For over 40 years, development partners have entrusted the World Bank with the financial management of their contributions to World Bank trust funds and Financial Intermediary Funds (FIFs). These resources complement the World Bank Group’s mission to end extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity in a sustainable way. Trust funds and FIFs allow for the scaling up of activities, notably in fragile and crisis situations; provide immediate assistance in response to natural disasters and other emergencies; and pilot innovations that may be later mainstreamed into the Bank’s operations.

The World Bank as Trustee receives and invests development partner contributions to trust funds and FIFs, until funds are disbursed to final recipients for development projects. Such investment management services aim to preserve donor funds and enhance their value. The trust funds and FIFs portfolio has grown over the years due to an increase in development partner contributions for multi-year projects, an increase in the number of trust funds managed by the World Bank and investment returns. As of 30 June 2018, the volume of liquid assets held by trust funds and FIFs reached $29.7 billion.

This brochure provides information on the World Bank’s investment management services for development partners. The Trust Funds and Partner Relations Department (DFTPR) within the World Bank’s Development Finance Vice Presidency (DFi) serves as the liaison between development partners and external/internal clients on strategy, policy, and program management, as well as financial and risk management oversight for trust funds and FIF assets managed by the World Bank Treasury.

The World Bank Treasury has substantial expertise in asset and liability management and a global reputation as a prudent and innovative borrower, investor and risk manager. In managing funds for development partners, the World Bank follows a well-defined investment process, applying a conservative risk approach with ongoing oversight through the World Bank’s financial governance structure.

Sound investment management is an integral part of the value process to ensure the availability of development partners’ funds for their intended purposes. As such, preservation of capital has historically been the primary objective when investing development partners’ financial resources. Beyond this objective, the World Bank Treasury seeks to prudently add value by judiciously employing appropriate investment strategies within an efficient, flexible, industry leading investment platform. This allows investment management of trust funds and FIFs in a way that accommodates the varying investment requirements and risk tolerances of its development partners, thus providing opportunities for enhancement of investment returns.

The trust funds and FIFs’ investment portfolios managed by the World Bank have recorded comparable returns to the benchmarks with similar risk profiles over the past decade and were able to weather the global financial crisis of 2008/09 remarkably well. The World Bank has been able to enhance investment returns over and above the primary capital preservation objective for investment portfolios of trust funds and FIFs. This has been achieved through an effective asset allocation process and active portfolio management by the World Bank Treasury. Over the past 5 years, the total investment income generated for the trust funds and FIFs exceeds $1.0 billion while the incremental investment income for the portfolios earned over their respective benchmarks, is more than $380 million.

We trust that you will find this brochure informative and look forward to answering any questions that you may have on the investment management process for development partners’ funds.

Akihiko Nishio  
Vice President  
Development Finance Vice Presidency  
The World Bank

Jingdong Hua  
Vice President and Treasurer  
Treasury Vice Presidency  
The World Bank

1 As of 30 June 2018  
2 Refer to the summaries of each Model Portfolio at the back of this booklet for benchmark information.
The World Bank Treasury has extensive experience in managing and investing development partner financial resources. It has mobilized and managed development partner contributions since 1960 when the International Development Association (IDA) was created to support the poorest countries through interest free and long maturity loans. Since the 1980s, development partners have also provided bilateral aid resources and other contributions through trust funds managed by the World Bank, and over the past decade, have engaged the World Bank as trustee for Financial Intermediary Funds (FIFs). In this function, the World Bank takes on different financial management and advisory roles, while project implementation and oversight in developing countries is carried out by donor agencies or other entities.

All trust funds and FIFs assets administered by the World Bank are maintained in a commingled investment portfolio (the “Pool”). To accommodate varying investment horizons and risk tolerances of individual trust funds, the Pool comprises of sub-portfolios, called Model Portfolios, in which trust funds and FIFs liquid assets can be invested.
Over the last ten years, the investment portfolio for combined trust funds and FiFs has seen substantial growth with the value of liquid assets increasing from $15.6 billion at end of June 2008, to $29.7 billion at end of June 2018. This growth is reflective of the World Bank’s focus on designing and establishing new trust funds, developing tailored financial solutions (including through FiFs) to address development challenges, and growth in size of a few of these FiFs.

