



KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

DATE: 3 July 2026

UPDATE ON WEEK 16 OF FMD RESPONSE

1. INTRODUCTION

This report highlights the FMD control activities for the week 29th September 2025 to 3rd October 2025. The activities include the awareness activities and sanitary controls in the FMD affected areas of the Shiselweni region, Lubombo region and other parts of the country.

2. WEEK 16 REPORTS

Vaccination progressed well in all the planned dip tanks in week 16 even though the rains disrupted the plan on Monday the 29th September 2025. By the end of the week, a total of 19 dip tanks were vaccinated. All 19 dip tanks were getting the first dose of the vaccine. 23 clinical cases of FMD were picked up when Mpunzini dip tank in Siphofaneni was vaccinated. Because of this occurrence, more investigation will be conducted at Mpunzini and Babili (a contact of Mpunzini dip tank) in the coming week.

There were no new FMD reported cases from Nkonjane dip tank in Mambane. The samples that were collected from this dip tank were eventually sent to OVI (RSA) for testing and virus typing. Result are expected by the end of week 17(next week). It has been reported that Nkonjane, Ncephu and Mtibalati cattle all graze at Phisweni. This report has prompted that Ncephu and Mtibalati be vaccinated in the coming week 17.

No reports of new cases have been reported in the previously vaccinated dip tanks at Hluthi, Lavumisa and Lubulini sub regions after the booster shots were given.

3. WEEK 16 VACCINATION REPORT

In week 16, a total of 17178 cattle were vaccinated in a 19 dip tanks. Of these cattle, 165 were mop up from week 15. The vaccinated dip tanks are in Tikhuba, Siphofane, Sithobela, Lubuli, and Mbulungwane sub regions.

The vaccination coverage was less than 80% in eight of the dip tanks that fall under Lubombo region and three dip tanks had a vaccination coverage of over 100%. This could have been caused by the poor records in those dip tanks where the number of cattle on register and the cattle that physically attend dipping do not tally.

4. AWARENESS AND SENSITIZATION

An awareness and sensitization meeting for Gungvwini livestock farmers was held at Mtfongwaneni inkhundla on Tuesday the 30th September 2025. The meeting was attended by 77 people comprising of veterinary staff, feedlot farmers, cattle, goats and sheep farmers and the Royal Eswatini Police. The community was grateful for the engagement and they requested that such should continue throughout the country.

5. SANITARY CONTROLS AND GENERAL INSPECTION

Cordon Line

150 m from Welcome School towards Ntsalitje was covered this week. Treated poles and standards were installed and barbed wire will be added in week 17. The area in which the fence is being erected is rocky which has slowed down this activity.

Check Points

- i. Someone was caught at Mbulungwane checkpoint for smuggling wild game carcass. This person was then arrested at Hlathikulu and will appear before the magistrate court on Monday the 6th October 2025.

6. NEW INFECTIONS

Three new dip tanks had suspect cases in week 16. **Thandabantu** and **Nissi Trust** reported cases, they were investigated and awaiting laboratory confirmation. During vaccination, 23 suspect cases were picked up at **Mpuzini** (a contact of Mbabala) dip tank in Siphofaneni sub region.

7. CHELENGES FOR WEEK 16

- i. The rain on affected the vaccination program, however all teams managed to catch up later in the week. Access roads to some dip tanks were damaged and vaccinators were forced to walk to get to the dip tanks.
- ii. There is no PPE for the wet weather, as a result some check points were not properly working.
- iii. The shortage of transport made it hard for all the planned activities to be achieved.
- iv. Discrepancy in the registered cattle at dip tanks versus those that physically dip.
- v. There was shortage of branding irons, healing oil and cattle prodders.

8. ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK 17

i. Vaccination Schedule

The vaccination schedule for the week beginning 6th October 2025 to 10th October 2025 will be as follows;

| Date | Day | Dip Tank |
|-----------|-----------|---|
| 6.10.2025 | Monday | Mfuku Sharmay Fannie Mbalenhle Amaswazi Lavuthuza Mhhohlo Duma Mountain View Nissi Trust Maluleka Mkhulu |
| 7.10.2025 | Tuesday | Gucuka Vandersand Mtfombotsi Ron Spring Ncephu Thambo Nhlonhla Oberland Emandleni Malahleni |
| 8.10.2025 | Wednesday | Gucuka Henwood Khundusane |

| | | |
|-----------|----------|-------------|
| | | Madvubeni |
| | | Nhlupheko |
| | | Kenswick |
| | | Thandabantu |
| | | Putte |
| | | Mdlankomo |
| | | Gragmore |
| | | Kuneleni |
| | | Ncephu |
| 9.10.2025 | Thursday | Lomagengane |
| | | Malayida |
| | | Mgudeni |
| | | Lovunya |

Vaccination will start at 0530hrs

ii. BVI Technical Mission

The delegation will start arrive on the 5th October 2025 and depart on the 10th October 2025. This mission will be fulfilling their FMD post FMD vaccine supply mandate. During this mission, the team will;

- a. Conduct field appraisal of the disease situation and the performance of the current vaccination programs.
 - b. Collect clinical and epidemiological samples for confirmatory diagnosis and vaccine strain matching.
 - c. Provide on-site technical advice on vaccination strategy.
- ii. The awareness and sensitization of the Lubombo Regional Development Team will be done on Tuesday the 7th October 2025.
- iii. There will be an inception meeting of an FAO TCP on FMD on Friday the 10th October at the George Hotel. This TCP is an initiative to assist Eswatini in the response against FMD outbreak.