

**Public**

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: RWANDA COVID 19 HEALTH RESILIENCE  
 Project Number: 2020-0788  
 Country: RWANDA  
 Project Description: The project will finance the reconstruction of the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (the Medical Technology Unit, the National Centre for Blood Transfusion, the National Reference Laboratory and the Research, Innovation & Data Science Division), and potentially other health interventions from the Rwanda COVID-19 National Response Plan.

EIA required: to be determined

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: no

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The project consists of financing investments of the the Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC, part of the Ministry of Health organizational structure) to support the response implementation of the Country to the COVID-19 health emergency and improve its future pandemic preparedness. More specifically, the Bank's project will finance the construction of a modern laboratory building, the "National Health Laboratory Services" (NHLS) in Kigali City, integrating the three divisions of the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (the National Reference Laboratory, the National Centre for Blood Transfusion and the Research Innovation and Data Science).

The project objective is to provide the Country, through the new facility, with an integrated epidemic response and preparedness capacity in the area of diagnostic and research. The investment will also cover other components related to the Rwanda COVID-19 National preparedness and response plan, including medical and IT equipment, general supplies and consumables.

If the project was located within the EU, the construction of laboratory buildings are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU,

<sup>1</sup> Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

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though this type of project might fall under Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development.

As part of the project's feasibility study, the promoter has committed to perform an environmental assessment study. This Study will include the requirement to undertake a full EIA if required by the national legislation.

As for the other components of the project, in consideration of the nature of the emergency COVID response investments (such as purchase of equipment, devices, consumables, reagents) and if properly managed (appropriate decommissioning / disposal of materials), it is unlikely that this type of interventions will have significant negative impact on the environment.

### **Social Assessment, where applicable**

By financing the shortages in health financing and provision of healthcare services during and after the pandemic, the project ensures the medical treatment of the affected population while reducing the negative impacts on the society.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The main scope of the investment is the construction of the "National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS)" in Kigali City.

As part of the project's feasibility study, the promoter has committed to perform an environmental assessment study. The promoter will therefore inform the Bank about any significant environmental issue and EIA requirements related to the project as from the national legislation. In case the feasibility study concludes that the project requires a full EIA, the promoter will perform a full EIA in accordance with the national requirements and in line with the EU EIA process requirements.

With the undertakings and conditions proposed, the project is considered to be acceptable for the Bank's financing from an environmental and social point of view.