

Blom Bank

Further clarity on BdL deal – strong capital offers opportunities

- BdL gains came in at USD 433m for FY 16A (368m after tax), o/w USD 173m was used to bolster IFRS 9 provisions (1.3% of RWAs), USD 85m to completely write off operations in Syria, and USD 110m in deferred liabilities (0.8% of RWAs). None of the gains sit in CAR.
- BLOM plans to increase DPS in line with EPS in FY 16 (suggesting a DPS of LBP 1,456/share and providing a yield of 8.4%). Furthermore it plans to redeem preferred dividends (1.5% of RWAs in T1), which should increase earnings by USD 14m or 3.2% on FY 17e earnings.
- The government is in discussions to increase taxes in FY 17e, with BLOM's expected tax rate jumping from 15-17% to 21% (we have pencilled in 22%), still the least affected among peers.
- We increase our TP from USD 14.4 to USD 16.6 (including over provisioning of USD 283m), and offering 44.6% upside, at an implied P/E18e 5.3x and P/tNAV17e of 0.8x.

Substantial benefits from BdL swap. In the investors' call yesterday, hosted by Arqaam Capital, BLOM disclosed that total gains after taxes stood at USD 368m (14.9% of Market Cap), which were allocated as follows: (i) USD 173m to IFRS9 provisions, currently not classified under tier 2 capital. (ii) USD 85m was used to fully write-off the groups' operations in Syria, including their investment operations, and finally (iii) USD 110m was allocated to other liabilities. The additional capital from the deal will most likely be used to pay out dividends, and possibly buy back preferred shares worth around USD 200m.

The luxury of too much capital: With CAR at a high 19%, BLOM will probably maintain its dividend pay-out, boosting DPS to USD 1.0 per share and offering an 8.9% yield. Although BLOM is a conservative bank, it would like to bring the CAR down. The acquisition of HSBC Lebanon should have a marginal negative effect by end of H1. Furthermore, the bank plans to redeem preferred shares that are paying 7%, which should boost EPS by a further 3%. CAR excludes IFRS 9 provisions and other liabilities, which would add another 1.3% and 0.8% respectively. However, we caution on the potential risk of a sovereign downgrade and harmonization in the Basel framework which would increase RWAs (currently zero for government and BdL debt in local currency, and at 100% and 50%, respectively, for foreign currency denominated government and BdL debts).

Effective tax rate could increase to a manageable 21%: BLOM expects its effective tax rate to increase to 21% from 15% on the back of a higher corporate tax rate and other amendments. We also take into account the impact of the expected 1% higher VAT on OpEx. For the rest, we maintain our estimates (NIMs to remain stable at 2.3-2.5%, strong growth in Egypt (8 additional branches to 42), despite FX headwinds, while CoR could possibly surprise after the high level of general provisions).

Stock remains extremely compelling at a P/tNAV17e of 0.8x, P/E18e of 5.3x and a yield of close to 10% (FCF yield even higher).

BLOM Bank - Earnings Call February 16 2017

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Core BUY

USD 16.6

Banks / LEBANON

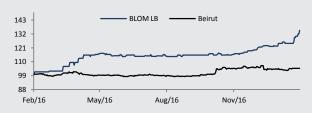
Bloomberg code	BLOM LB
Market index	Beirut
Price target (local)	16.6
Upside (%)	44.6

Market data 2/15/2017

11.5
9.6-11.7
2,473
2,473
1.1
1.1
25%

Year-end (local m)	2015	2016	2017e	2018e
Revenues	1,261	1,991	1,472	1,524
Pre-provisioning profit	773	1,464	918	939
EPS	1.87	2.16	2.01	2.10
P/E (x) (mkt price)	6.0	5.2	5.6	5.3
BVPS	12.3	12.9	14.9	16.0
Tangible BVPS	12.1	12.8	14.8	15.9
P/B (x) (mkt price)	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7
P/TBVPS (x) (mkt price)	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7
DPS	0.83	0.97	1.00	1.05
Div. yield (%)	7.4	8.7	8.9	9.4
EPPS	0.65	1.16	0.63	0.61
RoAA (%)	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.3
RoRWA (%)	2.7	3.3	2.8	2.7
RoATE (%)	16.1	17.7	14.5	13.7
RoEcC (%)	20.0	24.7	19.5	19.0
RAROC (%)	18.0	24.0	18.2	17.9
Net LtD ratio (%)	28.7	29.2	28.5	28.3
Risk Weighted Assets (bn)	20.9	20.3	22.8	24.1
Core Equity T1 ratio (%)	16.1	18.1	18.8	19.2
Tier 1 capital ratio (%)	17.5	19.6	20.2	19.2
Total capital ratio (%)	17.6	19.7	20.3	19.3
NPL ratio (%)	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.5
Coverage ratio (%)	113.8	115.1	114.4	116.3
Number of shares	201	210	210	210