After development partners pay in their contributions, the World Bank Treasury invests these resources in the international capital markets until funds are disbursed to final recipients for development projects. Such investment services aim to preserve development partners’ funds and enhance their value.

Trust funds and FiFs receive funds from development partners in multiple currencies. Upon receipt by the World Bank, these funds are typically invested in the currency of eventual disbursements to recipients in developing countries. The commitment authority for trust funds and FiFs are monitored in US dollars; as such, the investment portfolio is held primarily in US dollars.
Institutional oversight for programs funded by development partners is provided by the World Bank’s Executive Directors (Board), Committees of the Board such as the Audit Committee, the World Bank Group President as well as members of the senior management team. The oversight of the financial management arrangements for the investment portfolios of the trust funds and FIFs are undertaken by the Finance and Risk Committee (FRC), which is chaired by the World Bank Group Chief Financial Officer.

The World Bank Treasury is vested with the responsibility of managing the investment portfolios of trust funds and FIFs in a fiduciary capacity. The provisions of the World Bank Board approved General Investment Authorizations for the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA) also apply to the investment of World Bank administered trust funds and FIFs subject to any specific instructions provided by development partners or governing bodies thereof. This includes for example specification of an expanded range of eligible investments, such as equities.

The investment strategies for trust funds and FIFs portfolio are periodically reviewed and approved by the appropriate departments and financial committees, including the Board’s Audit Committee which reviews the investment strategies. In addition, investment policy and asset allocations are assessed in regular management discussions, while investment returns are reported at least monthly. DFi approves the investment benchmarks and conducts regular reviews of the liquidity requirements and allocation of investment balances to specific investment tranches.

Front row from Left: Ivana Pavlovic, Mei Leng Chang, Wendy Mendes, Dirk Reinermann
Second Row from Left: Shenghua Si, Rahul Gupta, Fergal O’Keeffe, Suzanne Marie Boughner
Third Row from Left: Feng Gu, Chaminda Ranasoma, Wayne Austin Schwartz
Preservation of capital is the primary investment objective of the investment Pool, reflecting donor sensitivity to any potential losses of capital that could result from adverse movements in the international capital markets. Cognizant of the fact that individual trust funds and FIFs within the pool might have different investment horizons due to differing liquidity needs and risk tolerances, the World Bank Treasury offers model portfolios with specific investment objectives, investment horizons and risk tolerances. The asset allocations for each of the model portfolios are designed to achieve these investment objectives.

Consequently, the investment portfolios are managed to conservative overall risk tolerance parameters. Funds within the portfolio are periodically rebalanced among the model portfolios to ensure that they are allocated to the most suitable investment mix, based on multi-year cash flow projections for each fund.

Each model portfolio seeks to maximize investment returns over distinct investment horizons, which range from daily up to five years. For example, a model portfolio for longer term investments (5-year investment horizon or greater) is available for trust funds and FIFs that have a stable cash flows over that horizon, meaning they may take advantage of a more diversified allocation including an allocation to global developed market equities.

**At a Glance - The Investment Portfolio of Trust Funds and FIFs**

The World Bank manages the liquid assets of trust funds and FIFs in a single, commingled investment pool which provides several benefits to its participants, such as:

