**NAME OF PILOT PROJECT**: “Sporting Coders.”

**BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECT**: The netball team of Tare Pet Montessori Group of Schools, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, Nigeria.

**PROJECT DURATION**: Twelve weeks (6th January to 23rd March 2024).

**PROJECT IMPLEMENTERS**: Tare Pet Montessori Group of Schools and CSED (Community Sport and Educational Development) Initiative.

**PROJECT EQUIPMENT SUPPORTER**: Lord’s Taverners UK.

**PROJECT SUPERVISOR**: Bayelsa State Netball Association.

**BRIEF OVERVIEW**: The Sporting Coders pilot programme is a life skills training programme for secondary school girls that intends to address the issue of the low rate of girls participating in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) by using the game of netball to provide them with access to take part in coding. During the twelve weeks’ duration of this programme, 21 netballers will learn coding and take part in netball training for a period of four hours every Saturday morning. Currently, access to coding education in Nigerian schools is a luxury for a few students. The game of netball was almost a dead sport in Nigeria until recently. So, the aim of this pilot project which has the potential of being replicated on a large scale level all over Nigeria is to use access to two scarce resources (netball and coding), to motivate, empower, and promote the girl-child access to equal learning opportunity in a safe space.

**PARTNERSHIP/FUNDING**: The authorities of Tare Pet School is responsible for providing the computer desktops and the supply of electricity, the payment of the salaries of the two IT instructors, three P.E. Teachers, as well as cooks that prepare the lunch of the twenty-one participants on Saturday. Lord’s Taverners supports us by providing the netballers with free netball jerseys, gowns, and balls. Trustees of CSED Initiative provide funds (purchase of food items, providing of educational vouchers, payment of honorarium to instructors/P.E. Teachers, donation of books to school library, and supply of netball balls/training bibs) for running the project. The representative of Bayelsa Netball Association carries out oversight activities and also liaise with the project implementers and other relevant sports and education stakeholders.

**SDG ALIGNMENT**: This pilot programme aligns with SDG 5 (achieve gender equality), SDG 4 (quality education) and SDG 3 (good health and well-being).

This project aligns with the Kazan Action Plan, Theme 1 – developing a comprehensive vision of inclusive access for all to sport, physical education and physical activity;

This project aligns with part 3 (resource mobilization, programming and implementation) of the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace.

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES**: The expected outcomes are below:

Beneficiaries become aware of the opportunities available in the STEM area, as well as become able to carry out basic coding tasks.

Beneficiaries feel more confident about their future career options.

Beneficiaries develop skills that will enable them to keep fit and deciding to pursue a career in netball in future.

Beneficiaries gaining from learning the importance of respect for each other and their opponents, as well as teamwork in the netball court and in the computer lab.

Improving the awareness of the game of netball among the students of the school, and other school aged youths in the local community.

**MECHANISM FOR MEASURING AND EVALUATION**: This is done through weekly telephone discussions with the Head P.E. Teacher, half-way project report and end of project report. At the end of the programme in March 2024, a questionnaire with a certain number of questions that are relevant to this particular project would be handed over to the 21 netballers, three P.E. Teachers, two I.T. instructors. The returned questionnaires would them be evaluated by an independent programme monitoring/evaluation expert. The feedback from the beneficiaries of the programme and the experienced learned will help the programme implementers when rolling out this particular programme or a similar programme in future.

**CHALLENGES/LESSON LEARNED**: Based on the feedback (i.e., half-way report) from the Head P.E. Teacher of the school, the unusual very hot weather in Nigeria currently affect the training of the netballers. The netballers have to be provided with more water intake. The organiser will take this into serious consideration while planning our next “Sporting Coders” programme. Also, based on the feedback from the Head P.E. Teacher, the organiser will ensure that we make provision for at least one netball balls per two students in future training event. This was brought to our attention two days ago. By next Monday, ten new netball balls (6 training and four match balls) will be delivered to replace the balls that are currently used by the students that are currently taking part in the “Sporting Coders” programme.

N.B. Attached are the event banner for the” Sporting Coders” and a photograph of the celebrating students of Tare Pet after they won the Netball Challenge event in 2023.

Cornelius Ehimiaghe

CSED Initiative

23 February 2024