Price Performance



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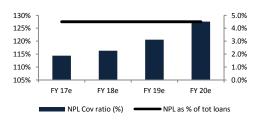


Abacus Arqaam Capital Fundamental Data

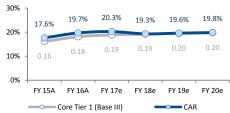




Credit Quality











Blom Bank						
Year-end	2015	2016	2017e	2018e	2019e	2020e
Performance analysis						
Net Interest Margin (%)	2.20	2.42	2.48	2.50	2.49	2.47
Asset yield (%)	3.70	3.88	4.03	4.23	4.23	4.23
Cost of Funds (%)	1.90	2.05	2.05	2.05	2.05	2.03
Risk Adjusted Margins (%)	2.13	2.13	2.35	2.36	2.32	2.24
Cost / Income (%)	38.7	26.5	37.6	38.4	38.7	39.7
Net Interest Income / total income (%)	73.1	52.2	75.1	77.8	77.6	77.3
Fees & Commissions / operating income (%)	17.5	11.4	16.3	17.0	17.2	17.5
Trading gains / operating income (%)	8.5	35.3	7.0	3.5	3.5	3.6
Roate (%)	16.1	17.7	14.5	13.7	13.3	12.6
Pre-prov. RoATE (%)	16.3	19.9	14.8	14.5	14.5	14.3
RoAA (%)	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2
Revenue / RWA (%)	6.03	9.81	6.45	6.31	6.38	6.41
Costs / RWA (%)	2.33	2.60	2.43	2.43	2.47	2.54
PPP / RWA (%)	3.70	7.21	4.02	3.89	3.91	3.86
Cost of Risk / RWA (%)	0.14	0.78	0.24	0.27	0.35	0.45
RoRWA (%)	2.69	3.35	2.77	2.74	2.69	2.58
RoRWA (%) (adj. for gross-up of associates)	2.69	3.35	2.77	2.74	2.69	2.58
Year-end	2015	2016	2017e	2018e	2019e	2020e
Asset Quality	2013	2010	20176	20186	20136	20206
Provisions charge / avg. gross loans (%)	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.8
Past due not impaired / gross loans (%)	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.0	3.0
NPL / gross loans (%)	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
NPL coverage ratio (%)	113.8	115.1	114.4	116.3	120.6	127.6
Provisions / avg. gross loans (%)	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.8
Provisions charge / operating income (%)	3.8	8.5	6.0	6.9	9.0	11.5
Year-end	2015	2016	2017e	2018 e	2019 e	2020e
Funding and Liquidity Net Loans / Deposits (%)	20.7	20.2	20 5	20.2	20.1	27.8
	28.7	29.2	28.5	28.3	28.1	
Cash and interbank / assets (%)	94.4	92.6	95.2	94.9	94.7	94.4
Deposits / liabilities (%)	94.4	92.6	95.2	94.9	94.7	94.4
Year-end	2015	2016	2017e	2018e	2019e	2020e
Capital and leverage ratios						
Core Tier 1 ratio (Basel III) (%)	16.1	18.1	18.8	19.2	19.5	19.8
Tier 1 ratio (%)	17.5	19.6	20.2	19.2	19.5	19.8
Total capital ratio (%)	17.6	19.7	20.3	19.3	19.6	19.8
Tangible equity / assets (%)	8.7	9.3	10.1	10.1	10.2	10.1
RWA / assets (%)	47.7	45.6	48.2	47.6	47.1	46.6
Year-end	2015	2016	2017 e	2018e	2019e	2020e
Growth						
Revenues (%)	2.5	57.9	(26.1)	3.5	6.9	6.3
Cost (%)	-	8.1	4.9	5.7	7.7	9.2
Pre-Provision Operating Profit Growth (%)	4.2	89.3	(37.2)	2.2	6.5	4.5
Provisions (%)	(52.8)	321.8	(55.4)	17.8	37.8	34.8
Net Profit (%)	9.9	20.6	(7.0)	4.6	4.1	1.5
Assets (%)	4.0	1.5	6.5	7.0	7.0	7.0
Loans (%)	4.1	0.6	6.1	5.9	5.8	5.6
Deposits (%)	4.5	(1.2)	8.4	6.7	6.7	6.7
Risk Weighted Assets (%)	3.1	(2.9)	12.4	5.8	5.8	5.9



