BANQUE BEMO

RELATIONSHIPS ARE BUILT. TRUST IS EARNED.

Communication on Progress

2024

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ABOUT BANQUE BEMO

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Banque BEMO sal is a commercial bank whose services and activities cover both the Lebanese and regional markets.

True to its long history and culture of prudence and conservative approach to serving its clients, the Bank remains focused on its core expertise, namely Private and Corporate Banking while aiming to build strong relationships, based on trust, with its selected clients. The Bank is known for its competency in delivering high quality services and products, and for its customer centricity orientation. Products and services target large corporations and high net worth individuals.

Faithful to its tradition of investing efforts first and foremost in its clients' trust, Banque BEMO is committed to abide by the following five principles, which represent the source of past achievements and the foundation on which to plan future development:

Commitment to Customer Centricity

Whereby the client is considered as a core asset, around whom the Bank build its endeavors, and where each decision is weighed on how to improve client satisfaction.

Commitment to providing an exclusive experience to clients

Through attention to detail and anticipation of needs, Banque BEMO strives to understand stakeholders' perspective and ensure that they get more than their fair share of expectation.

As part of its digital transformation journey, the Bank remains committed to delivering new and emerging technological solutions that make it easy for clients to manage their finances and meet their expectations.

Commitment to develop expertise/knowledge/proficiency

Based on the existing broad offering of financial services, Banque BEMO recognizes this commitment as a core competency and is committed to grow skills and remain proficient in the latest banking techniques.

Commitment to Transparency

In line with the Group's motto "Business with Ethics", Banque BEMO recognizes that transparency fosters discipline and strengthens the processes. Therefore, the Bank commits to transparency with its stakeholders and earn their trust.

Commitment to Gender Equality

Banque BEMO embraces diversity and fosters its commitment to consistently providing equal opportunities for Women and Men in the workplace.

Vision

"To be the reference in Private and Corporate Banking"

Values

"Family Spirit
Professionalism
Conservatism
Honesty"

Mission Statement

"Live our values while achieving high return on equity and offering our customers outstanding quality"

Positioning Statement

"Consolidating traditional values with a contemporary approach; offering services that are personal in delivery and global in scope"

CSR Vision

"To understand the current and future implications of its actions by focusing on the economic, social and environmental impacts of its business and developing sustainable practices to meet the needs of present and future generations."

CSR Mission Statement

"We aim to move toward a higher CSR maturity level by fostering a strong sense of corporate responsibility and creating value to the business and the society."

Banque BEMO reaffirms its commitment to Sustainable Development Goals 3, 4, 8, and 13.

Statement

Chairman of the Board of Directors and Vice Chairman & Managing Director

Statement
Chairman of the Board of Directors and Vice Chairman & Managing Director

Dear Stakeholders,

Since its inception, Banque BEMO aims to improve, as much as possible, the capacities of its clients, employees, shareholders and the community at large.

Over the past few years, our country has been witnessing tremendous hardships at all levels. A lot has been coming our way too. They can appear positive or negative. However, it rests on us to make them, as much as possible, favorable and profitable to our country, our clients, our Bank and ourselves. Shiny and better days are in our grasp, we will deploy all our efforts to make them happen, with our confidence and determination.

Accordingly, we have renewed our support to the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact; we are showing progress on the Sustainable Development Goals related to Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3), Quality Education (SDG 4), Decent Work & Economic Growth (SDG 8), and Climate Action (SDG 13).

Here below, we have identified a few of our initiatives for the year 2024:

- **Core Banking System Upgrade**, a strategic project aimed at enhancing operational efficiency, improving customer experience, and supporting future growth. This upgrade will provide a more secure, scalable, agile infrastructure, and better data management.

- **Rotating Art**, aiming to create an oasis of hope and beauty amid the current economic crisis. This initiative promotes artistic literacy as a fundamental right, democratizes access to art, supports both professional and amateur artists, and contributes to building a more welcoming and culturally vibrant Lebanon.

- **Rêver le Liban** (Dreaming Lebanon, 2nd Edition), a contest aimed at restoring hope among young Lebanese by inviting them to explore and reclaim, through text and image, the Lebanon of yesterday and today, so they can envision the Lebanon of tomorrow.

This educational project fosters discovery, empathy, and a deeper connection to cultural roots, helping shape the identity of future generations and symbolizing the Lebanon of tomorrow.

- **Back to our Cedars Roots** (4th Edition), an initiative aimed at restoring pride in what Lebanon represents and strengthening the sense of belonging among people of Lebanese origin. Banque BEMO also seeks to draw attention to the injustice faced by Lebanese women who are unable to pass their nationality to their children.

- **Ethical Leadership in Business**, an initiative launched in partnership with ESA Business School, involving the participation of several students, NGOs and large corporations, and focusing on the importance of ethical principles and excellence for a better future. This project concluded with the announcement of a winner.

- **BEMO Marketplace**, an innovative reskilling platform designed to provide employees and interns with opportunities to engage in new projects, acquire new skills, and receive additional remuneration in the process.

In line with our continuous commitment to transparency, we have the pleasure to share this report and make it accessible to all stakeholders on the Bank’s various communication channels.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Riad B. OBEGI
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Mr. Samih H. SAADE
Vice Chairman & Managing Director

Success Stories & Future Priorities

As Banque BEMO reflects on its recent accomplishments, it takes pride in the milestones achieved through strategic focus, and the collective efforts of its workforce. The following **Success Stories** not only underscore the Bank's dedication and commitment, but also lay a strong foundation for even a greater impact:

- **Rêver le Liban:** As part of the "Dreaming Lebanon" contest, Banque BEMO and its partners have already launched two editions. This educational initiative invites young Lebanese students to explore and reclaim Lebanon's past and present through text, inspiring them to dream of a better tomorrow. To date, 870 students have participated, with 36 winners recognized for their creativity and vision.

