Early Warning System

IFC-41500

SGBL SSL MCPP

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Quick Facts

Countries	Lebanon
Financial Institutions	International Finance Corporation (IFC)
Status	Proposed
Bank Risk Rating	B
Voting Date	2018-09-12
Borrower	Société Générale de Banque au Liban
Sectors	Finance
Ring Fence	Small & Medium Enterprises
Investment Type(s)	Loan
Investment Amount (USD)	$ 42.84 million
Project Cost (USD)	$ 100.00 million

Project Description

The Project entails an IFC senior loan to Société Générale de Banque au Liban to support its lending program to SMEs and climate change projects in Lebanon. At the discretion of the Bank, IFC will also provide the Bank with a USD interest rate swap for a notional amount of up to US$100 million to hedge the interest rate risk arising from this financing.

Investment Description

- International Finance Corporation (IFC)

The Project consists of a 7 years senior loan of up to US$57.16 million from its own account and up to US$42.84 million from IFC acting in its capacity as implementing entity for the Managed Co-Lending Portfolio Program.

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.

- Societe Generale de Banque au Liban (Financial Intermediary)
- SOCIETE GENERALE DE BANQUE AU LIBAN SAL (Financial Intermediary) **is owned by** Société Générale de Banque au Liban (Parent Company)

Private Actor Relationship

There is often limited information publicly available about what development banks are funding through financial intermediaries. In 2021, the Early Warning System partnered with Oxfam International to incorporate information on high-risk projects being funded by financial intermediaries receiving funding from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Dutch Development Bank (FMO).

The information listed below describes the relationship between the different private actors linked to high-risk sectors and subprojects of IFC and FMO's financial intermediary investments and/or the financial intermediary's parent companies made from 2017 through 2020, including any associated ring fences.

The database, however, does not explicitly or implicitly imply that IFC or FMO have material exposure to or are contractually or legally accountable to the sub-projects financed by their financial intermediaries or the financial intermediary's parent companies. It only shows a seemingly financial relationship among the different private actors, the financial intermediaries, and IFC or FMO.

Private Actors Description

As of year-end 2017, SGBL was the 5th largest bank in Lebanon with market shares of 9.3% by assets, 9% by deposits and 7.4% by loans. The Bank has a presence through 68 branches in Lebanon, 17 branches in Jordan and 4 in Cyprus, and offers a wide range of financial services including retail, corporate, private, investment banking as well as leasing and insurance. In 2017, the Bank established Liberty International Bank Limited in Abu Dhabi, UAE, a 100% owned subsidiary and in July 2018, the bank has completed the acquisition of Banque Richelieu France (formerly KBL Richelieu Banque Privée), Banque Richelieu Monaco (formerly KBL Monaco Private Bankers) and Richelieu Gestion (formerly KBL Richelieu Gestion).

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. You can learn more about the CAO and how to file a complaint at http://www.cao-ombudsman.org/