Sun Life Malaysia AIIMAN Select Income Fund

May 2023



FUND OBJECTIVE

To provide investors with regular income stream through Shariah-compliant investment.

FUND DETAILS					
Launch Date	13 February 2015	Domicile	Malaysia		
Currency	Ringgit Malaysia	Launch Price	RM1.0000		
Units in Circulation	14.72 million units (31 May 2023)	Fund Size	RM17.75 million (31 May 2023)		
Unit NAV	RM1.2063 (31 May 2023)	Dealing	Daily (as per Bursa Malaysia trading day)		
Fund Manager	AHAM Asset Management Berhad (FKA Affin Hwang Asset Management Berhad)	Target Fund	AHAM Aiiman Select Income Fund (FKA Affin Hwang Aiiman Select Income Fund)		
Benchmark	70% 12-month Maybank General Investment Account (GIA) + 30% FTSE Bursa Malaysia EMAS Shariah Index	Taxation	8% of annual investment income		
Risk Profile	Suitable for investors: Have a moderate risk appetite Expect incidental growth in capital Want an investment that complies with Shariah requirements	Fees	 Sun Life Malaysia does not impose any fund management charge on Sun Life Malaysia AIIMAN Select Income Fund. Up to 1.2% p.a. fund management charge is applied on the target fund's NAV by AHAM Asset Management Berhad. 		

ASSET ALLOCATION OF THE TARGET FUND			
Sukuk & Islamic Money Market Instruments	Shariah-compliant Equities	Cash & Others	
Min 60%; Max 100%	Min 0%; Max 40%	Remaining Balance	

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SECTOR ALLOCATION OF THE TARGET FUND			
Utilities	19.70%		
Industrials	13.90%		
Financial Services	11.60%		
Technology	10.20%		
Energy	7.60%		
Telecommunications	9.90%		
Real Estate	4.70%		
Banks	4.60%		
Financials	4.30%		
Consumer Staples	5.90%		
Health Care	1.50%		
Government	1.20%		
Consumer Discretionary	1.00%		
Basic Materials	0.50%		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	3.40%		
Total	100.00%		

TOP HOLDINGS OF THE TARGET FUND (SUKUK)				
Bonds Issuer	Coupon	Maturity Date	%	
MMC Corp Berhad	5.64%	27.04.27	4.7	
Celcom Networks Sdn Bhd	5.27%	28.10.26	4.7	
Lebuhraya DUKE Fasa 3 Sdn Bhd	5.95%	23.08.34	4.7	
UiTM Solar Power Sdn Bhd	6.00%	26.04.30	4.6	
WCT Holidngs Bhd	5.80%	27.09.49	4.6	
TOP HOLDINGS OF THE TARGET FUND (EQUITIES)				
Telkom Indonesia Persero TbkPT			2.5%	
Link REIT				
TIME dotCom Berhad				
Samsung Electronics Co Ltd				
MediaTek Inc				

PERFORMANCE RECORD

This fund feeds into AHAM AIIMAN Select Income Fund ("target fund") with the objective to provide investors with regular income stream through Shariah-compliant investments. The target fund will invest in a diversified portfolio of Sukuks, Shariah-compliant equities and Islamic money market instruments.

Table below shows the investment returns of Sun Life Malaysia AIIMAN Select Income Fund versus its benchmark as at 31 May 2023:

%	YTD	1M	6M	1-Year	3-Years	5-Years	Since Inception
Fund*	2.87	0.87	3.87	2.40	2.83	8.16	20.63
Benchmark	-0.05	-0.18	0.57	-0.39	1.41	6.31	14.09

^{*} Calculation of past performance is based on NAV-to-NAV

Notice: Past performance of the fund is not an indication of its future performance which may differ. The fund performance is not guaranteed.