- **Back to our Cedar Roots:** In support of Lebanese mothers' rights, Banque BEMO has already launched three editions of the "Back to Our Cedar Roots" initiative. Through this program, 300 baby cedar trees have been allocated via a draw to individuals of Lebanese origin born to non-Lebanese fathers and living abroad. The initiative aimed to strengthen the bond with the diaspora, and highlight the ongoing injustice preventing Lebanese women from passing their nationality to their children.

- **Rotating Art:** In its continuous support of art and culture, Banque BEMO launched the "Rotating Art" initiative to promote artistic literacy as a fundamental right and make art more accessible. The initiative supports both professional and emerging artists by showcasing their work through rotating exhibitions and a monthly art draw. Today, the Rotating Art community includes over 500 friends and 300 artists who have participated in these enriching cultural events.

As we look ahead to 2025, Banque BEMO remains focused on advancing its strategic **Priorities**, and responding proactively to emerging opportunities and challenges in a rapidly evolving environment:

- **Gender Diversity and Inclusion:** As part of its long-term commitment to social responsibility, Banque BEMO will roll out a comprehensive 'Gender Inclusion and Diversity' strategy and action plan, designed to promote equal opportunities, empower women at-all-levels, and embed an inclusive mindset throughout the Bank's culture, policies, and practices.

- **Planting BEMO Mini-Forest:** As part of its commitment to sustainability, Banque BEMO will launch a special biodiversity initiative in collaboration with 'The Other Dada' and 'The Other Forest.' This project aims to transform a small parking space at the Bank's premises into a vibrant green oasis, creating a positive social and environmental impact within the neighborhood.

- **AI Transformation Roadmap:** As part of its forward-looking strategy, Banque BEMO will embark on a transformative AI journey aimed at enhancing operational efficiency, elevating customer experience, and driving innovation. An in-depth assessment will be conducted to identify the upskilling needs of each department, ensuring teams are equipped to integrate and leverage AI technologies effectively.

Governance

Governance

Corporate Governance

The year 2024 has emerged as one of the most defiant during the past period, largely due to the economic crisis and the impact of the war, which have had far-reaching repercussions across all sectors. The geopolitical tensions, the huge atrocities, and the economic and political tolls have left the country facing significant challenges to maintain social and economic stability, sustainability and security. Nonetheless, when navigating these unprecedented adversities, the need for resilience and adaptability will be greater than ever.

Despite the tumultuous times, though, the Chairman announced the year 2024, the "Year of Peace", accentuating that "we will deploy all efforts to serve our clients, become better and make our Bank stronger". Thus, the Board, Management and employees – guided by the regulator – should commit to the Bank's values and adopt integrity and transparency to embrace the relationship with all the stakeholders and the community to regain their trust, in order to rebuild and create a hopeful future. He added "together, we shall stay determined and confident until better days come". Moreover, the Chairman of the Board held quarterly meetings with all employees to share the latest updates and developments, fostering transparency and open dialogue across the organization.

Board Effectiveness

At all times, the Board of Directors commits to employing strong and effective governance practices and engaging with the Bank stakeholders in order to meet their expectations, preserve their long-term interests, and retain their trust. The Board also seeks to enhance the Bank's capacity to create wealth so to guarantee its sustainability in an increasingly vigorous and competitive environment.

The Board and its Committees undergo an annual self-evaluation, which is essential to ensure optimal performance and effectiveness, and which aims at assessing the diversity of the members' skillset and competences. The 2024 review acknowledged the Board environment that reflects transparency and ethical behavior, in addition to the governance structure, which promotes the separation and the fulfilment of responsibilities.

Board Composition

In December 2024, a new independent member was elected, thus, demonstrating the Board's commitment to achieving a balanced mix of expertise, skills, and diversity; whereby, 63% of the Board members are independent directors and 13% are women – noting that the Board is seeking to improve the gender balance among its members.
Following the new appointment, changes had to be made to the composition of the Board Committees to ensure that they were adequately equipped to fulfill their responsibilities. Said changes were made in accordance with the governance best practices and the Central Bank's requirements.

Board Purposes

As the Board takes its responsibilities seriously towards stakeholders, it, accordingly, invests sincere efforts to cultivate long-term success and enhance shareholders' value, while maintaining a culture of transparency and honesty. In addition, the Board aims to foster a gender equal environment within the Bank's Governance framework.
On the other hand and in light of the so far ongoing economic crisis, the Board thrives to support the Bank rebuild and maintain the trust of stakeholders despite all the challenges being encountered.

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)

The Board of Directors has always been committed to integrating ESG norms into the Bank's business practices, through maintaining strong corporate governance, implementing environmentally friendly practices, and encouraging diversity.
In addition, the Board regularly communicates with all the stakeholders and engages in addressing their concerns – being financial or social – with timely follow up, as it is dedicated to maintaining a long-term relationship with them. This consistent active involvement with the Bank stakeholders positively impacts community development and subsequently promotes sustainable growth.

Humanitarian Committee

Banque BEMO Board of Directors established a Humanitarian Committee with the mandate to advise and support the Board in discharging its oversight responsibilities concerning requests for assistance submitted by clients in response to their urgent humanitarian needs. This initiative reflects the Board's commitment to social responsibility and its recognition of the critical importance of timely and compassionate support in times of crisis.

Deontology & Ethics

Despite the series of significant challenges across political, economic, and humanitarian spheres that the country has faced during the past period, Banque BEMO remains constantly committed to upholding ethical standards in its interactions with stakeholders and the community. This commitment serves to generate enduring stakeholder value that transcends the purely material dimensions of business and embraces fundamental human and ethical values.

