

## GFH Financial Group

### Strong balance sheet activity in Q2, strong IB pipeline for H2.

- We leave our estimates for FY 25 and FY26 unchanged, with an EPS growth of 14% y/y, with RoE at 13.4%, up 0.9ppt y/y in Q2. We pencil in an EPS growth of 14% in FY25e and a 16% 5-year EPS CAGR.
- Balance sheet growth was strong at 6.7% q/q and 13.8% y/y, funded by quasi equity and placements from financial institutions. In Q2, the resilient performance is supported mainly by Commercial Banking and Treasury and Proprietary segment revenues, up by +10.6%/27% y/y, despite a slower IB segment (-29% y/y) for Q2 25 due to a seasonal slowdown in deal flows.
- We maintain our BUY on broad-based RoE expansion, expanding deposit base through Khaleeji franchise and growing AuM base (+10% y/y to USD 23.7bn). The stock trades at P/ tNAV 25e of 1.1x while offering RoE of >12.6% and a DY of 5.2% (to be paid semi-annually as of 2025). The next catalysts include expanding IB, improving commercial banking performance, obtaining the Kuwait license, cross-listing in KSA, and lower borrowing costs aligned with rate cuts. Our TP remains at USD 0.41/AED 1.51.

We pencil in an EPS CAGR of 16% for FY25-28e after 14% EPS growth in Q2 25, with RoE>12.6% and we believe it is on track to reach 16% in FY28e. EPS grew by +14% y/y in Q2 25, mainly driven by higher revenue from the Commercial Banking segment, which increased +10.6% y/y to USD 34m and the Proprietary and Treasury segment, which surged to USD 122m in Q2 25, despite some normalisation in IB segment revenue (USD 30m in Q2 25 vs. USD42m m in Q2 24). Despite a slowdown in the current quarter, we expect the IB segment to deliver a strong second H2 on the back of planned exits and investments in developmental assets, which are expected to be ready for syndication during H2e.

**Asset expansion across core segments is supported by growth in the funding base:** Balance sheet growth was strong at 6.7% q/q and 13.6% y/y. Funding from financial institutions contracted sequentially -3.5% q/q, but expanded 39.8% y/y, and quasi equity increased by +4% q/q and +9.7% y/y.

**Treasury portfolio is up 26.8% y/y (90% q/q) on firm performance from allocation to quoted investments and MTM gains.** Financing contracts expanded by 37.5% y/y (+6.0% q/q) on the back of Ijarah lending (+50.3% y/y, and -1.1% q/q). The GFH loan book comprises corporate borrowers, and its exposure to retail loans is only through its subsidiary, Khaleeji. GFH's real estate portfolio grew by +26.6% y/y and +2.04% q/q, focusing on acquiring developmental property, indicating its intent to focus on build-to-sell projects in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain in the logistics and residential sectors, giving us visibility on the revenue for the IB segment pipeline for FY25 and FY26.

**Kuwait's license will be a strategic catalyst as GFH targets an AUM base of USD 25bn.** GFH's AUM increased to USD 23.7bn. GFH completed multiple real asset transactions across healthcare and logistics verticals in the US (Texas, Arizona, Colorado), including an acquisition of a portfolio of USD 195m of fully occupied healthcare facilities, and an investment of USD 190m in a diversified portfolio of logistics and industrial facilities. Furthermore, GFH in the UAE and Saudi Arabia has acquired USD 125m of developmental assets, including a fully leased warehouse facility in the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

BUY USD 0.41/ AED 1.51/ Kwd 0.13

#### Banks / BAHRAIN

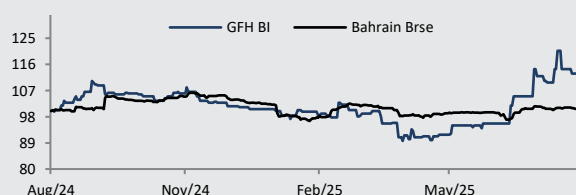
Bloomberg code	GFH BI
Market index	Bahrain Brse
Target Price	0.43
Upside (%)	16.6