- A selection of model portfolios to accommodate the varying liquidity needs and risk preferences of different funds, managed within a comprehensive risk management framework.
- Access to a wide variety of investment products and longer maturity investments to enhance returns and investment income over time.
- A cost-effective investment platform resulting in very low administrative costs to participants.
- Regular review of liquidity needs across funds to optimize investments over the longer term.
## Model Portfolios for Investments of Trust Funds and FIFs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model Portfolio 0</th>
<th>Model Portfolio 1</th>
<th>Model Portfolio 2</th>
<th>Model Portfolio 3</th>
<th>Model Portfolio 4</th>
<th>Model Portfolio 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</strong></td>
<td><strong>Capital preservation over a 1-year horizon</strong></td>
<td><strong>Capital preservation over a 3-year horizon</strong></td>
<td><strong>LIBOR based</strong></td>
<td><strong>Return optimization over a 5-year horizon</strong></td>
<td><strong>Return optimization over a 5-year horizon</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investment Objective</strong></td>
<td>Enhance returns subject to ensuring liquidity &amp; timely availability of cash when needed</td>
<td>Enhance returns subject to preservation of capital to a high degree of confidence over a 1-year horizon</td>
<td>Enhance returns subject to preservation of capital to a high degree of confidence over a 3-year horizon</td>
<td>Maximize returns subject to 3-month interest rate sensitivity</td>
<td>Enhance returns subject to preservation of capital to a high degree of confidence over a 5-year horizon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Asset Allocation/Benchmark</strong></td>
<td>Overnight cash</td>
<td>Dynamic (Government bonds and money markets)</td>
<td>Dynamic (Government bonds, money markets and US Agency MBS)</td>
<td>LIBOR based</td>
<td>Dynamic (Government bonds, money markets and US Agency MBS) &amp; global developed market equities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Currencies</strong></td>
<td>USD and EUR</td>
<td>USD and EUR</td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Historical 1-yr Return (USD only)</strong></td>
<td>1.71% (Excess Return 41 bps)</td>
<td>1.60% (Excess Return 34 bps)</td>
<td>1.48% (Excess Return 24 bps)</td>
<td>1.87% (Excess Return 34 bps)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Historical 3-yr Cumulative Return (USD only)</strong></td>
<td>3.01% (Excess Return 87 bps)</td>
<td>3.42% (Excess Return 1.03%)</td>
<td>4.03% (Excess Return 93 bps)</td>
<td>3.90% (Excess Return 1.21%)</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 Customized and designed for a single fund only.
4 Participation in Model Portfolio 4 (MP4) is subject to specific instructions from the relevant trust fund or FIF governing body. MP4 has been approved, but it has not been implemented.
5 Customized and designed for a single fund only.
The investment of development partners’ funds in the international capital markets follows a well-defined process, involving different stages of review, approval and ongoing monitoring and controls. The process starts by establishing the appropriate investment strategy for the funds to be invested. This strategy is guided by the liquidity profile of the development partners’ funds and a defined set of investment objective and risk tolerance limits, which are reviewed and approved by appropriate departments and financial committees.

The asset allocation for each model portfolio defines the suitable types of investment instruments (asset classes) and their weights in the model portfolio, together with the appropriate benchmark for each asset class. Benchmark holdings guide the structure of actual portfolios, wherein investments are made through approved counterparties in the capital markets, based on investment guidelines that limit market risk (such as interest rate risk) and credit exposure. All credit limits for holding funds for investment with commercial counterparties are determined by the World Bank’s Chief Risk Officer’s Market and Counterparty Risk Department. Ongoing risk measurement and performance reporting for the investment portfolios of trust funds and FIFS are conducted on a daily basis within the Bank’s Treasury.
The Investment Guidelines for the trust funds and FIFs investment portfolios specify the allowable range of instruments, for each asset class, within the high-grade fixed income category (such as government bonds) as well as money market securities (such as short-term investments with commercial banks).

Currently, these instruments include high quality securities that are issued by sovereign governments, government agencies, as well as multilateral and other official institutions. In addition, eligible instruments include asset-backed and agency-guaranteed mortgage-backed securities, as well as swaps and a range of other derivative instruments that can be used to manage interest rate risk. Investments in synthetic short-duration USD assets, obtained by asset swapping longer duration bonds denominated in USD as well as non-dollar currencies, is also permitted.

