

T. ROWE PRICE FUNDS SICAV

# Dynamic Emerging Markets Bond Fund – ESG Report

Providing transparency on Environment, Social and Governance aspects of the Fund

As at 31 December 2023

### **ESG INTEGRATION APPROACH**

- The Dynamic Emerging Markets Bond Fund uses ESG integration as part of its investment process. By incorporating
  environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations into our investment process, we seek to understand the
  range of ESG risks, together with many other investment criteria, to better position ourselves in order to deliver
  consistent, strong long-term returns for our clients.
- The process of ESG integration takes place on two levels: first, with our research analysts as they incorporate environmental, social and governance factors into issuer valuations and ratings; and, second, with the portfolio manager as he balances these ESG factor exposures at the portfolio level. Both the analysts and portfolio manager are able to leverage dedicated, in-house resources to assist them in analyzing ESG criteria.
- Our ESG specialist teams provide investment research on ESG issues at the company level and on thematic topics.
  Additionally, they have built tools to help proactively and systematically analyze the environmental, social, and
  governance factors that could impact our investments. The foundation of the analysis is a proprietary flagging tool
  called the Responsible Investing Indicator Model (RIIM). It covers over 15,000 companies and pulls from data sets that
  are not in the wheelhouse of traditional financial analysis. These data sets include:
  - ESG performance data (e.g., number of accidents, carbon emissions, strength of whistle-blower programs, etc.);
  - ESG targets (e.g., plans to reduce carbon emissions, increase diversity, etc.)
  - ESG incidents and controversies (e.g., environmental fines paid, local community controversies/protests against a company, etc.)
- The fund construction process combines top-down and bottom-up approaches. We combine a top-down approach to asset allocation amongst Emerging Market sovereigns, corporates, interest rates and currencies, with a bottom-up approach to country, issuer and security selection. The foundation of our investment process is fundamental research, which includes an assessment of ESG factors to identify the best opportunities across the Emerging Markets macroeconomic landscape and the capital structure of a country or company. Investment recommendations from the specialist sovereign and corporate analysts incorporate ESG analysis independently performed by our dedicated ESG specialist team. We complement this approach with regular screening of the portfolio using T. Rowe Price's proprietary RIIM analysis. This approach helps us understand and manage the ESG characteristics of the portfolio, including exposures to specific ESG factors.
- The fund is classified as Article 8 according to the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation. Although the fund does not have sustainable investment as an objective, the promotion of environmental and social characteristics is achieved through the fund's commitment to maintain at least 50% of the value of its portfolio invested in issuers and/or securities that are rated as 'Green' by the T. Rowe Price proprietary Responsible Investor Indicator Model (RIIM). The fund applies the T. Rowe Price RIIM Rating Criteria. The fund avoids issuers whose activities we may consider harmful to the environment and/or society through the application of our proprietary screen, the T. Rowe Price Responsible Exclusion List.

**INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE:** To maximise the value of its shares through both growth in the value of, and income from, its investments.

**INVESTMENT PROCESS:** The fund is actively managed and invests mainly in a portfolio of bonds of all types from emerging markets issuers. Although the fund does not have sustainable investment as an objective, the promotion of environmental and/or social characteristics is achieved through the fund's commitment to maintain at least 50% of the value of its portfolio invested in issuers and/or securities that are rated as 'Green' by the T. Rowe Price proprietary Responsible Investor Indicator Model (RIIM). In addition to the E/S characteristics promoted, the fund also applies the investment manager's proprietary responsible screen (the T. Rowe Price Responsible Exclusion List). The fund may use derivatives for hedging, efficient portfolio management and investment purposes. The fund may also use derivatives to create synthetic short positions in currencies, debt securities, credit indices and equities. For full investment objective and policy details refer to the prospectus. The manager is not constrained by the fund's benchmark, which is used for performance comparison purposes only.

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# **RECENT COMPANY ENGAGEMENTS**

We maintain a regular dialogue with the management teams of companies represented across the portfolio. Our investment-driven engagement program frequently identifies targets through our proprietary RIIM analysis, governance screening and analysts' fundamental research. While we engage with companies in a variety of different contexts, ESG engagement focuses on learning about, encouraging or exchanging perspectives on the environmental practices, corporate governance or social issues affecting their business.

