KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Eswatini's Transition to ICD 11

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Outline

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Background

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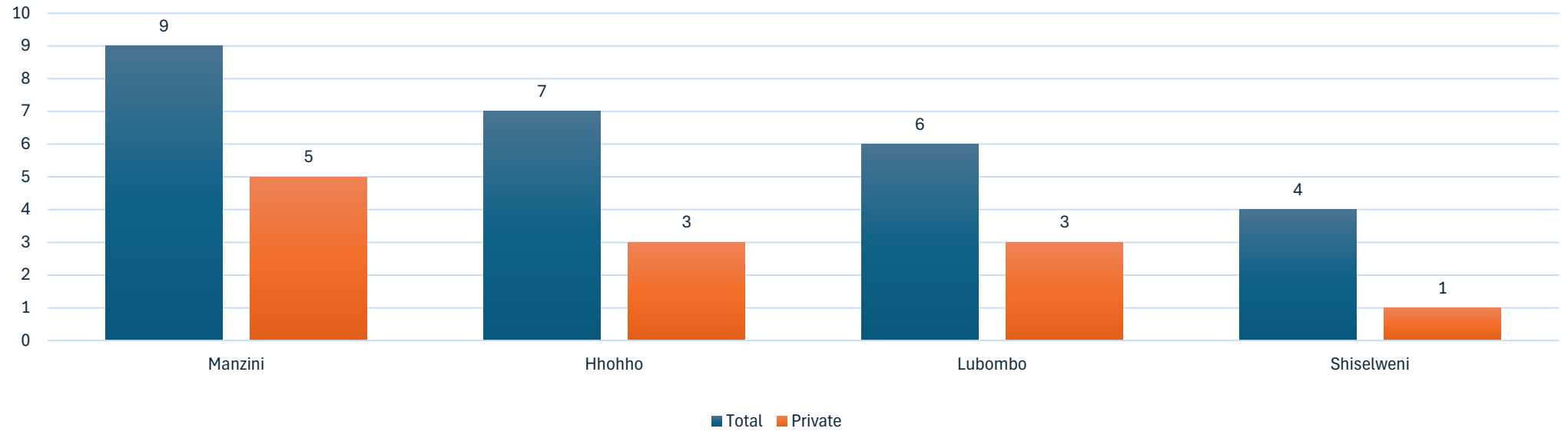
- The Kingdom of Eswatini is a small, landlocked country in Southern Africa, bordered by South Africa and Mozambique, with a total land area of about 17,200 square kilometers. It is one of the few remaining absolute monarchies in the world, ruled by King Mswati III since 1986. The country has two capitals: Mbabane, which serves as the administrative and judicial center, and Lobamba, which houses the legislature and the royal residence. Formerly known as Swaziland, the nation officially adopted the name Eswatini in 2018.
- Eswatini has an estimated population of about 1.26 million people in 2025, up from 1.24 million in 2024, reflecting an annual growth rate of just over 1 percent. The population is predominantly young, with a median age of approximately 22.5 years. While urbanization is increasing, only about 31 percent of the population lives in urban areas, with the majority still residing in rural communities.

Background Continued

- 358 health facilities nationwide
- 246 facilities use the national Electronic Medical Record (EMR) – CMIS (with ICD-11 embedded)
- 39 inpatient sites reporting deaths using ICD-11 MCCOD
- Doctors/Medical Officers: Certifiers & Coders (for mortalities)
- General inpatient cases coded by trained HMIS officers (per region)

