

# WHO ESWATINI

## NEWSLETTER





IN ISSUE

4

1

**WHO donates cars to strengthen palliative care in Eswatini**

2

**Strengthening capacity of Healthcare workers to fast-track cervical cancer elimination in Eswatini**

3

**Eswatini launches rollout of injectible Prep to strengthen HIV prevention efforts**

4

**Eswatini hosts excellence awards to honor health workforce**

# WHO donates Cars to Strengthen Palliative Care in Eswatini



**“ Thank you to WHO for your generosity. This vehicle will enable us reach more patients , respond more quickly to urgent needs and deliver services with greater efficiency,”** said Princess Temtsimba during the handover ceremony

The World Health Organization (WHO) Eswatini has strengthened access to compassionate, people-centred palliative care by donating two pre-owned vehicles to Eswatini Hospice at Home and Hope House Community Care Centre. Speaking at the handover ceremonies, WHO Representative Dr. Susan Tembo highlighted that the donations symbolize dignity, compassion, and a shared commitment to supporting people with life-limiting illnesses.

She commended Eswatini Hospice at Home and Hope House for their longstanding roles in providing home-based and residential palliative care, often reaching patients in remote communities. Dr. Tembo stressed that reliable transport is essential

for delivering medicines, counselling, home visits, and community outreach.

Representatives of both institutions expressed gratitude, noting that the vehicles will improve responsiveness and service efficiency. Dr. Tembo reaffirmed WHO's

commitment to working with the Ministry of Health and partners to expand palliative care services, strengthen the health workforce, and improve access to essential medicines in alignment with national priorities and the Sustainable Development Goals.



WHO also donated a car to Hope house community care ; a residential, faith-based hospice that has for many years provided holistic palliative care to people living with HIV, tuberculosis, cancer, and other serious conditions.<sup>5</sup>



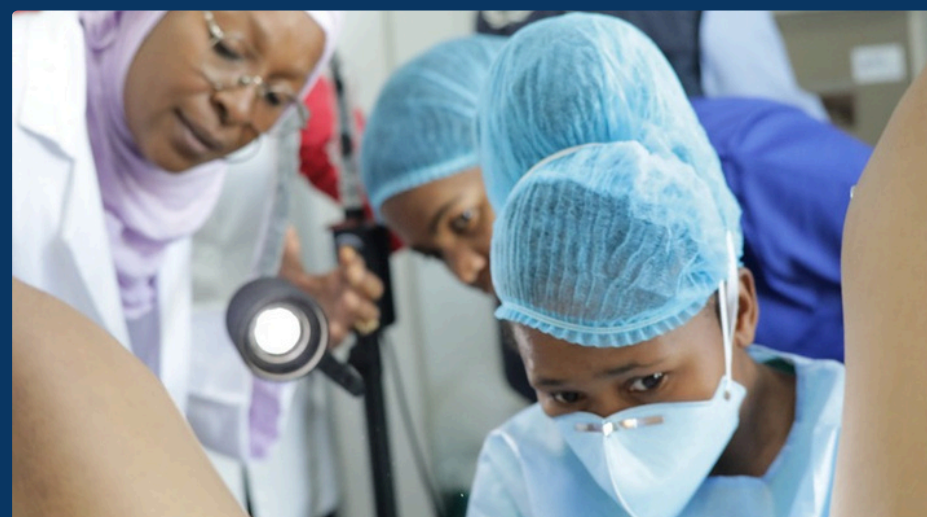
# Strengthening Capacity of Healthcare Workers to Fast-Track Cervical Cancer Elimination in Eswatini



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The LEEP training in Eswatini, facilitated by WHO, exemplifies how national and regional collaboration, evidence-based training, and government ownership can translate the Global Strategy for Cervical Cancer Elimination into action.”

WHO Representative, Dr Susan Tembo,



Eswatini continues to face one of the world’s highest burdens of cervical cancer, prompting the Ministry of Health supported by WHO to accelerate implementation of the Cervical Cancer Elimination Plan (2024–2028).