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FUND MANAGER'S COMMENTS

- In Asia, the broader MSCI Asia ex-Japan index fell 2.09% with China bearing the brunt of losses. The MSCI China index slid 8.95% in the month after disappointing economic data. Retail sales rose by 18.4% which was lower than economists' forecast. Similarly, industrial production rose by 5.6% y-o-y which was below expectations. This weakness in consumer sentiment was also apparent in the latest labour data showing youth unemployment surging to 20.4% amidst concerns that tailwinds from its post-COVID reopening are beginning to wane.
- On the flipside, Korea and Taiwan staged a strong performance last week buoyed by increased confidence that the tech sector is bottoming out with major players seen cutting back on supply. The KOSPI index jumped 3.02%, while Taiwan's Stock Exchange jumped 6.42%. Blockbuster earnings from tech bellwether Nvidia also lifted sentiment and buoyed the rest of the sector. The chipmaker thumped quarterly earnings estimates and provided strong forecasts in its outlook, as the company expects demand to be supported by advancements in artificial intelligence (AI).
- On the domestic front, the benchmark KLCI languished behind regional peers falling 1.50%. A lacklustre 1Q'2023 earnings report coupled with looming state elections kept investors on the side-lines as sentiment remains poor. Interest rate differentials between the US and Malaysia have also fuelled foreign selling which has swelled close to RM2.90 billion YTD. Due to Malaysia's close trade relation to China, the Ringgit has weakened considerably YTD. In a statement, Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) believes that the depreciation of the Ringgit is not fundamentally driven and that global headwinds are driving investors to seek safe haven assets like the US dollar. With the US Federal Reserve at the tail end of its rate hike cycle, we expect MYR to potentially reverse course in 2 H'2023 as global macro headwinds ease.
- On sectorial basis, amongst the worst performers in this current earnings season include the materials and plantation sector as rising input costs and wages crimped margins. In their earnings call, many corporates expressed caution in their forward guidance due to a tough operating environment, citing cost pressures and growth headwinds. However, tech companies were more ebullient in their forecasts as many players expect the sector to bottom out and see a gradual recovery.
- On local fixed income, the 10-year MGS yield closed unchanged at 3.71%. Malaysia's 1Q'2023 GDP came relatively strong at 5.60% compared to market expectations of 5.10% driven by an expansion of household spending and strong employment growth. The strong GDP showing may have been a factor that weighed on BNM's decision to hike the overnight policy rate (OPR) earlier in the month. Our base-case is that the OPR would remain at 3.00% this year, assuming inflation remains well-behaved and other external developments.

STRATEGY:

- While US debt ceiling noise (which is expected to be resolved) and core inflation pressure will continue to elevate market volatility, we opine that the US Federal Reserve is approaching its terminal rate. Going forward, we expect economic data to taper further along with inflation, providing a cap to global yields.
- We reduced cash level to approximately 3%, and prioritize on deploying in Fixed Income securities with approximately 70% holdings. We plan to lengthen its duration to around 5.5 to 6.0 years. We continue to focus on yield plays and focus on providing income amid market volatility regionally.
- For equities, we are positive on the reopening theme and prefer Asian equity markets for its attractive valuation and stronger growth outlook supported by China's recovery theme which provided a positive buffer for Asia's growth outlook. Asia has been more resilient in weathering thru the ripple effect and slowdown of developed markets, the tightening financial conditions and earning deterioration. Nevertheless, we will remain cognizant of these risks moving forward.
- Transaction wise, the fund's portfolio was marginally net buyer during the month of May. Equity exposure increased slightly to 27%, taking some profit from Taiwan, China-Hong Kong and switching some exposure to Taiwan and Korea, largely in Tech. Notable purchases are Samsung SDI and Taiwan Semiconductor.

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RISKS

All investment carries some form of risks. The potential key risks include but are not limited to the following:

Manager's Risk

This risk refers to the day-to-day management of the target fund by Affin Hwang which will impact the performance of the target fund. For example, investment decisions undertaken by Affin Hwang as a result of an incorrect view of the market or any non-compliance with internal policies, investment mandate, the deed, relevant law or guidelines due to factors such as human error, fraudulent, dishonesty or weaknesses in operational process and systems, may adversely affect the performance of the target fund.

Inflation Risk

This is the risk that your investment in the target fund may not grow or generate income at a rate that keeps pace with inflation. This would reduce your purchasing power even though the value of the investment in monetary terms has increased.

Credit/Default risk

Credit risk relates to the creditworthiness of the issuers of the investment (Sukuk and Islamic money markets instruments) and their expected ability to make timely payment of profit and/or principal. Any adverse situations faced by the issuers may impact the value as well as liquidity of the investment. In the case of rated investments, this may lead to a credit downgrade. Default risk relates to the risk of an issuer of the investment either defaulting on payments or failing to make payments in a timely manner which will in turn adversely affect the value of the investment. This could adversely affect the value of the target fund.

Counterparty risk

This risk concerns with the target fund's investment in Shariah-compliant derivatives where the other party in an agreement may default on the terms of the agreement. Generally, counterparty risk can be reduced by emphasis on credit analysis of the counterparty to determine its creditworthiness.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the impact of interest rate changes on the valuation of Sukuk. When interest rates rise, Sukuk's prices generally decline and this may lower the market value of the target fund's investment in Sukuk. The reverse may apply when interest rates fall. In order to mitigate interest rate risk, Affin Hwang will need to manage the debt portfolio taking into account the coupon rate and time to maturity of the Sukuk.