#### Market data 8/17/2025

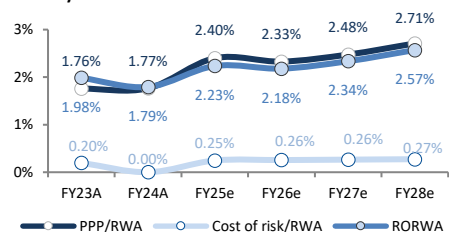
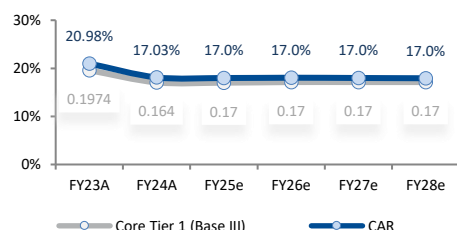
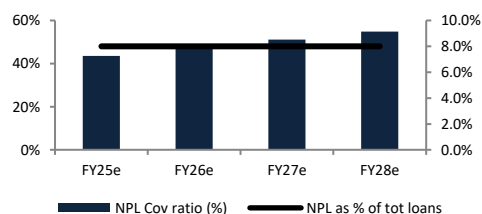
Last closing price (USD)	0.37
52 Week range	0.3-0.4
35Market cap (USD m)	1,399
Free float (%)	87%

Year-end (local m)	2023	2024	2025e	2026e
Revenue	273	369	373	388
Pre-provisioning profit	91	117	171	173
EPS	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04
P/E (x) (mkt price)	13.8	12.0	8.9	8.8
BVPS	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Tangible BVPS	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
P/B (x) (mkt price)	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2
P/TBVPS (x) (mkt price)	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.2
DPS	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03
Div. yield (%)	4.3	4.6	5.4	7.0
RoAA (%)	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.4
RoRWA (%)	2.0	1.8	2.2	2.2
RoATE (%)	10.4	12.0	15.5	14.5
RoEC (%)	14.0	13.6	17.5	17.0
RAROC (%)	14.0	13.5	17.8	17.3
Net LtD ratio (%)	42.1	62.6	43.4	43.3
Risk Weighted Assets (bn)	5.2	6.6	7.1	7.4
Core Equity T1 ratio (%)	21.0	14.7	16.4	16.9
Tier 1 capital ratio (%)	19.7	16.4	16.5	17.0
Total capital ratio (%)	21.0	17.3	17.4	17.8
NPL ratio (%)	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.0
Coverage ratio (%)	56.8	39.6	43.5	47.4
Number of shares	3,833	3,833	3,833	3,833

