# **Emerging Market Debt - Blend**

March 31, 2021

### **Inception Date**

November 1, 2006

### Total Strategy Assets<sup>1</sup>

\$2,601.9 million

### **Portfolio Managers**

Todd Howard, CFA Scott Moses, CFA

### **Strategy Vehicles**

- · Separately Managed Account
- Collective Investment Trust (CIT)

### Benchmark<sup>2</sup>

35% JP Morgan EMBI Global Index, 35% JP Morgan CEMBI Broad Diversified Index, and 30% JP Morgan GBI-EM Diversified Global Index

## **Typical Targets<sup>3</sup>**

Alpha (bps)	200
Tracking Error (bps)	150 – 300
USD Sovereign / Quasi- Sovereign (%)	35 – 60
Corporates (%)	25 – 50
Non-U.S. Dollar EM (%)	15 – 50
Cash (%)	0 – 10

#### **OUR STRENGTHS**

We believe our key competitive strengths are:

- People Our platform is truly global. We have long-term experience in Emerging Markets, navigating through economic cycles and changing market conditions. Our global credit research team provides local coverage and knowledge of relevant emerging markets.
- Philosophy We believe emerging markets securities are frequently mispriced based on their exposure to country, currency and credit risk.
- Process The portfolio construction process blends a top-down country view with a focused bottom-up security selection. Fluid communication among team members facilitates continuous idea generation.
- Size —Our size helps ensure there is sufficient diversification at the portfolio level, combined with our ability to source new issue allocations around the globe, and remain sufficiently nimble to reposition the portfolio as market opportunities arise.

### PHILOSOPHY AND PROCESS

We believe emerging market securities are frequently mispriced based on their exposure to country, currency, and credit risk.

We seek to exploit inefficiencies in the market and provide clients with excess returns to the benchmark by:

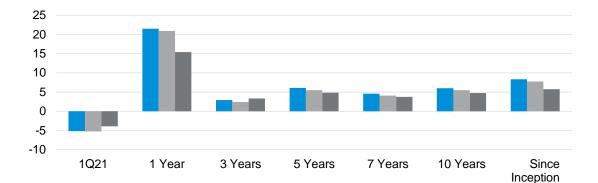
- Conducting proprietary, in-depth fundamental sovereign and corporate research
- Focusing on global relative value across the credit spectrum
- Constructing diversified portfolios with attractive risk / reward characteristics
- Utilizing both US dollar and non-dollar securities

#### **ALPHA DRIVERS**

- Focus on security selection, currency selection and country selection as the primary sources of alpha.
- Seek excess returns to the benchmark by applying bottom-up security selection within a framework that provides a top-down macroeconomic overlay.
- Believe in the ability to turn the portfolio over to source new ideas at attractive levels and aim to exit positions with rich valuations.
- Find opportunities that are attractive on a global basis.
- 1. Stated at estimated fair value (unaudited). Emerging Market Debt Blend is a strategy of public fixed income assets. Total Strategy Assets for Emerging Market Debt Blend include all assets managed by MIM in the Emerging Market Debt Blend strategy and may include certain assets that are not included in Composite Assets (as presented in GIPS® Composite Statistics and Performance table on the following page) for Emerging Market Debt Blend.
- 2. Please see the full GIPS® disclosures at the end of this document.
- 3. Any portfolio targets and/or limits are used to illustrate the Investment Manager's current intentions and may be subject to change without notice. Target Alpha is an investment objective and not a promise of future results or performance. This target is considered gross of fees and over a 3 to 5 year time horizon under normal market conditions. There can be no assurance that a portfolio will achieve its target alpha.

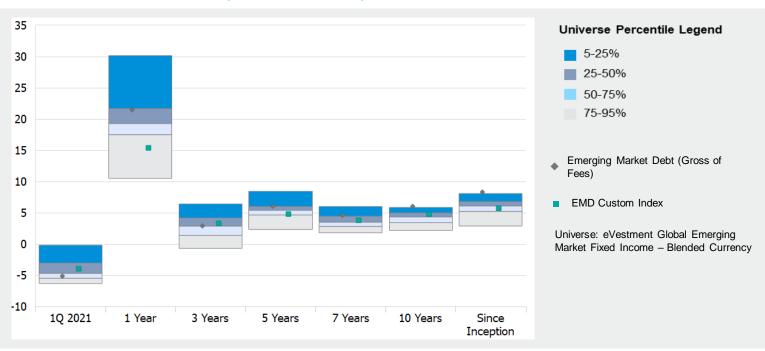
### **COMPOSITE PERFORMANCE (%)**<sup>1</sup>

