# China / Hong Kong Company Update

# **Country Garden Services Holdings Co Ltd**

Bloomberg: 6098 HK Equity | Reuters: 6098.HK

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

#### DBS Group Research . Equity

#### 2 Feb 2024

#### HOLD

Last Traded Price (1 Feb 2024): HK\$5.09 (HSI: 15,566)
Price Target 12-mth: HK\$5.50 (8% upside) (Prev HK\$9.00)

#### **Analyst**

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#### What's New

- Multiple headwinds weighing on earnings outlook
- Near-term share price and valuation may remain subdued pending clarity on Country Garden's offshore restructuring plan
- Cut FY23-25F earnings forecast by 22-23% to reflect the challenging near-term growth outlook and margin pressure
- Maintain HOLD with revised TP of HK\$5.50/sh



#### **Forecasts and Valuation**

FY Dec (RMBm) Turnover EBITDA Pre-tax Profit Net Profit Net Profit (Gth (Pre-ex) (%) EPS (RMB) EPS (HK\$) Core EPS (RMB) Core EPS (HK\$) EPS Gth (%) Core EPS (HK\$) BY Per Share (HK\$) BY Per (X) P/Cash Flow (X) P/Free CF (X) EV/EBITDA (X) Net Die Viele (A) Net Debt/Eauitv (X) ROAE(%)	2022A 41.367 5.427 3.486 1.943 5.022 9.0 0.58 0.63 1.49 1.62 (55.1) 1.6 1.62 0.41 12.11 8.1 3.1 4.7 nm 1.7 8.0 0.4 CASH 5.3	2023F 41,210 7,104 5,263 3,660 3,660 (27,1) 1,09 1,18 1,09 1,18 8,83 (27,1) 1,18 0,30 12,89 4,3 4,3 2,8 5,5 1,1 5,8 0,4 CASH 9,5	2024F 42,924 7.379 5.548 3.858 3.858 5.4 1.15 1.25 1.15 1.25 0.31 13.84 4.1 4.1 3.4 8.5 1.0 6.1 0.4 CASH 9.3	2025F 44,424 7,526 5,706 3,969 3,969 2,9 1,18 1,28 1,18 1,28 2,9 1,28 0,32 14,81 4,0 4,0 3,4 8,4 0,8 6,3 0,3 CASH 9,0
Earnings Rev (%):	<i>د</i> .د	(22)	(22)	(23)
Consensus EPS (RMB)		1.10	1.26	1.36
Other Broker Recs:		B:23	S:4	H:8

Source of all data on this page: Company, DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited ("DBS HK"), Thomson Reuters

## Facing multiple headwinds

#### **Investment Thesis**

Operationally independent industry leader with multiple business lines. Supported by its sister developer Country Garden (CG, 2007 HK) and its proactiveness in the M&A space, CGS has become the largest property manager in China, in terms of contracted and managed GFA. The company has made inroads and established a presence in synergetic community VAS businesses (e.g., community media) and city services. With only 4.4% of revenue derived directly from CG in 1H23 and a falling portion of incremental contracted GFA from its related developer, CGS demonstrated its ability to operate independently whilst maintaining its industry leader position despite the absence of support from related parties.

Cloudy earnings outlook. CGS's community VAS (such as community media) is facing challenges alongside a weaker-than-expected macro backdrop. Its property management (PM) business will likely be suppressed alongside a continuously fierce competition environment. Growth outlook for city services is also uncertain with local governments operating under tighter budgets. These, coupled with sizeable receivables and goodwill impairment announced in Dec-23, will likely drag CGS's near-term earnings outlook. We have revised down our FY23-25F core earnings forecast (excl. goodwill and receivable impairments) by 22-23%.

Eyes on CG's upcoming offshore restructuring plan. With CGS being a valuable offshore asset of the Yang family, we believe the 16.12% stake held by Chairlady Yang could potentially be put on the negotiation table for CG's offshore restructuring plan as part of an asset package to offset part of the developers' outstanding offshore debt or as credit enhancement. Uncertainties relating to CGS's role in CG's restructuring plan will likely remain a key share price and valuation overhang in the near-term.

Maintain HOLD with HK\$5.50/sh TP. We believe uncertainty over CGS's role in CG's restructuring plan will remain an overhang on the counter's share price performance until there is clarity on the matter. Our new TP is based on a three-stage DCF model, which implies c.4.3x FY24F P/E.

#### **Key Risks**

Adverse developments on CG's restructuring progress; larger than expected impairment on related party receivable

#### At A Glance

15	ssued Capital (m shrs)		3,373
Ν	/lkt Cap (HKm/US\$m)	17,169 /	2,196
Ν	Najor Shareholders (%)		
	Yang (Huiyan)		16.1
F	ree Float (%)		63.5
3	lm Avg. Daily Val. (US\$m)		23.1
(	GICS Industry: Industrials / Commercial & Professiona	l Service	







#### **Company Background**

CGS is the property management arm of Country Garden (CG; 2007 HK). It was spun off by the introduction onto the HKSE via a 1-for-8.7 distribution ratio of CG shares in June 2018. The company is a leading residential property management services provider, ranked first in terms of overall strength among the Top 100 Property Management Companies in China by the CIA in 2020. It operated total contracted GFA of 1.65bn sm as at Jun-23.

