

# **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.

# **INVESTMENT STRATEGY & APPROACH**

Please refer to the Master Fund Fact Sheets at <u>https://www.sunlifemalaysia.com/insurance-and-takaful/investment-linked-fund/yearly-fund-fact-sheet/</u> for more information on the Investment Strategy and Approach for the target fund.

FUND DETAILS				
Launch Date	16 January 2018	Domicile	Malaysia	
Currency	Ringgit Malaysia	Launch Price	RM1.0000	
Units in Circulation	12.40 million units (28 March 2025)	Fund Size	RM14.14 million (28 March 2025)	
Unit NAV	RM1.1401 (28 March 2025)	Target Fund	AHAM Select Bond Fund	
Fund Manager	AHAM Asset Management Berhad	Taxation	8% of annual investment income	
Performance Benchmark	Maybank 12-Month Fixed Deposit Rate	Frequency and Basis of Unit Valuation	The unit price is determined daily based on value of the holdings in the target fund, net of expenses, divided by the total number of units in that fund	
Target Market	<ul> <li>Suitable for investors:</li> <li>Have a medium to long term investment horizon</li> <li>Risk averse and conservative</li> </ul>	Fund Management Charge	<ul> <li>Sun Life Malaysia does not impose any fund management charge on Sun Life Malaysia Select Bond Fund</li> <li>Up to 1.0% p.a. of fund management charge is applied on the Target Fund's NAV by AHAM Asset Management Berhad</li> </ul>	

ASSET ALLOCATION				
Bonds	Cash			
Minimum 70% of Net Asset Value (NAV)	Maximum 30% of NAV			

# Sun Life Malaysia Select Bond Fund

March 2025

## SECTOR ALLOCATION OF THE TARGET FUND

Banks	27.60%	
Insurance	11.90%	Ge
Utilities	9.50%	Ba
Energy	9.40%	Dia
Consumer Discretionary	8.10%	Da
Industrials	7.50%	НС
Real Estate	7.00%	Ale
Financial Services	4.80%	Me
Consumer Staples	2.30%	Ur
Government	2.30%	Sc
Basic Materials	1.90%	Da
Telecommunications	1.50%	
Others	1.80%	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	4.40%	
Total	100.00%	

TOP HOLDINGS OF THE TARGET FUND					
Bonds Issuer	Coupon	Maturity Date	%		
Genting Capital Bhd	4.86%	08.06.2027	3.60		
Bank Negara Indonesia	4.30%	24.03.2049	2.30		
Dialog Group Bhd	4.15%	16.11.2049	2.00		
Dai-ichi Life Holdings Inc	6.20%	16.01.2049	1.90		
HDFC Bank Ltd	3.70%	25.08.2049	1.80		
Aldar Properties PJSC	6.62%	15.04.2055	1.60		
Meiji Yasuda Life Insurance Co	5.80%	11.09.2054	1.50		
United States Treasury N/B	4.25%	31.05.2025	1.40		
Scentre Group Trust 2	4.75%	24.09.2080	1.40		
Dah Sing Bank Ltd	7.38%	15.11.2033	1.40		

**Sun Life** 

# PERFORMANCE RECORD

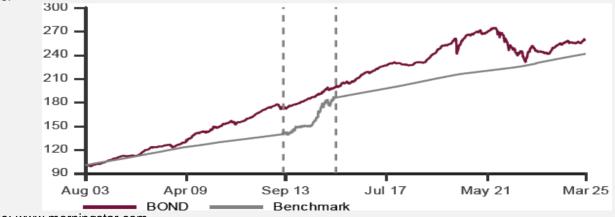
This fund feeds into AHAM Select Bond Fund ("Target Fund") with the objective to provide a steady income stream over the medium to long-term period through investments primarily in bonds and other fixed income securities.

