

Luxembourg, 10 December 2025

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	VAXTHERA INFECTIOUS DISEASES (HDX)
Project Number:	2024-0613
Country:	Columbia
Project Description:	The Project supports the construction, furnishing and validation of the second phase of a commercial scale production facility for vaccines and biological medicines, as well as the technology transfer and R&D activities of a Colombian biotech company targeting areas of high unmet medical need
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	no

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The Project is being implemented in compliance with applicable Colombian environmental regulations and permits (Decreto Lei 2811/1974, Lei 99/1993, Lei 1333/2009, Decreto 1076/2015), Resolución 1402/2018). An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was not legally required under Colombian law (Decreto 1076/2015, Section 2 and Section 5) due to the industrial zone location and nature of activities; however, a detailed environmental and social due diligence (ESDD) was undertaken by a third-party consultant in line with the EIB's Environmental and Social Standards. Relevant permits, including the effluent discharge permit for the La Leonera stream, have been obtained.

The Project's environmental impacts are typical of Good Manufacturing Practice-compliant biologics manufacturing facility and include effluent discharge, air emissions, waste management, and potential nuisance (noise, light). All are considered moderate and manageable. Furthermore, the company has established a dedicated Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) department responsible for compliance with environmental and safety guidelines and regulations, as well as community engagement.

The site is in an existing industrial zone and does not directly affect critical or natural habitats. However, VaxThera is carrying out voluntary restoration and pollution control activities in the Riparian zone of the La Leonera stream, contributing to habitat quality improvements. No offsetting is required.

<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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## **EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework**

The counterpart is in scope and screened out of the Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) framework. VaxThera does not operate in a high emitting sector and is not considered as a highly vulnerable counterpart (Physical Risk Score = 2.31).

## **Social Assessment, where applicable**

The project is located within a designated industrial zone in Rionegro, Antioquia. No involuntary resettlement has occurred nor is expected. There are no land acquisition issues or displacement of people or economic activities.

The surrounding communities include peri-urban populations with limited access to specialized employment opportunities. The project is expected to benefit these communities through job creation, skills transfer and improved public health outcomes. VaxThera has committed to ongoing engagement with residents and to developing a structured community plan in the second half of 2025 to address stakeholder concerns and identify inclusive opportunities.

The project involves the construction and operation of a biologics manufacturing facility, with corresponding occupational health risks. VaxThera has established a dedicated HSE department responsible for regulatory compliance, training, and safety audits. Emergency response protocols and community risk mitigation measures (e.g. noise and effluent control) are being implemented. The promoter has conducted noise monitoring and water quality testing, with results are to be shared with community stakeholders in upcoming stakeholder forums, in addition to environmental authorities.

No specific gender-related risks have been identified at this stage. However, the biotechnology and pharmaceutical sectors have historically been male dominated at the technical and managerial levels. VaxThera has made progress in promoting gender inclusion in leadership and scientific roles and will be requested to report gender balance in employment figures throughout the Project's reporting period.

## **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

A public consultation was held in March 2023 with residents and local stakeholders in the vicinity of the VaxThera manufacturing site in Rionegro, Antioquia. The meeting was part of the environmental and social due diligence process during the site's Phase I construction and included participation from civil society representatives and community leaders.

During the consultation, community members raised concerns related to potential environmental impacts—particularly noise, light, and effluent discharge. These concerns were documented in the official meeting minutes and a set of mitigation commitments and corrective actions was agreed upon by VaxThera.

A dedicated HSE Department has been established at VaxThera, with responsibility for tracking the implementation of community-related commitments and environmental performance. While a formal community board has not yet been set this is expected to be established in the second half of 2025 in conjunction with renewed engagement efforts.

In the interim, VaxThera has engaged with local communities through various public health campaigns, including influenza vaccination drives across multiple municipalities. The company has also donated vaccines to under-resourced departments throughout Colombia, contributing to broader health equity and social goodwill.



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## Other Environmental and Social Aspects

VaxThera has established a dedicated (HSE Department responsible for the oversight and coordination of the company's environmental and social management commitments. The HSE team is tasked with implementing and monitoring the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), tracking compliance with national regulations as well as international best practices in occupational safety, environmental performance, and stakeholder engagement.

The ESMP covers core operational areas including effluent management, noise and air emissions, hazardous material handling, waste disposal, and community relations. Environmental and social considerations have been embedded in both the construction and operational phases, with clearly defined roles and procedures for compliance, incident response, risk management and mitigation, and performance reporting.

The Project significantly advances several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly:

### SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

Through the enhancement of local vaccine production and research capabilities, the Project aims to improve access to essential vaccines, thereby strengthening public health systems and contributing to the reduction of preventable diseases in Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa.

### SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

The establishment of advanced biomanufacturing facilities is expected to generate skilled employment opportunities, promote sustainable industrialization, and stimulate economic growth in the region.

### SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

Through the development of cutting-edge vaccine production technologies and infrastructure, the Project fosters innovation and enhances the resilience of health systems, aligning with the EU's Global Gateway strategy.

### SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

The Project exemplifies effective partnerships between the European Commission, the European Investment Bank, and other key stakeholders (Gates Foundation), demonstrating collaborative efforts to achieve sustainable development objectives.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The Project is expected to deliver significant social and public health benefits, primarily by strengthening local vaccine manufacturing capabilities in Colombia, a country with limited existing infrastructure in this sector. It contributes to improved regional health security, equitable vaccine access, skilled job creation, and the development of Colombia's biotechnology ecosystem. Furthermore, the Project does not pose material environmental or climate risks, is aligned with applicable regulations and good international practice and the Promoter will be contractually bound to implement the Project in accordance with the EIB's E&S standards.

The promoter has taken steps to build environmental and social risk management capacity, including the establishment of a dedicated HSE department, implementation of an Environmental and Social Management Plan, and engagement with regulatory authorities and local communities. The promoter is also addressing historical stakeholder concerns and plans to resume follow-up consultations in 2025 to ensure continued alignment with local expectations. Identified E&S risks — such as construction impacts, effluent discharge, and community engagement — are considered manageable with the proposed mitigation measures and monitoring arrangements.