Abacus Arqaam Capital Fundamental Data

Company Profile

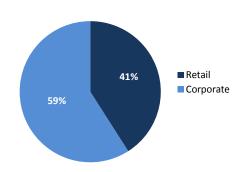
Founded in 1951, BLOM Bank is the second largest bank in Lebanon, with USD 28.0bn in assets and a 12.3% / 4.7% / 12.9% market share in assets / lending / deposits in Lebanon (0.8% / 2.6% / 5.7% in Egypt). The bank provides retail, commercial, corporate, private, investment banking, insurance and Islamic banking services, with 60.5% in corporate lending. BLOM is present in Egypt, Syria, Jordan, UAE, Qatar, Iraq and Europe, with c. 73% of its assets held domestically.

Link to bank's IR page /financials.

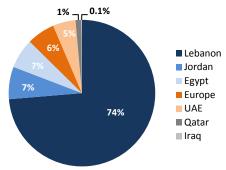
Key Drivers

- Conservative and most cost efficient
- Best RoE and FCF story among peers, fueled by foreign expansion
- Weight of 135bps in MSCI FM

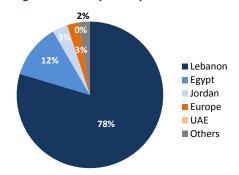
Loan Breakdown by Sector



Loan Breakdown by Country



Earnings Breakdown by Country



Blom Bank

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Year-end	2015	2016	2017 e	2018 e	2019 e	2020 e
Income statement (LBPbn)						
Interest income	2,337	2,551	2,714	2,982	3,189	3,401
Interest expense	1,415	1,511	1,608	1,796	1,924	2,062
Net Interest Income	921	1,040	1,105	1,186	1,265	1,339
Fee income	221	227	240	259	280	303
Net investment income	107	703	103	54	58	62
Other operating income	12	21	23	25	27	29
Total operating income	1,261	1,991	1,472	1,524	1,630	1,733
Total operating expenses	488	528	554	586	631	688
Pre-provision operating profit	773	1,464	918	939	1,000	1,044
Net provisions	29	124	55	65	89	121
Other provisions / impairment	-	35	-	-	-	-
Operating profit	744	1,305	863	874	910	924
Associates	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pre-tax profit	744	1,305	863	874	910	924
Taxation	134	242	190	192	200	203
Net profit	610	708	673	682	710	720
Minorities	25	7	20	20	21	22
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-
Attributable net profit	563	680	632	661	689	699
Diluted EPS	1.87	2.16	2.01	2.10	2.19	2.22
DPS	0.83	0.97	1.00	1.05	1.09	1.11
BVPS	12.27	12.91	14.91	16.01	17.14	18.27
Tangible BVPS	12.09	12.83	14.77	15.87	17.00	18.13