#### Price Performance



**Abacus** Arqaam Capital Fundamental Data

**Profitability**

**Capital Ratios**

**Credit Quality**

**GFH Financial Group**

Year-end	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	2027e	2028e
<b>Performance analysis</b>						
Asset yield (%)	6.06	5.84	6.50	6.40	6.40	6.20
Cost of Funds (%)	5.97	6.63	6.20	6.00	5.80	5.50
Cost / Income (%)	66.6	68.4	54.0	55.4	54.5	52.8
Fees & Commissions / operating income (%)	10.0	6.1	8.8	9.3	9.4	9.4
Trading gains / operating income (%)	91.6	93.6	76.7	84.5	79.2	74.7
RoATE (%)	10.4	12.0	15.5	14.5	15.1	16.1
Pre-prov. RoATE (%)	11.4	12.1	16.5	15.6	16.2	17.2
RoAA (%)	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6
Revenue / RWA (%)	5.26	5.59	5.22	5.22	5.44	5.74
Costs / RWA (%)	3.50	3.82	2.82	2.89	2.97	3.03
PPP / RWA (%)	1.76	1.77	2.40	2.33	2.48	2.71
Cost of Risk / RWA (%)	0.20	-	0.25	0.26	0.26	0.27
RoRWA (%)	1.98	1.79	2.23	2.18	2.34	2.57
RoRWA (%) (adj. for gross-up of associates)	1.98	1.79	2.23	2.18	2.34	2.57
Year-end	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	2027e	2028e
<b>Asset Quality</b>						
Provisions charge / avg. gross loans (%)	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Past due not impaired / gross loans (%)	4.0	3.4	2.9	3.2	3.5	3.8
NPL / gross loans (%)	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
NPL coverage ratio (%)	56.8	39.6	43.5	47.4	51.2	54.9
Provisions / avg. gross loans (%)	4.0	3.4	2.9	3.2	3.5	3.8
Provisions charge / operating income (%)	11.2	-	10.3	11.0	10.7	10.1
Year-end	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	2027e	2028e
<b>Funding and Liquidity</b>						
Net Loans / Deposits (%)	42.1	62.6	43.4	43.3	43.2	43.0
Cash and interbank / assets (%)	3.4	(5.7)	7.5	9.9	12.2	12.6
Deposits / liabilities (%)	36.4	33.2	49.3	51.4	53.5	55.8
Year-end	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	2027e	2028e
<b>Capital and leverage ratios</b>						
Core Tier 1 ratio (Basel III) (%)	21.0	14.7	16.4	16.9	17.2	17.6
Tier 1 ratio (%)	19.7	16.4	16.5	17.0	17.3	17.7
Total capital ratio (%)	21.0	17.3	17.4	17.8	18.2	18.5
Tangible equity / assets (%)	9.7	10.1	10.2	10.5	10.8	11.2
RWA / assets (%)	46.6	59.9	62.2	62.3	62.4	62.8
Year-end	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	2027e	2028e
<b>Growth</b>						
Revenues (%)	23.2	35.5	0.9	4.2	8.7	10.3
Cost (%)	22.6	39.2	(20.3)	6.9	6.9	6.9
Pre-Provision Operating Profit Growth (%)	24.3	27.9	46.9	1.0	10.9	14.5
Provisions (%)	47.2	(100.0)	-	8.0	8.0	8.0
Net Profit (%)	14.0	15.2	34.6	1.6	11.7	15.1

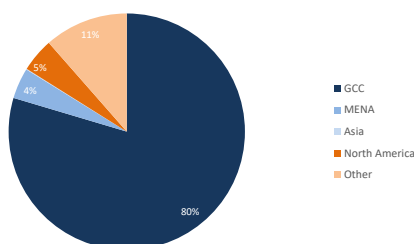
## Abacus Arqaam Capital Fundamental Data

### Company Profile

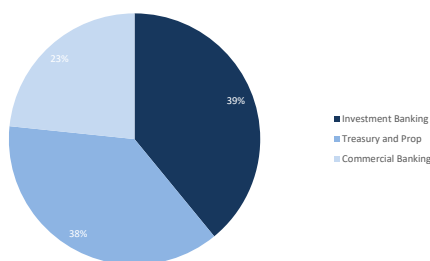
GFH is a Bahrain-domiciled Sharia-compliant financial group that is focused on investment banking, treasury and proprietary investments and commercial and retail banking in Bahrain via Khaleeji Bank BSC (Khaleeji)

GFH Ratings were affirmed by Fitch at “B”; Outlook is stable. GFH is listed on four stock exchanges.

### Geographical breakdown



### Revenue Breakdown



#### Management

CEO	Hisham Ahmed Al Rayes
CFO ( Interim )	Bhaskar Mehta
COO	Salah Abdulla Sharif

#### Major Shareholders

Keypoint Trust	8.5%
Ahmad bin Mohamed Al Qassimi	5%

### GFH Financial Group

Year-end	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	2027e	2028e
<b>Income statement (USDmn)</b>						
Fee income	27	22	33	36	40	44
Net investment income	239	307	238	273	277	288
<b>Other operating income</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>184</b>
Total operating income	273	369	373	388	422	465
Total operating expenses	181	253	201	215	230	246
Pre-provision operating profit	91	117	171	173	192	220
<b>Net provisions</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
Other provisions / impairment	10	-	11	11	11	11
<b>Operating profit</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>186</b>
Associates	35	30	23	25	28	31
Pre-tax profit	105	129	166	169	188	217
<b>Taxation</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Net profit	105	129	166	169	188	217
<b>Minorities</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
ADT1 coupon	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Attributable net profit</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>208</b>
Diluted EPS	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.05
DPS	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03
<b>BVPS</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>0.35</b>
Tangible BVPS	0.26	0.26	0.28	0.30	0.32	0.35

