



February 2022

## MONTHLY FUND PERFORMANCE UPDATE AIA GLOBAL BOND FUND 2

### Investment Objective

The AIA Global Bond Fund 2 ("the Fund") will invest fully in a Singapore Dollar denominated underlying fund, namely Franklin Templeton Investment Funds - Templeton Global Bond Fund A (Mdis) SGD-H1 (the "Underlying Fund"). The Underlying Fund aims to maximise total investment return consisting of a combination of interest income, capital appreciation and currency gains by investing principally in a portfolio of fixed or floating rate debt securities and debt obligations issued by government or government-related issuers worldwide.

The Fund intends to make payouts on a quarterly basis. For the first 5 years from the Fund's inception date, the Fund will pay a fixed payout of 5 sen per unit per annum. In the event that payouts received from the Underlying Fund is insufficient to support the fixed payouts, we have the discretion to liquidate a portion of the Fund's investment in the Underlying Fund in order to meet that distribution requirement.

In the subsequent years, payout will be made annually if the Fund's Net Asset Value (NAV) exceeds RM1. The amount of payout declared, if any, may vary from year to year.

If payout is distributed to the policy owner, the NAV of the Fund will be reduced accordingly.

**Notice:** Please refer to the Fund Fact Sheet for more information about the Fund.

### Fund Details

Unit NAV (28 Feb 2022)	: RM 0.91122
Fund Size (28 Feb 2022)	: RM 1.552 million
Fund Currency	: Ringgit Malaysia
Fund Inception	: 15 July 2012
Offer Price at Inception	: RM0.950
Fund Management Charge	: 1% p.a. of NAV
Investment Manager	: AIA Bhd.
Basis of Unit Valuation	: Net Asset Value
Frequency of Unit Valuation	: Daily

### Underlying Fund Details

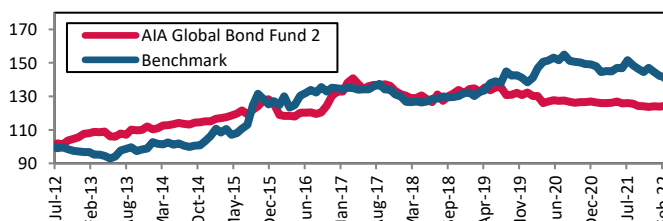
Name	: Templeton Global Bond Fund Class A (Mdis) SGD-H1
Type	: Global Bond Fund
Investment Manager	: Franklin Advisers, Inc.

### Top Holdings

1	Korea Monetary Stabilization Bond, Sr Unsecured, 2304, .905%, 4/02/23	8.11%
2	Government of Sweden, 3.50%, 6/01/22	6.44%
3	Government of Norway, 144A, Reg S, 2.00%, 5/24/23	5.32%
4	Government of Norway, 144A, Reg S, 3.00%, 3/14/24	5.22%
5	Korea Treasury Bond, senior note, .875%, 12/10/23	5.04%

\*Underlying fund data

### Historical Performance



Cumulative Performance	1-Mth	6-Mth	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	Since Inception
Fund <sup>a</sup>	0.21%	-1.15%	-1.39%	-7.85%	-10.11%	24.16%
Benchmark <sup>a</sup>	-0.57%	-4.81%	-2.15%	8.56%	4.57%	41.43%
Excess	0.78%	3.66%	0.76%	-16.41%	-14.68%	-17.27%
Underlying (~)	0.65%	-1.60%	-2.61%	-11.07%	-7.84%	46.47%

<sup>a</sup> Calculation of past performance is based on NAV-to-NAV. This is strictly the performance of the investment fund, and not the returns earned on the actual premiums/contributions paid of the investment-linked product.

\*JP Morgan Global Government Bond Index (MYR Term) (Source: Bloomberg)

~Underlying fund performance (SGD Term)

Note: The total fund returns are inclusive of the payout, if applicable.

**Notice:** Past performance of the Fund is not an indication of its future performance.

### Manager's Comments

This Fund is subject to exchange rate fluctuations, mainly against the Singapore dollar ("SGD") and therefore, Malaysian ringgit ("MYR") movements against foreign currencies will affect the performance of the Fund. MYR strengthened against the SGD by 0.07% in February.

### Market Review

Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February triggered broad volatility across global financial markets over the final days of the month. Wide-ranging and powerful sanctions against Russia from much of the Western world and its allies quickly followed the incursion and continued to expand over subsequent days. Global economic momentum largely remained on course during the month, though the crisis in Ukraine is expected to have a regional impact on Europe due to disruptions in the flow of energy, trade and other commodities. Other parts of the world are likely to be impacted to varying degrees, primarily due to trade disruptions and higher commodity costs. Commodity and energy prices trended higher for much of February before a sharp surge after the invasion of Ukraine. The yield on the 10Y US Treasury ("UST") note started the month at 1.78%, rose to 2.05% on 15 February and dropped sharply on the last day of the month to 1.83%.