The Bank has instituted a comprehensive framework of measures to ensure the preservation and promotion of these standards, through the establishment of a Code of Conduct and the Ethics Charter, which delineate the Bank's commitment to the highest standards of ethical and moral integrity, and responsibilities that govern conduct, decision making, and actions across day-to-day business operations; the development of an Ethics Questionnaire intended to assess the prevailing ethical climate within the organization; the issuance of an Ethical Statement, affirming the commitment of Non-Governmental Entities to the Bank's ethical standards; and lastly, the partnership with ESA Business School on two Business Ethics projects, integrated into the BBA and MBA programs in 2022 and 2024, reinforcing the Bank's commitment to fostering ethical practices in the business community.

> *"Thus, the Board, Management and employees – guided by the regulator – should commit to the Bank's values and adopt integrity and transparency to embrace the relationship with all the stakeholders and the community to regain their trust, in order to rebuild and create a hopeful future."*

Business Ethics and Ethical Leadership

The launching of "Business Ethics and Ethical Leadership" project was initiated by Banque BEMO Institutions Business Development in partnership with ESA Business School. During the launching event, both Mr. Maxence Duault and Dr. Riad Obegi highlighted the importance of the principles of ethics and excellence for a better Lebanon. A special thanks to the NGOs Bassma, Oum el Nour, AFEL, Acsauvel, and the companies Naggiar and Publicis for their participation in this project. Congratulations to Naggiar and the winners of this project.

This “Business Ethics” project was integrated into the ESA Business School BBA and MBA programs in 2024, thus reinforcing the Bank’s commitment to fostering ethical practices in the business community.

> ***“We are bound by shared Values, strong Business Ethics, Transparency and Commitment for Continuous Improvement”***

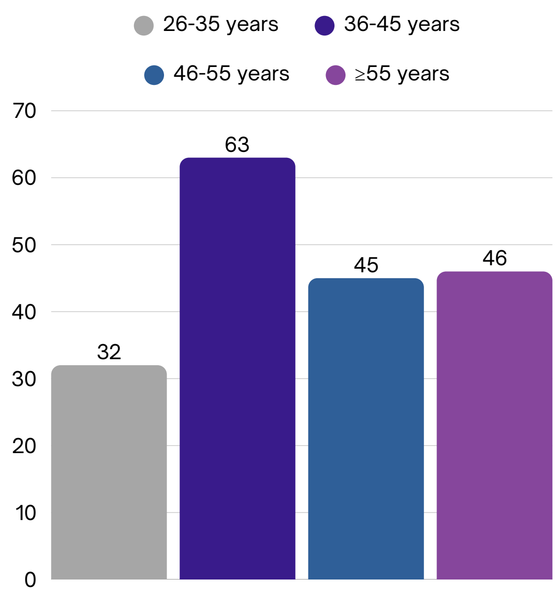
Human Rights & Labor

Human Capital

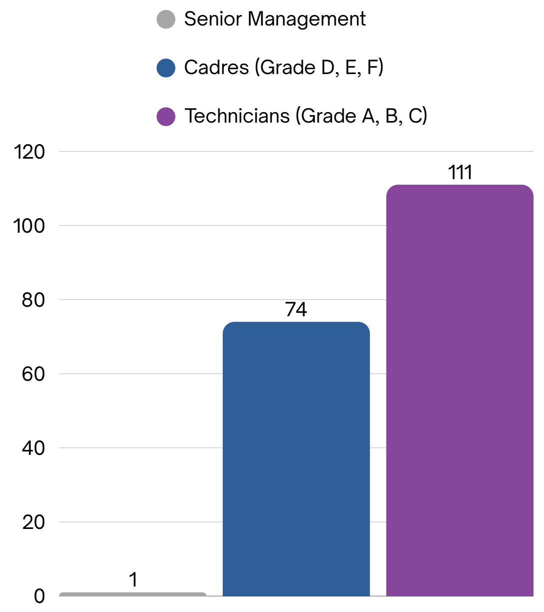
Demographics of management and employees by diverse factors

