MoU with Nasarawa State University (NSUK), facilitate joint research initiatives, shared academic resources, and student/staff exchange programs.

- **International Scholarly Dissemination:** COOU faculty members actively present peer-reviewed research—including STEM education and AI integration—at international conferences in Africa, Europe, and Asia.

- **Inaugural Lectures & Research Forums:** The university routinely hosts inaugural lectures, departmental symposia, and national workshops to promote lifelong learning and knowledge creation.

4. Equitable Access, Student Support, and Alumni Engagement

- **Alternative Pathways to Higher Education:** COOU operates the Joint Universities Preliminary Examinations Board (JUPEB) program, diploma courses, and postgraduate frameworks, creating flexible access routes for diverse learner demographics.

- **Alumni Giving & Bursaries:** Active alumni chapters support underprivileged students by donating academic materials, funding departmental facilities, and providing direct academic scholarship gifts.

Performance Summary against SDG 4 Targets

SDG 4 Target Area	COOU Operational Contribution	Impact Level
4.3 Equal Access to Affordable Tertiary Education	JUPEB access programs, multi-campus degree offerings (Igbariam, Uli, Awka), and alumni bursary schemes.	**High** (Regional & Student Community)
4.4 Relevant Skills for Employment & Entrepreneurship	Practical vocational training, entrepreneurship curricula, and AI/robotics initiatives.	**High** (Graduate Employability)
4.a Learning Environments & Digital Infrastructure	Upgraded campus E-libraries, ICT infrastructure, and modern research laboratories.	**Moderate to High** (University System)
4.c Qualified Teachers & Academic Staff Capacity	ICT staff competency assessments, teacher training via Faculty of Education, and international exchange support.	**High** (Institutional & State Level)

Strategic Recommendations for Acceleration

1. **Establish a Dedicated Open & Distance Learning (ODL) Hub:** Develop accredited online and blended degree programs to expand access for working professionals and geographically remote students across Sub-Saharan Africa.
2. **Expand STEM Incubators & Tech Bootcamps:** Partner with industry tech leaders to institute structured coding, data science, and innovation bootcamps for non-computer science students.
3. **Formalize Disability Support Infrastructure:** Systematically retrofit legacy lecture halls across all campuses with physical ramp access and acquire assistive technology software for visually or hearing-impaired learners.

Signature:  Date: 24/09/2026

Prof. Kate AZuka Omenugha, Fnipr

Vice Chancellor