Year-end	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	2027e	2028e
<b>Balance sheet (USDmn)</b>						
<b>Gross loans and advances</b>	<b>1,609</b>	<b>2,115</b>	<b>2,284</b>	<b>2,467</b>	<b>2,664</b>	<b>2,877</b>
Less: loan loss provisions	72	57	80	94	109	126
Net loans and advances	1,537	2,058	2,205	2,373	2,555	2,751
Cash and central bank	377	460	514	749	995	997
Due from banks	-	-	-	-	-	-
Investment, net	7,806	7,282	7,320	7,319	7,308	7,545
Fixed assets, net	275	57	286	297	309	321
Other assets	1,126	1,173	1,147	1,193	1,241	1,290
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>11,121</b>	<b>11,031</b>	<b>11,472</b>	<b>11,931</b>	<b>12,408</b>	<b>12,905</b>
Customer deposits	3,655	3,289	5,076	5,482	5,921	6,394
Due to banks	-	1,084	(352)	(428)	(515)	(633)
Debt	4,448	4,594	4,594	4,594	4,594	4,594
Other liabilities	1,945	948	986	1,025	1,066	1,109
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>10,047</b>	<b>9,916</b>	<b>10,305</b>	<b>10,674</b>	<b>11,066</b>	<b>11,465</b>
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>1,074</b>	<b>1,115</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>1,342</b>	<b>1,440</b>
Risk Weighted Assets (bn)	5	7	7	7	8	8
Average Interest-Earning Assets	6,776	7,209	7,339	7,482	7,837	8,206
Average Interest-Bearing Liabilities	7,590	8,535	9,143	9,484	9,824	10,178
Common shareholders	990	981	1,076	1,161	1,243	1,337
Core Equity Tier 1 (Basel III)	1,016	1,073	1,167	1,253	1,335	1,428
Tier 1 capital	1,023	1,080	1,175	1,261	1,342	1,436

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**Low loan loss coverage reflects substantial collateral:** Stages 1, 2, and 3 loans make up 84.5%, 8.5% and 7% in Q2 25 vs. 84.2%, 8.4%, and 7.4% in Q1 25, respectively, compared to 82.9%, 9.9%, and 7.24% at YE 24. Coverage ratios remain suboptimal, with i) Stage 3 coverage at 21.9% for Q2, 21.6% vs Q1 25A, vs.27.2% for FY24 ii) Stage 2 coverage is at 5.8% for Q2 25 vs. 5.7% vs. 5.9% for FY24 (vs. 9.0% in FY23), iii) Stage 1 coverage is at 0.18% for Q2 25A vs. 0.22% for Q1 25A vs. 0.2% FY24. Based on our stress test, which is 1% of stage 1, 12% of stage 2, and 60% of stage 3, indicates a provisioning gap of around 98.3m c. USD, at 7.3% of NAV and 3.9% of the loan portfolio. That said, the CoR remains low on the back of improving collateral value.

**Capital ratios remain robust on the back of higher +2.8% YTD RWAs:** GFH operate at CET1 and CAR of 16.05% and 16.7% in Q2 25, respectively, compared to 16.4% and 17.03% YE24. RWAs increased by +3.6% q/q and +3.5% y/y in Q2 25, mostly related to increased risk-weighted credit assets such as financing contracts, which increased by 26.2% y/y. The asset/equity ratio is 12.33x while net loan/equity remains 5.7x. GFH reported an NSFR and LCR of 142% and 155%, respectively, offering room to optimise its net interest margins.

