

The EU supports health and capacity building for government and NGOs in Swaziland

Today, the European Commission approved projects for a total amount of € 21.3 million in favour of Swaziland. The first project will address HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, child and maternal health; while the second will help build government and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) capacity to better implement development projects.

"This decision reaffirms our commitment to helping Swaziland reverse the deteriorating trends in the health related Millennium Development Goals. Moreover we do so in a manner that supports the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness by working together with the World Bank", said Hans Duynhouwer, Head of the EU Delegation in Swaziland and Lesotho.

Despite being classified as a Middle Income Country Swaziland has the highest HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis in the world. Recent survey has shown that the situation regarding child mortality and maternal health is also worsening.

The EU will contribute € 16.5 million to a joint EU/World Bank health project totalling € 32.78 million. The project will assist the Ministry of Health to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the health sector. It will help improve the Ministry's planning and management capacities and systems as well as rehabilitating front line health facilities, ensuring that they are able to provide a full range of services to Swazis. The project focuses particularly on delivering HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, child and maternal health and environmental health services.

The second action totals € 4.8 million and will build the capacity and improve the coordination of the ministries and Non State Actors (NSAs) involved in implementing EU funds Swaziland. This is expected to lead to a more effective use of EU funds.

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