Inpatient Facilities in Eswatini by Region



Process

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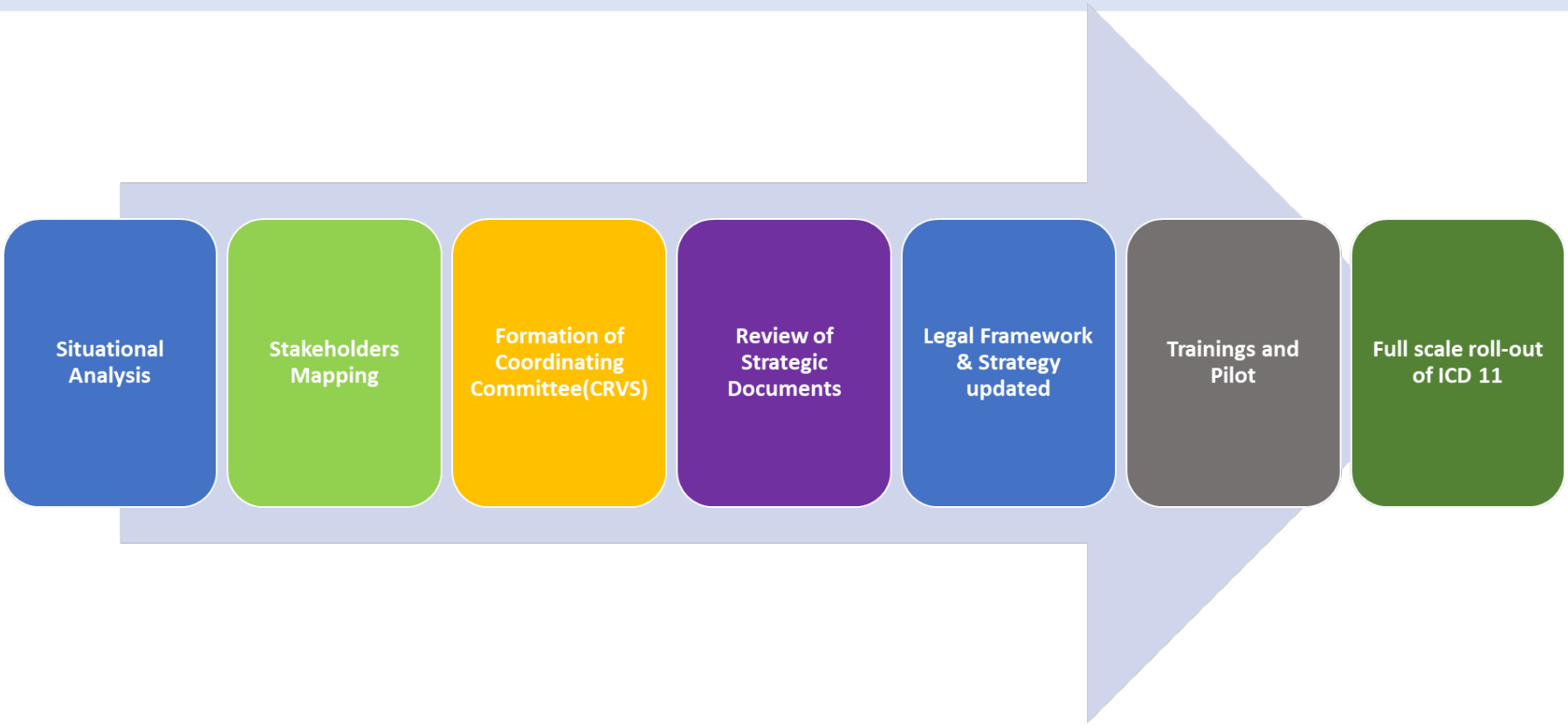

Key Benefits

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- The Introduction of ICD 11 has greatly improved our UCOD, where before then we were having symptoms like headache, fever e.t.c.
- As we were still observing and strengthening the Implementation of ICD 11 our CRVS annual reports also improved
- The Key Master trainers were capacitated by WHO-Afro and they are consistently available for mentorships

Milestone

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- Strengthening of the CRVS Steering committee
- Formulation of the CRVS Policy of 2023
- Doctors/ Medical officers becoming Coders
- CMIS diagnosing using ICD 11
- Analysis done through Anacod 3
- Validation of UCOD using DORIS tool

