# SICO Fixed Income Fund Class A

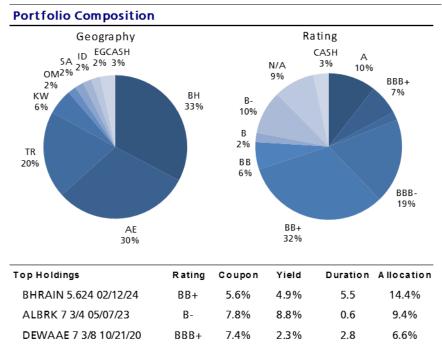
Factsheet - August 2017

## **Manager's Commentary**

The SICO Fixed Income Fund returned 0.2% in August compared to 0.7% by the Barclays GCC USD Bond Index.

It was a pretty volatile month for GCC fixed income in August, overwhelmed by the on-going Qatar crisis which does not look like it will end any time soon. The main reason for the underperformance during the month is the underweight position in the longer maturity bucket and the underweight in government issues which performed well during the month on the back of the retracement of US treasury yields. The retracement in US treasury yields came as a result of the North Korea escalating tensions, Harvey and also as a result of subdued inflation data in the US. A lack of new issues from the GCC, except for one small corporate deal in the past couple of months meant that investors were chasing the same bonds pushing down yields. Oil prices also recovered to around the \$52 mark which also supported the overall sentiment towards the region.

The fund was able to take advantage of the current environment with its bonds benefiting from the carry generated. While the fund is taking a more conservative approach with a lower duration relative to the benchmark we believe that this is a more prudent strategy going forward as the market remains complacent in terms of its future expectations of rate hikes. Going forward we believe that government bond yields will tick up slightly as we still see one rate hike before year end and balance sheet normalization to resume from October 2017. During the month Garuda 20 made a one-off payment after investors voted for an amendment to the prospectus and a corporate action of 0.6% was passed for all investors who voted for the change. The star holdings for the month are Egypt 2022 and Dar Al Arkan 19 which both appreciated by over 1%. We continue to remain comfortable with the current composition of the portfolio and look to generate positive returns uncorrelated to market conditions and to benefit from the primary market as we expect issuances to pick up post the summer holidays.



## **Investment Objective**

The Fund's primary objective is to generate income and seek capital appreciation over the medium to long term.

To achieve its objective, the Fund will actively invest in Government and Corporate Fixed Income, Sukuk, Repo, Money Market, and other Fixed Income related instruments.

#### **Fund Features**

- High liquidity
- Low volatility
- Excellent vehicle for medium to long term investing

### Fund Information

Launch	April 2013		
Benchmark	Barclays EM GCC Bond Index		
Management Fee	1.00%		
Subscription & Redemption	Weekly		
Subscription / Redemption	Two Business Days		
Minimum Subscription	US\$10,000		
Custodian/ Administrator	HSBC Middle East		
Registrar	HSBC Middle East		

# Fund Returns and Characteristics

	Fund (%)	Benchmark* (%)
August 2017	0.2	0.7
2017 (YTD)	3.8	4.7
2016	5.7	4.8
2015	1.6	1.7
2014	8.4	6.8
2013 (Apr - Dec 13)	-1.0	-0.4
Last 3 Months	0.3	0.9
Last 6 Months	2.1	2.7
Last 1 Year	4.6	2.7
Annualized 3 year	3.8	3.7
Since Inception (Apr 2013 – July 2017)	19.4	18.7
Duration (years)	2.8	5.8
Yield to maturity (%)	4.3	3.5
Coupon (%)	5.7	4.3
Spread (bps)	276	171
* Developing FNA CCC Index (not of feed)		

\* Barclays EM GCC Index (net of fees)

For further information contact fi@sicobahrain.com

Securities and Investment Company BSC (c) claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®). Securities and Investment Company BSC (c) (also known as SICO) is a closed joint stock company registered in Bahrain and operates a wholesale banking license from the Central Bank of Bahrain. The company is registered with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and is listed on the Bahrain Stock Exchange as a closed company. To receive a list of composite descriptions and/or a presentation that complies with the GIPS standards, write to fi@sicobahrain.com, or call 973 17 515000.

Securities & Investment Company BSC (c) P.O. Box 1331, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain Tel: +973 1751 5000 Fax: +973 1751 4000 CR No: 33469

شركة الأوراق المالية والاستثمار ش.م.ب (م) صب: الإسار المنامة، مملكة البحرين هاف: ۵۰۰۰ OV ۱۹۷۵ فاكس: ۵۰۰۰ OV ۱۹۷۳+ سجل تجاري رقم ۹۲۵۳۳



This report should not be considered an offer to sell, or a solicitation to buy, shares mentioned herein. Past performance is no indication of future results. Fund historical performance does not promise the same or similar results in the future. Principal value, share prices and investment returns fluctuate with changes in market conditions. The information contained herein has been compiled from sources believe to be reliable, however Securities & Investment Company ("SICO") does not guarantee its accuracy or completeness. Opinions, forecasts and estimates constitute our judgment as of the date of this report and are subject to change without notice. This report is not a solicitation of an order to buy or sell securities or to provide investment advice or service. SICO or its affiliates may from time to time engage in long or short positions in the securities mentioned herein. SICO or its affiliates may act as principal, agent or market or provide other services to the issuers of securities mentioned herein. This report is provided for information purposes only and may not be copied or distributed to any other person without the prior written consent of SICO.