- EMD-Blend (Gross of Fees)
- EMD-Blend (Net of Fees)
- EMD Custom Index



	1Q21	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	7 Years	10 Years	Since Inception
EMD Blend (Gross of fees)	-5.15	21.48	2.89	6.05	4.61	6.01	8.31
EMD Blend (Net of fees)	-5.27	20.89	2.38	5.52	4.09	5.49	7.73
EMD Custom Index <sup>2</sup>	-3.96	15.38	3.30	4.79	3.78	4.78	5.73

### **RELATIVE PERFORMANCE (GROSS OF FEES)**<sup>3</sup>



- 1. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Net of fee returns reflect the deduction of investment advisory fees and are calculated in the same manner as gross of fee returns. Net of fee returns are calculated using the highest fee rate disclosed in the Form ADV. Fees for separate accounts may be negotiable depending upon asset size and type of account.
- 2. Effective July 1, 2014, the performance benchmark for the Emerging Market Debt ("EMD") composite is the Emerging Markets Blended Index, which is comprised of 35% JP Morgan EMBI Global Index, 35% JP Morgan CEMBI Broad Diversified Index, and 30% JP Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index. From inception of the composite to June 30, 2014, the benchmark was the JP Morgan Emerging Market Bond Index Global Index. For additional benchmark disclosure, please see the full GIPS® disclosures at the end of this Presentation.
- 3. The eVestment Universe ranking is calculated by eVestment using investment performance returns gross of fees and strategy descriptions self-reported by participating investment managers and are not verified or guaranteed by eVestment. eVestment defines each Universe and selects the participating managers for the Universe it determines have similar investment strategies. The Universe ranking uses gross performance as manager fees may vary so that returns will be reduced when advisory fees are deducted. Performance returns for periods greater than one year are annualized. Additional information regarding net performance rankings is available upon request. The reports of the Universe percentile ranks were sourced on April 23, 2021 and represent 91% of the reported eVestment Emerging Markets Fixed Income Blended Currecy Universe as of that date. MIM has not verified and cannot verify the information from outside sources.

### QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE ATTRIBUTION

- The strategy underperformed the index during the quarter.
- Local currency exposure detracted given idiosyncratic stories within some of the higher volatility countries, along with the move in U.S. rates in March forcing U.S. dollar higher and local rates along with it.
- Progress around IMF discussions with distressed countries led to outperformance of select sovereigns, while stalled IMF discussions with other countries detracted.
- Security selection within the Oil & Gas sector boosted returns as companies benefited from a rebound in oil prices and positive company specific headlines.

- Exposure in commodity based sovereigns contributed given the strong overall performance of commodities during the quarter.
- Overweights in lower beta, long duration names in some higher quality countries within Asia detracted from returns, while underweights in higher quality long bonds in Latin American countries positively contributed.
- Overweights in higher beta, short duration names performed well as they were less impacted by the move in treasury yields.

#### **STRATEGY**

As we constantly seek attractive opportunities in the market, we currently see value in EM corporates, given companies' stronger fundamentals, which proved able to withstand the downturn in 2020. With our portfolio's high yield compression trade, we will look to take some of that trade off and shift into other opportunities across the indices and rating spectrums. We are careful with positioning in the sovereign space, despite the recent spread widening, as countries continue facing headwinds around recovery from the pandemic. We remain alert for special situations within the sovereign space, especially around IMF support and election headlines, where we see upside potential that has not yet been priced into the bonds. With the continued robust pipeline, new deals can offer compelling spread premiums where we see value and potential for tightening.

We maintain the view that 10-year treasury yields will face continued pressure, and therefore remain cautious on low beta, long duration positioning. Another area where we continue to remain watchful is the local currency space. Given the recent underperformance, there is potential value in strongly supported currencies; however, given the recent events in Turkey, we are tactical with our positioning and remain vigilant in our analysis of fiscal responses to differentiate within the local space. We also look for local currencies that may benefit from improving trade dynamics and commodity prices given our view of a continued improving global growth backdrop.