**GFH has been granted a Kuwaiti license, which will support the broadening of investor access, enhanced fee-based income, and diversification of its funding base.** A subscription agent license will expand GFH's placement capabilities regionally. Kuwait's market includes large institutional investors (e.g., KIA, pension funds, family offices), which will support GFH's fundraising efforts for its IB segment.

**GFH's treasury book grew +21.2% y/y and +19% h/h, driven by strategic redeployment into quoted investments at MTM (+192% h/h) and quoted investments at amortised cost (+26% h/h).** GFH increases tactical allocation to structured credit notes, selectively targeting high-carry sovereign exposures amid transitory dislocations in global fixed income markets during oil price volatility. Quoted Investments exposure surged to USD 804.8m (vs. 276.4m in Dec-24), highlighting management's ability to tactical yield enhancement amid market normalisation.

#### Exhibit 1: Treasury Portfolio:

Key Segment	June 25 ( In USD mn )	Dec 24 (In USD mn)	YTD Δ (%)	
Total Treasury Portfolio	5779.9	4851.6	19.1%	Higher liquidity deployment and risk-on positioning
Placements with FIs	1154.2	990.7	16.5%	Likely shift toward higher-yielding short-term paper
Profit Rate Swaps & FX Forwards	6.5	3.5	83.0%	Rebuilding of hedges or tactical trades
Quoted Investments	804.8	276.4	191.1%	Major rotation into income-generating investments
Quoted Sukuk @ amortized cost	3024.9	2398.5	26.1%	Key anchor of the portfolio; supports yield profile

Source: Arqaam Capital Research, Company Data

**Maintain Buy at TP of USD 0.41 or AED 1.51/share; we highlight GFH as an attractive RoE expansion story, entry in Kuwait and potential cross-listing in KSA, with a cash dividend yield of 5.2%, now paid semi-annually.** GFH offers a RoE of 12-16% in the medium term through i) Expanding IB platform on the back of investments in developmental properties, ii) lower interest rates, iii) gradual improvement in the deal flows, iv) regulatory arbitrage, benefiting from zero risk weighting for its high yielding treasury book of approximately USD 4.5bn. GFH trades at a FY 25e P/E of 9x and P/B of 1.3x. The next catalysts are expanding the IB platform via entering Kuwait and growing commercial banking performance (on lower CoF), interest commercial banking performance (on lower CoF), interest rate cuts.

**Exhibit 2: Preliminary Results for Q2 25**

(USDm)	Q2 25A	ACe	vs. ACe	Q2 24A	Δ% y/y	Q1 25A	Δ% q/q	H1 25A	H1 24A	y/y
<b>Revenue By Segment</b>										
IB Revenue	30	49	(39%)	42	(29%)	66.8	(55%)	96.6	88.1	10%
Commercial Banking	34	21	61%	31	10.6%	39.9	(14%)	74.2	65.2	14%
Proprietary & Treasury	122	122	0%	96	27%	64.2	90%	186.3	178.9	4%
Total Revenue	186	191	(3%)	169	10%	171	9%	357.1	332.2	7%
<b>Expenses By Segment</b>										
IB	17	34	(49%)	25	(29%)	53.5	(68%)	70.8	57.8	23%
Commercial Banking	29	15	93%	23	25%	27.4	5%	56.1	47.1	19%
Treasury and Property	99	101	(2%)	79	25%	53.6	85%	152.5	140.9	8%
Total Expenses	145	150	(3%)	127	14%	134	8%	279.4	245.7	14%
Impairment	2			5		5.8		7.9	18.6	(57%)
Net income	39	42	(6%)	38	4%	31	27%	69.7	67.9	3%
Attributable net income	37.1			33.6	10.4%	30.1	23.3%	67.2	60.7	10.7%
EPS	1.06			0.93	13.9%	0.85	24.7%	1.93	1.71	12.9%
<b>Profitability Ratios</b>										
Cost to Income	51%	78.3%	-0.4 pts	74.9%	3.0 pts	78.6%	-0.7 pts	78.3%	74.0%	4.3 pts
RoE	13.4%	14.6%	-0.3 pts	13.8%	0.5 pts	11.4%	2.8 pts	13.4%	12.5%	0.3 pts
ROA	1.2%	1.4%	0.0 pts	1.4%	0.1 pts	1.1%	0.3 pts	2.5%	2.5%	0.1 pts
NPm	21.0%	21.7%	-0.7 pts	22.2%	-1.3 pts	18.0%	3.0 pts	19.5%	20.4%	-0.9 pts

