

 Early Warning System

IFC-36295

BLC SME RSF



## Quick Facts

<b>Countries</b>	Lebanon
<b>Financial Institutions</b>	International Finance Corporation (IFC)
<b>Status</b>	Active
<b>Bank Risk Rating</b>	FI
<b>Voting Date</b>	2016-03-15
<b>Borrower</b>	BLC BANK SAL
<b>Sectors</b>	Finance, Industry and Trade
<b>Investment Type(s)</b>	Guarantee
<b>Investment Amount (USD)</b>	\$ 10.00 million
<b>Project Cost (USD)</b>	\$ 20.00 million



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## Project Description

This project provides a risk guarantee to BLC Bank. With this guarantee, the project aims to encourage the bank to loan to small and medium sized businesses across Lebanon.



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## People Affected By This Project

The proposed project is expected to have the following development impact:

- (i) Enhance access to finance to underserved segments of the SME sector, such as women entrepreneurs and very small enterprises, thus enabling them to grow and expand their business and continue to play a key role in supporting Lebanon's economic growth and job creation;
- (ii) Support a local bank to maintain and expand its SME business market share. This is especially critical at this juncture given the uncertainties in the region and the economic slowdown in MENA and Europe, which is affecting Lebanon;
- (iii) Attract private sector investment flows and promote SME finance as a viable asset class; and
- (iv) Support the Bank in scaling up the SME sector especially small businesses, including very small and women-owned enterprises businesses, and to anchor its position in the market.



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## Investment Description

- International Finance Corporation (IFC)

## Financial Intermediary

Financial Intermediary: A commercial bank or financial institution that receives funds from a development bank. A financial intermediary then lends these funds to their clients (private actors) in the form of loans, bonds, guarantees and equity shares. Financial intermediaries include insurance, pension and equity funds. The direct financial relationship is between the development bank and the financial intermediary.

- [BLC BANK S.A.L.](#) (Financial Intermediary)



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### Private Actors Description

Established in 1950, BLC Bank is a commercial bank in Lebanon headquartered in Beirut. The Bank offers a wide range of financial products and services to corporate, retail, and SME segments through a well-established and growing network of 41 branches across Lebanon, a representative office in Abu Dhabi, UAE and 14 branches in Cyprus through its wholly owned subsidiary USB Bank plc.



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## Contact Information

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## ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM OF IFC

The Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) is the independent complaint mechanism and fact-finding body for people who believe they are likely to be, or have been, adversely affected by an IFC or MIGA- financed project. If you submit a complaint to the CAO, they may assist you in resolving a dispute with the company and/or investigate to assess whether the IFC is following its own policies and procedures for preventing harm to people or the environment. If you want to submit a complaint electronically, you can email the CAO at [CAO@worldbankgroup.org](mailto:CAO@worldbankgroup.org). You can learn more about the CAO and how to file a complaint at <http://www.cao-ombudsman.org/>