

Luxembourg, 13 March 2025

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *RWANDA M-RNA MANUFACTURING HUB (HDX)*
 Project Number: *2024-0438*
 Country: *Rwanda*
 Project Description: *The Project supports the establishment by the Promoter of a mRNA human vaccine facility in Rwanda. Project components are expected to include the furnishing and validation of both R&D and commercial manufacturing facilities, with accompanying quality control and analytical laboratories in Rwanda, as well as the R&D activity for a pipeline of innovative human medicinal products targeting endemic diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV, based on the Promoter's proprietary mRNA technology.*

EIA required: *This is a multi-scheme Framework Loan operation. Some of the schemes may require an ESIA*

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: *no*

Environmental and Social Assessment

The framework loan to the Promoter, which is the Rwandan subsidiary of an established EU based biotechnology company, specialised in mRNA vaccine R&D and production, supports the establishment of an m-RNA vaccine manufacturing facility in Rwanda by the Promoter, as well as the R&D activities for the Promoter's proprietary pipeline of assets

Due to their technical characteristics, some of the sub-Projects to be proposed under this operation are likely to require an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report due to national requirements; or, ii) on a case-by case basis in order to comply with EIB's environmental and social standards.

The Promoter has effective policies and operating procedures in place, which are in-line with industry standards and is deemed to be capable to identify, assess, manage and monitor the environmental and social risks, and impacts associated with the sub-Projects. The Promoter is committed to animal welfare and the responsible use of animals for scientific purposes, ensuring that pre-clinical activities, whether performed directly or by subcontractors, comply with the relevant legislation and guidelines on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, where applicable. The clinical trials are to be conducted in compliance with the relevant legislation and current Good Clinical Practices and ICH standards and the Promoter complies with all the legal standards of anonymisation and data protection.

In most cases due to the size or complexity of the sub-Projects, the Promoter will be required to seek ex-ante approval by the EIB of the allocation to ensure compliance with the Bank's environmental and social standards in addition to the compliance with the sector-relevant national regulations. Key potential environmental risks and impacts for the production of vaccines relate to emissions to water, site contamination and disaster risks.

¹ 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 CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



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EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

The Promoter is in scope but screened out of the PATH framework as it does not operate in a high-emitting sector, and it is not considered as a highly vulnerable counterpart. The Project is considered to be Paris aligned because it meets the low carbon criteria as set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap.

Social Assessment

The company's R&D activities and practices comply with relevant national and EU regulations and the Promoter maintains adequate internal procedures and management practices.

The company has a sound Occupational Health and Safety policy, including a commitment to comply with legal requirements.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Project's activities and investments will support the Promoter to positively contribute to European scientific innovation, hence fostering and nurturing the vital research community, whilst also building vital vaccine manufacturing and R&D capabilities in Rwanda.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Promoter has effective policies and operating procedures in place, which are in line with industry standards. The Project concerns investments for which no significant impact on the environment is expected. Some of the sub-Projects may be subject to mandatory environmental impact assessments, which will be examined on a case-by-case basis. The Promoter is contractually obliged to ensure that the Project, including all sub-Projects, is compliant with the EIB's Environmental and Social Standards and Policy.

Considering the above, including the capacity of the Promoter and the positive social impact of the Project, it is deemed acceptable for the Bank's financing under environmental and social terms.