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# Aegon Global Sustainable Sovereign Bond Fund

August 2024

#### **Fund overview**

The Aegon Sustainable Sovereign Bond Fund aims to invest in financially strong countries that contribute to the improvements in sustainability targets as defined by the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. We believe our actively managed portfolio can offer investors strong capital-preservation characteristics with attractive yields.

The Fund has been developed by Aegon AM's Responsible Investment and Fixed Income teams to help meet client demand for the adoption and integration of sustainable principles as one of the cornerstones of asset allocation. It is based on internal research that began in 2017 to integrate the materiality of environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors into sovereign bond portfolios. For more information on the Fund, please contact our client team or visit <a href="https://www.aegonam.com/gssbf">www.aegonam.com/gssbf</a>.

Irina Kurochkina, CFA Portfolio Manager



Gerard
Moerman
Head of Fixed Income,
LDI and Investment
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#### **Fund Facts**

Fund launch	13 October 2021		
Fund size	EUR 121m (as of August 2024)		
Objective	To invest in financially strong countries that contribute to the improvements in sustainability targets as defined by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)		
Reference Benchmark	<ul><li>ICE BofA Global Government Index (W0G1 Index)</li><li>Used for duration and credit risk reference</li></ul>		
Investment Universe	<ul> <li>Global universe of bonds issued by governments and supranational entities</li> <li>Investment grade bonds in hard currencies (fully hedged to base currency)</li> <li>Only issuers classified as leaders, influencers or improvers in sustainability based on Aegon AM methodology</li> </ul>		
Portfolio profile	<ul> <li>Average credit rating of AA-</li> <li>Average duration of 7.5 years</li> <li>Diversified portfolio of around 30 issuers</li> <li>Issuers with strong sustainability and ESG profiles</li> </ul>		
Investment Vehicle	<ul><li>Irish UCITS ICAV umbrella</li><li>Base currency: EUR. GBP share class available</li></ul>		
EU SFDR	Article 9		





### Why invest?

The focus of the strategy is to generate long-term value by incorporating sustainability without taking unnecessary risks and without sacrificing investment results. The asset class offers historically attractive yields with strong capital-preservation characteristics and high liquidity. The strategy is highly scalable given the size of the government bonds universe.

Sustainability alignment	Full sustainability integration into portfolio construction to align investments with on our proprietary research		
Robust process	The investable universe is defined according to the clear internal governance the on the ESG disclosures		
Global diversification	Provides risk-return advantages while reflecting diverse sustainability ch concentration risks		

## Building a sustainable portfolio in sovereign bonds

Constructing a sustainably aligned sovereign portfolio starts with comprehensive bottom-up research and requires a thorough country-by country assessment. The sustainability assessment defines the investable universe, where only issuers classified as 'Leaders', 'Influencers' or 'Improvers' are eligible for investment. Consequently, the portfolio does not invest in countries considered not sustainable ('Neutral' or 'Detrimental').

We base our sustainability methodology on the works of the Bertelsmann-Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) partnership, sponsored by the United Nations. Our transparent scoring methodology is founded on this independent and credible framework and leverages reliable data sources. By using more than 100 indicators per country we have built an SDG scoring methodology that allows us to reflect our views on sustainability in 172 countries across the world.

Our investment process follows four principal stages: 1) Data coverage check, 2) Exclusions, 3) Sustainability assessment, 4) Final portfolio construction. More details of our process are available on request, including an introductory presentation and standard RFP.

# Local accountability, global resources

The Fund is managed by the investment team based in the Netherlands that is supported by the specialized resources of Aegon AM's global platform.

Sovereign Credit, Rates and Currency	Credit Research <sup>1</sup>	Responsible Investment
9 portfolio managers	26 professionals	21 professionals
16 years' experience	16 years' experience	13 years' experience
Macro Strategy <sup>2</sup>	Emerging Market Debt <sup>3</sup>	LDI and Investment Solutions
6 professionals	7 professionals	6 professionals
18 years' experience	19 years' experience	19 years' experience

Source: Aegon AM. Years of experience reflects average industry experience attained on 1 January 2024. <sup>1</sup>The credit research team covers public, developed market issuers globally, including public leveraged loan issuers include individuals with dual roles. <sup>2</sup>May include individuals with dual roles. <sup>3</sup>Includes sovereign research.

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Aegon Asset Management is the global investment management brand of Aegon N.V. See disclosures for more detail.

#### **Important information**

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This is a marketing communication. Please refer to the following legal documents of the UCITS before making any final investment decisions. For UK investors: please refer to the Prospectus and the UCITS KIID. For EU investors: please refer to the Prospectus and the PRIIPs KID. The relevant documents can be found at aegonam.com. The principal risk of this product is the loss of capital.

All investments contain risk and may lose value. Responsible investing is qualitative and subjective by nature, and there is no guarantee that the criteria utilized, or judgement exercised, by any company of Aegon Asset Management will reflect the beliefs or values of any one particular investor. Responsible investing norms differ by region. There is no assurance that the responsible investing strategy and techniques employed will be successful. Investors should consult their investment professional prior to making an investment decision.

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Please visit https://www.aegonam.com/en/contact/ for an English summary of investor rights and more information on access to collective redress mechanisms"

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