



KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

DATE: 24 July 2026

UPDATE ON WEEK 56 AND 57 OF FMD OUTBREAK RESPONSE

1. INTRODUCTION

This report highlights the FMD control activities for the week 56 and 57 (6th July 2026 to 17th July 2026) of the FMD outbreak response. The activities include FMD vaccination, awareness activities and sanitary controls in the country.

2. WEEK 56 AND 57 HIGHLIGHTS/ REPORTS

The additional 78 700 doses of FMD vaccine which was awaited arrived in the country on the 8th July 2026. Arrival of this vaccine increased the vaccine stores in the country to 138 100 doses. The 200 000 doses which were paid for has all been delivered. Available vaccine in store is.

Vaccination continued well in the past two weeks where a total of **65 541 cattle** were vaccinated. Of these, **7 284 cattle** were getting the first FMD vaccine shot and **58 257 cattle** got booster shots. Three planned dip tanks (Thandizwe, Sivule and Hhuhhuma) in the Shiselweni region could not be vaccinated because cattle did not come to the dip tank. No cases of FMD were seen in all the dip tanks that were vaccinated in the past two weeks. Salivation was reported in some dip tanks in the country and on investigation, the suffering from Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD).

On Monday the 13th July 2026, a team of experts from the World Organization for Animal Health was in the country on invitation of the Honorable Minister for Agriculture to assess the FMD control strategy that is being implemented. This meeting was attended by all Veterinary Officers in the country (those in service, the interns and the retired), the piggery and red meat Livestock Extension Officers. The Experts confirmed that Eswatini has established a technically credible FMD control programme that is consistent with international standards. They also advised the country to draft an FMD implementation plan. However, the country's aspiration to regain official FMD freedom will require sustained political commitment, predictable financing, strengthened biosecurity, enhanced laboratory capacity and intensified regional collaboration.

On the 14th to the 16 July 2026, the country hosted a SADC training workshop on FMD Prevention and Control. This workshop was attended by all SADC countries except DRC and Comoros. In attendance were WOA, FAO and SADC Representatives. There were 9 participants from Eswatini. From this meeting, the following was done;

- Sharing of experiences of countries on the FMD control.
- The new WOA guidelines of importing cloven hooved animals and their products during this FMD pandemic.
- The importance of zoning of countries.
- Prioritize stopping FMD at the source of infection instead of focusing on controlling the spread of the disease.
- The importance of regional coordination in FMD response.

3. VACCINATION

In the past two weeks, a total of 65 541 cattle were vaccinated. Of these, 7 284 cattle were getting the first FMD vaccine shot and 58 257 cattle got booster shots. The total number of cattle vaccinated thus

far is the total number of cattle vaccinated since the mass vaccination campaign started is **453 629 cattle**.

Since the arrival of the vaccine in June, 106 348 cattle have been vaccinated. Of these **84 378** got booster shots and **21 970** were given the first dose.

The remaining vaccine is **69 000 doses**. Vaccination will resume on the 27th July 2026 where **63 000** animals will be given booster shots in 85 dip tanks.

4. AWARENES AND SENSITIZATION

- FMD awareness and sensitization activities continued in selected dip tanks across the country. Livestock owners were reminded of the importance of complying with disease control measures, including movement restrictions, vaccination programs, and reporting suspected disease cases promptly.

5. CORDON LINE

230m of cordon fence was covered week 56 and 210m in week 57. This makes a total of 440m of barbed wire which was applied on poles that were erected in the beginning of the outbreak. The fence is at Mboloma (area close to Sikhwebezi). Since the start of the outbreak, a total of 12.440km of 12 strands cordon fence has erected out of 18km in Shiselweni. While the cordon guards were working on the fence, they noted that RSA cattle were still driven into the country for grazing.

In Lubombo preparations to start fencing Mpondweni area are being finalized. An old tractor has been fixed to transport the fencing material to the site, there might be a challenge of fuelling this tractor. For proper execution of this exercise, there will be a need to getting 10 Cordon Guards to Tikhuba and 5 Cordon Guards to Sitsatsaweni to form the fencing team.

6. CHALLENGES

The following challenges were encountered in the past 2 weeks;

- A lot of cattle were absent during vaccination
- Neighboring countries' cattle are still grazing in the country. During vaccination in Tikhuba, 3 foreign bulls were found at the dip tank. One bull was from Manyiseni and 2 were from RSA. These were also vaccinated.
- Lack of tractor to move fencing material to the cordon area that is being rehabilitated.

7. WAY FORWARD

- Vaccinate the three remaining dip tanks as follows;

Date	Day	Dip Tank
21.07.2026	Tuesday	• Thandizwe
22.07.2026	Wednesday	• Hhuhhuma
23.07.2026	Thursday	• Sivule

- Sensitization and awareness campaigns will be done in Mahlangatja dip tanks, and will continue in the as follows;

Date	Day	Dip Tank
20.07.2026	Monday	Mbobo (539)
21.07.2026	Tuesday	Mambeni (586)
22.07.2026	Wednesday	Mbita (286)
23.07.2026	Thursday	Mgomfelweni (878)

- Correction of dip tank registers throughout the country so that all missing animals are removed from the registers in accordance with the Guidelines of the National Veterinary Service (GNVS).
- Considering that there have been no FMD cases reported in Manzini in the past weeks, all Manzini checkpoints will migrate from wet to dry checkpoints. Spraying will only be done in the high risk vehicles. This will be effective immediately.
- Because of the reduced risk in Shiselweni, some of the check points will be decommissioned. In week 58, assessment will be done and decision on which checkpoints to decommission will be taken by the end of the week.