Distribution by Gender

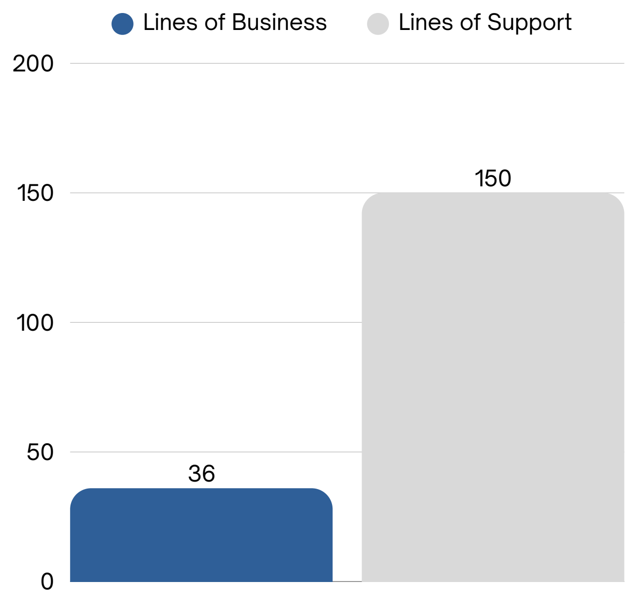
Distribution per Age

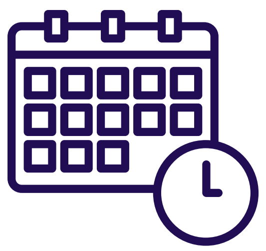


Distribution per Corporate Title

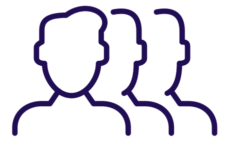


Distribution per Business Line





Paternity leave



4 Fathers

20 Days

Maternity leave

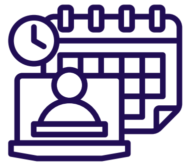
0 Mothers

0 Days

Family medical leave

42 Employees

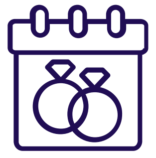
100 Days



Study leave

0 Employees

0 Days



Marriage leave

0 Employees

0 Days

3 Total number of **New recruits**

186 Total number of **employees as at 31.12.2024**

Recruitment & Onboarding

In light of the continued challenging environment in the country and its impact on the banking sector, the HR Management Department remained focused in 2024 on preserving the Bank's operational efficiency by ensuring prompt and targeted recruitment.

During the year, a total of three new employees were recruited—all of whom are former employees who chose to return to the Bank. This notable trend is a testament to the positive work environment, strong institutional values, and family spirit that the Bank continues to foster.

Additionally, in support of internal growth and career development, two internal transfers were carried out under the Internal Mobility process, providing employees with new opportunities and responsibilities across departments.

All newly hired and transferred employees were closely supported through tailored induction programs and performance monitoring to ensure smooth integration and alignment with their new roles.

Learning & Development

The HR Management organized a variety of learning sessions for employees, some of which were conducted internally by the Bank, while others were delivered in collaboration with external partners. These sessions covered a range of topics across different areas.

Training Breakdown

Indoor	Outdoor
77%	**23%**
0% Investment	100% Investment

BEMO Learning Hub

In line with our continuous commitment to creating opportunities for learning and self-development, the Human Resources Management launched the “BEMO Learning Hub” in 2024.

It is a platform through which our expert employees, each in their field of expertise, develop training programs to provide a deep understanding of their respective business areas. It is designed to reach a diverse audience, ranging from our employees to young school graduates aspiring for educational growth in the banking sector, as well as adults eager to advance their careers, pursue personal enrichment, and enhance their skills. This initiative offers benefits to both employee instructors and the target audience, while also establishing an innovative image for our Bank.

Under this platform, the “Transfer of Knowledge” initiative was introduced. It aims to share knowledge of core business principles despite ongoing changes, by conducting presentations that explain the main activities of each department/unit to employees from other business lines.

Many Subjects were tackled:

Subjects	Number of participants
Cards Management	24 attendees
Central Back Office - Payments and Clearing	20 attendees
Central Back Office - Operations Business Support	10 attendees
Trade Finance - Documentary Collections	28 attendees
Trade Finance - LG’s	36 attendees
Trade Finance - LC’s	35 attendees

Internship Program

In 2024, 19 University Students from the top Universities in Lebanon, were selected to pursue their internship at Banque BEMO.

The Internship Program was held over a two-month period, offering a blended learning experience that combined an understanding of core banking activities through e-presentations, followed by on-site engagement.

27.5 hours
Online presentations

4 weeks
On-site engagements

Trainings & Awareness on Anti-Money Laundry and New international and local trends:

Subjects	Number of Participants
Implications of FinCEN's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Virtual Currency Mixers	1 attendee
Compliance Managers Meeting	2 attendees
Tackling Proliferation Financing Challenges | Latest Red Flags, Emerging Trends & Case Studies	1 attendee
Exploring the World of Politically Exposed Persons	8 attendees
The annual forum of combatting money laundering and terrorism financing	1 attendee

“Labor Rights are an integral part of Banque BEMO Code of Conduct and Human Resources Management policies”

BEMO Alumni

Banque BEMO recognizes the value of maintaining strong connections with its alumni, as ambassadors of the Bank’s values and legacy. In line with this vision, a dedicated social media page has been launched to serve as a platform for interaction, networking, and sharing latest developments. The establishment of this new channel marked an important step toward fostering a more engaged and connected alumni community. Further developments will be explored in the near future.

Healthy & Happy Environment

Banque BEMO remains committed to fostering a healthy and positive work environment that supports the well-being, safety, and morale of its employees. By encouraging a culture of mutual respect, work-life balance, and wellness-focused initiatives, the Bank aimed to create a workplace where individuals can thrive both personally and professionally.

Banque BEMO maintained the **Chief of Happiness** initiative. The mission of the COH is to make the workplace's happiness a priority through a series of simple and easy-to-implement ideas/quick wins; thus putting in place a creative approach to a happy environment. This year, the Bank's COH, in collaboration with the Communication Department, organized several events that aimed to create a relaxed and fun atmosphere across the Bank.

Celebration of Women's Day

Employees were invited to take part in a virtual wellness event organized by our partner Stand For Women, titled **"Breathing Together for Peace and Unity".**

Guided by SOMA Breathwork Coach Brook Avsar, the session offered a soothing, multisensory meditation experience. Through synchronized breathing techniques and therapeutic music, participants were taken on a journey to transform stress into stillness, fatigue into energy, and chaos into calm.

This session served as a powerful reminder of the importance of pausing to breathe together.

Employee Volunteerism Program

While no major volunteering activities were undertaken during 2024, Banque BEMO remains committed to fostering among its workforce, the spirit of volunteerism and social contribution. An action plan is currently under consideration to encourage a greater participation in community-engagement initiatives.

Easter-Ramadan Foodathon

As part of our ongoing commitment to community support, Banque BEMO proudly took part in the Easter-Ramadan Foodathon 2024, a food drive organized by our partner Bassma. The initiative aimed to collect essential food items for underprivileged families, children, and abandoned elderly during these difficult times.