#### **Historical PE and PB band**

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Source: Thomson Reuters, DBS HK



#### Segmental Breakdown (RMB m)

FY Dec	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
Revenues (RMB m)					
Property management	13,794	22,856	23,159	24,795	25,971
services	13,794	22,030	25,139	24,793	23,971
Three supplies and	2,508	4,118	4,187	4,270	4,356
property management	,	,	,	,	,
Heat supply	1,222	1,435	1,507	1,582	1,630
Community value-added	3,328	4,018	3,730	3,972	4,244
services	3,320	1,010	3,730	3,372	1,2 1 1
Value-added services to	2,675	2,665	2,057	1,731	1,635
non-property owners					
City services	4,529	4,837	5,061	4,934	4,811
Other services	788	1,439	1,511	1,638	1,778
Total	28,843	41,367	41,210	42,924	44,424
Gross Profit (RMB m)					
Property management	4,180	5,828	5,446	5,707	5,847
services	1,100	3,020	3,110	3,707	3,017
Three supplies and	291	362	293	299	305
property management					
Heat supply	127	136	113	119	122
Community value-added	2,013	2,149	1,608	1,717	1,659
services	_, -,	_,	.,	.,	.,
Value-added services to	1,094	362	194	172	167
non-property owners	,				
City services	797	909	886	864	866
Other services	362	509	531	584	641
Total	8,864	10,257	9,071	9,460	9,608
Gross Profit Margins (%)					
Property management	30.3	25.5	23.5	23.0	22.5
services					
Three supplies and	11.6	8.8	7.0	7.0	7.0
property management					
Heat supply	10.4	9.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
Community value-added	60.5	53.5	43.1	43.2	39.1
services					
Value-added services to	40.9	13.6	9.4	9.9	10.2
non-property owners					
City services	17.6	18.8	17.5	17.5	18.0
Other services	45.9	35.4	35.1	35.6	36.1
Total	30.7	24.8	22.0	22.0	21.6

Source: Company, DBS HK



#### Income Statement (RMB m)

FY Dec	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
Revenue	28,843	41,367	41,210	42,924	44,424
Cost of Goods Sold	(19,979)	(31,109)	(32,140)	(33,464)	(34,817)
Gross Profit	8,864	10,257	9,071	9,460	9,608
Other Opng (Exp)/Inc	(3,135)	(6,734)	(3,874)	(3,992)	(3,998)
Operating Profit	5,729	3,523	5,197	5,468	5,610
Other Non Opg (Exp)/Inc	0	0	0	0	0
Associates & JV Inc	41	34	38	42	48
Net Interest (Exp)/Inc	(98)	(72)	28	38	49
Dividend Income	0	0	0	0	0
Exceptional Gain/(Loss)	0	0	0	0	0
Pre-tax Profit	5,673	3,486	5,263	5,548	5,706
Tax	(1,323)	(1,224)	(1,316)	(1,387)	(1,427)
Minority Interest	(316)	(318)	(287)	(302)	(311)
Preference Dividend	0	0	0	0	0
Net Profit	4,033	1,943	3,660	3,858	3,969
Net Profit before Except.	4,607	5,022	3,660	3,858	3,969
EBITDA	6,876	5,427	7,104	7,379	7,526
Growth					
Revenue Gth (%)	84.9	43.4	(0.4)	4.2	3.5
EBITDA Gth (%)	71.6	(21.1)	30.9	3.9	2.0
Opg Profit Gth (%)	57.8	(38.5)	47.5	5.2	2.6
Net Profit Gth (%)	50.2	(51.8)	88.3	5.4	2.9
Margins & Ratio					
Gross Margins (%)	30.7	24.8	22.0	22.0	21.6
Opg Profit Margin (%)	17.9	6.8	10.9	11.1	11.0
Net Profit Margin (%)	19.7	8.4	12.8	12.9	12.8
ROAE (%)	15.9	5.3	9.5	9.3	9.0
ROA (%)	8.2	2.8	5.1	5.1	5.0
ROCE (%)	13.1	4.9	8.2	8.1	7.8
Div Payout Ratio (%)	25.0	64.6	25.0	25.0	25.0
Net Interest Cover (x)	58.6	48.8	NM	NM	NM
Source: Company, DBS HK					