Data Quality

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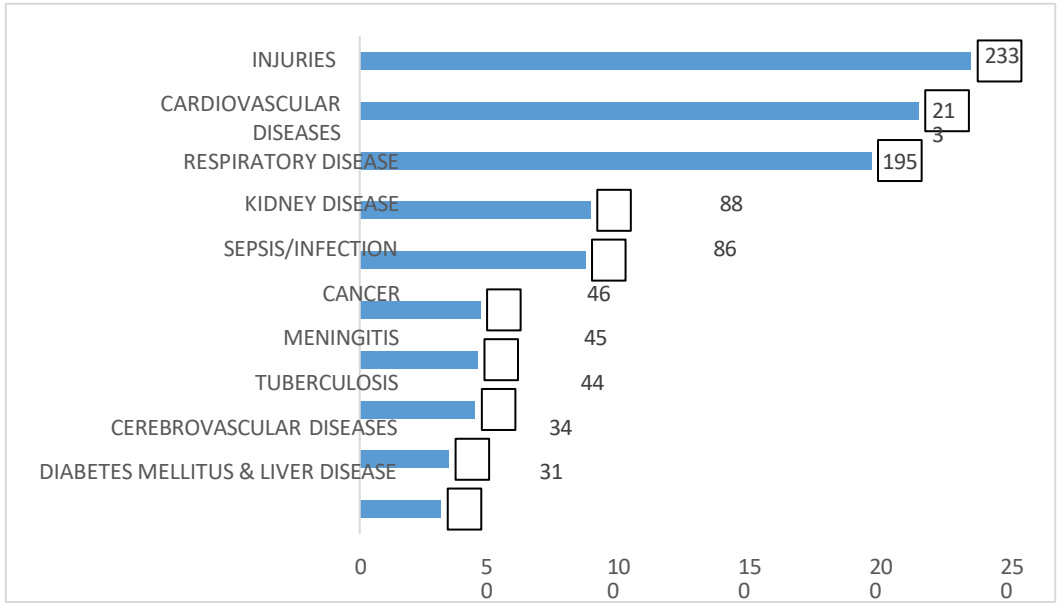
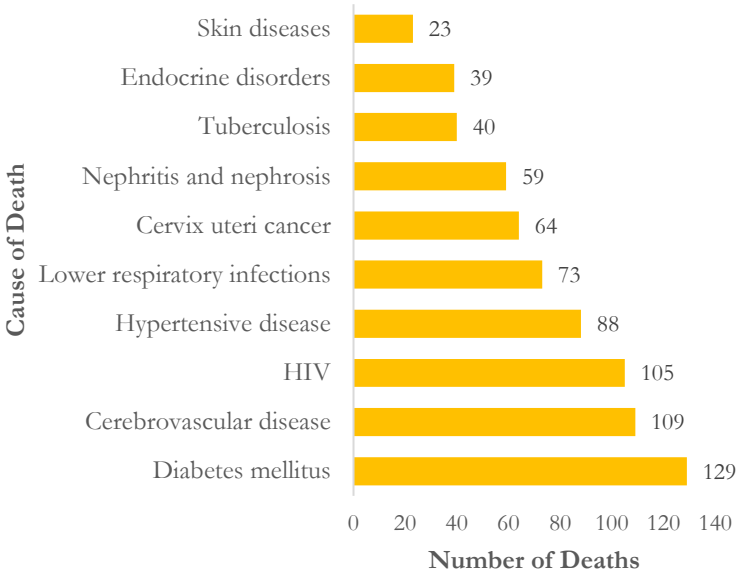
- Top 10 leading causes of death in 2019 versus 2024





Challenges

- 50% of the countries death are community deaths since 2021 to date, a large portion are from communities which don’t have the UCOD
- **Inadequate Workforce Capacity**
- The successful implementation of ICD-11 requires a skilled workforce capable of managing the complexities of the new system. However, Eswatini faces challenges such as a shortage of trained clinical coders and healthcare professionals with the necessary technical expertise.
- **Financial Constraints**
- **Resistance to Change**

Next Steps

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- Resource mobilization for Supportive supervision and Systems interoperability between the Ministry of Health and that of HomeAffairs
- Establishment of Verbal Autopsy program
- Pilot on Verbal Autopsy to have lessons for scale-up

Siyabonga