



SMALLPOX ERADICATION IN SWAZILAND  
 STATUS REPORT - 8 NOVEMBER 1978

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1. Brief Description of the Smallpox Eradication Programme

One mobile BCG and smallpox vaccination team was set-up in 1967. This team started from the central level, the public health unit, under the supervision of the chief matron and moved from school to school vaccinating not only school children but also non-school-going children, as well as adults living in the vicinity of the schools. The first mass vaccination campaign ended in 1972.

2. Basic Demographic Data: Swaziland

Population	498 929	(1977)
Area	17 364	km <sup>2</sup>
Population density	28.7	per km <sup>2</sup>
Urban population (Percent of total)	16.3	%
Rural population (Percent of total)	83.7	%
Nomadic population (Percent of total)	Nil	
Total number of towns and villages	3 258	

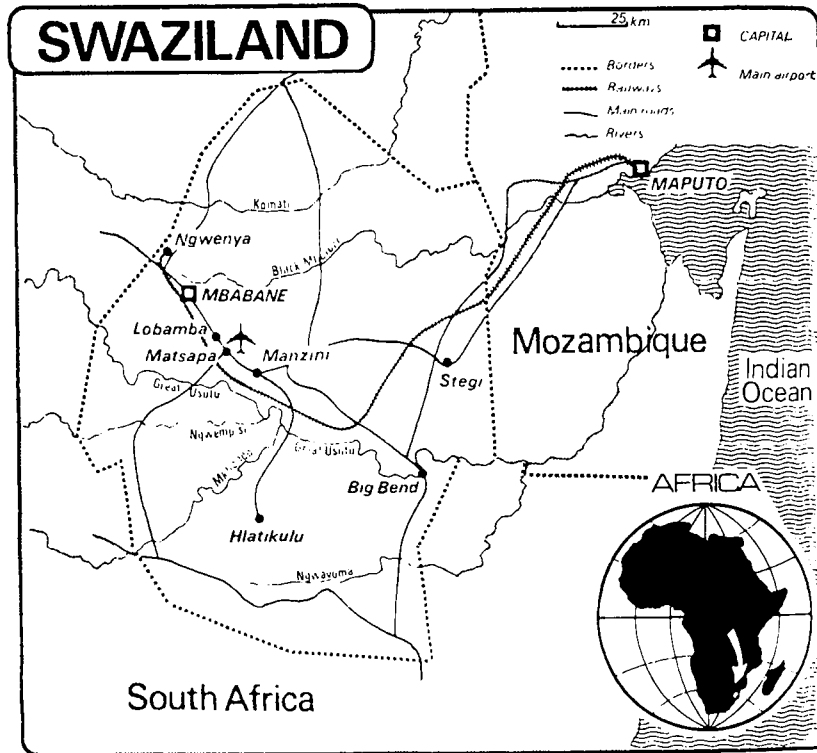


3. Administrative Units

Unit	Total Number in Country
District	4
Sub-district	3
Towns	8

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Source: Africa Year Book and Who's Who 1977.

4. Health System

Number of urban hospitals - 10, clinics - 7

Number of rural clinics - 57

Number of infectious diseases hospitals - 1, wards - 4

Health system structure relevant to communicable disease control: see table below.

<u>Level</u>	<u>Responsible Health Officer</u>
National	Senior Medical Officer of Health
District	Medical Officer District Health Inspector
Health Unit	Health Assistant

5. Reporting System for Notifiable Communicable Diseases

Reports from all health centres and clinics are sent to district urban hospitals which in turn forward a fortnightly report to the medical headquarters at the Ministry of Health in Mbabane. Communicable diseases such as chickenpox are notified as quickly as possible to the Senior Medical Officer of Health by telephone, and appropriate action is immediately taken by the Senior Health Inspector.

Reports are regularly forwarded and nil reports always submitted if no cases are detected.

6. Smallpox Data

6.1 Reported Smallpox Incidence by Year 1963 - 1978

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
1963	95	2
1964	476	3
1965	69	-
1966	73	3
1967 - 1978	Nil	Nil

6.2 The Last Major Epidemic

No information is available concerning the last smallpox epidemic, nor the last smallpox outbreak in Swaziland.