Note: Interest rate is a general indicator that will have an impact on the management of the target fund regardless of whether it is a Shariah-based fund or otherwise. It does not in any way suggest that the target fund will invest in conventional financial instruments.

Stock Specific Risk

Prices of a particular Shariah-compliant stock may fluctuate in response to the circumstances affecting individual companies such as adverse financial performance, news of a possible merger or loss of key personnel of a company. Any adverse price movements of such Shariah-compliant stock will adversely affect the target fund's NAV.

Shariah-compliant warrants investment risk

The value of the Shariah-compliant warrants will depend on the pricing of the underlying security whereby the growth and performance prospect of the underlying security would consequentially affect the value of the Shariah-compliant warrants. In addition, the value of the Shariah-compliant warrants may decrease exponentially as the Shariah-compliant warrants approach their maturity date and the potential gains from a favourable price movement of the underlying security may be offset by aggressive time decay. Affin Hwang may consider unwinding these Shariah-compliant warrants if there are material adverse changes to its value with the aim to mitigate the risk.

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RISKS (CONTINUED)

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises in two scenarios. The first scenario is where an investment cannot be sold due to unavailability of a buyer for that investment. The second scenario exists where the investment, by its nature, is thinly traded. This will have the effect of causing the investment to be sold below its fair value which would adversely affect the NAV of the target fund.

Currency risk

As the investments of the target fund may be denominated in currencies other than the base currency, any fluctuation in the exchange rate between the base currency and the currencies in which the investments are denominated may have an impact on the value of these investments. You should note that any gains or losses arising from the fluctuation in the exchange rate may further increase or decrease the returns of the investment.

Regulatory risk

The investments of the target fund will be exposed to changes in the laws and regulations in the countries the target fund is invested in. These regulatory changes pose a risk to the target fund as it may materially impact the investments of the target fund. In an effort to manage and mitigate such risk, Affin Hwang seeks to continuously keep abreast of regulatory developments (for example, by closely monitoring announcements on regulators' website and mainstream medias) in that country. Affin Hwang Affin Hwang may dispose its investments in that particular country should the regulatory changes adversely impact the unit holders' interest or diminish returns to the target fund.

Country risk

Investments of the target fund in any country may be affected by changes in the economic and political climate, restriction on currency repatriation or other developments in the law or regulations of the countries in which the target fund invests in. For example, the deteriorating economic condition of such countries may adversely affect the value of the investments undertaken by the target fund in those affected countries. This in turn may cause the NAV of the target fund to fall.

Reclassification of Shariah status risk

This risk refers to the risk that the currently held Shariah-compliant equities in the target fund may be reclassified to be Shariah non-compliant in the periodic review of the equities by the Shariah Advisory Council of the Securities Commission Malaysia (SACSC), the Shariah Adviser or the Shariah boards of the relevant Islamic indices. If this occurs, Affin Hwang will take the necessary steps to dispose of such equities. There may be opportunity loss to the target fund due to the target fund not being allowed to retain the excess capital gains derived from the disposal of the Shariah non-compliant equities. Affin Hwang will be required to dispose of these equities immediately if the prices are above the purchase price. Should the prices be below the purchase price, Affin Hwang may choose to hold on to these holdings until the prices meet the purchase price. Nevertheless, should Affin Hwang decide to dispose of these equities below the purchase price, the target fund will be faced with the risk of realising its losses, thus negatively impacting the NAV of the target fund.

Source : AHAM Asset Management Berhad

Date : 31 May 2023

Disclaimer:

The benchmark performance is not a guide to future performances which may differ. The performance of the fund is not guaranteed. The value of the fund will fluctuate and may fall below the amount of contributions paid and the fund value depends on the actual performance of the underlying investment. This material is for information purposes only and is subject to change at any time without notice. Sun Life Malaysia does not guarantee its accuracy, completeness, correctness or timeliness for any purpose or reason. This information should not be considered as advice or recommendation in relation to your account or particular investment objectives, financial situation or needs. You may not revise, transform, or build upon this material without prior written consent of Sun Life Malaysia. Before acting on any information you should seek independent financial advice. Sun Life Malaysia may suspend the unit pricing and defer the payment of benefits, other than death and total and permanent disability benefits, subscription or redemption of units, switching of funds, under this contract for a reasonable period in exceptional circumstances, such as and including intervening events resulting in temporary closure of any stock exchange.