Central to this effort is a task-sharing initiative that empowers nurses to perform LEEP procedures, while HPV testing and VIA services are increasingly available at primary care facilities. From 6 to 17 October 2025, WHO Eswatini, the Ministry of Health, and WHO AFRO conducted an intensive 10-day LEEP training to strengthen national capacity for treating cervical precancerous lesions. The course combined theory with supervised clinical practice across Phocweni, AHF, and Chakaza clinics. Thirty-one healthcare workers participated,

performing more than 80 procedures including over 33 LEEPs which helped clear an existing backlog. The training improved clinical decision-making, strengthened coordination between screening,

treatment, and pathology services, and reinforced adherence to WHO standards. It also highlighted the need to establish a National Cervical Cancer Task Force and update national guidelines. Next steps include completing 30 LEEP cases per trainee for certification by March 2026, integrating data into DHIS2, and establishing mentorship and quality-assurance mechanisms bringing Eswatini closer to cervical cancer elimination.

# Eswatini to Accelerate Malaria Prevention Through Targeted Community Engagement



**“It’s important to educate the community on prevention and early detection of Malaria to prevent deaths ,”**

WHO Representative, Dr Susan Tembo

The World Health Organization (WHO) continues to support the Ministry of Health and partners in accelerating malaria prevention efforts. In recent years, Eswatini has experienced a rise in imported malaria cases, followed by a concerning increase in indigenous transmission, particularly during the rainy season. Since January 2025, the country has recorded a significant uptick in malaria activity, and by epidemiological week 22, a total of 360 cases and five deaths had been reported.

Of the 338 cases investigated, 66% were classified as indigenous, indicating active local transmission. Surveillance data show that the Lubombo and Hhohho regions were the most affected, largely attributed to the influx of seasonal migrant workers particularly sugarcane workers who live in

poorly enclosed shelters that increase exposure to night time mosquito bites. As the rainy season progresses, WHO-supported health education and community engagement sessions are being conducted in the most affected communities in Lubombo and Hhohho,

targeting the most vulnerable groups, including sugarcane workers and informal sector farmers. The aim of these sessions is to promote malaria prevention, early detection, and timely treatment, especially among high-risk and vulnerable populations.



# Eswatini Hosts Excellence Awards to Honor Health Workforce



Winners of the day posing with Minister of Health Mr Mduduzi Ngwenya and WHO Representative Dr Susan Tembo.

Beyond their clinical roles, they were praised as catalysts for better health outcomes, shaping a more compassionate and resilient health system and strengthening the health workforce in Eswatini.



The Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), recognized the outstanding contributions of health professionals at the Eswatini National Health Excellence Awards Ceremony.

This event honors the champions who form the backbone of the country's health system. The ceremony was attended by Minister of Health Hon. Mduduzi Matsebula, WHO Representative Dr. Susan Tembo, the Ministry of Health Parliamentary Portfolio Committee, and partners. Dr. Tembo stated that the awards provide an important opportunity to pause, reflect, and honor healthcare workers whose commitment, innovation, and service strengthen health service delivery and improve patient outcomes across the country.

"The Excellence Awards recognize professional and leadership qualities that define quality healthcare," she added. Healthcare workers including physicians, nurses, and allied professionals are the main pillars of Eswatini's health system, crucial in crises as they respond to re-emerging diseases and other public health threats with resilience and professionalism.

A special tribute honored their courage during COVID-19, including adoption of new technologies to protect communities. Their tireless efforts and calm leadership exemplify bravery and excellence. The event aligned with WHO guidance, pledging continued support to harmonize education, strengthen governance, and regulate the health workforce.





## Winners of the day:

Best Tertiary Hospital:  
Manzini Government Hospital

Best Regional Hospital:  
Good Shepherd Hospital

Best Health Centre: Nhlanguano  
Health Centre

Best Public Health Clinic:  
Phocweni UEDF

Best Ministry of Health Program:  
NCD Program

Best Health Facility Implementing  
Health and Safety Initiatives:  
Matsanjeni Health Centre

Best Health individual contributing  
to outcomes at the Facility Level:  
Sister Andrew Jele

Best Regional Community Health  
Worker Winners: Hlatjwako, Gugu  
Gama, Phindile, Lomagugu  
Khumalo, Philisiwe Kunene.