Table below shows the investment returns of Sun Life Malaysia Select Bond Fund versus its benchmark as at 28 March 2025:

%	YTD	1 <b>M</b>	6M	1-Year	3-Years	5-Years	Since Inception
Fund*	1.19	-0.32	1.52	1.90	3.57	6.55	14.01
Benchmark	0.61	0.21	1.24	2.55	8.09	12.28	19.93

\* Calculation of past performance is based on NAV-to-NAV

Graph Below shows the historical performance of the underlying collective investment schemes (CIS) for calendar year returns:



Source: www.morningstar.com



### FUND MANAGER'S COMMENTS

- In March 2025, the global fixed income market diverged in response to an upcoming risk event: the US tariff announcements. Global growth expectations were dampened by the potential US tariff impact on global trade, triggering different responses from global economies. In the US, Treasury yields fell on expectations of a weaker growth outlook, pricing in more policy rate cuts than the 50bps cut (by end-2025) guided by the US Federal Reserve. In major economies, Germany and China announced fiscal stimulus to support their local economies in anticipation of an aggressive US trade policy stance. As a result, Germany and China's sovereign bond yields shifted higher.
- Domestically, the Malaysian bond market was less responsive to external volatility. Malaysian Government Securities (MGS) sovereign yields remained largely unchanged since December 2023, as ample domestic liquidity from asset managers and pension funds continued to support the domestic market. Persistent demand for duration helped anchor the yield curve, leading to outperformance in long-tenure bonds. Yield-seeking activities also supported corporate bonds, with credit spreads tightening to historical lows. The risk-off sentiment at play saw better foreign participation in March. The 3-year, 10-year, and 30-year MGS ended the month at 3.45% (-5bps), 3.80% (-2bps), and 4.18% (-2bps), respectively.
- There were three sovereign bond auctions in March, all of which were met with robust demand. The RM3.0b 15-year MGS auction and the RM3.0b Government Investment Issue (GII) auction both saw a bid-to-cover ratio of 3.0 times, with an average yield of 3.96% and 4.17%, respectively. The RM5.0b 10-year MGS auction, held prior to the festive holidays, saw weakened demand but still supported an average yield of 3.76% with a bid-to-cover ratio of 1.7 times.
- In the corporate bond space, there were RM12.6b in new primary issuances in March, bringing the year-to-date total issuances to RM24.4b, on track to hit the projected RM100b in issuances for 2025. Robust demand for corporate bonds kept credit spreads anchored, with AA1-AA3 names enjoying spreads of +20-25bps. Notable issuances during the month included: RM250m Bank Islam sub-debt (A1), RM1.5b Press Metal Aluminium Holdings Bhd (AA1), RM750m OSK Rated Bond Sdn Bhd (AA2), RM300m UEM Sunrise Bhd (AA3), RM300m Eco World Capital Bhd (AA3), RM600m YTL Power International Bhd (AA1), RM500m Sunway Healthcare Treasury Sdn Bhd (AA3), RM700m IJM Treasury Management Sdn Bhd (AA3), and RM680m Qualitas Sukuk Berhad (AA3 senior, A2 Perpetual).

#### STRATEGY:

- The portfolio remains diversified, with ongoing efforts to increase foreign bond allocations. In March 2025, the detractors
  were mainly from exposures in Indonesia credits that sold off amid market concern on potential changes in the
  Indonesian quasi sovereign market under the new government led by Prabowo. Approximately 18bps was attributed to
  the Indonesian position while the rest were due to general widening trend of credit spreads. Currently, the portfolio yield
  is close to 6% hedged term after recent selloff. The manager take note of current market volatility and are watching out
  for opportunity. Fund is sitting on approximately 4.4% cash and portfolio duration was lengthened to 5 years as Fund
  actively participated in primary issuances.
- Moving into April 2025, the portfolio closed AUD open FX position amid extreme volatility arising from US-CN trade tension, while opened up 1% of USD with expectation of weakening of Asean currencies as a result of decline in global growth. Foreign bonds remain at 80% while MYR allocation is currently 20%. The portfolio continues to like AUD and USD bonds. The sales proceeds from MYR bonds will likely be rotated into these two space. Target to continue to reduce MYR portion to 15-18%; while increase USD portion (target alloc: 55-60%) and AUD portion (target alloc: 15-20%).



# 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	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. <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.

# Sun Life Malaysia Select Bond Fund March 2025



#### RISKS

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

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 : AHAM Asset Management Berhad Date : 28 March 2025

#### **Disclaimer:**

This is strictly the performance of the investment fund, and not the returns earned on the actual premiums paid of the investment-linked product. Past performance of the fund is not an indication of its future performance. 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.