Source: Arqaam Capital Research, Company Data

**Exhibit 3: Valuation Table: (USD m)**

Year-end	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024e	2025e	2026e	2027e	2028e	perp	subtotal	% of total
<b>1. DCF</b>																
Net profit	217	107	114	66	45	84	90	103	117	140	171	192	214	220		
Other adjustments (comprehensive income and GW amortization)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		
Minus: excess return excess capital	18	16	17	10	7	5	5	16	10	11	11	12	13	13		
Risk free rate	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%		
Tax shelter	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		
Adjusted net profit	199	91	97	56	38	79	85	87	107	129	160	180	201	206		
Capital requirements	516	1,007	964	1,000	993	992	874	622	827	883	943	1,008	1,078	1,105		
RoEC	38.5%	9.1%	10.1%	5.6%	3.8%	8.0%	9.7%	14.0%	12.9%	14.6%	16.9%	17.8%	18.7%	18.7%		
Cost of capital	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%	13.0%		
Capital charge	67	131	125	130	129	129	114	81	108	115	123	131	140	144		
Economic profit	132	(40)	(28)	(74)	(91)	(50)	(29)	6	(1)	14	37	49	61	63		
Discount factor	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.00	0.88	0.78	0.69	0.61	0.54		
NPV of Economic Profit	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	(1)	13	29	34	38	34		
DCF EVA Forecast period															112	7.1%
Perpetual growth rate (nominal GDP)															2.5%	
Terminal Value															598	
Terminal value discounted															325	20.5%
Required Capital															622	39.3%
<b>Value of the bank operations</b>															<b>1,059</b>	<b>66.8%</b>
<b>2. Capital surplus/deficit</b>																
Available capital:																
Shareholders equity	908	1,150	1,059	1,005	913	963	997	990	1,045	1,120	1,215	1,308	1,407			
Minorities	214	346	364	288	273	205	75	85	96	104	112	121	131			
Less Goodwill & intangibles	(55)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--			
Less non equity elements reported shareholders equity																
Less Dividends (if included in reported equity)	(89)	(85)	(32)	(33)	(18)	(46)	(61)	(61)	(65)	(76)	(99)	(115)	(134)			
Tangible equity	978	1,411	1,391	1,260	1,168	1,122	1,010	1,013	1,077	1,147	1,228	1,314	1,404			
Capital needs																
RWAs (Basel III)	4,299	8,388	8,031	8,330	8,272	8,268	7,285	5,182	6,895	7,360	7,861	8,402	8,986			
Equity as % RWA	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%			
Financial stakes	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--			
Capital Requirements	516	1,007	964	1,000	993	992	874	622	827	883	943	1,008	1,078			
<b>Surplus capital</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>326</b>		<b>392</b>	<b>24.7%</b>
<b>3. Other adjustments</b>																
Real Estate hidden value															122	7.7%
Underprovisioning vs. arqaam acid test (conservative)															(53)	
<b>Total adjustments</b>															<b>69</b>	<b>4.4%</b>
<b>4. Dividends</b>															<b>65</b>	<b>4.1%</b>
<b>Total Fair Value</b>															<b>1,584</b>	<b>100%</b>
Fully diluted number of shares															3,833	
<b>Fair value per share</b>															<b>0.41</b>	
<b>Current share price</b>															<b>0.31</b>	
<b>Upside</b>															<b>33.3%</b>	
Implied P/E (x)	7.3	14.8	13.9	24.0	35.1	18.8	17.6	15.4	13.6	11.4	9.2	8.3	7.4			
Implied P/NAV (x)	1.9	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1			

Source: Company Data, Arqaam Capital Research

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