Thanks to the generous contributions of our colleagues, we were able to deliver much-needed food supplies enabling Bassma to proceed with timely distribution. This initiative contributed to Bassma's ongoing efforts, which have reached over 700,000 underprivileged individuals over the past 21 years—and continue to do so today.

Through collective support and compassion, we helped bring relief and draw smiles on the faces of those who need it most.

74 KGS

of food were donated

24

employees participated

Environment

Carbon Footprint Management

Since 2017, Banque BEMO is committed to compute, calculate, and report its carbon footprint management, in close collaboration with V4 Advisors DMCC. The Bank's continuous monitoring and efforts, on reducing its carbon footprint by 51.8% since 2017, reflect the serious commitment to the Sustainable Development Goal 13 "Climate Action".

This year, Banque BEMO enrolled in the UNGC Climate Ambition Accelerator program, which will help in getting started and making progress towards setting ambitious emission targets. Taking part of this program is a key step on the path to a sustainable positive impact on climate change journey.

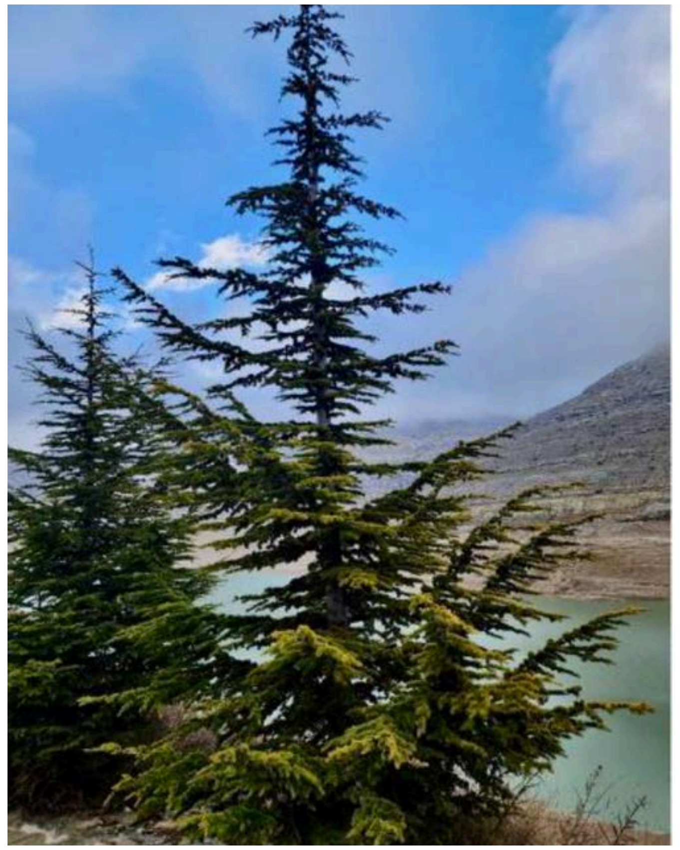
Back to our Cedar Roots

The draw ceremony for the fourth edition of Banque BEMO's "Back to Our Cedar Roots" initiative, originally scheduled in November, was postponed due to the challenges that were facing our country. But despite this, and as a testament to its unwavering commitment to this meaningful cause, Banque BEMO, in collaboration with Jouzour Loubnan, planted a cedar tree in the scenic location of Sad Chabrouh-Kfardebian.

This symbolic gesture was dedicated to all Lebanese mothers as a tribute to their enduring love, resilience, and strength.

By planting this tree, the bank reaffirmed its dedication to both environmental conservation and honoring the roots of Lebanon’s heritage, embodied by the majestic cedar tree, a symbol of hope, perseverance, and the nation’s identity.

This initiative aims at casting the attention on the unfairness suffered by Lebanese women who are unable to pass the Lebanese nationality to their children. 100 cedar trees will be allocated in a draw on 22 November 2025, to 100 persons of Lebanese origin, living abroad and not having a father of Lebanese nationality.



Waste Management

Banque BEMO was identified as a “Green Hero” by joining the "Green Heart Program" with EcoHub, which is a community space that transforms recyclable waste into eco-currency. It is an alternative and unique shopping model built on a circular economy that supports both the environment and people in need. In 2024, we have successfully recycled 56.5 Kilograms of general recyclables (e.g. plastic, metal, glass, cardboard).

As well, the Bank continued to promote sustainable resource use through the responsible handling of electronic waste. In 2024, we collected and prepared for ethical recycling 83 end-of-life electronic devices, which amount to 279.5 kilograms of electronic waste. These items were processed through Ecoserv, a certified recycling partner, and a joint initiative with UN Global Compact Network Lebanon.

Ecoserv is a non-profit organization and currently among those leading the climate for change in Lebanon by offering services towards Green CSR, through electronic waste solutions and social awareness.

The above efforts contributed significantly to reducing landfill waste, conserving resources, providing food parcels to vulnerable families and supporting a circular economy.

Building on our 2024 progress, and as part of our sustainability and waste reduction initiatives, we will launch a series of awareness campaigns, in 2025, to educate internal and external stakeholders about responsible waste disposal; thus further reducing the environmental footprint and promoting circular practices

56.5 KGS

of general recyclable

279.5 KGS

of electronic waste

7,600 KGS

of recycled paper

Climate Ambition Accelerator Program

Banque BEMO participated in the UN Global Compact 2024 Climate Ambition Accelerator, a six-month program that provided guidance and tools to accelerate progress toward setting science-based emissions targets and transitioning to net-zero emissions by 2050.
The program was valuable in enhancing the Bank’s understanding of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It also offered access to on-demand learning sessions, industry experts, and peers from the Middle East region, enabling the exchange of insights during group sessions.
Building on our seven years of carbon footprint management, the Bank will, in 2025, focus on aligning its emissions reduction pathway with science-based targets, reinforcing its long-term commitment to climate action.