While most of the meetings we hold with company managements will include some discussion of ESG topics, we differentiate meetings held with a heavy focus on ESG, meaning ESG issues were the sole items on the agenda or made up a meaningful part of the meeting. Agenda items are classified as "meaningful" when they take up a significant portion of the meeting or are a significant factor in the investment case.

The following are selected examples of recent engagements with companies held in or considered for the portfolio. The examples are not meant to be representative of every engagement held, but to illustrate the types of ESG engagements we are having with the managements of our investment companies.

# Bank Negara Indonesia (4th Quarter 2023 Engagement)

Focus	Environment, Social		
Company Description	Bank Negara Indonesia is a state-owned bank.		
Engagement Objective	We engaged with the bank on its climate strategy and to conduct due diligence on blue financing opportunities.		
Participants	From Bank Negara Indonesia (BNI): Head of Enterprise Risk Management; Investor Relations Representative		
	From T. Rowe Price: Associate Portfolio Manager; Investment Analysts; Responsible Investing Analyst		
	We engaged with the bank on its climate strategy.		
	The bank has been reporting its scope 1-2¹ emissions and some scope 3 categories for several years, in line with regional peers. However, the bank recently set a 2030 net zero target for its own operations that helps it stand out versus its Asia-based peers. BNI is currently developing a formal climate strategy to support this target, and we recommended the bank provide additional detail on its climate strategy in its next ESG report.		
	The bank has integrated ESG risks within its underwriting practices. For example, it requires all new palm oil customers to have Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)/Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) certificates but only 48% of its existing palm oil customers are RSPO/ISPO certified, which is lower than its peers. The bank explained that the existing debtors that are not certified are in the process of obtaining certificates but warned investors that progress will be slow.		
Engagement Outcome	In 2023, BNI measured the financed emissions of corporate and commercial clients for the first time. It is currently working with a consultant to formalize its strategy to reduce financed emissions, and we recommended the bank provide additional disclosure in its upcoming ESG report and set financed emission reduction targets on high-priority sectors.		
	We discussed how the bank can measure the "impact" its financing is having on the unbanked/underbanked communities. BNI highlighted several measures, including district coverage, new clients onboarded, and transaction volumes, and we provided additional recommendations such as number of financially empowered individuals and the number of customers who took out their first loan or credit card with the bank.		
	BNI issued its first green bond in 2022, with most of the proceeds being allocated to clean transportation, green buildings, and renewable energy. We discussed the bank's opportunities on blue financing, noting that it can be challenging to verify certain projects (e.g., wastewater) as full visibility of the entire supply chain is required.		
	We were pleased with the progress the bank is making in relation to reducing its scope 1-2 emissions and decarbonizing its loan book. We also provided several disclosure and target-setting recommendations to bring the bank in line with regional best practice.		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Scope 1: direct emissions from owned or controlled sources; scope 2: indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, or cooling; scope 3: all other indirect emissions.

The specific securities identified and described do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold, or recommended for the SICAV sub-fund, and no assumption should be made that the securities identified and discussed were or will be profitable.

### **ESG RIIM PROFILE**

The T. Rowe Price Responsible Investing Indicator Model (RIIM) rates companies, governments and securitized assets in a traffic light system measuring their environmental, social, and governance profile and flagging issuers with elevated risks. For certain types of investments, including, but not limited to, cash, currency positions, and particular types of derivatives, an ESG analysis may not be relevant or possible due to a lack of data. Where ESG considerations are integrated into the investment research process, we may conclude that other attributes of an investment outweigh ESG considerations when making investment decisions.

The data in the table below is the RIIM Weighted Average Score which is a combined Environmental. Social and Governance score for the portfolio, and which is used to measure the Sustainability Indicator for the Fund. It differs to the overall RIIM Indicator Score which is determined by the worst of the Environmental, Social and Governance scores.

	Portfolio		
	No. of securities	% weight	
Green	95	78.0	
Orange	18	15.0	
Red	0	0.0	
Not in scope	8	5.0	
Not covered	0	0.0	
Cash	1	2.0	
Total	122	100.0	
■ No/few Flags ■ Medium Flags ▲ High Flags			

## SUSTAINABILITY INDICATOR

The fund is classified as Article 8 according to the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulations (SFDR).

The sustainability indicator used by the fund is to maintain at least 50% of the value of its portfolio invested in issuers and/or securities that are rated "Green" by the T. Rowe Price proprietary Responsible Investor Indicator Model ("RIIM").

