

Sun Life Malaysia Select Bond Fund

July 2021



FUND OBJECTIVE

To provide a steady income stream over the medium to long-term period through investments primarily in bonds and other fixed income securities.

FUND DETAILS

Launch Date	16 January 2018	Domicile	Malaysia
Currency	Ringgit Malaysia	Launch Price	RM1.0000
Units in Circulation	8.20 million units (30 July 2021)	Fund Size	RM9.72 million (30 July 2021)
Unit NAV	RM1.1842 (30 July 2021)	Dealing	Daily (as per Bursa Malaysia trading day)
Fund Manager	Affin Hwang Asset Management Berhad	Target Fund	Affin Hwang Select Bond Fund
Benchmark	Maybank 12-Month Fixed Deposit Rate	Taxation	8% of annual investment income
Risk Profile	Suitable for investors: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Have a medium to long term investment horizonRisk averse and conservative	Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sun Life Malaysia does not impose any fund management charge on Sun Life Malaysia Select Bond FundUp to 1.0% p.a. of fund management charge is applied on the Target Fund's NAV by Affin Hwang Asset Management Berhad

ASSET ALLOCATION

Bonds	Cash	Money Market Instruments/Deposits
Min 70%; Max 100%	Remaining Balance	Min 0%; Max 30%

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SECTOR ALLOCATION OF THE TARGET FUND

Real Estate	21.4%
Banks	19.5%
Government	13.5%
Industrials	9.9%
Energy	6.8%
Financial Services	6.4%
Insurance	3.7%
Consumer Discretionary	3.0%
Utilities	3.0%
Basic Materials	2.1%
Telecommunications	2.0%
Health Care	0.5%
Others	2.1%
Cash & Cash Equivalents	6.2%
Total	100.00%

TOP HOLDINGS OF THE TARGET FUND

Bonds Issuer	Coupon	Maturity Date	%
China Government Bond	2.68%	21.05.30	1.8
United States Treasury N/B	0.63%	15.08.30	1.7
MGS	4.64%	07.11.33	1.5
Santos Finance Ltd	5.25%	13.03.29	1.3
Standard Chartered Plc	6.00%	29.12.49	1.1
GII	3.73%	31.03.26	1.1
Yinson Juniper Ltd	7.85%	05.10.49	1.1
Eco World Capital Assets Bhd	6.50%	12.08.22	1.1
GII	4.12%	30.11.34	1.1
Lafarge Cement Sdn Bhd	5.06%	08.07.22	1.1

PERFORMANCE RECORD

This fund feeds into Affin Hwang Select Bond Fund ("Target Fund") with the objective to provide a steady income stream over the medium to long-term period through investments primarily in bonds and other fixed income securities.

Table below shows the investment returns of Sun Life Malaysia Select Bond Fund versus its benchmark as at 30 July 2021:

%	YTD	1M	3M	6M	1-Year	3-Years	Since Inception
Fund*	1.25	0.58	1.79	1.21	3.34	18.43	18.42
Benchmark	1.07	0.16	0.46	0.91	1.85	8.10	10.15

* 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.

FUND MANAGER'S COMMENTS

- The Federal Reserve kept rates at near zero and kept the pace of monthly bond purchases unchanged. The Fed expects inflation to remain above their target level in the months ahead but is not overly worried about its sustainability. The 10y UST yields dropped closed the month at 1.22%.
- The Asian credit market was largely driven by news flow from Evergrande and the Chinese property space. Spreads widening happened in the HY segment whereas credit spreads for Asian IG remained relatively unchanged.
- Asian Credits continues to trade wider with HY names being the main casualties. The China HY property sector continues to be under pressure due to weak sentiments due to the government's stance on the sector and negative headlines from China Evergrande. Most China HY property bonds are at year-to-date lows. Within China's IG space, both technology and education sectors saw some selling pressure towards the end of the month.
- The region saw several notable new issuances during the month, boosted by the rally in US treasuries. This includes several ESG bonds, and Indonesian sovereign issuances of about USD1.65bil long-dated papers. All of which saw decent investor participation.
- Bank Indonesia left its policy rate unchanged at 3.5% and pledged to maintain a pro-growth policy into next year as one of the most severe Covid outbreaks in the world puts its recovery at risk.

STRATEGY:

- Inflation will likely be transitory from a low base effect. However, we believe major central banks would take a wait-and-see approach to monitor sustainability of economic data and the inflation trend amidst downside risks. Nevertheless, monetary policy normalization could take place as early in 2022 as global growth is expected to improve due to the ramp up of global vaccination.
- Expect the lower for longer interest rates environment remains due to uneven and uncertain recovery post Covid-19 and abundant global liquidity.
- We remain cautious on Chinese HY properties names and will look to add on low beta names such as Shimao. We continue to favor quality names with a tilt towards the IG segment. The breakdown of IG versus HY and unrated bonds are 62% and 13% respectively. Focus will be on credit selection with government bonds to provide liquidity for trading opportunities.
- Cash level is at about 8% now. The fund positioning remains cautious with duration kept neutral. The current fixed income duration: 5.0 years while the fixed income yield is at 3.4%.

RISKS

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

Market risk	Market risk refers to the possibility that an investment will lose value because of a general decline in financial markets, due to economic, political and/or other factors, which will result in a decline in the target fund's NAV.
Liquidity risk	Liquidity risk refers to 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.
Credit and default risk	Credit risk relates to the credit worthiness of the issuers of the bonds or money market instruments ("Investment") and their expected ability to make timely payment of interest and/or principal. Any adverse situations faced by the issuer may impact the value as well as liquidity of the Investment. In the case of rated investment, 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.
Interest rate risk	This risk refers to the impact of interest rate changes on the valuation of bonds or money market instruments ("Investment"). When interest rates rise, the investment prices generally decline and this may lower the market value of the Investment. The reverse may apply when interest rates fall.
Currency risk	<p>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. Investors 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.</p> <p><u>Currency risk at the target fund level</u> The impact of the exchange rate movement between the base currency of the target fund and the currency of the underlying investments may result in a depreciation of the value of the investments as expressed in the base currency of the target fund.</p>

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Structured products risk

The NAV of the target fund will be impacted by the valuation of the structured product. Factors that may impact the valuation of the structured products will include, but not be limited to movement of the underlying assets, volatility of the underlying assets, interest rate levels, the correlation of the underlying assets and other such factors. Any change in the aforesaid factors would either positively or negatively impact the valuation of the structured products, hence impacting the NAV of the target fund. As such, the target fund's NAV will be exposed to potential price volatility, which will be dependent on the valuation of the structured products that the target fund invested in.

Country risk

Investments of the target fund in any country may be affected by changes in 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. 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 or prices of units to fall.

Regulatory risk

The investments of the target fund would 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, the fund manager seeks to continuously keep abreast of regulatory developments (for example, by closely monitoring announcements on regulators' website and mainstream media) in that country. The fund manager may dispose its investments in that particular country should the regulatory changes adversely impact the investors' interest or diminish returns to the target fund.

Source : Affin Hwang Asset Management Berhad

Date : 30 July 2021

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 premiums 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.