Anti-Corruption

Anti-Corruption

Anti-Bribery & Corruption

As part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining the highest ethical standards within our organization, Banque BEMO has updated its Anti-Bribery and Corruption (ABC) Manual. Aligned with local and international laws and regulations, this Manual details the bank's commitment to preventing bribery and corruption through a Zero-Tolerance Approach that applies to all employees and associated parties.

Roles and responsibilities for mitigating bribery and corruption risks are assigned to various departments and individuals, including Board Compliance & AML/CFT Committee; Directors/Managers; Internal Audit; Human Resources Management; Organization, Communication and Quality Management; Risk Management; and AML/CFT Compliance Unit, which is divided into two sub-units: one for monitoring money laundering activities (AML/CFT Transactions Monitoring), and another for overseeing bribery and corruption risks (ABC).

The ABC Unit is headed by the ABC Champion, an independent employee who reports to the AML/CFT Compliance Unit Senior Manager and Chief Compliance Officer.

The ABC Champion is mainly responsible for i) developing and implementing the ABC Policy and Procedure to replace and supersede the existing ABC Manual; ii) collaborating with the Operational Risk Management Unit to conduct bribery and corruption risk assessments across all bank departments as part of the RCSA process; iii) preparing semi-annual reports for the Board Compliance & AML/CFT Committee; iv) developing and implementing training programs for employees, new recruits, and interns; v) monitoring high-risk clients, namely public sector employees, politically exposed persons (PEPs), and NGOs/NPOs; and vi) participating in investigations of whistleblower incidents related to ABC.

The ABC Unit also manages risks related to associated persons and third parties. It mandates to conduct appropriate risk-based due diligence before initiating relationships, with enhanced due diligence for higher-risk clients. New or updated agreements with third parties include an “ABC Statement”, prepared by the Bank, requiring the third party to confirm and certify their adherence to relevant anti-bribery laws and regulations. Otherwise, Banque BEMO has the right to suspend or terminate the business relationship if unethical or unprofessional activity suspected of violating ABC provisions is detected.

Additional Activities

a. Cultural Activities

Rotating Art Exhibitions

“Lebanon through the Eyes of our Parents" at College des Saints-Coeurs Sioufi

The "Rotating Art" exhibition, titled "Lebanon Through the Eyes of Our Parents: A Perspective by Artists of Yesterday and Today," took place at the College des Saints-Coeurs Sioufi (SSCC), in collaboration with SSCC, Gabriel Rizkallah Art Consultancy and Commercial Insurance. The opening ceremony brought together ambassadors, artists, gallery owners, collectors, parents of students, and alumni of the College. This exhibition paid tribute to Lebanon's rich cultural heritage through the works of 46 emerging and renowned artists, who have shaped its artistic narrative, bridging the past and present. Throughout the week, the exhibition featured artist student interactions and guided tours, fostering a vibrant cultural exchange.

“L’Art Blessé de Beyrouth à Tripoli”

In celebration of Tripoli's designation as 2024 Arab capital of culture, Banque BEMO and the Municipality of Tripoli, in partnership with Commercial Insurance and Gabriel Rizkallah Art Consultancy, hosted the opening ceremony of the Rotating Art exhibition titled "L'Art Blessé de Beyrouth à Tripoli" at the Municipality Cultural Center, housed within the historic Nawfal Palace. The exhibition attracted attendees from various backgrounds, highlighting the importance of art in fostering unity and celebrating cultural diversity. Interactions between artists and students took place, whereby students explored the artworks, engaged with their stories, and immersed themselves in the captivating beauty on display.

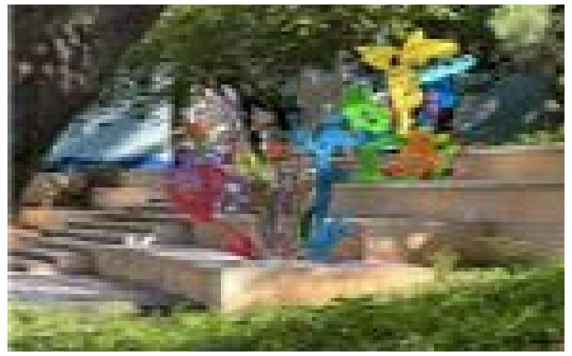
"Femmes artistes. Artistes femmes”

The “Rotating Art” exhibition entitled «Femmes artistes. Artistes femmes», was inaugurated by Banque BEMO and the Federation of Alumni Associations of Saint Joseph University at the Charles Corm Foundation. The event was held in partnership with Gabriel Rizkallah Art Consultancy, Commercial Insurance, as well as Ixsir Wine.
The opening ceremony brought together a diverse audience, including friends, artists, gallery owners, private collectors, organizers, and partners.
This exhibition celebrated the richness of feminine artistic expression and, above all, honored the talent of women artists and their ability to overcome challenges and leave a lasting impact on the cultural and artistic landscape of Lebanon and beyond.

Guided Tours - Exhibitions & Events

Opening Ceremony “Vie sur Vie” Exhibition

Banque BEMO was one of the main sponsors of “Vie Sur Vie”, Nadim Karam’s latest exhibition, at ESA Business School’s Henry et Nadège Obegi Gardens. In this exhibition, Nadim Karam offered the chance to glimpse into his creative processes, and navigate a path through life and survival, where each encounter becomes a portal. “Vie sur Vie” invited us to reflect on the inter-connection between two sculpture series: To Be or Not to Be and Urban Bouquets. Drawing from his experience of life in a region where the spectre of war is ever-present, the artist explores existentialism through his distinctive brand of humanism infused with absurdity.



