

and tyre checks as part of truck maintenance. Through the project, trucks travelling along various routes across the country are pulled over and checked for the roadworthiness of their brakes, tyres, lighting and reflectors etc. Some 80% of the trucks checked during the past year were impounded, removing un-roadworthy vehicles from roads and indicating that this is a serious concern for the safety of South African road users.

Arrive Alive Content strategy

We have continued our partnership with Arrive Alive, providing the initiative with critical road safety education information for its readers. In return, Arrive Alive covers all Imperial safety events in its publications. This has enabled Imperial to gain a large audience and further its road safety awareness objectives.

“We can only commend Imperial for its Road Safety initiative that is going from strength to strength. From the emails sent to the Arrive Alive website by numerous teachers and parents, we witness how the Safe Scholars’ project is touching lives and is valued by the community. The requests for assistance from other schools is evidence of the need among South Africans to be provided with the information and skills to be safer on the roads.”

Johan Jonck, founder & editor at Arrive Alive

HEALTHCARE

Unjani Clinics network

Aligned to its business of distributing healthcare and pharmaceutical products, Logistics Africa laid the foundations of the commercially-structured Unjani Clinics project based in South Africa. This enterprise development project empowers black women professional nurses through the ownership of primary healthcare container clinics in townships and rural communities. Not only does the project facilitate job creation, but the low-cost model also provides quality affordable primary healthcare services to the employed, but medically uninsured, people in these communities.

Since 2013, Imperial has invested R24,2 million in enterprise development funding to establish 23 Unjani Clinics which have served over 141 000 patients. A total of 25 women have been empowered through the project which has increased their economic earning capacity above what they would have earned in the public or private healthcare sector. The initiative has also created employment for more than 75 additional people.

Around 84% of the South African population does not have medical insurance, placing service and quality pressures on government healthcare facilities. The Unjani Clinics network provides an alternative primary healthcare service for those able to afford some cost towards their healthcare needs. Services include wellness and baby clinics, chronic disease management, HIV/AIDS screening and education, and general healthcare education. Clinics are generally staffed with three employees, typically a professional nurse, a clinic assistant, and a security and maintenance provider.

Through Unjani Clinics NPC, established by Imperial and the custodian of the initiative, professional nurses are appointed based on a stringent set of criteria and an in-depth interview process. This ensures that the nurses we partner with uphold the work ethic of Unjani Clinics, placing patients first and complying with the agreed terms. Those selected are provided with the necessary tools and guidance to assist their success. The network is managed on a firm but fair basis, with the intention of understanding individual issues that arise and working together on agreed solutions.

The nurses and clinic assistants receive five days of classroom-based training on basic finance and business management, human resources, customer service, marketing and the Unjani Clinics operating manual. Learning is further supported through ongoing onsite mentoring and training.

Regulatory compliance is a key issue, particularly patient confidentiality, compliance with health regulations and legislation, and the responsible use of products to ensure patient safety. Compliance to a five-year enterprise development agreement is strictly monitored through operational and financial audits.

A lack of patient management systems within the clinics is challenging from an administration and control perspective. Unjani Clinics NPC is shortlisting suitable systems to

be funded by GIZ and for implementation towards the end of 2016. In addition, an information management system will be implemented providing Unjani Clinics NPC with centralised real-time dashboards, enabling the effective management of operational issues.

The commercial sustainability of the initiative is a critical factor in raising future funding. For Unjani Clinics NPC to become self-sustaining, it is estimated that the network must expand to around 50 clinics. As more capacity is built into the network, the investment per patient decreases. Over the past year the additional nine clinics opened have resulted in a reduction in the investment per patient from R216 at June 2015 to R173 at June 2016. The initiative aims to attract funds from the 1% net profit after tax enterprise development target set by the dti Codes. In March 2016, Johnson & Johnson joined the initiative

providing the funds to expand the network to 35 clinics. Discussions are underway with other corporates and an application has been made to the Jobs Fund which, if successful, could see the network expanding to 70 clinics by December 2019.

“It’s a brilliant concept! I have never looked at incentivisation in a positive light until now – these nurses understand that if they don’t provide a quality service, their patients will not return!”

**National Department of Health
Deputy Director General for Primary Healthcare, Jeanette Hunter**

Clinic-in-a-Box™

The Imperial Health Sciences’ Clinic-in-a-Box™ solution also allows for the rapid deployment of much needed clinics in Africa. The prefabricated pop-up clinics can be assembled in a day and are equipped to deliver a total primary healthcare service to remote areas. Qualified nurses carry out immunisations, HIV testing and provide advice and counselling on HIV prevention.