2015	2016	2017e	2018 e	2019 e	2020 e
11,207	11,326	12,197	12,928	13,704	14,526
363	418	628	676	744	834
10,844	10,908	11,569	12,252	12,960	13,692
14,360	18,046	15,603	16,799	18,099	19,512
4,214	3,180	4,502	4,818	5,155	5,516
13,428	11,435	14,408	15,416	16,496	17,650
644	703	936	1,028	1,129	1,239
373	230	376	399	424	450
43,863	44,502	47,394	50,712	54,262	58,060
37,825	37,390	40,546	43,266	46,169	49,270
947	1,112	145	518	749	1,035
302	301	301	125	125	125
986	1,559	1,609	1,659	1,709	1,759
40,060	40,363	42,602	45,568	48,753	52,189
3,803	4,139	4,792	5,144	5,509	5,871
21	20	23	24	26	27
41,794	43,028	44,636	47,488	50,787	54,315
38,294	38,939	39,898	42,451	45,476	48,737
3,644	4,041	4,653	4,999	5,356	5,711
3,366	3,676	4,299	4,636	4,988	5,345
3,668	3,977	4,601	4,636	4,988	5,345
	363 10,844 14,360 4,214 13,428 644 373 43,863 37,825 947 302 986 40,060 3,803 21 41,794 38,294 3,644 3,366	11,207 11,326 363 418 10,844 10,908 14,360 18,046 4,214 3,180 13,428 11,435 644 703 373 230 43,863 44,502 37,825 37,390 947 1,112 302 301 986 1,559 40,060 40,363 3,803 4,139 21 20 41,794 43,028 38,294 38,939 3,644 4,041 3,366 3,676	11,207 11,326 12,197 363 418 628 10,844 10,908 11,569 14,360 18,046 15,603 4,214 3,180 4,502 13,428 11,435 14,408 644 703 936 373 230 376 43,863 44,502 47,394 37,825 37,390 40,546 947 1,112 145 302 301 301 986 1,559 1,609 40,060 40,363 42,602 3,803 4,139 4,792 21 20 23 41,794 43,028 44,636 38,294 38,939 39,898 3,644 4,041 4,653 3,366 3,676 4,299	11,207 11,326 12,197 12,928 363 418 628 676 10,844 10,908 11,569 12,252 14,360 18,046 15,603 16,799 4,214 3,180 4,502 4,818 13,428 11,435 14,408 15,416 644 703 936 1,028 373 230 376 399 43,863 44,502 47,394 50,712 37,825 37,390 40,546 43,266 947 1,112 145 518 302 301 301 125 986 1,559 1,609 1,659 40,060 40,363 42,602 45,568 3,803 4,139 4,792 5,144 21 20 23 24 41,794 43,028 44,636 47,488 38,294 38,939 39,898 42,451 3,644 4,041	11,207 11,326 12,197 12,928 13,704 363 418 628 676 744 10,844 10,908 11,569 12,252 12,960 14,360 18,046 15,603 16,799 18,099 4,214 3,180 4,502 4,818 5,155 13,428 11,435 14,408 15,416 16,496 644 703 936 1,028 1,129 373 230 376 399 424 43,863 44,502 47,394 50,712 54,262 37,825 37,390 40,546 43,266 46,169 947 1,112 145 518 749 302 301 301 125 125 986 1,559 1,609 1,659 1,709 40,060 40,363 42,602 45,568 48,753 3,803 4,139 4,792 5,144 5,509 21 20 </td

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Exhibit 1: BLOM Bank Q4 16A results

LBPbn	Q4 16A	Q4 16e	vs. AC	Q3 16A	q/q	Q4 15A	Q3 15A	q/q 15	y/y Q4	y/y Q3	FY16	FY15	у/у
Interest Income	661	634	4.2%	648	2.0%	610	595	2.4%	8.4%	8.9%	2,551	2,337	9.2%
Interest expense	384	382	0.6%	388	(1.0%)	366	361	1.4%	4.9%	7.5%	1,511	1,415	6.8%
Net interest income	276	252	9.6%	260	6.4%	243	234	3.9%	13.6%	11.0%	1,040	921	12.9%
Fee Income	58	58	0.2%	54	6.9%	56	54	4.3%	2.9%	0.5%	227	221	2.5%
Net Trading Income	548	36	1424.2%	64	755.5%	40	19	113.9%	1273.4%	243.4%	703	107	556.6%
Other Income	14	5	161.8%	3	447.1%	2	2	(3.0%)	491.0%	4.8%	21	12	82.5%
Non-Interest income	620	99	526.4%	121	413.9%	98	75	31.4%	530.3%	61.2%	951	340	179.9%
Total income	896	351	155.2%	380	135.6%	342	309	10.6%	162.3%	23.2%	1,991	1,261	57.9%
Operating expenses	131	127	2.7%	132	(0.9%)	122	120	1.2%	7.2%	9.4%	528	488	8.1%
Operating profit	766	224	241.7%	249	207.8%	220	189	16.6%	248.3%	31.9%	1,464	773	89.3%
Provisions	105	18	470.2%	24	345.3%	20	0	(6884.0%)	439.0%	(8311.6%)	158	29	440.3%
Taxes	116	36	225.4%	48	143.9%	27	39	(31.3%)	335.4%	22.7%	242	134	81.2%
Group Net income	189	170	11.1%	177	6.4%	173	150	15.5%	8.9%	18.3%	708	610	16.0%
Attributable NI	199	166	19.5%	174	14.1%	169	144	17.0%	17.5%	20.6%	701	585	19.9%
Cost/income	14.6%	36.2%		34.6%		35.6%	39.0%				26.5%	38.7%	
Net loans to deposits	29.2%	29.4%		29.4%		28.7%	28.0%				29.2%	28.7%	
Annualized LLP	1.1%	0.2%		0.2%		0.2%	0.0%				1.7%	0.3%	
Net loans	10,908	11,297	(3.4%)	11,297	(3.4%)	10,844	10,558	2.7%	0.6%	7.0%	10,908	10,844	0.6%
Customer deposits	37,390	38,362	(2.5%)	38,362	(2.5%)	37,825	37,731	0.2%	(1.2%)	1.7%	37,390	37,825	(1.2%)