The views presented above are MIM's and are subject to change over time. There can be no assurance that the views expressed above will prove accurate and should not be relied upon as a reliable indicator of future events.

### STRATEGY CHARACTERISTICS<sup>1</sup>

	Yield To Maturity (%)	Effective Duration (years)	Average Credit Quality	
Emerging Market Debt - Blend	5.52	6.38	Ba1 / BBB-	
EMD Blended Index	4.23	5.96	Baa2 / BBB	

### SECTOR POSITIONING<sup>1</sup>

	Market Value (%)			
REGIONS	EMD Blend	Active Weight vs. Emerging Markets Blended Index		
NORTH AMERICA	8.24	0.50		
EMERGING EUROPE	14.39	17.35		
LATIN AMERICA	34.53	27.67		
ASIA	16.91	32.41		
MIDDLE EAST / AFRICA	25.93	22.07		

	Market Value (%)			
REGIONS	EMD Blend	Active Weight vs. Emerging Markets Blended Index		
EMBI	33.58	-1.42		
CEMBI	34.42	-0.58		
GBI	26.11	-9.79		
CASH	5.88	5.88		

### **CREDIT QUALITY DISTRIBUTION<sup>1</sup>**

	Market Value (%)			
RATINGS	EMD Blend	Active Weight vs. Emerging Markets Blended Index		
AAA/Cash	5.88	5.84		
AA	3.41	-1.89		
Α	10.14	-12.16		
BBB	33.25	-5.20		
BB & Below	47.32	13.41		

### **TOP 5 CORPORATE SECTORS<sup>1</sup>**

	Market Value (%)			
SECTORS	EMD Blend	Active Weight vs. Emerging Markets Blended Index		
TMT	6.22	2.65		
OIL & GAS	6.51	2.06		
TRANSPORT	1.24	0.93		
METALS & MINING	3.10	0.91		
UTILITIES	4.20	0.32		

<sup>1.</sup> The characteristics displayed are for a representative account for this investment strategy. Actual account characteristics may differ. The benchmark data is that of the 35% JP Morgan EMBI Global Index, 35% JP Morgan CEMBI Broad Diversified Index, and 30% JP Morgan GBI-EM Diversified Global Index. All data above is provided for illustrative purposes only. This data is supplemental to the information required in a GIPS® compliant document. Credit ratings reflect the index provider's credit quality methodology. Average quality excludes cash and securities that are not rated.

#### **COMPOSITE STATISTICS AND PERFORMANCE**

Year	Gross-of-fee Return	Net-of-fee RETURN	Benchmark Return <sup>1</sup>	Number Of Portfolios	Dispersion Stdv <sup>2</sup>	Composite 3 Yr Stdv <sup>3</sup>	Benchmark 3 Yr Stdv <sup>3</sup>	Composite Assets	% Total Firm Assets <sup>4</sup>
11/1/2006 (Inception) to 12/31/2006	4.83%	4.73%	1.94%	≤5	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$25,805,399	
2007	9.63%	8.92%	6.27%	≤ 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$27,755,018	
2008	-17.89%	-18.43%	-10.91%	≤ 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$20,942,453	
2009	52.46%	51.51%	28.18%	≤ 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$55,056,889	
2010	19.91%	19.14%	12.04%	≤ 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$56,172,916	
2011	5.09%	4.53%	8.47%	≤ 5	N/A	10.70%	7.10%	\$143,251,272	
2012	27.43%	26.80%	18.54%	≤ 5	N/A	9.55%	6.53%	\$778,115,122	
2013	-4.15%	-4.63%	-6.58%	6	N/A	10.00%	7.81%	\$702,186,889	
2014	3.33%	2.82%	3.66%	≤ 5	N/A	8.67%	7.73%	\$716,788,940	
2015	-2.99%	-3.48%	-3.81%	8	N/A	7.73%	7.23%	\$1,767,946,450	
2016	14.28%	13.71%	10.04%	6	N/A	7.86%	7.05%	\$1,372,412,170	
2017	13.81%	13.25%	10.62%	8	N/A	6.85%	6.08%	\$2,807,561,715	
2018	-6.20%	-6.67%	-4.01%	9	N/A	7.28%	6.08%	\$2,254,483,728	
2019	14.76%	14.19%	13.71%	8	0.19%	7.01%	4.96%	\$2,339,318,868	<1%
2020	7.23%	6.70%	5.45%	≤ 5	N/A	13.16%	9.55%	\$1,688,853,457	<1%
1Q2021	-5.15%	-5.27%	-3.96%	6	0.07%	13.29%	9.65%	\$1,870,899,508	<1%

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Please see the full GIPS® disclosures on the following page.