“The Passion of Colors”

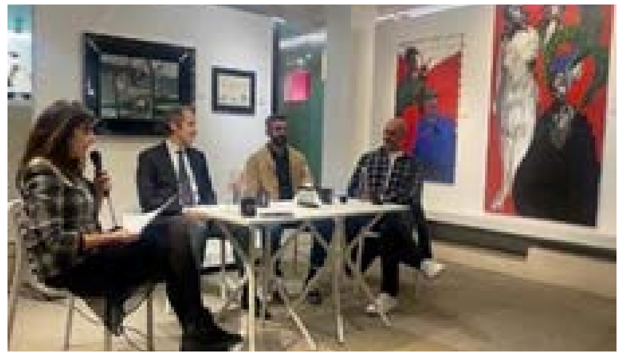
Banque BEMO organized a guided tour of the "Passion of Colors", a retrospective exhibition curated by Randa Sadaka and Kalim Bechara, showcasing the works of the artist Leila Nabbout Wakim at Beit Beirut. The guided tour was followed by a panel discussion about the retrospective, with Yara Lapidus, Saleh Barakat, Randa Sadaka and Kalim Bechara.

“Lebanese Landscapes, a Venture of belonging”

Banque BEMO organized a guided tour of the collective exhibition "Lebanese Landscapes, a Venture of Belonging", curated by Randa Sadaka, and hosted by Agial Art Gallery. The guided tour was followed by a conversation about Lebanese landscapes with Saleh Barakat, Oussama Baalbaki and Randa Sadaka.

“Endless Impulse”

Banque BEMO organized a guided tour of the exhibition "Endless Impulse: Rafic Charaf-Simon Mhanna”, curated by Randa Sadaka, and hosted by WWY Gallery. This exhibition offered a beautiful journey from the roots of expressionism of Rafic Charaf to the neo-expressionism of today by Simon Mhanna. The guided tour was followed by "Art and Institutions" conference with Ricardo Karam, Yasser Akkaoui and Jihad Mikhael.



“Uprising Sceneries & Works on Paper”

Banque BEMO organized a guided tour of the exhibition "Uprising Sceneries" showcasing the acrylic works on paper and a mural (20m x 60cm) by the renowned artist Chaouki Chamoun at Mark Hachem Gallery, Beirut. This visit offered an extraordinary experience and an inspiring art exchange between the artist and the audience.

“Journal of Times I Journal of Present Times”

Banque BEMO, in collaboration with Joumana Rizk, Founder and Managing Director of MIRROS Communications, organized an afternoon dedicated to art with the renowned artist Nadim Karam. The event took place during the viewing of his exhibition, "Journal of Times| Journal of Present Times," curated by Nayla Tamraz, at Abroyan Factories. This compelling exhibition chronicles 30 years of Karam's intense artistic journey, reflecting on pivotal events such as the 2006 war, the lockdown period, and the catastrophic Beirut port explosion.

“Life Beyond the Self”

Banque BEMO and Joumana Rizk, Founder and Managing Director of MIRROS Communications, hosted an art-filled afternoon with artist Christine Safatly during the visit to her exhibition "Life Beyond the Self" at the Mayflower Hotel, Hamra. The exhibition featured 31 paintings and drawings, along with two new sculptural works, delving into posthumanist philosophical themes.

“Ramzi Mallat Studio Visit”

Banque BEMO organized an exclusive visit at the studio of the multidisciplinary artist Ramzi Mallat. This special visit offered a unique opportunity to delve into the creative world of the artist where his upcoming project pushes the boundaries of visual art and storytelling.

“Faces & Faces - From portraits to autoportraits”

Banque BEMO organized a guided tour of the exhibition «Faces & Faces - From portraits to autoportraits», by the artists Leila Nseir, Nazir Nabaa, and Oussama Baalbaki. This exhibition is curated by Randa Sadaka, in collaboration with Saleh Barakat Gallery and Georges Kamel Gallery. The guided tour was followed by a conversation with Saleh Barakat, Serwan Baran and Pascale Kamel.

«Portals & Pathways»

Banque BEMO organized a guided tour of the exhibition «Portals & Pathways» at the Nuhad Es-Said Pavilion for Culture at the National Museum of Beirut. Special thanks to both BeMA Co-Director Juliana Khalaf and the artist Alfred Tarazi, for conducting the guided tour and diving into the four themes of the exhibition: memory, myths, perception, and territory, connecting reality and imagination.

“Artistic Afternoon”

Highlights from the artistic afternoon, covering guided tours to exhibitions in the presence of the artists, gallerists and curators.

Teal Art Foundation "Vision of Time" exhibition co-curated by Randa Sadaka and Mazen Souaid, followed by a dialogue with Roger Moukarzel and Saleh Barakat.

"Rise of the Cactus" exhibition at Multaqa As-Safir, followed by a discussion with the artist Omran Younis.

"Les paysages d'Oussama Baalbaki" exhibition and poetry at Saleh Barakat Gallery.

"A corps perdu" duo exhibition at no/madUtopia, by the artists Sirine Germany and Shawki Youssef, curated by Marie Tomb.

"Beyond the Artofficial", the solo show of the artist Magali Katra at Artscoops.

b. Educational Activities

La Nuit des Idées

For the eighth consecutive year, Banque BEMO was proud to partner with the Institut Français du Liban for La Nuit des Idées. Under the theme “Lignes de faille” (“Fault Lines”), the event featured a diverse, multidisciplinary program that included talks, debates, artistic performances, and exhibitions. Lebanese and French philosophers, writers, artists, researchers, and journalists came together to engage with the public-speaking in both Arabic and French-on contemporary issues, offering reflections on the world of today and tomorrow.