# SICO Fixed Income Fund Class B

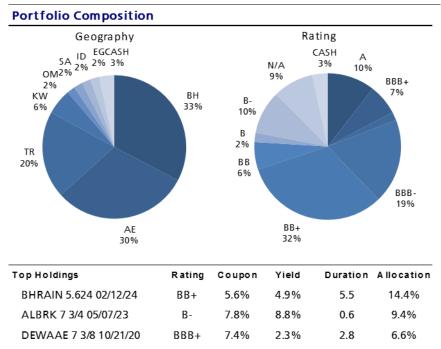
Factsheet - August 2017

### **Manager's Commentary**

The SICO Fixed Income Fund returned 0.3% in August compared to 0.7% by the Barclays EM GCC USD Bond Index.

It was a pretty volatile month for GCC fixed income in August, overwhelmed by the on-going Qatar crisis which does not look like it will end any time soon. The main reason for the underperformance during the month was the underweight position in the longer maturity bucket and the underweight in government issues which performed well during the month on the back of the retracement of US treasury yields. The retracement in US treasury yields came as a result of the North Korea escalating tensions, Hurricane Harvey as well as subdued inflation data in the US. A lack of new issues from the GCC, except for one small corporate deal in the past couple of months meant that investors were chasing the same bonds pushing down yields. Oil prices also recovered to around the \$52 mark which also supported the overall sentiment towards the region.

The fund was able to take advantage of the current environment with its bonds benefiting from the carry generated. While the fund is taking a more conservative approach with a lower duration relative to the benchmark we believe that this is a more prudent strategy going forward as the market remains complacent in terms of its future expectations of rate hikes. Going forward we believe that government bond yields will tick up slightly as we still see one rate hike before year end and balance sheet normalization to resume from October 2017. During the month Garuda 20 made a one-off payment after investors voted for an amendment to the prospectus and a corporate action of 0.6% was passed for all investors who voted for the change. The star holdings for the month were Egypt 2022 and Dar Al Arkan 19 which both appreciated by over 1%. We continue to remain comfortable with the current composition of the portfolio and look to generate positive returns uncorrelated to market conditions and to benefit from the primary market as we expect issuances to pick up post the summer holidays.



## **Investment Objective**

The Fund's primary objective is to generate income and seek capital appreciation over the medium to long term.

To achieve its objective, the Fund will actively invest in Government and Corporate Fixed Income, Sukuk, Repo, Money Market, and other Fixed Income related instruments.

#### **Fund Features**

- High liquidity
- Low volatility
- Excellent vehicle for medium to long term investing

### Fund Information

Launch	April 2013		
Benchmark	Barclays EM GCC Bond Index		
Management Fee	1.00%		
Subscription & Redemption	Weekly		
Subscription / Redemption	Two Business Days		
Minimum Subscription	US\$10,000		
Custodian/ Administrator	HSBC Middle East		
Registrar	HSBC Middle East		

# Fund Returns and Characteristics

	Fund (%)	Benchmark* (%)
August 2017	0.3	0.7
2017 (YTD)	4.0	4.7
2016	5.7	4.8
2015	1.6	1.7
2014	8.4	6.8
2013 (Apr - Dec 13)	-1.0	-0.4
Last 3 Months	0.4	0.9
Last 6 Months	2.3	2.7
Last 1 Year	5.0	2.7
Annualized 3 year	4.2	3.7
Since Inception (Apr 2013 – July 2017)	21.2	18.7
Duration (years)	2.8	5.8
Yield to maturity (%)	4.3	3.5
Coupon (%)	5.7	4.3
Spread (bps)	276	171

\* Barclays EM GCC Index (net of fees)

For further information contact <u>fi@sicobahrain.com</u>

Securities and Investment Company BSC (c) claims compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®). Securities and Investment Company BSC (c) (also known as SICO) is a closed joint stock company registered in Bahrain and operates a wholesale banking license from the Central Bank of Bahrain. The company is registered with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and is listed on the Bahrain Stock Exchange as a closed company. To receive a list of composite descriptions and/or a presentation that complies with the GIPS standards, write to fi@sicobahrain.com, or call 973 17 515000.

Securities & Investment Company BSC (c) P.O. Box 1331, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain Tel: +973 1751 5000 Fax: +973 1751 4000 CR No: 33469

شركة الأوراق المالية والاستثمار ش.م.ب (م) صب: الإسار المنامة، مملكة البحرين هاف: ۵۰۰۰ OV ۱۹۷۵ فاكس: ۵۰۰۰ OV ۱۹۷۳+ سجل تجاري رقم ۹۲۵۳۳



This report should not be considered an offer to sell, or a solicitation to buy, shares mentioned herein. Past performance is no indication of future results. Fund historical performance does not promise the same or similar results in the future. Principal value, share prices and investment returns fluctuate with changes in market conditions. The information contained herein has been compiled from sources believe to be reliable, however Securities & Investment Company ("SICO") does not guarantee its accuracy or completeness. Opinions, forecasts and estimates constitute our judgment as of the date of this report and are subject to change without notice. This report is not a solicitation of an order to buy or sell securities or to provide investment advice or service. SICO or its affiliates may from time to time engage in long or short positions in the securities mentioned herein. SICO or its affiliates may act as principal, agent or market or provide other services to the issuers of securities mentioned herein. This report is provided for information purposes only and may not be copied or distributed to any other person without the prior written consent of SICO.