Source: Company Data, Arqaam Capital Research



Exhibit 2: Saudi Oger Credit Exposure to Lebanese Banks (USD 000')

Name of the Holder	Exposed Bank	Facilities Granted	Facilities Used	Details of the Credit line
	Fransabank Emirates Lebanon Bank Bank Audi Bank Med Bankque Libano-Francaise Societe General (Lebanon)	165,500	165,500	Loan broken down among 6 banks, issued at 3/2013, under the supervision of QNB, Deutsche Bank and Emirates NBD for the value of USD 1,030m. in order to pay off any previous debt for purchasing the Arab bank. And to be paid out in one payment at 27/3/2017. The main funding for paying back the loan is the profits from Arab Bank.
Saudi Oger	Bankque Libano-Francaise	15,375	15,364	To be paid at 17/8/2015 but was not paid in full, payment for the loan was postponed till 8/2016, the holder has paid in full all the interest on the loan until that period.
		49,500	49,500	Loan given in Euro currency at 6/2015, and will have to be paid in full at 7/2018.
	Bank Audi	43,000	43,000	Loan granted at 10/2011, objective of the loan is to increase participation in "Saraya Al-Aqabah" to reach 65%. And was rescheduled in 2013, to be paid out annually at USD 25m/year till 30/4/2017.(Bank Audi France participates USD 7m)
	Bank Med	75,000	60,256	Facilitating current account
Total 1)		348,375	333,620	
	Bank Med	200	0	
Saad (Al-dine) Al Harriri	Bank Audi	7,700	7,700	Granted in 2012, for a total amount of USD 62.5m to increase participation of Mr. Saad Al Harirri in Saudi Oger and Bank Med. In 2014 the last payment of USD 25m was amended, to be paid out monthly at USD 1m/month, until 31/10/2016.
Total 2)		7,900	7,700	
	Bank Med	210	10	
Oger Telecom	Credit libanais	6,315	6,315	Joint loan which Credit Libanais participates in as well, issued at 25/2/2011, this is under the administration of Deutsche Bank, for the value of EUR 115m, used to collateralize the exposure under a cross currency swap at their south African Subsidiary company cell to be paid out semi-annually, and no pre set amount until 20/11/2018.
Total 3)		6,325	6,525	
Oger Telecominikaston OTAS	Bankque Libano-Francaise Bank Med Byblos Bank QNB Bank Audi	195,940	195,940	Joint loan, issued at 5/2013 for the value of USD 4,478m and EUR 211,970m, under the supervision of Citi Bank International PLC. Used to repackage the previous loans given in specific the ones given out in 2007 used to purchase the shares of Turk Telekom. Loan is broken down into 4 parts: USD 24m gradually matures until 30/9/2017, and USD 100m to be paid out in full at 30/12/2020. Currently loan is at USD 3,486m up to the holder to pay in full, but the company was given a USD 750m loan on behalf of banks in Turkey for paying any previous loans.
Total 4)		195,940	195,940	
Total Aggregate		558,740	543,585	
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Indirect funding	Bank Med	100,000	4,740	For importing iron and electronic equipment.

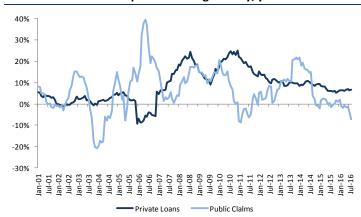
Source: News Source



Exhibit 3: Lebanon total loans vs. deposits y/y growth



Exhibit 4: Private vs. public credit growth y/y



Source: BdL, Arqaam Capital Research

Source: BdL, Argaam Capital Research

Exhibit 5: 5 year Lebanese government spread vs. US
Treasuries

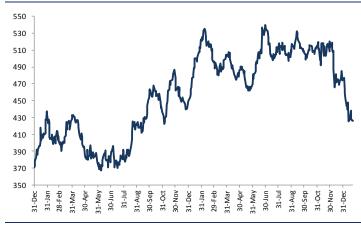
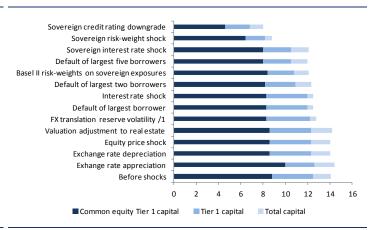


