



KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

DATE: 3 July 2026

UPDATE ON WEEK 28 AND 29 OF FMD RESPONSE

1. INTRODUCTION

This report highlights the FMD control activities for week 28 (22nd to 26th December 2025) and week 29 (29th December 2025 and 2nd January 2026). The activities include the awareness activities, sanitary controls and animal movements in the FMD affected areas the country.

2. WEEK 28 AND 29 REPORTS

In the past two weeks, booster FMD vaccination was given at Mhlumeni dip tank and an emergency FMD vaccination was given at Mbulu dip tank in Mliba sub region after laboratory confirmation of FMD in that dip tank. Both dip tanks were vaccinated on the 22nd and 23rd December 2025

A number of dip tanks reported FMD cases for the first time in the past two weeks. What is disheartening were the FMD cases which were reported in the none vaccinated dip tanks Nhlngano in the Shiselweni region after about five months of no FMD reports from the fully vaccinated dip tanks in that region. The new infection is suspected to have spread from Barebies in RSA where an active FMD outbreak has been reported. Occurrence of cases in Shiselweni is threatening the fully vaccinated area because in January it will be six months post FMD vaccination and the immunity of the trivalent vaccine that was used in the area lasts for six months.

Since it was the festive season, 130 animals were moved for slaughter from the FMD affected areas in the Shiselweni and the Lubombo regions to various abattoirs that have been approved to slaughter high risk animals.

On Friday the 2nd January 2026, BVI reported that they failed to pick any antigen on samples submitted from pigs in Mpaka. There was however, an indication of SAT1 which was picked on the one bovine sample submitted from Mpaka. The BVI laboratory has requested that more samples of fresh lesions should be submitted for virus typing of the FMD virus that is circulating in the Mpaka/ Matsetsa outbreak.

3. INSPECTIONS

The following dip tanks were inspected and were found to be having no cases of FMD.

- Lankraal dip tank in Luve/ Mliba dip tanks were inspected for FMD in the past two weeks and no cases of FMD were found.
- Mdlebeni dip tank in Manzini, Nyakeni following arrival of 2 animals from Ntabamhloshana dip tank.
- Godogodo dip tank in Shiselweni

4. AWARENESS AND SENSITIZATION

Two awareness and sensitization meetings were held in this reporting week. These were;

- Lubombo Field Veterinary Staff

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The meeting was attended by 40 VAs, AHIs and Livestock Extension Officers. An update of the current FMD status was discussed and the SOP for slaughter pigs and cattle was discussed. The staff appreciated this engagement and requested that the issue of escorting the consignments to the abattoir be revisited since there was shortage of transport. They also requested that the livestock movement permits for the slaughter animals be issued only in the sub-regional offices from where the animals were moved, this was another level of control.

- Mbilaneni Chiefdom was sensitized about the threat of FMD at Barebies in RSA and the infection of Zombodze and Maphumzane dip tanks.

5. NEW INFECTIONS

Nine (9) dip tanks reported FMD cases in the country in the past two weeks. These were;

- Zombodze, Maphumzana and Ntimakati dip tanks in Nhlanguano sub region in the Shiselweni region. It is suspected that these dip tanks were infected by cattle from Barebies in RSA where an active FMD outbreak has been reported. Samples collected from these dip tanks tested positive for FMD on NSP in the laboratory.
- Cota dip tank in Siphofaneni sub region
- Mphelave, Mncitsini, Zibabalane and Mphameni in Luve/ Mliba sub region.
- Bantwanyana dip tank in Ngculwini sub region

6. VACCINATION REPORT

A total of **2783 cattle** in **2 dip tanks** were vaccinated during week 28.

- **First-time vaccination:** Mbulu dip tank where 1854 cattle were vaccinated.
- **Booster vaccination:** Mhlumeni dip tank where 929 cattle were vaccinated

7. MOVEMENT OF LIVESTOCK TO ABATTOIRS

A lot of animals were moved for slaughter in the past two weeks;

- 28 cattle were moved for slaughter from the Lubombo region
- 83 cattle, 9 goats and 10 pigs were moved for slaughter from the Shiselweni region.

8. CHALLENGES

- a. Inability to establish FMD check points to contain the disease in the Mliba area. This has been caused by failure of NDMA to provide the necessary resources. NDMA wishes to engage with the Ministry of Agriculture and discuss the new strategy (Countrywide vaccination) which the print media has been reporting about in week 29.
- b. Inability for BVI to isolate an antigen from the porcine tissue samples which were sent to the laboratory 2 months ago. BVI has requested submission of fresh samples. This is a huge challenge because there are no more pigs which are currently infected with FMD. Samples can only be obtained from cattle.

9. REPORT/ FEEDBACK FROM HODs

Acting DVLS did not attend the meeting hence there was no feedback from the HODs on the FMD control strategy that is being implemented OR on any plan to change the FMD control strategy.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made;

- a. It is recommended that dipping be suspended for at least two FMD incubation periods in some infected dip tanks in order to minimize mixing of cattle and hence to limit spread of the FMD

while awaiting vaccine. Some of the dip tanks to be affected are Zombodze, Maphumzane, Chibidze and Mkhondvo in the Shiselweni region. Other dip tanks where dipping will be affected will be communicated to the office of the DVLS.

- b. The PS engage the Army Commander to instruct the soldiers to stop allowing illegal importation of cloven hooved animals and their products at the informal crossings.
- c. Issuing of immediate slaughter permits will be done at the sub-regional offices from where the slaughter animals are to be moved.
- d. Vehicles transporting immediate slaughter animals from the FMD guard areas to the abattoirs be sealed from origin instead of them being escorted because there are not enough vehicles and personnel to escort them. The seal numbers will be indicated in the livestock movement permits and the seals will be supplied by government.
- e. A carcass permit/ health certificate will be issued by the VPH department (Meat Inspector) to move carcasses from the abattoirs to their final destination.
- f. To quarantine the dip tanks that are along the Nkomati River. This will be done as a precaution considering that some of those dip tanks are contacts of the FMD infected Luve/ Mliba dip tanks.

11. ACTIVITIES FOR WEEK 30

i. Vaccination

Vaccination Schedule for week 30

Day	Date	Dip Tank
Monday	5.01.26	Lukhondvo
Wednesday	7.01.26	Ntabamhloshana Mzimpofo Mozane Holomi
Thursday	8.01.26	Mgubudla Dlume Babane
Friday	9.01.26	Mop - up

*Vaccination will start at 0530hrs

NB: All dip tanks except Ntabamhloshana will be getting first FMD Vaccination shots.

There will be NO VACCINE LEFT after week 30 vaccination

ii. Inspection/ surveillance of the following dip tanks will be conducted;

- Maphophoma, Masunkula, Mbothane, Lubisana, Mphameni and Mbangamadze in the Luve/ Mliba sub region.
- Sifutfweni and Mphatsa dip tanks in Malandzela which are contacts of FMD infected Mphameni dip tank.
- Macebo, Flixton, Eden Valley, Melethi and Mawulwane dip tanks in Piggs Peak which are very close to the FMD infected dip tanks of Mliba.

iii. FMD Post Vaccine Monitoring (PVM) will commence in week 30. This will be done in concurrent with the Eswatini Livestock Value Chain Development Project and (ELVCDP) vaccination program.