

Committed to the lifetime financial wellness of South Africans

At the heart of what MMI does as a business, is its commitment to the lifetime financial wellness of South Africans, a commitment echoed by its CSI arm, the MMI Foundation. For the Foundation to realise its purpose of improving the lifetime social and financial wellness of people, communities and businesses, it dedicates itself to investing in partnerships with government, non-profit organisations and communities in need. Through MMI brands Guardrisk, Metropolitan and Momentum, it oversees, guides and supports projects in the field of sports development, disability and education (including consumer financial education). Common to all these projects is their alignment to national priorities and the Millennium Development Goals, interlinked with the specific needs of local communities.

Education has been and will remain an undisputed national priority. And, rightly so. When the 2014 results of the annual South African Household Financial Wellness Index – a partnership between Momentum (one of MMI's brands) and Unisa – was released earlier this year, it too emphasised the importance of education to build the resilience of households. The data showed a direct correlation between the collective level of education within a household, and its ability to face off economic challenges and remain financially well. It also pointed to the necessity of financial education to grow financial capability and safeguard households.

Grassroots partnerships to large scale initiatives

Poor education has left a wave of young people largely unemployable and economically destitute. The Foundation has committed itself to staving off this wave by supporting education initiatives, including consumer financial education, across the country.

Annually it devotes more than 60% of its allocated funds to education. Some are large-scale collaborative projects, which unite the leading experts, resources, and relevant stakeholders to come up with best practice models and influence policy like its support of the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT). Others materialise in on the ground curriculum and teacher support in rural areas like Mpumalanga through the Momentum brand, where the dedication of teachers and ambition of students meet. And, because it is never too early to start investing in the future, some initiatives, specifically that of the Metropolitan brand, focus on strengthening Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres.

Removing Barriers

Where potential barriers to quality education exist, greater effort is made towards eliminating them. The logistical complexities of reaching rural schools in the Eastern Cape with medical trucks might require hours of planning, but once there, addressing academic underperformance resulting from poor eyesight, takes but a few minutes. Through its partnership with Mercy Ships SA, Momentum is providing eye tests to rural schools.

To ensure students are focused on learning, and not distracted by the challenges in their environment or the lack of basic necessities like food and clothing, Guardrisk has partnered with various schools and organisations for destitute children to support their schooling careers. Over the years initiatives have included construction projects to build secure learning environments, food gardens and staff raising money for textbooks and school shoes. Recently, they've invested in specialised learning equipment for schools for the disabled.

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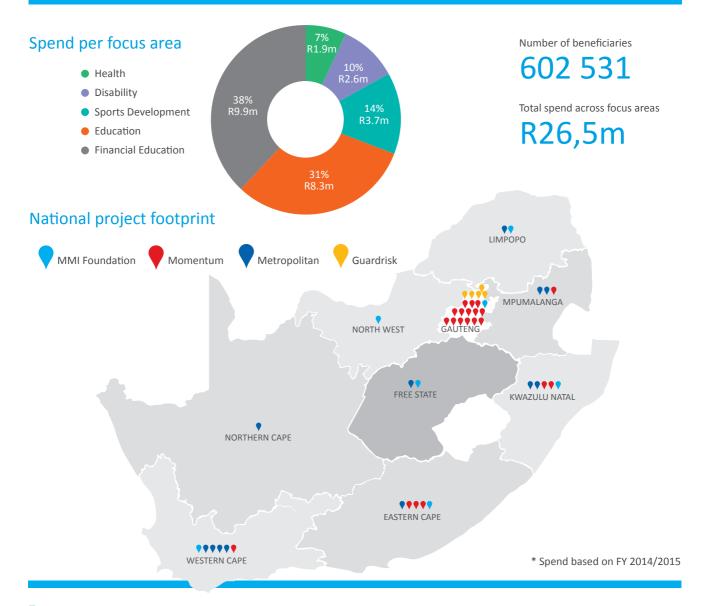
In terms of financial education, Metropolitan hosted its regular Invest in Your Future workshops across the country to promote financial education and wellness within local communities. Momentum's Making Money Matter financial literacy board game aimed at high school learners, offered youngsters the opportunity to make financial mistakes which would otherwise be very costly, within the confines of a game, while its Motheo Financial Dialogues unpacked various topics associated with group insurance and retirement funds. Motheo consisted of radio broadcasts aired over ten vernacular community radio stations in Gauteng, and facilitated face-to-face sessions held with listener clubs.

The MMI Foundation, through its continued support of education initiatives, is supporting the MMI intention of being an active corporate citizen. The various MMI brands remain at the forefront of this and the next page contains some of their project highlights in numbers; numbers which all speak to the vision that every effort invested in education, is an investment in a better future for South Africa.









Focus areas





Health

2 projects



Education

2 projects

"The Foundation helps us to assist children in fulfilling their potential" Wim Els The Actuarial Society of South Africa

METROPOLITAN



Health

4 projects



Education

(including financial literacy projects) 12 projects



Sports Development

2 projects

"They have a passion for unleashing financial freedom to the underprivileged." Bernice Rose Unity in Africa

momentum



Education

(including financial literacy projects)
11 projects



Sports Development

5 projects



Disability

8 projects

"With their support we are raising achievement levels in Maths." Nicky de Bruyn Director: Uplands Maths Outreach

GUARDRISK 🐕



Health 1 project



Education 4 projects

"The school aims to give the best possible education to destitute children. Guardrisk makes it possible for us."

for us. "
Riana Anderson
Principal: Pure Hope Kids

Overview of education initiatives





5 ECD centres and 1 school renovated



2 000 pre-schoolers receiving quality education



120 qualified as ECD pratitioners 100%

Matric pass rate for UJ Metropolitan Academy



1 000 community members attended financial education workshop



practitioners trained in financial literacy



Highlight:

Mitchells Plain Primary School Project – Recycle to Save and Spend.

1 200 learners: collected 4 520kg of recyclebles, raised R1753, and started a vegetable garden.







+ + + Promoting creativity and environmental awareness

momentum



1 600 Math kits to 1 200 learners



30 M2E sports bursaries



8 000 eye tests in rural schools



1 500 trained in special needs education



educators supported



3 000 radio minutes covering financial matters in African languages



59 financial education community workshops



5 schools playing a financial boardgame



Highlight:

25 caddies from across South Africa graduating with a National Diploma in Professional Golf at eta College. Endorsed by the PGA, these women and men can now earn an income as coaches.





245 employees raised school fees for 300 learners







165 children supported with food and educational necessities



700 learners received school shoes



When employees get involved, the power to change our society is truly unlocked.

That is the motto of the Lebone (Sotho word meaning 'light') CSI team at Guardrisk. Always eager to become personally invested, staff highlights include renovation and clean-up days and career days hosted at their Sandton offices.

"The irony is when we become involved as volunteers in communities, especially where children are concerned, you receive more in return. You come away changed and hopeful about the future. That is why every initiative in education has actually been a highlight," says - Thabo Qoako, Chairman Lebone Committee