Exhibit 6: CAR before and after sensitivity test (as % of RWA)



Source: Bloomberg, IMF, Arqaam Capital Research

Source: IMF

Exhibit 7: Distribution of large single counterparty exposures

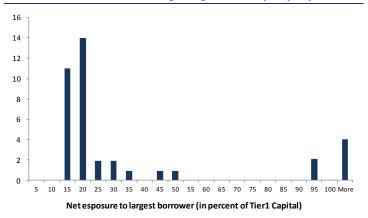
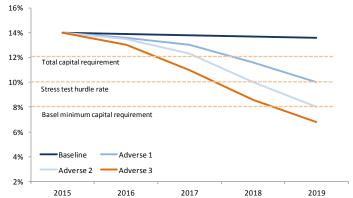


Exhibit 8: Solvency stress test result (aggregate CAR in %)



Source: IMF Source: IMF



Year-end	2013	2014	2015	2016e	2017e	2018e	2019e	2020e	2021e	perp	subtotal	% of tota
1. DCF												
Net profit	497	513	563	680	632	661	689	699	736	758		
Other adjustments (staff profit sharing)	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-		
Minus: excess return excess capital	41	45	61	77	99	110	120	131	141	146		
Risk free rate	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%	7.5%		
Tax shelter	18.8%	19.1%	18.0%	25.5%	22.0%	22.0%	22.0%	22.0%	22.0%	22.0%		
Adjusted net profit	455	467	503	603	533	552	568	568	594	612		
Capital requirements	2,340	2,435	2,509	2,437	2,739	2,897	3,066	3,246	3,437	3,540		
RoEcC	19.5%	19.2%	20.0%	24.7%	19.5%	19.0%	18.5%	17.5%	17.3%	17.3%		
Cost of capital	14.5%	14.5%	14.5%	14.5%	14.5%	14.5%	14.5%	14.5%	14.5%	14.5%		
Capital charge	339	353	364	353	397	420	445	471	498	513		
Economic profit	116	114	139	250	136	132	124	98	96	99		
Discount factor	-	_	-	-	1.00	0.87	0.76	0.67	0.58	0.58		
NPV of economic profit	_	_	-	-	136	115	94	65	56	57		
DCF EVA forecast period											466	8.7%
Perpetual growth rate (nominal GDP)										3.0%		
Terminal value										858		
Terminal value discounted											499	9.3%
Required capital											2,437	45.4%
Value of the bank operations											3,402	63.4%
2. Capital surplus/deficit												
Av ailable capital:												
Shareholders equity	3,239	3,503	3,803	4,139	4,792	5,144	5,509	5,871	6,265			
Less goodwill & intangibles	(57)	(55)	(53)	(24)	(44)	(44)	(44)	(44)	(44)			
Less dividends (if included in reported equity)	(161)	(269)	(251)	(306)	(316)	(331)	(344)	(349)	(368)			
Tangible equity	3,021	3,180	3,499	3,809	4,432	4,769	5,121	5,478	5,854			
Capital needs:												
RWAs (Basel III starting YE 12A)	19,499	20,288	20,911	20,308	22,821	24,143	25,550	27,049	28,644			
Equity as % RWA	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%			
Financial stakes	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_			
Capital requirements	2,340	2,435	2,509	2,437	2,739	2,897	3,066	3,246	3,437			
Surplus capital	681	745	990	1,372	1,694	1,872	2,055	2,232	2,416		1,372	25.6%
3. Other adjustments												
Overprovisioning NPLs											283	
Total adjustments											283	5.3%
4. Dividends											306	5.7%
Total fair value											5,363	100.0%
Fully diluted number of shares											215	
Fair value per share (LBP)											24.9	
Fair value per share (USD)											16.6	
Current share price											11.5	
Upside											44.6%	
Implied P/E (x)				7.7x	8.3x	7.9x						
Implied P/tNAV (x)				1.3x	1.1x	1.0x						

Source: Company Data, Arqaam Capital Research



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