6.3 Suspect Smallpox Case

One suspect smallpox case was reported from Zombodze, P/B 10, Uhlangauo. The patient, Sabelo Fakudze, an unvaccinated nine-year-old male, was hospitalised at the Zombodze Clinic and a laboratory specimen taken. His illness had begun with a fever on 19 August, 1978, followed by a severe rash breaking out on 20 August. Laboratory analysis confirmed that the case was not smallpox.

7. Smallpox Vaccination Data

7.1 Vaccination System

The mass vaccination campaign which started in 1967 ended in 1972. Since then all clinics, health centres and hospitals in the country have been regularly immunising babies a few months after birth as well as children up to the age of 14 years or over.

7.2 Vaccination Performed 1967 - 1978

<u>Year</u>	<u>Primary Vaccinations</u>	<u>Revaccinations</u>	<u>Total</u>
1967	<u>a</u>	<u>a</u>	34 749
1968	<u>a</u>	<u>a</u>	41 990
1969	<u>a</u>	<u>a</u>	36 812
1970	20 169	22 979	43 148
1971	22 901	28 959	51 860
1972	23 085	40 305	63 590
1973	21 866	54 197	76 063
1974	24 683	47 527	72 210
1975	24 207	33 995	58 202
1976	17 793	46 201	63 994
1977 - 1978	Information not currently available.		

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7.3 Vaccination Coverage Assessment

An assessment for the coverage of the population by smallpox vaccination scar survey was done in 1972 and the following results were obtained:

0 - 4 years	93.6 % vaccinated
5 - 14 years	95.0 % "
over 14 years	86.0 % "

8. Chickenpox Data8.1 Reported Chickenpox Cases and Deaths 1976 - 1978

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
1976	319	Nil
1977	81	Nil
1978	Information not currently available.	

9. Laboratory Data

As of 8 November 1978, 26 specimens have been collected and sent to WHO Collaborating Laboratories for analysis. All the results were negative for variola virus. Four specimens revealed herpes varicella virus. The age and sex distribution of the patients from whom specimens were collected are given below:

Distribution of Patients from whom Laboratory Specimens were Collected

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0 - 4	3	4	7
5 - 14	8	8	16
over 14	1	1	2
unknown	1	0	1
Total	13	13	26

10. Status of Field Surveys10.1 Chickenpox Survey

Specimens are being collected from all cases of suspected chickenpox, whether hospitalised or not. This will be carried out until further notice.

10.2 Selection of Localities

Seventy-one localities have been selected all over the country for the survey. The population of these localities vary from 123 to 22 913, giving a total of 149 499 inhabitants, which represents 29.96% of the total population of Swaziland.

10.3 Planning

A meeting was held at the Ministry of Health to brief the District Health Inspectors and the Health Assistants about how field surveys are to be conducted. A "Guide for Surveys" was prepared and distributed to all clinics and hospitals in the country.

10.4 Implementation

The survey work was done while the teams were carrying out their normal environmental health activities. The teams collected information from kindergartens, primary schools, health units, hospitals and markets.

10.5 Supervision

The work was supervised by the Senior Medical Officer of Health with WHO collaboration.

10.6 Recording and Reporting

Appropriate forms were filled by the survey teams and are being kept at the Medical Headquarters in Mbabane to be presented to the International Commission. A monthly report is submitted to WHO. A summary of progress made with field surveys up to the end of October 1978 is shown below.

Field Survey Coverage up to 30 October 1978

Localities:	selected	71
	visited	69
Schools:	selected	213
	visited	169
Health Units:	present	45
	visited	22
Children		
examined:	pre-school age	1 422
	school children	43 513
Adults		
examined:		2 024
Specimens collected:		26

10.7 Final Report

A final report will be compiled when the survey is completed at the end of November.

11. Future Programme up to March 1979

November 1978: Completion of surveys

December 1978: Edit data collected

January 1979: Compile final report

November 1978 to March 1979:

Vaccinate all newborns.

Continue chickenpox survey and collection of specimens.

Investigate chickenpox deaths.

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