

Pre-Contractual Sustainability Disclosures for Irish Life Emerging Market Debt Fund

December 2022

Version 1.0

Helping people build
better futures

Introduction

At Irish Life, we believe in doing right by your money by helping build a better future for all.

Through Irish Life Investment Managers (“ILIM”) we invest your money in a responsible way that benefits you and the planet.

Product Name: Irish Life Emerging Market Debt Fund

Legal Entity Identifier: YYV6S3OE6EWZYI2FFW31

Status under the EU Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR)

There are new rules which require any fund which promotes environmental and/or social characteristics to provide detailed sustainability related disclosures to prospective customers.

As this Fund has been categorised as meeting the provisions set out in Article 8 of the EU Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR), this report provides further detail on what the sustainability related goals of the Fund are and how the sustainability related goals of the Fund are met.

Investment Objective

This Fund is passively managed and invests in emerging market local currency sovereign bonds. The Fund aims to perform in line with the JP Morgan ESG Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets Global Diversified EUR Unhedged. Qualifying bonds must have a maturity of greater than six months, a fixed coupon schedule and a minimum amount outstanding of EUR 250 million. The Fund follows a benchmark index designed by JP Morgan to enhance exposure to positive Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors and improved exposure to Green bonds.



Environmental and/or social characteristics

Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of sustainable investments with an environmental objective: __%</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of sustainable investments with a social objective: __%</p> | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of __% of sustainable investments</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> with a social objective</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It promotes E/S characteristics, but will not make any sustainable investments</p> |
|--|---|

Sustainable investment means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.

The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not lay down a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.



What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?

This Fund aims to provide an improvement in the environmental, social, governance ("ESG") and overall ESG scores. The Fund is passively managed and its objective is to reflect the performance of the J.P. Morgan ESG Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets Global Diversified EUR Unhedged. This Index is an environmental, social and corporate governance ("ESG") version of the JP Morgan Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets Global Diversified Index ("GBI-EM"). The administrator of the Index, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, uses ESG data provided by Sustainalytics and RepRisk to apply an ESG scoring and screening methodology to score each constituent of the GBI-EM, to tilt toward issuers ranked higher on ESG criteria and green bond issues and to underweight and remove issuers that rank lower.

What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?

The Fund targets an improvement in the overall ESG score of the Fund in comparison to the appropriate broad market benchmark. The Fund tilts toward issuers ranked higher on ESG criteria and green bond issues and underweights and remove issuers that rank lower.

The indicators that the Fund uses to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted are:

- > Overall ESG Score
- > Country Risk Score
- > Country Carbon Intensity Score

What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?

N/A - This Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments or investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

While this Fund is designed to consider and contribute to the sustainability of our environment and society within the provisions of Article 8 of the SFDR, it is not specifically designed to make "sustainable investments" as defined under SFDR or to make investments which qualify as "environmentally sustainable" under the EU Taxonomy.

How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?

N/A - This Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments or investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?

N/A - This Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments or investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:

N/A - This Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments or investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do no significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.

Sustainability indicators measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.



Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?

Yes No

No, the Fund does not explicitly target Principal Adverse Impacts ("PAIs") in the investment process because the PAIs definitions and methodology have limited scope for investment in sovereign debt.

Principal adverse impacts are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.



What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

The Fund is passively managed. Its objective is to reflect the performance of J.P. Morgan ESG Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets Global Diversified EUR Unhedged. This Index is an environmental, social and corporate governance ("ESG") version of the JP Morgan Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets Global Diversified Index ("GBI-EM"). The administrator of the Index, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, applies an ESG scoring and screening methodology to score each constituent of the GBI-EM, to tilt toward issuers ranked higher on ESG criteria and green bond issues and to underweight and remove issuers that rank lower.

The investment strategy guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?

The Fund is passively managed and its objective is to reflect the performance of the J.P. Morgan ESG Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets Global Diversified EUR Unhedged (the "Benchmark") on an ongoing basis. The Benchmark integrates issuer level ESG scores into the emerging market local currency sovereign bond universe to deliver an improvement in these aggregate characteristics compared to the broad market benchmark. This is achieved by overweighting securities that rank favourably across these metrics and underweighting laggards. The desire to maintain high levels of diversification within the Fund means that laggards may not be eliminated entirely. The methodology explicitly excludes United Nations Global Compact violators and any issuer ranked in the bottom quintile of ESG scores.

What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?

N/A - There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of investments.

What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?

This Fund is a passively managed sovereign bond fund and aims to perform in line with the Index. The Index is designed to enhance exposure to positive ESG factors and improved exposure to green bonds. Governance considerations are a component of the ESG score.

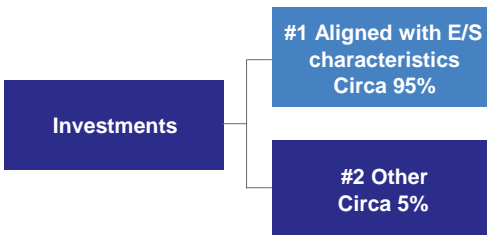
Good governance practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.