The percentage exposure of the fund in issuers and/or securities that are rated "Green" is:

	Target Minimum Exposure %	Fund Exposure %
Green Issuers/Securities	50.0%	78.0%

RISKS - The following risks are materially relevant to the fund (refer to prospectus for further details): ABS and MBS -Asset-Backed Securities (ABS) and Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS) may be subject to greater liquidity, credit, default and interest rate risk compared to other bonds. They are often exposed to extension and prepayment risk. China Interbank Bond Market - The China Interbank Bond Market may subject the fund to additional liquidity, volatility, regulatory, settlement procedure and counterparty risks. The fund may incur significant trading and realisation costs. Contingent convertible bond -Contingent Convertible Bonds may be subject to additional risks linked to: capital structure inversion, trigger levels, coupon cancellations, call extensions, yield/valuation, conversions, write downs, industry concentration and liquidity, among others. Country (China) - Chinese investments may be subject to higher levels of risks such as liquidity, currency, regulatory and legal risks due to the structure of the local market. Country (Russia and Ukraine) - Russian and Ukrainian investments may be subject to higher risks associated with custody and counterparties, liquidity, market disruptions, as well as strong or sudden political risks. Credit - Credit risk arises when an issuer's financial health deteriorates and/or it fails to fulfill its financial obligations to the fund. Currency - Currency exchange rate movements could reduce investment gains or increase investment losses. Default - Default risk may occur if the issuers of certain bonds become unable or unwilling to make payments on their bonds. Derivative - Derivatives may be used to create leverage which could expose the fund to higher volatility and/or losses that are significantly greater than the cost of the derivative. Distressed or defaulted debt securities - Distressed or defaulted debt securities may bear substantially higher degree of risks linked to recovery, liquidity and valuation. Emerging markets -Emerging markets are less established than developed markets and therefore involve higher risks. Frontier markets - Frontier markets are less mature than emerging markets and typically have higher risks, including limited investability and liquidity. High yield bond - High yield debt securities are generally subject to greater risk of issuer debt restructuring or default, higher liquidity risk and greater sensitivity to market conditions. Interest rate - Interest rate risk is the potential for losses in fixedincome investments as a result of unexpected changes in interest rates. Issuer concentration - Issuer concentration risk may result in performance being more strongly affected by any business, industry, economic, financial or market conditions affecting those issuers in which the fund's assets are concentrated. Liquidity - Liquidity risk may result in securities becoming hard to value or trade within a desired timeframe at a fair price. Sector concentration - Sector concentration risk may result in performance being more strongly affected by any business, industry, economic, financial or market conditions affecting a particular sector in which the fund's assets are concentrated. Total Return Swap - Total return swap contracts may expose the fund to additional risks, including market, counterparty and operational risks as well as risks linked to the use of collateral arrangements.

General fund risks - to be read in conjunction with the fund specific risks above. Counterparty - Counterparty risk may materialise if an entity with which the fund does business becomes unwilling or unable to meet its obligations to the fund. ESG and sustainability - ESG and Sustainability risk may result in a material negative impact on the value of an investment and performance of the fund. Geographic concentration - Geographic concentration risk may result in performance being more strongly affected by any social, political, economic, environmental or market conditions affecting those countries or regions in which the fund's assets are concentrated. Hedging - Hedging measures involve costs and may work imperfectly, may not be feasible at times, or may fail completely. Investment fund - Investing in funds involves certain risks an investor would not face if investing in markets directly. Management - Management risk may result in potential conflicts of interest relating to the obligations of the investment manager. Market - Market risk may subject the fund to experience losses caused by unexpected changes in a wide variety of factors. Operational - Operational risk may cause losses as a result of incidents caused by people, systems, and/or processes.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Funds are sub-funds of the T. Rowe Price Funds SICAV, a Luxembourg investment company with variable capital which is registered with Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier and which qualifies as an undertaking for collective investment in transferable securities ("UCITS"). Full details of the objectives, investment policies and risks are located in the prospectus which is available with the key investor information documents (KIID) and/or key information document (KID) in English and in an official language of the jurisdictions in which the Funds are registered for public sale, together with the articles of incorporation and the annual and semi-annual reports (together "Fund Documents"). Any decision to invest should be made on the basis of the Fund Documents which are available free of charge from the local representative, local information/paying agent or from authorised distributors. They can also be found along with a summary of investor rights in English at www.troweprice.com. The Management Company reserves the right to terminate marketing arrangements.

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