#### Balance Sheet (RMB m)

Balance Sheet (KWB III)					
FY Dec	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
Niet Circul Access	1 200	1 470	2 571	F 66F	7.750
Net Fixed Assets	1,366	1,478	3,571	5,665	7,759
Invts in Associates & JVs	398	645	683	724	772
Other LT Assets	33,849	33,298	32,138	30,977	29,816
Cash & ST Invts	11,756	11,446	13,021	13,996	14,964
Inventory	211	271	270	281	291
Debtors	15,578	22,146	22,895	24,528	26,132
Other Current Assets	3,656	794	863	863	863
Total Assets	66,813	70,077	73,440	77,034	80,597
ST Debt	4,745	1,238	1,238	1,238	1,238
Creditors	14,413	16,865	17,536	17,885	18,132
Other Current Liab	5,632	6,891	6,891	6,891	6,891
LT Debt	442	1,016	1,016	1,016	1,016
Other LT Liabilities	3,207	4,158	4,158	4,158	4,158
Shareholder's Equity	36,187	37,456	39,861	42,804	45,809
Minority Interests	2,187	2,453	2,739	3,042	3,353
Total Cap. & Liab.		70,077	,	77,034	80,597
TOLAI Cap. & LIab.	66,813	70,077	73,440	77,034	60,397
Non-Cash Wkg. Capital	(601)	(546)	(401)	895	2,262
Net Cash/(Debt)	6,569	9,192	10,767	11,743	12,710
Debtors Turn (avg days)	131.7	166.4	199.5	201.6	208.1
Creditors Turn (avg days)	211.7	195.2	207.4	204.6	199.5
Inventory Turn (avg days)	3.4	3.0	3.3	3.2	3.2
Asset Turnover (x)	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Current Ratio (x)	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6
Quick Ratio (x)	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6
Net Debt/Equity (X)	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH
Net Debt/Equity ex MI (X)	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH	CASH
Capex to Debt (%) Source: Company, DBS HK	332.8	152.2	124.3	124.3	124.3

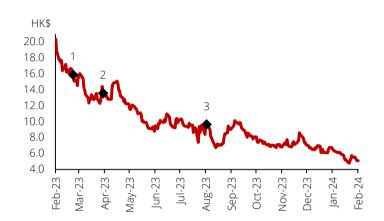
#### Cash Flow Statement (RMB m)

FY Dec	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
Pre-Tax Profit	5,673	3,486	5,263	5,548	5,706
Dep. & Amort.	1,105	1,869	1,869	1,869	1,869
Tax Paid	(1,347)	(1,877)	(1,316)	(1,387)	(1,427)
Assoc. & JV Inc/(loss)	(41)	(34)	(38)	(42)	(48)
(Pft)/ Loss on disposal of FAs	(35)	(74)	0	0	0
Chg in Wkg.Cap.	(1,972)	(2,138)	(76)	(1,296)	(1,366)
Other Operating CF	25	2,091	(28)	(38)	(49)
Net Operating CF	3,407	3,321	5,674	4,654	4,685
Capital Exp.(net)	(17,262)	(3,431)	(2,802)	(2,802)	(2,802)
Other Invts.(net)	4,608	9,908	0	0	0
Invts in Assoc. & JV	(637)	(133)	0	0	0
Div from Assoc & JV	0	0	0	0	0
Other Investing CF	(11,801)	(5,589)	140	150	162
Net Investing CF	(25,092)	755	(2,662)	(2,651)	(2,640)
Div Paid	(697)	(889)	(1,255)	(915)	(965)
Chg in Gross Debt	4,538	1,131	0	0	0
Capital Issues	15,312	(80)	0	0	0
Other Financing CF	(855)	(4,572)	(113)	(113)	(113)
Net Financing CF	18,298	(4,411)	(1,368)	(1,028)	(1,077)
Currency Adjustments	(209)	0	0	0	0
Chg in Cash	(3,597)	(334)	1,644	975	968
Opg CFPS (RMB)	1.71	1.62	1.71	1.77	1.80
Free CFPS (RMB)	(4.41)	(0.03)	0.85	0.55	0.56

Source: Company, DBS HK



#### **Target Price & Ratings 12-mth History**



S.No.	Date	Closing Price	Target Price	Rating
1	23-Feb-23	HK\$16.14	HK\$21.83	BUY
2	31-Mar-23	HK\$14.44	HK\$18.83	BUY
3	3-Aug-23	HK\$9.91	HK\$9.00	HOLD

Source: DBS HK

Analyst: Jason Lam

Dexter Chun

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STRONG BUY (>20% total return over the next 3 months, with identifiable share price catalysts within this time frame)

BUY (>15% total return over the next 12 months for small caps, >10% for large caps)

HOLD (-10% to +15% total return over the next 12 months for small caps, -10% to +10% for large caps)

FULLY VALUED (negative total return, i.e., > -10% over the next 12 months)

SELL (negative total return of > -20% over the next 3 months, with identifiable share price catalysts within this time frame)

\*Share price appreciation + dividends

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#### **Country Garden Services Holdings Co Ltd**

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