### Asset Classes for Trust Funds and FIF Portfolios

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset Class</th>
<th>Asset Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Government Securities</td>
<td>Marketable bonds, notes or other obligations issued or unconditionally guaranteed by the government of a country in its own domestic currency and approved by the World Bank's Credit Committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage-backed Securities (MBS)</td>
<td>US Agency-guaranteed residential mortgage-backed securities, including fixed-rate pass-throughs, adjustable rate mortgages (ARMS), interest-only (IO) and principal-only (PO) strips, and collateralized mortgage obligations (CMOs). Commercial Mortgage Backed Securities (CMBS) and non-agency MBS are not included.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAA Corporate Securities (incl. Asset Backed Securities)</td>
<td>AAA-rated asset-backed securities (ABS), backed by student loans, auto and credit card receivables, public sector loans or prime first lien residential mortgages and domiciled in an eligible country, and any other AAA-rated obligations of a corporate entity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency/ Sovereign/ Government guaranteed Securities</td>
<td>Marketable bonds, notes or other obligations rated at least AA- issued by a government agency, supranational institution or local authority domiciled in an eligible country as well as corporate debt guaranteed by the government of eligible countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money Market Instruments/ Financial Institutions Securities</td>
<td>Time deposits, certificates of deposit, reverse repurchase agreements and other obligations issued or unconditionally guaranteed by a bank or other financial institution domiciled in an eligible country, whose senior debt securities are rated at least A- and maturing in 3 months or less.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed Market Equities</td>
<td>A stock or any other security representing an ownership interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swaps and Derivatives</td>
<td>Financial futures and options contracts, other derivative and associated instruments, forward rate agreements, swap transactions, options to enter into swap transactions in the future, and foreign exchange contracts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ASSET CLASSES
Asset Composition of the Trust Funds & Financial Intermediary Funds Portfolio
Fiscal Years 2014-2018

- Money Market
- Sovereign Guaranteed
- Agency Bonds
- Covered Bonds
- Mortgage Backed Securities
- Domestic Government Bonds
- Asset Backed Securities
- Developed Market Equities

Photo by Dominic Chavez from World Bank Photo Collection
The investment portfolios for trust funds and FIFs have outperformed their Investment Products benchmarks over the past five years, reflecting the prevailing market conditions, which have been characterized by historically low fixed income yields and increased interest rate volatility. When interest rates decrease in major markets, bonds providing a fixed coupon income will increase in market value, and this will increase the total return from holding these bonds (see also technical box on “Impact of Market Yields on Fixed Income Portfolios”).

Over the past five-year period, the World Bank has been able to deliver investment returns over and above the primary capital preservation objective for investment portfolios of trust funds and FIFs. This was achieved through an effective asset allocation process and active portfolio management by the World Bank Treasury. More, excess returns were posted by the model portfolios against their Investment Products benchmarks, as shown in the chart. Over the past five years, the excess return translated into an income estimated at around $380 million for the investment portfolio of trust funds and FIFs.
Excess Returns of Trust Funds Model Portfolios vs Benchmarks
Fiscal Years 2014-2018

To further illustrate, the accompanying chart highlights the overall higher returns relative to risk of the model portfolios compared to that of the benchmark allocations.

Trust Fund Historical Total Return and Risk Characteristics for Trust Funds and Financial Intermediary Funds
RISK MANAGEMENT

The risk tolerance or the risk-taking capacity of the trust funds and FIFs investment portfolios is considered to be very conservative. Conditional Value-at-Risk (CVaR) measure is the primary risk measure used in the management of the model portfolios for trust funds and FIFs and is defined as limiting the estimated average loss to the portfolio in the worst 1% of loss events. The World Bank Model Portfolios have their overall market risk constrained by a CVaR measure as follows:

Model Portfolio 1 – 99% CVaR of -25 basis points
Model Portfolio 2 – 99% CVaR of -100 basis points
Model Portfolio 4 – 99% CVaR of -100 basis points

Model Portfolios 3 and 5 are further subject to separate sets of investment guidelines set forth in the contractual undertakings governing the relationships with the relevant entities.