What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

The Fund invests in emerging market local currency sovereign bonds and may carry a small cash balance for liquidity purposes. At least 95% of investments are expected to be allocated to assets which promote E/S characteristics and up to 5% may be allocated to "Other" investments which may comprise of a small cash balance for liquidity purposes or fixed income derivatives. However, in normal market conditions, the Investment Manager expects the investments used to meet the environmental and/or social characteristics is equal to circa 100%.

The Fund's minimum proportion of investments used to meet the environmental and/or social characteristics is equal to circa 95% (#1).



#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

#2 Other includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?

Although derivatives can be used in the investment strategy, derivatives are not used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

Asset allocation describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- > **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- > **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- > **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

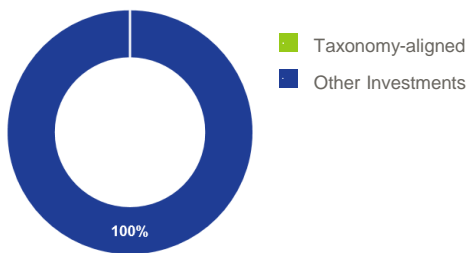


To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

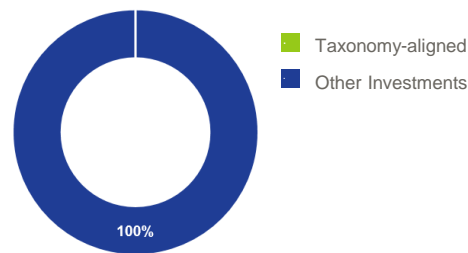
Although the Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics (Article 8 under the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation) the Fund does not align with the EU Taxonomy criteria.

The two graphs below show in green the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.

1. Taxonomy-alignment of investments including sovereign bonds*



2. Taxonomy-alignment of investments excluding sovereign bonds*



*For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures.

What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?

0.0%



What is the minimum share of investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

N/A - This Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments or investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy.



What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?

N/A - The Fund does not intend to make any investments in sustainable investments with a social objective.



What investments are included under “#2 Other”, what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?

The Fund invests in Emerging Market dollar denominated sovereign and quasi-sovereign bonds. The Fund may also invest in cash, derivatives such as future contracts and also FX derivatives such as FX forwards. Derivatives may be used to maintain or manage exposure to the market while managing the cash flows from subscriptions and redemptions into and out of the Fund more efficiently than by buying and selling transferable securities. The Fund will not generate synthetic short positions for investment purposes using financial derivatives. Given the nature of derivative investments, no minimum environmental or social safeguards can be applied. For cash holdings, no cash is held with banks which are on ILIM's exclusion list.

Enabling activities directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

Transactional activities are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.



are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.



Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?

The Fund follows a passive management strategy and aims to deliver returns in line with the Benchmark. The Benchmark is created by the benchmark administrator, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC (the "Benchmark Administrator"), and is designed to promote E/S characteristics. The reference benchmark is the JP Morgan ESG Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets Global Diversified EUR Unhedged.

How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?

The reference benchmark is created by the Benchmark Administrator and is designed to promote E/S characteristics. It is a rules-based benchmark which integrates ESG data to ensure the reference benchmark is continuously aligned with the E/S characteristics promoted by the Fund. Through the passive management strategy of the Fund, the Fund mimics the constituent weights of the reference benchmark.

How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?

The Fund follows a passive management strategy and aims to track the performance of the Benchmark. As a result, the investment strategy of the Fund is aligned with the methodology of the Benchmark on a continuous basis.

How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?

The designated index is based on the constituents of the broad market index. Through a rules-based methodology applied by the benchmark provider to the broad market index, the designated index incorporates E/S characteristics by integrating ESG data. This is achieved by overweighting countries that rank favourably across these metrics and underweighting laggards. The broad market index, JP Morgan Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets Global Diversified Index ("GBI-EM"), does not consider the promotion of E/S characteristics and is weighted based on market capitalisation.

Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?

The methodology pertaining to the reference benchmark is available at the below website link: <https://www.jpmorgan.com/insights/research/index-research/composition-docs>

Where can I find more product specific information online?

More product-specific information can be found on the website

<https://www.ilim.com/responsible-investing/sustainability-related-disclosures/>

Reference benchmarks are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

This disclosure is being made in accordance with the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR). It does not constitute investment advice and has not been prepared based on the financial needs or objectives of any particular person, and does not take account of the specific needs or circumstances of any person. You should seek personal investment advice as to the suitability of any investment decision or strategy to your own needs and circumstances. Past performance may not be a reliable guide to future performance. Investments may go down as well as up. Funds may be affected by changes in currency exchange rates.

Irish Life Assurance plc is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.
Irish Life Investment Managers Limited is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.