- 1. Effective July 1, 2014, the performance benchmark for the Emerging Market composite is the Emerging Market Blended Index, which is comprised of 35% JP Morgan Emerging Market Bond Index ("EMBI") Global Index, 35% JP Morgan Corporate Emerging Market Bond Index ("CEMBI") Broad Diversified Index, and 30% JP Morgan Government Bond Index Emerging Market ("GBI-EM") Diversified Global. The JP Morgan EMBI Global tracks returns for actively traded external debt instruments in emerging markets. Included in the EMBI Global are U.S. dollar denominated Brady bonds, Eurobonds, and traded loans issued by sovereign entities. Only issues with a current face amount outstanding of \$500 million or more and greater than 2 1/2 years until maturity are eligible for inclusion in the index. The CEMBI Broad Diversified Index is a global benchmark for US-dollar corporate emerging market bonds and includes a specific set of emerging markets countries. It limits the weights of the benchmark was changed as the Firm (as defined on the following page) believes that a blended index is a better representation of the Firm's blended approach to managing Emerging Market strategies. From incepting of the composite to June 30, 2014 the benchmark and the properties of the strategies of the strategies. All index trategies are the inception of the composite to June 30, 2014 the superposite of the properties of the strategies.
- 2014, the benchmark was the JP Morgan EMBI Global Index. It is not possible to invest directly in an unmanaged index. All index returns presented are provided to represent the investment existing during the time periods shown and will not be covered by the future report of independent verifiers. For comparison purposes, the index is fully invested and includes the reinvestment of income. The returns for the index do not include any transaction costs, management fees or other costs. The dispersion of annual returns is measured by the standard deviation among asset, weighted portfolio returns represented in the composite for the full year. "N/A" is an indication that the information is not statistically meaningful due to an insufficient number of portfolios (five or fewer) in the composite for the entire year. Standard deviation is only presented for accounts managed for a full calendar year.
- 3. The three-year annualized standard deviation measures the variability of the composite and the benchmark returns over the preceding 36 month period. The standard deviation is not presented for 2006 through 2010 because it is not required for
- periods prior to 2011. It is also not presented for quarter-ends.

  4. Prior to July 1, 2019, the investment team was part of a prior firm. Therefore, "% Total Firm Assets" is left blank for year ends before the team joined MetLife Investment Management.

For purposes of the Global Investment Performance Standards ("GIPS") compliance, the "Firm" is defined as MetLife InvestmentManagement ("MIM"). MIM is MetLife, Inc.'s institutional investment management business. The Firm is defined to include all accounts captured in MetLife's Assets Under Management. On September15, 2017, MetLife, Inc. ("MetLife") acquired Logan Circle Partners ("LCP") and the Firm was redefined as of July 1, 2019 to include LCP in the MIM assets

The Firm claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards ("GIPS®") and has prepared and presented this report in compliance with the GIPS® standards. MIM has been independently verified for the periods January 1, 2011 to June 30, 2019. Verification assesses whether (1) the firm has complied with all he composite construction requirements of the GIPS® standards on a firm-wide basis and (2) the firm's policies and procedures are designed to calculate and present performance in compliance with the GIPS® standards. Verification does not ensure the accuracy of any specific

The creation date of the Emerging Market Debt Blend composite is November 1, 2007 and the inception date is November 1, 2006. Prior to July 1, 2019, the performance of the composite represents the performance that occurred while members of the management team were affiliated with prior firms. The composite has been examined for the periods November 1, 2007 to June 30, 2019 while at another firm. The prior firm, LCP, was verified for the periods November 1, 2007 to June 30, 2019. The verification and performance examination reports are available upon request.

The Emerging Market Debt Blend strategy seeks to outperform the global fixed income market by investing in a combination of gobal fixed income assets in three primary opportunities: currency risk, credit risk and country risk. Derivatives may make up a part of the Emerging Market Debt Blend strategy, as the Firm utilizes futures, forwards and interest rate swaps in its efforts to manage risk, rather than for speculative purposes. Effective March 31, 2020, the composite name was changed from Emerging Market Debt to Emerging Market Debt Blend. The composite includes all fee-paying portfolios managed on a discretionary basis according to the applicable composite strategy except as otherwise excluded herein. The Firm maintainsthese policies and a complete list and description of composites which are available upon request. Policies for valuing portfolios, calculating performance and preparing compliant presentations are available upon request.