In addition to the information embedded in the risk measure (which neatly captures the perceived risk preferences of trust fund clients), CVaR also has desirable statistical features that make it preferable to alternative risk measures such as the probability of negative return or Value at Risk (VaR). These qualities include the following:

- In general, CVaR is a superior risk measure to probability of negative returns or the VaR measure. In normal market environments (i.e., expected returns are assumed to be normally distributed), the three measures behavior is equivalent. In non-normal environments, however, using CVaR enables investors to limit the magnitude of tail loss (i.e. the full spectrum of adverse scenarios beyond a simple confidence level), while probability of negative return does not address the magnitude of loss and the VaR measure only addresses losses at one confidence level.

- In addition, in the current low interest rate environment, the probability of negative return measure is very sensitive to small changes in yield levels and may signal frequent and unnecessary asset allocation changes which may result in unnecessary transaction costs. The CVaR measure is found to be less reactive to small yield changes and can significantly reduce unnecessary rebalancing transactions based on empirical studies.
Investment returns on high quality fixed income portfolios are made up of two components: (i) periodic coupon income at the fixed contractual interest rate, and (ii) price changes, or change in market value of principal due to changes in interest rates. All other things being equal, an increase in interest rates results in a decrease in the value of the original investment in fixed coupon bonds; conversely, a decrease in market interest rates results in an increase in the value of the original bond investment. If bonds are held until their maturity date, there will be no impact from these temporary (mark-to-market) price changes on the total investment return earned at maturity.

If the second component of investment returns (i.e. changes in price) is negative over a given period, and its magnitude exceeds the periodic coupon income, the total investment return over the reporting period can be negative, thus resulting in a decrease in the overall value of the bond investment. While longer maturity bonds typically carry a higher interest rate and thus generate higher coupon income relative to shorter maturity bonds, they are also more susceptible to market price changes as a result of a change in interest rates. Other things being equal, conservative portfolios with a limited tolerance for negative returns tend to have shorter portfolio durations; and the lower the level of market interest rates, the shorter the portfolio duration will have to be in order to preclude any reported losses.

The chart below shows the historical rolling 12-month returns of USD Model Portfolio 1 (as a proxy for the investment portfolio of trust funds and FIFs) against the yields on US Treasury 2-year bonds (as a proxy for the level of US interest rates). The declining interest rates in 2007-2008 were followed by increasing or high investment returns. In contrast, periods of rising rates, such as in 2004-2005, have seen declining or low reported total investment returns. However, during that period, the coupon income, as indicated by the level of yields, was high enough to cushion the negative impact from falling market prices, such that the total return of the investment remained positive. With interest rates remaining near historically low levels in the United States and other major markets following the global financial crisis since 2009, returns of USD Model Portfolio 1 (and the investment portfolios of trust funds and FIFs as a whole) remain low in historic terms.
GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Financial Intermediary Funds (FIFs)**

Financial Intermediary Funds are financial arrangements that leverage a variety of public and private resources in support of global development initiatives and partnerships. These funds involve financial engineering or complex finance schemes, or where the World Bank provides a specified set of administrative, financial, and/or operational services.

**General Investment Authorizations**

General Investment Authorization for IBRD (Resolution No. 2012-0008), adopted by the Executive Directors on December 5, 2012, as may be amended from time to time, and General Investment Authorization for IDA (Resolution no. IDA 2012-0005), adopted by the Executive Directors on December 5, 2012, as may be amended from time to time.

**Investment Pool**

World Bank trust funds and FIFs assets invested and managed by TRE as a commingled portfolio.

**Investment Products**

Sub-portfolios covering specific market sectors, including, but not limited to, US Agency MBS, UST 1-5 year, TIPS etc.

**Model Portfolios**

Combinations of Investment Products that seek to generate a specific risk/return profile or other specified investment objective. They reflect the actual portfolio holdings.

**Strategy**

World Bank Investment Strategy, reviewed and approved within the World Bank Governance arrangements, which describes the investment framework for World Bank trust funds and FIFs.

**Trust Fund**

A financing arrangement set up to accept contributions from one or more donors to be held and disbursed/transferred by a World Bank Group entity as trustee in accordance with agreed terms.