

Introduction

In October 2015, the Board of Directors of Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) approved the guidelines on the implementation of the Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR) to be applied to banks operating in Kuwait. The guidelines were part of the CBK's implementation of Basel III reforms.

The main objective of the NSFR is to promote the resilience of the banking system by improving the funding profile of banks by ensuring they have sufficient level of stable funding in relation to their assets and commitments. The NSFR thus promotes banks to rely on funding from stable sources and long-term borrowing in order to reduce the risks of disruptions which might impact the bank's liquidity position.

The Available Stable Funding (ASF) figure is measured according to the relative stability of funding, based on their duration and behavioural characteristics of funding sources. For instance, capital and deposits from retail household sources are considered more stable than wholesale funding. Moreover, long-term funding is generally assigned higher stability weights relative to short-term funding.

The Required Stable Funding (RSF) figure is measured based on the liquidity, quality and tenor of assets and contingent exposures. Generally, short-term lending and highly-liquid assets require lower levels of stable funding to support.

The NSFR is reported and monitored at three organizational levels: *Local level* (NBK Kuwait excluding its overseas branches), *Bank-wide level* including NBK Kuwait and overseas branches (NBK SAKP) and *Group Level* [including all overseas branches and subsidiaries (NBK Group)].

Results Analysis and Main Drivers

NBK maintained comfortable stable funding buffers during the three months ending March 31, 2019. Available Stable Funding at NBK Group level as of end of March 2019 was around KD 16.232 billion against KD 15.024 billion of Required Stable Funding, resulting in NSFR of 108.04%.

The main drivers behind the Available Stable Funding are the adequate capital base, sizable Retail deposit base, and long-term funding from non-financial companies and institutional clients. The capital base formed around 22%, retail deposits (including deposits from small-sized business customers) formed 44%, and wholesale funding formed 31% of the total Available Stable Funding, after applying the relevant weights.

The Required Stable Funding comprised primarily lending to companies, businesses, corporations, retail clients and financial institutions.

The stock of High-Quality Liquid Assets (HQLA), which includes cash and reserve balances with the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) and other central banks, government debt issuances in domestic and foreign currencies as well as debt issuances by highly-rated companies stood at KD 5.17 billion (before applying the RSF factors). Due to their high quality and liquid characteristic, these assets require no or low amount of stable funding. Accordingly, the HQLA's constituted only 3.4% of the Required Stable Funding after applying the relevant weights.

"Performing" loans constituted 77.88% of the total RSF after applying the relevant weights.

Non-HQLA investments, contingent funding obligations, such as committed credit facilities, guarantees and letters of credit (LCs), and other assets, constituted the remaining 18.71% of the Required Stable Funding.

Quantitative information on the Net Stable Funding Ratio is provided in the table below. The values are as of March 31th 2019 for NBK Group.

Table 4: NSFR Common Disclosure Template
For the Period Ending on 31/Mar/2019 ¹²

Sr.	Item	Unweighted Values (i.e. before applying relevant factors)				"Value in KWD 000"
		No specified maturity	Less than 6 months	More than 6 months and less than one year	Over one year	Total weighted value
Available Stable Funding (ASF):						
1	Capital:					
2	• <i>Regulatory Capital</i>	3,456,720	-	-	125,000	3,581,720
3	• <i>Other Capital Instruments</i>	-	-	-	-	-
4	Retail deposits and deposits from small business customers:					
5	• <i>Stable deposits</i>	-	-	-	-	-
6	• <i>Less stable deposits</i>	-	6,853,476	528,207	452,436	7,095,951
7	Wholesale funding:					
8	• <i>Operational deposits</i>	-	927,385	-	-	463,693
9	• <i>Other wholesale funding</i>	-	11,341,740	2,216,297	466,328	4,573,155
10	Other liabilities:					
11	• <i>NSFR derivative liabilities</i>	-	-	-	-	-
12	• <i>All other liabilities not included in the above categories</i>	193,057	838,332	22,655	324,055	517,112
13	Total ASF	3,649,777	19,960,934	2,767,159	1,367,819	16,231,632
Required Stable Funding (RSF):						
14	Total NSFR high-quality liquid assets (HQLA)	5,166,934	-	-	-	511,258
15	Deposits held at other financial institutions for operational purposes	-	23,832	-	-	11,916
16	Performing loans and securities:					
17	• <i>Performing loans to financial institutions secured by Level 1 HQLA</i>	--	-	-	-	-
18	• <i>Performing loans to financial institutions secured by non-Level 1 HQLA and unsecured performing loans to financial institutions</i>	--	2,830,018	190,364	504,979	1,024,663
19	• <i>Performing loans to non-financial corporate clients, loans to retail and small business customers, and loans to sovereigns, central banks and PSEs, of which:</i>	-	6,102,907	1,435,068	8,806,380	10,676,520
20	- <i>With a risk weight of less than or equal to 35% as per the Capital Adequacy Ratio – Basel 3 guidelines</i>	-	-	-	512,555	333,161
21	• <i>Performing residential mortgages, of which:</i>	--	--	--	-	-
22	- <i>With a risk weight of less than or equal to 35% under the CBK Capital Adequacy Ratio – Basel III Guidelines</i>	--	--	--	-	-
23	• <i>Securities that are not in default and do not qualify as HQLA, including exchange-traded equities</i>	--	--	--	1,104,728	939,018
24	Other assets:					
25	<i>Physical traded commodities, including gold</i>	-	--	--	--	-
26	<i>Assets posted as initial margin for derivative contracts and contributions to default funds of CCPs</i>	38,049	--	--	--	32,342
27	<i>NSFR derivative assets</i>	20,656	--	--	--	20,656
28	<i>NSFR derivative liabilities before deduction of variation margin posted</i>	5,961	--	--	--	5,961
29	<i>All other assets not included in the above categories</i>	654,049	511,255	37,385	541,033	1,353,781
30	Off-balance sheet items	1,191,661	3,990,438	2,501,792	1,277,331	448,061
31	Total RSF	7,077,310	13,458,450	4,164,609	12,234,451	15,024,177
32	NSFR (%)					108.04%

¹²Quarterly statement.