# Eswatini Launches Rollout of Injectable Prep to Strengthen HIV Prevention Efforts



**His Excellency the Right Honourable Prime Minister Russell Mdluli Dlamini (middle) during the World AIDS Day national commemoration at Hhuhkwini Inkhundla accompanied by cabinet Ministers and partners lighting a candle to symbolise the commemoration of World AIDS Day**

sustain progress amid evolving health, social, and economic challenges. Lenacapavir's introduction promised improved adherence, expanded prevention choices, and reach to populations facing barriers to existing methods. Regional events across all four regions ensured nationwide engagement and community participation, reinforcing

The Kingdom of Eswatini officially launched Lenacapavir, a groundbreaking long-acting injectable HIV prevention option, marking a major milestone in the country's ongoing fight against HIV. The rollout was officiated by His Excellency the Right Honourable Prime Minister Russell Mdluli Dlamini during the World AIDS Day national commemoration at Hhuhkwini Inkhundla, underscoring Eswatini's leadership and innovation in HIV prevention and response. The commemoration carried a localized theme, "Eswatini Overcoming Disruptions, Transforming the AIDS Response," reflecting the commitment to



Eswatini's people-centered approach of collective responsibility among government, communities, partners, and individuals in ending AIDS as a public health threat. The launch positioned Eswatini closer to an AIDS-free generation by strengthening prevention and accelerating progress toward national and global HIV targets.



# NAPHS Resource Mapping Workshop Advances Health Security



The Kingdom of Eswatini convened a resource mapping workshop after developing and costing the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS), marking a significant step in strengthening national health security. Developed through a robust multisectoral process that involved government ministries, departments, agencies, and development partners, the plan reflects health security as a shared national responsibility. At the workshop's opening, WHO Representative Dr. Susan Tembo praised the Government's leadership and ownership throughout the NAPHS process, from initial consultations to finalisation and costing. She stressed that this coordinated approach ensures the NAPHS translates into practical, sustainable actions to prevent, detect, and respond to public health emergencies. The workshop aimed to identify and align existing financial and technical resources, minimize duplication, and highlight critical gaps requiring support, thereby improving coordination among partners and accelerating priority health security interventions. Dr. Tembo underscored that the NAPHS will serve as a key resource mobilisation tool, guiding government and partners in securing domestic and international resources in a structured, coordinated manner. She also thanked Africa CDC for financial support and ongoing collaboration, and acknowledged guidance from WHO Headquarters and AFRO to align with global and regional best practices.



# Cohort 3 of Field Epidemiology Frontline Programme Graduate



The World Health Organization (WHO), alongside national and development partners, joined the graduation ceremony for Cohort 3 of the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) Frontline, marking a key milestone in strengthening Eswatini's public health workforce. WHO Representative Dr. Susan Tembo congratulated the graduates and commended their commitment to protecting communities across Eswatini.

She described the occasion as a meaningful moment for graduates and all stakeholders invested in building strong, responsive public health systems. During the training, participants engaged in disease surveillance,

outbreak investigation, and data analysis. Beyond classroom learning, they investigated suspected outbreaks, analyzed surveillance data, and produced scientific reports that informed public health action. Practical field experiences were central to building rapid-response capabilities, critical thinking, and the ability to translate data into timely interventions. The work of the participants enhanced the country's capacity to detect and respond to health threats, underscoring the frontline epidemiologists' vital role as the first line of defense. Dr. Tembo reaffirmed WHO's ongoing commitment, alongside government and partners, to strengthening public health capacity and Eswatini's preparedness.

# Strengthening Evidence for Action: WHO Supports Eswatini's National Survey on Schistosomiasis and STH



WHO, through ESPEN, collaborated with Eswatini's Ministry of Health on the 2025 national Impact Assessment of schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminthiasis (STH). Set for November 2025, the survey aimed to advance toward 2030 elimination targets by clarifying current transmission, evaluating progress, and guiding the next phase of Eswatini's NTD response.

