

FOR PROFESSIONAL CLIENTS/QUALIFIED INVESTORS ONLY

BGF Fixed Income Global Opportunities Fund

Lead Portfolio Manager: Rick Rieder, Andreas Doerrenhaus, Bob Miller

June 2019 - Month to Date



The Fund aims to achieve a return on your investment through a combination of capital growth and income on the Fund's assets. The Fund invests primarily in fixed income securities (such as bonds) on a global basis and money-market instruments (i.e. debt securities with short term maturities). The fixed income securities and money-market instruments may be issued by governments, government agencies, companies and supranationals.

	Fund	Benchmark
MTD Performance (%)	1.61	-
YTD Performance (%)	4.84	-
2018 Performance (%)	(1.21)	-
2017 Performance (%)	4.09	-
2016 Performance (%)	2.44	-
2015 Performance (%)	(0.91)	-
2014 Performance (%)	3.52	-
Since Inception p.a*(%)	3.04	-

The figures shown relate to past performance. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future results and should not be the sole factor of consideration when selecting a product or strategy.

Performance is shown for the A2 Share class in USD currency terms. Share class performance is calculated on a NAV price basis, with income reinvested, net of fees. Performance shown over one year is annualised. For up to date performance information, please visit www.blackrock.com. *Share Class inception 31-January-2007.

Source: BlackRock Date: 30-June-2019

Risks:

Capital at risk: All financial investments involve an element of risk. The value of your investment and income from it will vary and your initial investment amount cannot be guaranteed.

Fund Risks:

Counterparty Risk: The insolvency of any institutions providing services such as safekeeping of assets or acting as counterparty to derivatives or other instruments, may expose the Fund to financial loss.

Liquidity Risk: Lower liquidity means there are insufficient buyers or sellers to allow the Fund to sell or buy investments readily.

Credit Risk: The issuer of a financial asset held within the Fund may not pay income or repay capital to the Fund when due.

Currency Risk: The Fund invests in other currencies. Changes in exchange rates will therefore affect the value of the investment.

Derivatives are highly sensitive to changes in the value of the asset on which they are based and can increase the size of losses and gains, resulting in greater fluctuations in the value of the Fund. The impact to the Fund can be greater where derivatives are used in an extensive or complex way.

Asset backed securities and mortgage backed securities are subject to the same risks described for fixed income securities. These instruments may be subject to 'Liquidity Risk', have high levels of borrowing and may not fully reflect the value of underlying assets.

Market Overview

- In June, risky assets rallied following dovish comments from central banks as the Fed is poised to cut interest rates amid the risks trade tensions pose to the domestic US outlook, while the European Central Bank has put several stimulus tools back on the table.
- Trade disputes and broader geopolitical frictions are now the key drivers for the global economy and markets, rather than late-cycle recession risks.
- In fact, trade tensions could rise further if the US implements auto tariffs on Europe and Japan. The US and EU are preparing tit-for-tat tariffs following a WTO ruling that EU subsidies to a European aircraft company were illegal and so far, unofficial talks have yielded little progress.

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- Moreover, despite a positive G20 summit, a meaningful trade deal between the US and China remains difficult to achieve. The best potential outcome is a truce that postpones additional tariffs. Structural US - China competition goes beyond trade, extending to strategic concerns over domination of next generation technologies and their implications for national security.

Performance Overview

- FIGO generated a positive return in June.
- The main contributors to performance were our long positions in carry asset classes such as high yield and investment grade corporate bonds across US, Europe and Asia as credit spreads tightened across the globe. In addition, our allocation to structured products and emerging markets helped performance.
- Moreover, our long duration exposure in US and in some peripheral European countries such as Italy and France generated positive returns as treasury yields declined after dovish tones coming from central banks.

Main Portfolio Changes & Positioning

- In June, we increased the overall fund risk profile, by increasing our exposure to US duration and to other developed markets duration such as in UK and in France on the back of more supportive central banks. Alongside these changes, we added exposure to US high yield credit and increased our EM FX risk.
- In this market environment, we like constructing a portfolio with diversified and high-quality carrying assets, with US investment-grade credit and securitized assets being a sweet spot for these expressions. We like owning EM assets tactically, while being highly selective with regard to specific idiosyncratic stories. Finally, the uncertain economic environment and slower global growth today calls for a more defensive positioning and therefore we like employing duration as an overall portfolio hedge given the Fed's pragmatic posture.

Outlook

- The uncertainties associated with trade frictions look set to dampen global growth, and more importantly, place further downward pressure on already precariously low levels of inflation and inflation expectations, forcing central banks to provide additional stimulus much sooner than expected. Meanwhile, as global interest rates fall and an easing cycle starts anew, the bid for high-quality carry is not going away anytime soon, especially considering tomorrow's uncertainties. Therefore, we like sectors with better-than-average volatility-adjusted carry (or a high carry/volatility ratio).
- In the past several months the Fed has transitioned from a tightening bias, to a policy rate pause, and now finally to an easing bias, as economic weakening, trade disputes and reduced market liquidity have conspired to concern policy makers. A Fed on an easing bias – and willing to tolerate temporary inflation overshoots – points to potential for a gradual steepening of the US yield curve. Moreover, the traditional inverse relationship between risky assets and US government bonds is alive and well, boosting Treasuries' role as a buffer against risk-asset selloffs. For these reasons, we remain long US duration.
- During the Sintra Conference, the ECB President Mario Draghi delivered a very dovish speech by not only expressing the willingness to cut rates, but also in stating a desire to move inflation above targeted levels. In fact, the ECB President reiterated that inflation target is symmetric around 2% - i.e. if it spends too much time below 2% it has to spend time above that level in the future. The ECB has several available tools to achieve its objective such as forward guidance, rate cuts and resuming asset purchases. Overall, we remain long French and Italian government bonds and short German Bunds.
- Finally, we see China's growth staying sluggish due to the fallout of US tariffs. We expect any stimulus from Beijing to stabilize growth, but not accelerate it. However, as consumption and services remain robust, we still expect a growth trajectory consistent with a 6.0-6.5% GDP growth rate and therefore we see emerging market debt as an attractive source of income especially in this low yield world.

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