What Africa can teach the world Even though it often seems that nurses in Africa work against insurmountable odds, it is very important to realize that Africa does in fact have some lessons to teach the world regarding innovation in nursing education and practice.

it is often a daily struggle and challenge to be a nurse and to carry out nursing care within such a resource-constrained environment. The lack of relevant resources can make nursing care a very complex task; however, Africa does teach one to be creative and resourceful. The nurse in Africa has to find ways to "make do" and to find ways around a particular obstacle; this requires the nurse to be creative with less or to devise ways to get the job done with what is available. The African Journal of Emergency Medicine has in fact recognised this unique strength in Africa and capitalized on it to develop a "resource innovation competition" (African Journal of Emergency Medicine, 2015). This competition challenged African emergency care staff to design, devise or produce a wanted resource for healthcare delivery using only locally available materials. It is often said by people who work in Africa that "If you can make it work in Africa…..you can make it work anywhere!" Due to the situation in which they work on a daily basis, nurses in Africa appear to have developed a level of resilience; they learn how to recover quickly from the difficulties or challenges that they face. Resilience is recognised as the ability to effectively manage a situation and to turn it into a positive learning experience. Resilience is thus very important in the management of professional and organisational stress, as well as promoting innovation. For example, there is often no or limited equipment available for teaching or for clinical practice, but in the words of one clinician, nurses have to do "the best job they can, with what they have got. Often washing and reusing equipment until it falls apart … trying to assist where possible." Nurses in Africa have to develop a great deal of patience, as things often do not happen as planned or on time, and resources always seem to fail at the most inopportune moment. They need to develop the skills to be able to work and organize themselves within a sometimes chaotic environment and to be flexible and adaptable enough to make it work. The nurse's role requires a great deal of tolerance for uncertainty, lateral thinking and innovation.