



KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

DATE: 3 July 2026

UPDATE ON WEEK 17 OF FMD RESPONSE

1. INTRODUCTION

This report highlights the FMD control activities for the week 6th October 2025 to 10th 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 17 REPORTS

Most of the dip tanks vaccinated in week 17 were TDL (private farms) and the vaccine coverage recorded in most of these was less than 80%. This could have been caused either by the poor record keeping in these dip tanks or the fact that a lot of dip tanks had to be vaccinated during the week. TDL farms with multiple kraal owners were a major challenge in week 17 as some kraals did not turn up for the vaccination.

It was further noted that the TDL dip tanks that had multiple camps were presenting a very high risk to the FMD control because of wrong registration. The different camps were registered as one dip tank yet they were spreading across other dip tanks or even sub regions. Because of this wrong registration, farmers were moving their animals in between the camps without regulation thus putting other dip tanks at the risk of getting infected. Example of such dip tanks were Zenzele and Thambo.

Lastly, some TDL farmers were refusing/ resisting to have their animals vaccinated. These were Matingwenya (Manyonyaneni), Zenzele and Lismore. This issue was reported to the Head of Department who is still working on it.

Another issue that was of major concern in week 17, was the presence of foreign cattle, especially RSA cattle in the country which were well known to the VAs and the EUDF. These animals were said to have been residing in between the two countries and the owner was said to be feared by everyone. When this anomaly was pointed out to him, he threatened the soldiers.

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

There are only 6 dip tanks which are yet to be vaccinated. These are Zenzele, Granite, Lesmore, Matingwenya (Manyonyaneni government farm), Lockner and Feddlers Green.

The BVI mission was a success. During this mission, 5 dip tanks were visited. 10 blood samples and tissue samples were collected from 3 dip tanks which had an active FMD infection. 30 other blood samples for PVM were collected from 3 dip tanks where the animals were fully vaccinated against FMD.

3. WEEK 17 VACCINATION REPORT

In week 17, a total of **10 913 cattle** were vaccinated for FMD from **43 dip tanks**. An additional 44 cattle which were a mop up from last week's dip tanks were vaccinated.

Since this phase of vaccination (using the second batch of vaccines) started on the 22nd September 2025 to date, **46 458** cattle were vaccinated in 85 dip tanks. Of these, **5 418** cattle were getting booster shots in 8 dip tanks.

NB: To date a total of 50190 cattle are fully vaccinated in 72 dip tanks.

4. AWARENESS AND SENSITIZATION

There was an awareness and sensitization meeting at Siteki RA offices. In attendance was the Lubombo RA, RS, chiefs, tindvuna and bondabazabantu. In total, 43 people attended this meeting which was held on the 7th October 2025.

The meeting featured a detailed presentation of the on-going FMD outbreak in Lubuli and Mambane. The engagement proved highly productive in raising awareness among traditional leaders about their critical role in supporting outbreak responses efforts and community mobilization.

SANITARY CONTROLS AND GENERAL INSPECTION

Cordon Line

750 m of fence was completed from Welcome School (in Hluthi) towards Ntsalitje in week 17. In total, 4.995km of the cordon line has been completed from Mkhwakhweni towards Ntsalitje since June 2025. The progress is expected to be faster since the rocky terrain has all been done.

The cordon line in Tikhuba is still intact but there are no cordon guards to man the line.

5. NEW INFECTIONS

New suspect cases were reported at Thambo, Kuneleni, Mountain View, Gragmore dip tanks.

The 19 suspects at **Thandabantu** and the 31 at **Nhlupheko** were confirmed. But the suspects at **Nissi Trust** and **Mpunzini** which were reported in week 16 did not have lesions.

6. CHALLENGES FOR WEEK 17

- i. Inaccurate or outdated on register cattle populations in most of the TDL dip tanks.
- ii. Limited cooperation from kraal owners and farm managers.
- iii. Lesmore and Zenzele farm owners are currently refusing to have their cattle vaccinated.
- iv. There are staffing gaps at TDL dip tanks, the VAs are no longer servicing these dip tanks.

7. ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK 18

i. Vaccination

The vaccination schedule for the week beginning 13th October 2025 to 17th October 2025 will be as follows;

Date	Day	Dip Tank
13.10.2025	Monday	Fiddlers Green Morning Star (Mop Up)
14.10.2025	Tuesday	Lockner Etjeni Granite Range Mhohlo (Mop Up)
15.10.2025	Wednesday	Matingwenya

Vaccination will start at 0530hrs

ii. Surveillance verification by kraal at Mndobandoba, Makhulusihlenge, Mabhunu, Mahlabaneni and Nkonjane dip tanks.

8. RECOMMENDATION

- i. Complete vaccination at remaining dip tanks.
- ii. Establish Mambane check point with NDMA support.
- iii. Strengthen border law enforcement coordination
- vi. Correct dipping registers inaccuracies and improve animal ID system.
- vii. Expedite diagnostic and confirmation and reporting.
- viii. Launch awareness and cross-border collaboration.