8th Arab Reading Challenge

The young student Omar Al Chamouri won the title of Lebanon champion in the 8th Arab Reading Challenge, for the academic year 2023-2024.
Banque BEMO was one of the sponsors of the ceremony held to honor the winners at UNESCO under the patronage of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the Ministry of Culture. The objective of this competition is to encourage exceptional talent, empower the young generation to acquire knowledge and inspire them to read and strengthen their connection to the Arabic language.

Rêver le Liban (Dreaming Lebanon)

The award ceremony for the second edition of the contest “Rêver le Liban,” initiated by Banque BEMO, was held at ESA Business School. Open to Lebanese high school and university students, the competition brought together hundreds of participants around the theme “The Hidden Gardens of Beirut.”

“We wanted to invite our youth to imagine and dream of an excellent and generous Lebanon, one that we will all contribute to, in all our diversity,” said Dr. Riad Obegi, Chairman and General Manager of Banque BEMO.

The competition's President and Partners – Mrs. Nevine Hage Chahine, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Institut Français du Liban, Librairie Antoine, the Assabil Association, and the Beirut Center of Photography - praised the participants' dedication.

Sixty-three works were published in a collection titled “The Hidden Gardens of Beirut.” The presentation and distribution ceremony for this book, along with library memberships for the authors, was postponed to January 2025 due to the war.

Bechara and Carmen Obegi Prize for Creativity and Innovation

For the fourth consecutive year, Saint Joseph University of Beirut, in collaboration with the Entrepreneurship and Competence Center (EC2), the Faculty of Economic Sciences (FSE), and the USJ Foundation, hosted the award ceremony for the "Bechara and Carmen Obegi Prize for Creativity and Innovation." At the conclusion of the ceremony, based on criteria such as innovation, market potential, growth prospects, and financial viability, the jury awarded first place in the "Bechara and Carmen Obegi Prize for Creativity and Innovation" to Apple House, second place to Awfarli, and third place to Beyond Barriers.

Les Petits Déjeuners du Management

“Les Petits Déjeuners du Management” and “Les Rencontres HEC,” organized by ESA Business School in partnership with Banque BEMO, hosted several breakfast conferences covering a range of topics, led by prominent local and international speakers.

“Digital Luxury Marketing”.

Speaker:
Jacopo Filippo Bargellini

“Beyond the Hype: the outlook for East Med gas”.

Speaker:
Mona Sukkarieh

“Le Marketing dans sa globalité”.

Speaker:
Nabil Tabet

“Coping with the stressors of war and uncertainty”.

Speaker:
Georges Karam

“Que faire pour remettre en marche le Liban et que peut faire la communauté internationale et la France en particulier?”

Speaker:
Francois Sporrer

“Comment surmonter et réussir à prospérer en période de conflits”

Speaker:
Emile Strunc

“Work-Shock: In an era of continuous business change and toxic working culture, reinvent the agenda to keep your people productive, motivated and healthy!”

Speaker:
Tony Tarantini

“Corporate Responsibility in times of crisis.”

Speaker:
Olivier Delbard

Forum and Summit

SelectUSA Investment Summit

Banque BEMO was invited to attend the Lebanese delegation's meeting with her Excellency Lisa Johnson, the U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon. The meeting was attended by the Chairman of the Board Dr. Riad Obegi, and Mr. Bechara Youssef who represented Banque BEMO in the SelectUSA Investment Summit in Maryland in June, 2024. The SelectUSA Investment Summit is the highest profile event in the United States dedicated to promoting foreign direct investment, connecting thousands of investors, companies, economic development organizations and industry experts and exploring potential networking opportunities.

Forum: The Real Estate and Housing Sector in Lebanon

The Chairman of the Board Dr. Riad Obegi had an intervention at a panel in the second Lebanese Real Estate Forum, delving into the topic of "Impact of proptech and digitalization on the real estate and housing industry". This year's forum was titled "The Real Estate and Housing Sector in Lebanon: Between Stagnation and Revival" and was organized by the Real Estate Syndicate of Lebanon.

c. Social Activities

Upcycling Workshop with Artist Mirna Mchantaf

Banque BEMO invited a group of children from the Association du Foyer de l’Enfant Libanais (AFEL) to participate in a workshop at the studio of artist Mirna Mchantaf. Through her ecological and artistic approach, the artist helped raise the children’s awareness about the importance of recycling and upcycling as ways to protect the environment. Upcycling involves reusing or transforming objects to serve a purpose different from their original use.
A meaningful exchange took place between the artist and the children, who had the opportunity to take part in an upcycling activity where recycled materials were transformed into beautiful Christmas decorations.

Outdoor Movie Night

In the face of current challenges, Banque BEMO's commitment to cultural resilience continued to thrive. The bank wrapped up August 2024 with an original event: an open-air film screening at the bank's parking lot at Achrafieh. In partnership with the Institut Francais du Liban, Banque BEMO screened Astérix et Obélix: L'Empire du milieu in the Bank's parking lot. The event brought together people of all ages for an enjoyable evening under the stars. With free entry, attendees enjoyed a relaxing and unique cinematic experience in an outdoor setting.

Myschoolpulse Marathon

Banque BEMO's family spirit came together once more as the Bank's employees and their families joined the Myschoolpulse marathon "Run with us, for them" in the beautiful surroundings of Faqra Club, in support of their mission to enable sick children continue their schooling in hospital during the academic year.

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