Schistosomiasis and STH remained health risks, especially for school-aged children. A 2015 national map showed substantial prevalence, justifying nationwide school-based mass drug administration (MDA). Between 2016 and 2023, five MDA rounds used praziquantel and albendazole across four ecological zones, while foundational, uneven coverage, and lack of follow-up hindered impact assessment. The 2025 impact assessment would address these gaps, informing decisions on intervention adjustments and resource allocation. WHO's support spanned technical, operational, and financial aspects. ESPEN refined the national protocol, standardized diagnostics and data collection, and aligned procedures with global guidelines.

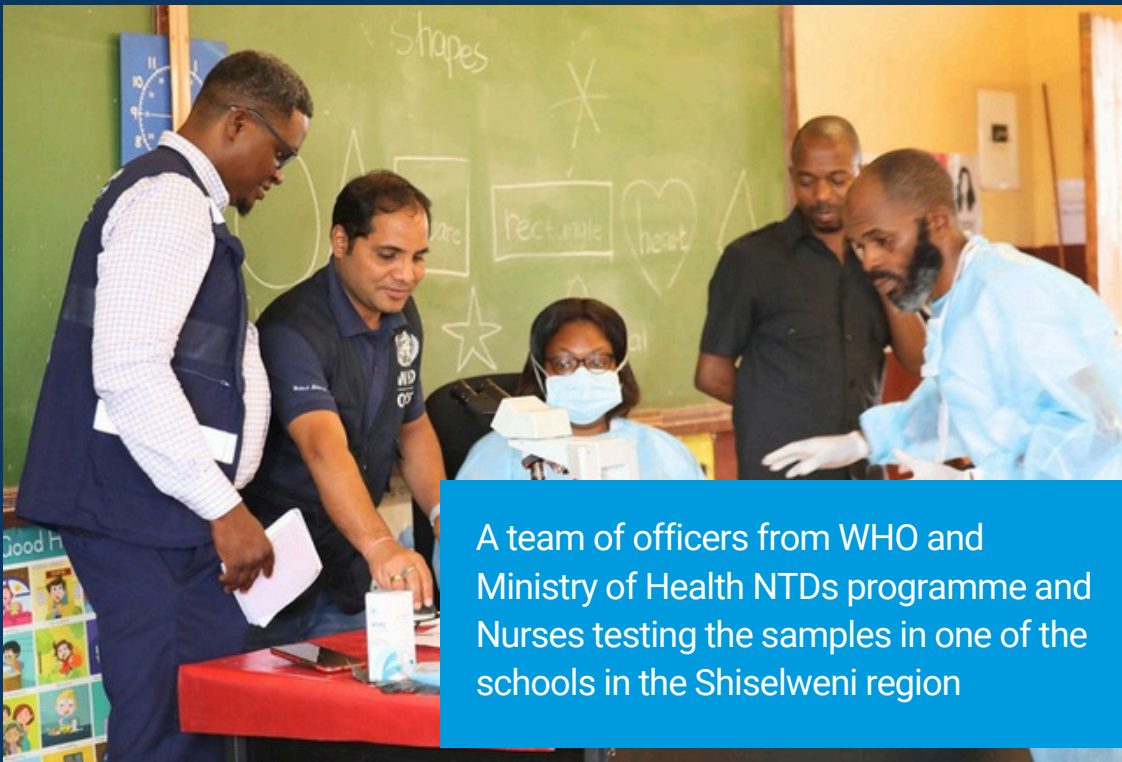


Field teams received capacity-building in urine filtration, Kato-Katz, and ESPEN Collect for data capture. ESPEN funding enabled field deployment, equipment procurement, and real-time data management, strengthening national ownership and ensuring rigorous assessment.

The 1,240 students from 40 schools across zones provided a nuanced epidemiological view, informing targeted measures, sentinel surveillance, and progress toward eliminating NTDs as a public health problem in Eswatini. Dr. Susan Tembo underscored that the initiative was a strategic investment in the health system, capacity building, and child health.



# Story Highlights



A team of officers from WHO and Ministry of Health NTDs programme and Nurses testing the samples in one of the schools in the Shiselweni region







# Thank you to all our partners!

## Ensuring no one is left behind



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