Effective August 1, 2020, the Firm removes accounts that have a significant daily external aggregate cash flow greater than 10% or monthly flow greater than 20%. Between May 1, 2020 and July 31, 2020, there was no significant cash flow policy for this composite. From January 1, 2014 until April 30, 2020, the Emerging Market Debt Blend composite had a significant cash flow policy which was applied consistently and within GIPS® standards. The Firm chose to remove accounts that had a significant daily external aggregate cash flow greater than 10% or monthly flow greater than 20%. If any account met these thresholds, then the account was removed from the composite. Aggregate cash flow is defined as additions plus withdrawds over the period. Accounts were removed in the month of the significant cash flow. If the significant cash flow was client directed requiring security liquidation that materially affected account management, the Firm removed the account the month of security liquidations. The account was reinstated to the composite once the portfolio manager had determined that the flow had not impacted the management of the account and the account was invested as per the strategy. From August 1, 2011 to April 30, 2012 the Emerging Market Debt Blend composite had a significant cash flow policy whereby the Firmchose to remove accounts that had a significant monthly external aggregate cash flow greater than 10%. Prior to August 1, 2011 there was no significant cash flow policy.

Effective July 1, 2014, the performance benchmark for the Emerging Market Debt Blend composite is the Emerging Market BlendedIndex, which is comprised of 35% JP Morgan Emerging Market Bond Index ("EMBI") Global Index, 35% JP Morgan Corporate Emerging Market Bond Index ("CEMBI") Broad Diversified Index, and 30% JP Morgan Government Bond Index – Emerging Market ("GBI-EM") Diversified Global. The JP Morgan EMBI Global tracks returns for actively traded external debt instruments in emerging markets. Included in the EMBI Global are U.S. dollar denominated Brady bonds, Eurobonds, and traded loans issued by sovereign entities. Only issues with a current face amount outstanding of \$500 millionor more and greater than 2 1/2 years until maturity are eligible for inclusion in the index. The CEMBI Broad Diversified Index is a global benchmark for US-dollar corporate emerging market bonds and includes a specific set of emerging markets countries. It limits the weights of those index countries with larger corporate debt stocks by only including a specified portion of these countries' eligible current face amounts of debt outstanding. The GBI-EM Index tracks local currency bonds issued by Emerging Market governments. The benchmark was changed as the Firm believes that a blended index is a better representation of the Firm's blended approach to managing Emerging Market strategies. From inception of the composite to June 30, 2014, the benchmark was the JP Morgan EMBI Global Index. It is not possible to invest directly in an unmanaged index. All index returns presented are provided to represent the investment environment existing during the time periods shown and will not be covered by the future report of independent verifiers. For comparison purposes, the index is fully invested and includes the reinvestment of income. The returns for the index do not include any transaction costs, management fees or othercosts,

Returns are based on fully discretionary accounts under management and may include terminated accounts. The dispersion of annual returns is measured by the standard deviation among asset-weighted portfolio returns represented within the composite for the full year. Dispersion is not calculated for composites with five or fewer accounts for the whole period.

Performance returns are presented gross and net of fees, include the reinvestment of all income and are calculated in U.S. ddlars. Dividend income has been recorded net of all applicable foreign withholding taxes. Returns calculated gross of fees do not reflect the deduction of our investment management fees. Individud client returns will be reduced by investment management fees and other expenses that the account may incur. The investment management fee schedule for the Emerging Market Debt Blend strategy is 050% on the first \$50 million, 0.45% on amounts from \$50 million to \$150 million and 0.40% on amounts over \$150 million. Net returns have been calculated by reducing the monthly gross returns by thehighest stated ADV fee for the strategy. From inception date to March 2011, the highest stated ADV fee used to calculate monthly net returns was 0.65%. From April 2011 to the present the highest stated ADV fee is 0.50%. Investment management fees are described in Part 2A of the Firm's Form ADV. Individual client returns will be reduced by investment management fees and other expenses that the accountmay incur. Fees have a compounding effect on cumulative results. Actual investment management fees incurred by clients may vary.

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