There was no Federal Open Market Committee ("FOMC") meeting in February. At the prior meeting in January, the US Federal Reserves ("Fed") kept the federal funds target rate unchanged at an upper bound of 0.25%. However, Fed Chairman Jay Powell signalled March as the likely lift-off date for rate hikes in post-meeting comments. Fed funds futures at the end of February indicated a 100% likelihood for a rate hike in March and at least 5 rate hikes in 2022. Tapering of the Fed's asset purchase programme remained unchanged and on pace to conclude in early March. Powell indicated that balance sheet reductions will eventually commence after the rate increasing cycle has begun. The initial phase will likely see maturing securities rolling off without being reinvested, followed by an eventual selling of securities that could begin as early as Q22022. The Fed's balance sheet stood at around USD8.9 trillion at the end of February, more than double its pre-pandemic size.

The European Central Bank ("ECB") kept monetary policy largely unchanged at its 3 February meeting, leaving the main refinancing operations rate at 0.0% and the main deposit facility rate at -0.5%. Potential rate hikes in 2H2022 entered the discourse at the policy meeting but the invasion of Ukraine appeared to scale back those sentiments later in the month. The pandemic emergency purchase programme ("PEPP") is scheduled to conclude in March. The ongoing accommodative policy stance from the ECB appears likely to diverge substantially from the tightening trajectory of the Fed in 2022. Meanwhile, there was no policy meeting from the Bank of Japan ("BOJ") in February. At the prior meeting on 17 January, the BOJ kept monetary policy largely unchanged, leaving the overnight interest rate at -0.1% and the yield target on the 10Y Japanese government bond at 0.0%. BOJ Governor Haruhiko Kuroda indicated that rates are likely to remain at current levels or lower, with no expectations that they would be raised until the 2% inflation target is reached.

### Performance Review

For the month, the Underlying Fund's A (Mdis) USD shares returned 0.72%, and its benchmark, the JP Morgan Global Government Bond Index, returned -0.88%.

The Underlying Fund's positions in the Brazilian real ("BRL"), Argentine peso ("ARS") and Chinese yuan ("CNY") against the US dollar ("USD") contributed to absolute performance, as did its position in the Norwegian krone ("NOK") against the euro ("EUR"). Positions in the Ghanaian cedi ("GHS") and Indian rupee ("INR") detracted from absolute results, as did the fund's net-negative exposure to the Australian dollar ("AUD"). Its position in the Swedish krona ("SEK") against the EUR also detracted from absolute return. Meanwhile, duration exposures in Argentina and Ghana contributed to absolute fund performance during the month.

### Market Outlook

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has added a layer of uncertainty to global financial markets. The Underlying Manager's assessment on many of the broad fundamentals in other regions of the world remains largely intact. Beyond the crisis in Ukraine, the Underlying Manager expects the recovery in global economic activity to largely continue in 2022, albeit with new headwinds emanating from the conflict in Europe. Several regions across the globe continue to benefit from high vaccination rates and public policy shifts towards living with Coronavirus ("COVID-19"). Many countries appear committed to moving beyond the oscillating cycles of lockdowns and reopenings that profoundly damage economic activity. Broader global economic momentum remains resilient with COVID-19 variants posing a tail risk for intermittently stifled economic activity. The Underlying Manager expects inflation to remain above historical averages for much of the year due to the differing factors in individual regions, including lingering supply and demand imbalances, labour market mismatches, high energy prices, and the ongoing effects of excessive monetary accommodation and massive fiscal spending over the last 2 years. Disruptions to commodity markets and trade from the conflict in Ukraine should add additional price pressures that were not previously anticipated. The Underlying Manager expects widening divergence on the monetary policy front as certain developed market central banks tighten policy ahead of others, while policy shifts remain varied and at different stages across emerging markets. While conditions continue to be broadly supportive of strategic rotations into risk assets, it remains crucial to be highly selective at the sovereign level given significant variations in economic conditions and policy responses, as well as varying vulnerabilities to high inflation, tightening cycles, negative fiscal impulses, and economic headwinds from COVID-19 disruptions and the conflict in Ukraine. On a regional basis, areas of Asia continue to stand out from the emerging market pack. Asia is projected to have some of the strongest growth rates in the world in 2022. Several countries have large current account surpluses, low fiscal deficits, low levels of debt and relatively normalised interest rates compared with the low-to-negative rates across advanced economies. Looking ahead, the Underlying Manager believes that 2022 is likely to predominantly be a pan-Asian story.